

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,780

2
00:00:01,780 --> 00:00:04,810
This interview is being taped
on behalf of the United States

3
00:00:04,810 --> 00:00:07,000
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

4
00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:09,250
The interview is
with Jack Rubin.

5
00:00:09,250 --> 00:00:11,530
The interviewer as Nancy Alper.

6
00:00:11,530 --> 00:00:21,250
The date is February the 23,
1998, tape number two, side A.

7
00:00:21,250 --> 00:00:26,200
Jack, we were talking about
your crossing the Rhine River

8
00:00:26,200 --> 00:00:31,630
and going through this
agricultural area of Germany

9
00:00:31,630 --> 00:00:34,840
that seemed to be in
pretty good shape.

10
00:00:34,840 --> 00:00:38,920
And then you came across a
large number of German soldiers

11
00:00:38,920 --> 00:00:42,700
with their commanding
officer wanting to surrender.

12

00:00:42,700 --> 00:00:46,580
Could you please talk a
little bit more about that?

13
00:00:46,580 --> 00:00:50,380
Well, this looked almost
like a drill formation

14
00:00:50,380 --> 00:00:54,760
with the unit marching
in this order.

15
00:00:54,760 --> 00:01:00,490
The commanding officer
came up to our colonel

16
00:01:00,490 --> 00:01:05,319
and tried to offer some
token of surrender.

17
00:01:05,319 --> 00:01:07,210
Our colonel wouldn't
even talk to him.

18
00:01:07,210 --> 00:01:09,460
Our colonel just said--

19
00:01:09,460 --> 00:01:12,610
motioned to him just continue
going on to the rear.

20
00:01:12,610 --> 00:01:14,920
Continue going on to the rear.

21
00:01:14,920 --> 00:01:16,990
We had much more
important business

22
00:01:16,990 --> 00:01:20,650
to attend to than to take care
of this number of prisoners.

23
00:01:20,650 --> 00:01:24,460

So we just sent them on
through our lines walking

24
00:01:24,460 --> 00:01:27,190
as we were riding
in our vehicles,

25
00:01:27,190 --> 00:01:30,650
and we didn't even pay
any attention to them.

26
00:01:30,650 --> 00:01:33,340
And I assumed that
the units in the back

27
00:01:33,340 --> 00:01:37,000
eventually put them in
the prisoner of war camps.

28
00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:40,780
We never saw them before, but
we saw individual soldiers,

29
00:01:40,780 --> 00:01:45,070
and up to this whole
battalion, a group

30
00:01:45,070 --> 00:01:47,200
surrendering at this time.

31
00:01:47,200 --> 00:01:50,390

32
00:01:50,390 --> 00:01:54,320
What kind of condition were
they in when you were confronted

33
00:01:54,320 --> 00:01:56,780
by them at that point in time?

34
00:01:56,780 --> 00:01:58,730
They looked to be in
pretty good condition.

35

00:01:58,730 --> 00:02:00,720

They looked like
they were well-fed.

36

00:02:00,720 --> 00:02:02,450

They were well-clothed.

37

00:02:02,450 --> 00:02:03,860

They all had shoes.

38

00:02:03,860 --> 00:02:09,590

They all had uniforms, and they
didn't appear to be wounded.

39

00:02:09,590 --> 00:02:12,920

There didn't appear to be
any casualties of any type

40

00:02:12,920 --> 00:02:13,880

amongst them.

41

00:02:13,880 --> 00:02:19,910

They were just soldiers
in marching condition,

42

00:02:19,910 --> 00:02:24,080

just like we'd seen
in the American camps,

43

00:02:24,080 --> 00:02:26,330

like the American soldiers.

44

00:02:26,330 --> 00:02:31,520

Were they bringing with
them any military vehicles

45

00:02:31,520 --> 00:02:34,640

or other armaments, or were
they just simply marching

46

00:02:34,640 --> 00:02:37,580

without any weapons of any kind?

47

00:02:37,580 --> 00:02:39,200

They were just simply marching.

48

00:02:39,200 --> 00:02:40,610

They had no weapons.

49

00:02:40,610 --> 00:02:42,680

They had no vehicles.

50

00:02:42,680 --> 00:02:45,680

They didn't have
anything with them.

51

00:02:45,680 --> 00:02:47,390

There was no arms.

52

00:02:47,390 --> 00:02:50,010

53

00:02:50,010 --> 00:02:51,710

They were in uniform.

54

00:02:51,710 --> 00:02:55,340

And they did have
their designation,

55

00:02:55,340 --> 00:03:01,130

their military classification
on them, but that was all.

56

00:03:01,130 --> 00:03:05,000

Did you have any indication
why they were surrendering?

57

00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:08,510

Was there any
communication that you

58

00:03:08,510 --> 00:03:12,710

were privy to indirectly

or directly that would have

59

00:03:12,710 --> 00:03:14,570

given you more
information about them

60

00:03:14,570 --> 00:03:17,210

as you were moving forward?

61

00:03:17,210 --> 00:03:18,590

No.

62

00:03:18,590 --> 00:03:22,790

I never did have any idea
why they were surrendering.

63

00:03:22,790 --> 00:03:24,890

I never did speak
with any of them

64

00:03:24,890 --> 00:03:27,860

or have an opportunity
to speak with them.

65

00:03:27,860 --> 00:03:31,070

We were-- we didn't even get
off-- get out of our vehicles.

66

00:03:31,070 --> 00:03:35,660

We just continued on
our Jeeps into the area.

67

00:03:35,660 --> 00:03:38,150

When you moved into
these villages,

68

00:03:38,150 --> 00:03:41,120

I assume there was a
set way of moving in

69

00:03:41,120 --> 00:03:44,930

with some possible
assumption that you might

70
00:03:44,930 --> 00:03:49,560
be attacked by the locals.

71
00:03:49,560 --> 00:03:53,330
Did that ever occur?

72
00:03:53,330 --> 00:03:58,340
Well, what we would do is we
would establish a perimeter,

73
00:03:58,340 --> 00:04:01,970
and the perimeter
would be a guard post.

74
00:04:01,970 --> 00:04:04,400
And then this would
be established

75
00:04:04,400 --> 00:04:06,290
by the rifle companies.

76
00:04:06,290 --> 00:04:10,220
Then we would be behind that
perimeter in the village.

77
00:04:10,220 --> 00:04:16,310
And we didn't have any
indication of any attacks

78
00:04:16,310 --> 00:04:17,399
beyond that.

79
00:04:17,399 --> 00:04:21,709
Once in a while
the lead companies

80
00:04:21,709 --> 00:04:29,390
would run into some armed
conflict, but not too much.

81
00:04:29,390 --> 00:04:33,350

When they would, then
we'd regroup, we'd attack,

82
00:04:33,350 --> 00:04:36,290
we'd eliminate the
area of resistance,

83
00:04:36,290 --> 00:04:38,220
and then continue from there.

84
00:04:38,220 --> 00:04:43,010
Sometimes we'd call in artillery
support, whatever was needed.

85
00:04:43,010 --> 00:04:46,250
But it didn't last very long.

86
00:04:46,250 --> 00:04:50,840
The Germans were pretty well
disintegrated at that point.

87
00:04:50,840 --> 00:04:57,890
Were any of these scattering
of attacks from local citizens

88
00:04:57,890 --> 00:05:00,200
as opposed to soldiers?

89
00:05:00,200 --> 00:05:02,960
I never experienced
that whatsoever.

90
00:05:02,960 --> 00:05:06,980
The local citizens seemed
almost glad to see us.

91
00:05:06,980 --> 00:05:10,340
And after we were in a village
for a couple, three days,

92
00:05:10,340 --> 00:05:12,740
they were very glad
that we were there.

93
00:05:12,740 --> 00:05:15,200
When they saw that we were
not there to harm them,

94
00:05:15,200 --> 00:05:17,300
that we were not
persecuting them,

95
00:05:17,300 --> 00:05:20,150
that we were not putting
them in concentration camps

96
00:05:20,150 --> 00:05:22,400
or anything of that
nature, they seemed

97
00:05:22,400 --> 00:05:27,920
to be very accepting
of our being there.

98
00:05:27,920 --> 00:05:36,330
While you were moving
across east of the Rhine,

99
00:05:36,330 --> 00:05:39,120
and if there's any way to
pinpoint a location that

100
00:05:39,120 --> 00:05:45,750
would be helpful, did you
see any people who now you

101
00:05:45,750 --> 00:05:49,860
would look back and
characterize as camp inmates

102
00:05:49,860 --> 00:05:53,760
or prisoners who were
easily by their appearance

103
00:05:53,760 --> 00:05:58,900
differentiable from the

local German citizenry?

104
00:05:58,900 --> 00:05:59,400
No.

105
00:05:59,400 --> 00:06:03,420
We didn't see any of that
until we started approaching

106
00:06:03,420 --> 00:06:05,850
the Ohrdruf concentration camp.

