

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,540

2

00:00:04,540 --> 00:00:07,180

This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3

00:00:07,180 --> 00:00:09,700

Memorial Museum volunteer
collection interview

4

00:00:09,700 --> 00:00:11,590

with Dr. Samuel Hagner.

5

00:00:11,590 --> 00:00:16,990

This is tape number two
side A. And we were talking

6

00:00:16,990 --> 00:00:19,090

about your experience and how--

7

00:00:19,090 --> 00:00:22,000

8

00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:23,740

just to back up
a little bit, you

9

00:00:23,740 --> 00:00:26,860

were not given any
preparation or any--

10

00:00:26,860 --> 00:00:29,020

you had no knowledge
ahead of time.

11

00:00:29,020 --> 00:00:31,990

Your leaders did not
tell you anything.

12

00:00:31,990 --> 00:00:37,150

So when you first walked in,
were there any precautions

13
00:00:37,150 --> 00:00:38,470
that they told you to take?

14
00:00:38,470 --> 00:00:41,410
Did they give you
any helpful advice?

15
00:00:41,410 --> 00:00:46,330
What was that when you
walked in as a group?

16
00:00:46,330 --> 00:00:49,990
Did they give you
any instruction?

17
00:00:49,990 --> 00:00:52,300
I don't remember any
specific instructions

18
00:00:52,300 --> 00:00:56,410
except now you're juggling
something in my memory

19
00:00:56,410 --> 00:00:59,482
or jogging something.

20
00:00:59,482 --> 00:01:01,440
Could it have been that
we were told not to get

21
00:01:01,440 --> 00:01:04,780
too close to the prisoners?

22
00:01:04,780 --> 00:01:07,180
That rings a bell.

23
00:01:07,180 --> 00:01:10,330
And I wonder why.

24

00:01:10,330 --> 00:01:15,290
Whether they ever thought that
we might pick up a disease.

25
00:01:15,290 --> 00:01:16,260
I don't know.

26
00:01:16,260 --> 00:01:20,200
But there is something
now that you're touching,

27
00:01:20,200 --> 00:01:21,520
not to get too close to them.

28
00:01:21,520 --> 00:01:28,220

29
00:01:28,220 --> 00:01:33,400
Were you wearing any
protective uniform or clothing?

30
00:01:33,400 --> 00:01:34,440
No.

31
00:01:34,440 --> 00:01:36,550
No.

32
00:01:36,550 --> 00:01:40,290
I don't even remember having
gloves, rubber gloves.

33
00:01:40,290 --> 00:01:44,160
And we didn't have any
special uniform, no.

34
00:01:44,160 --> 00:01:48,020
No, I wasn't part of the
typhus inoculation team.

35
00:01:48,020 --> 00:01:49,318
Now maybe they did have gloves.

36

00:01:49,318 --> 00:01:49,860
I don't know.

37
00:01:49,860 --> 00:01:50,985
They must have been using--

38
00:01:50,985 --> 00:01:53,670
I hope they're using
sterile equipment.

39
00:01:53,670 --> 00:01:57,120
But no, we were
the DDT spray team

40
00:01:57,120 --> 00:02:02,190
and we didn't have any
special clothing or garments.

41
00:02:02,190 --> 00:02:03,780
I don't recall
being told anything

42
00:02:03,780 --> 00:02:07,140
else other than that
we couldn't feed them,

43
00:02:07,140 --> 00:02:09,580
that that had to be
done by somebody else.

44
00:02:09,580 --> 00:02:12,660
And that we couldn't
feed them regular food.

45
00:02:12,660 --> 00:02:14,145
That I can remember.

46
00:02:14,145 --> 00:02:15,895
But that wouldn't have
been my job anyway.

47
00:02:15,895 --> 00:02:19,670

48
00:02:19,670 --> 00:02:22,370
No.

49
00:02:22,370 --> 00:02:26,745
I think the fact that
we weren't warned

50
00:02:26,745 --> 00:02:31,200
as to we were coming into,
I don't think they knew.

51
00:02:31,200 --> 00:02:34,140
Maybe they did and just
weren't telling us.

52
00:02:34,140 --> 00:02:37,080
But I don't think my particular,
I don't think the officers

53
00:02:37,080 --> 00:02:38,670
in my unit knew.

54
00:02:38,670 --> 00:02:41,040
I think they were in the
dark just as much as--

55
00:02:41,040 --> 00:02:44,130
the maybe the seventh army knew,
but they weren't telling us.

56
00:02:44,130 --> 00:02:47,420
But I can't think
of anything else.

57
00:02:47,420 --> 00:02:51,710
As I said, we were
housed only in the camp.

58
00:02:51,710 --> 00:02:52,940
I'm not quite sure where.

59

00:02:52,940 --> 00:02:55,850

All I remember are
these sweeping,

60

00:02:55,850 --> 00:02:58,700

sweeping out barracks,
empty barracks

61

00:02:58,700 --> 00:03:02,156

and then moving into them.

62

00:03:02,156 --> 00:03:03,665

That's all I can remember.

63

00:03:03,665 --> 00:03:06,540

64

00:03:06,540 --> 00:03:10,460

I don't I don't
remember where we ate.

65

00:03:10,460 --> 00:03:13,800

Must have set up a
vessel somewhere.

66

00:03:13,800 --> 00:03:17,850

67

00:03:17,850 --> 00:03:19,500

That's all I remember.

68

00:03:19,500 --> 00:03:24,540

I think so much of that has been
wiped out by the memories that

69

00:03:24,540 --> 00:03:25,380

have persisted.

70

00:03:25,380 --> 00:03:28,030

71

00:03:28,030 --> 00:03:31,600

Speaking about where you
ate, what is it like?

72
00:03:31,600 --> 00:03:33,370
I can't even remember
taking a bath

73
00:03:33,370 --> 00:03:36,130
or how we washed or
brushed our teeth.

74
00:03:36,130 --> 00:03:39,220
Probably didn't.

75
00:03:39,220 --> 00:03:45,130
Do you remember what it was like
for a 19-year-old to eat food

76
00:03:45,130 --> 00:03:47,800
after seeing people--

77
00:03:47,800 --> 00:03:51,550
what was it like for a
19-year-old young man to sit

78
00:03:51,550 --> 00:03:55,720
down and eat food after
seeing people whose--

79
00:03:55,720 --> 00:03:56,750
how do you do that?

80
00:03:56,750 --> 00:03:57,920
How does one do that?

81
00:03:57,920 --> 00:03:59,530
You don't do that.

82
00:03:59,530 --> 00:04:02,440
We could hardly.

83
00:04:02,440 --> 00:04:04,616

I don't think we
ate much at all.

84
00:04:04,616 --> 00:04:06,910
It was terrible.

85
00:04:06,910 --> 00:04:10,680
No, there was no appetite.

86
00:04:10,680 --> 00:04:13,770
Couldn't sleep
either, as I recall.

87
00:04:13,770 --> 00:04:19,290
The whole thing seemed like a
dream, like just a dumb dream.

88
00:04:19,290 --> 00:04:22,960
Just walking around and looking
at this thing and being told,

89
00:04:22,960 --> 00:04:25,050
hey, go do this, go do that.

90
00:04:25,050 --> 00:04:26,280
And then that rage.

91
00:04:26,280 --> 00:04:31,640
But there's so few visual
memories of that anymore.

92
00:04:31,640 --> 00:04:34,840
Is that common?

93
00:04:34,840 --> 00:04:35,770
I remember the ovens.

94
00:04:35,770 --> 00:04:38,207

95
00:04:38,207 --> 00:04:39,540
Did you know what they were for?

96
00:04:39,540 --> 00:04:40,200
Oh, yes.

97
00:04:40,200 --> 00:04:40,830
Yes.

98
00:04:40,830 --> 00:04:41,640
How did you know?

99
00:04:41,640 --> 00:04:48,090
We saw the gas, gas chambers
too while they were still warm.

100
00:04:48,090 --> 00:04:49,320
The ovens were still warm.

101
00:04:49,320 --> 00:04:52,890
And the gas chambers are
obviously gas chambers.

102
00:04:52,890 --> 00:04:54,772
What else would
they have been for?

103
00:04:54,772 --> 00:04:56,355
They're supposed to
look like showers.

104
00:04:56,355 --> 00:05:00,300

105
00:05:00,300 --> 00:05:02,730
To this day, I
don't know if that's

106
00:05:02,730 --> 00:05:04,410
my own imagination or what.

107
00:05:04,410 --> 00:05:06,300
But somehow, something
sticks in my mind

108
00:05:06,300 --> 00:05:08,580
about where they're
hot air ducts running

109
00:05:08,580 --> 00:05:12,630
from the crematory ovens to
the German soldiers' barracks.

110
00:05:12,630 --> 00:05:13,840
Maybe I'm making that up.

111
00:05:13,840 --> 00:05:15,040
I don't know.

112
00:05:15,040 --> 00:05:17,160
But I would think somebody
could verify that.

113
00:05:17,160 --> 00:05:19,290
And I'd like to know.

114
00:05:19,290 --> 00:05:21,360
It's one thing you
might do for me.

115
00:05:21,360 --> 00:05:24,580
See if you could find out
whether that was true or not.

116
00:05:24,580 --> 00:05:26,460
And I just didn't make it up.

117
00:05:26,460 --> 00:05:29,050
To warm the barracks?

118
00:05:29,050 --> 00:05:30,895
Yes, to warm the barracks.

119
00:05:30,895 --> 00:05:31,395
Exactly.

120

00:05:31,395 --> 00:05:41,100

121

00:05:41,100 --> 00:05:45,660

Were you able to talk
to any of the survivors?

122

00:05:45,660 --> 00:05:46,710

No.

123

00:05:46,710 --> 00:05:47,860

No.

124

00:05:47,860 --> 00:05:51,140

We were not able to.

125

00:05:51,140 --> 00:05:53,900

I think that was part of
the soldier, do your job,

126

00:05:53,900 --> 00:05:57,170

and just don't get too close
to them, and just keep moving.

127

00:05:57,170 --> 00:06:02,600

So somehow that's my impression
that we were just told to do it

128

00:06:02,600 --> 00:06:09,230

and that was not our
job to talk to them.

129

00:06:09,230 --> 00:06:13,430

So what were your
specific duties?

130

00:06:13,430 --> 00:06:15,920

We were there, as I
say, my specific duty

131

00:06:15,920 --> 00:06:18,770

was to be part of

a DDT spray team

132
00:06:18,770 --> 00:06:23,840
and to go into the barracks
and spray these prisoners.

133
00:06:23,840 --> 00:06:27,200
There was another group that
formed the typhus inoculation

134
00:06:27,200 --> 00:06:29,150
team.

135
00:06:29,150 --> 00:06:31,910
I was not part of that.

136
00:06:31,910 --> 00:06:36,470
I don't even remember much
about how many we sprayed.

137
00:06:36,470 --> 00:06:40,160
What do you do
with 30,000 people?

138
00:06:40,160 --> 00:06:43,266
30,000 people.

139
00:06:43,266 --> 00:06:46,210
I don't think we even
got through a tenth

140
00:06:46,210 --> 00:06:47,380
of the barracks.

141
00:06:47,380 --> 00:06:48,730
I don't know.

142
00:06:48,730 --> 00:06:49,720
I don't know.

143
00:06:49,720 --> 00:06:51,760
I think somewhere what

must have happened,

144

00:06:51,760 --> 00:06:56,800

the army realized, finally,
it's great insight--

145

00:06:56,800 --> 00:07:00,860

if you hear in there
some bitterness in there,

146

00:07:00,860 --> 00:07:02,150

you're right.

147

00:07:02,150 --> 00:07:08,000

I never completely admire
the army for its expertise.

148

00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:11,300

As parenthetical
comment, we often

149

00:07:11,300 --> 00:07:14,030

used to say that we won the war
not because we were smarter.

150

00:07:14,030 --> 00:07:17,400

But because we had more
money and more supplies.

151

00:07:17,400 --> 00:07:20,840

152

00:07:20,840 --> 00:07:23,330

Back to Dachau.

153

00:07:23,330 --> 00:07:28,100

So you would go into a
barrack with a DDT spray gun

154

00:07:28,100 --> 00:07:29,550

type of thing?

155

00:07:29,550 --> 00:07:32,480
It wasn't very sophisticated.

156
00:07:32,480 --> 00:07:34,670
Just a spray gun.

157
00:07:34,670 --> 00:07:36,170
I can't tell you
any more than that,

158
00:07:36,170 --> 00:07:39,010
because it's a little
black after that.

159
00:07:39,010 --> 00:07:42,370
And would you wear
anything special yourself?

160
00:07:42,370 --> 00:07:42,910
No.

161
00:07:42,910 --> 00:07:45,580
You would be
breathing in the DDT?

162
00:07:45,580 --> 00:07:50,490
Yeah, we didn't wear
any masks that I recall.

163
00:07:50,490 --> 00:07:52,030
I could be wrong about that.

164
00:07:52,030 --> 00:07:53,760
I don't know.

165
00:07:53,760 --> 00:07:56,220
What I remember is
doing that and I just

166
00:07:56,220 --> 00:07:59,040
see these people in the bunks.

167

00:07:59,040 --> 00:08:03,510
And as I said, the stuff
going down the bed posts.

168
00:08:03,510 --> 00:08:06,220

169
00:08:06,220 --> 00:08:09,370
Two and three in a bunk.

170
00:08:09,370 --> 00:08:12,300
They were so weak, they couldn't
even get out of the bunks.

171
00:08:12,300 --> 00:08:15,490

172
00:08:15,490 --> 00:08:18,640
And I think that is just so
overwhelming that I hardly

173
00:08:18,640 --> 00:08:20,530
remember anything else.

174
00:08:20,530 --> 00:08:24,460

175
00:08:24,460 --> 00:08:26,640
And you before this
experience, had you ever

176
00:08:26,640 --> 00:08:29,840
seen a dead body before?

177
00:08:29,840 --> 00:08:32,574
No.

178
00:08:32,574 --> 00:08:33,074
No.

179
00:08:33,074 --> 00:08:37,770

180
00:08:37,770 --> 00:08:45,600
Maybe I did somewhere on
the way to Dachau as I saw--

181
00:08:45,600 --> 00:08:50,140
someplace I saw an
American soldier's body.

182
00:08:50,140 --> 00:08:51,505
Must have been in a morgue.

183
00:08:51,505 --> 00:08:53,570
It was set up in a tent.

184
00:08:53,570 --> 00:08:55,820
I remember that
being, hey, that's

185
00:08:55,820 --> 00:08:57,890
the first dead body
I've ever seen.

186
00:08:57,890 --> 00:09:05,040
Because I come from a family of
long, long livers, long lived,

187
00:09:05,040 --> 00:09:06,540
I should say.

188
00:09:06,540 --> 00:09:09,292
And my grandparents
were still alive.

189
00:09:09,292 --> 00:09:11,250
I had a great grandmother
still alive, I think,

190
00:09:11,250 --> 00:09:13,290
when I went to service.

191
00:09:13,290 --> 00:09:18,730

No, I had never seen
a corpse before.

192
00:09:18,730 --> 00:09:21,947

193
00:09:21,947 --> 00:09:23,780
I wish I could tell you
more of the details.

194
00:09:23,780 --> 00:09:26,140
But it was all
blotted out, I think,

195
00:09:26,140 --> 00:09:28,480
by just these two overwhelming.

196
00:09:28,480 --> 00:09:35,560
One, the visual and the other
the internal, emotional.

197
00:09:35,560 --> 00:09:40,680
That just took over.

198
00:09:40,680 --> 00:09:48,060
Did you in your group talk over
what you were all experiencing?

199
00:09:48,060 --> 00:09:51,660
I'm sure we did.

200
00:09:51,660 --> 00:09:57,390
I'm sure we did, we
talked amongst ourselves.

201
00:09:57,390 --> 00:09:59,820
I don't remember
anything specific.

202
00:09:59,820 --> 00:10:06,440
I do remember all of us just
walking around gazed, dazed.

203

00:10:06,440 --> 00:10:11,680

204

00:10:11,680 --> 00:10:14,540

But I can't remember any
specific conversations.

