

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,280

2
00:00:05,280 --> 00:00:07,950
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:07,950 --> 00:00:12,090
volunteer collection interview
with Dr. Samuel Hagner

4
00:00:12,090 --> 00:00:16,470
conducted by Gail
Schwartz on May 22, 1998,

5
00:00:16,470 --> 00:00:19,860
at the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

6
00:00:19,860 --> 00:00:27,390
This is tape number one side
A. What is your full name?

7
00:00:27,390 --> 00:00:30,870
Samuel Benedict Hagner.

8
00:00:30,870 --> 00:00:32,070
And where were you born?

9
00:00:32,070 --> 00:00:33,520
And when were you born?

10
00:00:33,520 --> 00:00:35,610
I was born in
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

11
00:00:35,610 --> 00:00:39,320
on November 1, 1925.

12
00:00:39,320 --> 00:00:41,070
Let's talk a little

bit about your family.

13

00:00:41,070 --> 00:00:44,200

Who were the members of
your immediate family?

14

00:00:44,200 --> 00:00:48,570

My parents, George Wills Hagner,
my mother, Evelyn Benedict

15

00:00:48,570 --> 00:00:53,010

Hagner, I have an older
brother, George Wills Hagner Jr.

16

00:00:53,010 --> 00:00:57,090

And I have a younger brother
John Benedict Hagner.

17

00:00:57,090 --> 00:01:00,210

And what was your
childhood like?

18

00:01:00,210 --> 00:01:03,910

When you were growing up, was
it a very quiet, calm childhood?

19

00:01:03,910 --> 00:01:04,410

Yes.

20

00:01:04,410 --> 00:01:07,640

It was a quiet, calm childhood.

21

00:01:07,640 --> 00:01:08,670

My parents were Quakers.

22

00:01:08,670 --> 00:01:11,370

23

00:01:11,370 --> 00:01:14,970

My older brother became
a conscientious objector

24

00:01:14,970 --> 00:01:16,890
during World War II.

25
00:01:16,890 --> 00:01:19,560
He served in civilian
public service.

26
00:01:19,560 --> 00:01:23,010
He refused to serve
in the military.

27
00:01:23,010 --> 00:01:26,340
So he served in one of these
civilian public service

28
00:01:26,340 --> 00:01:31,140
camps run by the US government.

29
00:01:31,140 --> 00:01:37,163
During those years, I can
recall the early war years.

30
00:01:37,163 --> 00:01:38,830
Well, let's not get
to the war time yet.

31
00:01:38,830 --> 00:01:40,920
Let's talk about
just your child--

32
00:01:40,920 --> 00:01:43,380
what kind of education
did you have?

33
00:01:43,380 --> 00:01:48,060
I started out in public schools
in the Philadelphia system.

34
00:01:48,060 --> 00:01:52,200
Later on, when I
was approximately--

35
00:01:52,200 --> 00:01:53,010

oh, let me think.

36

00:01:53,010 --> 00:01:54,480

It was 1936.

37

00:01:54,480 --> 00:01:56,610

I would have been about 11.

38

00:01:56,610 --> 00:01:59,310

My older brother was not
doing well in high school,

39

00:01:59,310 --> 00:02:01,973

in the local high school.

40

00:02:01,973 --> 00:02:03,390

My father was
concerned about what

41

00:02:03,390 --> 00:02:04,590

was going to happen to him.

42

00:02:04,590 --> 00:02:07,740

So he made arrangements
to have him transferred

43

00:02:07,740 --> 00:02:11,520

to a local private school
for boys in Germantown,

44

00:02:11,520 --> 00:02:13,450

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

45

00:02:13,450 --> 00:02:18,990

And this was Germantown Academy,
a private day school for boys.

46

00:02:18,990 --> 00:02:21,330

He found out at the
time from the headmaster

47

00:02:21,330 --> 00:02:24,970

that he could send all
three of us at a discount.

48
00:02:24,970 --> 00:02:28,540
So I entered into Germantown
Academy in the seventh grade.

49
00:02:28,540 --> 00:02:32,220
My younger brother started
in the first grade.

50
00:02:32,220 --> 00:02:39,000
We were five years apart,
roughly, 1920, 1925, and 1930.

51
00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:44,460
So I graduated from Germantown
Academy in 1942, in June 1942.

52
00:02:44,460 --> 00:02:48,300
How religious was your family?

53
00:02:48,300 --> 00:02:51,870
Not religious in the
usual sense of the word,

54
00:02:51,870 --> 00:02:56,940
my parents became concerned
about the war that was--

55
00:02:56,940 --> 00:02:57,630
what's the word?

56
00:02:57,630 --> 00:03:00,360
Started in Europe,
or beginning to show

57
00:03:00,360 --> 00:03:06,060
signs of Hitler's
activities, they

58
00:03:06,060 --> 00:03:10,170
became deeply interested

in pacifism at that time,

59

00:03:10,170 --> 00:03:13,920

and became very active
in the local Friends

60

00:03:13,920 --> 00:03:18,040

meeting, one of the Friends
meetings in Philadelphia.

61

00:03:18,040 --> 00:03:21,150

I was not-- at that
time, I had not--

62

00:03:21,150 --> 00:03:24,420

I was not born as a Quaker.

63

00:03:24,420 --> 00:03:28,080

I can remember, as a boy,
attending the Unitarian church,

64

00:03:28,080 --> 00:03:31,020

for example, the local
Unitarian church.

65

00:03:31,020 --> 00:03:32,640

My parents were not
so much interested

66

00:03:32,640 --> 00:03:35,730

in dogma or doctrine,
religious dogma or doctrine.

67

00:03:35,730 --> 00:03:39,600

They were more-- I think became
interested in Quakers because

68

00:03:39,600 --> 00:03:42,300

of the pacifistic stand.

69

00:03:42,300 --> 00:03:46,720

They really were, I
would say, adogmatic.

70
00:03:46,720 --> 00:03:49,410
It was more concerned
about the politics

71
00:03:49,410 --> 00:03:53,910
and the social ramifications
of what the Quakers were

72
00:03:53,910 --> 00:03:56,100
interested in at the time.

73
00:03:56,100 --> 00:03:58,083
And how did they
impart that to you

74
00:03:58,083 --> 00:03:59,250
when you were a young child?

75
00:03:59,250 --> 00:04:00,480
I'm talking about pre-war.

76
00:04:00,480 --> 00:04:02,310
How did they impart that to you?

77
00:04:02,310 --> 00:04:07,170
Mainly by discussions around
the family dinner table,

78
00:04:07,170 --> 00:04:09,510
I knew they were going
to a Friends meeting.

79
00:04:09,510 --> 00:04:14,270
They made no requirements that
I attend the meeting with them.

80
00:04:14,270 --> 00:04:15,900
I think, at that
time, I was still

81
00:04:15,900 --> 00:04:19,440

going to the Unitarian
church on my own.

82
00:04:19,440 --> 00:04:22,380
Because I had friends that
attended the Unitarian church.

83
00:04:22,380 --> 00:04:24,300
And for me, it was a
social experience more

84
00:04:24,300 --> 00:04:28,460
than a religious experience.

85
00:04:28,460 --> 00:04:34,003
Around the age of 13, 14, I
became more interested in what

86
00:04:34,003 --> 00:04:34,670
they were doing.

87
00:04:34,670 --> 00:04:38,360
And my older brother, at
that time, he was having to--

88
00:04:38,360 --> 00:04:39,690
he was in college.

89
00:04:39,690 --> 00:04:44,210
He entered college in
1937, Oberlin College.

90
00:04:44,210 --> 00:04:48,800
He became interested in
what was happening worldwide

91
00:04:48,800 --> 00:04:50,780
and particularly, in pacifism.

92
00:04:50,780 --> 00:04:53,520
And I heard more and
more family discussions.

93

00:04:53,520 --> 00:04:59,570

So I decided that I would have
a look at the Friends meeting

94

00:04:59,570 --> 00:05:01,970

also.

95

00:05:01,970 --> 00:05:04,940

And I attended some
Friends meeting

96

00:05:04,940 --> 00:05:08,300

with my parents and my older
brother for a period of time.

97

00:05:08,300 --> 00:05:12,170

And then decided that I
would become a member also.

98

00:05:12,170 --> 00:05:16,250

That was something that I had to
take the initiative on myself.

99

00:05:16,250 --> 00:05:20,030

I had to make a formal
request to the Quaker meeting

100

00:05:20,030 --> 00:05:21,440

to become a member.

101

00:05:21,440 --> 00:05:23,780

And I can recall being
visited at my home

102

00:05:23,780 --> 00:05:29,210

by some of the elders who
asked me questions for perhaps

103

00:05:29,210 --> 00:05:31,430

a half hour or more,
and then decided

104

00:05:31,430 --> 00:05:35,000
that I would be welcomed as
a member of the local Friends

105
00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:37,040
meeting.

106
00:05:37,040 --> 00:05:39,050
When they asked you
questions, did any of them

107
00:05:39,050 --> 00:05:41,420
have to deal with
war and fighting?

108
00:05:41,420 --> 00:05:43,460
Not so much, at
that time, they were

109
00:05:43,460 --> 00:05:46,130
more interested in why I wanted
to join the Friends meeting

110
00:05:46,130 --> 00:05:51,260
and what my concept was
of Quakerism, if you will.

111
00:05:51,260 --> 00:05:54,405
And I can remember discussing
things like the light within.

112
00:05:54,405 --> 00:05:56,780
And they wanted to know what
I meant by the light within.

113
00:05:56,780 --> 00:05:59,540
I had done some
reading on the subject.

114
00:05:59,540 --> 00:06:03,290
It was much more of
that kind of a focus.

115

00:06:03,290 --> 00:06:06,620

I don't recall any real
focus on the war at the time

116

00:06:06,620 --> 00:06:08,960

or what was happening in Europe.

117

00:06:08,960 --> 00:06:12,860

118

00:06:12,860 --> 00:06:16,665

When did you first become
aware of conditions in Europe,

119

00:06:16,665 --> 00:06:18,290

or let's say, how
old were you when you

120

00:06:18,290 --> 00:06:19,730

heard of a man named Hitler?

121

00:06:19,730 --> 00:06:21,650

You were born in 1925.

122

00:06:21,650 --> 00:06:23,460

He came into power in 1933.

123

00:06:23,460 --> 00:06:25,220

So obviously, you
were too young then.

124

00:06:25,220 --> 00:06:29,180

Do you have any recollections
of your early memories

125

00:06:29,180 --> 00:06:31,430

of who this man, Hitler was?

126

00:06:31,430 --> 00:06:33,080

I don't recall exactly when.

127

00:06:33,080 --> 00:06:35,930

But it must have been somewhere
in the late '30s, possibly

128
00:06:35,930 --> 00:06:38,330
1937, 1938.

129
00:06:38,330 --> 00:06:42,590
Somewhere in there I must
have become aware of Hitler,

130
00:06:42,590 --> 00:06:45,260
because around the
age of 14 or 15

131
00:06:45,260 --> 00:06:47,420
was when I began
to have discussions

132
00:06:47,420 --> 00:06:50,570
with my so-called
surrogate sister.

133
00:06:50,570 --> 00:06:53,210
This was a girl that lived
down the street, two doors down

134
00:06:53,210 --> 00:06:55,020
the street.

135
00:06:55,020 --> 00:06:57,390
She was two years younger.

136
00:06:57,390 --> 00:07:00,770
We would get together
mostly on Saturday evenings.

137
00:07:00,770 --> 00:07:02,090
I never had a sister.

138
00:07:02,090 --> 00:07:03,890
And I wanted the sister badly.

139

00:07:03,890 --> 00:07:05,600

And so she became
the one that she

140

00:07:05,600 --> 00:07:09,530

obliged by taking on that role.

141

00:07:09,530 --> 00:07:12,050

We would get together
on Saturday evenings.

142

00:07:12,050 --> 00:07:13,582

This was not a formal date.

143

00:07:13,582 --> 00:07:15,290

We would sit in her
living room, usually.

144

00:07:15,290 --> 00:07:16,730

Her parents knew where we were.

145

00:07:16,730 --> 00:07:18,680

My parents knew where I was.

146

00:07:18,680 --> 00:07:20,490

They would leave us alone.

147

00:07:20,490 --> 00:07:23,150

And we'd talk to the wee hours
of the morning about the kinds

148

00:07:23,150 --> 00:07:26,450

of things that teenagers
talk about, boys, girls, sex,

149

00:07:26,450 --> 00:07:27,980

dating, so forth.

150

00:07:27,980 --> 00:07:30,110

But those were serious times.

151

00:07:30,110 --> 00:07:32,700

And we both knew what
was happening in Europe.

152
00:07:32,700 --> 00:07:34,940
So the conversation
would always steer around

153
00:07:34,940 --> 00:07:39,230
to what we thought was
happening in Europe, to the war,

154
00:07:39,230 --> 00:07:44,060
to Hitler, obviously, and his
gobbling up most of Europe,

155
00:07:44,060 --> 00:07:46,580
or at least parts of Europe.

156
00:07:46,580 --> 00:07:49,730
And we would get around to the
subject of concentration camps

157
00:07:49,730 --> 00:07:51,950
sooner or later.

158
00:07:51,950 --> 00:07:53,360
She had information.

159
00:07:53,360 --> 00:07:55,580
I believe-- I can't be
absolutely sure of this.

160
00:07:55,580 --> 00:07:58,580
But if my memory
serves me correctly,

161
00:07:58,580 --> 00:08:02,070
she was getting information
from relatives in Europe,

162
00:08:02,070 --> 00:08:05,060
which we non-Jews did not have.

163

00:08:05,060 --> 00:08:09,470

And the news media at that
time gave very little attention

164

00:08:09,470 --> 00:08:13,500

to the subject of whether
the camps existed, and if so,

165

00:08:13,500 --> 00:08:14,555

to what extent.

166

00:08:14,555 --> 00:08:16,190

Was she Christian or Jewish?

167

00:08:16,190 --> 00:08:19,580

She was Jewish.

168

00:08:19,580 --> 00:08:23,120

I can recall getting into
many-- and I practically

169

00:08:23,120 --> 00:08:24,180

want to cry at this now.

170

00:08:24,180 --> 00:08:27,020

171

00:08:27,020 --> 00:08:30,650

I would argue with her
and say, no, no, no.

172

00:08:30,650 --> 00:08:32,070

Things cannot be that bad.

173

00:08:32,070 --> 00:08:36,710

Man cannot treat his fellow
man in such an atrocious way.

174

00:08:36,710 --> 00:08:38,960

And she would look at
me, shake her head.

175

00:08:38,960 --> 00:08:42,409

She called me her
starry eyed idealist,

176

00:08:42,409 --> 00:08:45,567

or that poor little Quaker
boy that didn't quite know

177

00:08:45,567 --> 00:08:46,775

what the world was all about.

178

00:08:46,775 --> 00:08:49,710

179

00:08:49,710 --> 00:08:52,050

And that's what we would do.

180

00:08:52,050 --> 00:08:56,890

And this continued on until
I went off to college.

181

00:08:56,890 --> 00:09:00,580

I was 16 at the time,
but I went to college.

182

00:09:00,580 --> 00:09:04,920

I turned 17 in my
freshman year at Oberlin.

183

00:09:04,920 --> 00:09:08,590

Did you-- we'll get to your
college years in a moment.