107
00:06:05,850 --> 00:06:09,240
That's the first we
saw of any inmates.

108
00:06:09,240 --> 00:06:13,860
We did see at one point the--

109
00:06:13,860 --> 00:06:20,040
our Air Corps had come
upon a horse-drawn military

110
00:06:20,040 --> 00:06:21,490
establishment.

111
00:06:21,490 --> 00:06:26,070
And they had eliminated
this military establishment,

112
00:06:26,070 --> 00:06:28,860
and there were bodies on
both sides of the road.

113
00:06:28,860 --> 00:06:31,230
And some of those
bodies did look

114
00:06:31,230 --> 00:06:35,520
like prisoner of war
bodies, but we did not

115

00:06:35,520 --> 00:06:41,440
see any live prisoners of war
or people of that nature at all.

116
00:06:41,440 --> 00:06:44,940
We didn't come
across any of them.

117
00:06:44,940 --> 00:06:47,440
What would have made
you assume that they--

118
00:06:47,440 --> 00:06:50,400
what was it about
them that led you

119
00:06:50,400 --> 00:06:53,580
to conclude that they look like
prisoners of war as opposed

120
00:06:53,580 --> 00:06:56,140
to fighting soldiers?

121
00:06:56,140 --> 00:06:57,540
It was their dress.

122
00:06:57,540 --> 00:07:00,060
They were dressed
in striped uniforms.

123
00:07:00,060 --> 00:07:04,440
And that made us assume that
they were prisoners of war that

124
00:07:04,440 --> 00:07:05,923
were with this unit.

125
00:07:05,923 --> 00:07:07,590
I don't know what
kind of a unit it was.

126
00:07:07,590 --> 00:07:08,650
That's all we know.

127
00:07:08,650 --> 00:07:11,550
That's all I knew was that
there were horses killed,

128
00:07:11,550 --> 00:07:15,210
and there were wagons,
horse-drawn wagons

129
00:07:15,210 --> 00:07:17,092
along the side of the road.

130
00:07:17,092 --> 00:07:18,550
So I don't know
what kind of a unit

131
00:07:18,550 --> 00:07:23,370
that the Air Corps had
found at this time,

132
00:07:23,370 --> 00:07:28,380
but they were just lying
there as we went by.

133
00:07:28,380 --> 00:07:31,140
So you're assuming that they
had bombed-- they had been

134
00:07:31,140 --> 00:07:34,170
bombed by the Allied Air Corps.

135
00:07:34,170 --> 00:07:35,790
Either bombed or strafed.

136
00:07:35,790 --> 00:07:38,490
I'm not quite sure which one.

137
00:07:38,490 --> 00:07:42,210
But there were no soldiers,
SS around at the time?

138
00:07:42,210 --> 00:07:43,470

There were none.

139

00:07:43,470 --> 00:07:45,480

There were none.

140

00:07:45,480 --> 00:07:50,010

Do you remember where this was in a general sort of way?

141

00:07:50,010 --> 00:07:51,570

I can't remember.

142

00:07:51,570 --> 00:07:56,190

I can't remember where that was at all.

143

00:07:56,190 --> 00:07:59,190

These were essentially villages that you were going through

144

00:07:59,190 --> 00:08:01,110

on your way to Ohrdruf?

145

00:08:01,110 --> 00:08:01,830

Yes.

146

00:08:01,830 --> 00:08:05,610

Yeah, they were small villages, maybe a couple

147

00:08:05,610 --> 00:08:08,520

hundred to 1,000 people at the biggest.

148

00:08:08,520 --> 00:08:13,410

And they were like isolated farming communities.

149

00:08:13,410 --> 00:08:15,990

They didn't seem to have any manufacturing

150

00:08:15,990 --> 00:08:17,295
or anything of that nature.

151
00:08:17,295 --> 00:08:21,120

152
00:08:21,120 --> 00:08:25,760
What was your first indication
that you were approaching

153
00:08:25,760 --> 00:08:29,740
something other than a village?

154
00:08:29,740 --> 00:08:33,590
We were stopped at--

155
00:08:33,590 --> 00:08:42,110
we were at a overnight stop,
and we received a message from

156
00:08:42,110 --> 00:08:46,670
the front that the scout
troop-- we had a scout troop out

157
00:08:46,670 --> 00:08:47,930
in front of us--

158
00:08:47,930 --> 00:08:53,240
had entered into some kind
of a prisoner of war camp.

159
00:08:53,240 --> 00:08:59,060
And they were asking
for support in order

160
00:08:59,060 --> 00:09:02,570
to make sure that they
would be able to secure

161
00:09:02,570 --> 00:09:04,640
this prisoner of war camp.

162

00:09:04,640 --> 00:09:05,960
And we didn't know--

163
00:09:05,960 --> 00:09:10,550
and I relayed that
message on to our colonel.

164
00:09:10,550 --> 00:09:12,905
And we didn't know
what was there

165
00:09:12,905 --> 00:09:14,840
or what was going on there.

166
00:09:14,840 --> 00:09:21,800
And he then proceeded to
go forward to this camp.

167
00:09:21,800 --> 00:09:28,100
Do you recall what was described
to you by the scouts that

168
00:09:28,100 --> 00:09:29,900
led them to conclude
that this was

169
00:09:29,900 --> 00:09:34,070
some sort of a
prisoner of war camp?

170
00:09:34,070 --> 00:09:36,290
They said that there
were people coming out

171
00:09:36,290 --> 00:09:41,240
of the gates in
striped uniforms,

172
00:09:41,240 --> 00:09:45,680
and that the people
were begging for food,

173
00:09:45,680 --> 00:09:48,110

and that they were
seen very, very--

174
00:09:48,110 --> 00:09:52,340

175
00:09:52,340 --> 00:09:54,680
just in terrible condition.

176
00:09:54,680 --> 00:09:57,050
And they just didn't know
what to do with them.

177
00:09:57,050 --> 00:09:59,930
They had no way of
communicating with them.

178
00:09:59,930 --> 00:10:02,420
And they didn't know who
they were or anything.

179
00:10:02,420 --> 00:10:05,570
But they-- and were saying
that there was a camp

180
00:10:05,570 --> 00:10:11,660
or there was a village
up ahead that they

181
00:10:11,660 --> 00:10:14,120
were going to get into.

182
00:10:14,120 --> 00:10:16,760
And how far away do
you think, roughly,

183
00:10:16,760 --> 00:10:20,810
you were from Ohrdruf
at that point in time?

184
00:10:20,810 --> 00:10:24,830
We were probably about 5
or 10 miles west of Ohrdruf

185
00:10:24,830 --> 00:10:25,640
at that time.

186
00:10:25,640 --> 00:10:27,710
Because typically,
the scouts would

187
00:10:27,710 --> 00:10:31,250
be out about two or three
miles, five miles ahead

188
00:10:31,250 --> 00:10:34,130
of the main unit in
order to determine

189
00:10:34,130 --> 00:10:36,950
if there was going to be
any fighting, anything

190
00:10:36,950 --> 00:10:38,960
of that nature.

191
00:10:38,960 --> 00:10:41,630
And what were the specific
instructions to them

192
00:10:41,630 --> 00:10:44,060
after they'd relayed
this information to you

193
00:10:44,060 --> 00:10:47,840
about what they ought to do?

194
00:10:47,840 --> 00:10:51,950
They were told to secure the
camp-- to enter the camp,

195
00:10:51,950 --> 00:10:55,680
that they would have
reinforcements arrive very,

196

00:10:55,680 --> 00:10:58,790
very quickly, and that
we would be there just as

197
00:10:58,790 --> 00:11:01,050
quickly as we possibly could.

198
00:11:01,050 --> 00:11:05,600
And the colonel immediately
dispatched an infantry company

199
00:11:05,600 --> 00:11:08,060
plus the heavy weapons
company, and told

200
00:11:08,060 --> 00:11:10,610
them to proceed in
support of the scout

201
00:11:10,610 --> 00:11:13,190
troop that was out in front.

202
00:11:13,190 --> 00:11:16,730
And were you with that group
that was sent to the camp?

203
00:11:16,730 --> 00:11:18,230
No, I wasn't.

204
00:11:18,230 --> 00:11:20,630
I was back with
the main battalion,

205
00:11:20,630 --> 00:11:22,830
main part of the battalion.

206
00:11:22,830 --> 00:11:26,850
And therefore, by
the time I got there,

207
00:11:26,850 --> 00:11:29,450
the gates had been
open for some times.

208
00:11:29,450 --> 00:11:34,700
I did see a few people
straggling out in the uniforms.

209
00:11:34,700 --> 00:11:35,930
They didn't talk to us.

210
00:11:35,930 --> 00:11:37,490
They didn't have anything.

211
00:11:37,490 --> 00:11:40,010
They were just walking
away from the camp.