205

00:10:14,540 --> 00:10:16,930

I don't even remember
sitting down and writing

206

00:10:16,930 --> 00:10:20,260

those two letters, one to Doris
and the other to my parents.

207

00:10:20,260 --> 00:10:23,520

208

00:10:23,520 --> 00:10:25,290

And actually, now
that I think about it,

209

00:10:25,290 --> 00:10:28,170

I may not have written
the letter to my parents

210

00:10:28,170 --> 00:10:29,490

from Dachau itself.

211

00:10:29,490 --> 00:10:31,540

It must have Been when had left.

212

00:10:31,540 --> 00:10:34,290

That would make sense now
that I think about it.

213

00:10:34,290 --> 00:10:36,720

We went in on the
1st or 2nd of May.

214

00:10:36,720 --> 00:10:38,370

And I dated that May 11th.

215

00:10:38,370 --> 00:10:39,742

We were there a week.

216

00:10:39,742 --> 00:10:43,540

We must have already left
Dachau when I wrote that letter.

217

00:10:43,540 --> 00:10:47,190

So correct my note,
my comment on that.

218

00:10:47,190 --> 00:10:52,100

But the one Doris, I think
I wrote for the camp.

219

00:10:52,100 --> 00:10:55,850

What do you think kept
you going during that week

220

00:10:55,850 --> 00:10:56,740

that you were there?

221

00:10:56,740 --> 00:11:01,663

222

00:11:01,663 --> 00:11:02,955

I didn't have very much choice.

223

00:11:02,955 --> 00:11:05,530

224

00:11:05,530 --> 00:11:06,370

I was there.

225

00:11:06,370 --> 00:11:11,217

I was under military order,
under military control.

226

00:11:11,217 --> 00:11:12,175

I didn't have a choice.

227

00:11:12,175 --> 00:11:18,670

228

00:11:18,670 --> 00:11:22,390

If I were to imagine if I hadn't
been under military order,

229

00:11:22,390 --> 00:11:23,470

would I run away?

230

00:11:23,470 --> 00:11:24,360

I don't know.

231

00:11:24,360 --> 00:11:33,072

232

00:11:33,072 --> 00:11:35,880

Interesting questions.

233

00:11:35,880 --> 00:11:39,030

What did keep us going, or what
did kept me going, you ask.

234

00:11:39,030 --> 00:11:44,440

235

00:11:44,440 --> 00:11:46,020

I think there was a--

236

00:11:46,020 --> 00:11:49,090

it's funny to say-- but there
was some kind of a dedication

237

00:11:49,090 --> 00:11:50,750

too.

238

00:11:50,750 --> 00:11:53,890

Dedication to duty, whatever.

239

00:11:53,890 --> 00:11:56,361

And that was part of

the duty, wasn't it?

240

00:11:56,361 --> 00:12:00,510

241

00:12:00,510 --> 00:12:02,850

In some respects, I
think I felt that I was

242

00:12:02,850 --> 00:12:05,997
even I feel this sometimes now.

243

00:12:05,997 --> 00:12:07,330
And I'm a very emotional person.

244

00:12:07,330 --> 00:12:11,990
But I think I also
felt that I always

245

00:12:11,990 --> 00:12:18,430
had a certain wellspring of
strength on what's to draw.

246

00:12:18,430 --> 00:12:25,660
Like that like walking guard
that even I was petrified.

247

00:12:25,660 --> 00:12:30,960
I still felt I could handle it,
I suppose, in some funny way.

248

00:12:30,960 --> 00:12:41,040

249

00:12:41,040 --> 00:12:43,950
And maybe thinking
back, way, way back

250

00:12:43,950 --> 00:12:47,510
to what I first decided to
take the stand in the army,

251

00:12:47,510 --> 00:12:51,420
even though part of
it frightened me--

252
00:12:51,420 --> 00:12:54,150
frightened anybody,
of course-- but I

253
00:12:54,150 --> 00:13:00,920
think something said to me,
you could handle it, I think.

254
00:13:00,920 --> 00:13:03,686

255
00:13:03,686 --> 00:13:06,000
I don't know.

256
00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:09,360
Did you have any thoughts
about your philosophy

257
00:13:09,360 --> 00:13:11,880
of being a conscientious
objector when you were standing

258
00:13:11,880 --> 00:13:13,060
in the middle of Dachau?

259
00:13:13,060 --> 00:13:14,140
Oh, yes.

260
00:13:14,140 --> 00:13:16,410
Oh, yes.

261
00:13:16,410 --> 00:13:19,470
I didn't waiver before
with the good captain

262
00:13:19,470 --> 00:13:21,610
who want to be the
walk guard by the gun.

263

00:13:21,610 --> 00:13:24,190

I didn't waver then,
though I was scared.

264

00:13:24,190 --> 00:13:29,310

But I sure wavered at Dachau.

265

00:13:29,310 --> 00:13:31,680

Because that unspeakable
rage, I thought,

266

00:13:31,680 --> 00:13:34,860

my Lord, if I could
feel like I could

267

00:13:34,860 --> 00:13:38,684

kill right now,
because I'm so angry

268

00:13:38,684 --> 00:13:42,540

and this rage is so
murderous, what does this

269

00:13:42,540 --> 00:13:43,995

say for your pacifism, buddy?

270

00:13:43,995 --> 00:13:46,750

271

00:13:46,750 --> 00:13:49,660

Big joke.

272

00:13:49,660 --> 00:13:51,990

Big joke.

273

00:13:51,990 --> 00:13:59,420

And there it started, a
conflict that has never ended.

274

00:13:59,420 --> 00:14:01,990

275

00:14:01,990 --> 00:14:07,190

I couldn't solve it in my later,
my own personal psychoanalysis.

276

00:14:07,190 --> 00:14:12,500

I make a comment to the
group at Oakland in 1995,

277

00:14:12,500 --> 00:14:17,610

this will probably never be
resolved to my satisfaction.

278

00:14:17,610 --> 00:14:22,020

Because on the other hand, I
still abhor war all the more,

279

00:14:22,020 --> 00:14:24,300

I suppose.

280

00:14:24,300 --> 00:14:31,770

But yet, it's down to
the personal level.

281

00:14:31,770 --> 00:14:40,160

There I was entertaining all
kinds of fantasies of revenge,

282

00:14:40,160 --> 00:14:43,550

fantasies that scared
me, terrified me.

283

00:14:43,550 --> 00:14:46,360

That's why I thought I was
going crazy for a while

284

00:14:46,360 --> 00:14:48,280

there, like everybody else.

285

00:14:48,280 --> 00:14:54,320

286

00:14:54,320 --> 00:14:55,700

It's funny you mention that.

287

00:14:55,700 --> 00:15:00,410

But on the way down here, I
told you on Wednesday night,

288

00:15:00,410 --> 00:15:04,400

I spent the night with
a fellow who had served

289

00:15:04,400 --> 00:15:06,560

in the same unit with me.

290

00:15:06,560 --> 00:15:08,630

On Tuesday night,
I spent the night

291

00:15:08,630 --> 00:15:12,300

with a former medical
school classmate.

292

00:15:12,300 --> 00:15:13,770

I hadn't seen him in 30 years.

293

00:15:13,770 --> 00:15:16,420

294

00:15:16,420 --> 00:15:20,370

He was a conscientious
objector also.

295

00:15:20,370 --> 00:15:22,960

But that's long before I
knew him in medical school,

296

00:15:22,960 --> 00:15:25,500

of course.

297

00:15:25,500 --> 00:15:27,090

He refused to register.

298

00:15:27,090 --> 00:15:29,360

He went to jail.

299

00:15:29,360 --> 00:15:37,240

He served two or three years
as an 18-year-old, mind you.

300

00:15:37,240 --> 00:15:40,060

Well, Tom and I were talking the
other night around the dinner

301

00:15:40,060 --> 00:15:41,740

table after dinner.

302

00:15:41,740 --> 00:15:45,880

Tom is now 77, 78--

303

00:15:45,880 --> 00:15:49,800

75, I think he
said-- no, 76, 76.

304

00:15:49,800 --> 00:15:53,920

Tom's retired first, as a
general practitioner and then

305

00:15:53,920 --> 00:15:57,160

as a psychiatrist himself.

306

00:15:57,160 --> 00:15:59,380

But we got talking
about that period

307

00:15:59,380 --> 00:16:02,620

before we knew what
the concentration

308

00:16:02,620 --> 00:16:04,360

camps were really like.

309

00:16:04,360 --> 00:16:06,670

He thought they were a hoax.

310

00:16:06,670 --> 00:16:07,990

Can you imagine that?

311

00:16:07,990 --> 00:16:09,420

I thought they were propaganda.

312

00:16:09,420 --> 00:16:10,990

He thought they were a hoax.

313

00:16:10,990 --> 00:16:13,480

He used the word hoax.

314

00:16:13,480 --> 00:16:16,480

And he looked at me just
a couple of nights ago,

315

00:16:16,480 --> 00:16:20,230

he said, when I found
out they were not,

316

00:16:20,230 --> 00:16:24,900

he says, Sam Hagner,
you have no idea.

317

00:16:24,900 --> 00:16:27,120

He looked at me.

318

00:16:27,120 --> 00:16:29,090

I said, I know, Tom.

319

00:16:29,090 --> 00:16:29,590

I know.

320

00:16:29,590 --> 00:16:37,120

321

00:16:37,120 --> 00:16:41,230

It's funny, as I was leaving
his house and Wednesday morning,

322

00:16:41,230 --> 00:16:44,800

he said, you a little bit
scared of going down there?

323
00:16:44,800 --> 00:16:47,490
And I said, yep.

324
00:16:47,490 --> 00:16:50,120
I'm scared.

325
00:16:50,120 --> 00:16:53,130
He says, good luck.

326
00:16:53,130 --> 00:16:53,760
That's good.

327
00:16:53,760 --> 00:16:54,802
This is beside the point.

328
00:16:54,802 --> 00:16:58,530

329
00:16:58,530 --> 00:17:01,560
Was there any older person
or anybody else in Dachau

330
00:17:01,560 --> 00:17:06,730
that you could turn
to to help you talk

331
00:17:06,730 --> 00:17:08,650
these things over at the time?

332
00:17:08,650 --> 00:17:09,440
No.

333
00:17:09,440 --> 00:17:15,670
No, we had a chaplain, but I
never felt that close to him.

334
00:17:15,670 --> 00:17:16,270
I don't know.

335
00:17:16,270 --> 00:17:18,922

I never thought of going to him.

336

00:17:18,922 --> 00:17:21,130

I think I thought it was
just simply something that I

337

00:17:21,130 --> 00:17:22,380

had to work out with my peers.

338

00:17:22,380 --> 00:17:29,050

339

00:17:29,050 --> 00:17:32,980

Except the minute as I left,
as I said to you earlier,

340

00:17:32,980 --> 00:17:35,890

And a 28-year-old seemed older.

341

00:17:35,890 --> 00:17:38,350

Like Mark Stark.

342

00:17:38,350 --> 00:17:42,120

No, other than that.

343

00:17:42,120 --> 00:17:46,095

You had talked about some of
the things that you had seen.

344

00:17:46,095 --> 00:17:50,050

Are there any sounds that
stay with you from that time?

345

00:17:50,050 --> 00:17:51,930

There's this one sound only.

346

00:17:51,930 --> 00:17:54,420

and I'm not sure is it's
my imagination or not,

347

00:17:54,420 --> 00:17:59,620

the screams of an SS trooper

being thrown into the prison

348
00:17:59,620 --> 00:18:00,870
compound.

349
00:18:00,870 --> 00:18:05,950
And that may be
strictly imagination.

350
00:18:05,950 --> 00:18:07,160
I don't know.

351
00:18:07,160 --> 00:18:09,820
But no, the rest is silence.

352
00:18:09,820 --> 00:18:15,550
Just looks, people standing
there looking at you.

353
00:18:15,550 --> 00:18:19,790
That's it or staring.

354
00:18:19,790 --> 00:18:24,525
Those eyes, you've
seen those eyes.

355
00:18:24,525 --> 00:18:38,310

356
00:18:38,310 --> 00:18:43,710
At Dachau, there were
medical experiments going on.

357
00:18:43,710 --> 00:18:46,260
Was that part of
your introduction

358
00:18:46,260 --> 00:18:49,710
or did you learn anything
about them when you were there?

359
00:18:49,710 --> 00:18:53,040

I knew nothing about the
medical experiments, no.

360
00:18:53,040 --> 00:18:55,110
I didn't learn about
those until later.

361
00:18:55,110 --> 00:18:58,710
I don't think I learned
about them until later.

362
00:18:58,710 --> 00:19:01,781
They certainly were not part
of my immediate experience.

363
00:19:01,781 --> 00:19:04,490

364
00:19:04,490 --> 00:19:08,810
Did you feel 19 or did
you feel much older?

365
00:19:08,810 --> 00:19:11,450

366
00:19:11,450 --> 00:19:13,640
I felt both.

367
00:19:13,640 --> 00:19:17,450
I felt 98 and I felt 19.

368
00:19:17,450 --> 00:19:21,050

369
00:19:21,050 --> 00:19:25,080
Both, if that's possible.

370
00:19:25,080 --> 00:19:28,250
I felt like I had
suddenly aged 100 years.

371
00:19:28,250 --> 00:19:31,220

And yet, another part
of me said, oh my god.

372
00:19:31,220 --> 00:19:41,590

373
00:19:41,590 --> 00:19:47,050
Somehow, I guess, the
idea of age, of being 19,

374
00:19:47,050 --> 00:19:50,710
didn't really occur
to me that much.

375
00:19:50,710 --> 00:19:54,300
It did later and it does now
when people like you talk to me

376
00:19:54,300 --> 00:19:55,550
and say, well, you're only 19.

377
00:19:55,550 --> 00:19:58,270

378
00:19:58,270 --> 00:20:01,320
Somebody not too long
ago at home, a neighbor,

379
00:20:01,320 --> 00:20:02,820
said something about
when I happened

380
00:20:02,820 --> 00:20:04,840
to mention I was
coming down here,

381
00:20:04,840 --> 00:20:06,190
you were already 19 years old.

382
00:20:06,190 --> 00:20:08,240
Why, you were just a baby.

383

00:20:08,240 --> 00:20:11,350

Oh, yeah, I guess,
I was, wasn't I?

384

00:20:11,350 --> 00:20:15,100

But I didn't feel
that at the time.

385

00:20:15,100 --> 00:20:18,370

I think my mother felt it.

386

00:20:18,370 --> 00:20:21,430

I had an opportunity
not to go overseas,

387

00:20:21,430 --> 00:20:22,690

at least not with my unit.

388

00:20:22,690 --> 00:20:25,470

389

00:20:25,470 --> 00:20:28,840

My mother wanted me to
play it for all it's worth.

390

00:20:28,840 --> 00:20:30,220

And I refused.

391

00:20:30,220 --> 00:20:33,130

I never told her that.

392

00:20:33,130 --> 00:20:33,785

I refused.

393

00:20:33,785 --> 00:20:35,410

It's funny, I just
thought of that now.

394

00:20:35,410 --> 00:20:36,868

I hadn't remembered
this for years.

395

00:20:36,868 --> 00:20:39,130

396

00:20:39,130 --> 00:20:42,820

Before we were moving
up to camp Kilmer,

397

00:20:42,820 --> 00:20:48,790

we had a last weekend pass
from Kimberley, Virginia.

398

00:20:48,790 --> 00:20:50,890

So there are five of
us from Philadelphia,

399

00:20:50,890 --> 00:20:53,110

including the first Sergeant.

400

00:20:53,110 --> 00:20:55,120

And one of us had a car.

401

00:20:55,120 --> 00:20:58,300

He said, fellas, let's go
home for one last weekend.

402

00:20:58,300 --> 00:21:01,150

So we drove all the way
from Camp Lee in Petersburg,

403

00:21:01,150 --> 00:21:02,350

Virginia to Philadelphia.

404

00:21:02,350 --> 00:21:04,000

Can you believe this?

