

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,690

2
00:00:00,690 --> 00:00:02,610
This is a taped
interview being made

3
00:00:02,610 --> 00:00:06,750
on behalf of the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

4
00:00:06,750 --> 00:00:09,150
It is an interview
with Frank Ephraim.

5
00:00:09,150 --> 00:00:11,520
The interviewer is Nancy Alper.

6
00:00:11,520 --> 00:00:16,149
The date is April the 3rd, 1997.

7
00:00:16,149 --> 00:00:19,980
This is site A or the first
side of the sixth tape

8
00:00:19,980 --> 00:00:21,000
of the interview.

9
00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:24,840

10
00:00:24,840 --> 00:00:26,910
Well, we were in the
process of marching

11
00:00:26,910 --> 00:00:29,730
down Dakota Street with
these Japanese carrying

12
00:00:29,730 --> 00:00:33,000
the rice and the officer up

front carrying a tray of what

13

00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:35,340
might have been strips of meat.

14

00:00:35,340 --> 00:00:37,080
And of course, this
was designed to feed

15

00:00:37,080 --> 00:00:38,700
these sailors who
had been wounded

16

00:00:38,700 --> 00:00:42,210
and who are now in these pink
stucco houses recuperating

17

00:00:42,210 --> 00:00:43,410
or whatever.

18

00:00:43,410 --> 00:00:46,140
The Japanese military,
whenever it does anything,

19

00:00:46,140 --> 00:00:48,900
it's always in a very
formal formation.

20

00:00:48,900 --> 00:00:53,010
And most of the time when they
are marching in that order,

21

00:00:53,010 --> 00:00:55,540
you can sort of smell
them a little ways away.

22

00:00:55,540 --> 00:00:57,990
But interestingly
enough, the Japanese army

23

00:00:57,990 --> 00:01:00,300
has a practice of singing.

24

00:01:00,300 --> 00:01:02,400

So they would sing
song their way

25

00:01:02,400 --> 00:01:04,980

down the street, some of
course totally out of tune.

26

00:01:04,980 --> 00:01:07,410

But that was their
way of marching.

27

00:01:07,410 --> 00:01:10,620

They'd have this
marching type songs.

28

00:01:10,620 --> 00:01:16,470

And anyway, every day these
people would supply this now

29

00:01:16,470 --> 00:01:20,940

newly converted formerly red
light sector and now a hospital

30

00:01:20,940 --> 00:01:23,730

sector with this food.

31

00:01:23,730 --> 00:01:28,200

And that went on for
many, many weeks.

32

00:01:28,200 --> 00:01:30,690

That was essentially the end
of the red light district

33

00:01:30,690 --> 00:01:31,860

as we knew it.

34

00:01:31,860 --> 00:01:35,370

And the conversion seemed to
be very swift and efficient.

35

00:01:35,370 --> 00:01:38,830
The same women that had
served in other capacities

36
00:01:38,830 --> 00:01:43,350
were now helping out
in this new capacity.

37
00:01:43,350 --> 00:01:45,945
The geishas were, of course,
in Japanese tradition

38
00:01:45,945 --> 00:01:51,060
are women that are trained
to serve, whatever.

39
00:01:51,060 --> 00:01:56,140
And they apparently did
this all very efficiently.

40
00:01:56,140 --> 00:02:01,290
Now, heading back from
this particular period,

41
00:02:01,290 --> 00:02:07,120
actually heading down the road,
we, as I had noted before,

42
00:02:07,120 --> 00:02:13,350
began to get air raids which
began to get more serious by.

43
00:02:13,350 --> 00:02:19,020
Early December 1944, we
would have daily raids.

44
00:02:19,020 --> 00:02:22,020
They would be mainly
carrier-based airplanes,

45
00:02:22,020 --> 00:02:26,640
these Grumman F6Fs and
others, the Avenger sky

46

00:02:26,640 --> 00:02:28,440
dive bomber types.

47

00:02:28,440 --> 00:02:30,420
The anti-aircraft was deadening.

48

00:02:30,420 --> 00:02:34,470
They must have had some sort
of artillery or machine gun

49

00:02:34,470 --> 00:02:37,380
position, just about I would
say every second house,

50

00:02:37,380 --> 00:02:39,030
but all over the place.

51

00:02:39,030 --> 00:02:42,480
The air was full of
these puffs of flak.

52

00:02:42,480 --> 00:02:45,240
And when-- and there
were air raid warnings.

53

00:02:45,240 --> 00:02:47,820
And when there were
warnings, my father and I

54

00:02:47,820 --> 00:02:49,650
would go upstairs to the house.

55

00:02:49,650 --> 00:02:51,420
There was a window
in my room, which

56

00:02:51,420 --> 00:02:55,620
overlooked a good
section of that district.

57

00:02:55,620 --> 00:02:58,590
We could overlook

a huge empty lot,

58

00:02:58,590 --> 00:03:00,690

which was almost the
size of a city block.

59

00:03:00,690 --> 00:03:03,750

And there was another one across
from there, behind our house.

60

00:03:03,750 --> 00:03:06,300

And there was a wall
that separated our house

61

00:03:06,300 --> 00:03:07,930

from that one lot.

62

00:03:07,930 --> 00:03:11,070

And on the right side were
a row of wooden bungalows,

63

00:03:11,070 --> 00:03:13,150

and I'll come to those later.

64

00:03:13,150 --> 00:03:16,570

But we could view the
whole sky from there,

65

00:03:16,570 --> 00:03:20,520

including the barrage balloons,
which the Japanese had

66

00:03:20,520 --> 00:03:22,950

raised to prevent dive--

67

00:03:22,950 --> 00:03:26,820

American planes from diving
into the area that the barrage

68

00:03:26,820 --> 00:03:28,170

balloons were protecting.

69

00:03:28,170 --> 00:03:31,620
It was a typical
defense mechanism.

70
00:03:31,620 --> 00:03:34,710
But you could see them
coming in, little silver dots

71
00:03:34,710 --> 00:03:36,630
in the sky, hundreds of them.

72
00:03:36,630 --> 00:03:38,400
And then they would
sort of dive down,

73
00:03:38,400 --> 00:03:43,530
flip over and dive, typical
air maneuver, and drop a bomb,

74
00:03:43,530 --> 00:03:44,730
and strafe.

75
00:03:44,730 --> 00:03:46,770
And that would go on
for about an hour.

76
00:03:46,770 --> 00:03:48,830
And we were under the table.

77
00:03:48,830 --> 00:03:50,250
Well, first when
they came nearer,

78
00:03:50,250 --> 00:03:52,350
when we could see those
black puffs and the planes

79
00:03:52,350 --> 00:03:54,095
coming near to where
we actually live,

80
00:03:54,095 --> 00:03:57,390
we would rush downstairs

and scoot under the table.

81

00:03:57,390 --> 00:04:01,020

Or we had one room downstairs
that was sort of enclosed,

82

00:04:01,020 --> 00:04:03,300

and the walls were all
made of stone or concrete.

83

00:04:03,300 --> 00:04:05,550

And we were in that room.

84

00:04:05,550 --> 00:04:09,690

But as I say, most of the time,
we just under a table, and we'd

85

00:04:09,690 --> 00:04:10,950

hear the bombs fall.

86

00:04:10,950 --> 00:04:13,200

But again, the targets
were all military.

87

00:04:13,200 --> 00:04:15,870

Only on rare occasions
did by accident

88

00:04:15,870 --> 00:04:19,350

some bombs drop in sort of
civilian or residential areas.

89

00:04:19,350 --> 00:04:23,090

Again, the casualties
were minor.

90

00:04:23,090 --> 00:04:25,640

The raids would go on,
and then one day we

91

00:04:25,640 --> 00:04:27,890

had the beginnings
of heavy bombers.

92

00:04:27,890 --> 00:04:32,420

The famous B24 Liberator bombers
came over in large groups

93

00:04:32,420 --> 00:04:33,680

for bombing runs.

94

00:04:33,680 --> 00:04:37,160

And one day, a group of-- must
have been at least 12 maybe

95

00:04:37,160 --> 00:04:37,760

24--

96

00:04:37,760 --> 00:04:41,570

bombers came in formation, and
they appeared-- we saw them.

97

00:04:41,570 --> 00:04:45,210

They appeared to be quite low
or much lower than normal.

98

00:04:45,210 --> 00:04:48,080

And apparently then
one was shot down.

99

00:04:48,080 --> 00:04:50,930

We could see the plane
going down in flames,

100

00:04:50,930 --> 00:04:54,230

and then the others leaving.

101

00:04:54,230 --> 00:04:56,450

And then we went
outside, because we

102

00:04:56,450 --> 00:04:59,060

could hear the shrapnel had
fallen from the aircraft and so

103

00:04:59,060 --> 00:04:59,600
on.

104
00:04:59,600 --> 00:05:03,530
We went outside in the
back, where this coachman

105
00:05:03,530 --> 00:05:04,730
and his family lived.

106
00:05:04,730 --> 00:05:08,600
There was like a
cobblestoned yard.

107
00:05:08,600 --> 00:05:11,930
And we looked-- and I looked up,
and I see this white dot way up

108
00:05:11,930 --> 00:05:12,872
in the sky.

109
00:05:12,872 --> 00:05:14,330
I didn't know what
it was at first,

110
00:05:14,330 --> 00:05:16,850
but I finally realized
it was a parachute.

111
00:05:16,850 --> 00:05:19,100
So one of the crewmen
had parachuted out

112
00:05:19,100 --> 00:05:22,070
of his B24 Liberator
bomber and was coming down

113
00:05:22,070 --> 00:05:24,740
what looked like
right over our house.

114
00:05:24,740 --> 00:05:26,303
Well, he came down and down.

115
00:05:26,303 --> 00:05:26,970
It took a while.

116
00:05:26,970 --> 00:05:27,845
We were all watching.

117
00:05:27,845 --> 00:05:29,840
Pretty soon everybody
saw that, and they

118
00:05:29,840 --> 00:05:32,330
could see a person hanging
from the parachute.

119
00:05:32,330 --> 00:05:34,340
And it then looked
like he was going

120
00:05:34,340 --> 00:05:36,000
to land about two blocks away.

121
00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:37,620
And indeed he did.

122
00:05:37,620 --> 00:05:39,710
And everybody ran over
there, but the Japanese

123
00:05:39,710 --> 00:05:41,690
had surrounded
him, more or less.

124
00:05:41,690 --> 00:05:43,940
And I wasn't there.

125
00:05:43,940 --> 00:05:47,840
I did not see his actual
landing, but some people were.

126
00:05:47,840 --> 00:05:48,800
They said he came down.

127
00:05:48,800 --> 00:05:49,820
He was alive.

128
00:05:49,820 --> 00:05:52,670
It was an officer, a lieutenant.

129
00:05:52,670 --> 00:05:54,170
I'm not sure what he was.

130
00:05:54,170 --> 00:05:57,590
And they packed him off into a truck, and took him to a camp,

131
00:05:57,590 --> 00:06:00,200
I'm sure.

132
00:06:00,200 --> 00:06:03,500
Some of the Filipinos talked to him or yelled at him, you know,

133
00:06:03,500 --> 00:06:05,330
waved at him and that sort of thing, which

134
00:06:05,330 --> 00:06:07,160
is what they would want to do.

135
00:06:07,160 --> 00:06:09,200
But he landed.

136
00:06:09,200 --> 00:06:12,150
And he landed apparently safely.

137
00:06:12,150 --> 00:06:14,510
The other-- there were two other people

138
00:06:14,510 --> 00:06:16,550
parachuting out of the plane, but further away

139

00:06:16,550 --> 00:06:18,270
that we heard about later.

140

00:06:18,270 --> 00:06:20,460
But this was usually
a crew of 10.

141

00:06:20,460 --> 00:06:23,420
So the others might have well
gone down with the plane.

142

00:06:23,420 --> 00:06:24,980
It's hard to say.

143

00:06:24,980 --> 00:06:29,120
That was a casualty
at that time we saw.

144

00:06:29,120 --> 00:06:31,280
As I say, the raids
became more frequent.

145

00:06:31,280 --> 00:06:36,560
And most of our time was
spent going under tables,

146

00:06:36,560 --> 00:06:42,380
hiding from shrapnel,
not leaving the house

147

00:06:42,380 --> 00:06:45,290
for too much length of time.

148

00:06:45,290 --> 00:06:48,460
Didn't want to be caught out
in the open with an air raid.

149

00:06:48,460 --> 00:06:50,300
The Japanese were
getting very antsy,

150

00:06:50,300 --> 00:06:53,000

and they would fire at
you, or they would hit you,

151
00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:55,190
or they would shoo
you away or whatever.

152
00:06:55,190 --> 00:06:57,275
So everyone was
very, very nervous.

153
00:06:57,275 --> 00:06:59,360
And at the same
time, everybody was

154
00:06:59,360 --> 00:07:01,490
beginning to get very hungry.

155
00:07:01,490 --> 00:07:03,920
Because now there
was no transport.

156
00:07:03,920 --> 00:07:06,290
There was no
distribution of food.

157
00:07:06,290 --> 00:07:08,360
The markets were
beginning to be bare.

158
00:07:08,360 --> 00:07:10,100
The money was
absolutely worthless.

159
00:07:10,100 --> 00:07:12,950
You could really only
trade things for food.

160
00:07:12,950 --> 00:07:15,230
There was really no--
the Japanese Mickey Mouse

161
00:07:15,230 --> 00:07:17,180

money was just paper.

162
00:07:17,180 --> 00:07:21,770
So that was the thing
up to that time.

163
00:07:21,770 --> 00:07:24,240
We're now talking December.

164
00:07:24,240 --> 00:07:30,650
Now, the American forces
landed in Lingayen Gulf

165
00:07:30,650 --> 00:07:32,735
in Luzon, the
northernmost island

166
00:07:32,735 --> 00:07:34,880
on which Manila is located.

167
00:07:34,880 --> 00:07:38,420
And I've forgotten exactly
the date of the landing,

168
00:07:38,420 --> 00:07:41,960
but as soon as they
landed in force,

169
00:07:41,960 --> 00:07:44,900
they also landed in
the island of Mindoro,

170
00:07:44,900 --> 00:07:46,970
which is just south of Luzon.

171
00:07:46,970 --> 00:07:51,830
And there they landed I believe
with an airborne division,

172
00:07:51,830 --> 00:07:56,000
the 11th Airborne Division
under Major General Swing.

173

00:07:56,000 --> 00:07:58,760

And they were two
primary divisions

174

00:07:58,760 --> 00:08:01,820

that we're concerned
with that raced

175

00:08:01,820 --> 00:08:04,130

or tried to race toward Manila.

176

00:08:04,130 --> 00:08:08,900

They were part of the 6th Army
under General Krueger, who

177

00:08:08,900 --> 00:08:11,120

reported to General MacArthur.

178

00:08:11,120 --> 00:08:16,520

And the two divisions were
the 37th or Buckeye Division,

179

00:08:16,520 --> 00:08:19,760

mainly composed of men
from the State of Ohio.

180

00:08:19,760 --> 00:08:22,715

I believe commanded by
Major General Beightler,

181

00:08:22,715 --> 00:08:24,350

of German origin.

182

00:08:24,350 --> 00:08:27,680

And the other division was the
famous 1st Cavalry Division.

183

00:08:27,680 --> 00:08:32,000

The 1st Cav apparently
reports later of course,

184

00:08:32,000 --> 00:08:38,840

came roaring down Luzon from
Lingayen Gulf, and had a--

185
00:08:38,840 --> 00:08:42,440
one battalion of it managed
to liberate the Santo Tomas

186
00:08:42,440 --> 00:08:44,240
internment camp.

187
00:08:44,240 --> 00:08:46,130
We did not know
this, because there

188
00:08:46,130 --> 00:08:50,300
was by that time no
communication whatsoever.

189
00:08:50,300 --> 00:08:54,140
The first thing we
knew, really, was

190
00:08:54,140 --> 00:08:59,660
what sounded like artillery
fire, the landings of shells,

191
00:08:59,660 --> 00:09:01,700
way in the distance.

192
00:09:01,700 --> 00:09:03,860
And we could see from
that window of mine

193
00:09:03,860 --> 00:09:06,650
upstairs a little plane,
which later of course, we

194
00:09:06,650 --> 00:09:10,100
could see more often that
closer by was a Piper Cub.

195
00:09:10,100 --> 00:09:12,920
And of course we learned later

that's an artillery spotter

196
00:09:12,920 --> 00:09:13,790
plane.

197
00:09:13,790 --> 00:09:16,220
And that thing was flying
way in the distance,

198
00:09:16,220 --> 00:09:19,970
and we couldn't figure out
why and what it was doing.

199
00:09:19,970 --> 00:09:22,340
But we could see
tremendous fires

200
00:09:22,340 --> 00:09:25,610
in the northern part of the city
of Manila, near the Pasig River

201
00:09:25,610 --> 00:09:27,860
area, we estimated.

202
00:09:27,860 --> 00:09:29,600
And the word was
beginning to come down

203
00:09:29,600 --> 00:09:31,820
that the Japanese
were systematically

204
00:09:31,820 --> 00:09:33,950
burning the city down.

205
00:09:33,950 --> 00:09:36,650
They were throwing gasoline
at the homes and buildings

206
00:09:36,650 --> 00:09:38,690
and lighting them up
with hand grenades

207

00:09:38,690 --> 00:09:42,380
or whatever they could
to ignite gasoline.

208

00:09:42,380 --> 00:09:45,920
And the black clouds of
smoke, and the smoke we saw

209

00:09:45,920 --> 00:09:48,162
was buildings and homes burning.

210

00:09:48,162 --> 00:09:50,120
They were going to defend
the city, apparently,

211

00:09:50,120 --> 00:09:52,165
but in the ruins of the city.

212

00:09:52,165 --> 00:09:53,540
Although we had
heard, of course,

213

00:09:53,540 --> 00:09:56,660
that was later after the war
that General Yamashita, who

214

00:09:56,660 --> 00:09:58,730
was in command of
all Japanese forces

215

00:09:58,730 --> 00:10:01,250
and who had retreated himself
to the mountain province

216

00:10:01,250 --> 00:10:04,940
and to near the city of
Baguio, had apparently ordered

217

00:10:04,940 --> 00:10:06,950
that the city be evacuated.