212
00:11:40,010 --> 00:11:42,680
I'd have no idea
where they were going,

213
00:11:42,680 --> 00:11:44,405
and then we started
to enter the camp.

214
00:11:44,405 --> 00:11:47,060

215
00:11:47,060 --> 00:11:49,520
The people that
you saw coming out

216
00:11:49,520 --> 00:11:54,320
of the camp as you approached,
I assume, the gates,

217
00:11:54,320 --> 00:11:56,480
what did they look like?

218
00:11:56,480 --> 00:12:00,350
They looked like just
the dregs of salvation.

219
00:12:00,350 --> 00:12:03,140

They were emaciated.

220
00:12:03,140 --> 00:12:05,510
They were unkempt.

221
00:12:05,510 --> 00:12:07,460
They were unwashed.

222
00:12:07,460 --> 00:12:10,610
Their hair was all over.

223
00:12:10,610 --> 00:12:12,980
They just looked
like they were in

224
00:12:12,980 --> 00:12:15,800
terrible, terrible condition.

225
00:12:15,800 --> 00:12:20,060
I can still see them in my
mind walking out of the--

226
00:12:20,060 --> 00:12:24,800
not walking, but just kind
of getting out of the camp,

227
00:12:24,800 --> 00:12:30,800
and not striding, but just
slowly, slowly walking.

228
00:12:30,800 --> 00:12:33,980
And what were they wearing on
their feet, on their bodies,

229
00:12:33,980 --> 00:12:35,480
on their heads?

230
00:12:35,480 --> 00:12:38,360
They had scarves.

231
00:12:38,360 --> 00:12:40,880
They had caps on their heads.

232
00:12:40,880 --> 00:12:43,430
Their feet, as I
remember it, were

233
00:12:43,430 --> 00:12:46,580
in sandals, some
kind of sandals,

234
00:12:46,580 --> 00:12:53,850
and with big, heavy
stockings on their feet.

235
00:12:53,850 --> 00:13:00,010
They were just in
terrible condition.

236
00:13:00,010 --> 00:13:03,160
Were these men and women?

237
00:13:03,160 --> 00:13:05,230
Far as I could tell, yes.

238
00:13:05,230 --> 00:13:07,990
But it was very, very
difficult to distinguish

239
00:13:07,990 --> 00:13:14,790
between men and women, because
they all were so downtrodden.

240
00:13:14,790 --> 00:13:18,890
They all had such heavy
clothing on, that they just--

241
00:13:18,890 --> 00:13:23,330
it was very difficult to tell
whether they were men or women.

242
00:13:23,330 --> 00:13:26,990
Did you see anyone who
looked like a child

243
00:13:26,990 --> 00:13:28,940
or groups of children?

244
00:13:28,940 --> 00:13:29,450
No.

245
00:13:29,450 --> 00:13:31,300
I didn't see any
children at all.

246
00:13:31,300 --> 00:13:33,340
I didn't see any
children at all.

247
00:13:33,340 --> 00:13:35,900

248
00:13:35,900 --> 00:13:39,230
What did the gate and the
perimeter of the camp look

249
00:13:39,230 --> 00:13:41,540
like, if you recall it?

250
00:13:41,540 --> 00:13:48,440
The gate-- the perimeter of the
camp to me looked like a set

251
00:13:48,440 --> 00:13:54,760
of tree stumps that
had a tree poles--

252
00:13:54,760 --> 00:14:00,640
the trunks of trees that
had encircled a large area.

253
00:14:00,640 --> 00:14:02,650
And there was a big
gate in the front

254
00:14:02,650 --> 00:14:04,450
there that we went through.

255
00:14:04,450 --> 00:14:06,310
And as you went
through it, there

256
00:14:06,310 --> 00:14:11,500
were wooden shacks on
both sides of the gate.

257
00:14:11,500 --> 00:14:15,250
And the wooden shacks
were both open and closed.

258
00:14:15,250 --> 00:14:25,410
Some of them had open not
haylofts, but open sheds

259
00:14:25,410 --> 00:14:27,150
on the side of them.

260
00:14:27,150 --> 00:14:31,260
And in these sheds were
stacked human bodies.

261
00:14:31,260 --> 00:14:35,940
And the human bodies were just
laid one on top of another

262
00:14:35,940 --> 00:14:43,830
without any kind of burial
attempt or anything like that.

263
00:14:43,830 --> 00:14:46,860
They just were
like pieces of wood

264
00:14:46,860 --> 00:14:49,050
like you'd stack
lumber, like you'd

265
00:14:49,050 --> 00:14:53,490
stack tree trunks in a barn.

266

00:14:53,490 --> 00:14:56,910

And at that time

I was fortunate.

267

00:14:56,910 --> 00:15:01,690

I had liberated a Leica camera,

and I took some pictures of it.

268

00:15:01,690 --> 00:15:09,060

And those are the pictures that

are here now in the museum.

269

00:15:09,060 --> 00:15:12,360

When did you donate

the photos of what you

270

00:15:12,360 --> 00:15:14,790

saw at Ohrdruf to the museum?

271

00:15:14,790 --> 00:15:19,410

I donated them in

1955, the first time

272

00:15:19,410 --> 00:15:23,100

that we had come to visit

the Holocaust Museum.

273

00:15:23,100 --> 00:15:25,940

And the museum people

were very nice.

274

00:15:25,940 --> 00:15:28,980

They took the originals,

but they made copies of it.

275

00:15:28,980 --> 00:15:31,170

So I have copies

of the pictures.

276

00:15:31,170 --> 00:15:37,260

But that was when I

donated them was in 1955.

277

00:15:37,260 --> 00:15:39,040
1995.

278

00:15:39,040 --> 00:15:39,600
I'm sorry.

279

00:15:39,600 --> 00:15:42,020
1995.

280

00:15:42,020 --> 00:15:44,530
Were you saying that
these stacks of bodies

281

00:15:44,530 --> 00:15:48,400
were next to the buildings,
the wooden buildings

282

00:15:48,400 --> 00:15:50,380
that you were describing?

283

00:15:50,380 --> 00:15:51,750
Yes.

284

00:15:51,750 --> 00:15:55,330
They were parts-- these
shacks, these enclosures

285

00:15:55,330 --> 00:15:58,270
were part of those
wooden buildings.

286

00:15:58,270 --> 00:16:00,430
And that's where
the bodies were.

287

00:16:00,430 --> 00:16:03,010
They were right next
to the buildings.

288

00:16:03,010 --> 00:16:04,750
I don't know how they got there.

289

00:16:04,750 --> 00:16:07,000

I don't know what
they did to them,

290

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:11,050

but this is where
the bodies were.

291

00:16:11,050 --> 00:16:15,040

The logs or poles
that you mentioned

292

00:16:15,040 --> 00:16:19,960

that consisted of the
perimeter of the camp,

293

00:16:19,960 --> 00:16:26,470

was there wire or other
wood connecting those logs?

294

00:16:26,470 --> 00:16:29,660

I didn't notice whether
there was or not.

295

00:16:29,660 --> 00:16:31,420

These were very close together.

296

00:16:31,420 --> 00:16:34,070

They were one right
up against each other.

297

00:16:34,070 --> 00:16:37,750

I don't know that there was
any barbed wire around them.

298

00:16:37,750 --> 00:16:42,370

There may have been, but
I didn't notice it myself

299

00:16:42,370 --> 00:16:45,100

at that time.

300

00:16:45,100 --> 00:16:47,190
Was there a town nearby?

301
00:16:47,190 --> 00:16:51,910
And could you tell how close
the camp was to the town

302
00:16:51,910 --> 00:16:54,430
if there was one?

303
00:16:54,430 --> 00:16:56,740
There was no camp nearby.

304
00:16:56,740 --> 00:16:59,950
As far as I can remember
the nearest camp was

305
00:16:59,950 --> 00:17:02,500
about 5 or 10 miles away--

306
00:17:02,500 --> 00:17:06,130
nearest town was about
5 or 10 miles away.

307
00:17:06,130 --> 00:17:11,980
And we traveled for maybe a half
hour before we got to the camp

308
00:17:11,980 --> 00:17:19,044
after we were notified that
they had found the camp.

309
00:17:19,044 --> 00:17:25,700
So it was several hours
after the camp had

310
00:17:25,700 --> 00:17:29,270
been found before we got there.

311
00:17:29,270 --> 00:17:33,410
And the prisoners had virtually
all gone by that time.

312
00:17:33,410 --> 00:17:36,390

313
00:17:36,390 --> 00:17:39,540
When you went through the
gates, what was the first thing

314
00:17:39,540 --> 00:17:42,330
that you saw in Ohrdruf?

315
00:17:42,330 --> 00:17:46,450
The first thing I saw in
Ohrdruf were the dead bodies.

316
00:17:46,450 --> 00:17:48,400
There were dead
bodies all around.

317
00:17:48,400 --> 00:17:50,760
There were dead
bodies on the ground.