405

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:07,000

We left on a Friday after--

406

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:10,960

Friday 5 o'clock and had to
be back by reveille on Monday

407

00:21:10,960 --> 00:21:13,480
morning.

408
00:21:13,480 --> 00:21:15,580
Crazy.

409
00:21:15,580 --> 00:21:18,070
And we drove in
order to have what?

410
00:21:18,070 --> 00:21:20,530
One day at home.

411
00:21:20,530 --> 00:21:23,080
And we were to meet
again Sunday night

412
00:21:23,080 --> 00:21:25,615
and drive all night long
and get back by reveille.

413
00:21:25,615 --> 00:21:28,810

414
00:21:28,810 --> 00:21:29,800
We made a mistake.

415
00:21:29,800 --> 00:21:31,465
We let the one guy
do all the driving,

416
00:21:31,465 --> 00:21:32,590
the guy that owned the car.

417
00:21:32,590 --> 00:21:35,020
Well, he insisted, I think.

418
00:21:35,020 --> 00:21:36,520
So he went off
the road somewhere

419
00:21:36,520 --> 00:21:38,890

near Richmond, Virginia.

420

00:21:38,890 --> 00:21:42,280

And we rolled over and rolled
over a couple of times.

421

00:21:42,280 --> 00:21:45,930

And we ended up in the
Richmond General Hospital.

422

00:21:45,930 --> 00:21:48,480

The driver went
through the windshield.

423

00:21:48,480 --> 00:21:52,300

The guy riding shotgun
went out the door.

424

00:21:52,300 --> 00:21:54,670

Three of us in the back
seat, the first Sergeant

425

00:21:54,670 --> 00:21:59,060

in the middle, he saved
us in the back seat.

426

00:21:59,060 --> 00:21:59,710

He was awake.

427

00:21:59,710 --> 00:22:02,212

I was sound asleep.

428

00:22:02,212 --> 00:22:03,920

But when he saw what
was going to happen,

429

00:22:03,920 --> 00:22:07,420

he put out his elbows
and wedged us tight,

430

00:22:07,420 --> 00:22:10,750

so that we rolled over,
we never even moved.

431
00:22:10,750 --> 00:22:14,070
It landed right side up.

432
00:22:14,070 --> 00:22:17,040
But I suffered some kind of
a bruised hip or whatever

433
00:22:17,040 --> 00:22:20,310
and the hospital
wouldn't let me go.

434
00:22:20,310 --> 00:22:23,632
The two guys that
were hurt, of course,

435
00:22:23,632 --> 00:22:25,090
I don't know what
happened to them.

436
00:22:25,090 --> 00:22:28,320
I never saw them again.

437
00:22:28,320 --> 00:22:31,580
I remember the screams of the
one guy in the emergency room.

438
00:22:31,580 --> 00:22:33,690
He was sewn up.

439
00:22:33,690 --> 00:22:36,500
But I was submitted for
x-rays with this hip.

440
00:22:36,500 --> 00:22:39,510
For some reason it hurt
and I could walk on it.

441
00:22:39,510 --> 00:22:42,370
I limped.

442
00:22:42,370 --> 00:22:45,460

And so I was there
for a week or more.

443
00:22:45,460 --> 00:22:48,813
My mother came roaring
down from Philadelphia.

444
00:22:48,813 --> 00:22:50,230
She said, son,
here's your chance.

445
00:22:50,230 --> 00:22:51,400
I said, what do you, Ma?

446
00:22:51,400 --> 00:22:52,870
What's my chance?

447
00:22:52,870 --> 00:22:54,730
Here's your chance,
you don't have to go.

448
00:22:54,730 --> 00:22:55,938
Play this for all it's worth.

449
00:22:55,938 --> 00:22:59,538
And I looked at her, no,
Ma, you don't understand.

450
00:22:59,538 --> 00:23:00,580
I didn't say that to her.

451
00:23:00,580 --> 00:23:01,960
I was thinking it.

452
00:23:01,960 --> 00:23:04,210
What she didn't understand
was that I was convinced

453
00:23:04,210 --> 00:23:06,130
that this was not permanent.

454
00:23:06,130 --> 00:23:08,830

And that if I didn't
get back to my outfit,

455
00:23:08,830 --> 00:23:13,420
I'd be put into a
replacement depot, what

456
00:23:13,420 --> 00:23:15,490
we called a repo depot.

457
00:23:15,490 --> 00:23:18,460
And I could be assigned
to any unit after that.

458
00:23:18,460 --> 00:23:19,960
And if I were
going to go, I want

459
00:23:19,960 --> 00:23:22,614
to go with the
guys with my train.

460
00:23:22,614 --> 00:23:26,650
These are men I knew,
including the first Sergeant

461
00:23:26,650 --> 00:23:28,990
from Philadelphia.

462
00:23:28,990 --> 00:23:33,740
So I said, Ma, we'll see
what the doctors say.

463
00:23:33,740 --> 00:23:35,260
So she went on back
to Philadelphia

464
00:23:35,260 --> 00:23:36,730
thinking that I've
agreed with her.

465
00:23:36,730 --> 00:23:38,050
And I didn't.

466
00:23:38,050 --> 00:23:41,890
Next day, the doctor came in
and I said, get me out of here.

467
00:23:41,890 --> 00:23:42,592
Give me a cane.

468
00:23:42,592 --> 00:23:43,300
Give me anything.

469
00:23:43,300 --> 00:23:45,520
I'm leaving.

470
00:23:45,520 --> 00:23:47,200
He said, OK, soldier.

471
00:23:47,200 --> 00:23:50,210
Gave me a cane
and discharged me.

472
00:23:50,210 --> 00:23:53,170
So I went down to
the bus station.

473
00:23:53,170 --> 00:23:55,477
This is an interesting
little episode.

474
00:23:55,477 --> 00:23:57,560
I'm not sure but this
pertains to everything else.

475
00:23:57,560 --> 00:23:59,750
Well, it tells you about me.

476
00:23:59,750 --> 00:24:01,570
That's what you
want to know, is it?

477
00:24:01,570 --> 00:24:02,797
You don't know about Dachau.

478
00:24:02,797 --> 00:24:03,880
You want to know about me.

479
00:24:03,880 --> 00:24:06,220
Both.

480
00:24:06,220 --> 00:24:11,500
I got on the bus in Richmond,
took go back to Petersburg.

481
00:24:11,500 --> 00:24:16,960
And little old me, I forgot
all about Jim Crowism.

482
00:24:16,960 --> 00:24:18,760
So I got on the bus
and there's a soldier

483
00:24:18,760 --> 00:24:21,460
in the back, a Black soldier.

484
00:24:21,460 --> 00:24:22,790
But he was a soldier.

485
00:24:22,790 --> 00:24:24,730
He was the only
soldier on the bus.

486
00:24:24,730 --> 00:24:26,960
So I went back and
sat down next to him.

487
00:24:26,960 --> 00:24:28,960
And we're starting to
talk, waiting for the bus

488
00:24:28,960 --> 00:24:30,670
to leave the terminal.

489
00:24:30,670 --> 00:24:31,570
The bus didn't leave.

490
00:24:31,570 --> 00:24:34,200

491
00:24:34,200 --> 00:24:35,418
And I'm not paying attention.

492
00:24:35,418 --> 00:24:36,210
I'm talking to him.

493
00:24:36,210 --> 00:24:37,252
What outfit are you from?

494
00:24:37,252 --> 00:24:40,410
Blah, blah, blah, you
know how soldiers do.

495
00:24:40,410 --> 00:24:44,300
Suddenly, I realize people are
turning around staring at us.

496
00:24:44,300 --> 00:24:49,530
I think the Black fella knew
before I do what was happening.

497
00:24:49,530 --> 00:24:54,450
Then the bus driver said,
hey, you white soldier,

498
00:24:54,450 --> 00:24:55,740
you move forward.

499
00:24:55,740 --> 00:24:57,498
That's for Black people.

500
00:24:57,498 --> 00:24:59,040
But he did say Black,
because he said

501
00:24:59,040 --> 00:25:01,140
colored or something like that.

502

00:25:01,140 --> 00:25:04,050

Black didn't come
into being till later.

503

00:25:04,050 --> 00:25:07,260

I looked at him
and I was shocked.

504

00:25:07,260 --> 00:25:11,010

Because there were no
seats in the white section.

505

00:25:11,010 --> 00:25:13,170

But there were
seats in the back.

506

00:25:13,170 --> 00:25:17,430

I had to get up with that cane
and walk forward and stand

507

00:25:17,430 --> 00:25:18,863

all the way to Petersburg.

508

00:25:18,863 --> 00:25:21,030

Do you think anybody will
get up and give me a seat?

509

00:25:21,030 --> 00:25:22,730

Not at that point.

510

00:25:22,730 --> 00:25:25,110

Not those white, white people.

511

00:25:25,110 --> 00:25:28,380

I stood all of my way
40 miles to Petersburg.

512

00:25:28,380 --> 00:25:33,180

And I bet everyone had
laughed all the way.

513

00:25:33,180 --> 00:25:34,500

I go back to the outfit.

514

00:25:34,500 --> 00:25:36,360

I walked into the day room.

515

00:25:36,360 --> 00:25:37,850

It was at night.

516

00:25:37,850 --> 00:25:41,800

And that came,
first Sergeant was

517

00:25:41,800 --> 00:25:44,260

sitting there, the guy that
saved my life, probably.

518

00:25:44,260 --> 00:25:47,740

He said, what are you
doing back, back here?

519

00:25:47,740 --> 00:25:50,200

I said, I'm here, Sarge.

520

00:25:50,200 --> 00:25:50,940

With a cane?

521

00:25:50,940 --> 00:25:53,740

What am I supposed to
do with you with a cane?

522

00:25:53,740 --> 00:25:56,500

I said, I'll throw it away then.

523

00:25:56,500 --> 00:25:57,940

I'm afraid you're leaving soon.

524

00:25:57,940 --> 00:26:00,010

And I don't want
to go without you.

525

00:26:00,010 --> 00:26:01,430

If I have to--

526
00:26:01,430 --> 00:26:03,190
whatever I said.

527
00:26:03,190 --> 00:26:05,230
He said, we're leaving
in the morning.

528
00:26:05,230 --> 00:26:08,910
I was about to strike your name.

529
00:26:08,910 --> 00:26:10,670
He said, all right.

530
00:26:10,670 --> 00:26:13,923
All right, Sam
Hagner, I'll take you.

531
00:26:13,923 --> 00:26:17,030

532
00:26:17,030 --> 00:26:19,840
Even if I have to carry
you to support myself.

533
00:26:19,840 --> 00:26:24,810

534
00:26:24,810 --> 00:26:27,660
And he did.

535
00:26:27,660 --> 00:26:32,690
And that's when I
went, went to war.

536
00:26:32,690 --> 00:26:33,920
I threw away the cane.

537
00:26:33,920 --> 00:26:35,960
He said, you've got to
get rid of that cane.

538

00:26:35,960 --> 00:26:39,530

I can't take up the guy
playing with the cane.

539

00:26:39,530 --> 00:26:41,450

Did he go with you to Dachau?

540

00:26:41,450 --> 00:26:44,000

Oh, yeah.

541

00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:44,750

No, wait a minute.

542

00:26:44,750 --> 00:26:48,800

He might not have
been at Dachau itself.

543

00:26:48,800 --> 00:26:50,570

Because he was always
at headquarters.

544

00:26:50,570 --> 00:26:53,957

And headquarters wasn't
always where we were.

545

00:26:53,957 --> 00:26:55,790

So I don't know whether
he was there or not.

546

00:26:55,790 --> 00:26:57,332

I can see what you're
thinking, maybe

547

00:26:57,332 --> 00:26:59,245

I could have talked to him.

548

00:26:59,245 --> 00:27:00,370

I don't think he was there.

549

00:27:00,370 --> 00:27:04,470

550

00:27:04,470 --> 00:27:07,060

He was a nice guy.

551

00:27:07,060 --> 00:27:08,770

He didn't have to carry me.

552

00:27:08,770 --> 00:27:11,110

I walked.

553

00:27:11,110 --> 00:27:13,090

That's a funny little episode.

554

00:27:13,090 --> 00:27:15,195

I could never tell my mother.

555

00:27:15,195 --> 00:27:16,570

Maybe that's
another reason why I

556

00:27:16,570 --> 00:27:21,190

couldn't tell her some other
things, that I lied to her.

557

00:27:21,190 --> 00:27:23,950

558

00:27:23,950 --> 00:27:25,175

I lied to her.

559

00:27:25,175 --> 00:27:28,060

I said, oh, yeah, Ma.

560

00:27:28,060 --> 00:27:30,310

I'll play it for
what it's worth.

561

00:27:30,310 --> 00:27:33,740

562

00:27:33,740 --> 00:27:39,154

Was there any burial of the

bodies when you were there?

563

00:27:39,154 --> 00:27:40,410
No, they weren't even touched.

564

00:27:40,410 --> 00:27:42,930

565

00:27:42,930 --> 00:27:44,990
I don't know why they did that.

566

00:27:44,990 --> 00:27:50,670
But they didn't move
anything while I was there.

567

00:27:50,670 --> 00:27:53,592
Did any townspeople
come into the camp?

568

00:27:53,592 --> 00:27:59,060
No, I recall-- all I
recall is this armed guard

569

00:27:59,060 --> 00:28:00,440
around the camp.

570

00:28:00,440 --> 00:28:06,140
And nobody in, and nobody
out, but authorized personnel.

571

00:28:06,140 --> 00:28:09,040
And you said you stayed within
the camp during that week.

572

00:28:09,040 --> 00:28:10,010
I'm pretty sure we did.

573

00:28:10,010 --> 00:28:11,970
I don't remember
going anywhere else.

574

00:28:11,970 --> 00:28:13,280

We didn't have tents--

575

00:28:13,280 --> 00:28:15,830
we had tents, but I
don't think we used them.

576

00:28:15,830 --> 00:28:20,280
We stayed in-- must have
been barracks of some sort.

577

00:28:20,280 --> 00:28:22,760
Were you concerned that you
would become ill from what

578

00:28:22,760 --> 00:28:25,880
you were in contact with?

579

00:28:25,880 --> 00:28:29,640
No, I was not concerned
about becoming ill.

580

00:28:29,640 --> 00:28:32,268
Somehow, that didn't
cross my mind.

581

00:28:32,268 --> 00:28:33,560
There's too much else going on.

582

00:28:33,560 --> 00:28:36,960

583

00:28:36,960 --> 00:28:40,240
Do you think the other
soldiers, the young soldiers

584

00:28:40,240 --> 00:28:43,680
that you were with,
felt the way you did?

585

00:28:43,680 --> 00:28:45,120
I can't speak for everybody.

586

00:28:45,120 --> 00:28:46,230
I think some of them did.

587
00:28:46,230 --> 00:28:48,620
I'm sure that some
of my friends did.

588
00:28:48,620 --> 00:28:51,540

589
00:28:51,540 --> 00:28:56,940
I wasn't friends with everybody
in the unit, obviously.

590
00:28:56,940 --> 00:28:58,190
Perhaps some of them didn't.

591
00:28:58,190 --> 00:29:00,660
I don't know.

592
00:29:00,660 --> 00:29:04,050
I think the fellas
with whom I felt

593
00:29:04,050 --> 00:29:07,470
empathy felt the way I did.

594
00:29:07,470 --> 00:29:09,340
People that I called
my friends or else they

595
00:29:09,340 --> 00:29:10,590
wouldn't have been my friends.

596
00:29:10,590 --> 00:29:14,118

597
00:29:14,118 --> 00:29:16,410
But you're saying you don't
remember the sitting around

598
00:29:16,410 --> 00:29:18,450

and talking about what
you were going through?

599
00:29:18,450 --> 00:29:19,220
No.

600
00:29:19,220 --> 00:29:19,950
No, I don't.

601
00:29:19,950 --> 00:29:23,060

602
00:29:23,060 --> 00:29:27,340
All I remember is going
to work in the barracks,

603
00:29:27,340 --> 00:29:30,280
on the details,
as we called them.