218

00:10:06,950 --> 00:10:11,540

However, a naval-- a
Japanese marine force,

219
00:10:11,540 --> 00:10:14,930
or segments of
Japanese marine forces,

220
00:10:14,930 --> 00:10:20,450
were in the city of Manila, and
by some strange twist decided

221
00:10:20,450 --> 00:10:23,570
that they would defend the city.

222
00:10:23,570 --> 00:10:27,380
They would resist the invasion
of the American forces.

223
00:10:27,380 --> 00:10:29,060
That's all written
up very nicely

224
00:10:29,060 --> 00:10:31,310
in a book called
The Battle of Manila

225
00:10:31,310 --> 00:10:34,160
by three British authors,
actually, two at Sandhurst

226
00:10:34,160 --> 00:10:35,870
and one other historian.

227
00:10:35,870 --> 00:10:40,080
And I won't go into the battle,
that military aspect of it.

228
00:10:40,080 --> 00:10:45,040
But in any event,
it came January,

229
00:10:45,040 --> 00:10:47,830
we knew the Americans

were at the outskirts.

230
00:10:47,830 --> 00:10:49,510
Because apparently--
I'm not sure

231
00:10:49,510 --> 00:10:51,850
exactly when Santo Tomas
had been liberated,

232
00:10:51,850 --> 00:10:54,680
and it's in the far
north of Manila.

233
00:10:54,680 --> 00:10:59,270
And the Japanese were
now beginning to dig in.

234
00:10:59,270 --> 00:11:00,890
They were doing two things.

235
00:11:00,890 --> 00:11:04,125
They were building
pillboxes of sorts, out

236
00:11:04,125 --> 00:11:08,030
of rocks and material all
over the area where we lived.

237
00:11:08,030 --> 00:11:10,790
There were digging
holes near the streets,

238
00:11:10,790 --> 00:11:12,920
like for machine gun nests.

239
00:11:12,920 --> 00:11:17,420
They were laying mines at
certain corners of streets.

240
00:11:17,420 --> 00:11:19,250
You were, of course,
totally restricted.

241
00:11:19,250 --> 00:11:22,760
You couldn't go very
far any in place.

242
00:11:22,760 --> 00:11:24,650
There was a water
shortage by now.

243
00:11:24,650 --> 00:11:26,240
There was interruption of water.

244
00:11:26,240 --> 00:11:29,810
So you had to fill up
bathtubs and fill up bottles

245
00:11:29,810 --> 00:11:31,790
just to be sure
you had some water.

246
00:11:31,790 --> 00:11:34,557
People were being digging
wells, which was easy.

247
00:11:34,557 --> 00:11:36,140
You dug three feet,
and you got water.

248
00:11:36,140 --> 00:11:40,070
Of course, it was kind of bad
water, but water nonetheless.

249
00:11:40,070 --> 00:11:42,840
Your food supply, you
had to be very careful.

250
00:11:42,840 --> 00:11:46,040
Once we got the word or heard
that they were systematically

251
00:11:46,040 --> 00:11:50,670
beginning to burn the city down,
we prepared to leave the house.

252

00:11:50,670 --> 00:11:53,700

And what I did was, I built
a little, small tiny wagon,

253

00:11:53,700 --> 00:11:58,440

about two feet by 2 feet,
and little small wheels

254

00:11:58,440 --> 00:12:00,120

that I managed to scrounge.

255

00:12:00,120 --> 00:12:02,340

And it had a little
wooden handle.

256

00:12:02,340 --> 00:12:06,210

And we filled that up with
bottled water, boiled water.

257

00:12:06,210 --> 00:12:08,280

And we had some bottles
of rum in there,

258

00:12:08,280 --> 00:12:13,980

and some rice, and sugar,
and some other basic foods.

259

00:12:13,980 --> 00:12:17,010

By that time, we still
had a house girl.

260

00:12:17,010 --> 00:12:20,880

And my father and I and my
mother lived in the house.

261

00:12:20,880 --> 00:12:24,660

And the fires came
closer and closer.

262

00:12:24,660 --> 00:12:26,940

And the artillery
began to come in,

263

00:12:26,940 --> 00:12:33,060
long range 155 caliber artillery
pieces, howitzers and whatever.

264

00:12:33,060 --> 00:12:35,940
And then in addition
to that, we were

265

00:12:35,940 --> 00:12:41,640
being raided by these
double-bodied P-38 Lightning

266

00:12:41,640 --> 00:12:43,530
military planes.

267

00:12:43,530 --> 00:12:45,930
These are land-based planes.

268

00:12:45,930 --> 00:12:47,670
The Lightnings were
very maneuverable,

269

00:12:47,670 --> 00:12:50,610
and they were just flying
around there upside down

270

00:12:50,610 --> 00:12:52,590
and everything and strafing.

271

00:12:52,590 --> 00:12:55,530
Now, of course, the
strafing would hit anybody.

272

00:12:55,530 --> 00:12:58,320
And they didn't always
hit the Japanese.

273

00:12:58,320 --> 00:13:00,195
And if they dropped a
bomb, which they could,

274

00:13:00,195 --> 00:13:02,220
that could also hit anybody.

275
00:13:02,220 --> 00:13:05,340
And so we were beginning
to get casualties.

276
00:13:05,340 --> 00:13:08,610
There was, when we looked
out from that window of mine,

277
00:13:08,610 --> 00:13:13,180
that big empty lot, plus another
one across the street from it.

278
00:13:13,180 --> 00:13:19,650
And at the far corner was a gray
concrete-built Catholic church.

279
00:13:19,650 --> 00:13:21,480
That was beginning
to be converted

280
00:13:21,480 --> 00:13:24,600
into like a hospital, because it
was the closest thing available

281
00:13:24,600 --> 00:13:26,640
that could serve as such.

282
00:13:26,640 --> 00:13:29,490
And we had volunteer
doctors and nurses.

283
00:13:29,490 --> 00:13:34,050
And people that would get
wounded would go there.

284
00:13:34,050 --> 00:13:36,330
And of course, pretty
soon that became a rush.

285
00:13:36,330 --> 00:13:40,830

Because the American forces
were drawing closer and closer,

286
00:13:40,830 --> 00:13:44,010
and the fires were
drawing closer and closer

287
00:13:44,010 --> 00:13:46,020
until the night of--

288
00:13:46,020 --> 00:13:49,440
if I recall exactly,
it was the night

289
00:13:49,440 --> 00:13:55,440
of February the 7th or 8th 1945.

290
00:13:55,440 --> 00:13:59,340
When my father and I were
at this window upstairs,

291
00:13:59,340 --> 00:14:04,090
we took a watch up there, just
to see, because the fires were

292
00:14:04,090 --> 00:14:06,210
now like three blocks away.

293
00:14:06,210 --> 00:14:09,120
Suddenly, we saw
these little bungalows

294
00:14:09,120 --> 00:14:11,040
that were next to our house.

295
00:14:11,040 --> 00:14:12,742
They actually were
facing Dakota Street,

296
00:14:12,742 --> 00:14:13,950
but we could see their backs.

297

00:14:13,950 --> 00:14:16,075
And we knew the family that
lived in the first one.

298
00:14:16,075 --> 00:14:17,820
It was a man of Spanish origin.

299
00:14:17,820 --> 00:14:20,010
He had four or five kids.

300
00:14:20,010 --> 00:14:22,710
And we could see,
they suddenly went up

301
00:14:22,710 --> 00:14:24,330
in flames, those houses.

302
00:14:24,330 --> 00:14:26,820
And we could see
him with his kids.

303
00:14:26,820 --> 00:14:29,670
There was a wall behind
this house, the wall that

304
00:14:29,670 --> 00:14:31,560
separated this
house and our house

305
00:14:31,560 --> 00:14:33,480
from that large empty lot.

306
00:14:33,480 --> 00:14:37,410
And he was beginning to toss
his kids over the wall, and then

307
00:14:37,410 --> 00:14:39,120
himself and his wife.

308
00:14:39,120 --> 00:14:41,130
And the house went up in flames.

309

00:14:41,130 --> 00:14:44,070

And so my father
SAID now is the time.

310

00:14:44,070 --> 00:14:45,630

We got to go.

311

00:14:45,630 --> 00:14:47,942

So he and I quickly rushed
through the whole house.

312

00:14:47,942 --> 00:14:50,400

And we closed every window and
door as tightly as we could.

313

00:14:50,400 --> 00:14:54,570

We pulled these sort of
wooden slatted type of blinds,

314

00:14:54,570 --> 00:14:57,870

pushed them together, and closed
every window and everything

315

00:14:57,870 --> 00:14:59,550

to make the house as airtight.

316

00:14:59,550 --> 00:15:02,070

Because when you do that,
you can avoid it burning,

317

00:15:02,070 --> 00:15:04,050

unless they burned
that house directly.

318

00:15:04,050 --> 00:15:05,790

Then, of course,
you can't help it.

319

00:15:05,790 --> 00:15:09,210

They always relied on one house
lighting up the other houses

320

00:15:09,210 --> 00:15:10,380

naturally.

321
00:15:10,380 --> 00:15:13,080
OK, we left the house
with my little wagon.

322
00:15:13,080 --> 00:15:15,810
And by that time, this
wall the back of our house

323
00:15:15,810 --> 00:15:17,190
had been breached.

324
00:15:17,190 --> 00:15:19,440
We had all gotten
together and smashed it

325
00:15:19,440 --> 00:15:22,770
so that you could walk through
it and get to those empty lots.

326
00:15:22,770 --> 00:15:24,480
That was like an escape route.

327
00:15:24,480 --> 00:15:26,400
Because we knew if we
go out to Dakota Street,

328
00:15:26,400 --> 00:15:29,340
there was a Japanese
machine gun nest there,

329
00:15:29,340 --> 00:15:32,180
and we were quite certain
it was being manned.

330
00:15:32,180 --> 00:15:36,190
So we didn't-- the people in the
house in front could see that.

331
00:15:36,190 --> 00:15:38,250
So they said, don't
go out that way.

332

00:15:38,250 --> 00:15:41,130

We're all going to go out the
back way, through the wall,

333

00:15:41,130 --> 00:15:46,218

and camp somewhere in that huge
empty-- by that time, hundreds,

334

00:15:46,218 --> 00:15:47,760

even thousands of
people were already

335

00:15:47,760 --> 00:15:50,160

converging on those empty lots.

336

00:15:50,160 --> 00:15:51,603

And we could see
in the distance,

337

00:15:51,603 --> 00:15:52,770

they were digging big holes.

338

00:15:52,770 --> 00:15:54,270

They were burying
some people there,

339

00:15:54,270 --> 00:15:58,080

because they'd been killed
by shelling or shrapnel.

340

00:15:58,080 --> 00:16:00,405

So we were there, and
that was nighttime.

341

00:16:00,405 --> 00:16:01,800

It was dark.

342

00:16:01,800 --> 00:16:06,030

So we and many other
people, we rushed out.

343

00:16:06,030 --> 00:16:07,770
And against one of the walls--

344
00:16:07,770 --> 00:16:08,940
we went back to the house.

345
00:16:08,940 --> 00:16:10,830
My father brought
our mattresses,

346
00:16:10,830 --> 00:16:13,110
and we built a sort of lean-to.

347
00:16:13,110 --> 00:16:16,620
And we were in that thing,
and in that thing all night.

348
00:16:16,620 --> 00:16:20,670
And meanwhile, everything
around us went up in flames.

349
00:16:20,670 --> 00:16:24,540
It was just like-- it
was like Dante's hell.

350
00:16:24,540 --> 00:16:27,090
Flames all around you,
and people streaming out

351
00:16:27,090 --> 00:16:28,230
and camping out there.

352
00:16:28,230 --> 00:16:29,130
Some with nothing.

353
00:16:29,130 --> 00:16:30,660
Of course, they had just run.

354
00:16:30,660 --> 00:16:31,990
We had prepared a little bit.

355
00:16:31,990 --> 00:16:33,157

We had some things.

356

00:16:33,157 --> 00:16:35,490
And we brought out more stuff,
because our house was not

357

00:16:35,490 --> 00:16:36,447
that far away.

358

00:16:36,447 --> 00:16:39,030
Well, my father took a different
route, brought the mattresses

359

00:16:39,030 --> 00:16:39,530
out.

360

00:16:39,530 --> 00:16:42,460
And so anyway, we had these
mattresses, and some stuff,

361

00:16:42,460 --> 00:16:44,700
and a bag full of some clothes.

362

00:16:44,700 --> 00:16:47,010
And there we were,
sitting on the ground.

363

00:16:47,010 --> 00:16:49,710
And by next morning, there
was black smoke and everything

364

00:16:49,710 --> 00:16:50,730
all over the place.

365

00:16:50,730 --> 00:16:51,810
And we looked.

366

00:16:51,810 --> 00:16:55,440
Of the six houses in our court,
two had remained standing,

367

00:16:55,440 --> 00:16:58,365

had not been touched by the
flames and burned down--

368
00:16:58,365 --> 00:16:59,860
ours and another.

369
00:16:59,860 --> 00:17:01,800
So it was a good
thing they did not

370
00:17:01,800 --> 00:17:05,010
light up our house directly,
and we had closed the windows.

371
00:17:05,010 --> 00:17:07,950
However, we did not dare
go back into the house.

372
00:17:07,950 --> 00:17:11,040
The Japanese were all over
the place in small groups.

373
00:17:11,040 --> 00:17:12,660
They came out of
their pillboxes.

374
00:17:12,660 --> 00:17:14,250
They came out of their trenches.

375
00:17:14,250 --> 00:17:16,020
They came out of
God knows where.

376
00:17:16,020 --> 00:17:18,060
They came amongst all
those people camped.

377
00:17:18,060 --> 00:17:20,550
There were thousands of
them in these empty lots--

378
00:17:20,550 --> 00:17:22,380
in the two empty lots.

379

00:17:22,380 --> 00:17:24,030

And they would run around there.

380

00:17:24,030 --> 00:17:28,240

And again, they saw a
white face, and they went

381

00:17:28,240 --> 00:17:29,667

[SPEAKING JAPANESE]

382

00:17:29,667 --> 00:17:30,500

And they would say--

383

00:17:30,500 --> 00:17:33,150

[SPEAKING JAPANESE]

384

00:17:33,150 --> 00:17:34,110

OK, so they went on.

385

00:17:34,110 --> 00:17:37,410

And that to them was the German.

386

00:17:37,410 --> 00:17:40,350

It's weird to have to
use that as a subterfuge.

387

00:17:40,350 --> 00:17:42,120

Anyway, the shelling got worse.

388

00:17:42,120 --> 00:17:44,910

They were now closing
in, the American forces.

389

00:17:44,910 --> 00:17:46,830

They were coming in.

390

00:17:46,830 --> 00:17:49,890

They had made a sort of a
swing from the north down

391

00:17:49,890 --> 00:17:53,370
through the eastern
side of the city,

392
00:17:53,370 --> 00:17:55,920
and were apparently
coming in from the East.

393
00:17:55,920 --> 00:17:57,990
That was the 38th
Division, which we found--

394
00:17:57,990 --> 00:18:02,760
37th Division, and the seam
between it and the 1st Cavalry

395
00:18:02,760 --> 00:18:06,690
was down the street that I had
mentioned once, San Andreas.

396
00:18:06,690 --> 00:18:08,400
On the north side
of San Andreas,

397
00:18:08,400 --> 00:18:11,490
a little further, it was
37th, it was 1st Cavalry.

398
00:18:11,490 --> 00:18:14,040
And on our side was the 37th.

399
00:18:14,040 --> 00:18:18,150
Although that I found out
later naturally, not now--

400
00:18:18,150 --> 00:18:19,030
not at that time.

401
00:18:19,030 --> 00:18:22,200
We didn't even know from
where they were coming.

402
00:18:22,200 --> 00:18:24,780

But the shelling was intense.

403

00:18:24,780 --> 00:18:28,110

We were getting
casualties by the hundreds

404

00:18:28,110 --> 00:18:29,700

killed and wounded.

405

00:18:29,700 --> 00:18:31,560

A woman brought by--

406

00:18:31,560 --> 00:18:34,260

stopped by our
lean-to in the middle

407

00:18:34,260 --> 00:18:36,120

of a tremendous
shelling barrage.

408

00:18:36,120 --> 00:18:37,530

And she had this little kid.

409

00:18:37,530 --> 00:18:38,660

We knew her and the kid.

410

00:18:38,660 --> 00:18:40,035

And then the kid
was in her arms,

411

00:18:40,035 --> 00:18:42,960

was dead, had been killed.

412

00:18:42,960 --> 00:18:44,760

There were people being
killed constantly.

413

00:18:44,760 --> 00:18:48,930

They were people I knew,
neighbors, people we knew some,

414

00:18:48,930 --> 00:18:52,200

Jewish people who lived nearby.

415

00:18:52,200 --> 00:18:55,220

There was one man, a young couple, he was killed.

416

00:18:55,220 --> 00:18:56,390

He was exposed.

417

00:18:56,390 --> 00:18:57,450

There was another fellow.

418

00:18:57,450 --> 00:19:00,200

His name was [? Benno ?]

[? Wilhelm. ?] And he had

419

00:19:00,200 --> 00:19:02,270

an older brother, a Viennese.

420

00:19:02,270 --> 00:19:06,020

And he had sort of volunteered to be part of the Red Cross

421

00:19:06,020 --> 00:19:09,020

or medical aid group that was helping

422

00:19:09,020 --> 00:19:10,490

people in this hospital.

423

00:19:10,490 --> 00:19:12,290

And in fact, he even helped bury them.

424

00:19:12,290 --> 00:19:14,540

He was hit, and he was killed.

425

00:19:14,540 --> 00:19:16,490

So he was buried there in that place.

426

00:19:16,490 --> 00:19:19,940

So there was a constant
burial party routine going.

427
00:19:19,940 --> 00:19:22,010
And we were totally exposed.

428
00:19:22,010 --> 00:19:25,130
The Piper Cub spotter
plane was right above us.

429
00:19:25,130 --> 00:19:27,410
They called artillery in.

430
00:19:27,410 --> 00:19:28,680
I don't know.

431
00:19:28,680 --> 00:19:30,680
Obviously they were not
trying to hit civilians,

432
00:19:30,680 --> 00:19:34,220
but the Japanese were in
small groups all around.

433
00:19:34,220 --> 00:19:37,478
So naturally they wanted
to neutralize the Japanese.