318
00:17:50,760 --> 00:17:53,370
There were dead
bodies on the roads.

319
00:17:53,370 --> 00:17:55,890
There were dead
bodies on the sides.

320
00:17:55,890 --> 00:18:01,680
It was just such a horrifying,
unbelievable experience

321
00:18:01,680 --> 00:18:06,000
that these people could--

322
00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:08,700
that anything like
this could exist.

323
00:18:08,700 --> 00:18:16,470

It was just a
mind-numbing experience.

324
00:18:16,470 --> 00:18:17,875
It was terrible.

325
00:18:17,875 --> 00:18:18,750
It was just terrible.

326
00:18:18,750 --> 00:18:22,450

327
00:18:22,450 --> 00:18:25,300
So in addition to
the stacked bodies,

328
00:18:25,300 --> 00:18:29,260
there were bodies
randomly lying in the--

329
00:18:29,260 --> 00:18:33,490
on the ground as you
moved into the camp?

330
00:18:33,490 --> 00:18:34,060
Yes.

331
00:18:34,060 --> 00:18:38,110
There were bodies
all over the place.

332
00:18:38,110 --> 00:18:42,130
And I don't know how long they'd
been there, but some of them

333
00:18:42,130 --> 00:18:45,070
looked like they'd been
there for quite a while.

334
00:18:45,070 --> 00:18:48,100
Others looked like they'd
been there just new.

335

00:18:48,100 --> 00:18:51,790

They'd just been there for
a short period of time.

336

00:18:51,790 --> 00:18:54,610

Do you remember as
to those bodies that

337

00:18:54,610 --> 00:18:57,880

were lying in the
dirt or on the ground,

338

00:18:57,880 --> 00:19:02,140

any indication that any of
those people were still alive?

339

00:19:02,140 --> 00:19:03,190

No.

340

00:19:03,190 --> 00:19:07,240

I would say that they were
dead, and a lot of them

341

00:19:07,240 --> 00:19:10,610

looked like they were
dead for some time.

342

00:19:10,610 --> 00:19:12,490

I don't know how long
they'd been dead,

343

00:19:12,490 --> 00:19:16,690

but we did not see any who
looked like-- who were bleeding

344

00:19:16,690 --> 00:19:22,120

or who-- any signs of having
been killed very recently.

345

00:19:22,120 --> 00:19:24,040

I don't know how
long they'd been--

346

00:19:24,040 --> 00:19:25,800

I have no idea how
long they'd been dead.

347

00:19:25,800 --> 00:19:29,230

348

00:19:29,230 --> 00:19:35,020

The people who were coming out
or shuffling out of the camp

349

00:19:35,020 --> 00:19:41,760

that you mentioned, the few
who were still remaining,

350

00:19:41,760 --> 00:19:45,360

you're saying that they made
no attempt to look at you

351

00:19:45,360 --> 00:19:49,230

or speak to you or
ask you for anything.

352

00:19:49,230 --> 00:19:50,670

No, they did not.

353

00:19:50,670 --> 00:19:55,560

They just seemed to be
going off on their own.

354

00:19:55,560 --> 00:19:57,090

I don't know where
they were going

355

00:19:57,090 --> 00:19:58,560

or what they were thinking.

356

00:19:58,560 --> 00:20:02,700

But they just looked like they
were taking care of themselves

357

00:20:02,700 --> 00:20:04,140

and going--

358
00:20:04,140 --> 00:20:06,500
just walking off on their own.

359
00:20:06,500 --> 00:20:11,120

360
00:20:11,120 --> 00:20:13,880
I would like to
discuss the pictures

361
00:20:13,880 --> 00:20:17,600
that you donated to the museum.

362
00:20:17,600 --> 00:20:20,510
And looking at them
now between us,

363
00:20:20,510 --> 00:20:25,160
it looks like there
are nine pictures.

364
00:20:25,160 --> 00:20:30,940
And I wondered if you
could describe them,

365
00:20:30,940 --> 00:20:38,620
perhaps by starting with
bodies that were burned,

366
00:20:38,620 --> 00:20:42,040
as opposed to bodies
that were simply stacked,

367
00:20:42,040 --> 00:20:43,150
if that was the case.

368
00:20:43,150 --> 00:20:49,660

369
00:20:49,660 --> 00:20:52,900

All the ones that
I have are bodies

370
00:20:52,900 --> 00:21:06,350
that were dismembered or just
lying one on top of another.

371
00:21:06,350 --> 00:21:11,110
This may be a group that's
burned, but I'm not quite sure.

372
00:21:11,110 --> 00:21:18,790
The bodies-- it's unbelievable
to see human bodies just

373
00:21:18,790 --> 00:21:24,820
stacked one on top of another,
without any conscience

374
00:21:24,820 --> 00:21:25,800
of what--

375
00:21:25,800 --> 00:21:29,380
whether a person's foot is
in another person's face,

376
00:21:29,380 --> 00:21:34,360
and the bodies are stacked
lying one on top of another,

377
00:21:34,360 --> 00:21:37,390
with other people
being underneath, being

378
00:21:37,390 --> 00:21:41,680
crushed by the bodies
on the top of them.

379
00:21:41,680 --> 00:21:47,520
And it just-- some
of them looked

380
00:21:47,520 --> 00:21:51,360

like they were in
terrible dying positions,

381
00:21:51,360 --> 00:21:57,240
with their hands clenched
and raised in front of them.

382
00:21:57,240 --> 00:22:04,440
Others of the bodies
are lying on stretchers

383
00:22:04,440 --> 00:22:06,030
partially dressed.

384
00:22:06,030 --> 00:22:09,120
Some of them are nude.

385
00:22:09,120 --> 00:22:11,580
Some of them have hats on.

386
00:22:11,580 --> 00:22:19,100
Some of them are just
in terrible condition.

387
00:22:19,100 --> 00:22:22,580
When you say the bodies were
dismembered, what do you mean?

388
00:22:22,580 --> 00:22:26,060
Some of them looked
like the parts

389
00:22:26,060 --> 00:22:32,240
of a-- parts of their arms are
missing, parts of their legs

390
00:22:32,240 --> 00:22:33,320
are separated.

391
00:22:33,320 --> 00:22:39,280

392

00:22:39,280 --> 00:22:42,250

Do you remember the
expressions on their faces?

393

00:22:42,250 --> 00:22:50,130

The faces are--
they're not that--

394

00:22:50,130 --> 00:22:52,650

well, it's hard to say.

395

00:22:52,650 --> 00:22:56,790

They look like they died
without that much pain.

396

00:22:56,790 --> 00:23:01,740

But it's unbelievable to me
that if they died this way,

397

00:23:01,740 --> 00:23:03,420

they weren't gassed.

398

00:23:03,420 --> 00:23:08,880

They may have been gassed first,
and then just stacked out here.

399

00:23:08,880 --> 00:23:12,960

Others of the bodies are
in terrible condition.

400

00:23:12,960 --> 00:23:17,070

Here's a man with his fist
raised in the air, his mouth

401

00:23:17,070 --> 00:23:23,790

open, his whole body just
seems to express pain,

402

00:23:23,790 --> 00:23:27,330

grief, suffering, torture--

403

00:23:27,330 --> 00:23:29,400

just all torture.

404
00:23:29,400 --> 00:23:32,160

405
00:23:32,160 --> 00:23:34,440
Some of them are so
decayed that it's

406
00:23:34,440 --> 00:23:38,960
just very difficult to interpret
what was going on with them.

407
00:23:38,960 --> 00:23:41,840

408
00:23:41,840 --> 00:23:45,520
So at least for the time
that you were there,

409
00:23:45,520 --> 00:23:50,110
there wasn't enough
examination to know exactly

410
00:23:50,110 --> 00:23:52,030
how these people had died.

411
00:23:52,030 --> 00:23:59,250
You've mentioned gassing,
the possibility of burning,

412
00:23:59,250 --> 00:24:02,970
or just dying spontaneously.

413
00:24:02,970 --> 00:24:04,380
No, just being killed.

414
00:24:04,380 --> 00:24:06,660
They were killed some way--

415
00:24:06,660 --> 00:24:08,540
just different ways
that they were killed.

416
00:24:08,540 --> 00:24:11,570

417
00:24:11,570 --> 00:24:13,460
Jack, do you have
any explanation

418
00:24:13,460 --> 00:24:17,570
for why there might have been--

419
00:24:17,570 --> 00:24:19,400
in one picture,
there's a picture

420
00:24:19,400 --> 00:24:25,270
of a man on a stretcher.

421
00:24:25,270 --> 00:24:29,260
Do you recall if he was dead?

422
00:24:29,260 --> 00:24:31,420
As far as I know, yes.

423
00:24:31,420 --> 00:24:32,590
I don't know what this is.

424
00:24:32,590 --> 00:24:35,590
I think this is a--
this bit was censored.

425
00:24:35,590 --> 00:24:38,770
It looks to me like part of
the picture was censored.