604
00:29:30,280 --> 00:29:34,003
Coming back, I guess, we
did stand around and talk.

605
00:29:34,003 --> 00:29:37,570
I remember this picture of
standing around and talking.

606
00:29:37,570 --> 00:29:38,920
And then trying to sleep.

607
00:29:38,920 --> 00:29:42,530

608
00:29:42,530 --> 00:29:47,780
And writing a letter, that
must have been to Doris.

609
00:29:47,780 --> 00:29:51,358
Writing that letter, I
remember trying to write it

610

00:29:51,358 --> 00:29:53,400
and wondering whether it
was going to be censored

611
00:29:53,400 --> 00:29:56,520
and wondering how to write it
so that I wouldn't be censored.

612
00:29:56,520 --> 00:30:00,090
Because I didn't want
anything to be censored.

613
00:30:00,090 --> 00:30:05,150
And yet, I didn't know what
the officers would allow.

614
00:30:05,150 --> 00:30:06,570
I think why they allowed--

615
00:30:06,570 --> 00:30:10,730
why the letter you see now
that I sent to my parents

616
00:30:10,730 --> 00:30:13,130
was not censored was
that it didn't really

617
00:30:13,130 --> 00:30:15,860
contain any military
information, like how many

618
00:30:15,860 --> 00:30:18,950
troops, how many were
stationed here, whether we're

619
00:30:18,950 --> 00:30:20,090
going to move there.

620
00:30:20,090 --> 00:30:23,930
That's more what they're
concerned about, I think.

621
00:30:23,930 --> 00:30:28,130

Nor was I really
castigating the army.

622
00:30:28,130 --> 00:30:31,207
I didn't say
anything about that.

623
00:30:31,207 --> 00:30:33,540
Though, I had pretty strong
feelings about some of that,

624
00:30:33,540 --> 00:30:34,380
as we all did.

625
00:30:34,380 --> 00:30:37,070

626
00:30:37,070 --> 00:30:38,930
What was it like to
hear that you were

627
00:30:38,930 --> 00:30:42,340
going to be leaving Dachau?

628
00:30:42,340 --> 00:30:44,820
Relief.

629
00:30:44,820 --> 00:30:47,250
Because I was aware
that we couldn't do

630
00:30:47,250 --> 00:30:48,240
much for these people.

631
00:30:48,240 --> 00:30:52,700
We didn't have
the sophistication

632
00:30:52,700 --> 00:30:56,150
that a general
hospital would have,

633

00:30:56,150 --> 00:31:02,510
the personnel, the equipment,
the size, the brute size

634
00:31:02,510 --> 00:31:09,410
to deal with the immensity
of 28,000 people.

635
00:31:09,410 --> 00:31:10,880
Though, I was glad to leave.

636
00:31:10,880 --> 00:31:15,350
I was glad to leave
for my own personal--

637
00:31:15,350 --> 00:31:18,400
what's the word-- equanimity.

638
00:31:18,400 --> 00:31:21,550
But I was glad to leave too,
because I knew that we were not

639
00:31:21,550 --> 00:31:26,780
the people for it, that we
couldn't-- simply couldn't do

640
00:31:26,780 --> 00:31:30,872
the task, meet the
task, do the job.

641
00:31:30,872 --> 00:31:33,560
So I was glad to leave.

642
00:31:33,560 --> 00:31:35,480
Did you sense that
any of the prisoners

643
00:31:35,480 --> 00:31:38,410
were grateful to see you?

644
00:31:38,410 --> 00:31:40,780
I have no recollection of that.

645

00:31:40,780 --> 00:31:42,517

I have no recollection of that.

646

00:31:42,517 --> 00:31:43,600

I would assume they would.

647

00:31:43,600 --> 00:31:45,420

But that doesn't come true.

648

00:31:45,420 --> 00:31:49,370

649

00:31:49,370 --> 00:31:53,010

Did you see any prisoners
who were your age?

650

00:31:53,010 --> 00:31:56,070

No, I don't think so.

651

00:31:56,070 --> 00:32:00,045

652

00:32:00,045 --> 00:32:00,920

Interesting question.

653

00:32:00,920 --> 00:32:05,410

654

00:32:05,410 --> 00:32:09,584

I don't have any memory of that.

655

00:32:09,584 --> 00:32:14,650

Of course, even a 19-year-old
would look pretty old

656

00:32:14,650 --> 00:32:16,770

after being in that
place for a while.

657

00:32:16,770 --> 00:32:22,690

658

00:32:22,690 --> 00:32:25,990

And where did your group go to?

659

00:32:25,990 --> 00:32:28,540

The next episode was
not very pleasant.

660

00:32:28,540 --> 00:32:32,210

661

00:32:32,210 --> 00:32:37,870

We went to and commandeered
a German hospital,

662

00:32:37,870 --> 00:32:42,010

small community hospital, I
guess, we would call it now,

663

00:32:42,010 --> 00:32:45,710

staffed by German nuns.

664

00:32:45,710 --> 00:32:47,410

They didn't have any patients.

665

00:32:47,410 --> 00:32:50,496

But they were there because
that was where they live.

666

00:32:50,496 --> 00:32:52,150

It was inside a cloister.

667

00:32:52,150 --> 00:32:55,530

668

00:32:55,530 --> 00:32:57,510

And we took over the
hospital with the idea

669

00:32:57,510 --> 00:33:02,380

of treating displaced
persons, taking care of them,

670

00:33:02,380 --> 00:33:04,350

what we could find
and bring them in.

671

00:33:04,350 --> 00:33:06,730

Treat them for what they needed.

672

00:33:06,730 --> 00:33:07,650

What town was this in?

673

00:33:07,650 --> 00:33:08,800

I have no idea.

674

00:33:08,800 --> 00:33:10,410

I have no idea what town.

675

00:33:10,410 --> 00:33:14,070

Somewhere-- that memory is lost.

676

00:33:14,070 --> 00:33:18,030

What I do remember is that we
were there possibly a week.

677

00:33:18,030 --> 00:33:22,440

And then we weren't doing
that much, so they decided--

678

00:33:22,440 --> 00:33:25,830

maybe that's what we got
orders to move to France.

679

00:33:25,830 --> 00:33:27,360

Did you keep any
kind of a journal

680

00:33:27,360 --> 00:33:28,830

while you were in the service?

681

00:33:28,830 --> 00:33:30,460

No, I didn't.

682

00:33:30,460 --> 00:33:34,242

I should have, but didn't.

683

00:33:34,242 --> 00:33:41,030

I don't know why it didn't
occur to me to keep a journal.

684

00:33:41,030 --> 00:33:43,190

I wish I had.

685

00:33:43,190 --> 00:33:47,690

Any way, as the day came
to leave this hospital,

686

00:33:47,690 --> 00:33:53,960

and the very miserable,
disgusting thing happened,

687

00:33:53,960 --> 00:33:55,190

the ugly Americans.

688

00:33:55,190 --> 00:33:58,140

689

00:33:58,140 --> 00:34:00,930

In the laboratory of this cute,
cute little hospital-- and it

690

00:34:00,930 --> 00:34:02,220

was a cute little hospital.

691

00:34:02,220 --> 00:34:04,230

It was just beautifully
equipped and the nuns

692

00:34:04,230 --> 00:34:08,670

were taking this
beautiful care of it.

693

00:34:08,670 --> 00:34:15,610

In the laboratory was a by
binocular microscope, a Zeiss

694
00:34:15,610 --> 00:34:19,060
microscope, the
best in the world.

695
00:34:19,060 --> 00:34:22,270
If you may or may not recall,
that back during the war,

696
00:34:22,270 --> 00:34:26,199
I don't think even the US we
had many binocular microscopes.

697
00:34:26,199 --> 00:34:29,230
They must be nonocular.

698
00:34:29,230 --> 00:34:31,659
Anyway, one of the
officers decided

699
00:34:31,659 --> 00:34:34,800
that he wanted that microscope.

700
00:34:34,800 --> 00:34:37,460
So he gave orders
for a couple of guys

701
00:34:37,460 --> 00:34:41,880
go up take it and put it in
a crate and take it with us.

702
00:34:41,880 --> 00:34:44,815
I remember the nuns coming
out and pleading with him,

703
00:34:44,815 --> 00:34:45,440
don't, sir.

704
00:34:45,440 --> 00:34:48,489
Don't, please, don't
take our microscope.

705

00:34:48,489 --> 00:34:51,100
But he turned a deaf ear.

706
00:34:51,100 --> 00:34:54,015
I could have spit in his face.

707
00:34:54,015 --> 00:34:57,700
I can still see those nuns.

708
00:34:57,700 --> 00:35:02,180
Those nuns standing
there begging and crying.

709
00:35:02,180 --> 00:35:06,870
And he said, nope, to the
victors belongs the spoils,

710
00:35:06,870 --> 00:35:08,542
I suppose.

711
00:35:08,542 --> 00:35:10,500
And That must have been
when we were on our way

712
00:35:10,500 --> 00:35:11,610
to southern France.

713
00:35:11,610 --> 00:35:14,145

714
00:35:14,145 --> 00:35:15,270
Let's back up a little bit.

715
00:35:15,270 --> 00:35:17,640
When you were in
Dachau, do you think

716
00:35:17,640 --> 00:35:25,300
that the older medical people,
the doctors in your group

717
00:35:25,300 --> 00:35:29,260

had any different
response than you did?

718
00:35:29,260 --> 00:35:30,320
Because they were older.

719
00:35:30,320 --> 00:35:31,780
They had had medical training.

720
00:35:31,780 --> 00:35:35,530
They were educated to save
lives and they come in

721
00:35:35,530 --> 00:35:37,660
and they see this.

722
00:35:37,660 --> 00:35:38,500
| don't know.

723
00:35:38,500 --> 00:35:41,793
I would guess that from a
theoretical point of view,

724
00:35:41,793 --> 00:35:43,210
yes, I would think
that they would

725
00:35:43,210 --> 00:35:44,710
have had different responses.

726
00:35:44,710 --> 00:35:46,120
But I really don't know.

727
00:35:46,120 --> 00:35:50,388
Because we didn't have that kind
of contact with the officers.

728
00:35:50,388 --> 00:35:51,430
We took orders from them.

729
00:35:51,430 --> 00:35:53,680
We worked with some of them,

but we were not friendly.

730
00:35:53,680 --> 00:35:56,210

731
00:35:56,210 --> 00:35:59,780
What did they do, the doctors?

732
00:35:59,780 --> 00:36:02,780
You all did the typhus
injections and the DDT

733
00:36:02,780 --> 00:36:03,860
spraying.

734
00:36:03,860 --> 00:36:04,760
What did they do?

735
00:36:04,760 --> 00:36:06,710
I have no idea
what they did other

736
00:36:06,710 --> 00:36:08,480
than tell us how to do this.

737
00:36:08,480 --> 00:36:10,730
But whether they went with
us, I don't think they did.

738
00:36:10,730 --> 00:36:13,250
But maybe they did.

739
00:36:13,250 --> 00:36:14,930
I have no idea what they did.

740
00:36:14,930 --> 00:36:18,470

741
00:36:18,470 --> 00:36:20,000
I have no idea.

742

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:21,890

Was your group
made up only of men

743

00:36:21,890 --> 00:36:24,680

or were there any
women in your group?

744

00:36:24,680 --> 00:36:26,762

The only women were
nurses, registered nurses

745

00:36:26,762 --> 00:36:27,470

who are officers.

746

00:36:27,470 --> 00:36:30,130

747

00:36:30,130 --> 00:36:34,825

We had, I think, approximately
30 nurses with us.

748

00:36:34,825 --> 00:36:36,700

In fact, in one of those
photographs you saw,

749

00:36:36,700 --> 00:36:42,130

there's a nurse standing in
one of those Dachau photos.

750

00:36:42,130 --> 00:36:46,240

Did you talk about any of
this over with the women?

751

00:36:46,240 --> 00:36:48,910

No, we had no contact
with the nurses either.

752

00:36:48,910 --> 00:36:50,530

They were officers.

753

00:36:50,530 --> 00:36:51,940

We were enlisted men.

754
00:36:51,940 --> 00:36:58,950
You don't fraternize
with nurses in the army.

755
00:36:58,950 --> 00:37:01,150
No.

756
00:37:01,150 --> 00:37:04,240
Now whether if one
of us had tried

757
00:37:04,240 --> 00:37:07,342
and whether they would have
been receptive, I have no idea.

758
00:37:07,342 --> 00:37:08,800
But it wouldn't
have occurred to us

759
00:37:08,800 --> 00:37:12,070
to even try, because that
was crossing the lines.

760
00:37:12,070 --> 00:37:15,970
We were second class
citizens, if you recall.

761
00:37:15,970 --> 00:37:18,400
And yet the people in
charge didn't feel the need

762
00:37:18,400 --> 00:37:20,320
to sit down with
all of you in Dachau

763
00:37:20,320 --> 00:37:24,850
and talk about what you
all were experiencing?

764
00:37:24,850 --> 00:37:26,920
They certainly did not.

765

00:37:26,920 --> 00:37:32,320

No, I can't credited
with any sympathy there.

766

00:37:32,320 --> 00:37:34,630

Each of you are on your
own to deal in the way

767

00:37:34,630 --> 00:37:37,330

that you could deal with this.

768

00:37:37,330 --> 00:37:38,530

Absolutely.

769

00:37:38,530 --> 00:37:40,840

Each of us was on his own,
other than what we could

770

00:37:40,840 --> 00:37:44,030

do for each other as buddies.

771

00:37:44,030 --> 00:37:45,760

Each of us had a buddy usually.

772

00:37:45,760 --> 00:37:48,820

The army has a buddy system.

773

00:37:48,820 --> 00:37:51,370

There's a reason for that.

774

00:37:51,370 --> 00:37:53,810

You and your buddy,
you kind of pair off.

775

00:37:53,810 --> 00:37:56,420

You look after each other.

776

00:37:56,420 --> 00:38:00,010

And so you protect each other
to the insipid little things

777

00:38:00,010 --> 00:38:05,200
like if one of you wants to go
take a shower or take a bath,

778
00:38:05,200 --> 00:38:09,870
you leave your wallet and
your watch with your buddy.

779
00:38:09,870 --> 00:38:22,370

780
00:38:22,370 --> 00:38:24,650
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

781
00:38:24,650 --> 00:38:27,140
Memorial Museum volunteer
collection interview

782
00:38:27,140 --> 00:38:28,670
with Dr. Samuel Hagner.

783
00:38:28,670 --> 00:38:32,810
This is tape number two side B.
You are talking about the buddy

784
00:38:32,810 --> 00:38:34,970
system in the army.

785
00:38:34,970 --> 00:38:38,720
And when you were in Dachau,
did you and your buddy

786
00:38:38,720 --> 00:38:40,700
have any kind of
special relationship

787
00:38:40,700 --> 00:38:44,570
and talk about what
you were experiencing?

788
00:38:44,570 --> 00:38:45,860
I'm sure we did.

789
00:38:45,860 --> 00:38:49,040
I don't have any
specific memory of that.

790
00:38:49,040 --> 00:38:54,500
But I'm sure we did, because
we talked about a lot of things

791
00:38:54,500 --> 00:38:55,460
constantly.

792
00:38:55,460 --> 00:39:00,780

793
00:39:00,780 --> 00:39:01,920
I still remember him.

794
00:39:01,920 --> 00:39:10,440
He was an old man of 25 or
so from Fostoria, Ohio, Avery

795
00:39:10,440 --> 00:39:13,170
Hall.

796
00:39:13,170 --> 00:39:14,010
Very quiet.

797
00:39:14,010 --> 00:39:17,020

798
00:39:17,020 --> 00:39:20,160
Do you think the others were
as deeply affected as you were?

799
00:39:20,160 --> 00:39:22,470
I'm sure some of
them must have been.

800
00:39:22,470 --> 00:39:25,320
I don't think-- I don't know
how many special talents

801
00:39:25,320 --> 00:39:30,420
in that area other than
that, as you can see,

802
00:39:30,420 --> 00:39:33,510
I'm easily moved to tears.