434
00:19:37,478 --> 00:19:39,770
Because as I found out later
from this book, The Battle

435
00:19:39,770 --> 00:19:42,260
of Manila, General
Beightler's viewpoint was,

436
00:19:42,260 --> 00:19:45,063
I'm not going to sacrifice a
single American soldier here.

437
00:19:45,063 --> 00:19:46,730
We're going to do
everything to wipe out

438
00:19:46,730 --> 00:19:48,770
the Japanese before we go in.

439
00:19:48,770 --> 00:19:50,600
Otherwise, we would lose people.

440
00:19:50,600 --> 00:19:53,480
And he didn't want to be
saddled with the charge

441
00:19:53,480 --> 00:19:54,890
that he was a butcher.

442
00:19:54,890 --> 00:19:58,100
And so if there were civilians
there in large numbers, why,

443
00:19:58,100 --> 00:19:59,450
that was too bad.

444
00:19:59,450 --> 00:20:01,460
That was his viewpoint.

445
00:20:01,460 --> 00:20:03,020
Presumably, anyway.

446
00:20:03,020 --> 00:20:06,360
So that's exactly what happened.

447
00:20:06,360 --> 00:20:11,150
The battle lasted in that
area for approximately--

448
00:20:11,150 --> 00:20:14,570
well, actually
till-- in our case,

449
00:20:14,570 --> 00:20:15,680
till the 15th of February.

450

00:20:15,680 --> 00:20:18,590

451

00:20:18,590 --> 00:20:22,413

This date in February,
the 6th or 7th of '45,

452

00:20:22,413 --> 00:20:24,080

was this the beginning
of what you would

453

00:20:24,080 --> 00:20:26,690

call the Battle of Manila?

454

00:20:26,690 --> 00:20:30,350

Well, I would probably
put it earlier.

455

00:20:30,350 --> 00:20:35,810

Certainly it started with the
liberation of Santa Tomas.

456

00:20:35,810 --> 00:20:38,720

Later on, we found out that
because they rushed down

457

00:20:38,720 --> 00:20:42,320

to Santa Tomas, one of the two
battalions of the 1st Cavalry

458

00:20:42,320 --> 00:20:45,320

Division, which is a small
amount of the division,

459

00:20:45,320 --> 00:20:46,730

they were stuck there.

460

00:20:46,730 --> 00:20:48,830

The Japanese had built
tremendous defenses.

461

00:20:48,830 --> 00:20:51,918

They needed to bring the rest of

the troops down from Lingayen.

462

00:20:51,918 --> 00:20:52,460

They needed--

463

00:20:52,460 --> 00:20:54,200

And there were
problems on the way.

464

00:20:54,200 --> 00:20:58,550

I mean, there was some
Japanese resistance, roadways,

465

00:20:58,550 --> 00:21:01,910

tremendous logistical
problems, certainly.

466

00:21:01,910 --> 00:21:05,720

And it took weeks to get in a
position to actually conduct

467

00:21:05,720 --> 00:21:07,130

the Battle of Manila.

468

00:21:07,130 --> 00:21:09,740

And on top of that,
American forces perhaps

469

00:21:09,740 --> 00:21:12,060

did not realize that it
was going to be defended

470

00:21:12,060 --> 00:21:14,480

to the last Japanese marine.

471

00:21:14,480 --> 00:21:18,380

So that of course,
created delay.

472

00:21:18,380 --> 00:21:21,590

And the biggest delay was
crossing the Pasig River.

473

00:21:21,590 --> 00:21:24,500

The Japanese had blown
up all the bridges.

474

00:21:24,500 --> 00:21:26,990

So to cross the river, they
needed to send combat engineers

475

00:21:26,990 --> 00:21:30,920

across, set up pontoon bridges.

476

00:21:30,920 --> 00:21:33,140

Eventually, they built
Bailey bridge sections

477

00:21:33,140 --> 00:21:35,480

over some of the
destroyed bridges

478

00:21:35,480 --> 00:21:39,470

to get Across and to bring an
army across a river, a fairly

479

00:21:39,470 --> 00:21:42,090

decent-sized river,
is no easy task.

480

00:21:42,090 --> 00:21:43,940

So instead they
began to soften up

481

00:21:43,940 --> 00:21:47,870

the southern part, this part
of Manila south of the Pasig,

482

00:21:47,870 --> 00:21:51,230

beginning, I would say,
with major artillery

483

00:21:51,230 --> 00:21:54,480

sometime late January.

484

00:21:54,480 --> 00:21:56,360

I'm not certain
exactly of the date,

485

00:21:56,360 --> 00:21:58,370

but certainly by
the 5th of February

486

00:21:58,370 --> 00:22:01,280

we knew that they were
beginning to shoot artillery

487

00:22:01,280 --> 00:22:04,610

into the portion south
of the Pasig River,

488

00:22:04,610 --> 00:22:06,560

where the large
residential areas were,

489

00:22:06,560 --> 00:22:10,550

Paco and to the East
Ermita Malate Also

490

00:22:10,550 --> 00:22:13,040

the Intramuros, the
large walled city,

491

00:22:13,040 --> 00:22:15,800

which was one of the last things
that was actually liberated

492

00:22:15,800 --> 00:22:17,960

by the forces, American forces.

493

00:22:17,960 --> 00:22:23,720

So the Battle of Manila
lasted from January to March.

494

00:22:23,720 --> 00:22:26,930

And in the course of which,
as I'll mention again later,

495

00:22:26,930 --> 00:22:30,890
100,000 Filipinos and
proportionate amount of others

496
00:22:30,890 --> 00:22:31,910
were killed.

497
00:22:31,910 --> 00:22:35,800
It was a tremendous
battle, very expensive.

498
00:22:35,800 --> 00:22:38,840
The destruction was
as bad as Warsaw,

499
00:22:38,840 --> 00:22:41,420
and the fighting was
bad as Stalingrad.

500
00:22:41,420 --> 00:22:45,380
The only reason it doesn't
get too much play is because,

501
00:22:45,380 --> 00:22:47,780
one, the casualty--

502
00:22:47,780 --> 00:22:50,600
the reasons for the casualties,
the 100,000 civilians

503
00:22:50,600 --> 00:22:53,690
were mostly killed by
artillery and mortars.

504
00:22:53,690 --> 00:22:56,300
Although many were killed
through Japanese atrocities,

505
00:22:56,300 --> 00:22:57,690
no question about it.

506
00:22:57,690 --> 00:22:58,940
But the majority were not.

507
00:22:58,940 --> 00:23:01,370
They were killed by
American or friendly fire.

508
00:23:01,370 --> 00:23:04,430
So that tends to be a
difficult story to tell.

509
00:23:04,430 --> 00:23:06,020
It hasn't really
been told thoroughly

510
00:23:06,020 --> 00:23:09,530
until more recently
here in the 1990s when

511
00:23:09,530 --> 00:23:11,540
this book was published.

512
00:23:11,540 --> 00:23:14,450
But that was the
fact of the matter.

513
00:23:14,450 --> 00:23:21,380
In any event, by sometime
around February the 13th,

514
00:23:21,380 --> 00:23:24,030
I believe it might
have been, there

515
00:23:24,030 --> 00:23:27,900
was an enormous barrage we were
in our lean-to with the house

516
00:23:27,900 --> 00:23:30,540
girl, and my father, my mother.

517
00:23:30,540 --> 00:23:34,350
And people that had lived
next to us, this cochero

518

00:23:34,350 --> 00:23:37,980
and his crew, they had built a
huge underground-- they dug out

519

00:23:37,980 --> 00:23:42,630
a huge ditch or pit, covered
it with a palm tree logs,

520

00:23:42,630 --> 00:23:44,730
made this thing like a bunker.

521

00:23:44,730 --> 00:23:46,350
And they were all in there.

522

00:23:46,350 --> 00:23:50,310
And I said to my father and
my mother, this shelling,

523

00:23:50,310 --> 00:23:51,600
this is really bad.

524

00:23:51,600 --> 00:23:54,360
Let's scoot out of here
and dive into their ditch

525

00:23:54,360 --> 00:23:58,410
during the shelling, which was
only about 10, 15 feet away.

526

00:23:58,410 --> 00:23:59,120
And we did that.

527

00:23:59,120 --> 00:24:00,780
The house girl froze.

528

00:24:00,780 --> 00:24:02,965
I tried to pull her,
but she wouldn't move.

529

00:24:02,965 --> 00:24:05,430
She was just lying flat.

530

00:24:05,430 --> 00:24:06,180
but we moved.

531

00:24:06,180 --> 00:24:09,460
And the artillery just
went on like crazy.

532

00:24:09,460 --> 00:24:12,210
And then suddenly we
heard a huge bang.

533

00:24:12,210 --> 00:24:14,580
And seconds after
that, the house girl

534

00:24:14,580 --> 00:24:17,220
jumped into this
dugout, and she was

535

00:24:17,220 --> 00:24:18,470
bleeding all over the place.

536

00:24:18,470 --> 00:24:20,700
She had a hole in her
cheek, which was bleeding,

537

00:24:20,700 --> 00:24:24,370
squirting blood, and she was
all-- had collapsed there.

538

00:24:24,370 --> 00:24:26,530
So we put a cushion
against her cheek.

539

00:24:26,530 --> 00:24:29,610
My father grabbed her, dragged
her out of this bunker,

540

00:24:29,610 --> 00:24:32,160
took her under the
artillery barrage

541

00:24:32,160 --> 00:24:36,150
to this makeshift
hospital, left her there,

542
00:24:36,150 --> 00:24:38,820
because there were people
attending to some degree.

543
00:24:38,820 --> 00:24:42,090
He came back, unscathed luckily.

544
00:24:42,090 --> 00:24:45,610
And two hours later,
she came back as well.

545
00:24:45,610 --> 00:24:47,610
They had staunched the
bleeding, but the place

546
00:24:47,610 --> 00:24:49,620
had taken several direct
hits, including where

547
00:24:49,620 --> 00:24:51,090
they were operating on people.

548
00:24:51,090 --> 00:24:52,410
So she escaped from there.

549
00:24:52,410 --> 00:24:55,830
But she at least been--
blood had been staunched,

550
00:24:55,830 --> 00:24:57,880
but she was quite weak.

551
00:24:57,880 --> 00:24:59,820
[PHONE RINGING]

552
00:24:59,820 --> 00:25:04,240
In any event, after the house
girl came back into the dugout

553

00:25:04,240 --> 00:25:06,240

and the shelling then
stopped, there was a lull.

554

00:25:06,240 --> 00:25:08,580

And we climbed out,
and we saw our lean-to

555

00:25:08,580 --> 00:25:11,130

had received a direct hit.

556

00:25:11,130 --> 00:25:12,900

Everything was destroyed.

557

00:25:12,900 --> 00:25:15,900

Everything was in
shreds, the mattresses.

558

00:25:15,900 --> 00:25:19,230

Later on, we had some--
my t-shirts folded,

559

00:25:19,230 --> 00:25:21,540

and shrapnel had gone
through the folded t-shirts.

560

00:25:21,540 --> 00:25:23,930

And then later on, when I put
one on, it was a fresh one,

561

00:25:23,930 --> 00:25:27,000

it had this sort of interesting
pattern of holes in it.

562

00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:31,810

But the teakettle that
my parents had received

563

00:25:31,810 --> 00:25:36,150

at their wedding, a pewter one,
was sitting there somewhere,

564

00:25:36,150 --> 00:25:38,340
and its top was all bashed in.

565
00:25:38,340 --> 00:25:39,810
Shrapnel had gone
through the thing

566
00:25:39,810 --> 00:25:43,590
and snipped off at the
snout of the teakettle.

567
00:25:43,590 --> 00:25:45,810
I still have it
today as a memento.

568
00:25:45,810 --> 00:25:48,000
That was about the only
thing-- and a picture of her

569
00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:52,770
that we saved from that
area and from the house.

570
00:25:52,770 --> 00:25:55,140
I just want to go back
a little bit in time,

571
00:25:55,140 --> 00:25:56,610
because I forgot something.

572
00:25:56,610 --> 00:26:02,970
Our temple, Temple Emil,
in the latter part of 1944,

573
00:26:02,970 --> 00:26:05,220
the Japanese took
the building over.

574
00:26:05,220 --> 00:26:07,770
And there were no more services.

575
00:26:07,770 --> 00:26:11,760
Services were held in different

parts by different people.

576
00:26:11,760 --> 00:26:12,870
It was now scattered.

577
00:26:12,870 --> 00:26:15,630
Again, bombing had
started and everything.

578
00:26:15,630 --> 00:26:17,790
They took it over and
stored torpedoes in it.

579
00:26:17,790 --> 00:26:20,490
It was a munitions
dump at that point.

580
00:26:20,490 --> 00:26:25,650
And in the course of the Battle
of Manila, it was blown up,

581
00:26:25,650 --> 00:26:27,640
these torpedoes burned out.

582
00:26:27,640 --> 00:26:30,570
So the only thing left
standing of Temple Emil

583
00:26:30,570 --> 00:26:33,570
was the outer walls.

584
00:26:33,570 --> 00:26:35,440
That was it.

585
00:26:35,440 --> 00:26:37,860
But the temple was not
used, and the rabbi

586
00:26:37,860 --> 00:26:42,060
who had lived next to it also
had to leave his apartments,

587

00:26:42,060 --> 00:26:45,540
and that whole building was
taken over by the Japanese.

588
00:26:45,540 --> 00:26:48,540
I'm not sure whether they did
it because it was a temple,

589
00:26:48,540 --> 00:26:50,160
or they did that
to many buildings.

590
00:26:50,160 --> 00:26:52,590
They were beginning
to be very desperate.

591
00:26:52,590 --> 00:26:53,610
It's hard to say.

592
00:26:53,610 --> 00:26:54,480
They may have.

593
00:26:54,480 --> 00:26:57,000
It's possible.

594
00:26:57,000 --> 00:26:58,920
But in any event, there it was.

595
00:26:58,920 --> 00:27:00,340
That's what they did.

596
00:27:00,340 --> 00:27:02,160
And just to mention
the fact that it

597
00:27:02,160 --> 00:27:05,430
was the only synagogue under
American-- the American flag

598
00:27:05,430 --> 00:27:07,846
that was destroyed in
the Second World War.

599

00:27:07,846 --> 00:27:10,013

When I say American flag,
it was in the Philippines,

600

00:27:10,013 --> 00:27:13,830

an American Commonwealth is
basically what the area was.

601

00:27:13,830 --> 00:27:17,880

But getting back to that
February the 13th incident,

602

00:27:17,880 --> 00:27:21,540

whereby now people are being
shredded and killed and wounded

603

00:27:21,540 --> 00:27:25,320

badly in that area, the
man with all these horses,

604

00:27:25,320 --> 00:27:27,630

he had to evacuate
the horses, bring them

605

00:27:27,630 --> 00:27:28,890

through that gap in the wall.

606

00:27:28,890 --> 00:27:30,372

They, too, were standing.

607

00:27:30,372 --> 00:27:32,580

And you know what happens
when there's artillery fire

608

00:27:32,580 --> 00:27:33,840

and the horses are in the way.

609

00:27:33,840 --> 00:27:35,130

They were all killed.

610

00:27:35,130 --> 00:27:37,890

So there were dead

horses lying around.

611
00:27:37,890 --> 00:27:40,493
But he then asked
anyone who wanted to,

612
00:27:40,493 --> 00:27:41,910
they were essentially
slaughtered,

613
00:27:41,910 --> 00:27:43,990
who wanted to help
themselves to the horse meat,

614
00:27:43,990 --> 00:27:46,780
then they certainly
were free to do so.

615
00:27:46,780 --> 00:27:49,960
And people did, because
they had nothing to eat.

616
00:27:49,960 --> 00:27:55,560
So by that time, that's
February the 13th, roughly.

617
00:27:55,560 --> 00:27:58,260
We should still--
we had to leave.

618
00:27:58,260 --> 00:27:59,227
The lean-to was gone.

619
00:27:59,227 --> 00:28:00,060
Everything was gone.

620
00:28:00,060 --> 00:28:01,320
We were out in the open.

621
00:28:01,320 --> 00:28:03,660
Artillery fire was going on.

622

00:28:03,660 --> 00:28:04,990
Things were very desperate.

623
00:28:04,990 --> 00:28:08,110
I mean, the death
rate was horrendous.

624
00:28:08,110 --> 00:28:11,580
And we were burying
people, and lots of people

625
00:28:11,580 --> 00:28:16,800
wounded, and there was very
little attention to the wounds.

626
00:28:16,800 --> 00:28:22,620
So at one point, a man
was kind of bloodied.

627
00:28:22,620 --> 00:28:26,790
There were some people gathering
near the street, that San

628
00:28:26,790 --> 00:28:28,680
Andreas street.

629
00:28:28,680 --> 00:28:32,740
And this was a man, he
had a Red Cross flag,

630
00:28:32,740 --> 00:28:34,230
which was kind of bloodied.

631
00:28:34,230 --> 00:28:37,800
And he was standing there,
talking to a Japanese officer.

632
00:28:37,800 --> 00:28:40,650
And there were people
gathering near this.

633
00:28:40,650 --> 00:28:44,670
There was some rumor that they

were trying to lead civilians

634

00:28:44,670 --> 00:28:48,060
in some direction of where
the Americans presumably

635

00:28:48,060 --> 00:28:49,290
were coming from.

636

00:28:49,290 --> 00:28:51,600
We didn't know how close
they were, nothing.

637

00:28:51,600 --> 00:28:53,160
The street was
littered with bodies.

638

00:28:53,160 --> 00:28:54,433
There were overturned cars.

639

00:28:54,433 --> 00:28:56,850
It looked like a scene from
Gone With the Wind, the battle

640

00:28:56,850 --> 00:28:57,883
scene.

641

00:28:57,883 --> 00:28:59,550
And the hundreds of
people are beginning

642

00:28:59,550 --> 00:29:03,120
to gather around this guy
with the Red Cross flag.

643

00:29:03,120 --> 00:29:08,640
And then there was some overhead
shelling, but there was a lull.

644

00:29:08,640 --> 00:29:10,290
And suddenly people
were beginning

645

00:29:10,290 --> 00:29:13,740

to move in the
western direction.

646

00:29:13,740 --> 00:29:18,280

That's toward where we presumed
the American forces were.