426
00:24:38,770 --> 00:24:42,830
I have no idea why they
did it or who did it.

427
00:24:42,830 --> 00:24:47,360
But I don't understand
that particular--

428

00:24:47,360 --> 00:24:53,360

Did you get near any
grouping of people

429

00:24:53,360 --> 00:24:57,650

that you think might have been
in some sort of an infirmary

430

00:24:57,650 --> 00:25:00,450

at the time of their death?

431

00:25:00,450 --> 00:25:02,300

I couldn't tell.

432

00:25:02,300 --> 00:25:03,620

No.

433

00:25:03,620 --> 00:25:06,080

I couldn't tell whether they
were-- it was an infirmary

434

00:25:06,080 --> 00:25:08,340

or not.

435

00:25:08,340 --> 00:25:11,440

Did you go into any
of the barracks?

436

00:25:11,440 --> 00:25:13,070

We looked inside the barracks.

437

00:25:13,070 --> 00:25:15,800

We did not go into any of them.

438

00:25:15,800 --> 00:25:18,440

What did you see when
you looked inside?

439

00:25:18,440 --> 00:25:24,860

We saw the-- just
complete disarray.

440
00:25:24,860 --> 00:25:27,980
The beds were torn
apart, the few beds

441
00:25:27,980 --> 00:25:29,510
that were left in there.

442
00:25:29,510 --> 00:25:31,670
It was just complete--

443
00:25:31,670 --> 00:25:36,380
like a wrecking vehicle
had gone through there.

444
00:25:36,380 --> 00:25:41,930
The place was just torn apart,
just from one end to the other.

445
00:25:41,930 --> 00:25:45,240

446
00:25:45,240 --> 00:25:49,680
Do you remember barracks,
bunk beds being lined up

447
00:25:49,680 --> 00:25:54,180
on the side, or latrines in
the middle, any other things

448
00:25:54,180 --> 00:25:56,610
that you would describe
about the interior

449
00:25:56,610 --> 00:25:58,740
of the barracks looking in?

450
00:25:58,740 --> 00:26:00,250
No, I don't.

451
00:26:00,250 --> 00:26:04,390
I don't remember

anything else about that.

452

00:26:04,390 --> 00:26:06,960

What was the
topography of the land

453

00:26:06,960 --> 00:26:09,550

on which this camp was sitting?

454

00:26:09,550 --> 00:26:10,800

Do you remember?

455

00:26:10,800 --> 00:26:14,070

To the best of my
knowledge it was flat.

456

00:26:14,070 --> 00:26:20,130

The area both around the
camp and the area of the camp

457

00:26:20,130 --> 00:26:23,730

itself was just a piece
of flat land looked

458

00:26:23,730 --> 00:26:27,158

like had been taken over
from a farming operation,

459

00:26:27,158 --> 00:26:28,950

looked like it had been
a-- at one time may

460

00:26:28,950 --> 00:26:30,720

have been a cultivated field.

461

00:26:30,720 --> 00:26:34,470

It was just a piece
of a flat country.

462

00:26:34,470 --> 00:26:37,590

Could you see a town
in the distance?

463

00:26:37,590 --> 00:26:38,670

I couldn't.

464

00:26:38,670 --> 00:26:42,330

I don't remember any
town in the distance.

465

00:26:42,330 --> 00:26:53,880

Could you see any smoking towers
or other sorts of facilities--

466

00:26:53,880 --> 00:26:57,645

factory-like facilities
in the distance?

467

00:26:57,645 --> 00:27:00,220

468

00:27:00,220 --> 00:27:02,440

No.

469

00:27:02,440 --> 00:27:03,550

No, I didn't.

470

00:27:03,550 --> 00:27:05,770

I don't remember that.

471

00:27:05,770 --> 00:27:08,830

I don't want to
say there wasn't.

472

00:27:08,830 --> 00:27:11,280

I just don't have any
recollection of it.

473

00:27:11,280 --> 00:27:15,690

474

00:27:15,690 --> 00:27:19,490

How long did you
stay wandering around

475

00:27:19,490 --> 00:27:22,070
the interior of the camp?

476

00:27:22,070 --> 00:27:25,160
We were only there for
three or four hours.

477

00:27:25,160 --> 00:27:30,950
And we just wandered
around by ourselves.

478

00:27:30,950 --> 00:27:37,430
And then we had to go on
because the unit was moving on.

479

00:27:37,430 --> 00:27:41,940
And we were only there for
a very short period of time.

480

00:27:41,940 --> 00:27:43,955
We were not there very long.

481

00:27:43,955 --> 00:27:45,455
It would be three
hours at the most.

482

00:27:45,455 --> 00:27:48,330

483

00:27:48,330 --> 00:27:53,670
Did you know at the time whether
medical or other personnel

484

00:27:53,670 --> 00:27:58,410
were being requested to come to
the camp after your departure?

485

00:27:58,410 --> 00:28:01,980
As far as I knew at that
time there was nobody coming.

486

00:28:01,980 --> 00:28:04,260

There was no
additional personnel,

487
00:28:04,260 --> 00:28:07,080
that the camp had been
completely evacuated,

488
00:28:07,080 --> 00:28:09,600
and that there was
nobody left in the camp.

489
00:28:09,600 --> 00:28:12,840
And therefore, there
was going to be

490
00:28:12,840 --> 00:28:14,780
nobody else coming to the camp.

491
00:28:14,780 --> 00:28:20,280

492
00:28:20,280 --> 00:28:25,500
The people who you saw
leave were the only people

493
00:28:25,500 --> 00:28:26,430
who were alive.

494
00:28:26,430 --> 00:28:27,510
Is that correct?

495
00:28:27,510 --> 00:28:28,400
Yes.

496
00:28:28,400 --> 00:28:31,650
In other words, you
did not see anybody

497
00:28:31,650 --> 00:28:35,880
who would have appeared to be a
guard or an officer of any kind

498

00:28:35,880 --> 00:28:39,300
or official or administrator
of the camp there at the time

499
00:28:39,300 --> 00:28:40,270
that you were there?

500
00:28:40,270 --> 00:28:41,100
No.

501
00:28:41,100 --> 00:28:47,180
We saw no German personnel
whatsoever around the camp.

502
00:28:47,180 --> 00:28:50,480
It was-- it was abandoned.

503
00:28:50,480 --> 00:28:54,560
Did you have any sense then
of who these people were

504
00:28:54,560 --> 00:28:57,650
and why they had been killed?

505
00:28:57,650 --> 00:28:58,610
No.

506
00:28:58,610 --> 00:29:00,530
I did not have any sense.

507
00:29:00,530 --> 00:29:02,930
I did not know who
they were or what

508
00:29:02,930 --> 00:29:06,470
they were doing there, where
they'd come from or anything.

509
00:29:06,470 --> 00:29:12,130
I assumed that they were
prisoners of the Germans.

510

00:29:12,130 --> 00:29:15,470
They had captured them
or something like that.

511
00:29:15,470 --> 00:29:19,100
I had no idea where
they may have come from

512
00:29:19,100 --> 00:29:20,030
or who they were.

513
00:29:20,030 --> 00:29:24,250

514
00:29:24,250 --> 00:29:30,370
After you left the camp, was
there any information given out

515
00:29:30,370 --> 00:29:36,220
by commanding officers
through the Stars and Stripes,

516
00:29:36,220 --> 00:29:39,400
through some other
form of communication,

517
00:29:39,400 --> 00:29:43,330
that was attempting at
that time to explain

518
00:29:43,330 --> 00:29:45,880
what you had seen there?

519
00:29:45,880 --> 00:29:50,530
There were some articles
in the Stars and Stripes.

520
00:29:50,530 --> 00:29:54,340
In fact, there was a picture
taken about 10 days after we

521
00:29:54,340 --> 00:30:00,280
were at the camp of General

Eisenhower, General Bradley,

522

00:30:00,280 --> 00:30:06,130
and General Patton at the camp
looking over the same things

523

00:30:06,130 --> 00:30:08,080
that we were looking
at, and explaining

524

00:30:08,080 --> 00:30:10,780
that they had been at the camp.

525

00:30:10,780 --> 00:30:13,900
We understood it to be
a prisoner of war camp,

526

00:30:13,900 --> 00:30:16,258
and that this is where the--

527

00:30:16,258 --> 00:30:18,490
this is where the
bodies came from,

528

00:30:18,490 --> 00:30:20,440
that they were prisoners of war.

529

00:30:20,440 --> 00:30:23,710
We thought they were probably
Russian soldiers or something

530

00:30:23,710 --> 00:30:25,100
of that nature.

531

00:30:25,100 --> 00:30:27,820
But I don't believe that
the articles in the Stars

532

00:30:27,820 --> 00:30:35,840
and Stripes discussed the
camps and the real implications

533

00:30:35,840 --> 00:30:36,340
of them.