803
00:39:33,510 --> 00:39:38,610
But I don't think I have any
deeper insights or awarenesses

804
00:39:38,610 --> 00:39:39,955
than anybody else does.

805
00:39:39,955 --> 00:39:45,360

806
00:39:45,360 --> 00:39:51,120
Now to get back, so you
left the nuns' hospital.

807
00:39:51,120 --> 00:39:53,230
And then went where did you go?

808
00:39:53,230 --> 00:39:57,270
We were redeployed-- that was
the term-- we were redeployed

809
00:39:57,270 --> 00:40:00,810
to southern France with the
idea of ultimate redeployment

810
00:40:00,810 --> 00:40:03,760
to the Philippines.

811
00:40:03,760 --> 00:40:06,810
And it was a staging
area for the moving units

812
00:40:06,810 --> 00:40:09,830
from Europe to the Pacific.

813
00:40:09,830 --> 00:40:14,390
And so we were at an area
outside of Marseilles, France,

814
00:40:14,390 --> 00:40:17,060
and spent a number of
weeks there crating

815
00:40:17,060 --> 00:40:21,080
our equipment, our
supplies for shipment

816
00:40:21,080 --> 00:40:24,110
across to the Philippines.

817
00:40:24,110 --> 00:40:27,800
In those weeks and
months after Dachau,

818
00:40:27,800 --> 00:40:30,140
did you think of Dachau?

819
00:40:30,140 --> 00:40:33,290
Dachau never left my mind.

820
00:40:33,290 --> 00:40:38,750
Never left my mind,
hasn't even yet.

821
00:40:38,750 --> 00:40:42,830
But we became busy with
getting our stuff packed up.

822
00:40:42,830 --> 00:40:46,880
And I became seriously ill at
one point in southern France

823
00:40:46,880 --> 00:40:49,070
at that area.

824
00:40:49,070 --> 00:40:52,580

And I'm sure that took
some of my attention, too.

825
00:40:52,580 --> 00:40:57,080
I got into some bad
water and I developed

826
00:40:57,080 --> 00:40:59,500
the bacillary dysentery.

827
00:40:59,500 --> 00:41:02,150
Spent three weeks
in the hospital.

828
00:41:02,150 --> 00:41:05,410
And they had no
antibiotics those days.

829
00:41:05,410 --> 00:41:08,740
So we just had to sweat it out.

830
00:41:08,740 --> 00:41:13,780
I went from 140
pounds down to 110.

831
00:41:13,780 --> 00:41:15,880
I was a sight.

832
00:41:15,880 --> 00:41:17,360
Someone took a photograph of me.

833
00:41:17,360 --> 00:41:19,660
And I think I have that still.

834
00:41:19,660 --> 00:41:21,220
I look almost like
the people that I

835
00:41:21,220 --> 00:41:23,790
left in the concentration camp.

836
00:41:23,790 --> 00:41:26,920

That's a bad joke.

837

00:41:26,920 --> 00:41:29,380

Speaking about photographs,
did you have a camera with you

838

00:41:29,380 --> 00:41:30,670

in Dachau?

839

00:41:30,670 --> 00:41:32,830

No, I did not.

840

00:41:32,830 --> 00:41:33,700

No, I did not.

841

00:41:33,700 --> 00:41:39,200

842

00:41:39,200 --> 00:41:43,610

You said you wrote your letter
May 11th to your parents

843

00:41:43,610 --> 00:41:45,740

about your experience.

844

00:41:45,740 --> 00:41:46,875

Where were you?

845

00:41:46,875 --> 00:41:49,250

Do you remember where you were
when you wrote the letter?

846

00:41:49,250 --> 00:41:54,050

And you were still in Germany?

847

00:41:54,050 --> 00:41:56,240

We were still in Germany.

848

00:41:56,240 --> 00:41:59,690

We might have been at that
hospital run by the nuns

849

00:41:59,690 --> 00:42:01,940
that I just mentioned.

850

00:42:01,940 --> 00:42:06,110
I don't recall
exactly where we were.

851

00:42:06,110 --> 00:42:07,880
But we were in
Germany still, yes,

852

00:42:07,880 --> 00:42:10,460
because the letter
suggests that we

853

00:42:10,460 --> 00:42:14,240
were looking after displaced
persons or trying to--

854

00:42:14,240 --> 00:42:16,670
or seeing them and watching
them try to get themselves

855

00:42:16,670 --> 00:42:18,140
home and so forth.

856

00:42:18,140 --> 00:42:20,090
I think I talk about
that in the letter.

857

00:42:20,090 --> 00:42:23,220
What did you do for
the displaced persons?

858

00:42:23,220 --> 00:42:26,720
I think this is what we were
trying to do at that hospital

859

00:42:26,720 --> 00:42:28,610
where the nuns were working.

860

00:42:28,610 --> 00:42:30,890

We were trying to
bring in those that

861
00:42:30,890 --> 00:42:34,695
were ill with whatever
diseases they had.

862
00:42:34,695 --> 00:42:38,600

863
00:42:38,600 --> 00:42:40,970
But I don't think we
really did an awful lot,

864
00:42:40,970 --> 00:42:42,650
to be perfectly frank.

865
00:42:42,650 --> 00:42:47,990
I don't remember
helping that much.

866
00:42:47,990 --> 00:42:52,250
Frankly, I think we
were doing an awful lot

867
00:42:52,250 --> 00:42:54,890
of moving around and
not accomplishing very

868
00:42:54,890 --> 00:42:56,570
much, to be perfectly frank.

869
00:42:56,570 --> 00:42:59,160

870
00:42:59,160 --> 00:43:01,920
I'd like to read one or two
paragraphs from your letter,

871
00:43:01,920 --> 00:43:04,447
or would you--

872

00:43:04,447 --> 00:43:05,280
could you read this?

873
00:43:05,280 --> 00:43:07,890
And I'd like to know
your feelings now.

874
00:43:07,890 --> 00:43:09,930
I haven't changed
my mind concerning

875
00:43:09,930 --> 00:43:11,760
the German civilians
and the bulk

876
00:43:11,760 --> 00:43:13,710
of the German regular army.

877
00:43:13,710 --> 00:43:19,170
I feel that they were only doing
what they were forced to do.

878
00:43:19,170 --> 00:43:21,330
The cause of these
atrocities most likely

879
00:43:21,330 --> 00:43:26,250
lies with a few high end
of the SS or Gestapo.

880
00:43:26,250 --> 00:43:28,860
There is the old
argument for many,

881
00:43:28,860 --> 00:43:31,020
"well, if the German
civilians didn't

882
00:43:31,020 --> 00:43:33,360
have enough guts to stand
up against the Nazi party,

883
00:43:33,360 --> 00:43:35,790

they are guilty and
deserve the same treatment

884
00:43:35,790 --> 00:43:38,580
as the fanatics."

885
00:43:38,580 --> 00:43:43,560
Well, this is not logic and
doesn't work out that even

886
00:43:43,560 --> 00:43:46,380
these are people who have the
power or opportunity to revolt

887
00:43:46,380 --> 00:43:48,510
against a certain system.

888
00:43:48,510 --> 00:43:53,850
As one friend said, "the remains
of people in the US, especially

889
00:43:53,850 --> 00:43:58,200
the Midwest, who oppose
conscription in 1940.

890
00:43:58,200 --> 00:44:04,200
Yet the Bill of Draft
went through regardless.

891
00:44:04,200 --> 00:44:08,310
If in our so-called democracy
things went ahead regardless

892
00:44:08,310 --> 00:44:10,230
of the opinions of
millions, how could anybody

893
00:44:10,230 --> 00:44:12,330
expect breeds of Germans
threatened with death

894
00:44:12,330 --> 00:44:15,480
if they opposed to put a stop

to Hitler and his doings."

895

00:44:15,480 --> 00:44:19,020

896

00:44:19,020 --> 00:44:21,220

I think there is a great
deal of truth in this.

897

00:44:21,220 --> 00:44:25,260

All of this just about
reflects my present status.

898

00:44:25,260 --> 00:44:26,940

Would you write that today also?

899

00:44:26,940 --> 00:44:27,910

No.

900

00:44:27,910 --> 00:44:30,180

No, I would not
write that today.

901

00:44:30,180 --> 00:44:35,460

I think but you see there is
the ramblings of a 19-year-old

902

00:44:35,460 --> 00:44:40,470

trying to explain
how these camps could

903

00:44:40,470 --> 00:44:43,260

exist in the first place.

904

00:44:43,260 --> 00:44:49,230

And he ended up
intellectualizing, pure and

905

00:44:49,230 --> 00:44:50,620

simple.

906

00:44:50,620 --> 00:44:53,520

I still would not
put the as much guilt

907
00:44:53,520 --> 00:44:58,290
on the German civilians as I
would on the German military.

908
00:44:58,290 --> 00:45:01,950
But I think that the guilt
had to have been shared.

909
00:45:01,950 --> 00:45:05,770

910
00:45:05,770 --> 00:45:08,590
No, I think that was
my attempt to try

911
00:45:08,590 --> 00:45:11,860
to explain the unexplainable.

912
00:45:11,860 --> 00:45:16,800

913
00:45:16,800 --> 00:45:19,780
I didn't know the term
then, but I learned later

914
00:45:19,780 --> 00:45:22,680
that's rationalization
or intellectualization.

915
00:45:22,680 --> 00:45:26,280

916
00:45:26,280 --> 00:45:31,980
All right, let's continue
with your journey

917
00:45:31,980 --> 00:45:34,560
after the end of the war.

918

00:45:34,560 --> 00:45:36,300
Somewhere around the
middle of August,

919
00:45:36,300 --> 00:45:39,990
we left Southern France
bound for the Panama

920
00:45:39,990 --> 00:45:45,900
Canal and Pacific for Manila.

921
00:45:45,900 --> 00:45:49,170
A couple of atom bombs
were dropped in the bill

922
00:45:49,170 --> 00:45:50,615
of the Atlantic Ocean--

923
00:45:50,615 --> 00:45:53,990
or excuse me-- the atom
bombs were dropped on Japan.

924
00:45:53,990 --> 00:45:55,640
We were in the middle
of the Atlantic

925
00:45:55,640 --> 00:45:59,390
Ocean steaming towards Panama.

926
00:45:59,390 --> 00:46:03,170
After we heard that the
second bomb had been dropped,

927
00:46:03,170 --> 00:46:07,310
the war had ended,
Japan had surrendered,

928
00:46:07,310 --> 00:46:09,710
we waited, and we
waited, and we waited.

929
00:46:09,710 --> 00:46:13,310
The ship kept steaming

towards Panama.

930

00:46:13,310 --> 00:46:17,000

Perhaps six hours later, we
heard, now hear this, now

931

00:46:17,000 --> 00:46:18,440

hear this.

932

00:46:18,440 --> 00:46:20,030

The ship's orders
have been changed

933

00:46:20,030 --> 00:46:22,770

to Newport News, Virginia.

934

00:46:22,770 --> 00:46:26,880

What were your thoughts when
you heard the atom bomb dropped?

935

00:46:26,880 --> 00:46:29,670

Interesting question.

936

00:46:29,670 --> 00:46:31,680

I was relieved.

937

00:46:31,680 --> 00:46:35,500

I thought, thank
god, the war is over.

938

00:46:35,500 --> 00:46:38,580

939

00:46:38,580 --> 00:46:40,750

A lot of lives would be spared.

940

00:46:40,750 --> 00:46:45,660

But the idea of the atom bomb
was terribly frightening.

941

00:46:45,660 --> 00:46:47,160

I don't think I

really understood

942

00:46:47,160 --> 00:46:50,640

what it meant at that time,
the immensity of the atom bomb.

943

00:46:50,640 --> 00:46:54,060

I didn't come to comprehend
that until later.

944

00:46:54,060 --> 00:46:57,210

I think mainly it was
a very selfish feeling,

945

00:46:57,210 --> 00:46:59,250

thank god we're going home.

946

00:46:59,250 --> 00:47:02,460

Because if we'd
gotten to Manila,

947

00:47:02,460 --> 00:47:05,810

we'd have been getting
home, maybe years.

948

00:47:05,810 --> 00:47:10,050

This meant we were going
to be home in a week or so.

949

00:47:10,050 --> 00:47:12,480

And we were.

950

00:47:12,480 --> 00:47:17,510

We arrived in Newport
News, must have been--

951

00:47:17,510 --> 00:47:22,080

the war ended 15th of August
or something like that.

952

00:47:22,080 --> 00:47:25,240

I guess, we were in Newport News
by the 20th or 21st of August.

953
00:47:25,240 --> 00:47:31,140
We were one of the first troops
to step on American soil.

954
00:47:31,140 --> 00:47:33,900
And within 72 hours,
I was in Philadelphia.

955
00:47:33,900 --> 00:47:37,550

956
00:47:37,550 --> 00:47:42,560
And within 48 hours after
that, I was on the Jersey Shore

957
00:47:42,560 --> 00:47:45,540
walking the sand dunes with
a young lady named Doris.

958
00:47:45,540 --> 00:47:48,410

959
00:47:48,410 --> 00:47:53,210
We walked, I talked,
and she listened

960
00:47:53,210 --> 00:47:56,876
for three straight days.

961
00:47:56,876 --> 00:48:00,890
One of the best things
that ever happened to me.

962
00:48:00,890 --> 00:48:04,980
Because I could do with her what
I couldn't do with my parents.

963
00:48:04,980 --> 00:48:08,310
And also she was the one
that started all this back

964

00:48:08,310 --> 00:48:11,610
when we were teenagers,
started questioning me.

965
00:48:11,610 --> 00:48:17,270
So here we are, I'm back
at the source, so to speak.

966
00:48:17,270 --> 00:48:18,860
And now we're
talking about it all.

967
00:48:18,860 --> 00:48:21,400

968
00:48:21,400 --> 00:48:23,380
I can still remember her.

969
00:48:23,380 --> 00:48:24,450
She didn't say a word.

970
00:48:24,450 --> 00:48:25,200
She just listened.

971
00:48:25,200 --> 00:48:27,930

972
00:48:27,930 --> 00:48:29,820
At one point, I
asked her, I said,

973
00:48:29,820 --> 00:48:31,290
you said something
in your letter

974
00:48:31,290 --> 00:48:33,300
about being afraid
when I came home.

975
00:48:33,300 --> 00:48:34,800
Are you afraid now?

976

00:48:34,800 --> 00:48:38,740
She kind of giggled and said,
no, that was an exaggeration.

977
00:48:38,740 --> 00:48:41,430
But I think she
was a little bit.

978
00:48:41,430 --> 00:48:43,290
She did say that
I wasn't the same.

979
00:48:43,290 --> 00:48:47,140
And I said, well,
I'm not surprised.

980
00:48:47,140 --> 00:48:49,160
But there was three
wonderful day--

981
00:48:49,160 --> 00:48:52,740
wonderful in that allowed me
that catharsis that I needed

982
00:48:52,740 --> 00:48:55,530
and the support that I needed
that only a peer can give you

983
00:48:55,530 --> 00:48:58,190
anyway.

984
00:48:58,190 --> 00:49:00,080
Yeah, that was
very precious time.

985
00:49:00,080 --> 00:49:02,980

986
00:49:02,980 --> 00:49:07,570
Did you go into explicit detail
about what you experienced?

987
00:49:07,570 --> 00:49:08,590

Oh, yes.

988
00:49:08,590 --> 00:49:10,030
I told her everything.

989
00:49:10,030 --> 00:49:12,720
She wanted to hear everything.

990
00:49:12,720 --> 00:49:15,760
She wanted no holds barred.

991
00:49:15,760 --> 00:49:18,220
And I didn't bar any holds.

992
00:49:18,220 --> 00:49:21,790

993
00:49:21,790 --> 00:49:24,010
I think she felt that she
had to hear everything.

994
00:49:24,010 --> 00:49:25,593
Because if she didn't
hear everything,

995
00:49:25,593 --> 00:49:27,490
I wasn't going to
say everything.

996
00:49:27,490 --> 00:49:36,318
So it was a bargain,
a good bargain.

997
00:49:36,318 --> 00:49:37,360
What about your brothers?