184

00:09:08,590 --> 00:09:10,320

Did you have other
Jewish friends?

185

00:09:10,320 --> 00:09:12,040

Or was she your
only Jewish friend?

186

00:09:12,040 --> 00:09:12,540

Yes.

187
00:09:12,540 --> 00:09:15,120
I had several others, boys.

188
00:09:15,120 --> 00:09:16,380
But she was special.

189
00:09:16,380 --> 00:09:19,290
She was the sister
that I always wanted.

190
00:09:19,290 --> 00:09:25,500
And somehow, we had a
simpatico relationship.

191
00:09:25,500 --> 00:09:28,050
I understood her
most of the time.

192
00:09:28,050 --> 00:09:30,420
And she understood
me most of the time.

193
00:09:30,420 --> 00:09:32,490
We just liked each other.

194
00:09:32,490 --> 00:09:35,430
It's interesting that because
she was two years younger,

195
00:09:35,430 --> 00:09:37,290
and teenagers being
what they are,

196
00:09:37,290 --> 00:09:40,050
we just never saw each
other in a romantic light.

197
00:09:40,050 --> 00:09:42,650
Who would think of dating
a girl two years younger?

198

00:09:42,650 --> 00:09:46,680

I used to take her out to a
movie, but as I would a sister.

199

00:09:46,680 --> 00:09:47,760

And her name?

200

00:09:47,760 --> 00:09:51,236

Doris, Doris [? Wile. ?]

201

00:09:51,236 --> 00:09:53,400

Did Doris go to your
school with you?

202

00:09:53,400 --> 00:09:57,840

No, she went to an all girls
school, a private school.

203

00:09:57,840 --> 00:09:59,940

She was quite well to do.

204

00:09:59,940 --> 00:10:04,530

Her father was a professor at
the University of Pennsylvania.

205

00:10:04,530 --> 00:10:08,730

But she was economically
better off than I was.

206

00:10:08,730 --> 00:10:12,390

They had a summer place
on the Jersey Shore

207

00:10:12,390 --> 00:10:14,880

to which she would go
every summer, which

208

00:10:14,880 --> 00:10:19,260

plays a part later when
I returned from the war.

209

00:10:19,260 --> 00:10:21,370

What kind of work
did your father do?

210
00:10:21,370 --> 00:10:23,850
My father was a CPA.

211
00:10:23,850 --> 00:10:27,000
During the '30s,
he was a manager

212
00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:28,800
of a savings loan association.

213
00:10:28,800 --> 00:10:32,760
In those days, they were called
building loan associations.

214
00:10:32,760 --> 00:10:35,070
Subsequently, I don't
recall exactly when,

215
00:10:35,070 --> 00:10:36,420
I think it was after the war.

216
00:10:36,420 --> 00:10:38,970
He put into practice
firms for himself

217
00:10:38,970 --> 00:10:42,810
and set up his own little
accounting business, which

218
00:10:42,810 --> 00:10:45,600
my two brothers later joined.

219
00:10:45,600 --> 00:10:47,940
Did you go to Sunday school?

220
00:10:47,940 --> 00:10:51,390
Simply the Unitarian church
that I mentioned earlier,

221

00:10:51,390 --> 00:10:55,890
and I did that,
probably, I would guess

222
00:10:55,890 --> 00:10:58,140
during the latency
period from probably

223
00:10:58,140 --> 00:11:01,440
age eight to perhaps 12 or 13.

224
00:11:01,440 --> 00:11:03,300
I don't have a memory
of attending church

225
00:11:03,300 --> 00:11:05,220
before the age of eight.

226
00:11:05,220 --> 00:11:11,100
Do you have any memories of
hearing about Hitler marching,

227
00:11:11,100 --> 00:11:14,760
annexing Austria in the
spring of '38 or the war

228
00:11:14,760 --> 00:11:17,160
starting in Poland
in September '39?

229
00:11:17,160 --> 00:11:18,877
Does any of that mean--

230
00:11:18,877 --> 00:11:19,710
bring back anything?

231
00:11:19,710 --> 00:11:23,400
My most distinct
memory is, in 1939,

232
00:11:23,400 --> 00:11:26,760
climbing Mount Washington with
my father and my older brother,

233
00:11:26,760 --> 00:11:28,410
I believe it was.

234
00:11:28,410 --> 00:11:30,282
We came down off of
Mount Washington.

235
00:11:30,282 --> 00:11:31,740
And we're going to
stay in a cabin,

236
00:11:31,740 --> 00:11:33,330
but they had cabins
in those days

237
00:11:33,330 --> 00:11:35,190
for people stayed overnight.

238
00:11:35,190 --> 00:11:38,850
And there was a radio
on the cabin table.

239
00:11:38,850 --> 00:11:40,170
And my father turned it on.

240
00:11:40,170 --> 00:11:43,170
I still remember hearing
Neville Chamberlain

241
00:11:43,170 --> 00:11:45,450
give his famous speech.

242
00:11:45,450 --> 00:11:49,050
My father looked at us and
said, boys, this means war.

243
00:11:49,050 --> 00:11:51,270
And we're going to be
in it one of these days.

244
00:11:51,270 --> 00:11:54,300

Roosevelt will not stand
for this, or comments

245
00:11:54,300 --> 00:11:57,100
to that effect.

246
00:11:57,100 --> 00:12:00,120
So that must have been 1939.

247
00:12:00,120 --> 00:12:02,820
So at least, by that
time, we were definitely

248
00:12:02,820 --> 00:12:05,290
aware of what was happening.

249
00:12:05,290 --> 00:12:07,740
But my father's comment
was that he was certain

250
00:12:07,740 --> 00:12:09,335
that we would be in the war.

251
00:12:09,335 --> 00:12:10,710
Were you frightened
to hear that?

252
00:12:10,710 --> 00:12:12,210
You were, what?

253
00:12:12,210 --> 00:12:13,110
13, 14.

254
00:12:13,110 --> 00:12:16,140
13, 14, I don't recall.

255
00:12:16,140 --> 00:12:19,410
All I can remember is his
saying that and saying, boys,

256
00:12:19,410 --> 00:12:21,870
this is the way

it's going to be.

257

00:12:21,870 --> 00:12:22,980

I probably was.

258

00:12:22,980 --> 00:12:29,280

I mean, what does a 13, 14
year old know about war?

259

00:12:29,280 --> 00:12:32,430

So then you said you graduated
from high school at 16.

260

00:12:32,430 --> 00:12:34,220

So that would be in 1941?

261

00:12:34,220 --> 00:12:35,080

'42.

262

00:12:35,080 --> 00:12:39,390

'42, and then what happened?

263

00:12:39,390 --> 00:12:43,670

I entered Oberlin College
in the fall of 1942.

264

00:12:43,670 --> 00:12:44,520

Let's back up.

265

00:12:44,520 --> 00:12:47,180

What happened with the
bombing of Pearl Harbor?

266

00:12:47,180 --> 00:12:48,180

What were your memories?

267

00:12:48,180 --> 00:12:50,810

268

00:12:50,810 --> 00:12:52,940

I don't remember much of that.

269

00:12:52,940 --> 00:12:55,430

That's interesting that
you ask, because that

270

00:12:55,430 --> 00:13:03,720

was 1941, start of my
senior year or that summer.

271

00:13:03,720 --> 00:13:05,300

And that would have been what?

272

00:13:05,300 --> 00:13:06,520

December 7, '41.

273

00:13:06,520 --> 00:13:09,020

December 7, [INAUDIBLE] my
senior high school, yes.

274

00:13:09,020 --> 00:13:11,630

United States is now at war.

275

00:13:11,630 --> 00:13:14,745

I don't remember much of that.

276

00:13:14,745 --> 00:13:16,370

It's interesting that
you mention that.

277

00:13:16,370 --> 00:13:19,280

Because at some point
later, I remember

278

00:13:19,280 --> 00:13:22,190

thinking in those discussions
with my surrogate sister,

279

00:13:22,190 --> 00:13:25,460

we hardly ever talked
about the Pacific theater.

280

00:13:25,460 --> 00:13:27,320

It was always Europe.

281
00:13:27,320 --> 00:13:31,490
I guess, the Pacific just seemed
so far away to Easterners.

282
00:13:31,490 --> 00:13:33,557
Where had her family
come-- you said

283
00:13:33,557 --> 00:13:35,390
she had relatives that
were still in Europe.

284
00:13:35,390 --> 00:13:36,723
Do you remember where they were?

285
00:13:36,723 --> 00:13:37,560
No, I don't.

286
00:13:37,560 --> 00:13:39,370
No, I don't.

287
00:13:39,370 --> 00:13:42,080
I think her parents
were American born.

288
00:13:42,080 --> 00:13:45,050
This must have been
grandparents, or I don't know.

289
00:13:45,050 --> 00:13:50,150
Extended family, so then you
decided to go to college.

290
00:13:50,150 --> 00:13:50,930
Yes.

291
00:13:50,930 --> 00:13:54,980
I entered Oberlin College
in the fall of 1942.

292
00:13:54,980 --> 00:13:57,230

Part of the reason for that
was that my older brother

293
00:13:57,230 --> 00:14:01,630
had graduated from Oberlin
College the preceding June.

294
00:14:01,630 --> 00:14:03,810
I chose Oberlin for
several other reasons.

295
00:14:03,810 --> 00:14:06,620
One, it was a small
liberal arts college.

296
00:14:06,620 --> 00:14:09,680
Number two, it was a
college that one could

297
00:14:09,680 --> 00:14:12,380
attend without very much money.

298
00:14:12,380 --> 00:14:14,930
I also had a
scholarship, which got me

299
00:14:14,930 --> 00:14:16,820
through my freshman year.

300
00:14:16,820 --> 00:14:19,250
Number four, is it?

301
00:14:19,250 --> 00:14:22,070
Third or fourth reason,
the only condition

302
00:14:22,070 --> 00:14:24,230
my mother made on
where I went to college

303
00:14:24,230 --> 00:14:26,990
was that it be a
coeducational school.

304
00:14:26,990 --> 00:14:29,870
You'll recall I went
to an all boys school.

305
00:14:29,870 --> 00:14:32,670
And she felt that I lacked
something in my education.

306
00:14:32,670 --> 00:14:36,560
And that I should get a
[? look ?] away to college.

307
00:14:36,560 --> 00:14:39,530
And there was one final
reason for choosing Oberlin.

308
00:14:39,530 --> 00:14:42,500
They had no fraternities
or sororities.

309
00:14:42,500 --> 00:14:46,490
And to me, that was a more
Democratic institution.

310
00:14:46,490 --> 00:14:49,520
Hence, for all those
reasons, I entered Oberlin

311
00:14:49,520 --> 00:14:53,330
in September of 1942.

312
00:14:53,330 --> 00:14:56,150
And did you know what you
were going to study then?

313
00:14:56,150 --> 00:14:58,700
I had not the foggiest.

314
00:14:58,700 --> 00:15:01,970
I just wanted a
liberal arts education.

315

00:15:01,970 --> 00:15:05,310

And I just thought I
would wait and see.

316

00:15:05,310 --> 00:15:08,900

I was interested mainly
in the social sciences.

317

00:15:08,900 --> 00:15:11,510

I knew that at that time.

318

00:15:11,510 --> 00:15:14,810

How much knowledge did you
have, at that point, of history

319

00:15:14,810 --> 00:15:17,210

and geography,
especially if you are--

320

00:15:17,210 --> 00:15:18,180

did you have much?

321

00:15:18,180 --> 00:15:18,680

No.

322

00:15:18,680 --> 00:15:20,150

I had precious little knowledge.

323

00:15:20,150 --> 00:15:23,980

324

00:15:23,980 --> 00:15:27,460

So then you began college.

325

00:15:27,460 --> 00:15:31,390

And then what happened
when you turned 18?

326

00:15:31,390 --> 00:15:35,560

As the end of my freshman
year was coming to--

327

00:15:35,560 --> 00:15:39,210

as my freshman year was
coming to a close, excuse me,

328

00:15:39,210 --> 00:15:43,090

my mother suggested that I spend
that last summer of freedom,

329

00:15:43,090 --> 00:15:47,140

the summer of 1943, doing
something that I might not

330

00:15:47,140 --> 00:15:48,790

have a chance to do again.

331

00:15:48,790 --> 00:15:52,990

So I spent the summer of
1943 in a Quaker work camp

332

00:15:52,990 --> 00:16:01,930

in Indianapolis, Indiana,
working in a Black slum

333

00:16:01,930 --> 00:16:03,790

with a group of Quakers.

334

00:16:03,790 --> 00:16:08,860

We were helping to renovate
a settlement house.

335

00:16:08,860 --> 00:16:11,380

This had come on the
heels of the race

336

00:16:11,380 --> 00:16:14,920

riots that occurred in
Indianapolis in 1943, as I

337

00:16:14,920 --> 00:16:15,950

recall.

338

00:16:15,950 --> 00:16:18,880

So this was during
the aftermath of that.

339
00:16:18,880 --> 00:16:20,800
We spent the summer,
boys and girls,

340
00:16:20,800 --> 00:16:28,450
all of us working in this area
helping to renovate, as I say,

341
00:16:28,450 --> 00:16:31,960
and build a new
settlement house.

342
00:16:31,960 --> 00:16:35,560
I became more and more
interested in the issue

343
00:16:35,560 --> 00:16:38,410
of pacifism at that
time, because many

344
00:16:38,410 --> 00:16:42,310
of the members of the work camp
were pacifistically oriented,

345
00:16:42,310 --> 00:16:44,890
or had tendencies towards that.

346
00:16:44,890 --> 00:16:47,590
In fact, there were several
people in the work camp

347
00:16:47,590 --> 00:16:55,420
who were actively pursuing a
noncombatant course in the war

348
00:16:55,420 --> 00:16:58,030
effort, if you will.

349
00:16:58,030 --> 00:17:01,930
During that same summer, my

mother made this suggestion.

350

00:17:01,930 --> 00:17:04,480

Because she knew I was wrestling
with what kind of a stand

351

00:17:04,480 --> 00:17:06,790

I was going to take
in the war, that I

352

00:17:06,790 --> 00:17:10,450

visit my older brother in
civilian public service camp.

353

00:17:10,450 --> 00:17:14,530

At that time, he was
in a government camp

354

00:17:14,530 --> 00:17:16,960

located in Big Flats,
New York, which

355

00:17:16,960 --> 00:17:20,500

is between Corning and Elmira.

356

00:17:20,500 --> 00:17:22,839

It was a so-called
forestry camp,

357

00:17:22,839 --> 00:17:26,579

meaning they were pulling weeds.

358

00:17:26,579 --> 00:17:28,590

I took her suggestion.

359

00:17:28,590 --> 00:17:32,760

I took her up on her
suggestion, and it must have

360

00:17:32,760 --> 00:17:35,130

been in late August of 1943.

361

00:17:35,130 --> 00:17:37,140
I hopped on the
train and went up

362
00:17:37,140 --> 00:17:39,450
to visit him and stay
with him for a week

363
00:17:39,450 --> 00:17:42,280
in the civilian
public service camp.

364
00:17:42,280 --> 00:17:46,020
I was appalled, frankly, by
what I experienced there,

365
00:17:46,020 --> 00:17:48,240
what I saw there.