534
00:30:36,340 --> 00:30:38,950

535
00:30:38,950 --> 00:30:41,920
So as far as you knew from
the Stars and Stripes,

536
00:30:41,920 --> 00:30:44,960
it could have been what you
just described it to be.

537
00:30:44,960 --> 00:30:49,330
It could have been just
a prisoner of war camp.

538
00:30:49,330 --> 00:30:49,930
Yeah.

539
00:30:49,930 --> 00:30:53,290
That's all we knew at that time.

540
00:30:53,290 --> 00:30:57,220
And did that change after
Bradley, Patton, and Eisenhower

541
00:30:57,220 --> 00:30:59,050
visited the camp?

542
00:30:59,050 --> 00:31:00,190
No.

543
00:31:00,190 --> 00:31:04,120
I didn't really see anything
until I got back to the United

544
00:31:04,120 --> 00:31:08,770
States, and many years
later finally discovered

545

00:31:08,770 --> 00:31:12,040
what I had been looking at.

546
00:31:12,040 --> 00:31:15,370
Do you remember-- this
was a long time ago.

547
00:31:15,370 --> 00:31:20,200
Do you remember what
it felt like for you

548
00:31:20,200 --> 00:31:23,560
then when you walked in
and saw what you saw?

549
00:31:23,560 --> 00:31:27,360

550
00:31:27,360 --> 00:31:34,320
It was utterly confounding to
walk into that kind of an area

551
00:31:34,320 --> 00:31:39,900
and to see this kind of horror
and this kind of carnage,

552
00:31:39,900 --> 00:31:42,780
this kind of brutality.

553
00:31:42,780 --> 00:31:49,050
This kind of lack of
consideration for humanity

554
00:31:49,050 --> 00:31:54,920
was just absolutely
mind-boggling.

555
00:31:54,920 --> 00:31:58,910
It was something
that was horrifying,

556
00:31:58,910 --> 00:32:04,190
and something that you couldn't

really accept for yourself

557
00:32:04,190 --> 00:32:06,120
that this could happen.

558
00:32:06,120 --> 00:32:10,160
But yet, here it was,
and you had to accept it.

559
00:32:10,160 --> 00:32:14,570
And the conflict within
yourself was just terrible.

560
00:32:14,570 --> 00:32:16,700
It just tore you apart.

561
00:32:16,700 --> 00:32:18,530
It took your breath away.

562
00:32:18,530 --> 00:32:23,630
It just made you feel like
you-- this was another world,

563
00:32:23,630 --> 00:32:27,020
that this couldn't be the
world that you lived in,

564
00:32:27,020 --> 00:32:29,800
that this had to
be someplace else.

565
00:32:29,800 --> 00:32:32,780
And that it was
very, very difficult

566
00:32:32,780 --> 00:32:38,610
to accept what was
happening, what you saw,

567
00:32:38,610 --> 00:32:42,120
what you experienced as
being a part of life.

568

00:32:42,120 --> 00:32:45,180

569

00:32:45,180 --> 00:32:48,330

Do you remember how
you and other soldiers

570

00:32:48,330 --> 00:32:50,010

reacted after you left there?

571

00:32:50,010 --> 00:32:56,130

Was there a change in demeanor
or attitude about what

572

00:32:56,130 --> 00:32:56,880

you were doing?

573

00:32:56,880 --> 00:33:01,470

574

00:33:01,470 --> 00:33:03,690

No, I can't.

575

00:33:03,690 --> 00:33:06,660

I don't remember that we--

576

00:33:06,660 --> 00:33:15,390

other than being in shock and
being completely just blown

577

00:33:15,390 --> 00:33:21,480

away by this, I don't remember
any change in attitude

578

00:33:21,480 --> 00:33:23,265

at all of the people.

579

00:33:23,265 --> 00:33:26,880

580

00:33:26,880 --> 00:33:33,990

I think I felt a little bit more
vindicated, a little bit more

581
00:33:33,990 --> 00:33:37,648
supportive for what I had
been doing, and knowing that I

582
00:33:37,648 --> 00:33:38,940
had been doing the right thing.

583
00:33:38,940 --> 00:33:41,190
I knew it all along.

584
00:33:41,190 --> 00:33:44,730
But I feel maybe there was
a little bit more support

585
00:33:44,730 --> 00:33:47,460
after this time to find
out what I had really

586
00:33:47,460 --> 00:33:48,450
been fighting against.

587
00:33:48,450 --> 00:33:52,430

588
00:33:52,430 --> 00:33:55,190
In case we didn't cover
this, what was the date

589
00:33:55,190 --> 00:33:57,530
that you arrived at Ohrdruf?

590
00:33:57,530 --> 00:34:05,930
I believe we arrived at
Ohrdruf on April 3, 1995.

591
00:34:05,930 --> 00:34:06,830
Yeah.

592
00:34:06,830 --> 00:34:07,400

19--

593

00:34:07,400 --> 00:34:08,282

9--

594

00:34:08,282 --> 00:34:09,164

Sorry.

595

00:34:09,164 --> 00:34:10,489

It's all right.

596

00:34:10,489 --> 00:34:12,454

1945.

597

00:34:12,454 --> 00:34:15,179

It's all right.

598

00:34:15,179 --> 00:34:15,840

OK.

599

00:34:15,840 --> 00:34:18,080

We-- this was a
pause for a moment,

600

00:34:18,080 --> 00:34:21,860

and now we're talking
about leaving Ohrdruf.

601

00:34:21,860 --> 00:34:25,469

602

00:34:25,469 --> 00:34:28,860

Where did you go after
you left Ohrdruf?

603

00:34:28,860 --> 00:34:35,260

We proceeded east from Ohrdruf
until we approached the--

604

00:34:35,260 --> 00:34:37,409

it wasn't Czechoslovakia
at that time.

605
00:34:37,409 --> 00:34:41,909
It must have been Slovakian
border opposite Kamnitz.

606
00:34:41,909 --> 00:34:44,980
According to the information
that was given to us,

607
00:34:44,980 --> 00:34:47,820
we were not allowed to
cross this border because

608
00:34:47,820 --> 00:34:50,639
of the treaty with the
Russian government.

609
00:34:50,639 --> 00:34:52,560
And we stopped.

610
00:34:52,560 --> 00:34:58,710
At that point some of our units,
other than the third battalion

611
00:34:58,710 --> 00:35:04,620
of the 355th infantry
regiment, swung down south.

612
00:35:04,620 --> 00:35:09,840
But we stayed right-- as border
guards, right along the border.

613
00:35:09,840 --> 00:35:18,400
And we stayed there until
VE Day in June of 1945.

614
00:35:18,400 --> 00:35:23,830
Were there any other towns
that you liberated or took--

615
00:35:23,830 --> 00:35:26,740
towns or cities after
you left Ohrdruf

616
00:35:26,740 --> 00:35:29,420
and then stopped at the border?

617
00:35:29,420 --> 00:35:30,680
I don't remember any.

618
00:35:30,680 --> 00:35:33,370

619
00:35:33,370 --> 00:35:38,280
I just don't remember
any at that time.

620
00:35:38,280 --> 00:35:40,210
We may have.

621
00:35:40,210 --> 00:35:44,840
I'm sure we did take
some, but I don't

622
00:35:44,840 --> 00:35:47,540
think we went much
further east than this.

623
00:35:47,540 --> 00:35:50,380

624
00:35:50,380 --> 00:35:52,990
As you moved a little
bit further east,

625
00:35:52,990 --> 00:36:01,570
did you see any difference
in the condition

626
00:36:01,570 --> 00:36:04,840
of the places, the
towns that you visited,

627
00:36:04,840 --> 00:36:10,320
or the attitudes of

the German citizens?

628
00:36:10,320 --> 00:36:10,870
No.

629
00:36:10,870 --> 00:36:13,540
They seemed to be in
pretty good shape.

630
00:36:13,540 --> 00:36:17,230
They didn't seem to be
suffering too much from the war.

631
00:36:17,230 --> 00:36:22,990
They were operating under
fairly good conditions.

632
00:36:22,990 --> 00:36:24,220
There was food.

633
00:36:24,220 --> 00:36:25,690
There was clothing.

634
00:36:25,690 --> 00:36:26,890
There was heat.

635
00:36:26,890 --> 00:36:28,870
There was energy.

636
00:36:28,870 --> 00:36:33,010
And things didn't
seem to go too bad.

637
00:36:33,010 --> 00:36:36,100

638
00:36:36,100 --> 00:36:37,870
Again, did you see--

639
00:36:37,870 --> 00:36:43,300
leaving there, and moving a
little bit further east and--

640
00:36:43,300 --> 00:36:47,110
a little bit further
east and perhaps south,

641
00:36:47,110 --> 00:36:49,540
any more soldiers?

642
00:36:49,540 --> 00:36:54,060
Any more inmates of camps?

643
00:36:54,060 --> 00:36:55,172
No.