998
00:49:37,360 --> 00:49:41,230
Were you able to tell
your brothers everything?

999
00:49:41,230 --> 00:49:44,380
Yes, my younger brother, I

think, was at a summer camp.

1000
00:49:44,380 --> 00:49:48,430

1001
00:49:48,430 --> 00:49:50,870
I was 19, he was 14.

1002
00:49:50,870 --> 00:49:52,960
He was at the summer camp still.

1003
00:49:52,960 --> 00:49:55,420
But my older
brother by this time

1004
00:49:55,420 --> 00:50:01,210
had left the forestry camp
at Big Flats, New York.

1005
00:50:01,210 --> 00:50:04,480
He had begged, and begged,
and begged for some kind

1006
00:50:04,480 --> 00:50:07,122
of significant work.

1007
00:50:07,122 --> 00:50:09,580
Because what they were doing
up there, as I've said before,

1008
00:50:09,580 --> 00:50:10,885
was stupid.

1009
00:50:10,885 --> 00:50:13,660

1010
00:50:13,660 --> 00:50:16,510
And if only the government
granted him his wish,

1011
00:50:16,510 --> 00:50:21,340
they sent them to Pownal,

Maine outside of Portland

1012
00:50:21,340 --> 00:50:22,990
and assigned him
to what was then

1013
00:50:22,990 --> 00:50:26,710
called an Institute for the
Feeble-minded, what people call

1014
00:50:26,710 --> 00:50:28,780
a state hospital.

1015
00:50:28,780 --> 00:50:31,060
He had never had any
training or expertise .

1016
00:50:31,060 --> 00:50:34,330
But they put them on a ward.

1017
00:50:34,330 --> 00:50:36,640
And he worked as
a ward attendant

1018
00:50:36,640 --> 00:50:39,010
till the end of the
war and then some.

1019
00:50:39,010 --> 00:50:41,140
I don't think he was
discharged about when

1020
00:50:41,140 --> 00:50:44,150
I was, which is in May of 1946.

1021
00:50:44,150 --> 00:50:45,850
So he worked until
the end of the war

1022
00:50:45,850 --> 00:50:53,880
as a ward attendant, 12 hours a
day, looking after the inmates,

1023

00:50:53,880 --> 00:50:56,880

the mentally defectives,
most of them.

1024

00:50:56,880 --> 00:50:59,160

They were wards of the state.

1025

00:50:59,160 --> 00:51:02,940

They had no medications
for them, of course.

1026

00:51:02,940 --> 00:51:06,060

So I went up to stay
with him and his wife.

1027

00:51:06,060 --> 00:51:07,800

He was married
and she was living

1028

00:51:07,800 --> 00:51:11,130

outside of Portland,
a suburb of Portland,

1029

00:51:11,130 --> 00:51:12,960

and working in Portland.

1030

00:51:12,960 --> 00:51:15,150

I spent three or
four days with them.

1031

00:51:15,150 --> 00:51:18,570

And he wanted to
hear everything.

1032

00:51:18,570 --> 00:51:21,720

Even though I took a
different course than he,

1033

00:51:21,720 --> 00:51:23,850

I was his brother.

1034

00:51:23,850 --> 00:51:25,380

And he wanted to
hear it all too.

1035
00:51:25,380 --> 00:51:28,480

1036
00:51:28,480 --> 00:51:33,720
So I went through
it again with him.

1037
00:51:33,720 --> 00:51:36,805
It's interesting, because
he couldn't stand the idea

1038
00:51:36,805 --> 00:51:37,930
of serving in the military.

1039
00:51:37,930 --> 00:51:42,355
But boy, he wouldn't
let me omit one detail.

1040
00:51:42,355 --> 00:51:50,200

1041
00:51:50,200 --> 00:51:51,800
So what do you
want to know next?

1042
00:51:51,800 --> 00:51:56,150
So what did you do until
you got discharged?

1043
00:51:56,150 --> 00:52:03,090
Our unit reconvened
in Gadsden, Alabama.

1044
00:52:03,090 --> 00:52:07,170
And we were assigned
as a complete unit

1045
00:52:07,170 --> 00:52:11,250
to the Crow General Hospital
outside of Cleveland, Ohio.

1046
00:52:11,250 --> 00:52:13,050
The whole unit lock,
stock, and barrel,

1047
00:52:13,050 --> 00:52:17,250
went up to be absorbed by
this general hospital, which

1048
00:52:17,250 --> 00:52:20,770
was a plastic surgery
center for those who've

1049
00:52:20,770 --> 00:52:24,030
been wounded by
shrapnel, chiefly,

1050
00:52:24,030 --> 00:52:28,030
and disfigured in
one way or another.

1051
00:52:28,030 --> 00:52:29,670
And this was an
amazing place to be.

1052
00:52:29,670 --> 00:52:31,830
If I had to stay in
the army, which I did,

1053
00:52:31,830 --> 00:52:33,180
I had to serve for another--

1054
00:52:33,180 --> 00:52:35,610
well, until May of 1946.

1055
00:52:35,610 --> 00:52:38,445
So I had to serve through
that fall and winter, end

1056
00:52:38,445 --> 00:52:44,410
of the spring until I had
enough points to be discharged.

1057

00:52:44,410 --> 00:52:47,700

So I worked at the surgery
there as a scrub nurse,

1058

00:52:47,700 --> 00:52:49,980

for which I had been trained.

1059

00:52:49,980 --> 00:52:53,460

But I saw some
fascinating things.

1060

00:52:53,460 --> 00:52:56,700

The US army was
footing the bill for--

1061

00:52:56,700 --> 00:53:01,060

plastic surgeons were able
to try all kinds of things

1062

00:53:01,060 --> 00:53:02,790

that they wouldn't
have dared otherwise.

1063

00:53:02,790 --> 00:53:05,670

Because they had the
time and the money.

1064

00:53:05,670 --> 00:53:08,880

And I'm sure this gave an
impetus to modern day plastic

1065

00:53:08,880 --> 00:53:10,680

surgery.

1066

00:53:10,680 --> 00:53:13,740

But I saw amazing things
happening during that winter.

1067

00:53:13,740 --> 00:53:19,710

And my chief job was to every
day scrub up for surgery.

1068

00:53:19,710 --> 00:53:23,280

When wasn't working
in the operating room,

1069

00:53:23,280 --> 00:53:26,610

then I was free to come
and go as I wished.

1070

00:53:26,610 --> 00:53:30,190

Ironically, Oberlin College
was only 20 miles away.

1071

00:53:30,190 --> 00:53:33,480

So every free moment I
had, I was back on campus

1072

00:53:33,480 --> 00:53:35,190

getting ready to return.

1073

00:53:35,190 --> 00:53:37,800

Did you go back to Oberlin
after you got discharged?

1074

00:53:37,800 --> 00:53:38,820

Yes, I did.

1075

00:53:38,820 --> 00:53:42,670

I returned to Oberlin
in fall of 1946.

1076

00:53:42,670 --> 00:53:43,890

And then what happened?

1077

00:53:43,890 --> 00:53:54,520

And I graduated from Oberlin
in 1949 after a bit of--

1078

00:53:54,520 --> 00:53:56,303

How does one go back
to a college campus

1079

00:53:56,303 --> 00:53:57,220

after being in Dachau?

1080
00:53:57,220 --> 00:54:00,428

1081
00:54:00,428 --> 00:54:01,720
That's an interesting question.

1082
00:54:01,720 --> 00:54:05,920

1083
00:54:05,920 --> 00:54:07,770
I do remember--

1084
00:54:07,770 --> 00:54:13,260
OK, that's summer before
I went back to Oberlin,

1085
00:54:13,260 --> 00:54:15,360
I remember having a
hard time getting back

1086
00:54:15,360 --> 00:54:17,910
into civilian life.

1087
00:54:17,910 --> 00:54:20,740
OK, this all comes
back to me now.

1088
00:54:20,740 --> 00:54:23,710
I didn't go back to
Oberlin until September.

1089
00:54:23,710 --> 00:54:26,470
But I was discharged in May,
so I was home that whole summer

1090
00:54:26,470 --> 00:54:29,170
with my parents.

1091
00:54:29,170 --> 00:54:31,200
I worried them.

1092

00:54:31,200 --> 00:54:32,380

They were afraid I was sick.

1093

00:54:32,380 --> 00:54:35,160

1094

00:54:35,160 --> 00:54:37,440

They thought I was detached.

1095

00:54:37,440 --> 00:54:39,590

And I was.

1096

00:54:39,590 --> 00:54:42,350

They thought I was depressed.

1097

00:54:42,350 --> 00:54:44,600

I'm not sure I was depressed

in a clinical sense,

1098

00:54:44,600 --> 00:54:46,530

but I was depressed.

1099

00:54:46,530 --> 00:54:48,800

I was footloose.

1100

00:54:48,800 --> 00:54:53,570

I remember thinking, how do

I get back into this world?

1101

00:54:53,570 --> 00:54:55,010

These are civilians.

1102

00:54:55,010 --> 00:54:57,650

They don't know what happened.

1103

00:54:57,650 --> 00:55:01,020

And sometimes I'd hear

them complain about things.

1104

00:55:01,020 --> 00:55:03,080

I thought, what are

they complaining about?

1105
00:55:03,080 --> 00:55:04,280
They don't know what to--

1106
00:55:04,280 --> 00:55:06,890

1107
00:55:06,890 --> 00:55:09,380
there are things out there
to really complain about.

1108
00:55:09,380 --> 00:55:11,630
And I'd get annoyed.

1109
00:55:11,630 --> 00:55:14,130
I also had to work through
these feelings of feeling

1110
00:55:14,130 --> 00:55:16,940
having been betrayed by them.

1111
00:55:16,940 --> 00:55:20,741
And I had a hard time going
back to a Quaker meeting

1112
00:55:20,741 --> 00:55:24,850
and sitting there and looking
at that these people who

1113
00:55:24,850 --> 00:55:27,340
turned the other cheek.

1114
00:55:27,340 --> 00:55:31,910
I'd think, hey, how can
I talk to you anymore?

1115
00:55:31,910 --> 00:55:34,660
I'm on a different planet.

1116
00:55:34,660 --> 00:55:37,150
I'm not in the same world

with you folks anymore.

1117
00:55:37,150 --> 00:55:41,680
And I had a hard time with that.

1118
00:55:41,680 --> 00:55:43,780
They were very nice people.

1119
00:55:43,780 --> 00:55:47,470
They come up to me and they'd
say, how ist thee, Sam Hagner?

1120
00:55:47,470 --> 00:55:50,170

1121
00:55:50,170 --> 00:55:53,260
We're glad to see you home.

1122
00:55:53,260 --> 00:55:55,630
Yeah.

1123
00:55:55,630 --> 00:55:57,310
So I didn't do much that summer.

1124
00:55:57,310 --> 00:55:58,420
I read.

1125
00:55:58,420 --> 00:56:00,070
I thought about Dachau.

1126
00:56:00,070 --> 00:56:06,270
I remember even trying to
write a poem about Dachau.

1127
00:56:06,270 --> 00:56:10,120
I tried to put a
verse, blank verse.

1128
00:56:10,120 --> 00:56:12,143
I didn't get very far.

1129

00:56:12,143 --> 00:56:12,810
I just couldn't.

1130
00:56:12,810 --> 00:56:15,980

1131
00:56:15,980 --> 00:56:18,950
And my mother said, hey, you
better take a typing course.

1132
00:56:18,950 --> 00:56:20,300
You're not doing much else.

1133
00:56:20,300 --> 00:56:22,343
I went and learn how to type.

1134
00:56:22,343 --> 00:56:24,260
Do you remember any of
the lines in that poem?

1135
00:56:24,260 --> 00:56:27,260

1136
00:56:27,260 --> 00:56:31,470
Something about I know
I had to put into words.

1137
00:56:31,470 --> 00:56:34,550
And I couldn't quite do it.

1138
00:56:34,550 --> 00:56:38,300
Lying in her own excrement
with the urine running down

1139
00:56:38,300 --> 00:56:40,280
the bedposts.

1140
00:56:40,280 --> 00:56:41,990
That had to be there.

1141
00:56:41,990 --> 00:56:45,170
And I couldn't make it work.

1142
00:56:45,170 --> 00:56:48,160
I just couldn't shake it.

1143
00:56:48,160 --> 00:56:49,650
It wouldn't go away.

1144
00:56:49,650 --> 00:56:50,650
And it wouldn't go away.

1145
00:56:50,650 --> 00:56:51,628
I couldn't put it in.

1146
00:56:51,628 --> 00:56:52,920
I couldn't do anything with it.

1147
00:56:52,920 --> 00:56:56,540

1148
00:56:56,540 --> 00:56:58,370
That was a tough, tough summer.

1149
00:56:58,370 --> 00:57:00,260
I think I worked through
most of it by time

1150
00:57:00,260 --> 00:57:01,250
I got back on campus.

1151
00:57:01,250 --> 00:57:03,930

1152
00:57:03,930 --> 00:57:07,700
And back on campus,
all these guys

1153
00:57:07,700 --> 00:57:12,560
are coming back the way I am,
so we had a lot in common.

1154
00:57:12,560 --> 00:57:15,470

The girls, they looked at
us like we were a little bit

1155
00:57:15,470 --> 00:57:16,435
strange, I suppose.

1156
00:57:16,435 --> 00:57:19,120

1157
00:57:19,120 --> 00:57:22,090
Did you talk to
the other soldiers

1158
00:57:22,090 --> 00:57:24,700
about what you had experienced
and found out if any of them

1159
00:57:24,700 --> 00:57:26,500
had experienced the same?

1160
00:57:26,500 --> 00:57:31,210
Yes, my first roommate,
I talked to him about it.

1161
00:57:31,210 --> 00:57:32,680
And the fellows in the--

1162
00:57:32,680 --> 00:57:34,150
I lived in a small house.

1163
00:57:34,150 --> 00:57:35,950
This was a small private house.

1164
00:57:35,950 --> 00:57:38,650
So there are only six of
us that lived in the house.

1165
00:57:38,650 --> 00:57:41,470
And I talked to them about it
and talked about it with them.

1166
00:57:41,470 --> 00:57:46,080

1167
00:57:46,080 --> 00:57:49,110
I couldn't do that at
length, because they really

1168
00:57:49,110 --> 00:57:51,300
didn't seem to want to hear it.

1169
00:57:51,300 --> 00:57:54,390
I think they thought, all
right, enough of that.

1170
00:57:54,390 --> 00:57:55,320
The war is over.

1171
00:57:55,320 --> 00:57:56,850
Let's get on with it.

1172
00:57:56,850 --> 00:57:59,280
That's pretty much the feeling
that I had that they really

1173
00:57:59,280 --> 00:58:01,020
didn't want to talk about it.

1174
00:58:01,020 --> 00:58:03,600
And those who had
been in real battle--

1175
00:58:03,600 --> 00:58:05,350
because, see, if you
think about all this,

1176
00:58:05,350 --> 00:58:07,830
I never really wasn't a battle.

1177
00:58:07,830 --> 00:58:11,070
Not with bombs
bursting overhead.

1178
00:58:11,070 --> 00:58:13,500

Except for an occasional
strafing of the hospital,

1179
00:58:13,500 --> 00:58:14,700
I was never fired at.

1180
00:58:14,700 --> 00:58:18,270

1181
00:58:18,270 --> 00:58:20,130
But guys had been
and they didn't

1182
00:58:20,130 --> 00:58:21,870
want to talk about
their experiences.

1183
00:58:21,870 --> 00:58:23,245
I kind of thought,
well, I guess,

1184
00:58:23,245 --> 00:58:25,770
I shouldn't talk
about mine either.

1185
00:58:25,770 --> 00:58:27,390
What about to the professors?

1186
00:58:27,390 --> 00:58:28,290
No.

1187
00:58:28,290 --> 00:58:30,450
No.

1188
00:58:30,450 --> 00:58:35,130
Until-- no.

1189
00:58:35,130 --> 00:58:38,130
Yes, there was one professor.

1190
00:58:38,130 --> 00:58:41,470
I didn't go into

it at great length.