647

00:29:18,280 --> 00:29:22,140

And there were
people of all kinds.

648

00:29:22,140 --> 00:29:23,910

There was my mother
and my father, myself.

649

00:29:23,910 --> 00:29:25,470

We had a cooking pot with us.

650

00:29:25,470 --> 00:29:28,230

We had one little
shopping bag thing.

651

00:29:28,230 --> 00:29:31,210

And there was a little child
all bloodied, and she was alone,

652

00:29:31,210 --> 00:29:34,230

I was about four-year-old girl.

653

00:29:34,230 --> 00:29:36,870

I mean, things were
sort of in a chaos.

654

00:29:36,870 --> 00:29:38,130

People were dazed.

655

00:29:38,130 --> 00:29:41,250

After all, we'd been a week or
so under heavy artillery fire.

656

00:29:41,250 --> 00:29:43,470

And with all that
scene, and the food--

657
00:29:43,470 --> 00:29:44,680
no food.

658
00:29:44,680 --> 00:29:45,990
I weighed 75 pounds.

659
00:29:45,990 --> 00:29:47,640
I was 14 years old.

660
00:29:47,640 --> 00:29:51,690
And it was sort of
like a nightmare.

661
00:29:51,690 --> 00:29:52,920
Unreal.

662
00:29:52,920 --> 00:29:55,500
Anyway, we started
heading in that direction.

663
00:29:55,500 --> 00:29:57,660
And suddenly we heard
machine gunfire open up,

664
00:29:57,660 --> 00:29:59,100
and everyone went flat.

665
00:29:59,100 --> 00:30:00,380
That came from the back of us.

666
00:30:00,380 --> 00:30:03,120
So that came from the Japanese.

667
00:30:03,120 --> 00:30:05,460
Then pretty soon
we got we crossed

668
00:30:05,460 --> 00:30:07,445
Dakota Street, which was--

669
00:30:07,445 --> 00:30:08,820
now we were at
that intersection,

670
00:30:08,820 --> 00:30:15,200
Dakota-San Andreas heading
east, away from the Bay.

671
00:30:15,200 --> 00:30:17,820
OK.

672
00:30:17,820 --> 00:30:22,185
We crossed Dakota Street,
and ran across it, actually.

673
00:30:22,185 --> 00:30:24,060
Because we weren't sure,
and then sort of had

674
00:30:24,060 --> 00:30:27,570
to crouch like an infantryman
does on the attack.

675
00:30:27,570 --> 00:30:30,480
We got to the other side, and
then later a little further on,

676
00:30:30,480 --> 00:30:32,670
we knew there were
some tennis courts

677
00:30:32,670 --> 00:30:37,410
with these high types
of fences, you know,

678
00:30:37,410 --> 00:30:39,210
what are these wire fences.

679
00:30:39,210 --> 00:30:40,960
And of course, they
were not being used.

680

00:30:40,960 --> 00:30:43,710

But we got to that next
block, and there we

681

00:30:43,710 --> 00:30:48,550

stopped because everybody
laid down flat real quick.

682

00:30:48,550 --> 00:30:50,500

There was no fire or
anything like that,

683

00:30:50,500 --> 00:30:52,920

but what we saw across
the street first

684

00:30:52,920 --> 00:30:55,410

of all, us Germans--

685

00:30:55,410 --> 00:31:01,710

ex-German or German Jews froze,
because what we saw was three

686

00:31:01,710 --> 00:31:06,400

soldiers who were wearing
helmets that looked very much--

687

00:31:06,400 --> 00:31:08,580

we thought were German helmets.

688

00:31:08,580 --> 00:31:11,790

They looked like these
German army helmets.

689

00:31:11,790 --> 00:31:14,760

And you know, and
they were white.

690

00:31:14,760 --> 00:31:16,560

They were Caucasian.

691

00:31:16,560 --> 00:31:18,322

And so being so
dazed and everything,

692
00:31:18,322 --> 00:31:19,780
we said, gee, what's
happened here?

693
00:31:19,780 --> 00:31:23,430
I mean a German
paratroop crew has

694
00:31:23,430 --> 00:31:26,820
come to join the Japanese
to help them out?

695
00:31:26,820 --> 00:31:28,110
What's going on?

696
00:31:28,110 --> 00:31:31,980
Because we didn't know that
the American helmet design

697
00:31:31,980 --> 00:31:32,880
had changed.

698
00:31:32,880 --> 00:31:35,460
We actually expected them to
come in with these flat tops

699
00:31:35,460 --> 00:31:39,120
like the British wore, like
they had worn before the war.

700
00:31:39,120 --> 00:31:42,570
And you know, that's what
we had expected to see.

701
00:31:42,570 --> 00:31:46,020
But we saw instead these
German-looking troops,

702
00:31:46,020 --> 00:31:47,140
three of them.

703
00:31:47,140 --> 00:31:49,770
So as we approached
closer, we looked closer

704
00:31:49,770 --> 00:31:52,170
and they were just
like across the street.

705
00:31:52,170 --> 00:31:53,910
And they saw us.

706
00:31:53,910 --> 00:31:56,430
And I'll describe
it in this way.

707
00:31:56,430 --> 00:31:58,588
There was one lying on
the ground behind a 30

708
00:31:58,588 --> 00:31:59,880
caliber air-cooled machine gun.

709
00:31:59,880 --> 00:32:01,650
I found it out later
that was the model.

710
00:32:01,650 --> 00:32:03,420
A guy behind him kneeling.

711
00:32:03,420 --> 00:32:04,830
He was with a carbine.

712
00:32:04,830 --> 00:32:07,510
And a guy behind him standing,
and he was on the telephone.

713
00:32:07,510 --> 00:32:09,060
Because they ran
telephone lines.

714
00:32:09,060 --> 00:32:11,670

It was the so-called point
that the military uses.

715
00:32:11,670 --> 00:32:13,710
That's the first unit up front.

716
00:32:13,710 --> 00:32:15,660
That is the very first.

717
00:32:15,660 --> 00:32:16,860
That's called the point.

718
00:32:16,860 --> 00:32:18,510
And there was three
guys on the point.

719
00:32:18,510 --> 00:32:22,990
Now, and then suddenly
they saw as soon,

720
00:32:22,990 --> 00:32:25,290
this whole group of
civilians with their hands

721
00:32:25,290 --> 00:32:26,760
up, some of them and stuff.

722
00:32:26,760 --> 00:32:29,385
And then we heard
them speak English.

723
00:32:29,385 --> 00:32:32,150

724
00:32:32,150 --> 00:32:38,030
Yeah, very emotional moment,
you know, even today.

725
00:32:38,030 --> 00:32:45,370

726
00:32:45,370 --> 00:32:47,120

Anyway, these people,
these three soldiers

727
00:32:47,120 --> 00:32:48,890
beckoned us to come
across and said, oh, you

728
00:32:48,890 --> 00:32:49,940
can put your hands down.

729
00:32:49,940 --> 00:32:52,050
You know, we're
Americans and so on.

730
00:32:52,050 --> 00:32:55,160
[INAUDIBLE] And the first
thing we did was ask for water.

731
00:32:55,160 --> 00:32:56,415
Because we had none.

732
00:32:56,415 --> 00:32:57,353
It was completely dry.

733
00:32:57,353 --> 00:32:58,020
We had no water.

734
00:32:58,020 --> 00:32:59,300
It was very hot there.

735
00:32:59,300 --> 00:33:00,857
And they said, yeah,
just come over.

736
00:33:00,857 --> 00:33:01,940
Come back as fast you can.

737
00:33:01,940 --> 00:33:04,520
Move as fast as you can, and
get in behind us, and please

738
00:33:04,520 --> 00:33:06,395

don't step on the phone
lines, because that's

739
00:33:06,395 --> 00:33:08,840
the only thing connecting
us to our headquarters.

740
00:33:08,840 --> 00:33:11,540
And just keep calm,
and keep going,

741
00:33:11,540 --> 00:33:14,874
and you can put
your hands down now.

742
00:33:14,874 --> 00:33:16,750
Weird.

743
00:33:16,750 --> 00:33:19,720
Anyway, so we kept
moving, and pretty soon we

744
00:33:19,720 --> 00:33:26,845
met more of these soldiers and
larger groups, platoon 4, 6, 7,

745
00:33:26,845 --> 00:33:29,870
8, and So on, asking them
for more water, because we

746
00:33:29,870 --> 00:33:31,910
were thirsty and
have a lot of people.

747
00:33:31,910 --> 00:33:34,450
And then we also saw what
was the so-called Philippine

748
00:33:34,450 --> 00:33:35,080
Guerrillas.

749
00:33:35,080 --> 00:33:37,750
They were now dressed in

sort of [? khaki ?] uniforms,

750

00:33:37,750 --> 00:33:38,463

and they wore--

751

00:33:38,463 --> 00:33:39,880

some of them wore

the old helmets,

752

00:33:39,880 --> 00:33:42,010

and they had some red

bands on their armbands,

753

00:33:42,010 --> 00:33:44,410

and that showed on the

armband what rank they were.

754

00:33:44,410 --> 00:33:47,260

Captain or lieutenant

or private, whatever.

755

00:33:47,260 --> 00:33:51,550

Anyway, so they began to

direct us back behind.

756

00:33:51,550 --> 00:33:55,180

And soon we got to larger

formations in the back.

757

00:33:55,180 --> 00:33:59,500

And pretty soon, here we are,

walking and trooping along,

758

00:33:59,500 --> 00:34:01,690

and with all the other people.

759

00:34:01,690 --> 00:34:06,040

And soon it was an American

unit, two or three guys

760

00:34:06,040 --> 00:34:08,679

came up, and they saw us, and

they began to ask for papers.

761
00:34:08,679 --> 00:34:10,330
You know, like who are you guys?

762
00:34:10,330 --> 00:34:12,940
I mean, we weren't
Filipinos and so on.

763
00:34:12,940 --> 00:34:14,949
So we said who we were.

764
00:34:14,949 --> 00:34:18,520
Again, we used those passports,
Jews, German Jews, and so on,

765
00:34:18,520 --> 00:34:19,330
stateless.

766
00:34:19,330 --> 00:34:20,770
I see, all right.

767
00:34:20,770 --> 00:34:22,570
And found out these
were people that

768
00:34:22,570 --> 00:34:24,699
were with the so-called
G2, the intelligence

769
00:34:24,699 --> 00:34:25,960
section of the army.

770
00:34:25,960 --> 00:34:29,889
And they'll do screening
behind the lines of combat.

771
00:34:29,889 --> 00:34:32,080
And they directed us to
a sort of clearing there

772
00:34:32,080 --> 00:34:33,340
and says, oh, you wait here.

773

00:34:33,340 --> 00:34:37,449

And the next thing we
know, we met the rabbi.

774

00:34:37,449 --> 00:34:40,840

There he was, unshaven, carrying
his kid on his shoulders,

775

00:34:40,840 --> 00:34:43,960

and his wife, and a couple
others, and his parents.

776

00:34:43,960 --> 00:34:46,389

No, it was her
parents in the group.

777

00:34:46,389 --> 00:34:48,020

And so we were all
gathering there,

778

00:34:48,020 --> 00:34:49,810

and must have
eventually gathered

779

00:34:49,810 --> 00:34:52,719

about 20 people, all whites.

780

00:34:52,719 --> 00:34:54,610

In fact, all Jews.

781

00:34:54,610 --> 00:34:56,770

I think, except
for-- well, yeah.

782

00:34:56,770 --> 00:34:58,960

And then he decided,
well, what we're

783

00:34:58,960 --> 00:35:01,090

going to do with you is
we're going to ship you

784

00:35:01,090 --> 00:35:04,360
down to this camp because
we're supposed to gather you up

785

00:35:04,360 --> 00:35:04,930
and stuff.

786

00:35:04,930 --> 00:35:06,398
They put us on a truck.

787

00:35:06,398 --> 00:35:08,440
And the next thing you
know, we were heading down

788

00:35:08,440 --> 00:35:10,210
across the Pasig River.

789

00:35:10,210 --> 00:35:13,540
We rode over a pontoon bridge.

790

00:35:13,540 --> 00:35:18,610
But before we did that, walking
through that section, I mean,

791

00:35:18,610 --> 00:35:20,390
there was just again
bodies lying around.

792

00:35:20,390 --> 00:35:21,700
It was totally destroyed.

793

00:35:21,700 --> 00:35:23,590
Everything was burnt down.

794

00:35:23,590 --> 00:35:28,870
So they drove us by truck to--

795

00:35:28,870 --> 00:35:32,320
in fact, our house girl
who was wounded sort of

796

00:35:32,320 --> 00:35:33,340
was along with us.

797
00:35:33,340 --> 00:35:36,160
But then they separated
her out because she

798
00:35:36,160 --> 00:35:39,040
wanted to go back to her family
in that one part of town,

799
00:35:39,040 --> 00:35:42,230
and she wasn't really subject
to being taken anywhere,

800
00:35:42,230 --> 00:35:44,360
and so we let her--

801
00:35:44,360 --> 00:35:48,430
made her go her own
way back to her family.

802
00:35:48,430 --> 00:35:52,030
Her family was hopefully
still alive, and they were.

803
00:35:52,030 --> 00:35:56,350
But anyway, they took
us across the river.

804
00:35:56,350 --> 00:35:59,890
And by the way, the
date of liberation

805
00:35:59,890 --> 00:36:03,220
was February the 15th,
my father's birthday.

806
00:36:03,220 --> 00:36:05,380
So 1945.

807
00:36:05,380 --> 00:36:07,240
And this is the date

that you're referring

808

00:36:07,240 --> 00:36:08,580
to that this happened?

809

00:36:08,580 --> 00:36:10,540
Yes, this was the
date of liberation.

810

00:36:10,540 --> 00:36:12,010
Yes.

811

00:36:12,010 --> 00:36:12,780
Yeah.

812

00:36:12,780 --> 00:36:14,170
Yeah, that day.

813

00:36:14,170 --> 00:36:16,270
Well, they took us by
truck across the river,

814

00:36:16,270 --> 00:36:18,340
across the pontoon
bridge to a section north

815

00:36:18,340 --> 00:36:20,095
of the Pasig River.

816

00:36:20,095 --> 00:36:22,660
And it was a wide
street, and they took us

817

00:36:22,660 --> 00:36:24,970
to a place, the Convent
of the Holy Ghost,

818

00:36:24,970 --> 00:36:26,500
a Catholic nunnery--

819

00:36:26,500 --> 00:36:28,960
it had also been a school--

820
00:36:28,960 --> 00:36:32,290
and deposited us
there, where other--

821
00:36:32,290 --> 00:36:34,700
we met other Jewish families.

822
00:36:34,700 --> 00:36:37,750
And there was this huge
hall which had bunks in it,

823
00:36:37,750 --> 00:36:39,760
and they put us up there.

824
00:36:39,760 --> 00:36:43,690
And in fact, the
nuns prepared a meal.

825
00:36:43,690 --> 00:36:48,650
They were serving-- about the
only thing they had was flour,

826
00:36:48,650 --> 00:36:51,910
so they made these
dumplings out of flour,

827
00:36:51,910 --> 00:36:53,020
and that's what we ate.

828
00:36:53,020 --> 00:36:54,580
And then we found
out very quickly

829
00:36:54,580 --> 00:36:56,980
that in another wing
of the Holy Ghost,

830
00:36:56,980 --> 00:36:58,840
the whole place had
really been taken over

831

00:36:58,840 --> 00:37:00,940
by the American
army, and was used

832
00:37:00,940 --> 00:37:04,700
as an internment camp for the
Germans in the Philippines.

833
00:37:04,700 --> 00:37:06,340
So there the Germans
were, and they

834
00:37:06,340 --> 00:37:08,650
were being given very good
food because the Geneva

835
00:37:08,650 --> 00:37:12,910
Convention requires that the
prisoners and internees be

836
00:37:12,910 --> 00:37:14,050
fed properly.

837
00:37:14,050 --> 00:37:17,140
And they were given these
so-called 10-in-1 rations

838
00:37:17,140 --> 00:37:18,480
that the army disperses.

839
00:37:18,480 --> 00:37:22,270
It comes in a big box, and
in it there's vegetables,

840
00:37:22,270 --> 00:37:25,210
dried beans, and
whatever, a sort

841
00:37:25,210 --> 00:37:28,390
of ersatzbutter, which
would not rot in the tropics

842
00:37:28,390 --> 00:37:31,660

that they had developed, and
some chocolate and things

843
00:37:31,660 --> 00:37:32,420
like that.

844
00:37:32,420 --> 00:37:34,840
And they were getting
fed well, and we

845
00:37:34,840 --> 00:37:36,940
had to get our water from
a well we had to dig.

846
00:37:36,940 --> 00:37:39,740
And so I began to carry
water because many people

847
00:37:39,740 --> 00:37:42,970
after liberation, eating some
rich food like corned beef

848
00:37:42,970 --> 00:37:45,440
hash, were going to get
dysentery like crazy.

849
00:37:45,440 --> 00:37:47,560
And so-- and this thing
was four floors up.

850
00:37:47,560 --> 00:37:49,660
And so we carried
water from this well up

851
00:37:49,660 --> 00:37:54,370
to the fourth floor
until one fine day,

852
00:37:54,370 --> 00:37:58,780
oh, the second morning,
second day we were there,

853
00:37:58,780 --> 00:38:00,800

there appeared a
man that we knew.

854
00:38:00,800 --> 00:38:03,730
I mentioned his name before,
Ackerman, who was a butcher.

855
00:38:03,730 --> 00:38:05,380
And Ackerman appeared alone.

856
00:38:05,380 --> 00:38:06,790
He was in great pain.

857
00:38:06,790 --> 00:38:08,020
He was a big guy.

858
00:38:08,020 --> 00:38:09,520
He was a pretty strong fella.

859
00:38:09,520 --> 00:38:12,040
And he had a wife and kid,
but they weren't with him.

860
00:38:12,040 --> 00:38:15,760
And he was-- his eyes were
wild, and he was obviously

861
00:38:15,760 --> 00:38:16,680
in tremendous pain.

862
00:38:16,680 --> 00:38:18,430
Well, it turned out
that he had been hit--

863
00:38:18,430 --> 00:38:20,860
close to being hit by a
white phosphorous grenade,

864
00:38:20,860 --> 00:38:23,740
and one side of his
leg was all burned.