366
00:17:48,240 --> 00:17:53,690
Here were these well-trained,
well-educated persons

367
00:17:53,690 --> 00:17:57,020
like my brother who were
idling away in this camp

368
00:17:57,020 --> 00:18:00,980
doing nothing but pulling
weeds, doing menial tasks.

369
00:18:00,980 --> 00:18:03,680
And I think most of
them were depressed.

370
00:18:03,680 --> 00:18:06,270
And the whole atmosphere
was just overwhelming to me.

371
00:18:06,270 --> 00:18:09,380
And I came away
from that thinking,

372

00:18:09,380 --> 00:18:11,450
that I could never take.

373
00:18:11,450 --> 00:18:14,510
Even though I already had
doubts about my ability

374
00:18:14,510 --> 00:18:18,690
to take that kind of a stand,
this put the lid on it.

375
00:18:18,690 --> 00:18:21,560
Or it kept it for me.

376
00:18:21,560 --> 00:18:26,630
To see that kind of an
atmosphere to me was--

377
00:18:26,630 --> 00:18:28,610
it was just appalling
to see people just

378
00:18:28,610 --> 00:18:31,670
sitting there doing nothing.

379
00:18:31,670 --> 00:18:32,235
Your--

380
00:18:32,235 --> 00:18:35,510
Morale was, the morale
was very, very poor,

381
00:18:35,510 --> 00:18:36,980
as you might imagine.

382
00:18:36,980 --> 00:18:38,990
I remember my brother
waving his hand

383
00:18:38,990 --> 00:18:43,265
at the beds in the tent
in which they were living.

384

00:18:43,265 --> 00:18:47,240

There were perhaps 14,
16 cots in the tent.

385

00:18:47,240 --> 00:18:49,820

And he said, we could
staff a small college

386

00:18:49,820 --> 00:18:53,570

with the degrees that
are here in this tent.

387

00:18:53,570 --> 00:18:55,230

And he was one of them.

388

00:18:55,230 --> 00:18:58,400

He had a college
degree at that point.

389

00:18:58,400 --> 00:19:01,730

When you were in your freshman
year in Oberlin and this summer

390

00:19:01,730 --> 00:19:04,700

experience, how much did
you all talk about the war

391

00:19:04,700 --> 00:19:06,200

and what was happening?

392

00:19:06,200 --> 00:19:08,810

How much did you know
what was happening?

393

00:19:08,810 --> 00:19:10,190

We talked quite a bit.

394

00:19:10,190 --> 00:19:13,410

There was a Quaker meeting
on campus, a student Quaker

395

00:19:13,410 --> 00:19:13,910

meeting.

396

00:19:13,910 --> 00:19:16,610

And I attended that
on a regular basis.

397

00:19:16,610 --> 00:19:19,010

The whole war effort
was on our minds

398

00:19:19,010 --> 00:19:21,200

constantly, partly
because men were

399

00:19:21,200 --> 00:19:23,120

being drafted right and left.

400

00:19:23,120 --> 00:19:24,590

My fellow students were.

401

00:19:24,590 --> 00:19:28,910

One or two would leave every
week to go into the service.

402

00:19:28,910 --> 00:19:32,450

This was constantly
on our minds.

403

00:19:32,450 --> 00:19:37,100

My roommate at that time had
suffered polio as a child.

404

00:19:37,100 --> 00:19:41,360

It was obvious that he was
going to be a 4F, was a 4F.

405

00:19:41,360 --> 00:19:44,570

Two other housemates were
4F, one with rheumatic heart

406

00:19:44,570 --> 00:19:45,860

disease.

407

00:19:45,860 --> 00:19:47,465

I've forgotten
why the other was.

408

00:19:47,465 --> 00:19:50,060

409

00:19:50,060 --> 00:19:55,190

This obviously led us into
more and more discussions

410

00:19:55,190 --> 00:19:57,140

about who was taking
what position.

411

00:19:57,140 --> 00:20:00,770

And of course, the 4Fs
wished that they could serve.

412

00:20:00,770 --> 00:20:04,670

And they were asking me what
my feelings were about it.

413

00:20:04,670 --> 00:20:07,760

And of course, this got us
into a number of discussions,

414

00:20:07,760 --> 00:20:11,990

because they didn't quite
approve of my feelings.

415

00:20:11,990 --> 00:20:15,810

Were you upset that the
United States was at war?

416

00:20:15,810 --> 00:20:16,310

Yes.

417

00:20:16,310 --> 00:20:17,510

I was upset.

418

00:20:17,510 --> 00:20:20,780

I think somewhere along
the way I had been taught

419
00:20:20,780 --> 00:20:24,200
or got the idea that World
War II was pretty much

420
00:20:24,200 --> 00:20:27,380
the direct result of World
War I and the aftermath,

421
00:20:27,380 --> 00:20:30,640
the Versailles
Treaty, and so forth.

422
00:20:30,640 --> 00:20:32,300
I don't wish to
oversimplify that

423
00:20:32,300 --> 00:20:35,600
but just to make that statement
that I became convinced

424
00:20:35,600 --> 00:20:42,230
that, even though by
that time, 1942, '42,

425
00:20:42,230 --> 00:20:44,585
we were past the point
of no return, obviously.

426
00:20:44,585 --> 00:20:46,730
And with what was
happening in Europe

427
00:20:46,730 --> 00:20:50,120
there was no other
way to stop Hitler.

428
00:20:50,120 --> 00:20:53,240
But I felt that the Quakers
had been saying all along

429

00:20:53,240 --> 00:20:56,720
that things should have
been handled differently

430
00:20:56,720 --> 00:21:00,330
possibly back as early as the
late '20s or even early '20s.

431
00:21:00,330 --> 00:21:04,932
And so a witness was being
made by certain people.

432
00:21:04,932 --> 00:21:06,890
And I think that was the
position that my older

433
00:21:06,890 --> 00:21:08,490
brother took, for example.

434
00:21:08,490 --> 00:21:11,540
And that was the basis
for his pacifism.

435
00:21:11,540 --> 00:21:14,900
I became torn
between those kinds

436
00:21:14,900 --> 00:21:20,870
of thoughts and the feeling
that I was part of society.

437
00:21:20,870 --> 00:21:22,680
I owed something to society.

438
00:21:22,680 --> 00:21:25,460
And I simply couldn't
turn my back.

439
00:21:25,460 --> 00:21:27,860
So I struggled with this.

440
00:21:27,860 --> 00:21:32,870
I was on the horns of

a dilemma, if you will,

441

00:21:32,870 --> 00:21:34,610
wanting to identify
with my family,

442

00:21:34,610 --> 00:21:38,510
at the same time wanting
to identify with society.

443

00:21:38,510 --> 00:21:41,880
I finally decided that I
would take the 1-A-O position,

444

00:21:41,880 --> 00:21:43,490
the 1-A-O stand.

445

00:21:43,490 --> 00:21:47,000
And I applied to the local
draft board with that in mind.

446

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:50,000
That meant that I would
serve in the Army or whatever

447

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:55,550
branch of the military
as a non-combatant.

448

00:21:55,550 --> 00:22:00,530
So when I turned 18
in November 1943,

449

00:22:00,530 --> 00:22:03,640
that's exactly what happened.

450

00:22:03,640 --> 00:22:05,980
Had you started your
sophomore year at college?

451

00:22:05,980 --> 00:22:07,360
Yes, excuse me.

452

00:22:07,360 --> 00:22:12,310

I had re-entered college in
the fall of 1943 in November.

453

00:22:12,310 --> 00:22:15,250

Because Oberlin had gone
on a trimester system.

454

00:22:15,250 --> 00:22:17,360

So they didn't start
the fall trimester

455

00:22:17,360 --> 00:22:20,950

until the 1st of November, which
happened to be my birthday.

456

00:22:20,950 --> 00:22:24,010

I registered at that
time in Oberlin,

457

00:22:24,010 --> 00:22:26,440

had the registration
back to Philadelphia,

458

00:22:26,440 --> 00:22:28,840

to my draft board,
which gave me a few

459

00:22:28,840 --> 00:22:32,050

more weeks of freedom
as the correspondence

460

00:22:32,050 --> 00:22:33,730

went back and forth.

461

00:22:33,730 --> 00:22:37,060

I was formally inducted
in Philadelphia

462

00:22:37,060 --> 00:22:42,500

in January of 1944.

463

00:22:42,500 --> 00:22:48,290

And actually, went into the
service in February 1944,

464

00:22:48,290 --> 00:22:52,340

I was able to complete my third
semester at Oberlin before I

465

00:22:52,340 --> 00:22:54,110

went into the service.

466

00:22:54,110 --> 00:22:56,340

I actually didn't
take final exams.

467

00:22:56,340 --> 00:22:57,070

I didn't have to.

468

00:22:57,070 --> 00:23:00,440

When all the professors
teaching my various courses

469

00:23:00,440 --> 00:23:03,110

heard what was happening to
me, they just told me to go.

470

00:23:03,110 --> 00:23:05,420

I didn't have to take finals.

471

00:23:05,420 --> 00:23:11,210

What was the reaction
of other family members

472

00:23:11,210 --> 00:23:13,130

and other friends
to your decision

473

00:23:13,130 --> 00:23:16,100

to do this, become a
conscientious objector?

474

00:23:16,100 --> 00:23:18,890

Of course, my

parents were pleased

475

00:23:18,890 --> 00:23:23,000
that I was taking some kind of
a conscientious objector stand.

476

00:23:23,000 --> 00:23:26,312
They were not pleased that I was
going to serve in the military.

477

00:23:26,312 --> 00:23:27,770
I think they probably
wished that I

478

00:23:27,770 --> 00:23:31,010
would have taken the same
stand as my older brother.

479

00:23:31,010 --> 00:23:32,330
But they didn't object either.

480

00:23:32,330 --> 00:23:36,710
I was not told what to do.

481

00:23:36,710 --> 00:23:40,400
That was up to me to
make that decision which

482

00:23:40,400 --> 00:23:41,645
I appreciated at the time.

483

00:23:41,645 --> 00:23:44,438

484

00:23:44,438 --> 00:23:45,980
What was your friend
Doris' reaction?

485

00:23:45,980 --> 00:23:49,220

486

00:23:49,220 --> 00:23:52,340

I think she was worried.

487

00:23:52,340 --> 00:23:54,290

I can't remember exactly.

488

00:23:54,290 --> 00:23:56,480

I think she was pleased
that I was doing something

489

00:23:56,480 --> 00:23:59,390

about it, that I was going
to serve in the military.

490

00:23:59,390 --> 00:24:01,203

But I think she was worried.

491

00:24:01,203 --> 00:24:02,870

She didn't want to
see me go off to war.

492

00:24:02,870 --> 00:24:05,120

I think she thought I was a
little too young to do it.

493

00:24:05,120 --> 00:24:07,818

494

00:24:07,818 --> 00:24:08,318

But I--

495

00:24:08,318 --> 00:24:09,290

So then,

496

00:24:09,290 --> 00:24:11,480

But excuse me, I
think she was pleased

497

00:24:11,480 --> 00:24:14,480

that I felt some obligation
to society, that I

498

00:24:14,480 --> 00:24:19,070

felt that I owed society a
debt to make some contribution.

499
00:24:19,070 --> 00:24:24,020
At that point had you
heard in any detail

500
00:24:24,020 --> 00:24:27,290
about the persecution of the
Jews and other prisoners,

501
00:24:27,290 --> 00:24:28,610
or anything about camps?

502
00:24:28,610 --> 00:24:31,340
Did you know anything
about that at that point?

503
00:24:31,340 --> 00:24:34,490
I must have heard something
from my conversations

504
00:24:34,490 --> 00:24:40,070
with Doris, my so-called sister
from what she was indicating.

505
00:24:40,070 --> 00:24:42,770
I don't recall that the
news media really gave us

506
00:24:42,770 --> 00:24:45,560
much information.

507
00:24:45,560 --> 00:24:47,960
But I was aware that
something was happening.

508
00:24:47,960 --> 00:24:52,970
To what extent, at least I was
being told by her, for example,

509
00:24:52,970 --> 00:24:55,170
that the Jews are

being persecuted.

510
00:24:55,170 --> 00:24:59,120
To what extent, I don't think
we were absolutely sure.

511
00:24:59,120 --> 00:25:01,910
And this certainly had
played a role in my decision

512
00:25:01,910 --> 00:25:03,290
to serve in the military also.

513
00:25:03,290 --> 00:25:06,890

514
00:25:06,890 --> 00:25:10,550
I really can't add any more
to that, I don't think.

515
00:25:10,550 --> 00:25:14,660
Why do you say that
added to your decision

516
00:25:14,660 --> 00:25:17,270
to serve in the military?

517
00:25:17,270 --> 00:25:21,720
Because if something indeed
like this were going on,

518
00:25:21,720 --> 00:25:24,470
even though I wasn't sure,
and I would argue with Doris

519
00:25:24,470 --> 00:25:30,130
about it, if it turned
out to be differently,

520
00:25:30,130 --> 00:25:31,870
I don't know how I
would have felt if I

521

00:25:31,870 --> 00:25:35,498
hadn't served in some capacity.

522

00:25:35,498 --> 00:25:36,790
I can't answer that, of course.

523

00:25:36,790 --> 00:25:42,820
Because my decision to
serve in the military

524

00:25:42,820 --> 00:25:44,950
was based on a number
of factors, of course.

525

00:25:44,950 --> 00:25:46,200
It was a complicated decision.

526

00:25:46,200 --> 00:25:49,168

527

00:25:49,168 --> 00:25:50,335
What were the other factors?

528

00:25:50,335 --> 00:25:53,690

529

00:25:53,690 --> 00:25:58,160
That I wanted to
give some credence

530

00:25:58,160 --> 00:26:00,800
to what my parents
stood for, and what

531

00:26:00,800 --> 00:26:03,600
they had been teaching me,
and the people with whom I

532

00:26:03,600 --> 00:26:04,850
had grown up.

533

00:26:04,850 --> 00:26:10,280

534

00:26:10,280 --> 00:26:13,460

I was torn, as I say.

535

00:26:13,460 --> 00:26:16,670

I wasn't quite sure that this
would be a very sensible thing

536

00:26:16,670 --> 00:26:17,730

to do.

537

00:26:17,730 --> 00:26:21,260

How does one be a conscientious
objector in the military?

538

00:26:21,260 --> 00:26:24,290

I remember going to the
NSPRO in Philadelphia.

539

00:26:24,290 --> 00:26:27,800

That's the National Service
Board for Religious Objectors,

540

00:26:27,800 --> 00:26:31,100

and telling them
what my decision was.

541

00:26:31,100 --> 00:26:33,260

And I recall they're
saying to me, well,

542

00:26:33,260 --> 00:26:35,210

you've taken a very
difficult stand.

543

00:26:35,210 --> 00:26:38,060

It may not be easy,
because what you're doing

544

00:26:38,060 --> 00:26:39,950

is neither fish nor fowl.

545
00:26:39,950 --> 00:26:42,350
It's not quite the
way they put it.

546
00:26:42,350 --> 00:26:46,610
And I recall being advised
that, since I was taking

547
00:26:46,610 --> 00:26:50,210
a position that the
Army would allow for,

548
00:26:50,210 --> 00:26:54,140
I nevertheless might find myself
in some difficult situations.