1191
00:58:41,470 --> 00:58:44,410
But there was a reason for that.

1192
00:58:44,410 --> 00:58:47,490
I went back Oberlin with the
idea of majoring in economics.

1193
00:58:47,490 --> 00:58:52,620
Because as you may recall,
my father was a CPA.

1194
00:58:52,620 --> 00:58:57,840
My older brother already was
a CPA or about to become one.

1195
00:58:57,840 --> 00:59:00,660
Younger brother
later became one.

1196
00:59:00,660 --> 00:59:04,010
I'm the black sheep.

1197
00:59:04,010 --> 00:59:08,000
So I figured GI Bill would
see me through college

1198
00:59:08,000 --> 00:59:09,260
that's all I could expect.

1199
00:59:09,260 --> 00:59:12,500

1200
00:59:12,500 --> 00:59:15,050
And I couldn't really ask
for any more than that.

1201
00:59:15,050 --> 00:59:17,000
And my father didn't
have the money.

1202

00:59:17,000 --> 00:59:20,240

And he wouldn't have approved of
going past a bachelor's degree

1203

00:59:20,240 --> 00:59:21,800

anyway, because
he was a guy that

1204

00:59:21,800 --> 00:59:26,060

had to work his way through
night school to become a CPA.

1205

00:59:26,060 --> 00:59:32,000

And for him, a college education
was all the guy needed.

1206

00:59:32,000 --> 00:59:34,040

But I wasn't happy in economics.

1207

00:59:34,040 --> 00:59:36,920

And I was taking all the
sociology and psychology

1208

00:59:36,920 --> 00:59:38,930

courses that I could take.

1209

00:59:38,930 --> 00:59:41,180

Because at this point--

1210

00:59:41,180 --> 00:59:43,480

I missed a very important
episode, I'm sorry.

1211

00:59:43,480 --> 00:59:46,570

1212

00:59:46,570 --> 00:59:51,070

When I got off the
boat at Newport News,

1213

00:59:51,070 --> 00:59:56,500

we got back to Philadelphia
within 72 hours on a Furlough.

1214
00:59:56,500 --> 00:59:58,690
My father was alone.

1215
00:59:58,690 --> 01:00:00,650
And he was in a very bad shape.

1216
01:00:00,650 --> 01:00:03,580

1217
01:00:03,580 --> 01:00:08,800
He was in what I now know
was an acute major clinical

1218
01:00:08,800 --> 01:00:14,290
depression, what you might
call the male menopause.

1219
01:00:14,290 --> 01:00:16,710
I didn't know it
at the time, but I

1220
01:00:16,710 --> 01:00:19,040
learned later, he was suicidal.

1221
01:00:19,040 --> 01:00:21,340
I knew he was
suicidal, excuse me.

1222
01:00:21,340 --> 01:00:24,040
I didn't know that
he was delusional.

1223
01:00:24,040 --> 01:00:26,990
But he was.

1224
01:00:26,990 --> 01:00:29,500
He was off the wall.

1225
01:00:29,500 --> 01:00:31,897
And I was terrified.

1226

01:00:31,897 --> 01:00:33,980

I didn't know what was
happening with the old man.

1227

01:00:33,980 --> 01:00:36,440

I'd never seen him
like that in my life.

1228

01:00:36,440 --> 01:00:38,300

My mother wasn't home.

1229

01:00:38,300 --> 01:00:41,810

She was out in California
attending-- get this--

1230

01:00:41,810 --> 01:00:49,580

a seminar on psychology,
because she was a Carl Jung fan.

1231

01:00:49,580 --> 01:00:52,610

1232

01:00:52,610 --> 01:00:53,430

There she was.

1233

01:00:53,430 --> 01:00:57,710

And my old man, her
husband, was off his rocker,

1234

01:00:57,710 --> 01:01:00,110

crazy as a hood owl.

1235

01:01:00,110 --> 01:01:02,640

And I was floored.

1236

01:01:02,640 --> 01:01:06,390

I don't know what
to do with him.

1237

01:01:06,390 --> 01:01:08,820

And of course, my mother,
when she heard I was home,

1238
01:01:08,820 --> 01:01:10,650
she started on her
way from California.

1239
01:01:10,650 --> 01:01:12,860
But it took her a couple
of days to get home.

1240
01:01:12,860 --> 01:01:17,790
So before she arrived,
I was alone with him.

1241
01:01:17,790 --> 01:01:20,400
And I didn't know
what to do with him.

1242
01:01:20,400 --> 01:01:24,310
Mind you, I hadn't had any
medical training at this point.

1243
01:01:24,310 --> 01:01:26,100
I'm still 19.

1244
01:01:26,100 --> 01:01:28,050
No medical training, no
psychiatric training.

1245
01:01:28,050 --> 01:01:30,930
I didn't know what was going on.

1246
01:01:30,930 --> 01:01:33,030
But he was seeing
a psychologist.

1247
01:01:33,030 --> 01:01:36,510
And when she heard I was in
town, she wanted to meet me.

1248
01:01:36,510 --> 01:01:37,920
So I went up the saw her.

1249

01:01:37,920 --> 01:01:39,760

And she explained
what was happening.

1250

01:01:39,760 --> 01:01:41,760

She said, your father
ought to be in a hospital.

1251

01:01:41,760 --> 01:01:43,445

I said, he certainly should.

1252

01:01:43,445 --> 01:01:44,820

In fact, she said,
he ought to be

1253

01:01:44,820 --> 01:01:46,950

getting electroshock treatment.

1254

01:01:46,950 --> 01:01:49,110

I said, well, what's
holding it up?

1255

01:01:49,110 --> 01:01:51,480

Your mother won't give consent.

1256

01:01:51,480 --> 01:01:52,770

And she has to give consent.

1257

01:01:52,770 --> 01:01:55,850

I thought, oh my god,
where we go from here?

1258

01:01:55,850 --> 01:01:58,480

She said, well, I'm
seeing him twice a week.

1259

01:01:58,480 --> 01:02:00,130

I'm trying to keep them alive.

1260

01:02:00,130 --> 01:02:01,405

I said, well, good.

1261

01:02:01,405 --> 01:02:01,905
Thanks.

1262
01:02:01,905 --> 01:02:04,770

1263
01:02:04,770 --> 01:02:07,620
Because as you may recall,
there was no specific treatment

1264
01:02:07,620 --> 01:02:09,840
for that kind of depression
back in those days other

1265
01:02:09,840 --> 01:02:13,510
than electroshock treatment.

1266
01:02:13,510 --> 01:02:15,910
Very interesting thing
happened one night.

1267
01:02:15,910 --> 01:02:20,260
I borrowed the family car,
went out to see a buddy,

1268
01:02:20,260 --> 01:02:24,220
have a couple of beers,
talk about the war.

1269
01:02:24,220 --> 01:02:25,810
Came home around 11 o'clock.

1270
01:02:25,810 --> 01:02:28,660
It was raining cats and dogs.

1271
01:02:28,660 --> 01:02:31,030
And he met me at the door.

1272
01:02:31,030 --> 01:02:33,100
He was wild.

1273
01:02:33,100 --> 01:02:34,720

His eyes were red.

1274
01:02:34,720 --> 01:02:36,190
He'd been crying.

1275
01:02:36,190 --> 01:02:37,810
He said, give me the keys.

1276
01:02:37,810 --> 01:02:39,730
I said, to the car?

1277
01:02:39,730 --> 01:02:42,550
Yes, god damn it.

1278
01:02:42,550 --> 01:02:44,830
Why do you want them, Pop?

1279
01:02:44,830 --> 01:02:46,643
None of your business.

1280
01:02:46,643 --> 01:02:48,310
I thought, he's not
going out on a night

1281
01:02:48,310 --> 01:02:51,480
like this in this state.

1282
01:02:51,480 --> 01:02:54,110
No, Pop.

1283
01:02:54,110 --> 01:02:57,146
You can't.

1284
01:02:57,146 --> 01:02:58,680
He said, what do you mean?

1285
01:02:58,680 --> 01:03:01,080
I'm your father.

1286
01:03:01,080 --> 01:03:02,670
Give me those keys.

1287
01:03:02,670 --> 01:03:04,380
And I said no.

1288
01:03:04,380 --> 01:03:08,190
Something told me he could not
go out that night in the car.

1289
01:03:08,190 --> 01:03:09,780
If he could walk out, OK.

1290
01:03:09,780 --> 01:03:11,710
But he's not going to drive.

1291
01:03:11,710 --> 01:03:14,100
So I have them in my hand.

1292
01:03:14,100 --> 01:03:15,180
He raised a fist.

1293
01:03:15,180 --> 01:03:16,245
I thought, oh, boy.

1294
01:03:16,245 --> 01:03:19,110

1295
01:03:19,110 --> 01:03:25,050
Then he dropped his fist,
sobbed, and ran upstairs.

1296
01:03:25,050 --> 01:03:27,750
Went into his bedroom
and slam the door.

1297
01:03:27,750 --> 01:03:29,970
And I stood there.

1298
01:03:29,970 --> 01:03:34,440
I thought, the child is
the father of the man.

1299

01:03:34,440 --> 01:03:40,000

1300

01:03:40,000 --> 01:03:42,040

My mother got home
two days later.

1301

01:03:42,040 --> 01:03:45,400

And then I was able to get out
and visit Doris at the shore,

1302

01:03:45,400 --> 01:03:47,500

at the Jersey Shore.

1303

01:03:47,500 --> 01:03:49,085

I was angry with her.

1304

01:03:49,085 --> 01:03:50,585

What was she doing
out in California

1305

01:03:50,585 --> 01:03:54,070

attending this
seminar on psychology?

1306

01:03:54,070 --> 01:03:59,740

And she's missing the major
act back in her own home.

1307

01:03:59,740 --> 01:04:04,810

But speaking about that, she
did have an influence on me.

1308

01:04:04,810 --> 01:04:07,770

She used to talk
psychology to me.

1309

01:04:07,770 --> 01:04:10,900

She talked all about Carl Jung
and mechanisms of defense,

1310

01:04:10,900 --> 01:04:14,400

and this, and that,

and the other thing.

1311

01:04:14,400 --> 01:04:20,790

The word projection got to be
almost a dinner table by-word.

1312

01:04:20,790 --> 01:04:21,930

You're projecting now.

1313

01:04:21,930 --> 01:04:25,410

You're projecting now.

1314

01:04:25,410 --> 01:04:26,910

But that had something
to do with my

1315

01:04:26,910 --> 01:04:29,820

becoming a psychiatrist.

1316

01:04:29,820 --> 01:04:34,710

Even though I disagree with
her on a lot of things,

1317

01:04:34,710 --> 01:04:36,900

she did have an influence on me.

1318

01:04:36,900 --> 01:04:40,440

And I was close to her.

1319

01:04:40,440 --> 01:04:44,725

I was the one son that
would listen to her.

1320

01:04:44,725 --> 01:04:46,600

I didn't always agree
and I'd argue with her.

1321

01:04:46,600 --> 01:04:48,420

But at least I
would listen to her.

1322

01:04:48,420 --> 01:04:50,010

My two brothers didn't always.

1323

01:04:50,010 --> 01:04:52,500

They would just turn her off.

1324

01:04:52,500 --> 01:04:55,440

That would make her mad.

1325

01:04:55,440 --> 01:05:00,430

But to get back to Oberlin,
somewhere in my senior year,

1326

01:05:00,430 --> 01:05:03,180

I was happening to write a
thesis on international trade

1327

01:05:03,180 --> 01:05:06,010

as part of a seminar.

1328

01:05:06,010 --> 01:05:07,860

And I was having a
terrible time writing it

1329

01:05:07,860 --> 01:05:11,560

and I knew I was
in the wrong field.

1330

01:05:11,560 --> 01:05:15,000

And I thought, I've got to
do something about this.

1331

01:05:15,000 --> 01:05:16,800

But in meantime, I
had to go and see

1332

01:05:16,800 --> 01:05:21,320

the professor who was my
advisor for the thesis.

1333

01:05:21,320 --> 01:05:22,695

He was the leader
of the seminar.

1334

01:05:22,695 --> 01:05:26,730

1335

01:05:26,730 --> 01:05:28,980

He pushed the right buttons.

1336

01:05:28,980 --> 01:05:31,032

All he said was, you're
not doing very much

1337

01:05:31,032 --> 01:05:31,740

with this thesis.

1338

01:05:31,740 --> 01:05:34,200

You've got about eight
weeks to graduation.

1339

01:05:34,200 --> 01:05:35,140

And that did it.

1340

01:05:35,140 --> 01:05:36,450

There was something about him.

1341

01:05:36,450 --> 01:05:37,320

And I liked him.

1342

01:05:37,320 --> 01:05:40,320

And I just exploded all over
the walls of his office.

1343

01:05:40,320 --> 01:05:43,350

Not at him, but
just at the walls.

1344

01:05:43,350 --> 01:05:46,360

When I climbed down off
the ceiling, he said, well,

1345

01:05:46,360 --> 01:05:47,400

what was that all about?

1346

01:05:47,400 --> 01:05:49,120
I said, I'm in the wrong field.

1347
01:05:49,120 --> 01:05:51,680
He said, it sounds like it.

1348
01:05:51,680 --> 01:05:53,560
What would you like
to do with your life?

1349
01:05:53,560 --> 01:05:57,060
Nobody had ever
really asked me that.

1350
01:05:57,060 --> 01:05:59,850
And I said, you're
going to laugh at me.

1351
01:05:59,850 --> 01:06:03,150
He said, try me.

1352
01:06:03,150 --> 01:06:05,430
I'd like to be a psychiatrist.

1353
01:06:05,430 --> 01:06:07,280
He said, psychiatrist?

1354
01:06:07,280 --> 01:06:09,160
He sort of laughed.

1355
01:06:09,160 --> 01:06:12,360
Then he said, OK.

1356
01:06:12,360 --> 01:06:14,140
I said, you don't
think that's funny?

1357
01:06:14,140 --> 01:06:15,060
He said, no.

1358
01:06:15,060 --> 01:06:16,270
You think I could do that?

1359
01:06:16,270 --> 01:06:18,750
He said, I think you might.

1360
01:06:18,750 --> 01:06:20,910
But do you want to
graduate or don't you?

1361
01:06:20,910 --> 01:06:21,970
I sat down and--

1362
01:06:21,970 --> 01:06:22,830
oh, wait.

1363
01:06:22,830 --> 01:06:23,997
I'm getting ahead of myself.

1364
01:06:23,997 --> 01:06:26,790
I went back to the dorm
where my future wife was.

1365
01:06:26,790 --> 01:06:30,180
She was a Oberlin student then/
She had transferred from Smith

1366
01:06:30,180 --> 01:06:32,760
the year before.

1367
01:06:32,760 --> 01:06:35,393
We were, I guess, they say
going study by that time

1368
01:06:35,393 --> 01:06:36,810
and talking about
getting married.

1369
01:06:36,810 --> 01:06:39,300
So I went back to the door and
told her what had happened.

1370
01:06:39,300 --> 01:06:42,700
And she sat there with a

funny smile on her face.

1371

01:06:42,700 --> 01:06:45,330

I said, you knew this is
going to happen, didn't you?

1372

01:06:45,330 --> 01:06:47,370

She said, hm-hmm.

1373

01:06:47,370 --> 01:06:51,150

I said, oh, and he knew
this was going to happen?

1374

01:06:51,150 --> 01:06:53,820

What makes you people so
smart and I'm so dumb?

1375

01:06:53,820 --> 01:06:56,620

And she just laughed.

1376

01:06:56,620 --> 01:06:59,063

I said, well, if
I start thinking

1377

01:06:59,063 --> 01:07:00,480

about going to
medical school, you

1378

01:07:00,480 --> 01:07:03,520

realize this is going to
be one tough road to hoe?

1379

01:07:03,520 --> 01:07:06,670

I've never had a chemistry
course in my life.

1380

01:07:06,670 --> 01:07:09,390

I would have to go back
and pick up some things.

1381

01:07:09,390 --> 01:07:12,210

She just sat there and smiled.