865

00:38:23,740 --> 00:38:26,570

He was obviously
in bad, bad shape.

866

00:38:26,570 --> 00:38:28,120

So we got him in.

867

00:38:28,120 --> 00:38:32,320

And luckily I had made contact
with what is now called a MASH

868

00:38:32,320 --> 00:38:33,927

unit down the street.

869

00:38:33,927 --> 00:38:36,010

This was what is called a
cleaning station made up

870

00:38:36,010 --> 00:38:39,700

of doctors and medical
people, American military.

871

00:38:39,700 --> 00:38:42,670

Because I'd had a
big wound on my leg,

872

00:38:42,670 --> 00:38:44,210

and it had gotten infected.

873

00:38:44,210 --> 00:38:46,450

So I went in there
and asked them

874

00:38:46,450 --> 00:38:48,470

whether they could
dress it, and they did.

875

00:38:48,470 --> 00:38:50,620

And I got to know some
of the people in there.

876

00:38:50,620 --> 00:38:54,010

So it was that night

we laid Ackerman down,

877
00:38:54,010 --> 00:38:56,870
and he had indeed bad white
phosphorous burn along

878
00:38:56,870 --> 00:38:57,940
his whole leg.

879
00:38:57,940 --> 00:39:01,960
And I managed to go what's
now called the MASH unit,

880
00:39:01,960 --> 00:39:03,370
the clearing station--

881
00:39:03,370 --> 00:39:08,610
[AUDIO OUT]

882
00:39:08,610 --> 00:39:11,850
This is a continuation
of a taped interview

883
00:39:11,850 --> 00:39:16,320
with Frank Ephraim being made
on behalf of the United States

884
00:39:16,320 --> 00:39:22,920
Holocaust Memorial Museum the
date is April the 7th, 1997.

885
00:39:22,920 --> 00:39:25,410
The interviewer is Nancy Alper.

886
00:39:25,410 --> 00:39:29,580
This is the second side,
side B of tape number six.

887
00:39:29,580 --> 00:39:33,940

888
00:39:33,940 --> 00:39:38,990

Frank, when we stopped the interview several days ago,

889
00:39:38,990 --> 00:39:43,030
you were talking about the immediate post-war period,

890
00:39:43,030 --> 00:39:46,570
and you and your family's relationship with the United

891
00:39:46,570 --> 00:39:50,050
States military, the occupying force.

892
00:39:50,050 --> 00:39:55,060
And you're making friends with those

893
00:39:55,060 --> 00:40:01,330
who were members of a so-called MASH unit in Manila.

894
00:40:01,330 --> 00:40:05,650
Yes, we were at that time at the Holy Ghost convent, which was

895
00:40:05,650 --> 00:40:08,020
a temporary collection center.

896
00:40:08,020 --> 00:40:10,450
And there were about 30 or 40 or maybe even

897
00:40:10,450 --> 00:40:14,840
as many as 50 Jewish people there, families, individuals,

898
00:40:14,840 --> 00:40:17,800
children, everything, including a rabbi, who we had,

899
00:40:17,800 --> 00:40:21,280

as I mentioned before,
met on the way.

900
00:40:21,280 --> 00:40:24,520
The Holy Ghost was also
used as an internment camp

901
00:40:24,520 --> 00:40:26,110
for the so-called real Germans.

902
00:40:26,110 --> 00:40:27,880
And there must have
been about 300 or 400

903
00:40:27,880 --> 00:40:30,910
of them, who were being taken
care of by the United States

904
00:40:30,910 --> 00:40:33,970
Army, fed well, according
to the Geneva Convention.

905
00:40:33,970 --> 00:40:36,190
And we of course, didn't
have that kind of food.

906
00:40:36,190 --> 00:40:37,090
We had to scrounge.

907
00:40:37,090 --> 00:40:40,630
But they also eventually
gave us some army rations.

908
00:40:40,630 --> 00:40:43,420
And we were in, of
course, a different wing,

909
00:40:43,420 --> 00:40:46,570
all in one large hall
and some smaller rooms.

910
00:40:46,570 --> 00:40:49,780
However, as I mentioned

before, one morning,

911

00:40:49,780 --> 00:40:51,490

oh, about two or
three days after we'd

912

00:40:51,490 --> 00:40:52,990

been there perhaps
only two days,

913

00:40:52,990 --> 00:40:58,910

and we're putting that around
17, 18 of February 1945,

914

00:40:58,910 --> 00:41:00,340

this man by the
name of Ackerman,

915

00:41:00,340 --> 00:41:05,080

who was essentially a butcher,
a member the Jewish community,

916

00:41:05,080 --> 00:41:06,490

stumbled--

917

00:41:06,490 --> 00:41:09,460

sort of hobbled
into the compound.

918

00:41:09,460 --> 00:41:11,200

He was apparently in great pain.

919

00:41:11,200 --> 00:41:13,420

He was a big
fellow, very strong.

920

00:41:13,420 --> 00:41:18,400

And I could see that his leg,
pants leg had been ripped,

921

00:41:18,400 --> 00:41:20,170

and it looked awful.

922

00:41:20,170 --> 00:41:23,440

And I don't know, it'd
been bandaged badly.

923

00:41:23,440 --> 00:41:27,550

And he was crazed with
pain, essentially.

924

00:41:27,550 --> 00:41:31,420

So we sort of brought him in
and laid him down on a mattress.

925

00:41:31,420 --> 00:41:35,500

And since I had been to this
so-called MASH unit, which

926

00:41:35,500 --> 00:41:36,820

is what we would call it today.

927

00:41:36,820 --> 00:41:39,250

At that time it was
called a clearing station.

928

00:41:39,250 --> 00:41:44,050

It was used for triage of
people that were picked up

929

00:41:44,050 --> 00:41:48,230

by first aid stations in
the battlefield itself,

930

00:41:48,230 --> 00:41:50,020

which at that time
was Intramuros,

931

00:41:50,020 --> 00:41:52,060

the walled city within Manila.

932

00:41:52,060 --> 00:41:54,730

And they would
bring the wounded,

933

00:41:54,730 --> 00:41:56,770
and they would be
looked at, and then

934
00:41:56,770 --> 00:42:00,370
they would be either sent off
to a general hospital, field

935
00:42:00,370 --> 00:42:04,440
hospital, treated there, and
then possibly returned to duty.

936
00:42:04,440 --> 00:42:06,250
Anyway, I may had
made contact there

937
00:42:06,250 --> 00:42:08,980
because I had a
wound on my knee.

938
00:42:08,980 --> 00:42:10,210
And they were treating that.

939
00:42:10,210 --> 00:42:11,740
So I ran down there.

940
00:42:11,740 --> 00:42:13,180
It was about a block away.

941
00:42:13,180 --> 00:42:17,360
And they of course, could
not come to the Holy Ghost

942
00:42:17,360 --> 00:42:19,270
Convent, the compound.

943
00:42:19,270 --> 00:42:23,920
They did come later that night,
two army captains, medical men,

944
00:42:23,920 --> 00:42:28,470
doctors, and managed to come
in and look at Ackerman.

945
00:42:28,470 --> 00:42:32,080
Ackerman, of course, was
a phosphorous grenade was

946
00:42:32,080 --> 00:42:33,280
what hit him.

947
00:42:33,280 --> 00:42:35,710
And his leg down the
side was all burnt.

948
00:42:35,710 --> 00:42:38,380
And they put ointment
on it, and they

949
00:42:38,380 --> 00:42:42,430
prescribed a whole large dose
of, in those days sulfa drugs,

950
00:42:42,430 --> 00:42:47,390
these large horse pills, and
gave him some sedative as well.

951
00:42:47,390 --> 00:42:49,660
So then they left
after about an hour,

952
00:42:49,660 --> 00:42:51,910
and gave us instructions
on what we might

953
00:42:51,910 --> 00:42:54,280
do with him after a while.

954
00:42:54,280 --> 00:42:55,390
And he went to sleep.

955
00:42:55,390 --> 00:42:57,550
And I won't make
this a long story,

956

00:42:57,550 --> 00:43:01,010
but eventually the next day or
so, his wife and son found him.

957
00:43:01,010 --> 00:43:03,010
They came to the compound,
because they had been

958
00:43:03,010 --> 00:43:05,530
separated during the battle.

959
00:43:05,530 --> 00:43:07,780
And that was a reunion.

960
00:43:07,780 --> 00:43:10,300
And then more people kept
coming in to this compound,

961
00:43:10,300 --> 00:43:13,600
including a man by the name of
[? Moser. ?] He was a bachelor,

962
00:43:13,600 --> 00:43:16,330
and he was a type of guy who
was very, very meticulous.

963
00:43:16,330 --> 00:43:17,960
Everything had to be just right.

964
00:43:17,960 --> 00:43:20,680
I'm not sure, I believe
he was an accountant.

965
00:43:20,680 --> 00:43:24,430
And he would be the guy who
called the Berliner Tageblatt,

966
00:43:24,430 --> 00:43:26,980
which is, if you
translate into English ,

967
00:43:26,980 --> 00:43:29,720
would it be the daily newspaper.

968

00:43:29,720 --> 00:43:31,330

He was a man who
knew everything,

969

00:43:31,330 --> 00:43:34,450

where it was, how it was
done, who did what to whom.

970

00:43:34,450 --> 00:43:37,690

And so he was a very useful
person to have around,

971

00:43:37,690 --> 00:43:39,610

because he knew where
everybody ended up,

972

00:43:39,610 --> 00:43:43,270

and he was always full of
that kind of information,

973

00:43:43,270 --> 00:43:45,100

just as an aside.

974

00:43:45,100 --> 00:43:48,370

And there were many other people
from the Jewish community.

975

00:43:48,370 --> 00:43:52,000

As I said, probably
as many as 40 or 50.

976

00:43:52,000 --> 00:43:57,820

And at that time, it was
like a three story wing

977

00:43:57,820 --> 00:43:59,650

where we were located.

978

00:43:59,650 --> 00:44:01,850

And there was no water,
no running water.

979

00:44:01,850 --> 00:44:06,370
So we had to fetch water out of
a hand-dug well with buckets.

980

00:44:06,370 --> 00:44:08,000
And that was quite a strain.

981

00:44:08,000 --> 00:44:10,930
We had to haul it up to
the fourth or third floor

982

00:44:10,930 --> 00:44:14,300
to flush the toilets, and
things were kind of rough,

983

00:44:14,300 --> 00:44:16,030
because people were
having dysentery

984

00:44:16,030 --> 00:44:17,530
as they were eating
some of the food

985

00:44:17,530 --> 00:44:19,390
that they hadn't
eaten for so long,

986

00:44:19,390 --> 00:44:23,690
like corned beef hash, all
the army rations, which they

987

00:44:23,690 --> 00:44:26,700
had difficulty in digesting.

988

00:44:26,700 --> 00:44:29,970
This is the Holy Ghost Convent
that we're still talking about,

989

00:44:29,970 --> 00:44:34,290
and it was completely
run by the US military?

990

00:44:34,290 --> 00:44:35,520
Well, yes and no.

991
00:44:35,520 --> 00:44:38,460
It was actually run
by nuns, who were

992
00:44:38,460 --> 00:44:40,560
of the Order of the Holy Ghost.

993
00:44:40,560 --> 00:44:42,240
And it was a Catholic convent.

994
00:44:42,240 --> 00:44:44,760
And it was also a school.

995
00:44:44,760 --> 00:44:46,320
Like many schools
in the Philippines

996
00:44:46,320 --> 00:44:49,590
were run by either
Jesuits or nuns,

997
00:44:49,590 --> 00:44:52,440
Philippines was a
fully Catholic country.

998
00:44:52,440 --> 00:44:56,970
The archbishops and a cardinal
later on, you might say,

999
00:44:56,970 --> 00:44:58,110
were part of government.

1000
00:44:58,110 --> 00:45:01,200
And that's how the
Philippines and I'm

1001
00:45:01,200 --> 00:45:04,740
sure many other
countries are indeed run.

1002
00:45:04,740 --> 00:45:06,930
So this was nothing unusual.

1003
00:45:06,930 --> 00:45:09,720
And this convent was
simply taken over

1004
00:45:09,720 --> 00:45:11,970
because it had space.

1005
00:45:11,970 --> 00:45:17,820
The classrooms now became rooms
for the internees and so forth.

1006
00:45:17,820 --> 00:45:19,950
And the public rooms
were used to house us

1007
00:45:19,950 --> 00:45:22,590
in one of the wings.

1008
00:45:22,590 --> 00:45:24,270
And the nuns helped out.

1009
00:45:24,270 --> 00:45:25,890
They helped the cook.

1010
00:45:25,890 --> 00:45:27,030
They helped feed.

1011
00:45:27,030 --> 00:45:29,520
And they helped wash.

1012
00:45:29,520 --> 00:45:31,740
And then of course, went
about their own business

1013
00:45:31,740 --> 00:45:34,080
of daily prayers and church.

1014
00:45:34,080 --> 00:45:38,350

They had a chapel right
on this small campus.

1015
00:45:38,350 --> 00:45:39,840
So that was the Holy Ghost.

1016
00:45:39,840 --> 00:45:43,140
Now, one fine day we
were in the middle

1017
00:45:43,140 --> 00:45:47,245
of hauling water from the
wells, and somebody called me

1018
00:45:47,245 --> 00:45:48,660
and says, come on down.

1019
00:45:48,660 --> 00:45:49,950
There is a whole unit.

1020
00:45:49,950 --> 00:45:50,970
They're doing something.

1021
00:45:50,970 --> 00:45:52,680
They're putting up a water tank.

1022
00:45:52,680 --> 00:45:55,290
So some of us younger
guys went down there,

1023
00:45:55,290 --> 00:45:58,700
and what we saw was I suppose
a platoon of about 20,

1024
00:45:58,700 --> 00:46:00,030
30 soldiers.

1025
00:46:00,030 --> 00:46:01,650
And they were all Black.

1026
00:46:01,650 --> 00:46:05,620
Which of course, we would

call as Negroes in those days.

1027

00:46:05,620 --> 00:46:09,750

And we had never seen that many
Black Negro people in one place

1028

00:46:09,750 --> 00:46:11,160

at any one time before.

1029

00:46:11,160 --> 00:46:13,410

After all, of course we'd
been around the Philippines,

1030

00:46:13,410 --> 00:46:14,790

where there were Filipinos.

1031

00:46:14,790 --> 00:46:20,640

But Negroes, we only knew of one
who was there before the war,

1032

00:46:20,640 --> 00:46:21,990

he was an American.

1033

00:46:21,990 --> 00:46:23,580

That's where he came from.

1034

00:46:23,580 --> 00:46:25,943

But here was this whole platoon.

1035

00:46:25,943 --> 00:46:27,360

And of course, we
were immediately

1036

00:46:27,360 --> 00:46:31,110

reminded of the gurkhas who
served with the British army,

1037

00:46:31,110 --> 00:46:34,680

and even the Jewish brigade
was part of the British army,

1038

00:46:34,680 --> 00:46:37,860

as this was some sort
of a very special unit.

1039
00:46:37,860 --> 00:46:40,500
The notion of
segregation never even

1040
00:46:40,500 --> 00:46:43,830
crossed our minds, because we
were totally unaware of that.

1041
00:46:43,830 --> 00:46:45,990
So we went up to them
and talked to them,

1042
00:46:45,990 --> 00:46:48,150
and they seemed to be very shy.

1043
00:46:48,150 --> 00:46:50,070
But they were also led
by what appeared to be

1044
00:46:50,070 --> 00:46:52,440
a white sergeant or officer.

1045
00:46:52,440 --> 00:46:56,040
And then they proceeded to put
up a very heavy, thick canvas

1046
00:46:56,040 --> 00:46:56,770
water tank.

1047
00:46:56,770 --> 00:47:00,150
Oh, it must have been about 20
feet across, enormous thing.

1048
00:47:00,150 --> 00:47:03,000
And that was-- and then
to that they pumped water

1049
00:47:03,000 --> 00:47:06,180
from a trailer and
put chlorine in there.

1050
00:47:06,180 --> 00:47:08,310
And that was the
first good water

1051
00:47:08,310 --> 00:47:10,440
supply we had seen in months.

1052
00:47:10,440 --> 00:47:13,920
And we no longer had to haul
the water from the well.

1053
00:47:13,920 --> 00:47:16,570
So that was a very
interesting experience,

1054
00:47:16,570 --> 00:47:18,570
just as a sort of a contrast.

1055
00:47:18,570 --> 00:47:20,910
Even at the end of
all that, it never

1056
00:47:20,910 --> 00:47:23,520
occurred to us that
this was as a result

1057
00:47:23,520 --> 00:47:28,050
of segregation policies
in the United States Army.

1058
00:47:28,050 --> 00:47:30,990
We just simply thought that this
was a so-called special unit,

1059
00:47:30,990 --> 00:47:33,720
and therefore it
was composed of all

1060
00:47:33,720 --> 00:47:36,450
in this case Black soldiers.

1061

00:47:36,450 --> 00:47:41,580
The convent was used as
a facility for those--

1062
00:47:41,580 --> 00:47:45,090
exclusively for those who had
immigrated to the Philippines

1063
00:47:45,090 --> 00:47:46,230
because of the war?

1064
00:47:46,230 --> 00:47:49,680
Or were there Filipinos
there as well?

1065
00:47:49,680 --> 00:47:54,360
There were a few people who
were of mestizo or mixed origin.

1066
00:47:54,360 --> 00:47:56,850
But of course, the main
reason we were there

1067
00:47:56,850 --> 00:48:01,020
is because we were picked up
en route from the battle area.

1068
00:48:01,020 --> 00:48:03,150
And we of course stood
out, being white,

1069
00:48:03,150 --> 00:48:06,840
and as a result were being
questioned by army G2.

1070
00:48:06,840 --> 00:48:10,380
Filipinos and other
mestizos were never stopped,

1071
00:48:10,380 --> 00:48:13,500
because obviously these
peoples belong to the country.

1072

00:48:13,500 --> 00:48:16,210

And they were not
taken anywhere.

1073

00:48:16,210 --> 00:48:19,620

They were simply left alone,
and they did what they did.

1074

00:48:19,620 --> 00:48:21,630

In fact, most of
the Jewish community

1075

00:48:21,630 --> 00:48:22,690

were in the same boat.

1076

00:48:22,690 --> 00:48:23,940

They were not picked up.