549
00:26:54,140 --> 00:26:57,860
And if ever I did, I have
never forgotten this.

550
00:26:57,860 --> 00:27:01,520
Never, never,
never, waver, never

551
00:27:01,520 --> 00:27:06,890
let the Army know
that I was in doubt.

552
00:27:06,890 --> 00:27:10,580
Because then they would
try to break me down.

553
00:27:10,580 --> 00:27:12,320
And there came a
time later when I

554
00:27:12,320 --> 00:27:17,340
was very happy to have had that
advice which comes on later

555
00:27:17,340 --> 00:27:18,430
in the--

556
00:27:18,430 --> 00:27:18,930
OK.

557
00:27:18,930 --> 00:27:23,190
Now it's, you said,
wintertime of '44?

558
00:27:23,190 --> 00:27:26,160
This is February 1944.

559
00:27:26,160 --> 00:27:29,860
I went into the Army and
was sent to Indiantown Gap,

560
00:27:29,860 --> 00:27:30,600
Pennsylvania.

561
00:27:30,600 --> 00:27:32,940
And from there, shipped
to Camp Barkeley, Texas,

562
00:27:32,940 --> 00:27:39,450
in Abilene, which was a medical
training, basic training camp.

563
00:27:39,450 --> 00:27:42,300
Were you with a group of
other conscientious objectors?

564
00:27:42,300 --> 00:27:44,640
In the unit, no, actually not.

565
00:27:44,640 --> 00:27:50,610
This was just simply a medical
corps or a medical department

566
00:27:50,610 --> 00:27:52,560
to be strictly speaking.

567
00:27:52,560 --> 00:27:54,810
We were corps men but

not medical corps.

568

00:27:54,810 --> 00:27:57,390

Medical corps was a term
reserved for officers.

569

00:27:57,390 --> 00:27:58,760

We were the medical department.

570

00:27:58,760 --> 00:28:02,650

There was the basic training
camp for medics, if you will,

571

00:28:02,650 --> 00:28:03,660

to use a shorter term.

572

00:28:03,660 --> 00:28:07,733

573

00:28:07,733 --> 00:28:08,650

What was the question?

574

00:28:08,650 --> 00:28:09,520

I'm sorry.

575

00:28:09,520 --> 00:28:11,950

I was asking if there were
other conscientious objectors.

576

00:28:11,950 --> 00:28:16,060

I was assigned to a basic
unit, which would later become

577

00:28:16,060 --> 00:28:18,730

some sort of a hospital unit.

578

00:28:18,730 --> 00:28:21,490

But we were not necessarily COs.

579

00:28:21,490 --> 00:28:24,340

As it turned out, there
were six or seven of us

580
00:28:24,340 --> 00:28:26,870
in the basic training unit.

581
00:28:26,870 --> 00:28:30,700
Was that the option for
conscientious objectors

582
00:28:30,700 --> 00:28:32,418
in the military to be medics?

583
00:28:32,418 --> 00:28:33,460
We didn't have an option.

584
00:28:33,460 --> 00:28:35,080
We were assigned.

585
00:28:35,080 --> 00:28:39,400
Most of the time, COs did
end up in a medical service

586
00:28:39,400 --> 00:28:40,430
of some sort.

587
00:28:40,430 --> 00:28:44,740
But occasionally, a CO might end
up in the quartermaster corps.

588
00:28:44,740 --> 00:28:46,930
He could end up in
the finance corps,

589
00:28:46,930 --> 00:28:50,050
some kind of a non-combatant,
non-combat unit.

590
00:28:50,050 --> 00:28:53,860
But basically, most of
the 1-A-Os, as I recall,

591
00:28:53,860 --> 00:28:55,840
ended up in a medical unit.

592

00:28:55,840 --> 00:28:56,980

We were never told.

593

00:28:56,980 --> 00:29:00,610

The Army would never admit
how many 1-A-Os were actually

594

00:29:00,610 --> 00:29:02,500

served in World War II.

595

00:29:02,500 --> 00:29:04,420

I think they didn't
want it to be known,

596

00:29:04,420 --> 00:29:08,590

because it might give more
support for that type of stand,

597

00:29:08,590 --> 00:29:09,198

if you will.

598

00:29:09,198 --> 00:29:10,990

But there were rumors
that there might have

599

00:29:10,990 --> 00:29:13,120

been at least 100,000 of us.

600

00:29:13,120 --> 00:29:16,300

But we'll never know.

601

00:29:16,300 --> 00:29:18,480

There were six or seven
of us in the unit,

602

00:29:18,480 --> 00:29:20,620

in my basic training unit.

603

00:29:20,620 --> 00:29:23,170

How we came to know each
other, and how everybody else

604

00:29:23,170 --> 00:29:26,560
came to know us, was that
when it came time for the unit

605

00:29:26,560 --> 00:29:28,570
to take their rifle
training, they

606

00:29:28,570 --> 00:29:31,660
had to undergo two
weeks of rifle training.

607

00:29:31,660 --> 00:29:36,490
We were assigned to the mess
hall to clean the grease traps.

608

00:29:36,490 --> 00:29:39,940
So every morning at roll call,
when the rest of the guys

609

00:29:39,940 --> 00:29:42,540
were going to go off to
the rifle training course,

610

00:29:42,540 --> 00:29:45,160
they'd call out our names,
repeat the assignment.

611

00:29:45,160 --> 00:29:46,870
And off we'd go
to the mess hall.

612

00:29:46,870 --> 00:29:48,617
We knew exactly we
were going every day.

613

00:29:48,617 --> 00:29:50,200
But that was the
Army's way of letting

614

00:29:50,200 --> 00:29:53,620
everybody know who

was what, separating

615

00:29:53,620 --> 00:29:55,420

the sheep from the goats.

616

00:29:55,420 --> 00:29:57,520

So this went on for two weeks.

617

00:29:57,520 --> 00:29:59,980

By the end of that time, of course, we all knew each other,

618

00:29:59,980 --> 00:30:04,510

and the rest of the fellows knew us too.

619

00:30:04,510 --> 00:30:07,360

We were treated pretty well.

620

00:30:07,360 --> 00:30:11,950

I don't think the other men really hated us for what

621

00:30:11,950 --> 00:30:12,940

we were doing.

622

00:30:12,940 --> 00:30:16,660

Many of them did not under understand us.

623

00:30:16,660 --> 00:30:20,260

We would argue at times at night having discussions.

624

00:30:20,260 --> 00:30:23,980

But I didn't feel that I was being ostracized necessarily.

625

00:30:23,980 --> 00:30:26,960

626

00:30:26,960 --> 00:30:28,310

We were a motley crew.

627

00:30:28,310 --> 00:30:30,170

As I recall, I was
the only Quaker.

628

00:30:30,170 --> 00:30:32,750

In that particular
unit, there was

629

00:30:32,750 --> 00:30:35,960

two from the Church of the
Brethren, one Mennonite, one

630

00:30:35,960 --> 00:30:41,600

Catholic, if you will, and
two Seventh Day Adventists,

631

00:30:41,600 --> 00:30:42,620

a Motley crew.

632

00:30:42,620 --> 00:30:45,130

633

00:30:45,130 --> 00:30:48,880

We served our-- we went through
the basic training in Abilene,

634

00:30:48,880 --> 00:30:51,250

Texas, at Camp
Barkeley, and then went

635

00:30:51,250 --> 00:30:53,440

into specialist training.

636

00:30:53,440 --> 00:30:58,630

We were to be given certain
tasks in a future hospital

637

00:30:58,630 --> 00:30:59,630

unit.

638

00:30:59,630 --> 00:31:01,390

And so we went
off, a number of us

639

00:31:01,390 --> 00:31:05,980

were sent off to El Paso,
Texas to the William Beaumont

640

00:31:05,980 --> 00:31:07,870

General Hospital.

641

00:31:07,870 --> 00:31:11,620

And we were to be trained
either as surgical technicians,

642

00:31:11,620 --> 00:31:15,670

medical technicians, X-ray
technicians, whatever.

643

00:31:15,670 --> 00:31:19,450

I was assigned to the surgical
technician training course.

644

00:31:19,450 --> 00:31:24,100

And we went through a 90
day course, if you will.

645

00:31:24,100 --> 00:31:28,060

We called ourselves
90 day wonders.

646

00:31:28,060 --> 00:31:30,100

I, personally, was
trained to become

647

00:31:30,100 --> 00:31:34,045

a scrub nurse, if you
will, a surgical scrub

648

00:31:34,045 --> 00:31:37,810

nurse, passing instruments
and hemostats in the operating

649

00:31:37,810 --> 00:31:39,680
room.

650
00:31:39,680 --> 00:31:42,950
I was also trained to
do ward work if and when

651
00:31:42,950 --> 00:31:46,130
necessary for bedside nursing.

652
00:31:46,130 --> 00:31:49,940
But chiefly, I was trained to
be a scrub nurse in surgery.

653
00:31:49,940 --> 00:31:52,580
Were they also telling
you, besides that kind

654
00:31:52,580 --> 00:31:55,100
of specific medical
training, of what

655
00:31:55,100 --> 00:31:58,380
was happening on the
front, and in the war,

656
00:31:58,380 --> 00:32:01,670
and in Europe in general?

657
00:32:01,670 --> 00:32:05,630
No, I don't-- well, yes, they
probably told us what was

658
00:32:05,630 --> 00:32:13,220
happening in terms of the war
itself, and troop movements,

659
00:32:13,220 --> 00:32:14,190
and that sort of thing.

660
00:32:14,190 --> 00:32:16,370
But there was no mention
made of concentration camps

661
00:32:16,370 --> 00:32:18,950
that I recall.

662
00:32:18,950 --> 00:32:21,770
I don't think the Army
knew that much about it,

663
00:32:21,770 --> 00:32:27,590
frankly, or at least, the extent
to which things were happening.

664
00:32:27,590 --> 00:32:30,680
We were more aware of just
general troop movements, who

665
00:32:30,680 --> 00:32:34,440
was doing what where, what army
was moving this way, that way,

666
00:32:34,440 --> 00:32:35,120
and so forth.

667
00:32:35,120 --> 00:32:37,740

668
00:32:37,740 --> 00:32:40,520
Now, that you mention
it, thinking back,

669
00:32:40,520 --> 00:32:43,970
I was aware of the
campaign in North Africa.

670
00:32:43,970 --> 00:32:47,720
So that must have been
in, what, the early '40s.

671
00:32:47,720 --> 00:32:50,960
I remember the Rommel,
Desert Fox, and things

672

00:32:50,960 --> 00:32:52,085
happening in North Africa.

673
00:32:52,085 --> 00:32:55,350

674
00:32:55,350 --> 00:32:59,010
After serving in the
technician training,

675
00:32:59,010 --> 00:33:02,460
we went back to Camp
Barkeley, Texas.

676
00:33:02,460 --> 00:33:04,500
And at some point
shortly after that,

677
00:33:04,500 --> 00:33:07,740
the 81st Field
Hospital was formed.

678
00:33:07,740 --> 00:33:12,000
And that's when we really
coalesced as a hospital unit,

679
00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:14,190
and were given definite
assignments, and so

680
00:33:14,190 --> 00:33:17,020
forth and so on.

681
00:33:17,020 --> 00:33:21,260
Somewhere in, it must have
been around late August,

682
00:33:21,260 --> 00:33:26,290
early September of 1944,
we went to Camp Lee,

683
00:33:26,290 --> 00:33:30,880
which is outside of Petersburg,

Virginia, for the final,

684

00:33:30,880 --> 00:33:35,350
if you will, putting together
of the field hospital,

685

00:33:35,350 --> 00:33:37,480
getting people to
know their roles,

686

00:33:37,480 --> 00:33:41,480
getting our equipment together,
and really shaping up.

687

00:33:41,480 --> 00:33:43,090
How big a group was it?

688

00:33:43,090 --> 00:33:48,400
We were approximately
150 enlisted men.

689

00:33:48,400 --> 00:33:51,190
I think it was about
approximately 15

690

00:33:51,190 --> 00:33:53,530
to 20 medical officers.

691

00:33:53,530 --> 00:33:56,140
And I recall about 30 nurses,
but I'm not absolutely

692

00:33:56,140 --> 00:33:58,340
sure of those figures.

693

00:33:58,340 --> 00:34:04,450
I do recall we had, I think,
120 tons of medical equipment

694

00:34:04,450 --> 00:34:08,530
that had to be moved about.

695

00:34:08,530 --> 00:34:09,610
We had our--

696
00:34:09,610 --> 00:34:13,350
Were all the men that you had
trained with in that 81st Field

697
00:34:13,350 --> 00:34:14,590
Hospital group?

698
00:34:14,590 --> 00:34:16,850
In the basic training camp?

699
00:34:16,850 --> 00:34:18,650
I don't think so.

700
00:34:18,650 --> 00:34:22,000
I think that the putting
together of the 81st Field

701
00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:24,040
Hospital had its personnel.

702
00:34:24,040 --> 00:34:26,690
They took most of us from that
basic training unit but not

703
00:34:26,690 --> 00:34:27,190
all.

704
00:34:27,190 --> 00:34:29,920
I think other people
came from elsewhere.

705
00:34:29,920 --> 00:34:32,389
We were of all ages.

706
00:34:32,389 --> 00:34:33,610
I was an 18-year-old.

707
00:34:33,610 --> 00:34:36,429
There were maybe a dozen of us.

708

00:34:36,429 --> 00:34:41,590

But we ranged up to men in
their 30s who we called old men.

709

00:34:41,590 --> 00:34:45,340

And many of them were men with
certain physical disabilities

710

00:34:45,340 --> 00:34:48,370

that couldn't serve
in combat units

711

00:34:48,370 --> 00:34:52,780

but were healthy enough
to be serve in the Army

712

00:34:52,780 --> 00:34:55,600

in a medical capacity.

713

00:34:55,600 --> 00:34:59,410

But we were of all
ages, 18 to 30, 35.

714

00:34:59,410 --> 00:35:02,410

We had one man was a
grandfather, as I recall.

715

00:35:02,410 --> 00:35:05,290

He was in his late 30s, I think.

716

00:35:05,290 --> 00:35:12,520

And you were still as convinced
of your views even in--

717

00:35:12,520 --> 00:35:16,480

this is August '44,
September, August, September?

718

00:35:16,480 --> 00:35:20,860

Had you wavered at
all are we still as

719

00:35:20,860 --> 00:35:22,610
definite about your views?

720

00:35:22,610 --> 00:35:24,580
I was still pretty
definite about my views,

721

00:35:24,580 --> 00:35:30,070
because nothing had happened to
really cause me to waver yet.

722

00:35:30,070 --> 00:35:33,010
Things are pretty--
we were in the States.

723

00:35:33,010 --> 00:35:34,930
We got information
about the war abroad.

724

00:35:34,930 --> 00:35:37,690
But pretty much our lives
were pretty organized,

725

00:35:37,690 --> 00:35:38,940
getting the hospital together.

726

00:35:38,940 --> 00:35:41,530
And there was really no
reason to really question

727

00:35:41,530 --> 00:35:43,390
my stance at that time.

728

00:35:43,390 --> 00:35:46,960
As I said earlier, I wasn't
being harassed by the other men

729

00:35:46,960 --> 00:35:48,160
in the unit.

730

00:35:48,160 --> 00:35:52,780
They pretty much accepted

me for what I was, I think.