1382

01:07:12,210 --> 01:07:14,320

I said, are you game for this?

1383

01:07:14,320 --> 01:07:15,660

And she hmm-mm.

1384

01:07:15,660 --> 01:07:17,520

I said, all right.

1385

01:07:17,520 --> 01:07:20,550

So I wrote the thesis in
eight weeks, graduated.

1386

01:07:20,550 --> 01:07:23,580

And two weeks later, enrolled in
a chemistry course for freshmen

1387

01:07:23,580 --> 01:07:26,100

at the University
of Pennsylvania.

1388

01:07:26,100 --> 01:07:28,260

And that started it.

1389

01:07:28,260 --> 01:07:32,160

Because I found out
that with GI Bill,

1390

01:07:32,160 --> 01:07:36,600

I could use it if I could get
my goals changed by the VA,

1391

01:07:36,600 --> 01:07:39,330

I could probably get halfway
through medical school

1392

01:07:39,330 --> 01:07:42,015

before I'd have to borrow money.

1393

01:07:42,015 --> 01:07:43,390

And that's exactly
what happened.

1394
01:07:43,390 --> 01:07:45,550
I went to the VA and told
them what I wanted to do.

1395
01:07:45,550 --> 01:07:47,370
And I said, I have
to change my goals.

1396
01:07:47,370 --> 01:07:49,890
You have to set a
goal with the VA.

1397
01:07:49,890 --> 01:07:52,080
So they approved
it on the proviso

1398
01:07:52,080 --> 01:07:54,840
that I got accepted
into medical schools.

1399
01:07:54,840 --> 01:07:55,950
I said, OK.

1400
01:07:55,950 --> 01:07:58,110
Do you think your decision
to go to medical school

1401
01:07:58,110 --> 01:08:01,470
to become a psychiatrist
was influenced by what

1402
01:08:01,470 --> 01:08:04,410
you experienced during the war?

1403
01:08:04,410 --> 01:08:06,930
I certainly think it had
something to do with it, yes.

1404
01:08:06,930 --> 01:08:08,850
I think my mother had
something to do with it.

1405

01:08:08,850 --> 01:08:10,982

I purposely mentioned
the episode my father.

1406

01:08:10,982 --> 01:08:12,690

I think that had
something to do with it,

1407

01:08:12,690 --> 01:08:16,390

because I was puzzled by
what was happening to him.

1408

01:08:16,390 --> 01:08:19,740

I think all of these
things came into play.

1409

01:08:19,740 --> 01:08:23,189

And I certainly-- if I
hadn't gone into psychiatry,

1410

01:08:23,189 --> 01:08:25,140

I would have gone
into my own therapy

1411

01:08:25,140 --> 01:08:30,510

anyway, because I wanted to
delve more deeply-- or not more

1412

01:08:30,510 --> 01:08:33,630

deeply, but more
thoroughly, perhaps,

1413

01:08:33,630 --> 01:08:35,490

into these feelings
that had been aroused

1414

01:08:35,490 --> 01:08:40,920

by being at Dachau, yes.

1415

01:08:40,920 --> 01:08:42,285

Yes.

1416

01:08:42,285 --> 01:08:44,160

I figured, if I didn't
make it in psychiatry,

1417

01:08:44,160 --> 01:08:45,600

I was still going to--

1418

01:08:45,600 --> 01:08:50,740

if not analysis, at least get
some kind of psychotherapy.

1419

01:08:50,740 --> 01:08:56,100

I even got some psychotherapy
in medical school, a little bit.

1420

01:08:56,100 --> 01:08:58,000

But when the guy realized
that I was thinking

1421

01:08:58,000 --> 01:09:00,109

of becoming a
psychiatrist, he said,

1422

01:09:00,109 --> 01:09:02,300

hey, why don't you wait
and do it the right way?

1423

01:09:02,300 --> 01:09:06,170

So I waited until later.

1424

01:09:06,170 --> 01:09:11,790

So then you went from there then
you went on to medical school?

1425

01:09:11,790 --> 01:09:16,689

I was accepted not very readily,
not very easily-- excuse me.

1426

01:09:16,689 --> 01:09:20,200

Because I was not a premed major
and I was picking up chemistry

1427

01:09:20,200 --> 01:09:21,439

courses as fast as I could.

1428
01:09:21,439 --> 01:09:23,439
But I was making applications
to medical schools

1429
01:09:23,439 --> 01:09:25,870
at the same time.

1430
01:09:25,870 --> 01:09:30,370
A lot of medical schools
didn't very much like me.

1431
01:09:30,370 --> 01:09:32,020
I made 10 applications.

1432
01:09:32,020 --> 01:09:35,470
I was refused by nine.

1433
01:09:35,470 --> 01:09:37,810
And I was the only son
at home at that time.

1434
01:09:37,810 --> 01:09:40,000
And dinner tables
became kind of--

1435
01:09:40,000 --> 01:09:41,859
dinner table conversations
or atmosphere

1436
01:09:41,859 --> 01:09:43,000
became kind of tense.

1437
01:09:43,000 --> 01:09:46,060
Because as each rejection
would come in the mail,

1438
01:09:46,060 --> 01:09:48,975
my father would look at
me and say, well, now son,

1439

01:09:48,975 --> 01:09:50,600

what are you going
to do with yourself?

1440

01:09:50,600 --> 01:09:52,270

Well, dad, let's just wait.

1441

01:09:52,270 --> 01:09:53,920

Haven't heard from
all of them yet.

1442

01:09:53,920 --> 01:09:55,720

And my mother would back me up.

1443

01:09:55,720 --> 01:09:59,770

She said, now George, he hasn't
heard from everybody yet.

1444

01:09:59,770 --> 01:10:06,200

It got down to number nine and
things are looking pretty grim.

1445

01:10:06,200 --> 01:10:08,410

I then I a call from
Temple University.

1446

01:10:08,410 --> 01:10:10,900

The Dean wanted me to come
down and talk to them.

1447

01:10:10,900 --> 01:10:13,060

The rest is history.

1448

01:10:13,060 --> 01:10:15,530

And then you completed
medical school.

1449

01:10:15,530 --> 01:10:21,310

And then just can you tell me
where you lived after that.

1450

01:10:21,310 --> 01:10:25,720

I completed medical school

in Philadelphia in 1954.

1451

01:10:25,720 --> 01:10:29,050

Did my internship
also in Philadelphia.

1452

01:10:29,050 --> 01:10:32,605

And I went into a psychiatric
residency at Temple University

1453

01:10:32,605 --> 01:10:35,080

also in Philadelphia.

1454

01:10:35,080 --> 01:10:38,320

Finished the residency in 1958.

1455

01:10:38,320 --> 01:10:41,350

Entered private practice
in 1958 and also

1456

01:10:41,350 --> 01:10:45,948

my own psychoanalysis, as I
became a postgraduate student

1457

01:10:45,948 --> 01:10:47,740

in the Philadelphia
Psychoanalytic Society.

1458

01:10:47,740 --> 01:10:53,720

1459

01:10:53,720 --> 01:10:56,840

How much of your
analysis was devoted

1460

01:10:56,840 --> 01:10:59,390

to your talking about Dachau?

1461

01:10:59,390 --> 01:11:02,270

I can't give you
an exact figure.

1462

01:11:02,270 --> 01:11:04,520
Certainly, a healthy--

1463
01:11:04,520 --> 01:11:07,760
I guess, a healthy amount.

1464
01:11:07,760 --> 01:11:08,510
It would come up--

1465
01:11:08,510 --> 01:11:11,060
I spent a lot of time in
the beginning, of course,

1466
01:11:11,060 --> 01:11:12,560
as he was getting
to know me getting

1467
01:11:12,560 --> 01:11:14,300
and I getting to
know him and getting

1468
01:11:14,300 --> 01:11:17,000
used to the whole experience
talked a lot about it.

1469
01:11:17,000 --> 01:11:19,460
And then later, he would come
back in from time to time.

1470
01:11:19,460 --> 01:11:23,960
So it was like a red
thread wound its way

1471
01:11:23,960 --> 01:11:25,550
through my therapy.

1472
01:11:25,550 --> 01:11:27,650
And that was
someone you felt who

1473
01:11:27,650 --> 01:11:30,740
had an understanding
of what this meant?

1474
01:11:30,740 --> 01:11:31,460
Yes.

1475
01:11:31,460 --> 01:11:32,420
Yes.

1476
01:11:32,420 --> 01:11:33,950
My analyst was Jewish.

1477
01:11:33,950 --> 01:11:36,980
He knew where I was coming from.

1478
01:11:36,980 --> 01:11:40,610
He also made a comment
one day, something about--

1479
01:11:40,610 --> 01:11:43,020
how did it go?

1480
01:11:43,020 --> 01:11:46,710
How the hell it came up-- he
said, Sam Hagner, he said,

1481
01:11:46,710 --> 01:11:48,600
I know where you're coming from.

1482
01:11:48,600 --> 01:11:52,050
He said, you come from
a matriarchical society.

1483
01:11:52,050 --> 01:11:54,820
You had a strong
woman for a mother.

1484
01:11:54,820 --> 01:11:56,807
I know exactly where
you're coming from.

1485
01:11:56,807 --> 01:11:58,640
I thought, oh, baby,
he had a Jewish mother.

1486
01:11:58,640 --> 01:12:03,810

1487
01:12:03,810 --> 01:12:05,730
And then when did
you get married?

1488
01:12:05,730 --> 01:12:08,940
I was married actually before
I started medical school.

1489
01:12:08,940 --> 01:12:13,470
We married in the summer of
1950 after I had my acceptance.

1490
01:12:13,470 --> 01:12:16,860
And I started medical
school in the fall of 1950.

1491
01:12:16,860 --> 01:12:19,740
Did you talk to your wife
about your wartime experience?

1492
01:12:19,740 --> 01:12:22,710
Oh, Lord, yes.

1493
01:12:22,710 --> 01:12:24,390
Lord, yes.

1494
01:12:24,390 --> 01:12:27,690
I can remember--
poor gal, I put her

1495
01:12:27,690 --> 01:12:30,020
through some terrible times.

1496
01:12:30,020 --> 01:12:33,360
I can remember at times as we
were courting, if you will,

1497
01:12:33,360 --> 01:12:39,270

at Oberlin, I tried to tell
her how confused I was.

1498
01:12:39,270 --> 01:12:42,060
And I remember saying things
to her like-- or asking her,

1499
01:12:42,060 --> 01:12:44,970
could you put up with a guy who
might or might not defend you

1500
01:12:44,970 --> 01:12:45,570
if--

1501
01:12:45,570 --> 01:12:48,990
the typical question-- what if
a intruder came into the house

1502
01:12:48,990 --> 01:12:50,910
and threatened to
rape your wife,

1503
01:12:50,910 --> 01:12:52,470
would you defend her physically?

1504
01:12:52,470 --> 01:12:55,860
And I tried to say
to her, you know

1505
01:12:55,860 --> 01:12:57,980
what problems I have with that?

1506
01:12:57,980 --> 01:13:00,270
She said, sure.

1507
01:13:00,270 --> 01:13:01,320
And she accepted that.

1508
01:13:01,320 --> 01:13:06,560

1509
01:13:06,560 --> 01:13:08,330

In fact, in some
ways I think she's

1510
01:13:08,330 --> 01:13:12,530
a better pacifist than I am.

1511
01:13:12,530 --> 01:13:16,130
When our sons were
of age to be drafted,

1512
01:13:16,130 --> 01:13:19,790
she was urging them
to go to Canada.

1513
01:13:19,790 --> 01:13:23,660
She said, and if you won't
go, or if you want help,

1514
01:13:23,660 --> 01:13:25,758
your dad will take you across.

1515
01:13:25,758 --> 01:13:27,800
What she's joking about
was that I could lead him

1516
01:13:27,800 --> 01:13:29,840
through the woods,
because I'd become

1517
01:13:29,840 --> 01:13:34,640
a pretty accomplished
hiker by that time.

1518
01:13:34,640 --> 01:13:36,920
Let's talk a little bit
about your children.

1519
01:13:36,920 --> 01:13:39,800
As they were growing up,
did you ever tell them

1520
01:13:39,800 --> 01:13:42,080
about what you had experienced?

1521
01:13:42,080 --> 01:13:48,710
No, I really found it difficult
to talk to my children about it

1522
01:13:48,710 --> 01:13:50,690
when they were very, very small.

1523
01:13:50,690 --> 01:13:52,490
Because I didn't
think that they could

1524
01:13:52,490 --> 01:13:54,120
comprehend that kind of thing.

1525
01:13:54,120 --> 01:13:58,220
And I think I just thought it
was too horrible to expose them

1526
01:13:58,220 --> 01:13:59,480
to that.

1527
01:13:59,480 --> 01:14:05,090
When they became grown, I
would at times bring it up.

1528
01:14:05,090 --> 01:14:08,030
But it never went very
far with them, because--

1529
01:14:08,030 --> 01:14:10,610
I don't know-- maybe
it's their generation.

1530
01:14:10,610 --> 01:14:15,260
They just didn't seem to
want to hear much about it.

1531
01:14:15,260 --> 01:14:17,660
They know I'm here today.

1532
01:14:17,660 --> 01:14:21,850

My daughter lives
25 minutes from us.

1533
01:14:21,850 --> 01:14:24,050
She said, dad, I hope
it goes all right.

1534
01:14:24,050 --> 01:14:27,900
But she really didn't
go into detail about it.

1535
01:14:27,900 --> 01:14:30,050
My two sons, one's
in Detroit, Michigan.

1536
01:14:30,050 --> 01:14:36,260
The other is in Acadia,
Maine, Bar Harbor.

1537
01:14:36,260 --> 01:14:39,750
They really haven't asked
an awful lot about it.

1538
01:14:39,750 --> 01:14:42,560
I don't know if that's
their generation or what.

1539
01:14:42,560 --> 01:14:45,620

1540
01:14:45,620 --> 01:14:51,100
I think this their generation
and even the one coming up,

1541
01:14:51,100 --> 01:14:53,710
my granddaughter's
generation, they

1542
01:14:53,710 --> 01:14:55,700
have trouble with this, Gail.

1543
01:14:55,700 --> 01:14:57,250
They have trouble.

1544
01:14:57,250 --> 01:15:00,500
I had a patient
once, about 1992.

1545
01:15:00,500 --> 01:15:03,430
He was a history
teacher in high school,

1546
01:15:03,430 --> 01:15:06,250
one of the local high
schools in New Hampshire.

1547
01:15:06,250 --> 01:15:08,170
Came in one day and told
me an amazing thing.

1548
01:15:08,170 --> 01:15:12,100
He said, doc, I
have a class that

1549
01:15:12,100 --> 01:15:15,010
doesn't believe the
concentration camps existed.

1550
01:15:15,010 --> 01:15:16,430
I said, you're kidding me.

1551
01:15:16,430 --> 01:15:18,130
He said, I'm not kidding you.

1552
01:15:18,130 --> 01:15:21,160
I said, well, I have a letter.

1553
01:15:21,160 --> 01:15:23,710
I can make a photocopy of it.

1554
01:15:23,710 --> 01:15:26,230
Or I'll come in and
talk to your class.

1555
01:15:26,230 --> 01:15:27,415

He said, really?

1556
01:15:27,415 --> 01:15:28,430
I said, yeah.

1557
01:15:28,430 --> 01:15:29,140
You were there?

1558
01:15:29,140 --> 01:15:30,040
And I said, yeah.

1559
01:15:30,040 --> 01:15:32,200
I was there.

1560
01:15:32,200 --> 01:15:34,150
He said, let me try
the letter first.

1561
01:15:34,150 --> 01:15:35,590
I said, OK.

1562
01:15:35,590 --> 01:15:37,790
But I'd be glad to go in person.

1563
01:15:37,790 --> 01:15:39,130
So I made a photocopy.

1564
01:15:39,130 --> 01:15:40,210
He took it to this class.

1565
01:15:40,210 --> 01:15:42,110
And apparently, that
was enough for him.

1566
01:15:42,110 --> 01:15:44,957
He was satisfied with that.

1567
01:15:44,957 --> 01:15:49,000