1077

00:48:23,940 --> 00:48:25,710

They either stayed
in their homes,

1078

00:48:25,710 --> 00:48:30,240

if those homes were still
intact, or went somewhere else,

1079

00:48:30,240 --> 00:48:32,310

or lived with other people.

1080

00:48:32,310 --> 00:48:33,930

Because not everyone
was picked up.

1081

00:48:33,930 --> 00:48:36,540

It just so happened
that maybe 40,

1082

00:48:36,540 --> 00:48:39,780

50 at most of the
Jewish community

1083

00:48:39,780 --> 00:48:41,820

happened to go through

areas where there

1084
00:48:41,820 --> 00:48:45,450
was a unit of the
Army Intelligence,

1085
00:48:45,450 --> 00:48:48,690
and they screened you,
and then as a result,

1086
00:48:48,690 --> 00:48:51,090
picked you up and took
you across the river,

1087
00:48:51,090 --> 00:48:54,900
to this area where the
Holy Ghost Convent was.

1088
00:48:54,900 --> 00:48:58,530
Were you personally screened,
or was it only your parents?

1089
00:48:58,530 --> 00:49:02,010
And either way, what do
you remember about that?

1090
00:49:02,010 --> 00:49:04,740
What kinds of things
were they asking you?

1091
00:49:04,740 --> 00:49:06,840
Well, they didn't really
do any great screening.

1092
00:49:06,840 --> 00:49:09,840
They simply met us
on the battlefield,

1093
00:49:09,840 --> 00:49:14,790
and asked us who we were, and
we gave them whatever ID we had.

1094
00:49:14,790 --> 00:49:17,040

And then they said, well,
we're going to take you

1095
00:49:17,040 --> 00:49:20,820
to a place across the river.

1096
00:49:20,820 --> 00:49:22,740
And we didn't know where
they were taking us.

1097
00:49:22,740 --> 00:49:24,840
Maybe we thought it was
a refugee center, which

1098
00:49:24,840 --> 00:49:26,730
in a sense it was.

1099
00:49:26,730 --> 00:49:29,040
Because it was about a
week or two after we'd

1100
00:49:29,040 --> 00:49:30,420
been to the Holy--

1101
00:49:30,420 --> 00:49:32,580
in fact, they never asked
us any detailed Questions

1102
00:49:32,580 --> 00:49:36,390
they just simply packed us up
on a truck and took us over.

1103
00:49:36,390 --> 00:49:38,730
Which, as far as we were
concerned, was great.

1104
00:49:38,730 --> 00:49:41,190
Since otherwise, we would
have been roving around there

1105
00:49:41,190 --> 00:49:44,380
with nothing to eat, since
we had nothing at all.

1106
00:49:44,380 --> 00:49:46,470
We had essentially what
you'd call the clothes

1107
00:49:46,470 --> 00:49:48,030
on our back-- period.

1108
00:49:48,030 --> 00:49:51,810
So that was actually a good
thing for us, and many people

1109
00:49:51,810 --> 00:49:55,200
even envied us, who did
not get that treatment

1110
00:49:55,200 --> 00:49:58,940
and were left to their own
devices, which was difficult.

1111
00:49:58,940 --> 00:50:00,420
There was no food even then.

1112
00:50:00,420 --> 00:50:02,970
It was just during the battle.

1113
00:50:02,970 --> 00:50:05,730
Anyway, after two
weeks, there was

1114
00:50:05,730 --> 00:50:07,195
a man who was a
lieutenant colonel,

1115
00:50:07,195 --> 00:50:08,820
and he was with the
Counterintelligence

1116
00:50:08,820 --> 00:50:13,440
Corps, the CIC, and they sort
of ran this internment camp.

1117

00:50:13,440 --> 00:50:15,073

And they said to
us, well, folks, we

1118

00:50:15,073 --> 00:50:16,240

want to get you out of here.

1119

00:50:16,240 --> 00:50:17,440

You don't belong here.

1120

00:50:17,440 --> 00:50:19,620

You know, you're not
German nationals.

1121

00:50:19,620 --> 00:50:21,990

You are Jews, or
you're whatever--

1122

00:50:21,990 --> 00:50:24,300

of course, they were
not all Jews there--

1123

00:50:24,300 --> 00:50:27,270

and we're going to have
to get you out of here.

1124

00:50:27,270 --> 00:50:29,520

And of course, the
place was under guard.

1125

00:50:29,520 --> 00:50:32,350

And as I said, you're not
supposed to be in this place.

1126

00:50:32,350 --> 00:50:34,370

So after a while, the
rabbi got together

1127

00:50:34,370 --> 00:50:36,370

with people who, of course,
were on the outside,

1128

00:50:36,370 --> 00:50:39,220

began to get together again
the elders of the community,

1129
00:50:39,220 --> 00:50:40,050
so to speak.

1130
00:50:40,050 --> 00:50:42,960
And what they did
was, they rented

1131
00:50:42,960 --> 00:50:45,930
a house, a very large
house in an area

1132
00:50:45,930 --> 00:50:49,350
called Santa Mesa, one
of the suburbs of Manila.

1133
00:50:49,350 --> 00:50:51,870
And I want to also give back
to that community house which

1134
00:50:51,870 --> 00:50:53,550
we had during the war.

1135
00:50:53,550 --> 00:50:59,820
That place apparently also
survived and remained intact,

1136
00:50:59,820 --> 00:51:01,830
because it was not in
the middle of Manila.

1137
00:51:01,830 --> 00:51:04,650
And so it was there, but
it was essentially full.

1138
00:51:04,650 --> 00:51:07,180
And those people that were
in the Holy Ghost, about 30

1139
00:51:07,180 --> 00:51:10,020
or 40 or 50, and there

were some others outside,

1140
00:51:10,020 --> 00:51:13,270
needed a place to stay, because
they had no place at all.

1141
00:51:13,270 --> 00:51:15,750
So they rented this
huge house on a street

1142
00:51:15,750 --> 00:51:17,730
called Padre Pellaez.

1143
00:51:17,730 --> 00:51:21,320
And it's named after a
clergyman, a Catholic clergyman

1144
00:51:21,320 --> 00:51:22,620
in the Philippines.

1145
00:51:22,620 --> 00:51:25,260
But there they shipped
us-- oh, wait a minute.

1146
00:51:25,260 --> 00:51:26,580
I'm sorry.

1147
00:51:26,580 --> 00:51:31,290
Before we were actually
removed from this place,

1148
00:51:31,290 --> 00:51:34,440
the Holy Ghost, because they
definitely wanted us out

1149
00:51:34,440 --> 00:51:38,040
of there, and he says,
well, since you all

1150
00:51:38,040 --> 00:51:42,150
have no place to go, we'll have
to take you to some other camp.

1151

00:51:42,150 --> 00:51:43,980

So they loaded us
on trucks again,

1152

00:51:43,980 --> 00:51:47,790

and we ended up in what is
called Bilibid Prison, which

1153

00:51:47,790 --> 00:51:52,110

was a regular prison with
like the spokes of a wheel

1154

00:51:52,110 --> 00:51:55,725

type of wings.

1155

00:51:55,725 --> 00:51:58,140

We were prisoners in there.

1156

00:51:58,140 --> 00:52:01,050

We were housed.

1157

00:52:01,050 --> 00:52:02,460

Couldn't get in or out.

1158

00:52:02,460 --> 00:52:05,460

And the rabbi was with
us, again, of course,

1159

00:52:05,460 --> 00:52:06,640

with the family.

1160

00:52:06,640 --> 00:52:08,220

But that was like
the only place they

1161

00:52:08,220 --> 00:52:09,990

could think of where
they could put us.

1162

00:52:09,990 --> 00:52:11,490

Because there was really--

1163

00:52:11,490 --> 00:52:13,980

Manila had burned down,
had been destroyed.

1164

00:52:13,980 --> 00:52:16,530

There was a horrendous
lack of any place.

1165

00:52:16,530 --> 00:52:19,200

So they gave us that
option, and we took it.

1166

00:52:19,200 --> 00:52:21,780

And we spent about
a week or so there.

1167

00:52:21,780 --> 00:52:24,660

And then it was we
went to this house that

1168

00:52:24,660 --> 00:52:30,150

was rented for the Jewish
community on Padre Pellaez.

1169

00:52:30,150 --> 00:52:33,480

And there we stayed about, oh--

1170

00:52:33,480 --> 00:52:36,390

and that was a house of
all Jewish people there,

1171

00:52:36,390 --> 00:52:38,660

members of the Jewish community.

1172

00:52:38,660 --> 00:52:44,550

And we stayed there
approximately two weeks or so.

1173

00:52:44,550 --> 00:52:50,530

And at that time, my father--

1174

00:52:50,530 --> 00:52:52,510

the man that had
lived in the house

1175
00:52:52,510 --> 00:52:56,620
across from us on Dakota street,
among those six houses, whose

1176
00:52:56,620 --> 00:53:00,850
house boy we had inherited,
and some whose stuff that we

1177
00:53:00,850 --> 00:53:03,610
took care of,
looked up my father,

1178
00:53:03,610 --> 00:53:08,230
because he'd been released from
Santa Tomas internment camp.

1179
00:53:08,230 --> 00:53:10,780
And he in the
meantime had been put

1180
00:53:10,780 --> 00:53:14,950
in charge of a lumber mill in
Santa Mesa right by the Pasig

1181
00:53:14,950 --> 00:53:15,880
River.

1182
00:53:15,880 --> 00:53:19,750
And this lumber mill took
logs that were brought in,

1183
00:53:19,750 --> 00:53:20,770
and they sawed them up.

1184
00:53:20,770 --> 00:53:23,560
It was all run for
the army at that time.

1185
00:53:23,560 --> 00:53:27,370
And he offered my

father space in a house

1186
00:53:27,370 --> 00:53:29,780
where he lived with his wife.

1187
00:53:29,780 --> 00:53:31,075
They were like upstairs.

1188
00:53:31,075 --> 00:53:32,575
They had a large
apartment upstairs.

1189
00:53:32,575 --> 00:53:34,480
It was fairly simple.

1190
00:53:34,480 --> 00:53:37,210
And he would offer
us half a section

1191
00:53:37,210 --> 00:53:39,790
of the house downstairs,
which had a bathroom.

1192
00:53:39,790 --> 00:53:41,080
So my father said that's fine.

1193
00:53:41,080 --> 00:53:43,720
I want to get out of this house
with all these people in it.

1194
00:53:43,720 --> 00:53:45,770
It's kind of a mess.

1195
00:53:45,770 --> 00:53:47,980
So we packed up
whatever we had, which

1196
00:53:47,980 --> 00:53:50,650
was really next to
nothing, and moved

1197
00:53:50,650 --> 00:53:53,740

into this house and
the lumber mill.

1198
00:53:53,740 --> 00:53:56,350
And it's called the
Findlay Miller lumber mill.

1199
00:53:56,350 --> 00:53:58,090
And you entered it.

1200
00:53:58,090 --> 00:53:59,740
There was a sort of a gate.

1201
00:53:59,740 --> 00:54:00,970
It was under guard.

1202
00:54:00,970 --> 00:54:05,080
The whole place had Filipino
soldiers or constabulary

1203
00:54:05,080 --> 00:54:07,990
or some kind of people
walking around with carbines,

1204
00:54:07,990 --> 00:54:09,760
and they were
guarding the place.

1205
00:54:09,760 --> 00:54:11,620
But we of course
could go in and out.

1206
00:54:11,620 --> 00:54:14,980
And these huge lumber
trucks with trunks of trees

1207
00:54:14,980 --> 00:54:18,370
would come roaring in
there and through the mill.

1208
00:54:18,370 --> 00:54:21,220
And the mill would
saw it into boards.

1209
00:54:21,220 --> 00:54:22,900
But they also had
a huge workshop,

1210
00:54:22,900 --> 00:54:26,050
wood workshop on the second
floor of the lumber mill

1211
00:54:26,050 --> 00:54:29,440
up in the loft, where they
made little boxes out of wood.

1212
00:54:29,440 --> 00:54:31,990
And eventually they made
a whole suite of furniture

1213
00:54:31,990 --> 00:54:35,980
for this friend of my father's
in the Chippendale style

1214
00:54:35,980 --> 00:54:37,570
out of the Philippine mahogany.

1215
00:54:37,570 --> 00:54:40,060
The wood is called nara,
Philippine mahogany.

1216
00:54:40,060 --> 00:54:41,290
And it was unfinished.

1217
00:54:41,290 --> 00:54:43,810
And eventually when he left
for the United States, which

1218
00:54:43,810 --> 00:54:47,140
was about six months
later, he took with him

1219
00:54:47,140 --> 00:54:50,590
loads of furniture
made there for him back

1220

00:54:50,590 --> 00:54:53,360

to the US-- chairs,
tables, the works.

1221

00:54:53,360 --> 00:54:56,050

And so we were in
this lumber mill.

1222

00:54:56,050 --> 00:54:59,770

And by that time, the community
had gotten itself together

1223

00:54:59,770 --> 00:55:01,720

somewhat.

1224

00:55:01,720 --> 00:55:06,250

There were also, of course,
many soldiers, Jewish soldiers.

1225

00:55:06,250 --> 00:55:08,110

We had our first seder.

1226

00:55:08,110 --> 00:55:11,560

This was now April of 1945.

1227

00:55:11,560 --> 00:55:13,840

And it was going to be held
at the Hippodrome, which

1228

00:55:13,840 --> 00:55:15,550

was the horse race--

1229

00:55:15,550 --> 00:55:19,120

the horse race--
hippodrome was called.

1230

00:55:19,120 --> 00:55:22,240

And the rabbi and the
cantor were there.

1231

00:55:22,240 --> 00:55:25,120

And there must have been over

thousand American soldiers,

1232
00:55:25,120 --> 00:55:27,340
Jewish soldiers,
some having just

1233
00:55:27,340 --> 00:55:29,650
been released for the
day from the front

1234
00:55:29,650 --> 00:55:32,380
up north nearby Baguio in
the mountain province, where

1235
00:55:32,380 --> 00:55:35,350
they were still fighting
remnants of the Japanese army.

1236
00:55:35,350 --> 00:55:38,200
And they were there
with weapons and all.

1237
00:55:38,200 --> 00:55:41,920
We were in the bleachers,
and they were there.

1238
00:55:41,920 --> 00:55:44,920
And then most of the Jewish
community showed up, of course.

1239
00:55:44,920 --> 00:55:48,310
And we had a seder
service, a Passover service

1240
00:55:48,310 --> 00:55:49,660
right there in the open.

1241
00:55:49,660 --> 00:55:51,160
It was quite interesting.

1242
00:55:51,160 --> 00:55:55,350
And there were navy
people and army, whatever.

1243
00:55:55,350 --> 00:55:55,950
Yeah.

1244
00:55:55,950 --> 00:55:58,500
And they offered
us food, and they

1245
00:55:58,500 --> 00:56:01,230
had these little K rations
and stuff and cigarettes

1246
00:56:01,230 --> 00:56:02,642
and everything like that.

1247
00:56:02,642 --> 00:56:05,100
So it was one of the first
times the Jewish community again

1248
00:56:05,100 --> 00:56:06,360
got together.

1249
00:56:06,360 --> 00:56:10,770
Because it had been a
bit dispersed, obviously,

1250
00:56:10,770 --> 00:56:12,690
during the fighting period.

1251
00:56:12,690 --> 00:56:16,210
But then that was
the first seder.

1252
00:56:16,210 --> 00:56:18,810
And then we were back--
went back to our home

1253
00:56:18,810 --> 00:56:21,270
at Findlay Miller lumber yard.

1254
00:56:21,270 --> 00:56:23,400
And then one day, a huge--

1255
00:56:23,400 --> 00:56:27,000
an army unit moved in
sort of like next door.

1256
00:56:27,000 --> 00:56:29,520
You have to remember that
we were at the Pasig River.

1257
00:56:29,520 --> 00:56:30,720
It was the 11th--

1258
00:56:30,720 --> 00:56:34,590
13th Marine Maintenance Company.

1259
00:56:34,590 --> 00:56:38,940
And their job was to repair
all the kinds of riverboats

1260
00:56:38,940 --> 00:56:40,920
that they brought
with them, and barges.

1261
00:56:40,920 --> 00:56:45,090
And they were-- all the guys
there were mechanics or trades

1262
00:56:45,090 --> 00:56:46,650
types of people.

1263
00:56:46,650 --> 00:56:48,480
All military, it
was a military unit.

1264
00:56:48,480 --> 00:56:50,820
And I went over there because
they had a big mess hall.

1265
00:56:50,820 --> 00:56:52,800
And that was food,
and food was scarce.

1266

00:56:52,800 --> 00:56:56,320
And I got myself in there, and
I helped out, and as a result

1267
00:56:56,320 --> 00:56:58,740
was able to eat and also
bring home a lot of food that

1268
00:56:58,740 --> 00:56:59,890
was left over.

1269
00:56:59,890 --> 00:57:02,970
So that-- for a while, that
was a very great source

1270
00:57:02,970 --> 00:57:04,740
of nourishment.

1271
00:57:04,740 --> 00:57:06,210
Yeah.

1272
00:57:06,210 --> 00:57:09,930
Did your father actually work
for the lumber mill in return

1273
00:57:09,930 --> 00:57:12,780
for your being able to
stay at this facility?

1274
00:57:12,780 --> 00:57:15,510
And another thing I was
going to ask you was,

1275
00:57:15,510 --> 00:57:18,510
did you see any Japanese
being rounded up

1276
00:57:18,510 --> 00:57:21,930
at any point from
the US occupation

1277
00:57:21,930 --> 00:57:25,320
on through the period

that you're talking about?

1278

00:57:25,320 --> 00:57:27,510

No, he did not work
for the lumber mill.

1279

00:57:27,510 --> 00:57:30,490

He actually worked for the
US army somewhere else.

1280

00:57:30,490 --> 00:57:32,100

And he would be going
to a place where

1281

00:57:32,100 --> 00:57:34,350

a truck would come and pick
him up and take him there.

1282

00:57:34,350 --> 00:57:39,300

It was some sort of clerical
type of temporary work, which

1283

00:57:39,300 --> 00:57:41,100

they needed people to
do things, and that's

1284

00:57:41,100 --> 00:57:44,880

what he did for a
short period of time.