731

00:35:52,780 --> 00:35:56,080

I worked hard and learned
my technician trade.

732

00:35:56,080 --> 00:35:59,643

And I think I was
respected for that.

733

00:35:59,643 --> 00:36:01,060

How long did you
stay in Virginia?

734

00:36:01,060 --> 00:36:02,710

We were there
until we got orders

735

00:36:02,710 --> 00:36:05,710

to move to the port
of embarkation, which

736

00:36:05,710 --> 00:36:09,100

was in New Jersey, Camp Kilmer.

737

00:36:09,100 --> 00:36:10,060

Is that the name?

738

00:36:10,060 --> 00:36:10,870

I've forgotten.

739

00:36:10,870 --> 00:36:12,670

I think it is.

740

00:36:12,670 --> 00:36:16,620

We got orders to move to
Camp Kilmer in December,

741

00:36:16,620 --> 00:36:21,640

must have been around the
20th of December 1944.

742

00:36:21,640 --> 00:36:27,370
I recall getting one last pass
before we were to board ship.

743
00:36:27,370 --> 00:36:29,230
We weren't that far
from Philadelphia.

744
00:36:29,230 --> 00:36:30,880
So we took that path.

745
00:36:30,880 --> 00:36:32,170
We had a 12 hour pass.

746
00:36:32,170 --> 00:36:34,540
And three of us went
down to Philadelphia,

747
00:36:34,540 --> 00:36:37,630
went to my parents' home,
and spent two or three

748
00:36:37,630 --> 00:36:44,350
hours singing Christmas carols,
then went back to Camp Kilmer

749
00:36:44,350 --> 00:36:46,450
and got on the ship.

750
00:36:46,450 --> 00:36:49,630
And we sat in New York
Harbor on Christmas Eve 1944

751
00:36:49,630 --> 00:36:53,740
and saw the lights of
Broadway, moved out

752
00:36:53,740 --> 00:36:57,160
on the 26th of December,
and joined a convoy.

753
00:36:57,160 --> 00:36:59,800
I think it must have been

30 or 40 ships, most of them

754

00:36:59,800 --> 00:37:00,670

Liberty ships.

755

00:37:00,670 --> 00:37:13,730

756

00:37:13,730 --> 00:37:16,070

This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

757

00:37:16,070 --> 00:37:18,560

Memorial Museum Volunteer
Collection interview

758

00:37:18,560 --> 00:37:20,000

with Dr. Samuel Hagner.

759

00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:23,170

This is tape number
one side B. And you

760

00:37:23,170 --> 00:37:25,765

were talking about how you
got your orders to leave,

761

00:37:25,765 --> 00:37:27,140

and you went home
to Philadelphia

762

00:37:27,140 --> 00:37:30,770

and then came back to New York.

763

00:37:30,770 --> 00:37:35,050

As I said, we moved out of New
York Harbor on December 26,

764

00:37:35,050 --> 00:37:41,050

joined a convoy that was waiting
for us outside of the harbor.

765

00:37:41,050 --> 00:37:44,350

It took us 21 days
to cross the ocean.

766

00:37:44,350 --> 00:37:45,955

It was in January.

767

00:37:45,955 --> 00:37:47,710

It was an awful trip.

768

00:37:47,710 --> 00:37:51,440

I've never saw so many seasick
people in all of my life.

769

00:37:51,440 --> 00:37:54,220

I, fortunately, was not one
of the ones that suffered

770

00:37:54,220 --> 00:37:57,880

from sea sickness as such.

771

00:37:57,880 --> 00:37:59,920

I recall having a dull headache.

772

00:37:59,920 --> 00:38:02,860

But I was able to take
my meals regularly.

773

00:38:02,860 --> 00:38:04,660

So they assigned me
to the infirmary,

774

00:38:04,660 --> 00:38:06,940

the ship's infirmary.

775

00:38:06,940 --> 00:38:09,700

And I remember
going out as teams

776

00:38:09,700 --> 00:38:13,330

and finding these poor guys, who
had crawled off into cubbyholes

777

00:38:13,330 --> 00:38:16,210

who couldn't keep anything
down, and dragging them back

778

00:38:16,210 --> 00:38:18,760

to the infirmary,
putting them in bed,

779

00:38:18,760 --> 00:38:21,580

and giving them
intravenous fluids.

780

00:38:21,580 --> 00:38:23,710

It was my first real
experience with people

781

00:38:23,710 --> 00:38:24,880

who were deathly ill.

782

00:38:24,880 --> 00:38:29,260

If we hadn't found some of
those men, they could have died.

783

00:38:29,260 --> 00:38:33,940

Because they literally wanted
no parts of anybody, food,

784

00:38:33,940 --> 00:38:34,540

or anybody.

785

00:38:34,540 --> 00:38:38,560

They just wanted to
be by themselves.

786

00:38:38,560 --> 00:38:39,520

It was the long trip.

787

00:38:39,520 --> 00:38:44,930

We finally got to
Southampton, England,

788

00:38:44,930 --> 00:38:47,440

towards the end of
January, must have been

789
00:38:47,440 --> 00:38:50,260
this third week in January.

790
00:38:50,260 --> 00:38:52,420
They had no orders for us.

791
00:38:52,420 --> 00:38:56,140
We were on the HMS
[? Volendam, ?] a Dutch ship

792
00:38:56,140 --> 00:38:58,640
with a British crew.

793
00:38:58,640 --> 00:39:02,470
So they let off the ship those
for whom they had orders.

794
00:39:02,470 --> 00:39:08,370
They sent us across the English
Channel to Le Havre, France.

795
00:39:08,370 --> 00:39:10,030
They had no orders
for us there either.

796
00:39:10,030 --> 00:39:12,920
So they sent us back to
Southampton, still no orders.

797
00:39:12,920 --> 00:39:16,530
So they sent us around Wales
and up to Greenock, Scotland,

798
00:39:16,530 --> 00:39:18,960
to the Port of Missing
Men, as it was called.

799
00:39:18,960 --> 00:39:21,640

800

00:39:21,640 --> 00:39:24,730

As you pulled into the
Harbor at Greenock, Scotland,

801

00:39:24,730 --> 00:39:29,110

there was this huge, huge
ship that towered over us.

802

00:39:29,110 --> 00:39:33,160

It looked like a
skyscraper, battleship gray.

803

00:39:33,160 --> 00:39:36,070

It was the Queen
Liz that had been

804

00:39:36,070 --> 00:39:39,410

converted into a troop ship.

805

00:39:39,410 --> 00:39:41,840

They got us off the
boat, put us on a train,

806

00:39:41,840 --> 00:39:45,650

and sent us back to within 30
miles of Southampton, England.

807

00:39:45,650 --> 00:39:48,800

What was the point of
sending you up there then?

808

00:39:48,800 --> 00:39:49,610

Nobody knows.

809

00:39:49,610 --> 00:39:50,880

That was the Army.

810

00:39:50,880 --> 00:39:53,300

By that time, we began to
realize that the Army did

811

00:39:53,300 --> 00:39:55,940

things in mysterious ways.

812

00:39:55,940 --> 00:40:00,050

Having no orders on us, they
assigned us to army hospitals

813

00:40:00,050 --> 00:40:03,350

in England, in Wales, actually.

814

00:40:03,350 --> 00:40:05,010

This was taking care
of battle wounded

815

00:40:05,010 --> 00:40:08,030

that had been flown
back from Europe.

816

00:40:08,030 --> 00:40:11,490

So that was very we really got
our first clinical experience,

817

00:40:11,490 --> 00:40:13,850

if you will, working on wards.

818

00:40:13,850 --> 00:40:17,630

That's where I first learned
to do bedside nursing.

819

00:40:17,630 --> 00:40:21,050

These were men who had
been seriously wounded.

820

00:40:21,050 --> 00:40:23,900

In fact, I was
trained by Army nurses

821

00:40:23,900 --> 00:40:28,400

on a colostomy ward, nothing
but colostomies, 40 of them

822

00:40:28,400 --> 00:40:31,320

in one ward.

823

00:40:31,320 --> 00:40:33,320

That was during-- you
said, during your training

824

00:40:33,320 --> 00:40:34,100

in the United States?

825

00:40:34,100 --> 00:40:34,600

No.

826

00:40:34,600 --> 00:40:35,840

This is in England.

827

00:40:35,840 --> 00:40:38,000

We are now in
England, no orders.

828

00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:40,070

They don't know where
we're supposed to be,

829

00:40:40,070 --> 00:40:43,790

so they assigned us to
these Army hospitals

830

00:40:43,790 --> 00:40:45,543

located in Wales, England.

831

00:40:45,543 --> 00:40:47,960

And these were taking care of
men who have been flown back

832

00:40:47,960 --> 00:40:48,590

from the front.

833

00:40:48,590 --> 00:40:49,100

Oh, I see.

834

00:40:49,100 --> 00:40:50,900

To get further medical care.

835

00:40:50,900 --> 00:40:52,400
Yeah.

836
00:40:52,400 --> 00:40:55,530
We were in England
for about six weeks.

837
00:40:55,530 --> 00:40:57,980
How were you able to
handle seeing people

838
00:40:57,980 --> 00:41:00,620
who were injured and wounded?

839
00:41:00,620 --> 00:41:02,690
How did you adjust to that?

840
00:41:02,690 --> 00:41:05,510
Or was this your first
experience dealing with people

841
00:41:05,510 --> 00:41:07,910
who were so severely wounded?

842
00:41:07,910 --> 00:41:10,010
That was my first
experience dealing

843
00:41:10,010 --> 00:41:12,410
with the severely wounded.

844
00:41:12,410 --> 00:41:13,580
It was a bit of a shock.

845
00:41:13,580 --> 00:41:15,320
It was kind of appalling.

846
00:41:15,320 --> 00:41:19,640
But I got so immersed
in nursing that I

847
00:41:19,640 --> 00:41:21,770

didn't think anything about--

848

00:41:21,770 --> 00:41:24,710

I didn't think too much
about that part of it.

849

00:41:24,710 --> 00:41:26,690

I became so
engrossed in learning

850

00:41:26,690 --> 00:41:32,990

to take care of the ill,
the sick, and the wounded.

851

00:41:32,990 --> 00:41:36,020

Specifically, I was being
trained to change dressings

852

00:41:36,020 --> 00:41:38,000

on the colostomy patients.

853

00:41:38,000 --> 00:41:40,940

So I had nurses showing
me how to do this.

854

00:41:40,940 --> 00:41:43,550

And that became my
job 12 hours a day.

855

00:41:43,550 --> 00:41:46,790

856

00:41:46,790 --> 00:41:48,680

What were your
thoughts about seeing

857

00:41:48,680 --> 00:41:53,060

such terrible wounds, not
because someone was ill,

858

00:41:53,060 --> 00:42:00,230

or a disease, but because of
man's destruction of other men?

859
00:42:00,230 --> 00:42:04,190
In a sense unnecessary, not
coming from a disease, but--

860
00:42:04,190 --> 00:42:05,466
I see what you mean.

861
00:42:05,466 --> 00:42:11,230

862
00:42:11,230 --> 00:42:17,830
I guess, what you're asking is
did I feel that this was right,

863
00:42:17,830 --> 00:42:19,480
or what kind of
impact this was having

864
00:42:19,480 --> 00:42:22,630
that men had suffered
these terrible injuries

865
00:42:22,630 --> 00:42:24,430
as a result of war?

866
00:42:24,430 --> 00:42:27,640
It certainly
reinforced my feelings,

867
00:42:27,640 --> 00:42:30,130
my negative feelings
about war, as a way

868
00:42:30,130 --> 00:42:32,260
of trying to solve problems.

869
00:42:32,260 --> 00:42:34,690
Yes, look at these
young men who had one--

870
00:42:34,690 --> 00:42:38,080

maybe days earlier had
been perfectly healthy

871
00:42:38,080 --> 00:42:41,230
and were now lying
there, most of them,

872
00:42:41,230 --> 00:42:43,890
possibly to be crippled for
the rest of their lives.

873
00:42:43,890 --> 00:42:44,920
I don't know.

874
00:42:44,920 --> 00:42:46,260
There's no question about it.

875
00:42:46,260 --> 00:42:54,540
That was reinforcing my
disgust, if you will, with war.

876
00:42:54,540 --> 00:42:57,390
So I think what I did was,
just as I said earlier,

877
00:42:57,390 --> 00:43:00,480
I immersed myself in the
nursing end of it to try

878
00:43:00,480 --> 00:43:03,450
to deal with it.

879
00:43:03,450 --> 00:43:06,480
At least, if I could lose
myself in the nursing,

880
00:43:06,480 --> 00:43:10,240
I didn't have to think too
much about the other side of it

881
00:43:10,240 --> 00:43:12,570
and that I was part of it.

882

00:43:12,570 --> 00:43:16,290

And in a sense, I was
aiding and abetting

883

00:43:16,290 --> 00:43:18,750

by taking care of the wounded.

884

00:43:18,750 --> 00:43:20,550

Why were you aiding
and abetting?

885

00:43:20,550 --> 00:43:24,060

Well, possibly, I might help
to send some back into battle.

886

00:43:24,060 --> 00:43:28,160

887

00:43:28,160 --> 00:43:30,640

In fact, the friend that
I mentioned earlier,

888

00:43:30,640 --> 00:43:33,910

with whom I spent the
night several nights ago,

889

00:43:33,910 --> 00:43:39,820

my former companion in the Army,
he felt that way, definitely,

890

00:43:39,820 --> 00:43:42,580

that here he was trying to
send people back to the front.

891

00:43:42,580 --> 00:43:43,780

And he wondered about it.

892

00:43:43,780 --> 00:43:46,520

He, by the way, was
a CO and a member

893

00:43:46,520 --> 00:43:47,770

of the Church of the Brethren.

894

00:43:47,770 --> 00:43:52,350

895

00:43:52,350 --> 00:43:55,950

And so you stayed in
England for how long?

896

00:43:55,950 --> 00:43:57,995

We were in England
for about six weeks.

897

00:43:57,995 --> 00:44:01,060

And then suddenly, we move fast.

898

00:44:01,060 --> 00:44:02,400

They found orders.

899

00:44:02,400 --> 00:44:04,350

We were supposed
to be in Germany.

900

00:44:04,350 --> 00:44:07,350

So they rush, rush, rush,
and put us on a boat,

901

00:44:07,350 --> 00:44:08,850

and send us to Le Havre, France.

902

00:44:08,850 --> 00:44:12,810

And within hours,
we were in Germany

903

00:44:12,810 --> 00:44:16,770

crossing the border, the
Mannheim River, as I recall,

904

00:44:16,770 --> 00:44:20,670

and catching up
with the 7th Army.

905

00:44:20,670 --> 00:44:22,710

And rumors had it
that the 7th Army,

906

00:44:22,710 --> 00:44:24,450

when our commanding
officer walked

907

00:44:24,450 --> 00:44:26,910

into the headquarters of the
7th Army said, where have you

908

00:44:26,910 --> 00:44:27,900

been all these weeks?

909

00:44:27,900 --> 00:44:29,201

We've been looking for you.

910

00:44:29,201 --> 00:44:33,130

911

00:44:33,130 --> 00:44:35,170

What was it like for you
to put your foot down

912

00:44:35,170 --> 00:44:39,100

in Germany knowing that the
Germans had started the war?

913

00:44:39,100 --> 00:44:41,930

It was getting to be scary.

914

00:44:41,930 --> 00:44:47,560

I do recall seeing tanks
burning by the side of the road.

915

00:44:47,560 --> 00:44:50,890

We didn't see actual fighting,
because we were still that too

916

00:44:50,890 --> 00:44:53,870

far behind the front lines.

917

00:44:53,870 --> 00:44:59,380
But we're seeing evidences now
of smoldering tanks, villages

918

00:44:59,380 --> 00:45:01,317
that have been burned, bombed.

919

00:45:01,317 --> 00:45:02,650
Things were now getting serious.

920

00:45:02,650 --> 00:45:05,950

921

00:45:05,950 --> 00:45:08,110
We all began to get that
feeling that, well, we've

922

00:45:08,110 --> 00:45:10,120
been in training all
these weeks and months.

923

00:45:10,120 --> 00:45:11,710
And now, here we are.

924

00:45:11,710 --> 00:45:14,272
What is going to happen now?

925

00:45:14,272 --> 00:45:15,730
How are we going
to deal with this?

926

00:45:15,730 --> 00:45:17,650
How are we going to
help the wounded?

927

00:45:17,650 --> 00:45:20,140
How is this all
going to work out?

928

00:45:20,140 --> 00:45:24,910
Ironically, we
never did find out

929
00:45:24,910 --> 00:45:28,030
what it was like to take
care of the battle wounded.

930
00:45:28,030 --> 00:45:33,940
This is now, mind you, this
must be early March 1945.

931
00:45:33,940 --> 00:45:36,790
Their Wehrmacht was
pretty much on the run.

932
00:45:36,790 --> 00:45:40,600
Luftwaffe had been pretty
much blown out of the sky.

933
00:45:40,600 --> 00:45:43,730
The front line was moving so
rapidly that every time we

934
00:45:43,730 --> 00:45:45,430
would move towards
the front lines

935
00:45:45,430 --> 00:45:48,550
and set up our hospital
unit, we were too far back

936
00:45:48,550 --> 00:45:50,830
to do any good.

937
00:45:50,830 --> 00:45:54,820
We had to be within a certain
distance from the front lines

938
00:45:54,820 --> 00:45:57,640
to be of any help
as a field hospital.

939
00:45:57,640 --> 00:45:59,290
A field hospital
had to be fairly

940
00:45:59,290 --> 00:46:03,190
close to the so-called
battalion aid stations

941
00:46:03,190 --> 00:46:05,440
to be of any real effective use.

942
00:46:05,440 --> 00:46:07,670
And every time we
would try to get close,

943
00:46:07,670 --> 00:46:09,208
they'd move the
front lines again.

944
00:46:09,208 --> 00:46:10,750
And so we'd wake up
the next morning,

945
00:46:10,750 --> 00:46:12,250
and we were too far
away to do any good.

946
00:46:12,250 --> 00:46:13,520
So we'd pack up and move on.

947
00:46:13,520 --> 00:46:14,950
We'd pack up and move on.

948
00:46:14,950 --> 00:46:19,300
I think we moved at least four
times, what we called dry runs,

949
00:46:19,300 --> 00:46:21,250
and never saw a patient.

950
00:46:21,250 --> 00:46:25,810
They kept moving trying to
keep up with the battle.

951
00:46:25,810 --> 00:46:31,060

During one of these
moves, I experienced

952
00:46:31,060 --> 00:46:36,690
probably the most
frightening experience

953
00:46:36,690 --> 00:46:38,890
that I had in the war.

954
00:46:38,890 --> 00:46:41,290
It's silly, because
this had nothing

955
00:46:41,290 --> 00:46:42,880
to do with the war as such.

956
00:46:42,880 --> 00:46:45,820
It had nothing to do
with battle wounded,

957
00:46:45,820 --> 00:46:48,580
had to do with my own
personal safety, or lack of.

958
00:46:48,580 --> 00:46:51,490
And this is why I feel a
little silly about it now.

959
00:46:51,490 --> 00:46:55,250
But it was the most
frightening time.

960
00:46:55,250 --> 00:46:59,280
I wasn't the most frightened by
being possibly strafed or shot

961
00:46:59,280 --> 00:47:01,040
at.

962
00:47:01,040 --> 00:47:02,900
As I'm about to
tell you, I was most

963
00:47:02,900 --> 00:47:05,120
frightened by this one
experience that had

964
00:47:05,120 --> 00:47:07,670
nothing to do with the enemy.

965
00:47:07,670 --> 00:47:10,910

966
00:47:10,910 --> 00:47:13,130
It came time for
the hospital unit

967
00:47:13,130 --> 00:47:16,280
to move again towards
the front lines.

968
00:47:16,280 --> 00:47:19,310
Each time this was
done, they would send up

969
00:47:19,310 --> 00:47:25,010
an advance party made up of an
officer, perhaps two officers,

970
00:47:25,010 --> 00:47:29,120
and a handful of enlisted men,
to select the new site to which

971
00:47:29,120 --> 00:47:31,152
to move the hospital.

972
00:47:31,152 --> 00:47:34,010
On this one
particular move, I was

973
00:47:34,010 --> 00:47:37,730
elected to go up with the
advance party for the reason

974

00:47:37,730 --> 00:47:40,310
that I spoke a little bit of
French, high school French.

975
00:47:40,310 --> 00:47:41,540
Nobody spoke any German.

976
00:47:41,540 --> 00:47:42,915
Well, they figured,
well, maybe I

977
00:47:42,915 --> 00:47:45,530
could speak a little
French to the Germans.

978
00:47:45,530 --> 00:47:48,470
So up I went with the unit--

979
00:47:48,470 --> 00:47:50,960
I mean, excuse me--
with the advance party.

980
00:47:50,960 --> 00:47:53,300
I was the only
objector in the group.

981
00:47:53,300 --> 00:47:54,170
I was the only CO.

982
00:47:54,170 --> 00:47:57,520

983
00:47:57,520 --> 00:48:01,690
We arrived at a certain, I
think it was a suburb, really,

984
00:48:01,690 --> 00:48:03,400
a German suburb.

985
00:48:03,400 --> 00:48:06,220
It was a private neighborhood.

986

00:48:06,220 --> 00:48:09,130
There was no battle around.

987
00:48:09,130 --> 00:48:10,750
But our commanding
officer walked over

988
00:48:10,750 --> 00:48:13,428
to one of the private homes,
and commandeered the home,

989
00:48:13,428 --> 00:48:15,220
and told the people
that they had to leave.

990
00:48:15,220 --> 00:48:18,220
They had 15 minutes
in which to get out,

991
00:48:18,220 --> 00:48:20,530
that we were taking
it over as a billet,

992
00:48:20,530 --> 00:48:25,660
if you will, for us to
stay, spend the night.

993
00:48:25,660 --> 00:48:28,266
How proud I was,
ho, ho, ho, to watch

994
00:48:28,266 --> 00:48:31,840
these people have to leave their
homes, while we, the Americans,

995
00:48:31,840 --> 00:48:34,210
are standing there
watching them leave.

996
00:48:34,210 --> 00:48:35,860
That I wasn't very happy about.

997
00:48:35,860 --> 00:48:37,985

I think that bothered me
almost as much as anything

998
00:48:37,985 --> 00:48:40,330
else that I'd seen up
to that point in time,

999
00:48:40,330 --> 00:48:42,380
standing there, as
bullies, and making

1000
00:48:42,380 --> 00:48:45,880
these people leave their homes.

1001
00:48:45,880 --> 00:48:47,380
Even though I was
to find out later

1002
00:48:47,380 --> 00:48:50,050
that somebody else was
the much greater bully.

1003
00:48:50,050 --> 00:48:52,990

1004
00:48:52,990 --> 00:48:56,290
So they left their
home, and we moved in.

1005
00:48:56,290 --> 00:49:00,130
And we were assigned rooms,
roommates, and paired off.

1006
00:49:00,130 --> 00:49:04,480
And we had just the
one officer with us.

1007
00:49:04,480 --> 00:49:06,052
He was a surgeon.

1008
00:49:06,052 --> 00:49:06,760
He was a captain.

1009

00:49:06,760 --> 00:49:09,450

1010

00:49:09,450 --> 00:49:13,610

I can remember his name,
Captain [? Riesman. ?]

1011

00:49:13,610 --> 00:49:15,860

He decided he wanted
an armed guard.

1012

00:49:15,860 --> 00:49:17,360

You might say, armed guard?

1013

00:49:17,360 --> 00:49:18,650

Weren't you a hospital unit?

1014

00:49:18,650 --> 00:49:20,620

Didn't you have red
crosses on your helmets?

1015

00:49:20,620 --> 00:49:21,500

Yes, we did.

1016

00:49:21,500 --> 00:49:23,450

We had an ambulance with us.

1017

00:49:23,450 --> 00:49:25,850

But we were armed.

1018

00:49:25,850 --> 00:49:28,490

Our aimless drivers had rifles.

1019

00:49:28,490 --> 00:49:33,890

This particular officer was
packing a 45 on his hip.

1020

00:49:33,890 --> 00:49:35,300

I can't explain it.

1021

00:49:35,300 --> 00:49:36,170

We were abusing.

1022

00:49:36,170 --> 00:49:40,460

We were not following
the Geneva Convention.

1023

00:49:40,460 --> 00:49:42,720

And I know the Germans knew it.

1024

00:49:42,720 --> 00:49:46,010

I might say, parenthetically,
that periodically we

1025

00:49:46,010 --> 00:49:48,390

would get strafed
by German aircraft,

1026

00:49:48,390 --> 00:49:52,030

our hospital unit would.

1027

00:49:52,030 --> 00:49:54,202

And a person not knowing
better might say, well,

1028

00:49:54,202 --> 00:49:55,660

what an awful thing
for the Germans

1029

00:49:55,660 --> 00:49:57,700

to strafe an American
hospital unit.

1030

00:49:57,700 --> 00:49:59,560

But I'm sure they
knew we were armed.

1031

00:49:59,560 --> 00:50:01,360

And we shouldn't have been.

1032

00:50:01,360 --> 00:50:04,960

I, to this day, I have no
explanation why we were armed.

1033

00:50:04,960 --> 00:50:07,270

People just did it.

1034

00:50:07,270 --> 00:50:11,170

So on this particular
night, the captain

1035

00:50:11,170 --> 00:50:13,210

ordered an armed
guard to walk around

1036

00:50:13,210 --> 00:50:16,630

this house for the
rest of the night.

1037

00:50:16,630 --> 00:50:20,320

And guess who got the
first call to walk?

1038

00:50:20,320 --> 00:50:23,770

Sergeant said, Hagner,
you take the first walk,

1039

00:50:23,770 --> 00:50:24,590

the first guard.

1040

00:50:24,590 --> 00:50:26,020

And I said, all right, Sergeant.

1041

00:50:26,020 --> 00:50:29,140

But there's something
you have to know.

1042

00:50:29,140 --> 00:50:30,610

He said, what is that?

1043

00:50:30,610 --> 00:50:34,060

I said, well, I'm a
conscientious objector.

1044

00:50:34,060 --> 00:50:36,460

You're a what?

1045
00:50:36,460 --> 00:50:38,470
He was from Georgia or Alabama.

1046
00:50:38,470 --> 00:50:41,260
I don't think he'd ever
even heard of the term.

1047
00:50:41,260 --> 00:50:42,760
He looked at me and
kind of blinked.

1048
00:50:42,760 --> 00:50:43,810
He said, well, what
does that mean?

1049
00:50:43,810 --> 00:50:45,430
And I said, well,
I'll walk guard,

1050
00:50:45,430 --> 00:50:49,150
but I won't take that rifle.

1051
00:50:49,150 --> 00:50:53,290
He was just rigid
enough, and I think

1052
00:50:53,290 --> 00:50:56,360
had that much experience
enough to take back his order.

1053
00:50:56,360 --> 00:50:57,610
He had already given an order.

1054
00:50:57,610 --> 00:50:59,380
And he couldn't
rescind that order.

1055
00:50:59,380 --> 00:51:00,490
So he said, all right.

1056
00:51:00,490 --> 00:51:04,650

Then go out walk
guard without the gun.

1057
00:51:04,650 --> 00:51:07,240
I thought, this is interesting,
kind of ridiculous,

1058
00:51:07,240 --> 00:51:08,020
but all right.

1059
00:51:08,020 --> 00:51:10,300
So I went out in the
dark with a flashlight

1060
00:51:10,300 --> 00:51:13,540
and started walking around the
building in the dark, pitch

1061
00:51:13,540 --> 00:51:18,530
dark, wondering about how
ridiculous this whole situation

1062
00:51:18,530 --> 00:51:19,030
was.

1063
00:51:19,030 --> 00:51:23,800
Why even have a guard if
I'm out there without a gun?

1064
00:51:23,800 --> 00:51:25,870
This went on for
maybe 15, 20 minutes.

1065
00:51:25,870 --> 00:51:30,130
And out came the captain
to inspect the guard.

1066
00:51:30,130 --> 00:51:31,840
He found me in the dark.

1067
00:51:31,840 --> 00:51:32,570
He looked at me.

1068

00:51:32,570 --> 00:51:36,430

And he said, where's
your gun, soldier?

1069

00:51:36,430 --> 00:51:38,060

I froze.

1070

00:51:38,060 --> 00:51:41,240

I could hardly talk.

1071

00:51:41,240 --> 00:51:45,710

I thought back to the NSPRO,
that National Service Board

1072

00:51:45,710 --> 00:51:47,530

for Religious Objectors
in Philadelphia

1073

00:51:47,530 --> 00:51:50,595

and what they said,
don't ever waiver.

1074

00:51:50,595 --> 00:51:52,460

And the time had come.

1075

00:51:52,460 --> 00:51:53,570

Here we are.

1076

00:51:53,570 --> 00:51:57,340

Do I waver or don't I?

1077

00:51:57,340 --> 00:52:04,300

Not because of my beliefs
but for my personal safety,

1078

00:52:04,300 --> 00:52:05,950

I couldn't waver.

1079

00:52:05,950 --> 00:52:09,400

I looked at the captain,
and I said, sir.

1080

00:52:09,400 --> 00:52:10,720

I'm a religious objector.

1081

00:52:10,720 --> 00:52:13,990

He said, you're a what?

1082

00:52:13,990 --> 00:52:15,940

I could hardly talk.

1083

00:52:15,940 --> 00:52:18,820

I choked out the words.

1084

00:52:18,820 --> 00:52:21,910

And I said, well, sir, this
is how I came into the Army,

1085

00:52:21,910 --> 00:52:25,240

with this in mind that
I would not bear arms.

1086

00:52:25,240 --> 00:52:27,237

He looked at me.

1087

00:52:27,237 --> 00:52:29,320

He said, do you mean to
tell me that if I give you

1088

00:52:29,320 --> 00:52:32,770

a direct order to go back and
get a rifle that you wouldn't

1089

00:52:32,770 --> 00:52:35,120

do it?

1090

00:52:35,120 --> 00:52:38,830

This is here we are.

1091

00:52:38,830 --> 00:52:44,230

I'm at the brink.

1092

00:52:44,230 --> 00:52:48,440

Do I say, yes, or do I say, no?

1093
00:52:48,440 --> 00:52:51,440
Because I knew that
in a combat zone,

1094
00:52:51,440 --> 00:52:53,070
the commanding officer is--

1095
00:52:53,070 --> 00:52:56,840
I mean, martial law
exists in a combat zone.

1096
00:52:56,840 --> 00:53:00,020
And a commanding
officer is everything.

1097
00:53:00,020 --> 00:53:00,890
He's court.

1098
00:53:00,890 --> 00:53:01,975
He's judge.

1099
00:53:01,975 --> 00:53:02,880
He's jury.

1100
00:53:02,880 --> 00:53:04,280
He's executioner.

1101
00:53:04,280 --> 00:53:05,910
The law was in his hands.

1102
00:53:05,910 --> 00:53:07,510
That's what martial
law is all about.

1103
00:53:07,510 --> 00:53:10,550

1104
00:53:10,550 --> 00:53:13,760
I finally shook my head and
said, I'm sorry, captain.

1105
00:53:13,760 --> 00:53:16,725

1106
00:53:16,725 --> 00:53:17,225
I can't.

1107
00:53:17,225 --> 00:53:26,640

1108
00:53:26,640 --> 00:53:29,910
And I did this then too.

1109
00:53:29,910 --> 00:53:31,170
He looked at me.

1110
00:53:31,170 --> 00:53:32,990
I don't think he knew
what to make of me.

1111
00:53:32,990 --> 00:53:40,312

1112
00:53:40,312 --> 00:53:46,430
Oh, this is [? silly, ?]
53 years later.

1113
00:53:46,430 --> 00:53:48,070
He went back in the house.

1114
00:53:48,070 --> 00:53:52,770

1115
00:53:52,770 --> 00:53:55,850
I didn't know whether I
was going to live or die.

1116
00:53:55,850 --> 00:54:01,760

1117
00:54:01,760 --> 00:54:04,940

I think he, up to that point,
I didn't know him that well.

1118
00:54:04,940 --> 00:54:08,060
He was the man
under whom I worked.

1119
00:54:08,060 --> 00:54:08,915
He was my surgeon.

1120
00:54:08,915 --> 00:54:11,672

1121
00:54:11,672 --> 00:54:13,630
And I really didn't know
[? him ?] as a person.

1122
00:54:13,630 --> 00:54:15,860
And he had that gun on his hip.

1123
00:54:15,860 --> 00:54:18,600

1124
00:54:18,600 --> 00:54:21,480
A couple minutes later, one of
my friends came out and said,

1125
00:54:21,480 --> 00:54:23,140
Sam, go back in the house.

1126
00:54:23,140 --> 00:54:26,370
And he had a gun
on his shoulder.

1127
00:54:26,370 --> 00:54:27,300
I'm taking over.

1128
00:54:27,300 --> 00:54:29,640
So obviously, the captain had--

1129
00:54:29,640 --> 00:54:33,940
excuse me. {? _{? _[BLOWS NOSE]_?}_?}

Had changed the guard.

1130
00:54:33,940 --> 00:54:36,610

1131
00:54:36,610 --> 00:54:39,350
I went back in the house.

1132
00:54:39,350 --> 00:54:41,740
A couple of guys are
playing cards in one room.

1133
00:54:41,740 --> 00:54:44,030
A couple of guys sitting
over there talking,

1134
00:54:44,030 --> 00:54:45,470
you could have heard a pin drop.

1135
00:54:45,470 --> 00:54:49,890

1136
00:54:49,890 --> 00:54:51,320
The captain was nowhere.

1137
00:54:51,320 --> 00:54:54,893
He had gone off to this room.

1138
00:54:54,893 --> 00:54:55,685
No one said a word.

1139
00:54:55,685 --> 00:55:01,910

1140
00:55:01,910 --> 00:55:06,050
[CRYING] I never felt so alone.

1141
00:55:06,050 --> 00:55:11,680

1142
00:55:11,680 --> 00:55:12,180

I'm sorry.

1143
00:55:12,180 --> 00:55:15,450
I didn't think
this would happen.

1144
00:55:15,450 --> 00:55:16,203
[INAUDIBLE]

1145
00:55:16,203 --> 00:55:19,380

1146
00:55:19,380 --> 00:55:21,040
I went upstairs to my room.

1147
00:55:21,040 --> 00:55:24,270
And my roommate
was sitting there.

1148
00:55:24,270 --> 00:55:30,930
I still remember his name,
Mark Stark from the Bronx.

1149
00:55:30,930 --> 00:55:34,040
He called me Sammy boy.

1150
00:55:34,040 --> 00:55:36,500
And he had a Brooklyn accent
like you've never heard

1151
00:55:36,500 --> 00:55:39,860
your life, or Bronx accent.

1152
00:55:39,860 --> 00:55:40,580
He looked at me.

1153
00:55:40,580 --> 00:55:44,030
He says, Sammy boy,
come over here.

1154
00:55:44,030 --> 00:55:45,350
He was 28 years old.

1155
00:55:45,350 --> 00:55:49,700
He was like an old man
to me, like my father.

1156
00:55:49,700 --> 00:55:53,140
He said, sit down, Sammy boy.

1157
00:55:53,140 --> 00:55:56,370
I sat down.

1158
00:55:56,370 --> 00:55:59,450
He put his arm around me.

1159
00:55:59,450 --> 00:56:03,140
He says, Sammy boy, he said,
I'm here because of Hitler

1160
00:56:03,140 --> 00:56:06,710
and what he's doing to the Jews.

1161
00:56:06,710 --> 00:56:09,320
But he said, I couldn't
kill anybody either.

1162
00:56:09,320 --> 00:56:12,264
I know where you're coming from.

1163
00:56:12,264 --> 00:56:14,944
And he held me.

1164
00:56:14,944 --> 00:56:15,940
And I cried.

1165
00:56:15,940 --> 00:56:21,920

1166
00:56:21,920 --> 00:56:26,598
And he held me
most of the night.

1167

00:56:26,598 --> 00:56:34,730
I've never forgotten [? that. ?]
The next day the sun came up.

1168
00:56:34,730 --> 00:56:36,240
Nothing happened.

1169
00:56:36,240 --> 00:56:38,870
Nothing happened.

1170
00:56:38,870 --> 00:56:41,456
The captain never said a word.

1171
00:56:41,456 --> 00:56:44,000
It was like it had
never happened.

1172
00:56:44,000 --> 00:56:47,180
Nobody ever said anything.

1173
00:56:47,180 --> 00:56:47,870
It was all over.

1174
00:56:47,870 --> 00:56:50,910

1175
00:56:50,910 --> 00:56:53,260
It never came up again.

1176
00:56:53,260 --> 00:56:57,570
And I had to work under
that captain in surgery

1177
00:56:57,570 --> 00:56:59,210
for the next number of months.

1178
00:56:59,210 --> 00:57:05,850
He even promoted me from
tech five to tech four

1179
00:57:05,850 --> 00:57:09,960
and later, tech three, which is

the same as a staff sergeant.

1180
00:57:09,960 --> 00:57:13,260
And he never mentioned it.

1181
00:57:13,260 --> 00:57:14,670
You ask me, why?

1182
00:57:14,670 --> 00:57:16,590
I don't know.

1183
00:57:16,590 --> 00:57:23,730
Maybe he knew what he saw,
a scared kid, a kid I was.

1184
00:57:23,730 --> 00:57:27,150
But I think probably, he
just crossed me off the books

1185
00:57:27,150 --> 00:57:29,297
as a religious fanatic.

1186
00:57:29,297 --> 00:57:31,380
And what are you going to
do with a guy like that?

1187
00:57:31,380 --> 00:57:34,370
And I was a good worker.

1188
00:57:34,370 --> 00:57:37,570
I was one of the best that he
had under him in the operating

1189
00:57:37,570 --> 00:57:38,070
room.

1190
00:57:38,070 --> 00:57:42,240
I remember he used to drill me
on how many CCs of this would

1191
00:57:42,240 --> 00:57:45,510
it take to give a

hypodermic to somebody.

1192

00:57:45,510 --> 00:57:46,800

And I could rattle it off.

1193

00:57:46,800 --> 00:57:52,920

1194

00:57:52,920 --> 00:58:00,340

That [INAUDIBLE],, was the most
difficult. Again, it's just me.

1195

00:58:00,340 --> 00:58:03,520

I'm not talking about
concentration camps are I?

1196

00:58:03,520 --> 00:58:06,940

I'm just talking about me.

1197

00:58:06,940 --> 00:58:11,560

Well, things went on.

1198

00:58:11,560 --> 00:58:13,930

We never, still didn't
see any battle wounded.

1199

00:58:13,930 --> 00:58:16,240

[BLOWS NOSE]

1200

00:58:16,240 --> 00:58:18,250

The war was about over,
and we all knew it.

1201

00:58:18,250 --> 00:58:21,232

1202

00:58:21,232 --> 00:58:22,440

And that's when the day came.

1203

00:58:22,440 --> 00:58:28,320

And we got this mysterious order
to pack up and move over now

1204
00:58:28,320 --> 00:58:32,180
near Munich, to pack up and
move to an unknown destination.

1205
00:58:32,180 --> 00:58:35,800

1206
00:58:35,800 --> 00:58:39,450
And within the next day,
we'd moved into Dachau.

1207
00:58:39,450 --> 00:58:44,330

1208
00:58:44,330 --> 00:58:48,740
What did they tell you
about where you were going?

1209
00:58:48,740 --> 00:58:50,570
Was there any preparation?

1210
00:58:50,570 --> 00:58:53,750
Nothing, not one word.

1211
00:58:53,750 --> 00:58:55,740
Told us nothing.

1212
00:58:55,740 --> 00:58:59,060
We had no idea we were
going, just suddenly,

1213
00:58:59,060 --> 00:59:01,340
we were going into this camp.

1214
00:59:01,340 --> 00:59:02,490
What was this?

1215
00:59:02,490 --> 00:59:05,600
And somebody mentioned
the word Dachau.

1216

00:59:05,600 --> 00:59:07,530

Did that mean anything
to you, the name?

1217

00:59:07,530 --> 00:59:08,270

Yes.

1218

00:59:08,270 --> 00:59:09,320

What did it mean to you?

1219

00:59:09,320 --> 00:59:12,530

Somewhere I had
heard of Dachau, as I

1220

00:59:12,530 --> 00:59:15,020

had Auschwitz, and Buchenwald.

1221

00:59:15,020 --> 00:59:17,960

Somewhere they had
become that I knew.

1222

00:59:17,960 --> 00:59:22,310

I don't know how,
but Dachau, I knew.

1223

00:59:22,310 --> 00:59:23,900

Did you get close?

1224

00:59:23,900 --> 00:59:26,090

Were you walking or by truck?

1225

00:59:26,090 --> 00:59:26,990

Pardon?

1226

00:59:26,990 --> 00:59:28,850

How did you get to
the location camp?

1227

00:59:28,850 --> 00:59:30,530

Were you walking or by truck or?

1228

00:59:30,530 --> 00:59:31,190

We were trucks.

1229

00:59:31,190 --> 00:59:33,780

We were in trucks, ambulances.

1230

00:59:33,780 --> 00:59:35,660

We had I don't know
how many ambulances.

1231

00:59:35,660 --> 00:59:38,600

We had two semitrailers in
which all of our equipment

1232

00:59:38,600 --> 00:59:40,730

was stored.

1233

00:59:40,730 --> 00:59:41,230

Did--

1234

00:59:41,230 --> 00:59:42,800

We were in trucks, yeah.

1235

00:59:42,800 --> 00:59:45,470

Did you sense anything
as you were approaching?

1236

00:59:45,470 --> 00:59:50,718

Did you feel anything, have
any sense, an atmosphere,

1237

00:59:50,718 --> 00:59:51,260

as you were--

1238

00:59:51,260 --> 00:59:54,660

First reaction was-- this
absolute first reaction

1239

00:59:54,660 --> 00:59:55,820

just numbness.

1240

00:59:55,820 --> 01:00:00,020

What in God's name?

1241
01:00:00,020 --> 01:00:08,400
Because first there was
the bodies like cordwood,

1242
01:00:08,400 --> 01:00:11,520
stacked up like cordwood.

1243
01:00:11,520 --> 01:00:14,427
The stench was
absolutely overwhelming.

1244
01:00:14,427 --> 01:00:17,229

1245
01:00:17,229 --> 01:00:21,265
[? I thought, ?]
what in God's name?

1246
01:00:21,265 --> 01:00:22,640
How could this be?

1247
01:00:22,640 --> 01:00:29,290

1248
01:00:29,290 --> 01:00:32,980
I don't remember when I
saw the crematory ovens.

1249
01:00:32,980 --> 01:00:36,268
That came somewhere,
next hour or two.

1250
01:00:36,268 --> 01:00:36,810
I don't know.

1251
01:00:36,810 --> 01:00:39,925

1252
01:00:39,925 --> 01:00:43,950
But I thought,

no, this can't be.

1253

01:00:43,950 --> 01:00:45,960

And all, suddenly,
somewhere, I must

1254

01:00:45,960 --> 01:00:48,180

have thought about all those
discussions I'd had back

1255

01:00:48,180 --> 01:00:49,830

in Philadelphia with Doris.

1256

01:00:49,830 --> 01:00:52,480

1257

01:00:52,480 --> 01:00:53,110

And I said, no.

1258

01:00:53,110 --> 01:00:56,870

1259

01:00:56,870 --> 01:00:57,976

But this.

1260

01:00:57,976 --> 01:01:01,100

1261

01:01:01,100 --> 01:01:06,740

When the numbness wore
off, and that took a while.

1262

01:01:06,740 --> 01:01:08,800

And somewhere in there,
they started us--

1263

01:01:08,800 --> 01:01:11,510

I mean, after we got, were
walking around and looking.

1264

01:01:11,510 --> 01:01:14,480

They started to

give us assignments.

1265
01:01:14,480 --> 01:01:17,420
DDT teams to go into
the barracks, which

1266
01:01:17,420 --> 01:01:26,650
came later, and typhus
inoculation teams but,

1267
01:01:26,650 --> 01:01:37,080
[BLOWS NOSE]
somewhere before that

1268
01:01:37,080 --> 01:01:41,250
happened, and I can't
give you the sequence.

1269
01:01:41,250 --> 01:01:43,080
When the numbness
started to wear off,

1270
01:01:43,080 --> 01:01:46,380
the strangest thing happened.

1271
01:01:46,380 --> 01:01:54,760
I began to feel
unspeakableness, rage.

1272
01:01:54,760 --> 01:02:01,300

1273
01:02:01,300 --> 01:02:04,510
Something that I had never
felt before in my life,

1274
01:02:04,510 --> 01:02:05,890
not to that degree.

1275
01:02:05,890 --> 01:02:07,410
Oh, I'd been angry, sure.

1276

01:02:07,410 --> 01:02:09,220
We all get angry.

1277
01:02:09,220 --> 01:02:12,610
And I used to fight
with my parents.

1278
01:02:12,610 --> 01:02:16,300
But not this, this was rage.

1279
01:02:16,300 --> 01:02:18,090
It scared me.

1280
01:02:18,090 --> 01:02:20,570
I could've killed.

1281
01:02:20,570 --> 01:02:28,630
I became overwhelmed with
fantasies of revenge.

1282
01:02:28,630 --> 01:02:35,200

1283
01:02:35,200 --> 01:02:38,760
I imagined all kinds
of things like--

1284
01:02:38,760 --> 01:02:40,180
and maybe this did happen.

1285
01:02:40,180 --> 01:02:40,855
I don't know.

1286
01:02:40,855 --> 01:02:42,661
Maybe you know.

1287
01:02:42,661 --> 01:02:45,970
I imagined finding an SS
guard and throwing him

1288
01:02:45,970 --> 01:02:49,550
into the compound, the

prisoners compound,

1289

01:02:49,550 --> 01:02:52,720
and letting them tear him apart.

1290

01:02:52,720 --> 01:02:54,490
Maybe that happened.

1291

01:02:54,490 --> 01:02:57,160
Part of me says, I
heard that happened.

1292

01:02:57,160 --> 01:02:59,980
Did I hear screams of
that really happening?

1293

01:02:59,980 --> 01:03:01,250
And yet, maybe I made that up.

1294

01:03:01,250 --> 01:03:04,750
I don't know, because I
could have easily made it up.

1295

01:03:04,750 --> 01:03:07,210
Because I was so angry.

1296

01:03:07,210 --> 01:03:11,050
And it was-- what was scary
about it was it was not

1297

01:03:11,050 --> 01:03:14,125
a nice, hot, fiery anger.

1298

01:03:14,125 --> 01:03:15,550
It was a cold rage.

1299

01:03:15,550 --> 01:03:20,630

1300

01:03:20,630 --> 01:03:28,045
That's the worst part of it,
a cold rage, a murderous rage.

1301
01:03:28,045 --> 01:03:29,620
And that's not fun.

1302
01:03:29,620 --> 01:03:31,900
That's not funny.

1303
01:03:31,900 --> 01:03:35,680
To begin imagining
all kinds of things,

1304
01:03:35,680 --> 01:03:41,967
torturing Germans, guards,
SS guards, SS guard--

1305
01:03:41,967 --> 01:03:44,175
the Germans civilians I
didn't have anything against.

1306
01:03:44,175 --> 01:03:47,040
It was the guards.

1307
01:03:47,040 --> 01:03:49,380
Even the soldiers, I
think they were just

1308
01:03:49,380 --> 01:03:52,140
like us doing what
they had to do.

1309
01:03:52,140 --> 01:03:54,250
[BLOWS NOSE] [INAUDIBLE].

1310
01:03:54,250 --> 01:03:56,070
For some reason,
I got in my mind

1311
01:03:56,070 --> 01:04:01,280
that the SS, the Gestapo,
they were the perpetrators

1312
01:04:01,280 --> 01:04:03,380

of all of this.

1313
01:04:03,380 --> 01:04:05,650
Yet, I never even saw one
in person, I don't think.

1314
01:04:05,650 --> 01:04:08,600

1315
01:04:08,600 --> 01:04:11,720
And this went on for
a number of days.

1316
01:04:11,720 --> 01:04:14,770

1317
01:04:14,770 --> 01:04:18,040
Somewhere in there I sat down
to write a letter to my parents.

1318
01:04:18,040 --> 01:04:21,510

1319
01:04:21,510 --> 01:04:24,146
I don't think I could at first.

1320
01:04:24,146 --> 01:04:30,870
But I know I wrote to
Doris and told her, OK.

1321
01:04:30,870 --> 01:04:31,470
You're right.

1322
01:04:31,470 --> 01:04:37,150

1323
01:04:37,150 --> 01:04:38,030
I was a dumb kid.

1324
01:04:38,030 --> 01:04:43,750

1325

01:04:43,750 --> 01:04:44,560

And I don't know.

1326

01:04:44,560 --> 01:04:48,520

1327

01:04:48,520 --> 01:04:51,200

This is what I'm feeling, I
guess, I must have told her.

1328

01:04:51,200 --> 01:04:52,792

I don't know how much I put--

1329

01:04:52,792 --> 01:04:55,000

I don't know how much I
could put into words of that.

1330

01:04:55,000 --> 01:04:58,120

But I did tell her, I
remember saying this to her,

1331

01:04:58,120 --> 01:05:01,270

I'm not sure what I'll
be like when I come back.

1332

01:05:01,270 --> 01:05:05,310

1333

01:05:05,310 --> 01:05:09,370

Her response caught up
with me in six weeks,

1334

01:05:09,370 --> 01:05:11,932

and that was most unusual.

1335

01:05:11,932 --> 01:05:14,140

Usually it took months for
mail to catch up with her.

1336

01:05:14,140 --> 01:05:17,550

Somehow my letter got to
her, and it got back to me,

1337
01:05:17,550 --> 01:05:20,310
her response came back to
me within about six weeks.

1338
01:05:20,310 --> 01:05:21,080
That's amazing.

1339
01:05:21,080 --> 01:05:25,980

1340
01:05:25,980 --> 01:05:32,620
She was graduating from high
school, May or June 1945

1341
01:05:32,620 --> 01:05:35,200
in Philadelphia.

1342
01:05:35,200 --> 01:05:37,584
Her letter was tears stained.

1343
01:05:37,584 --> 01:05:47,130
[BLOWS NOSE] She tried to write
a little poem in the letter,

1344
01:05:47,130 --> 01:05:50,460
something about her dog
was sitting by her side.

1345
01:05:50,460 --> 01:05:55,740
He smells like he's
been in formaldehyde.

1346
01:05:55,740 --> 01:05:58,140
And then she said,
I'm glad you now

1347
01:05:58,140 --> 01:06:00,600
see the world for what
it is or what it can be.

1348
01:06:00,600 --> 01:06:03,870

I guess that's the way she
put it, the way it can be.

1349
01:06:03,870 --> 01:06:06,840
I'm terribly sorry
that you found out

1350
01:06:06,840 --> 01:06:09,330
in a way which you did.

1351
01:06:09,330 --> 01:06:11,850
I guess, my rage must've
gotten through to her,

1352
01:06:11,850 --> 01:06:19,585
because she said something
about I want you to come home.

1353
01:06:19,585 --> 01:06:20,960
I can't wait till
you do, but I'm

1354
01:06:20,960 --> 01:06:22,900
going to be a little bit afraid.

1355
01:06:22,900 --> 01:06:24,610
I thought, afraid?

1356
01:06:24,610 --> 01:06:25,400
Of me?

1357
01:06:25,400 --> 01:06:33,933

1358
01:06:33,933 --> 01:06:35,600
All I could think
was, maybe I've turned

1359
01:06:35,600 --> 01:06:36,890
into some kind of a monster.

1360
01:06:36,890 --> 01:06:40,030

1361
01:06:40,030 --> 01:06:43,660
Somewhere I thought, the
whole world's gone crazy.

1362
01:06:43,660 --> 01:06:45,520
And maybe I'm going
crazy with it.

1363
01:06:45,520 --> 01:06:52,390

1364
01:06:52,390 --> 01:06:54,293
I don't know when I
wrote that letter.

1365
01:06:54,293 --> 01:06:55,710
I've never seen
that letter since.

1366
01:06:55,710 --> 01:06:58,220

1367
01:06:58,220 --> 01:07:00,320
I never saw it.

1368
01:07:00,320 --> 01:07:04,520
I just knew, when I got home,
that she, obviously, had it.

1369
01:07:04,520 --> 01:07:07,030

1370
01:07:07,030 --> 01:07:08,890
But I'm getting ahead
of my story, I guess.

1371
01:07:08,890 --> 01:07:11,570

1372
01:07:11,570 --> 01:07:13,820

I wrote, at some point
in there, to my parents.

1373

01:07:13,820 --> 01:07:19,400
And that's the letter that you
now will have in the archives.

1374

01:07:19,400 --> 01:07:24,360
There's nothing of this anger
in the letter to my parents.

1375

01:07:24,360 --> 01:07:27,420
And I wonder why,
all these years?

1376

01:07:27,420 --> 01:07:30,360
All I could think
is, number one,

1377

01:07:30,360 --> 01:07:33,100
I didn't want to frighten them.

1378

01:07:33,100 --> 01:07:38,370
Number two, if I started to tell
them about my anger, my rage,

1379

01:07:38,370 --> 01:07:41,160
I'd have to also tell
them about another anger.

1380

01:07:41,160 --> 01:07:45,600
Not a rage, but an
anger, anger at them,

1381

01:07:45,600 --> 01:07:52,777
those kind, gentle Quakers
who somehow let me down.

1382

01:07:52,777 --> 01:07:53,610
They didn't tell me.

1383

01:07:53,610 --> 01:07:56,812
They didn't prepare me for this.

1384
01:07:56,812 --> 01:07:58,520
I can't accuse them
of setting me up, no,

1385
01:07:58,520 --> 01:07:59,438
but they let me down.

1386
01:07:59,438 --> 01:08:01,105
I really felt that
they had let me down.

1387
01:08:01,105 --> 01:08:04,570
They had betrayed
me, whereas Doris

1388
01:08:04,570 --> 01:08:07,840
had been trying all those
years in those discussions

1389
01:08:07,840 --> 01:08:11,910
in Philadelphia to prepare me.

1390
01:08:11,910 --> 01:08:12,790
She did her best.

1391
01:08:12,790 --> 01:08:15,650

1392
01:08:15,650 --> 01:08:17,899
So I didn't, all I did in
my letter to my parents,

1393
01:08:17,899 --> 01:08:21,200
and as you'll see,
it's quite evident.

1394
01:08:21,200 --> 01:08:24,580
I intellectualize.

1395
01:08:24,580 --> 01:08:28,520
I try to explain to myself how

these camps could have existed,

1396

01:08:28,520 --> 01:08:31,130
how the German civilians could
have allowed them to exist.

1397

01:08:31,130 --> 01:08:33,854
Because they knew
they were there.

1398

01:08:33,854 --> 01:08:35,479
In fact, I can remember
talking to some

1399

01:08:35,479 --> 01:08:38,479
of the Germans, the Bavarians.

1400

01:08:38,479 --> 01:08:41,510
We'd go out when we had a
chance and talk to some of them,

1401

01:08:41,510 --> 01:08:43,088
ask them about the camps.

1402

01:08:43,088 --> 01:08:44,630
And at first, they
wouldn't admit it.

1403

01:08:44,630 --> 01:08:46,580
But they knew they were there.

1404

01:08:46,580 --> 01:08:49,520
But they were farmers
with their pitchforks.

1405

01:08:49,520 --> 01:08:52,340

1406

01:08:52,340 --> 01:08:55,229
And I'm sure they were
terrified, at least some

1407

01:08:55,229 --> 01:08:57,797
of them must have been.

1408
01:08:57,797 --> 01:08:59,880
So I didn't say anything
about that to my parents.

1409
01:08:59,880 --> 01:09:03,540
I just talked about, well,
this is what I think happened,

1410
01:09:03,540 --> 01:09:06,540
and why the camps
existed, and so forth.

1411
01:09:06,540 --> 01:09:09,359
I never did tell
them about my rage.

1412
01:09:09,359 --> 01:09:11,850
So you won't get
that in that letter.

1413
01:09:11,850 --> 01:09:15,130
Only Doris got that.

1414
01:09:15,130 --> 01:09:20,721
But you have it in the
Oberlin College notes.

1415
01:09:20,721 --> 01:09:22,029
And you have it here.

1416
01:09:22,029 --> 01:09:25,010

1417
01:09:25,010 --> 01:09:26,930
We only stayed
there about a week.

1418
01:09:26,930 --> 01:09:29,470
I can remember going
into the barracks.

1419
01:09:29,470 --> 01:09:36,160
That was-- the people
standing there staring at us,

1420
01:09:36,160 --> 01:09:42,609
eyes deep in their sockets,
in those striped uniforms,

1421
01:09:42,609 --> 01:09:46,970
staring at us, hardly
able to stand up,

1422
01:09:46,970 --> 01:09:50,649
the urine running
down the bedpost,

1423
01:09:50,649 --> 01:09:54,690
lying in their own excrement.

1424
01:09:54,690 --> 01:09:58,260
And what do you do with the
DDT spray in that situation?

1425
01:09:58,260 --> 01:09:59,400
They're infested with lice.

1426
01:09:59,400 --> 01:10:02,550

1427
01:10:02,550 --> 01:10:06,670
30,000 people or something
like, that 28,000,

1428
01:10:06,670 --> 01:10:09,300
and you couldn't even feed
them, because they couldn't eat.

1429
01:10:09,300 --> 01:10:12,870
They couldn't take solid food.

1430
01:10:12,870 --> 01:10:14,400

And you couldn't let them out.

1431

01:10:14,400 --> 01:10:16,080

Because where are
they going to go?

1432

01:10:16,080 --> 01:10:18,750

So they kept them in
the prison compounds.

1433

01:10:18,750 --> 01:10:21,300

Even that didn't seem right.

1434

01:10:21,300 --> 01:10:23,950

They keep them locked up, even
though they were liberated.

1435

01:10:23,950 --> 01:10:24,450

Ho, ho.

1436

01:10:24,450 --> 01:10:28,500

1437

01:10:28,500 --> 01:10:32,160

Yeah, liberated.

1438

01:10:32,160 --> 01:10:33,690

I don't think the
Army really knew

1439

01:10:33,690 --> 01:10:39,525

the immensity of the problem.

1440

01:10:39,525 --> 01:10:42,420

When they realized
what was going on,

1441

01:10:42,420 --> 01:10:47,260

they knew that we were not
big enough to handle it.

1442

01:10:47,260 --> 01:10:50,550

So at the end of, I don't
know, five, six days,

1443
01:10:50,550 --> 01:10:52,740
we were given orders to leave.

1444
01:10:52,740 --> 01:10:55,120
And two general hospitals, I
remember as we were leaving,

1445
01:10:55,120 --> 01:10:57,480
two general hospitals
were moving in,

1446
01:10:57,480 --> 01:11:00,780
maybe 1,000 personnel
each, to take over.

1447
01:11:00,780 --> 01:11:03,310
And I'm sure others
had to follow.

1448
01:11:03,310 --> 01:11:08,876
Because what do you
do with 30,000 people?

1449
01:11:08,876 --> 01:11:17,180
[BLOWS NOSE]

1450
01:11:17,180 --> 01:11:20,730
I think one of the worst things
too, before leaving Dachau,

1451
01:11:20,730 --> 01:11:26,530
was this one building.

1452
01:11:26,530 --> 01:11:30,050
It was a warehouse of bodies.

1453
01:11:30,050 --> 01:11:31,390
They weren't even outside.

1454

01:11:31,390 --> 01:11:35,738
They were inside, and
walking into that building,

1455
01:11:35,738 --> 01:11:37,030
turning around and throwing up.

1456
01:11:37,030 --> 01:11:44,470

1457
01:11:44,470 --> 01:11:45,958
I can't believe it.

1458
01:11:45,958 --> 01:11:50,422

1459
01:11:50,422 --> 01:11:55,790
So we left Dachau.

1460
01:11:55,790 --> 01:11:58,595
I don't know, must have
been 8 or 9 of May.

1461
01:11:58,595 --> 01:12:01,720

1462
01:12:01,720 --> 01:12:04,070
We went into a--

1463
01:12:04,070 --> 01:12:08,068
oh, this is another
great episode.

1464
01:12:08,068 --> 01:12:11,650
Well, let's stop
here for the moment.

1465
01:12:11,650 --> 01:12:12,456