644
00:36:55,172 --> 00:36:56,130
We didn't see any more.

645
00:36:56,130 --> 00:36:58,440
This is the only place
that we saw them.

646
00:36:58,440 --> 00:37:11,200

647
00:37:11,200 --> 00:37:19,090
Again, further along and while
you were at the Czech border,

648
00:37:19,090 --> 00:37:25,630
was there any more news
coming to army soldiers that

649
00:37:25,630 --> 00:37:30,760
had to do with the camps or the
Jewish inhabitants of the camps

650
00:37:30,760 --> 00:37:35,890
that were being discovered
or liberated as time went on?

651
00:37:35,890 --> 00:37:38,290
To the best of my

recollection, we

652

00:37:38,290 --> 00:37:48,400
didn't get any more news about
the plight of the Jewish people

653

00:37:48,400 --> 00:37:50,560
in Germany.

654

00:37:50,560 --> 00:37:53,980
The Stars and Stripes did
not seem to cover that area,

655

00:37:53,980 --> 00:37:57,850
and we didn't have
any other avenues

656

00:37:57,850 --> 00:37:59,980
to get that information.

657

00:37:59,980 --> 00:38:03,610
We were getting correspondence
from the United States,

658

00:38:03,610 --> 00:38:06,490
although it would take
some time to get there.

659

00:38:06,490 --> 00:38:11,020
Still, I was not aware
of what was going on

660

00:38:11,020 --> 00:38:15,220
in the other areas about
the concentration camps

661

00:38:15,220 --> 00:38:25,990
at Buchenwald or the other
concentration camps in there.

662

00:38:25,990 --> 00:38:30,870
You had a period
there of about--

663
00:38:30,870 --> 00:38:35,390
well, several months anyway.

664
00:38:35,390 --> 00:38:38,240
What did you do
after you were sort

665
00:38:38,240 --> 00:38:39,770
of acting as border guards?

666
00:38:39,770 --> 00:38:43,000

667
00:38:43,000 --> 00:38:45,880
You mean after the VE Day?

668
00:38:45,880 --> 00:38:46,750
Or before VE Day?

669
00:38:46,750 --> 00:38:47,770
Yes.

670
00:38:47,770 --> 00:38:49,060
Well, either.

671
00:38:49,060 --> 00:38:49,780
OK.

672
00:38:49,780 --> 00:38:52,480
Before VE Day, we
had the-- our--

673
00:38:52,480 --> 00:38:59,890

674
00:38:59,890 --> 00:39:02,950
This interview is being taped
on behalf of the United States

675
00:39:02,950 --> 00:39:05,560

Holocaust Memorial Museum.

676

00:39:05,560 --> 00:39:08,350

The person being interviewed is Jack Rubin.

677

00:39:08,350 --> 00:39:10,840

The interviewer is Nancy Alper.

678

00:39:10,840 --> 00:39:16,250

The date is February the 23rd, 1998.

679

00:39:16,250 --> 00:39:21,550

And this is tape two, side B.

680

00:39:21,550 --> 00:39:24,340

Jack, we were talking about the period of time

681

00:39:24,340 --> 00:39:27,850

after you left Ohrdruf and before you were then

682

00:39:27,850 --> 00:39:30,520

able to go home.

683

00:39:30,520 --> 00:39:34,600

And I'm wondering how your functions

684

00:39:34,600 --> 00:39:40,330

changed during that time period, what that time period was?

685

00:39:40,330 --> 00:39:42,880

Well, after we liberated Ohrdruf,

686

00:39:42,880 --> 00:39:50,500

we proceeded eastward to the-- as I said, to the Czech border.

687

00:39:50,500 --> 00:39:57,150

And we were stopped there,
and we became border guards.

688

00:39:57,150 --> 00:40:02,340

During that time, we associated
with the German people

689

00:40:02,340 --> 00:40:03,360

in the-- on the--

690

00:40:03,360 --> 00:40:05,050

in that area.

691

00:40:05,050 --> 00:40:06,840

We didn't have any difficulty.

692

00:40:06,840 --> 00:40:08,910

I think they were
all afraid of us.

693

00:40:08,910 --> 00:40:11,460

They were all glad that
we weren't putting them

694

00:40:11,460 --> 00:40:13,380

in concentration camps.

695

00:40:13,380 --> 00:40:20,400

They were all glad that we
were just not persecuting them

696

00:40:20,400 --> 00:40:22,860

in any way.

697

00:40:22,860 --> 00:40:30,150

We stayed in-- we stayed there
until the VE Day in June--

698

00:40:30,150 --> 00:40:32,850

June 6th of 1945.

699

00:40:32,850 --> 00:40:37,290

And after that, we
were relocated back

700

00:40:37,290 --> 00:40:42,840

to the Paris area, where we
operated several relocation

701

00:40:42,840 --> 00:40:47,615

camps, where we sent the guys
back to the United States

702

00:40:47,615 --> 00:40:49,125

with the high--

703

00:40:49,125 --> 00:40:59,050

704

00:40:59,050 --> 00:41:00,430

I've forgotten what--

705

00:41:00,430 --> 00:41:03,220

Is this when you
were referring to me

706

00:41:03,220 --> 00:41:06,025

the difference between high
point and low point divisions?

707

00:41:06,025 --> 00:41:06,730

Yeah.

708

00:41:06,730 --> 00:41:08,080

The more high point divisions.

709

00:41:08,080 --> 00:41:09,080

That's what-- I'm sorry.

710

00:41:09,080 --> 00:41:10,300

I lost that.

711

00:41:10,300 --> 00:41:18,040
And we stayed in Paris for--

712
00:41:18,040 --> 00:41:23,590
until almost December
of 1945, and I

713
00:41:23,590 --> 00:41:28,750
visited Switzerland and
Scotland during that time.

714
00:41:28,750 --> 00:41:36,640
And then we came back home,
leaving Europe in December of--

715
00:41:36,640 --> 00:41:40,210
Christmas of 1945,
and returning to New

716
00:41:40,210 --> 00:41:46,280
York on New Year's Day of 1946.

717
00:41:46,280 --> 00:41:52,070
Do you-- did you know that you
were going to be going home?

718
00:41:52,070 --> 00:41:58,040
Or had there been other
plans for your division?

719
00:41:58,040 --> 00:42:02,090
We did not know that we were
going home after VE Day.

720
00:42:02,090 --> 00:42:04,310
We assumed-- we
were told, and we

721
00:42:04,310 --> 00:42:08,120
were starting to get ready
to redeploy to the Eastern

722
00:42:08,120 --> 00:42:10,280

theater.

723

00:42:10,280 --> 00:42:13,550

Of course, during the redeployment period

724

00:42:13,550 --> 00:42:16,220

the war with Japan ended.

725

00:42:16,220 --> 00:42:18,350

And when the war with Japan ended,

726

00:42:18,350 --> 00:42:20,060

why, then, we were no longer scheduled

727

00:42:20,060 --> 00:42:23,720

to go to the European-- to the Eastern theater,

728

00:42:23,720 --> 00:42:26,530

and we then got ready to go home.

729

00:42:26,530 --> 00:42:33,610

730

00:42:33,610 --> 00:42:40,630

Do you remember any publicity that was put out by the Allies

731

00:42:40,630 --> 00:42:44,650

either to educate the American soldiers,

732

00:42:44,650 --> 00:42:47,740

or to educate the German populace about what

733

00:42:47,740 --> 00:42:51,610

was being discovered that had occurred at the concentration

734
00:42:51,610 --> 00:42:53,360
camps?

735
00:42:53,360 --> 00:42:56,290
I don't recall
any publicity that

736
00:42:56,290 --> 00:43:00,520
was put out to explain what was
happening in the concentration

737
00:43:00,520 --> 00:43:01,420
camps.

738
00:43:01,420 --> 00:43:03,800
It may be that I
just didn't see it.

739
00:43:03,800 --> 00:43:06,310
But until I got
out of the service

740
00:43:06,310 --> 00:43:09,880
and back into the United
States and started

741
00:43:09,880 --> 00:43:12,850
learning what was
going on, I really

742
00:43:12,850 --> 00:43:17,920
didn't understand what had
transpired in the concentration

743
00:43:17,920 --> 00:43:18,800
camps.

744
00:43:18,800 --> 00:43:26,100
And I didn't even know that I'd
been in one until much later.

745

00:43:26,100 --> 00:43:33,550

Did you ever see any press,
reporters, radio broadcasters,

746

00:43:33,550 --> 00:43:40,450
people who worked for the army
collecting information around,

747

00:43:40,450 --> 00:43:43,480
doing this same kind of work?

748

00:43:43,480 --> 00:43:46,060
No, we did not.

749

00:43:46,060 --> 00:43:47,840
I did not see that at all.

750

00:43:47,840 --> 00:43:50,980
I didn't see any press at
all during the whole time

751

00:43:50,980 --> 00:43:53,020
that we were in combat.

752

00:43:53,020 --> 00:43:58,660
Given your knowledge of Yiddish,
were you ever asked by the Army

753

00:43:58,660 --> 00:44:03,040
in lieu of going home
to stay and serve

754

00:44:03,040 --> 00:44:07,660
some function for them that
could put that into use?

755

00:44:07,660 --> 00:44:08,350
Yes.

756

00:44:08,350 --> 00:44:11,020
Just as we were--

757

00:44:11,020 --> 00:44:16,060
after the war ended
in Europe, there

758
00:44:16,060 --> 00:44:18,460
was some inquiry made
as to whether or not

759
00:44:18,460 --> 00:44:22,030
anyone would want to stay
on and remain in the service

760
00:44:22,030 --> 00:44:26,710
and do some translations
and do some interpretations

761
00:44:26,710 --> 00:44:27,560
for the army.

762
00:44:27,560 --> 00:44:29,740
But I wanted to get out.

763
00:44:29,740 --> 00:44:31,450
I just wanted to come home.

764
00:44:31,450 --> 00:44:34,370
I wanted to get home
as quickly as I could.

765
00:44:34,370 --> 00:44:36,700
And so I did not
want to do that,

766
00:44:36,700 --> 00:44:40,180
and I did not want to stay.

767
00:44:40,180 --> 00:44:43,630
After you got home, what kind--

768
00:44:43,630 --> 00:44:46,240
what was the rest of
your education and job

769

00:44:46,240 --> 00:44:49,210
history after the war in brief?

770

00:44:49,210 --> 00:44:54,550
Well, I finally completed
my bachelor's degree

771

00:44:54,550 --> 00:45:01,180
in economics at UCLA
in 1953, and then I

772

00:45:01,180 --> 00:45:07,810
went on to get a master's degree
from Pepperdine University,

773

00:45:07,810 --> 00:45:11,080
and a master's degree in
marriage family counseling

774

00:45:11,080 --> 00:45:13,510
from the University
of San Francisco.

775

00:45:13,510 --> 00:45:19,120
And now-- then I went on and I
got my doctorate in psychology

776

00:45:19,120 --> 00:45:23,020
from the Professional School
of Psychology in Sacramento,

777

00:45:23,020 --> 00:45:27,550
and I've been practicing
as a psychologist

778

00:45:27,550 --> 00:45:30,340
for almost 10 years now.

779

00:45:30,340 --> 00:45:36,070

780

00:45:36,070 --> 00:45:42,400

Looking at hindsight, and
given your profession,

781
00:45:42,400 --> 00:45:46,390
has your feeling about having
what you saw at that camp

782
00:45:46,390 --> 00:45:49,060
changed?

783
00:45:49,060 --> 00:45:55,450
My fear, my apprehension,
my horror, my gut-wrenching,

784
00:45:55,450 --> 00:46:00,430
my complete thoughts
of abomination

785
00:46:00,430 --> 00:46:03,490
that anybody could do
something like this

786
00:46:03,490 --> 00:46:07,390
to another human being
had never changed.

787
00:46:07,390 --> 00:46:13,030
And I just cannot go
back into that area.

788
00:46:13,030 --> 00:46:16,210
I will never go
back into that area.

789
00:46:16,210 --> 00:46:18,880
I just cannot forgive.

790
00:46:18,880 --> 00:46:25,940
I cannot forgive this magnitude
of commission of a crime,

791
00:46:25,940 --> 00:46:30,270
of a horrible, horrible crime.

792
00:46:30,270 --> 00:46:32,840
I can't-- my body
won't forgive it.

793
00:46:32,840 --> 00:46:34,160
I can't forgive it.

794
00:46:34,160 --> 00:46:36,860
I can't see it again.

795
00:46:36,860 --> 00:46:39,890
Do you think that there is a
way for people in professions

796
00:46:39,890 --> 00:46:46,400
such as yours to understand or
try to explain why all of this

797
00:46:46,400 --> 00:46:48,940
happened?

798
00:46:48,940 --> 00:46:52,090
[LAUGHS] No.

799
00:46:52,090 --> 00:46:52,942
No.

800
00:46:52,942 --> 00:46:54,400
You know, what are
we going to say?

801
00:46:54,400 --> 00:46:55,920
The guy's crazy.

802
00:46:55,920 --> 00:46:58,260
That's no explanation.

803
00:46:58,260 --> 00:47:02,070
That explanation-- because
it's more than one man.

804

00:47:02,070 --> 00:47:07,350

This was the work of tens of
thousands, of tens of millions

805

00:47:07,350 --> 00:47:08,400

of people.

806

00:47:08,400 --> 00:47:13,800

And tens of millions of
people cannot cover themselves

807

00:47:13,800 --> 00:47:16,710

by saying, I was
following this man.

808

00:47:16,710 --> 00:47:18,580

You cannot do that.

809

00:47:18,580 --> 00:47:22,290

You have your own
moral responsibility

810

00:47:22,290 --> 00:47:25,230

for living your life,
for acting the way

811

00:47:25,230 --> 00:47:28,440

that you know is the
way that you act,

812

00:47:28,440 --> 00:47:31,060

and acting the
way that you want,

813

00:47:31,060 --> 00:47:34,350

and leading the
life that you want.

814

00:47:34,350 --> 00:47:38,010

Tell me a little bit about
your Jewish life after the war,

815

00:47:38,010 --> 00:47:40,680
and whether it was
influenced at all

816
00:47:40,680 --> 00:47:43,410
by what happened to you there?

817
00:47:43,410 --> 00:47:48,840
Well, after the war, I
married a second time.

818
00:47:48,840 --> 00:47:52,320
My first wife was killed
in an automobile accident.

819
00:47:52,320 --> 00:47:56,610
And my first wife is a
very religious person.

820
00:47:56,610 --> 00:47:57,710
By that I mean--

821
00:47:57,710 --> 00:47:59,640
my second wife-- I'm sorry.

822
00:47:59,640 --> 00:48:02,340
By that I mean she's a
very righteous person,

823
00:48:02,340 --> 00:48:09,210
and she is very much involved
with seeing that people

824
00:48:09,210 --> 00:48:11,490
treat each other as people.

825
00:48:11,490 --> 00:48:19,610
She's a-- she was a legislative
representative for the National

826
00:48:19,610 --> 00:48:21,320
Council of Jewish Women.

827
00:48:21,320 --> 00:48:24,530
And that's the reason
I'm here today,

828
00:48:24,530 --> 00:48:29,570
because NCJW is having
their convention here today.

829
00:48:29,570 --> 00:48:33,920
And we are Reformed Jews.

830
00:48:33,920 --> 00:48:37,400
We prescribe to that
faith, because this

831
00:48:37,400 --> 00:48:42,050
is the faith that says you are
responsible for your actions,

832
00:48:42,050 --> 00:48:44,735
and we all are responsible
for our actions.

833
00:48:44,735 --> 00:48:47,710

834
00:48:47,710 --> 00:48:51,550
How many children do you have,
and what are they doing now?

835
00:48:51,550 --> 00:48:57,070
Well, we have four children,
the oldest of whom is a--

836
00:48:57,070 --> 00:49:00,910

837
00:49:00,910 --> 00:49:04,660
helps provide the
University of California

838
00:49:04,660 --> 00:49:08,200

at Fresno in their
research programs.

839
00:49:08,200 --> 00:49:14,470
She's a mathematician,
and she helps the people

840
00:49:14,470 --> 00:49:17,380
with their research projects.

841
00:49:17,380 --> 00:49:21,490
My second oldest daughter
is a licensed acupuncturist,

842
00:49:21,490 --> 00:49:23,590
and she works in Sacramento.

843
00:49:23,590 --> 00:49:27,670
And we are very fortunate
to be living there

844
00:49:27,670 --> 00:49:34,030
with her husband and her
12-year-old granddaughter.

845
00:49:34,030 --> 00:49:40,180
My third child is a boy.

846
00:49:40,180 --> 00:49:42,100
He's a rabbi.

847
00:49:42,100 --> 00:49:45,070
He's a rabbi in the
Los Angeles area,

848
00:49:45,070 --> 00:49:52,900
and he's a very concerned social
person, who has many outreaches

849
00:49:52,900 --> 00:49:54,760
into the community.

850

00:49:54,760 --> 00:49:57,520

And my fourth daughter,
the youngest daughter,

851

00:49:57,520 --> 00:50:01,420

is a psychologist,
and she is married

852

00:50:01,420 --> 00:50:05,425

and lives in Puerto Rico, and
she practices in Puerto Rico.

853

00:50:05,425 --> 00:50:08,670

854

00:50:08,670 --> 00:50:13,230

This concludes my interview with
Jack Rubin Thank you very much.

855

00:50:13,230 --> 00:50:14,250

Thank you.

856

00:50:14,250 --> 00:50:16,130

Been a pleasure.

857

00:50:16,130 --> 00:50:18,000