1285

00:57:44,880 --> 00:57:46,860

As far as the Japanese
were concerned,

1286

00:57:46,860 --> 00:57:47,940

there were two incidents.

1287

00:57:47,940 --> 00:57:50,342

One is when we were
still at the Holy Ghost.

1288

00:57:50,342 --> 00:57:52,050

One fine day, some

people are looking out

1289
00:57:52,050 --> 00:57:54,480
the window out of the second
or third floor, I believe.

1290
00:57:54,480 --> 00:57:59,280
And there was a big,
grassy open space.

1291
00:57:59,280 --> 00:58:01,500
And they apparently
saw two guys crawling

1292
00:58:01,500 --> 00:58:03,600
through that area with rifles.

1293
00:58:03,600 --> 00:58:07,140
And they alerted
the authorities,

1294
00:58:07,140 --> 00:58:09,450
the guards in our compound.

1295
00:58:09,450 --> 00:58:11,220
And sure enough, two
Japanese soldiers

1296
00:58:11,220 --> 00:58:15,993
were trying to crawl out of
some area, and to get water.

1297
00:58:15,993 --> 00:58:17,410
I don't know what
they were doing.

1298
00:58:17,410 --> 00:58:18,493
But they were apprehended.

1299
00:58:18,493 --> 00:58:21,750
You know, they jumped
them, and shots were fired,

1300

00:58:21,750 --> 00:58:23,340

but that was it.

1301

00:58:23,340 --> 00:58:26,880

The second one was when we were
at the Findlay Miller Lumber

1302

00:58:26,880 --> 00:58:30,360

Company, in that house.

1303

00:58:30,360 --> 00:58:34,000

One soldier comes
running in, because there

1304

00:58:34,000 --> 00:58:36,600

were lots of soldiers around
who were part of the trucking

1305

00:58:36,600 --> 00:58:39,330

groups that brought the
trees in and others who

1306

00:58:39,330 --> 00:58:41,190

did some minor management work.

1307

00:58:41,190 --> 00:58:43,710

And they said they
got hold of a Japanese

1308

00:58:43,710 --> 00:58:47,520

that they had somehow flushed
out of somewhere in that area.

1309

00:58:47,520 --> 00:58:49,713

And they wanted someone
to ask him some questions,

1310

00:58:49,713 --> 00:58:51,630

and they thought perhaps
that I could do that,

1311

00:58:51,630 --> 00:58:53,820

since I did speak
a bit of Japanese,

1312
00:58:53,820 --> 00:58:56,580
since I had taken Japanese
for two years during the war.

1313
00:58:56,580 --> 00:58:58,120
It was a requirement.

1314
00:58:58,120 --> 00:59:01,920
So yeah, I went with them
to this little building,

1315
00:59:01,920 --> 00:59:02,580
like a hut.

1316
00:59:02,580 --> 00:59:04,620
And there was this Japanese guy.

1317
00:59:04,620 --> 00:59:09,330
And he apparently was a
very low ranking individual,

1318
00:59:09,330 --> 00:59:11,460
and they had--

1319
00:59:11,460 --> 00:59:15,570
so I simply asked him whether
he was Japanese or not.

1320
00:59:15,570 --> 00:59:20,190
Because very often you could
find a Korean or a Taiwanese.

1321
00:59:20,190 --> 00:59:21,870
But no, indeed he was Japanese.

1322
00:59:21,870 --> 00:59:26,620
And he was a plain soldier
that just had been hidden.

1323

00:59:26,620 --> 00:59:29,640
And there he was, coming out.

1324
00:59:29,640 --> 00:59:34,410
He was-- he gave me
his name, and they also

1325
00:59:34,410 --> 00:59:38,250
wanted me to ask him if he had
other comrades around the area.

1326
00:59:38,250 --> 00:59:40,590
So he said yes, there were
some, but he didn't know

1327
00:59:40,590 --> 00:59:41,980
where they were at this moment.

1328
00:59:41,980 --> 00:59:43,230
And they were all--

1329
00:59:43,230 --> 00:59:45,220
since they were running
out of food and water

1330
00:59:45,220 --> 00:59:47,820
and they had to go out
into the open, and try to--

1331
00:59:47,820 --> 00:59:51,220
that's how he was caught.

1332
00:59:51,220 --> 00:59:51,957
That was all.

1333
00:59:51,957 --> 00:59:53,040
It was a very short thing.

1334
00:59:53,040 --> 00:59:56,040
They just took him away and
put him into a prison camp,

1335

00:59:56,040 --> 00:59:57,870
and that was that.

1336
00:59:57,870 --> 01:00:00,660
We did not see that
many Japanese prisoners,

1337
01:00:00,660 --> 01:00:03,970
because many of them or most
Japanese committed suicide.

1338
01:00:03,970 --> 01:00:07,230
One of the last units
when we were still

1339
01:00:07,230 --> 01:00:13,260
in the battle area on Dakota
Street before we even escaped,

1340
01:00:13,260 --> 01:00:15,870
they had retreated,
or begun their retreat

1341
01:00:15,870 --> 01:00:17,460
backwards to Manila Bay.

1342
01:00:17,460 --> 01:00:21,420
And I understand from people who
went all the way to-- soldiers

1343
01:00:21,420 --> 01:00:26,250
later who were there, that
the last Japanese went

1344
01:00:26,250 --> 01:00:29,760
into the water and appeared
to be drowning themselves,

1345
01:00:29,760 --> 01:00:33,130
a small unit that was
left at that time.

1346
01:00:33,130 --> 01:00:37,350

Which was relatively believable,
because they did indeed--

1347
01:00:37,350 --> 01:00:39,360
were ordered to fight the last.

1348
01:00:39,360 --> 01:00:40,585
And they did that.

1349
01:00:40,585 --> 01:00:42,210
The ones that were
captured were mostly

1350
01:00:42,210 --> 01:00:43,780
the Koreans or the Taiwanese.

1351
01:00:43,780 --> 01:00:45,470
They, of course, were
not very friendly

1352
01:00:45,470 --> 01:00:46,740
to the Japanese anyway.

1353
01:00:46,740 --> 01:00:51,000
So they gave up,
and that was that.

1354
01:00:51,000 --> 01:00:54,990
We-- we're back here
now at Findlay Miller.

1355
01:00:54,990 --> 01:00:59,190
We've gone through the
marine unit next door.

1356
01:00:59,190 --> 01:01:02,970
Then the word came that there
were some American soldiers,

1357
01:01:02,970 --> 01:01:05,760
Jewish soldiers,
who had volunteered

1358

01:01:05,760 --> 01:01:08,640
to rebuild the youth
group or whatever it might

1359

01:01:08,640 --> 01:01:11,160
be of a youth group in Manila.

1360

01:01:11,160 --> 01:01:15,150
And sure enough, they
had-- one of the things

1361

01:01:15,150 --> 01:01:18,510
that they had going, there was
a Jewish community center now

1362

01:01:18,510 --> 01:01:20,580
that's a house that
was taken over,

1363

01:01:20,580 --> 01:01:23,850
that was given over to
the Jewish community.

1364

01:01:23,850 --> 01:01:27,000
Again, much of this was
engineered by the rabbi

1365

01:01:27,000 --> 01:01:29,670
and by some of the
leaders of the community.

1366

01:01:29,670 --> 01:01:31,290
And of course,
the Americans, who

1367

01:01:31,290 --> 01:01:33,960
had Jews, who had been
liberated from Santo Tomas,

1368

01:01:33,960 --> 01:01:36,060
they were back in
force, of course,

1369

01:01:36,060 --> 01:01:38,400
and very friendly with the army.

1370

01:01:38,400 --> 01:01:40,350
And the army was
very cooperative

1371

01:01:40,350 --> 01:01:45,090
and supplied whatever
was needed in most cases.

1372

01:01:45,090 --> 01:01:46,860
And in this case--
and the chaplains,

1373

01:01:46,860 --> 01:01:48,493
American Jewish
chaplains were there.

1374

01:01:48,493 --> 01:01:50,160
It was a three or
four of them, you see.

1375

01:01:50,160 --> 01:01:54,090
So they began a lot of
focus on the community.

1376

01:01:54,090 --> 01:01:55,830
And what happened
was, they would hold

1377

01:01:55,830 --> 01:01:58,410
sort of socials, even dances.

1378

01:01:58,410 --> 01:02:01,440
And they would pick people
up with trucks and ambulances

1379

01:02:01,440 --> 01:02:03,240
to take them there
from all over.

1380

01:02:03,240 --> 01:02:09,210
We left this-- one day, this
ambulance came up by the house.

1381
01:02:09,210 --> 01:02:11,910
And in it, in the
front was a woman.

1382
01:02:11,910 --> 01:02:13,350
She was a lieutenant.

1383
01:02:13,350 --> 01:02:14,490
And there was a driver.

1384
01:02:14,490 --> 01:02:17,760
And the rest of us, you know,
my parents and other people,

1385
01:02:17,760 --> 01:02:21,133
Jewish people who had gathered
from the area, went in there.

1386
01:02:21,133 --> 01:02:23,550
They drove us all the way to
that Jewish Community Center.

1387
01:02:23,550 --> 01:02:25,560
They had some sort of
a dance, some social.

1388
01:02:25,560 --> 01:02:28,530
And us guys, we were out
there drinking Cokes.

1389
01:02:28,530 --> 01:02:31,830
We hadn't had a Coke in so long,
so we drank 10 ice cold Cokes,

1390
01:02:31,830 --> 01:02:32,910
one after the other.

1391
01:02:32,910 --> 01:02:35,400
And that's kind of interesting.

1392

01:02:35,400 --> 01:02:39,360
But strangely enough, this
woman in the front was indeed--

1393

01:02:39,360 --> 01:02:41,490
we didn't know that
until much later--

1394

01:02:41,490 --> 01:02:45,060
had also been born in Germany,
had come to the United States

1395

01:02:45,060 --> 01:02:48,330
and became a nurse,
and was in the army.

1396

01:02:48,330 --> 01:02:50,550
And she later on married
one of the members

1397

01:02:50,550 --> 01:02:52,320
of the Jewish
community, a bachelor.

1398

01:02:52,320 --> 01:02:55,860
And then they lived later
on in San Francisco.

1399

01:02:55,860 --> 01:02:59,190
But in any event, either
this ambulance or a truck

1400

01:02:59,190 --> 01:03:00,960
would come and pick
people up and take

1401

01:03:00,960 --> 01:03:03,150
to these social things,
which were going on.

1402

01:03:03,150 --> 01:03:06,330
And of course that brought

the community together.

1403

01:03:06,330 --> 01:03:09,750

After so many years,
after all this turmoil,

1404

01:03:09,750 --> 01:03:11,945

much of the community
had lost most everything.

1405

01:03:11,945 --> 01:03:14,070

Some people were lucky and
remained in their homes,

1406

01:03:14,070 --> 01:03:18,270

but nonetheless, things were
rough but slowly getting back.

1407

01:03:18,270 --> 01:03:20,310

They were either
getting some work done,

1408

01:03:20,310 --> 01:03:23,430

or they were beginning to
build up businesses again,

1409

01:03:23,430 --> 01:03:25,500

things of that kind.

1410

01:03:25,500 --> 01:03:31,160

Well, amongst these
American volunteers

1411

01:03:31,160 --> 01:03:34,490

were two or three
people who were then

1412

01:03:34,490 --> 01:03:36,200

known as chaplain's assistants.

1413

01:03:36,200 --> 01:03:38,720

They were like private
first class or corporals.

1414
01:03:38,720 --> 01:03:41,270
And there were two
of them who began

1415
01:03:41,270 --> 01:03:43,400
to form a Jewish youth group.

1416
01:03:43,400 --> 01:03:45,380
Actually, two youth groups.

1417
01:03:45,380 --> 01:03:48,740
One they called
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] And that

1418
01:03:48,740 --> 01:03:52,580
was sort of like for
teenagers, older teenagers,

1419
01:03:52,580 --> 01:03:55,040
ages bar mitzvah and up.

1420
01:03:55,040 --> 01:03:57,560
And the others were
the younger group

1421
01:03:57,560 --> 01:03:58,970
called the Stars of David.

1422
01:03:58,970 --> 01:04:01,790
And they were, as I
said, the younger people.

1423
01:04:01,790 --> 01:04:04,970
And they had-- every Sunday,
they had to get-together.

1424
01:04:04,970 --> 01:04:07,220
And we would--

1425
01:04:07,220 --> 01:04:11,150
I remember going

with Eva Miedzinski.

1426
01:04:11,150 --> 01:04:14,570
That is the younger
sister of a woman

1427
01:04:14,570 --> 01:04:20,120
who gave some oral history
here not too long ago.

1428
01:04:20,120 --> 01:04:23,930
And also another girl,
Ruth [? Osterreich ?]

1429
01:04:23,930 --> 01:04:24,500
was her name.

1430
01:04:24,500 --> 01:04:27,500
Lived not far from there.

1431
01:04:27,500 --> 01:04:29,210
And we had to take
three different modes

1432
01:04:29,210 --> 01:04:32,780
of transportation to get
this Jewish community center,

1433
01:04:32,780 --> 01:04:33,500
but we made it.

1434
01:04:33,500 --> 01:04:37,070
Took us about an hour
and a half each way.

1435
01:04:37,070 --> 01:04:38,600
But we went there.

1436
01:04:38,600 --> 01:04:42,110
And it was great, because
as it turned out, of course,

1437

01:04:42,110 --> 01:04:49,520
these Jewish soldiers
were indeed Zionists.

1438
01:04:49,520 --> 01:04:53,540
They inculcated the
notion of Zionism,

1439
01:04:53,540 --> 01:04:58,130
which took good root amongst
the Jewish teenagers,

1440
01:04:58,130 --> 01:05:06,230
because here was the notion
of a Jewish nation, which

1441
01:05:06,230 --> 01:05:12,710
at that time of course, was
an important thing, something

1442
01:05:12,710 --> 01:05:13,910
for the future.

1443
01:05:13,910 --> 01:05:15,470
And of course, the
basis there was

1444
01:05:15,470 --> 01:05:19,160
at that time called Palestine,
and to be known as Israel

1445
01:05:19,160 --> 01:05:20,870
two years later in 1948.

1446
01:05:20,870 --> 01:05:22,890
This was 1946.

1447
01:05:22,890 --> 01:05:28,220
So we would have these sessions,
all kinds of activities.

1448
01:05:28,220 --> 01:05:31,040
There would be descriptions

of the Jewish immigration

1449
01:05:31,040 --> 01:05:36,710
to Palestine, the
Aliyah, the development

1450
01:05:36,710 --> 01:05:39,870
of the nation there,
the hope for the future,

1451
01:05:39,870 --> 01:05:42,320
the problem of the
British blockade.

1452
01:05:42,320 --> 01:05:44,780
We were getting into
some of those issues

1453
01:05:44,780 --> 01:05:46,820
and learning about them.

1454
01:05:46,820 --> 01:05:49,910
And then of course
we had refreshments

1455
01:05:49,910 --> 01:05:51,260
and all other goodies.

1456
01:05:51,260 --> 01:05:54,020
But the man who led this,
the American soldier's

1457
01:05:54,020 --> 01:05:57,155
name was Norman [? Shanin, ?]
and he was an American.

1458
01:05:57,155 --> 01:05:59,780
And there was also a man by the
name of [? Arnie ?] [? Pins, ?]

1459
01:05:59,780 --> 01:06:02,840
who later on married
one of the people,

1460
01:06:02,840 --> 01:06:06,320
one of the women that was
a member of this group.

1461
01:06:06,320 --> 01:06:11,300
And both of these went to Israel
to settle, after some time, oh,

1462
01:06:11,300 --> 01:06:15,020
in 1948, '49, '50, somewhere
in that neighborhood.

1463
01:06:15,020 --> 01:06:20,300
And [? Arnie ?] [? Pins ?]
died there early on, but Norman

1464
01:06:20,300 --> 01:06:21,950
[? Shanin ?] lives there today.

1465
01:06:21,950 --> 01:06:23,630
This is 1997.

1466
01:06:23,630 --> 01:06:27,200
In fact, he sent some
greetings to the reunion

1467
01:06:27,200 --> 01:06:31,760
we had of the Manila group here
in Washington on October 21,

1468
01:06:31,760 --> 01:06:33,860
1996.

1469
01:06:33,860 --> 01:06:38,470
But he certainly was the
major leader of that group.

1470
01:06:38,470 --> 01:06:42,810
And so as I say, we
went there every Sunday.

1471

01:06:42,810 --> 01:06:45,420
And this continued
on, and we even

1472
01:06:45,420 --> 01:06:48,990
published a small newsletter,
copies of which I still have.

1473
01:06:48,990 --> 01:06:55,590
We also had a competition of
art or works or handicraft.

1474
01:06:55,590 --> 01:06:57,690
And one of the girls won.

1475
01:06:57,690 --> 01:07:00,480
She was an art student
that did a nice painting.

1476
01:07:00,480 --> 01:07:03,060
And I won second
place with a model

1477
01:07:03,060 --> 01:07:09,030
of a cruiser, which is
here on a shelf in the room

1478
01:07:09,030 --> 01:07:10,720
that we're sitting in.

1479
01:07:10,720 --> 01:07:14,700
It's a gray ship about
a foot and a half long.

1480
01:07:14,700 --> 01:07:16,650
And I made that all
out of cardboard,

1481
01:07:16,650 --> 01:07:18,540
and then painted
it with real paint,

1482
01:07:18,540 --> 01:07:20,280

and that hardened it, of course.

1483

01:07:20,280 --> 01:07:22,620

And that won second prize.

1484

01:07:22,620 --> 01:07:27,400

I was 15 years old

at the time, 1946.

1485

01:07:27,400 --> 01:07:32,850

So this was a very-- a

group which really brought

1486

01:07:32,850 --> 01:07:36,510

us together, I think

maybe for the first time

1487

01:07:36,510 --> 01:07:40,440

with some direction, with fresh

direction from people that

1488

01:07:40,440 --> 01:07:46,410

had certainly a Zionist or

nationalistic viewpoint,

1489

01:07:46,410 --> 01:07:50,520

different from a religious one,

although that was not absent,

1490

01:07:50,520 --> 01:07:52,320

but nonetheless

it was different.

1491

01:07:52,320 --> 01:07:54,510

And I think that was

welcome and refreshing,

1492

01:07:54,510 --> 01:07:58,020

and I think it served the

younger generation at that time

1493

01:07:58,020 --> 01:08:01,230

and even into the future.

1494

01:08:01,230 --> 01:08:05,530

There was a tragic incident, as we were members of the group.

1495

01:08:05,530 --> 01:08:09,600

There was one fellow by the name of Ernst Fuld, F-U-L-D.

1496

01:08:09,600 --> 01:08:14,850

And he was always interested in radio and electronic things.

1497

01:08:14,850 --> 01:08:17,729

And one day, apparently, he was called upon

1498

01:08:17,729 --> 01:08:22,050

to fool around with a radio that apparently had been working,

1499

01:08:22,050 --> 01:08:27,569

and it was in some store downtown Manila.

1500

01:08:27,569 --> 01:08:28,950

And there was an explosion.

1501

01:08:28,950 --> 01:08:31,560

It had been booby trapped by the Japanese,

1502

01:08:31,560 --> 01:08:33,609

and he was killed in the process.

1503

01:08:33,609 --> 01:08:36,000

So yeah, that was--

1504

01:08:36,000 --> 01:08:39,140

1505

01:08:39,140 --> 01:08:43,700
I forgot to ask you
earlier about the fate

1506
01:08:43,700 --> 01:08:52,160
of any Jews either as
helping interned POW

1507
01:08:52,160 --> 01:08:59,840
or in any kind of
counter-military resistance,

1508
01:08:59,840 --> 01:09:03,500
or in any other way,
what you knew personally

1509
01:09:03,500 --> 01:09:07,399
of members of the Jewish
community who might have been

1510
01:09:07,399 --> 01:09:11,240
hurt or killed, either
during or in the aftermath

1511
01:09:11,240 --> 01:09:12,979
of the fighting?

1512
01:09:12,979 --> 01:09:17,600
Yes, the Jewish community
lost 60 people killed, roughly

1513
01:09:17,600 --> 01:09:20,093
in proportion to
the killing ratio

1514
01:09:20,093 --> 01:09:21,260
that was in the Philippines.

1515
01:09:21,260 --> 01:09:24,950
I did mention 100,000 people
in Manila were killed,

1516
01:09:24,950 --> 01:09:27,479

a very, very large number of
casualties, plus of course,

1517
01:09:27,479 --> 01:09:29,149
many others wounded.

1518
01:09:29,149 --> 01:09:31,970
We lost 60 killed,
and we had 200

1519
01:09:31,970 --> 01:09:35,779
with wounds that were
of substantive nature,

1520
01:09:35,779 --> 01:09:38,090
from serious to medium.

1521
01:09:38,090 --> 01:09:39,680
Mine I don't count.

1522
01:09:39,680 --> 01:09:44,520
But yes, and some younger
people were killed.

1523
01:09:44,520 --> 01:09:47,479
In fact the man that
married the woman who

1524
01:09:47,479 --> 01:09:50,510
was in the ambulance,
the nurse, he

1525
01:09:50,510 --> 01:09:53,510
had gone through a period
where he had to play dead.

1526
01:09:53,510 --> 01:09:58,110
He was actually bayoneted by
Japanese and did not move.

1527
01:09:58,110 --> 01:09:59,720
He played dead, so he survived.

1528

01:09:59,720 --> 01:10:02,030

But the other man,
also a bachelor,

1529

01:10:02,030 --> 01:10:05,480

was in that same shelter,
was not so lucky.

1530

01:10:05,480 --> 01:10:07,070

He was killed.

1531

01:10:07,070 --> 01:10:11,670

And the killing was
in several ways.

1532

01:10:11,670 --> 01:10:16,370

We lost, of course, many friends
that we knew for example, a man

1533

01:10:16,370 --> 01:10:19,430

that we knew very well, and
he was [? Broniatowski. ?]

1534

01:10:19,430 --> 01:10:20,250

He was killed.

1535

01:10:20,250 --> 01:10:23,030

It was not certain whether
he was shot or machine gunned

1536

01:10:23,030 --> 01:10:26,030

or he came into crossfire.

1537

01:10:26,030 --> 01:10:28,850

Many people were simply
killed by artillery.

1538

01:10:28,850 --> 01:10:30,560

And then there were
the atrocities.

1539

01:10:30,560 --> 01:10:32,390

And there was one
example like [? Seit. ?]

1540
01:10:32,390 --> 01:10:35,780
And that is a man who had
come to the Philippines, who

1541
01:10:35,780 --> 01:10:39,560
had escaped from Germany
in the '30s, early '30s,

1542
01:10:39,560 --> 01:10:42,110
had gone to Addis
Ababa, Ethiopia,

1543
01:10:42,110 --> 01:10:44,990
had to leave there
when Mussolini invaded.

1544
01:10:44,990 --> 01:10:47,060
Of course, we know that era.

1545
01:10:47,060 --> 01:10:48,660
And came to the Philippines.

1546
01:10:48,660 --> 01:10:51,920
He was a chemist, a research
chemist, and did very well.

1547
01:10:51,920 --> 01:10:53,660
I mean, he did excellent work.

1548
01:10:53,660 --> 01:10:55,410
He knew what he was doing.

1549
01:10:55,410 --> 01:10:57,020
And he lived.

1550
01:10:57,020 --> 01:10:58,610
My parents knew them well.

1551
01:10:58,610 --> 01:10:59,960

I knew them well.

1552

01:10:59,960 --> 01:11:02,060

They had a young daughter.

1553

01:11:02,060 --> 01:11:05,180

She must have been about
eight or nine at that time.

1554

01:11:05,180 --> 01:11:09,920

And they, during the
battle, were in their home.

1555

01:11:09,920 --> 01:11:12,350

And for some reason,
the Japanese of course

1556

01:11:12,350 --> 01:11:14,490

had been burning
everything in the area.

1557

01:11:14,490 --> 01:11:18,470

They also went into that
home, gathered other people,

1558

01:11:18,470 --> 01:11:20,660

forced them all
into that one home,

1559

01:11:20,660 --> 01:11:24,377

piled furniture about them,
and then poured gasoline

1560

01:11:24,377 --> 01:11:26,210

into the area, and then
threw a hand grenade

1561

01:11:26,210 --> 01:11:29,510

in there, which of course
ignited everything.

1562

01:11:29,510 --> 01:11:31,430

It killed his wife and daughter.

1563
01:11:31,430 --> 01:11:33,810
It burned him terribly.

1564
01:11:33,810 --> 01:11:38,090
He was rescued by Filipinos,
who carried him out in a chair.

1565
01:11:38,090 --> 01:11:40,160
He was himself or
course a doctor,

1566
01:11:40,160 --> 01:11:43,010
and not a medical doctor
but a doctor chemistry,

1567
01:11:43,010 --> 01:11:45,620
and did know a
little bit about how

1568
01:11:45,620 --> 01:11:47,100
you might want to help himself.

1569
01:11:47,100 --> 01:11:50,390
But he had third degree burns
over about 30% of his body.

1570
01:11:50,390 --> 01:11:52,460
He did survive.

1571
01:11:52,460 --> 01:11:57,050
We did visit him in the hospital
right after and in the home,

1572
01:11:57,050 --> 01:12:01,650
but he was a very courageous
guy, and was able mentally

1573
01:12:01,650 --> 01:12:04,550
and otherwise to survive the
ordeal, both his own wounds

1574

01:12:04,550 --> 01:12:07,550
and that of the
loss of the family.

1575
01:12:07,550 --> 01:12:10,160
You may have been referring
to this indirectly

1576
01:12:10,160 --> 01:12:12,590
a few minutes ago,
but I recollect

1577
01:12:12,590 --> 01:12:16,910
there were a group of
German Jewish refugees

1578
01:12:16,910 --> 01:12:22,010
who were in some sort of Red
Cross facility that was bombed.

1579
01:12:22,010 --> 01:12:23,465
I may be getting that wrong.

1580
01:12:23,465 --> 01:12:26,770

1581
01:12:26,770 --> 01:12:32,580
There was the-- it's not
a Red Cross facility.

1582
01:12:32,580 --> 01:12:36,150

1583
01:12:36,150 --> 01:12:41,040
There was the Philippine General
Hospital, which was in Ermita,

1584
01:12:41,040 --> 01:12:44,850
was part of Manila,
residential Manila,

1585
01:12:44,850 --> 01:12:48,720
and who were hiding

there among others.

1586

01:12:48,720 --> 01:12:52,020

And there was a battle in
and around that hospital.

1587

01:12:52,020 --> 01:12:53,820

And as a result, of
course, they were all

1588

01:12:53,820 --> 01:12:55,680

trapped there with many others.

1589

01:12:55,680 --> 01:13:01,110

But there may have been some
casualties there as well.

1590

01:13:01,110 --> 01:13:03,120

The only other reference
to the Red Cross

1591

01:13:03,120 --> 01:13:07,530

was when we were ready to escape
from those open lots, where

1592

01:13:07,530 --> 01:13:09,600

we'd been under
artillery shelling.

1593

01:13:09,600 --> 01:13:13,470

A man, Filipino, was carrying
a bloody Red Cross flag.

1594

01:13:13,470 --> 01:13:16,545

Had nothing to do with the,
quote, Red Cross per se.

1595

01:13:16,545 --> 01:13:20,850

It simply was a symbol,
and that was all.

1596

01:13:20,850 --> 01:13:24,370

We did not run into

the Red Cross at all.

1597

01:13:24,370 --> 01:13:28,740

They may well have been there serving the army and so on.

1598

01:13:28,740 --> 01:13:32,790

We eventually-- the first aid the Jewish community saw

1599

01:13:32,790 --> 01:13:37,140

was from the American Joint Distribution Committee.

1600

01:13:37,140 --> 01:13:38,940

That of course was also limited.

1601

01:13:38,940 --> 01:13:41,430

After all, the Philippines were very far away.

1602

01:13:41,430 --> 01:13:45,720

Their needs were in Europe, and certainly although they

1603

01:13:45,720 --> 01:13:46,920

did what they could.

1604

01:13:46,920 --> 01:13:49,710

They eventually sent batches of clothes.

1605

01:13:49,710 --> 01:13:52,170

However, not realizing this was the Philippines,

1606

01:13:52,170 --> 01:13:54,010

there were a lot of winter clothes.

1607

01:13:54,010 --> 01:13:57,600

So what we did was--

1608

01:13:57,600 --> 01:14:02,250

not their fault. After all,
it's one of these happenstances.

1609

01:14:02,250 --> 01:14:03,780

However, what we
did, the community

1610

01:14:03,780 --> 01:14:06,270

did was to have those clothes
available for anyone that

1611

01:14:06,270 --> 01:14:08,520

was leaving the Philippines
to go to the United States

1612

01:14:08,520 --> 01:14:09,330

or Australia.

1613

01:14:09,330 --> 01:14:13,170

Could select one or two
pieces for winter in the US.

1614

01:14:13,170 --> 01:14:14,340

And in fact, I did that.

1615

01:14:14,340 --> 01:14:18,240

I got a jacket, which
was sort of a camel hair

1616

01:14:18,240 --> 01:14:20,730

or some kind of a jacket.

1617

01:14:20,730 --> 01:14:23,830

And my mother got
a sort of overcoat,

1618

01:14:23,830 --> 01:14:26,070

with sort of big fake fur on it.

1619

01:14:26,070 --> 01:14:30,030

And that's how we eventually

would arrive in San Francisco.

1620

01:14:30,030 --> 01:14:32,880

But that was about the limit.

1621

01:14:32,880 --> 01:14:36,870

The military, the
army chaplains,

1622

01:14:36,870 --> 01:14:39,600

there was a great
deal of help given.

1623

01:14:39,600 --> 01:14:45,270

They used their authority
or whatever and offices

1624

01:14:45,270 --> 01:14:47,700

to bring food in, to help out.

1625

01:14:47,700 --> 01:14:50,280

As I mentioned, they
built up the youth group.

1626

01:14:50,280 --> 01:14:51,240

They help to re--

1627

01:14:51,240 --> 01:14:57,480

And then of course, there
was this major event.

1628

01:14:57,480 --> 01:14:59,380

The temple had been destroyed.

1629

01:14:59,380 --> 01:15:00,750

The walls remained standing.

1630

01:15:00,750 --> 01:15:04,020

So they decided that--

1631

01:15:04,020 --> 01:15:09,270

It was really done by soldiers

of the army, Jewish soldiers.

1632
01:15:09,270 --> 01:15:13,830
On November the 9th,
1945, a very eventful day,

1633
01:15:13,830 --> 01:15:18,540
this was Crystal Night
seven years hence,

1634
01:15:18,540 --> 01:15:21,690
they decided to have
a big get-together

1635
01:15:21,690 --> 01:15:23,250
in the ruins of the temple.

1636
01:15:23,250 --> 01:15:25,620
And the Jewish
community was there.

1637
01:15:25,620 --> 01:15:30,870
And it was crammed with GIs
and sailors, Jewish ones.

1638
01:15:30,870 --> 01:15:32,640
And what they did
there was, they

1639
01:15:32,640 --> 01:15:36,180
ran a sort of
collection thing, where

1640
01:15:36,180 --> 01:15:42,060
they took bids, like anyone
who's ready to for \$1,000--

1641
01:15:42,060 --> 01:15:43,560
Now, we were kind
of a bit shocked

1642
01:15:43,560 --> 01:15:46,530
at that, because we'd never

used a temple for money

1643

01:15:46,530 --> 01:15:48,110
in any way, shape or form.

1644

01:15:48,110 --> 01:15:52,350
Being sort of German
conservatives, as I mentioned,

1645

01:15:52,350 --> 01:15:55,290
this was not a
thing that we did.

1646

01:15:55,290 --> 01:15:59,560
But this was done to
rebuild the temple.

1647

01:15:59,560 --> 01:16:04,410
So there must have been, oh,
300 or 400 people in there.

1648

01:16:04,410 --> 01:16:08,550
I have pictures of
it, of that event.

1649

01:16:08,550 --> 01:16:11,820
Where they had a service, and
then subsequently went out

1650

01:16:11,820 --> 01:16:14,160
and there were some
among these GIs

1651

01:16:14,160 --> 01:16:15,990
was two or three
who knew how to do

1652

01:16:15,990 --> 01:16:18,870
that, expert from the States.

1653

01:16:18,870 --> 01:16:21,870
And they raised a lot of
money, or enough certainly

1654
01:16:21,870 --> 01:16:24,990
to help begin the
fund of rebuilding.

1655
01:16:24,990 --> 01:16:28,020
And so that was
another major event.

1656
01:16:28,020 --> 01:16:34,332
The other event I remember,
besides all the youth group--

1657
01:16:34,332 --> 01:16:35,790
and of course people
were beginning

1658
01:16:35,790 --> 01:16:39,720
to take steps to
leave the Philippines,

1659
01:16:39,720 --> 01:16:45,090
since for many it had been
an interim place, certainly

1660
01:16:45,090 --> 01:16:46,500
in our case.

1661
01:16:46,500 --> 01:16:50,970
And my father ran again into
a man who looked him up,

1662
01:16:50,970 --> 01:16:53,280
who was our neighbor
on Taft Avenue, when

1663
01:16:53,280 --> 01:16:54,720
we lived in a bungalow.

1664
01:16:54,720 --> 01:16:57,540
That's the man who he
took to the hospital one

1665

01:16:57,540 --> 01:16:59,220
night, who had a seizure.

1666

01:16:59,220 --> 01:17:02,400
And presumably this man
claimed that he saved his life.

1667

01:17:02,400 --> 01:17:05,730
And he looked us up, because
he was back with the army.

1668

01:17:05,730 --> 01:17:08,140
He was then also in the
Counterintelligence Corps.

1669

01:17:08,140 --> 01:17:11,400
That background of his
served him well there.

1670

01:17:11,400 --> 01:17:15,150
And he also managed to
get us through the--

1671

01:17:15,150 --> 01:17:17,250
there was a sort of a--

1672

01:17:17,250 --> 01:17:18,960
there was bureaucracy,
of course,

1673

01:17:18,960 --> 01:17:22,750
to get your papers cleared
to the American authorities

1674

01:17:22,750 --> 01:17:26,340
and to the Philippine
authorities to immigrate.

1675

01:17:26,340 --> 01:17:30,240
And I think he helped us there
in one fashion or another.

1676

01:17:30,240 --> 01:17:32,940
But we were also
making ready to leave,

1677
01:17:32,940 --> 01:17:35,940
because our relatives
in the United States

1678
01:17:35,940 --> 01:17:39,900
were not in every case
able to offer affidavits.

1679
01:17:39,900 --> 01:17:43,200
My uncle had just
come out of the army.

1680
01:17:43,200 --> 01:17:47,520
He was with Stilwell in
China and Burma theater.

1681
01:17:47,520 --> 01:17:49,170
He was a captain, was a doctor.

1682
01:17:49,170 --> 01:17:52,260
So he really didn't
have much wealth.

1683
01:17:52,260 --> 01:17:53,730
He could not sponsor us.

1684
01:17:53,730 --> 01:17:56,250
But I had my
so-called godfather,

1685
01:17:56,250 --> 01:17:57,360
whom I also called Uncle.

1686
01:17:57,360 --> 01:17:58,380
He was also a physician.

1687
01:17:58,380 --> 01:17:59,340
He delivered me.

1688

01:17:59,340 --> 01:18:01,920

He lived in Maine at the
time, in Gardiner, Maine,

1689

01:18:01,920 --> 01:18:04,560

where he was practicing
as a country doctor.

1690

01:18:04,560 --> 01:18:05,990

And he had not been drafted.

1691

01:18:05,990 --> 01:18:07,740

Although he was eager
to go into the army,

1692

01:18:07,740 --> 01:18:09,540

they wouldn't have
him for two reasons--

1693

01:18:09,540 --> 01:18:11,910

age and the other fact,
there was no other doctor

1694

01:18:11,910 --> 01:18:13,140

within 200 miles.

1695

01:18:13,140 --> 01:18:16,830

And so they decided
that he would stay.

1696

01:18:16,830 --> 01:18:18,030

Which got him very angry.

1697

01:18:18,030 --> 01:18:20,310

He wanted to get into the
reserves and all that.

1698

01:18:20,310 --> 01:18:21,570

He loved that sort of thing.

1699

01:18:21,570 --> 01:18:25,280

He didn't have children,

so he was really free.

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection