

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,810

2

00:00:00,810 --> 00:00:03,540

This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3

00:00:03,540 --> 00:00:05,370

Memorial Museum
volunteer collection

4

00:00:05,370 --> 00:00:07,200

interview with Werner Michel.

5

00:00:07,200 --> 00:00:11,730

This is tape two, side A.
And you have been telling me

6

00:00:11,730 --> 00:00:16,079

about your tour in Japan.

7

00:00:16,079 --> 00:00:19,080

When did you leave Japan?

8

00:00:19,080 --> 00:00:26,160

As I recall, I left Japan
approximately February 1955.

9

00:00:26,160 --> 00:00:32,729

And my next major assignment,
in essence, was in New York

10

00:00:32,729 --> 00:00:36,900

where I was assigned to the
counterintelligence corps

11

00:00:36,900 --> 00:00:38,490

detachment there.

12

00:00:38,490 --> 00:00:45,820

And I remained there until 1957.

13

00:00:45,820 --> 00:00:50,880

And I was integrated into the
regular army in the meantime.

14

00:00:50,880 --> 00:00:55,470

And the major
significant activity

15

00:00:55,470 --> 00:00:59,310

that I participated
in there, essentially,

16

00:00:59,310 --> 00:01:08,640

was the flight from Hungary
of thousands of refugees

17

00:01:08,640 --> 00:01:13,980

during the Hungarian
uprising of October 1956.

18

00:01:13,980 --> 00:01:17,650

And I was in Camp
Kilmer, New Jersey,

19

00:01:17,650 --> 00:01:21,390

where we processed
many of these people.

20

00:01:21,390 --> 00:01:25,950

My more specific job
was to assure security

21

00:01:25,950 --> 00:01:29,340

and counterintelligence
coverage for these people

22

00:01:29,340 --> 00:01:37,260

so that there would be
no problems since we were

23

00:01:37,260 --> 00:01:42,180

expecting, possibly, that

Hungarian intelligence, which

24

00:01:42,180 --> 00:01:45,840
was of course dominated by the
Soviets or Soviet intelligence,

25

00:01:45,840 --> 00:01:50,042
would use these people
coming over here

26

00:01:50,042 --> 00:01:51,000
for their own purposes.

27

00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:59,690

28

00:01:59,690 --> 00:02:03,740
Had you wanted to return
to service stateside?

29

00:02:03,740 --> 00:02:05,290
And did you have
any input at all

30

00:02:05,290 --> 00:02:08,090
as to where you were assigned?

31

00:02:08,090 --> 00:02:15,080
The way the system works,
after approximately three years

32

00:02:15,080 --> 00:02:25,250
overseas in peacetime, one
comes up for reassignment.

33

00:02:25,250 --> 00:02:29,000
And while, during
that time, we were

34

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:36,290
allowed to make our preferences
known, there was no assurance.

35

00:02:36,290 --> 00:02:40,040

And in my case, I really
didn't want to go to New York.

36

00:02:40,040 --> 00:02:45,560

But that's-- destiny sent
me to New York in that case.

37

00:02:45,560 --> 00:02:49,580

And when I was integrated
into the regular army

38

00:02:49,580 --> 00:02:55,160

as I said before, I was
integrated into the infantry.

39

00:02:55,160 --> 00:02:59,140

And they were not
terribly interested in all

40

00:02:59,140 --> 00:03:03,800

of the exotic things I had
done before as a linguist

41

00:03:03,800 --> 00:03:05,270

and so forth and so on.

42

00:03:05,270 --> 00:03:07,620

They wanted me to become
an infantry officer.

43

00:03:07,620 --> 00:03:17,690

So my next station
in August 1957

44

00:03:17,690 --> 00:03:22,580

was Fort Benning, Georgia where
I took the infantry course

45

00:03:22,580 --> 00:03:28,370

and attended the parachute
school at Fort Benning, which

46

00:03:28,370 --> 00:03:33,080

I completed in late 1958.

47

00:03:33,080 --> 00:03:39,110

And, once again, I
was assigned to Korea.

48

00:03:39,110 --> 00:03:44,120

I had another year in
Korea then as an operations

49

00:03:44,120 --> 00:03:50,810

officer of a infantry regiment
and as assistant chief of staff

50

00:03:50,810 --> 00:03:54,890

of the 7th division,
which was located up

51

00:03:54,890 --> 00:04:02,480

North near the Imjin
River North of Seoul.

52

00:04:02,480 --> 00:04:07,790

It was a very
interesting tour marked

53

00:04:07,790 --> 00:04:13,130

by a lot of tough and
cold weather experiences

54

00:04:13,130 --> 00:04:15,950

in the winters in Korea.

55

00:04:15,950 --> 00:04:20,510

And I was very glad to
return to this country

56

00:04:20,510 --> 00:04:25,460

in the following
year in 1959 when

57

00:04:25,460 --> 00:04:28,550

I was assigned to the
82nd Airborne Division

58

00:04:28,550 --> 00:04:31,100

in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

59

00:04:31,100 --> 00:04:35,990

There, again, I became
an operations officer

60

00:04:35,990 --> 00:04:40,280

of the 503rd Airborne
Infantry Regiment.

61

00:04:40,280 --> 00:04:45,800

And for the next two years,
I was with the 82nd Airborne

62

00:04:45,800 --> 00:04:46,970

Division.

63

00:04:46,970 --> 00:04:52,430

This was interesting because
we had numerous exercises

64

00:04:52,430 --> 00:04:55,700

and maneuvers
including maneuvers

65

00:04:55,700 --> 00:05:00,740

in Puerto Rico, and Panama,
and all over the United States.

66

00:05:00,740 --> 00:05:11,060

In the fall of 1960, I was
then given the opportunity

67

00:05:11,060 --> 00:05:13,700

to attend the
University of Omaha.

68

00:05:13,700 --> 00:05:19,550

And I had for many
years worked on trying

69
00:05:19,550 --> 00:05:22,200
to obtain a bachelor's degree.

70
00:05:22,200 --> 00:05:27,230
And so I was able to attend what
they called the final semester

71
00:05:27,230 --> 00:05:27,830
program.

72
00:05:27,830 --> 00:05:34,760
And I did get my degree and
returned to the 82nd Airborne

73
00:05:34,760 --> 00:05:35,270
Division.

74
00:05:35,270 --> 00:05:37,400
And no sooner had
I returned then

75
00:05:37,400 --> 00:05:41,210
I was selected for the Command
and General Staff College

76
00:05:41,210 --> 00:05:43,580
at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

77
00:05:43,580 --> 00:05:52,100
And I left for Fort Leavenworth,
Kansas in July 1961.

78
00:05:52,100 --> 00:05:57,140
And while I was
there as a student,

79
00:05:57,140 --> 00:06:00,630
I, of course, met students
from all over the world,

80

00:06:00,630 --> 00:06:04,970

including Austrians,
Germans, Israelis.

81

00:06:04,970 --> 00:06:11,210

And when I graduated there,
I was assigned to the faculty

82

00:06:11,210 --> 00:06:15,110

and taught tactics at the
Command and General Staff

83

00:06:15,110 --> 00:06:19,640

College from 1962 to 1965.

84

00:06:19,640 --> 00:06:28,310

The one significant experience
there, or among several

85

00:06:28,310 --> 00:06:29,900

that might be of
interest here, is

86

00:06:29,900 --> 00:06:35,990

that I was asked to sponsor
the first German liaison

87

00:06:35,990 --> 00:06:43,640

officer appointed to Fort
Leavenworth; a German Colonel.

88

00:06:43,640 --> 00:06:48,350

And I sponsored him.

89

00:06:48,350 --> 00:06:54,800

And it was a very interesting
experience, particularly when

90

00:06:54,800 --> 00:06:59,910

he found out my background.

91

00:06:59,910 --> 00:07:07,440

He was not the most sympathetic person, who, as I recall,

92

00:07:07,440 --> 00:07:11,850
initially admitted
that one in referring

93

00:07:11,850 --> 00:07:16,290
to the treatment of
the Jews, he said,

94

00:07:16,290 --> 00:07:23,940
that one should have treated
the opponents more correctly.

95

00:07:23,940 --> 00:07:27,120
I pointed out to him
that the Jews in Germany

96

00:07:27,120 --> 00:07:28,740
were not opponents.

97

00:07:28,740 --> 00:07:31,035
They had been
citizens of Germany.

98

00:07:31,035 --> 00:07:33,580

99

00:07:33,580 --> 00:07:36,160
And that took him aback.

100

00:07:36,160 --> 00:07:38,710
And over the time
that I knew him,

101

00:07:38,710 --> 00:07:43,780
I think I was able to point
out to him the horror of what

102

00:07:43,780 --> 00:07:45,220
Germany had done.

103

00:07:45,220 --> 00:07:48,610

Now, he had served in the
German army in World War Two.

104

00:07:48,610 --> 00:07:57,550

So he must have known what
it was to have that happened.

105

00:07:57,550 --> 00:08:04,870

But we became, if not friends,
we became good acquaintances.

106

00:08:04,870 --> 00:08:06,610

We went horseback
riding together.

107

00:08:06,610 --> 00:08:08,110

We went to play tennis together.

108

00:08:08,110 --> 00:08:12,560

And we played chess
against each other.

109

00:08:12,560 --> 00:08:14,540

We were always in
competition with each other.

110

00:08:14,540 --> 00:08:18,680

And it was a very
interesting experience.

111

00:08:18,680 --> 00:08:20,440

I was also-- while
I was there, I

112

00:08:20,440 --> 00:08:27,130

was selected to escort German
generals because of my language

113

00:08:27,130 --> 00:08:27,670

capability.

114

00:08:27,670 --> 00:08:30,220

And I point out
that, previously,

115

00:08:30,220 --> 00:08:31,690

when I was stationed
in New York,

116

00:08:31,690 --> 00:08:36,250

I took one of the
first groups of Germans

117

00:08:36,250 --> 00:08:40,690

in newly organized
German Armed Forces

118

00:08:40,690 --> 00:08:44,049

on trips through this country.

119

00:08:44,049 --> 00:08:52,450

And that gave me an opportunity
to meet these individuals

120

00:08:52,450 --> 00:08:58,980

and sort of evaluate
what kind of people

121

00:08:58,980 --> 00:09:00,720

the Germans were using.

122

00:09:00,720 --> 00:09:10,320

And I must say, some of them are
very, very fine human beings.

123

00:09:10,320 --> 00:09:12,060

However, of course,
I wasn't able to tell

124

00:09:12,060 --> 00:09:13,890

what they had been before.

125

00:09:13,890 --> 00:09:20,230

126
00:09:20,230 --> 00:09:25,380
How long did you stay in the
United States at that time?

127
00:09:25,380 --> 00:09:32,140
In 1965 my tour at Leavenworth
as an instructor ended.

128
00:09:32,140 --> 00:09:41,770
And I was assigned to NATO to a
central Army Group in Germany.

129
00:09:41,770 --> 00:09:44,590
And as it turned
out, the headquarters

130
00:09:44,590 --> 00:09:48,670
was right near Heidelberg,
the central Army Group.

131
00:09:48,670 --> 00:09:54,460
And we had military
housing in Mannheim,

132
00:09:54,460 --> 00:09:57,640
which, of course, is not very
far from the town of Landau

133
00:09:57,640 --> 00:09:59,460
where I was born.

134
00:09:59,460 --> 00:10:05,060
I suppose it's significant
that we had French, German,

135
00:10:05,060 --> 00:10:09,890
and American personnel
on our staff.

136
00:10:09,890 --> 00:10:18,310
So, once again, it was a very
unusual opportunity to mingle,

137
00:10:18,310 --> 00:10:20,050
particularly, with
the Germans who

138
00:10:20,050 --> 00:10:26,770
I found a very interesting
group of people.

139
00:10:26,770 --> 00:10:33,400
And I had approximately
18 months there.

140
00:10:33,400 --> 00:10:38,590
And before, I was given
command of a infantry battalion

141
00:10:38,590 --> 00:10:43,420
in the 3rd Division very close
to the East German border.

142
00:10:43,420 --> 00:10:45,850
And I commanded
the 2nd Battalion

143
00:10:45,850 --> 00:10:51,400
of the 15th infantry
for another 18 months

144
00:10:51,400 --> 00:10:54,220
until I was promoted to Colonel.

145
00:10:54,220 --> 00:11:00,400
And I suppose I got to meet
some interesting Germans there,

146
00:11:00,400 --> 00:11:03,940
one of whom was a German
battalion commander

147
00:11:03,940 --> 00:11:07,030
and turned out to have
been a prisoner of war

148

00:11:07,030 --> 00:11:14,230
in a camp in Ingolstadt and I
had signed his discharge paper.

149

00:11:14,230 --> 00:11:22,930
And he was, evidently, most
appreciative of the way

150

00:11:22,930 --> 00:11:26,680
we treated him because he has
visited us here in the United

151

00:11:26,680 --> 00:11:29,830
States on several occasions.

152

00:11:29,830 --> 00:11:37,330
Secondly, I guess, the second
point, which is sort of ironic,

153

00:11:37,330 --> 00:11:41,590
is that the Germans made
me the Honorary Commander

154

00:11:41,590 --> 00:11:47,830
of the 353rd Panzer
Grenadier Battalion

155

00:11:47,830 --> 00:11:55,060
which was co-located with us
in Wildflecken, vild-flecken,

156

00:11:55,060 --> 00:11:57,160
as it's pronounced in German.

157

00:11:57,160 --> 00:12:04,990
And I couldn't help but reflect
as the German soldiers passed

158

00:12:04,990 --> 00:12:11,260
in review in front of
me some of my feelings

159

00:12:11,260 --> 00:12:14,320
at that very moment.

160

00:12:14,320 --> 00:12:18,190
From Germany then,
I went to Vietnam.

161

00:12:18,190 --> 00:12:21,790

162

00:12:21,790 --> 00:12:24,100
I don't want you to
leave Germany just yet.

163

00:12:24,100 --> 00:12:27,130
I would like you to please
expand on what you were just

164

00:12:27,130 --> 00:12:29,500
saying about what your
thoughts were at the moment

165

00:12:29,500 --> 00:12:32,210
that they paraded before you.

166

00:12:32,210 --> 00:12:34,930

167

00:12:34,930 --> 00:12:37,210
Well, I thought I'd--

168

00:12:37,210 --> 00:12:41,260

169

00:12:41,260 --> 00:12:46,990
I could hardly grasp the
meaning of this moment

170

00:12:46,990 --> 00:12:50,950
when they were pinning
this honorary pin on me

171

00:12:50,950 --> 00:12:54,800
and parading all these
Germans in front of me.

172

00:12:54,800 --> 00:13:05,960
And I thought of myself of
the time 25 years earlier

173

00:13:05,960 --> 00:13:11,870
when I had left Germany on
a train in 1936, I guess.

174

00:13:11,870 --> 00:13:14,480
And this was '60--

175

00:13:14,480 --> 00:13:17,930
so I guess it was
30 years earlier.

176

00:13:17,930 --> 00:13:21,110
It was '67 when this occurred.

177

00:13:21,110 --> 00:13:25,490
And it's early '68
actually, February.

178

00:13:25,490 --> 00:13:31,730
And I just-- to me, this was
a very overwhelming moment.

179

00:13:31,730 --> 00:13:34,630

180

00:13:34,630 --> 00:13:43,330
And I can't really put into
words all the wild feelings

181

00:13:43,330 --> 00:13:48,160
that went through me as
I watched these steel

182

00:13:48,160 --> 00:13:55,164

helmeted Germans passing in
front of me, saluting me.

183
00:13:55,164 --> 00:13:58,920
It was indeed a
unusual experience.

184
00:13:58,920 --> 00:14:01,620

185
00:14:01,620 --> 00:14:10,380
I had also made a couple
of visits to my hometown

186
00:14:10,380 --> 00:14:12,900
with my family.

187
00:14:12,900 --> 00:14:19,530
And, of course, as I was to
do in many subsequent visits

188
00:14:19,530 --> 00:14:22,710
to Germany, I always
went to the cemetery

189
00:14:22,710 --> 00:14:26,460
and looked at the place where
our synagogue had once stood

190
00:14:26,460 --> 00:14:31,440
and where there was
no simple stone there.

191
00:14:31,440 --> 00:14:33,240
But I remember,
at one occasion, I

192
00:14:33,240 --> 00:14:38,430
stood in front of my
grandfather's old home

193
00:14:38,430 --> 00:14:40,890
on Konigsstrasse.

194
00:14:40,890 --> 00:14:44,850
And I had my wife and
two children with me.

195
00:14:44,850 --> 00:14:46,950
And then we heard music.

196
00:14:46,950 --> 00:14:51,030
And there was a parade
coming down this very street.

197
00:14:51,030 --> 00:14:58,000
And for one brief moment
when I saw this parade,

198
00:14:58,000 --> 00:15:00,340
and they have a
number of parades.

199
00:15:00,340 --> 00:15:02,920
They call themselves
the Flower City--

200
00:15:02,920 --> 00:15:07,000
the Garden City of the
Palatinate in Landau.

201
00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:10,450
But when I heard
that martial music,

202
00:15:10,450 --> 00:15:17,620
I had suddenly had almost
a feeling of terror

203
00:15:17,620 --> 00:15:20,680
as we had when we saw
the stormtroopers.

204
00:15:20,680 --> 00:15:26,770
We used to march down the same
street behind similar bands.

205
00:15:26,770 --> 00:15:32,400
And it was almost
a catharsis for me

206
00:15:32,400 --> 00:15:38,940
to go back to this
town which now has lost

207
00:15:38,940 --> 00:15:42,270
whatever allure it
might have had one time.

208
00:15:42,270 --> 00:15:48,180
It was just a nasty small town.

209
00:15:48,180 --> 00:15:51,330
And I really don't--

210
00:15:51,330 --> 00:15:53,580
really, I've gone back
a number of times,

211
00:15:53,580 --> 00:16:00,480
but I've had only
one other experience

212
00:16:00,480 --> 00:16:04,200
which might be interesting.

213
00:16:04,200 --> 00:16:07,800
During a trip many
years later when

214
00:16:07,800 --> 00:16:10,170
I was in the Office of
Secretary of Defense,

215
00:16:10,170 --> 00:16:18,840
and I had a day free, and I went
back drawn back some reason.

216

00:16:18,840 --> 00:16:21,750
And there in the middle
of the market square

217
00:16:21,750 --> 00:16:27,090
was a black Sergeant,
an American Sergeant.

218
00:16:27,090 --> 00:16:31,530
And I went up to him and spoke
to him in English because I--

219
00:16:31,530 --> 00:16:37,650
and he told me he was stationed
in Landau with a unit.

220
00:16:37,650 --> 00:16:40,780
And I asked him
where he was from.

221
00:16:40,780 --> 00:16:43,260
And he was from North
Carolina somewhere.

222
00:16:43,260 --> 00:16:44,950
And he asked me
where I was from.

223
00:16:44,950 --> 00:16:47,657
And I said I'm from this town.

224
00:16:47,657 --> 00:16:49,740
And he looked at me and
he says, why would anybody

225
00:16:49,740 --> 00:16:55,151
want to be in this dumb town?

226
00:16:55,151 --> 00:16:58,710
I said I hate every minute here.

227
00:16:58,710 --> 00:17:01,590
I have never forgotten

this brief interlude

228

00:17:01,590 --> 00:17:06,510
with this American Sergeant
who was stationed with a hawk

229

00:17:06,510 --> 00:17:10,000
anti-missile battalion which
was on the outskirts of the town

230

00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:10,500
there.

231

00:17:10,500 --> 00:17:15,402

232

00:17:15,402 --> 00:17:17,069
While you were in
your hometown, did you

233

00:17:17,069 --> 00:17:19,290
see any of your former
neighbors or anybody

234

00:17:19,290 --> 00:17:20,520
that had been a classmate?

235

00:17:20,520 --> 00:17:23,410

236

00:17:23,410 --> 00:17:30,520
I saw one schoolmate who--

237

00:17:30,520 --> 00:17:33,670
his father had been
the chief of police

238

00:17:33,670 --> 00:17:41,300
and had been very decent to us.

239

00:17:41,300 --> 00:17:45,430
And he-- I have lost

track of him now.

240

00:17:45,430 --> 00:17:48,370

But I saw him a few times there.

241

00:17:48,370 --> 00:17:50,240

He'd become a dentist.

242

00:17:50,240 --> 00:17:52,480

And he was a very good person.

243

00:17:52,480 --> 00:17:55,120

And he had served
in the German army.

244

00:17:55,120 --> 00:17:59,230

And his brother had
served in the SS.

245

00:17:59,230 --> 00:18:02,350

And I saw him a few
times, but we really

246

00:18:02,350 --> 00:18:04,750

didn't have very much in common.

247

00:18:04,750 --> 00:18:12,310

And I was-- in Landau
there is a memorial set up.

248

00:18:12,310 --> 00:18:14,290

It's called the
Frank-Loebshes house.

249

00:18:14,290 --> 00:18:18,470

It's named after the Frank
family or Anne Frank's family

250

00:18:18,470 --> 00:18:24,070

originally had come from there.

251

00:18:24,070 --> 00:18:30,550

And this house was in very bad condition at the end of the war

252
00:18:30,550 --> 00:18:33,610
and has been rehabilitated now.

253
00:18:33,610 --> 00:18:40,300
And they've set aside, on the upper floor, several rooms that

254
00:18:40,300 --> 00:18:46,020
have the mementos of the Jewish community that was there.

255
00:18:46,020 --> 00:18:49,630
So I've gone there on a few occasions.

256
00:18:49,630 --> 00:18:55,850
But other than that, and in the cemetery,

257
00:18:55,850 --> 00:18:59,480
it's like going on an archaeological expedition

258
00:18:59,480 --> 00:19:00,950
almost.

259
00:19:00,950 --> 00:19:02,780
There are just no Jews there.

260
00:19:02,780 --> 00:19:08,580

261
00:19:08,580 --> 00:19:14,730
During your tour in Germany this time, who knew you were Jewish?

262
00:19:14,730 --> 00:19:17,120
And did you experience any anti-Semitism?

263

00:19:17,120 --> 00:19:19,740

264

00:19:19,740 --> 00:19:22,230

I think it was
pretty well-known.

265

00:19:22,230 --> 00:19:26,490

As a matter of fact, when I
was commander of the battalion,

266

00:19:26,490 --> 00:19:29,380

both of my battalion
surgeons were Jewish.

267

00:19:29,380 --> 00:19:31,020

But, of course,
there were no-- there

268

00:19:31,020 --> 00:19:33,330

were hardly any
Jewish personnel.

269

00:19:33,330 --> 00:19:38,430

And we had no services up there
in where we were stationed,

270

00:19:38,430 --> 00:19:45,510

no Jewish services because there
were no Jewish chaplains there

271

00:19:45,510 --> 00:19:46,350

in that area.

272

00:19:46,350 --> 00:19:49,650

273

00:19:49,650 --> 00:19:53,310

If there was anti-Semitism,
I certainly didn't notice it.

274

00:19:53,310 --> 00:19:56,280

Of course, it would have been--

275

00:19:56,280 --> 00:19:59,640

I was a fairly senior
officer by that time.

276

00:19:59,640 --> 00:20:01,950

And it would
probably be difficult

277

00:20:01,950 --> 00:20:07,440

for me to have become
aware of it in any case.

278

00:20:07,440 --> 00:20:16,710

So among my allied
colleagues, I can't say

279

00:20:16,710 --> 00:20:18,960

that I found any anti-Semitism.

280

00:20:18,960 --> 00:20:22,170

I became very friendly with
some of the German officers.

281

00:20:22,170 --> 00:20:28,110

And they simply didn't bring
up the topic very often.

282

00:20:28,110 --> 00:20:31,530

But they, certainly, were
aware that I was Jewish.

283

00:20:31,530 --> 00:20:38,610

And I must say that
they were quite correct.

284

00:20:38,610 --> 00:20:42,450

They entertained
us in their homes.

285

00:20:42,450 --> 00:20:44,340

And we entertained them.

286
00:20:44,340 --> 00:20:47,580
And, of course, we
had the same mission.

287
00:20:47,580 --> 00:20:50,010
We were under NATO.

288
00:20:50,010 --> 00:20:53,580
And I went with them to
Luxembourg and Brussels

289
00:20:53,580 --> 00:20:56,130
where the headquarters
of NATO was.

290
00:20:56,130 --> 00:21:01,650
But there was no evidence
of any overt anti-Semitism.

291
00:21:01,650 --> 00:21:03,750
As a matter of fact,
I probably like

292
00:21:03,750 --> 00:21:07,020
to point out that I put my
daughter in a German school.

293
00:21:07,020 --> 00:21:11,340
The American schools were
quite substandard there.

294
00:21:11,340 --> 00:21:13,980
And one of my German
colleagues helped

295
00:21:13,980 --> 00:21:17,100
me place my daughter
in a German school.

296
00:21:17,100 --> 00:21:19,170
And she became bilingual.

297

00:21:19,170 --> 00:21:23,250

And she considers
this to have been

298

00:21:23,250 --> 00:21:27,120

a very important experience,
a very defining experience

299

00:21:27,120 --> 00:21:28,590

in her life.

300

00:21:28,590 --> 00:21:36,420

And she has spoken very
often, very favorably,

301

00:21:36,420 --> 00:21:38,880

about her experience.

302

00:21:38,880 --> 00:21:44,170

303

00:21:44,170 --> 00:21:49,810

Did you ever at that time,
that trip to Germany--

304

00:21:49,810 --> 00:21:51,790

was there ever
any acknowledgment

305

00:21:51,790 --> 00:21:55,210

from any of the Germans that
you met about responsibility

306

00:21:55,210 --> 00:21:57,100

for what happened
during the war?

307

00:21:57,100 --> 00:22:00,160

308

00:22:00,160 --> 00:22:05,410

I have some German friends

that I met during the period

309

00:22:05,410 --> 00:22:07,900

when I was there before.

310

00:22:07,900 --> 00:22:10,480

And one of them--

311

00:22:10,480 --> 00:22:11,860

he's probably the

last one I have

312

00:22:11,860 --> 00:22:15,950

contact with because the

others have passed away.

313

00:22:15,950 --> 00:22:17,710

He was the head of

the Bavarian Senate.

314

00:22:17,710 --> 00:22:20,320

315

00:22:20,320 --> 00:22:24,940

And I have known him since 1946.

316

00:22:24,940 --> 00:22:28,870

And, as I said, the

people we selected

317

00:22:28,870 --> 00:22:31,090

to work with us, at

least in my small unit,

318

00:22:31,090 --> 00:22:34,720

we made absolutely certain

that they were not tainted.

319

00:22:34,720 --> 00:22:43,150

This man was in the Catholic

youth movement, which was--

320

00:22:43,150 --> 00:22:47,550

321

00:22:47,550 --> 00:22:48,970

well, they weren't overtly--

322

00:22:48,970 --> 00:22:54,670

couldn't overtly
oppose the Nazis.

323

00:22:54,670 --> 00:22:59,500

They were passive or
tried to be passive.

324

00:22:59,500 --> 00:23:06,940

And you may have heard of the
Scholl sisters or the brother

325

00:23:06,940 --> 00:23:09,740

and sister Scholl who were
at Munich University who

326

00:23:09,740 --> 00:23:14,890

tried to put out some
anti-Nazi leaflets

327

00:23:14,890 --> 00:23:17,560

and they were be-headed.

328

00:23:17,560 --> 00:23:22,960

And this German that I know
was a contemporary of theirs.

329

00:23:22,960 --> 00:23:26,800

And he rose up, became a very--

330

00:23:26,800 --> 00:23:32,140

he was a burgermeister
of a substantial town,

331

00:23:32,140 --> 00:23:35,680

and later on became head
of the Bavarian Senate.

332
00:23:35,680 --> 00:23:39,280
We have been very close
friends since those days.

333
00:23:39,280 --> 00:23:41,950
And he has spoken
a number of times.

334
00:23:41,950 --> 00:23:43,810
As a matter of fact,
he and his wife both,

335
00:23:43,810 --> 00:23:47,300
one time, when we were
talking, his wife said,

336
00:23:47,300 --> 00:23:52,720
I will never forget when they
came to take this family away

337
00:23:52,720 --> 00:23:55,270
in their apartment
house in Munich.

338
00:23:55,270 --> 00:24:00,010
And he said, we did nothing.

339
00:24:00,010 --> 00:24:01,720
None of us--

340
00:24:01,720 --> 00:24:02,770
We turned away.

341
00:24:02,770 --> 00:24:07,480
We didn't want to be--

342
00:24:07,480 --> 00:24:10,930
we were so frightened,
and we were so passive.

343
00:24:10,930 --> 00:24:14,920

And we didn't find the strength
to do anything in those days

344
00:24:14,920 --> 00:24:17,650
and she said, I have
never forgotten this

345
00:24:17,650 --> 00:24:21,110
and it will be with me
the rest of my life.

346
00:24:21,110 --> 00:24:27,910
And so these people of
course have been very unusual

347
00:24:27,910 --> 00:24:34,930
as I said, most Germans
of the current generation

348
00:24:34,930 --> 00:24:40,300
that they thinking
Germans I would say

349
00:24:40,300 --> 00:24:44,470
would appear that
they abhor what

350
00:24:44,470 --> 00:24:47,125
the previous generation did.

351
00:24:47,125 --> 00:24:48,500
And, of course,
we're now getting

352
00:24:48,500 --> 00:24:53,560
into the second generation after
the war, not only the first.

353
00:24:53,560 --> 00:24:59,740
And then there are many others
who the schools do not make a

354
00:24:59,740 --> 00:25:05,660

or have not in the past made
a very conscious attempt

355
00:25:05,660 --> 00:25:11,720
to talk about the quote
"guilt" of the German.

356
00:25:11,720 --> 00:25:15,360
So it's probably quite human.

357
00:25:15,360 --> 00:25:17,060
They want to get away from that.

358
00:25:17,060 --> 00:25:19,790
They don't want to be
reminded of it constantly.

359
00:25:19,790 --> 00:25:23,780
There is a small
minority of Germans who--

360
00:25:23,780 --> 00:25:28,430
the one half of 1% probably--

361
00:25:28,430 --> 00:25:30,530
who still keep this alive.

362
00:25:30,530 --> 00:25:34,160
But, I would say
the rest of them,

363
00:25:34,160 --> 00:25:37,610
just like anyone
else that's as if we

364
00:25:37,610 --> 00:25:41,990
hear talk about what we did
to the American Indians,

365
00:25:41,990 --> 00:25:45,740
or to the Blacks, we don't want
to be reminded of these things.

366

00:25:45,740 --> 00:25:49,920

367

00:25:49,920 --> 00:25:52,290

When your daughter was
in school in Germany

368

00:25:52,290 --> 00:25:55,620

did she learn anything
about the most

369

00:25:55,620 --> 00:25:57,810

recent part of German history?

370

00:25:57,810 --> 00:25:59,310

Specifically, did
she learn anything

371

00:25:59,310 --> 00:26:00,810

about World War II
and the Holocaust

372

00:26:00,810 --> 00:26:03,240

while she was in school there?

373

00:26:03,240 --> 00:26:06,000

I would say very, very little.

374

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:08,610

Of course, she was
in grade school.

375

00:26:08,610 --> 00:26:10,860

And it probably
wouldn't be fair to make

376

00:26:10,860 --> 00:26:14,890

a judgment on that basis.

377

00:26:14,890 --> 00:26:20,880

But we had her when I was
commanding the battalion.

378
00:26:20,880 --> 00:26:25,440
We were in a very remote area
and she went into a school.

379
00:26:25,440 --> 00:26:28,080
There were only three
teachers for eight grades.

380
00:26:28,080 --> 00:26:31,680
And it was a rural, a
typical rural school.

381
00:26:31,680 --> 00:26:34,500
And most of the children
were refugee children

382
00:26:34,500 --> 00:26:38,160
from East Germany or
from East Prussia.

383
00:26:38,160 --> 00:26:41,820
And she really got to
see a cross-section

384
00:26:41,820 --> 00:26:47,250
of what these people
also had to surmount.

385
00:26:47,250 --> 00:26:54,090
But I can't make a
meaningful judgment

386
00:26:54,090 --> 00:26:58,190
on whether they should have had
more of a curriculum in grade

387
00:26:58,190 --> 00:26:58,690
school.

388
00:26:58,690 --> 00:27:04,500
I don't think they probably
would have been appropriate.

389

00:27:04,500 --> 00:27:06,270

How long were you in Germany?

390

00:27:06,270 --> 00:27:09,900

And where were you signed next?

391

00:27:09,900 --> 00:27:19,650

I left Germany in February 1968
and went to drop my family off

392

00:27:19,650 --> 00:27:24,030

here in the United States, and
I went directly to Vietnam.

393

00:27:24,030 --> 00:27:30,450

I spent a year in Vietnam on
the staff in Saigon, most of it,

394

00:27:30,450 --> 00:27:36,750

but my position required me
to be all over the country.

395

00:27:36,750 --> 00:27:44,430

So I got to see all of South
Vietnam from North to South

396

00:27:44,430 --> 00:27:46,470

and returned.

397

00:27:46,470 --> 00:27:53,020

It was a-- professionally--

398

00:27:53,020 --> 00:27:57,100

an important experience.

399

00:27:57,100 --> 00:28:05,410

But it was very sad to see what
that country had to go through.

400

00:28:05,410 --> 00:28:13,900

And it was also, from the

standpoint of warfare,

401

00:28:13,900 --> 00:28:18,370
in constant turmoil because
our soldiers came and went.

402

00:28:18,370 --> 00:28:26,800
And that did not help with
an enlightened professional

403

00:28:26,800 --> 00:28:28,120
operation I would say.

404

00:28:28,120 --> 00:28:31,240

405

00:28:31,240 --> 00:28:33,700
So one learned a
great deal of what

406

00:28:33,700 --> 00:28:38,140
not to do over there as well
as what we should have done.

407

00:28:38,140 --> 00:28:40,840

408

00:28:40,840 --> 00:28:43,090
What were your
expectations when you

409

00:28:43,090 --> 00:28:46,000
were going to Vietnam before
you had actually been there?

410

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:51,170
What did you expect that
you would encounter?

411

00:28:51,170 --> 00:28:55,550
Well, I remember, while
I was still in Germany,

412

00:28:55,550 --> 00:28:57,470

I was asked to
address a German--

413

00:28:57,470 --> 00:29:01,640

414

00:29:01,640 --> 00:29:05,330

a group of German officers.

415

00:29:05,330 --> 00:29:09,000

They wanted a talk by an
American officer on Vietnam.

416

00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:11,720

And this is before I left.

417

00:29:11,720 --> 00:29:17,330

And I said, I expect that
that was somewhat similar

418

00:29:17,330 --> 00:29:19,910

or I expected it to
be somewhat similar

419

00:29:19,910 --> 00:29:24,260

to, in an allegorical
sense, to the Thirty Years'

420

00:29:24,260 --> 00:29:32,570

War in Germany from 1618 to 1648
when, after the first 20 years,

421

00:29:32,570 --> 00:29:35,420

people had forgotten what
the war was really about.

422

00:29:35,420 --> 00:29:39,800

And the people who
were the real victims

423

00:29:39,800 --> 00:29:42,630

were the farmers and
the common people.

424
00:29:42,630 --> 00:29:45,680
And I have--

425
00:29:45,680 --> 00:29:48,890
I think I was quite
correct in that assessment,

426
00:29:48,890 --> 00:29:55,790
that to the Vietnamese, I think
the ideological purposes had

427
00:29:55,790 --> 00:29:57,350
become completely blurred.

428
00:29:57,350 --> 00:29:59,840
All they wanted was that--

429
00:29:59,840 --> 00:30:01,320
just leave us alone.

430
00:30:01,320 --> 00:30:03,800
We don't want the
Americans here.

431
00:30:03,800 --> 00:30:05,660
We don't want the
North Vietnamese here.

432
00:30:05,660 --> 00:30:07,610
We don't want the
South Vietnamese here.

433
00:30:07,610 --> 00:30:10,260
We would like to live
like human beings.

434
00:30:10,260 --> 00:30:14,120
And I think I'm correct in
that because the war had

435

00:30:14,120 --> 00:30:20,720

been going on, in essence,
since the late 1940s.

436

00:30:20,720 --> 00:30:24,110

And the French left in 1955.

437

00:30:24,110 --> 00:30:30,110

And, in effect, we then, in
the eyes of the Vietnamese,

438

00:30:30,110 --> 00:30:35,120

we became the heirs
of the French, which

439

00:30:35,120 --> 00:30:37,460

didn't help us any because
the French were considered

440

00:30:37,460 --> 00:30:40,880

to be a colonial government.

441

00:30:40,880 --> 00:30:43,430

And, in essence, that's the--

442

00:30:43,430 --> 00:30:48,860

I guess from a human standpoint,
would be my assessment

443

00:30:48,860 --> 00:31:01,100

that the danger or the terror,
or the inability of people

444

00:31:01,100 --> 00:31:05,720

to live out their lives was
the overriding factor there.

445

00:31:05,720 --> 00:31:09,500

Even so, our aim was
certainly laudable.

446

00:31:09,500 --> 00:31:12,950

We went in there with
the very best intentions.

447
00:31:12,950 --> 00:31:19,160
But a democracy
should not really

448
00:31:19,160 --> 00:31:21,980
get involved in
protracted warfare

449
00:31:21,980 --> 00:31:28,770
because our Congress is
not going to stand for--

450
00:31:28,770 --> 00:31:33,510
I mean, boys from Iowa are being
killed somewhere 10,000 miles

451
00:31:33,510 --> 00:31:39,030
away for years, and years,
and years, at a time.

452
00:31:39,030 --> 00:31:41,460
And I think we have
learned that lesson.

453
00:31:41,460 --> 00:31:45,330
This is why, when we
went into Desert Storm,

454
00:31:45,330 --> 00:31:49,470
it was over very, very
quickly because the generation

455
00:31:49,470 --> 00:31:53,760
of military professionals that
came out of Vietnam, like Colin

456
00:31:53,760 --> 00:31:55,680
Powell, certainly
learned that lesson.

457

00:31:55,680 --> 00:32:00,915

458

00:32:00,915 --> 00:32:02,290

Is there anything
that sticks out

459

00:32:02,290 --> 00:32:05,460

in your mind about
your time in Vietnam

460

00:32:05,460 --> 00:32:07,930

that you have not mentioned
about your experiences

461

00:32:07,930 --> 00:32:11,240

in Vietnam that you
want to mention now?

462

00:32:11,240 --> 00:32:15,610

No, I think that I've
sort of summed it up.

463

00:32:15,610 --> 00:32:21,580

The experience in Vietnam,
it was, as I said,

464

00:32:21,580 --> 00:32:25,720

there were the
experiences we had there,

465

00:32:25,720 --> 00:32:29,260

and the lives that were
lost there are just

466

00:32:29,260 --> 00:32:31,780

something which is--

467

00:32:31,780 --> 00:32:34,690

really is something that we have
to live with for a long time

468

00:32:34,690 --> 00:32:36,560

to come.

469
00:32:36,560 --> 00:32:43,420
And, I think, hopefully, we
will not make that error again,

470
00:32:43,420 --> 00:32:45,610
as I said.

471
00:32:45,610 --> 00:32:48,430
But our political
leadership got us into it

472
00:32:48,430 --> 00:32:52,480
and wouldn't get us out
of it until later on.

473
00:32:52,480 --> 00:32:55,680

474
00:32:55,680 --> 00:32:59,210
And the military will do
what they're asked to do.

475
00:32:59,210 --> 00:33:01,100
And, of course, their
advice sometimes

476
00:33:01,100 --> 00:33:04,020
wasn't that good either.

477
00:33:04,020 --> 00:33:10,130
So there is enough blame to go
around, I feel, for everyone.

478
00:33:10,130 --> 00:33:15,730

479
00:33:15,730 --> 00:33:20,590
Where were you
assigned next and when?

480

00:33:20,590 --> 00:33:26,500

I was-- I had been told before
I went to Vietnam that I

481

00:33:26,500 --> 00:33:32,240

would probably not be able to
avoid the Pentagon much longer.

482

00:33:32,240 --> 00:33:35,080

It's the destiny
of anyone who has

483

00:33:35,080 --> 00:33:37,870

a military career that,
sooner or later, he

484

00:33:37,870 --> 00:33:41,920

has to do his penance
in Washington.

485

00:33:41,920 --> 00:33:44,000

And that happened to me as well.

486

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:52,900

And I was assigned to the army
staff in Washington in 1969.

487

00:33:52,900 --> 00:34:00,520

And I became Director
of Counterintelligence

488

00:34:00,520 --> 00:34:04,150

in the Office of the Army,
Assistant Chief of Staff

489

00:34:04,150 --> 00:34:09,879

for Intelligence, which is one
of the major staff divisions.

490

00:34:09,879 --> 00:34:13,480

491

00:34:13,480 --> 00:34:18,840

And I was there until 1971.

492

00:34:18,840 --> 00:34:24,310

It was very interesting
for several reasons.

493

00:34:24,310 --> 00:34:32,320

I had been absent from
intelligence now since 1957.

494

00:34:32,320 --> 00:34:35,739

And this was 1969.

495

00:34:35,739 --> 00:34:38,110

So I had been gone 12
years out of intelligence.

496

00:34:38,110 --> 00:34:39,969

I'd been back in the infantry.

497

00:34:39,969 --> 00:34:44,139

And I came back, and I found
that we were involved in civil

498

00:34:44,139 --> 00:34:48,280

disturbance intelligence,
which was something I hadn't--

499

00:34:48,280 --> 00:34:54,340

and the mission of that, which
happened to be in my shop,

500

00:34:54,340 --> 00:35:01,210

was the monitoring of
our civilian activities

501

00:35:01,210 --> 00:35:05,590

when there were
civilian unrest which

502

00:35:05,590 --> 00:35:11,860

was beyond the capability of
local and state authorities.

503
00:35:11,860 --> 00:35:24,460
And this became ever more
of an important requirement

504
00:35:24,460 --> 00:35:30,520
as the anti-Vietnam
demonstrations commenced.

505
00:35:30,520 --> 00:35:35,200
And as we had these
huge demonstrations here

506
00:35:35,200 --> 00:35:39,280
in Washington in the 1960--

507
00:35:39,280 --> 00:35:44,290
well, first of all, in 1968
we had the Martin Luther King

508
00:35:44,290 --> 00:35:45,920
riots.

509
00:35:45,920 --> 00:35:50,930
And I entered Washington
just at that very day

510
00:35:50,930 --> 00:35:52,720
when these occurred.

511
00:35:52,720 --> 00:35:57,610
And, ironically, I
reflected once again.

512
00:35:57,610 --> 00:36:02,290
We had left Germany where I was
right on the East German border

513
00:36:02,290 --> 00:36:07,690
prepared for any eventuality
with the Soviet attack.

514

00:36:07,690 --> 00:36:10,990
And it was relatively
quiet there.

515
00:36:10,990 --> 00:36:12,070
And I come back.

516
00:36:12,070 --> 00:36:16,510
And I enter
Washington, and I see

517
00:36:16,510 --> 00:36:24,910
smoke trails, and fires, and
police, and military people all

518
00:36:24,910 --> 00:36:27,250
over the city here.

519
00:36:27,250 --> 00:36:31,330
And that was my first
impression as I came here

520
00:36:31,330 --> 00:36:33,910
to leave for Vietnam.

521
00:36:33,910 --> 00:36:37,697
So when I came back to Vietnam,
I, of course, at that time

522
00:36:37,697 --> 00:36:40,030
I didn't think I was coming
back to take an intelligence

523
00:36:40,030 --> 00:36:40,570
assignment.

524
00:36:40,570 --> 00:36:44,080
And then, when I came
back, I inherited

525
00:36:44,080 --> 00:36:50,170
among my responsibilities, this
civil disturbance branch which

526
00:36:50,170 --> 00:36:54,670
received reports
from various agencies

527
00:36:54,670 --> 00:37:00,610
on the status of the situation.

528
00:37:00,610 --> 00:37:06,610
And, basically, we would report
to the army Chief of Staff

529
00:37:06,610 --> 00:37:11,440
and to the Secretary of the
Army on what the likelihood

530
00:37:11,440 --> 00:37:15,970
and probability of the
kind of disturbances

531
00:37:15,970 --> 00:37:22,427
which might require the
military to be committed.

532
00:37:22,427 --> 00:37:25,630

533
00:37:25,630 --> 00:37:28,370
We have to pause so I can flip
the tape, just one moment.

534
00:37:28,370 --> 00:37:40,040

535
00:37:40,040 --> 00:37:42,800
The United States Holocaust
Memorial Museum volunteer

536
00:37:42,800 --> 00:37:45,530
collection interview
with Werner Michel.

537

00:37:45,530 --> 00:37:48,740

This is tape two, side

B. And you had just

538

00:37:48,740 --> 00:37:53,330

been telling me about civilian
disturbance intelligence which

539

00:37:53,330 --> 00:37:54,320

was your assignment.

540

00:37:54,320 --> 00:37:58,100

Did you have any problems with
that particular assignment

541

00:37:58,100 --> 00:38:02,870

in light of your personal
history from your childhood

542

00:38:02,870 --> 00:38:05,240

in Germany?

543

00:38:05,240 --> 00:38:08,460

None at all because,
as a matter of fact,

544

00:38:08,460 --> 00:38:12,380

we had a number of Jewish
personnel in our office.

545

00:38:12,380 --> 00:38:15,650

And I must say, this was only
one of the responsibilities.

546

00:38:15,650 --> 00:38:17,210

We also had other
counterintelligence

547

00:38:17,210 --> 00:38:18,690

responsibilities.

548

00:38:18,690 --> 00:38:21,560

This was the one that

was unusual to me

549

00:38:21,560 --> 00:38:23,930

because, as I said, I had
been out of intelligence

550

00:38:23,930 --> 00:38:25,640

for a number of years.

551

00:38:25,640 --> 00:38:31,550

And the army leadership
also was very concerned

552

00:38:31,550 --> 00:38:35,220

that our activities
be legal and proper.

553

00:38:35,220 --> 00:38:43,460

And so when some of these
disturbances occurred,

554

00:38:43,460 --> 00:38:45,650

we, of course, wanted to
be sure we were right.

555

00:38:45,650 --> 00:38:47,750

And we also wanted to
be sure that we did not

556

00:38:47,750 --> 00:38:53,420

commit army troops prior
to the president's decision

557

00:38:53,420 --> 00:38:55,490

to commit army troops.

558

00:38:55,490 --> 00:38:57,200

So we had to have
good information

559

00:38:57,200 --> 00:39:04,700

on which to base a meaningful
and intelligent judgment.

560

00:39:04,700 --> 00:39:12,290

I also bring this up because
in 1969, there were allegations

561

00:39:12,290 --> 00:39:16,800

that the army had indeed
been spying on civilians.

562

00:39:16,800 --> 00:39:24,200

And Senator Sam Ervin
from North Carolina

563

00:39:24,200 --> 00:39:30,650

and his constitutional rights
subcommittee ran this inquiry.

564

00:39:30,650 --> 00:39:34,910

And I became involved
in this on the margin

565

00:39:34,910 --> 00:39:40,040

because the secretary of the
army set up a board of inquiry

566

00:39:40,040 --> 00:39:44,270

to look into the
possibilities of violations

567

00:39:44,270 --> 00:39:47,360

by the Army
Intelligence Command.

568

00:39:47,360 --> 00:39:51,320

And these specific allegations
dealt with the Army

569

00:39:51,320 --> 00:39:53,300

Intelligence
activities surrounding

570

00:39:53,300 --> 00:39:58,010

the Democratic National

Convention in 1968.

571

00:39:58,010 --> 00:40:00,720

I think it was called
the Days of Rage.

572

00:40:00,720 --> 00:40:04,610

I was not even in the country
at that time when this occurred,

573

00:40:04,610 --> 00:40:07,880

therefore I suppose they
selected me to be on this panel

574

00:40:07,880 --> 00:40:12,950

because I was not
personally involved.

575

00:40:12,950 --> 00:40:14,850

There was no
conflict of interest.

576

00:40:14,850 --> 00:40:17,960

So I was the military member
of this board of inquiry

577

00:40:17,960 --> 00:40:20,150

which went to Chicago.

578

00:40:20,150 --> 00:40:26,270

And we interviewed intelligence
personnel and persons

579

00:40:26,270 --> 00:40:30,770

from other agencies to
determine whether there

580

00:40:30,770 --> 00:40:33,480

were legitimate grievances.

581

00:40:33,480 --> 00:40:35,660

And we found, yes,
indeed that there

582
00:40:35,660 --> 00:40:43,790
had been some, at the local
level, unauthorized activities.

583
00:40:43,790 --> 00:40:47,690
But they were not on the
floor of the convention as

584
00:40:47,690 --> 00:40:48,860
been alleged.

585
00:40:48,860 --> 00:40:55,490
At that time, there were
also black activists.

586
00:40:55,490 --> 00:40:59,060
Jesse Jackson came through
with his mule train.

587
00:40:59,060 --> 00:41:03,890
And he took his mule train
through a Polish neighborhood,

588
00:41:03,890 --> 00:41:10,400
which was probably not conducive
to the best kind of situation.

589
00:41:10,400 --> 00:41:15,410
And Army Intelligence had
offered to protect him.

590
00:41:15,410 --> 00:41:17,010
And there was a
misunderstanding.

591
00:41:17,010 --> 00:41:18,560
They had not watched him.

592
00:41:18,560 --> 00:41:21,740
They had offered to protect
him because he probably needed

593

00:41:21,740 --> 00:41:25,280

more protection than he
needed watching at that point.

594

00:41:25,280 --> 00:41:29,600

And, in any case, we
completed our inquiry

595

00:41:29,600 --> 00:41:33,200

and reported to the
Secretary of the Army.

596

00:41:33,200 --> 00:41:37,640

Also, I took part,
in the, later on,

597

00:41:37,640 --> 00:41:41,930

in the establishment of what
became known as a Defense

598

00:41:41,930 --> 00:41:44,660

Investigative Review
Council, which

599

00:41:44,660 --> 00:41:49,940

was a civilian control
over investigative and

600

00:41:49,940 --> 00:41:52,280

counterintelligence activities.

601

00:41:52,280 --> 00:41:54,710

I served on the
first working group

602

00:41:54,710 --> 00:42:00,710

of this organization
which was set up

603

00:42:00,710 --> 00:42:05,090

to show that there was
good civilian control

604

00:42:05,090 --> 00:42:08,570

and supervision over
these kind of activities.

605

00:42:08,570 --> 00:42:13,850

And it was necessary
because the army's

606

00:42:13,850 --> 00:42:18,320

civil disturbance intelligence
plan was too broad

607

00:42:18,320 --> 00:42:22,910

and permitted the collection
of too much information

608

00:42:22,910 --> 00:42:26,750

on civilians that really
wasn't necessary for the

609

00:42:26,750 --> 00:42:29,840

accomplishment of the mission.

610

00:42:29,840 --> 00:42:31,640

It was important,
however, for the army

611

00:42:31,640 --> 00:42:36,710

to know when they were
committed that they should have

612

00:42:36,710 --> 00:42:41,570

adequate information on
which to go into Detroit

613

00:42:41,570 --> 00:42:44,300

or go into Cleveland
so that they would not

614

00:42:44,300 --> 00:42:47,850

be completely blind when
they went into these places.

615

00:42:47,850 --> 00:42:50,650

616

00:42:50,650 --> 00:42:56,780

However, as a result of our
activities on the Defense

617

00:42:56,780 --> 00:42:59,300

Investigative Review
Council, policies

618

00:42:59,300 --> 00:43:04,370

were implemented which set up
clear and strict guidelines

619

00:43:04,370 --> 00:43:08,150

for the activities
of Army, Navy,

620

00:43:08,150 --> 00:43:10,910

and Air Force
counterintelligence people.

621

00:43:10,910 --> 00:43:13,700

And these exist to
this day, I believe.

622

00:43:13,700 --> 00:43:19,330

623

00:43:19,330 --> 00:43:24,040

During your time with this
work with the Pentagon,

624

00:43:24,040 --> 00:43:26,890

you said, from '69
to '71, was also

625

00:43:26,890 --> 00:43:29,500

the time of the
Kent State shooting.

626

00:43:29,500 --> 00:43:33,010

Did that have any impact
on what you were doing?

627

00:43:33,010 --> 00:43:38,830

Oh the Kent State incident,
I would emphasize,

628

00:43:38,830 --> 00:43:42,370

is a good example
of what can happen

629

00:43:42,370 --> 00:43:45,100

when a poorly trained
organization gets

630

00:43:45,100 --> 00:43:47,230

involved in civil disturbances.

631

00:43:47,230 --> 00:43:50,320

These were not army soldiers.

632

00:43:50,320 --> 00:43:53,710

These were Ohio
National Guard people.

633

00:43:53,710 --> 00:43:59,110

These national guardsmen come
on active duty once every

634

00:43:59,110 --> 00:44:06,730

two weeks or once a month and
are basically citizen soldiers.

635

00:44:06,730 --> 00:44:11,020

They were really not adequately
trained because, first of all,

636

00:44:11,020 --> 00:44:13,990

they should never have
had live ammunition

637

00:44:13,990 --> 00:44:16,870

for that kind of a mission.

638
00:44:16,870 --> 00:44:19,210
They should have
had riot training.

639
00:44:19,210 --> 00:44:21,700
And this is--

640
00:44:21,700 --> 00:44:23,740
I'm glad you brought
this out because this

641
00:44:23,740 --> 00:44:25,090
is a very important point.

642
00:44:25,090 --> 00:44:29,560
And these people died needlessly
who were killed there.

643
00:44:29,560 --> 00:44:32,830
In the professional
military, or in the army,

644
00:44:32,830 --> 00:44:37,998
and the Navy, and
Air Force, they,

645
00:44:37,998 --> 00:44:39,790
primarily in the army
and the Marine Corps,

646
00:44:39,790 --> 00:44:43,900
they do receive riot training.

647
00:44:43,900 --> 00:44:48,040
And it's very important that
troops understand the limits

648
00:44:48,040 --> 00:44:50,380
of what they're allowed to do.

649

00:44:50,380 --> 00:44:56,050

And, today, we have many
more constraints than

650

00:44:56,050 --> 00:44:57,230

existed at that time.

651

00:44:57,230 --> 00:44:59,470

And I'm sure that before--

652

00:44:59,470 --> 00:45:01,450

I'm sure that the
National Guard too

653

00:45:01,450 --> 00:45:04,600

has because I'm aware of
the National Guard came up

654

00:45:04,600 --> 00:45:06,623

with strong training
recommendations

655

00:45:06,623 --> 00:45:08,040

as a result of
that sort of thing.

656

00:45:08,040 --> 00:45:12,650

657

00:45:12,650 --> 00:45:16,520

Where were you assigned
after the Pentagon?

658

00:45:16,520 --> 00:45:20,390

Well, in 1971, I was
asked to become--

659

00:45:20,390 --> 00:45:22,040

I was interviewed
by the Director

660

00:45:22,040 --> 00:45:25,400

of the Defense Intelligence

Agency, General Bennett.

661

00:45:25,400 --> 00:45:29,060

And I became Director
of counterintelligence

662

00:45:29,060 --> 00:45:31,490

for the Defense
Intelligence Agency.

663

00:45:31,490 --> 00:45:35,870

And I completed my--

664

00:45:35,870 --> 00:45:37,880

I became aware
that I would never

665

00:45:37,880 --> 00:45:40,610

be able to leave
intelligence alive.

666

00:45:40,610 --> 00:45:44,750

And so I completed my
military service there.

667

00:45:44,750 --> 00:45:48,680

I had three years
in the DIA there

668

00:45:48,680 --> 00:45:51,710

and retired from the
active military service

669

00:45:51,710 --> 00:46:00,450

then in 1 September 1974.

670

00:46:00,450 --> 00:46:03,390

What do you mean you would
never be allowed to leave alive?

671

00:46:03,390 --> 00:46:08,520

Well, I was hoping to
get back to the infantry

672
00:46:08,520 --> 00:46:16,590
because it's in a career pattern
which one has to develop.

673
00:46:16,590 --> 00:46:23,340
If one has two or
three specialties,

674
00:46:23,340 --> 00:46:25,680
especially, let's
say, in those days,

675
00:46:25,680 --> 00:46:28,110
I don't know how it
is today, it was not

676
00:46:28,110 --> 00:46:30,060
very good for your career.

677
00:46:30,060 --> 00:46:35,010
If you-- as a matter of fact, at
one time when I would report it

678
00:46:35,010 --> 00:46:39,840
here to Washington, initially
when I first came back

679
00:46:39,840 --> 00:46:43,470
into the infantry,
they said, we don't

680
00:46:43,470 --> 00:46:46,540
know what happened to your
career, but it looks horrible.

681
00:46:46,540 --> 00:46:51,030
And if you want to go anywhere
in this army, don't you ever

682
00:46:51,030 --> 00:46:54,180
get another
intelligence assignment.

683

00:46:54,180 --> 00:46:58,110

So I knew when I had gotten
two consecutive intelligence

684

00:46:58,110 --> 00:47:02,190

assignments, I knew
that all hope was lost.

685

00:47:02,190 --> 00:47:04,480

And that's what I meant by that.

686

00:47:04,480 --> 00:47:07,920

So I became Director
of Counterintelligence

687

00:47:07,920 --> 00:47:09,900

for the DIA.

688

00:47:09,900 --> 00:47:14,130

And the significance of
those three years was that--

689

00:47:14,130 --> 00:47:17,340

oh, I escorted some Germans,
I escorted the Minister

690

00:47:17,340 --> 00:47:21,210

of Defense for
Austria on a trip.

691

00:47:21,210 --> 00:47:24,660

But more importantly, I also
served on the Intelligence

692

00:47:24,660 --> 00:47:27,360

Evaluation Committee.

693

00:47:27,360 --> 00:47:30,420

This was during the
Nixon administration.

694

00:47:30,420 --> 00:47:34,770
And this Intelligence
Evaluation Committee

695
00:47:34,770 --> 00:47:45,750
was looking into domestic
threats to the government.

696
00:47:45,750 --> 00:47:49,950
And I reported it to
the general counsel

697
00:47:49,950 --> 00:47:52,560
of the Department of Defense.

698
00:47:52,560 --> 00:47:56,580
Melvin Laird was Secretary
of Defense at that time.

699
00:47:56,580 --> 00:48:01,770
And the guidance that I
got from Fred Buzhardt who

700
00:48:01,770 --> 00:48:04,860
was General Counsel who
later on became Counsel

701
00:48:04,860 --> 00:48:08,190
to President Nixon.

702
00:48:08,190 --> 00:48:13,330
And he said, let's keep
them at arm's length.

703
00:48:13,330 --> 00:48:17,220
And so I attended
these meetings there.

704
00:48:17,220 --> 00:48:22,170
And we distanced ourselves
from their missions

705
00:48:22,170 --> 00:48:26,790

and left that to the
FBI and other agencies

706
00:48:26,790 --> 00:48:28,740
because they were
not appropriate.

707
00:48:28,740 --> 00:48:30,870
Most of the missions
were not appropriate

708
00:48:30,870 --> 00:48:34,620
for the intelligence community
within the Department

709
00:48:34,620 --> 00:48:35,790
of Defense.

710
00:48:35,790 --> 00:48:44,040
And I, having become quite
aware of the limitations

711
00:48:44,040 --> 00:48:47,640
on what the military should do
while I was serving the army,

712
00:48:47,640 --> 00:48:54,810
this was very clear and made
clear to me by my superiors

713
00:48:54,810 --> 00:48:57,420
in the Office of
Secretary of Defense

714
00:48:57,420 --> 00:49:00,270
that when I represented
the Department of Defense

715
00:49:00,270 --> 00:49:05,670
over there that I should
be very, very careful not

716
00:49:05,670 --> 00:49:09,030

to accept missions, which
were not clearly stated

717
00:49:09,030 --> 00:49:14,820
as being within the purview
of the Defense Department.

718
00:49:14,820 --> 00:49:20,940
There were some, I mean, they
had some very unusual requests.

719
00:49:20,940 --> 00:49:23,460
What were students doing
and that sort of thing.

720
00:49:23,460 --> 00:49:26,560
We said, we have no
information on that.

721
00:49:26,560 --> 00:49:30,210
That's not the Department of
Defense and that kind of thing.

722
00:49:30,210 --> 00:49:33,480

723
00:49:33,480 --> 00:49:41,810
So I retired then
on 1 September 1974

724
00:49:41,810 --> 00:49:46,310
and remained retired
for two years.

725
00:49:46,310 --> 00:49:51,620
When you retired, what were
your plans for your retirement?

726
00:49:51,620 --> 00:49:53,650
I had absolutely no plans.

727
00:49:53,650 --> 00:49:56,990
I was going to

write, if anything,

728

00:49:56,990 --> 00:50:04,250

and, really, I had worked
so hard until the last day

729

00:50:04,250 --> 00:50:05,540

that I--

730

00:50:05,540 --> 00:50:08,600

many people prepare themselves
much more adequately

731

00:50:08,600 --> 00:50:09,930

than I did.

732

00:50:09,930 --> 00:50:14,480

And I thought I
deserved a little while

733

00:50:14,480 --> 00:50:16,970

to get my thoughts together.

734

00:50:16,970 --> 00:50:20,030

And I thought perhaps I
could write something and do

735

00:50:20,030 --> 00:50:22,850

some research.

736

00:50:22,850 --> 00:50:26,445

But in retirement, one finds
one has less time than before.

737

00:50:26,445 --> 00:50:29,350

738

00:50:29,350 --> 00:50:32,382

You said that you
retired for two years.

739

00:50:32,382 --> 00:50:34,340

I'd like to know what
you did for the two years

740
00:50:34,340 --> 00:50:37,990
and I'd like to know what you
did after those two years.

741
00:50:37,990 --> 00:50:49,130
In 1974 and '75, if you
recall, after Watergate,

742
00:50:49,130 --> 00:50:58,550
under Senator Church there was
this Church Committee hearings

743
00:50:58,550 --> 00:51:02,810
into intelligence activities.

744
00:51:02,810 --> 00:51:10,750
And it was decided to
President Ford, I believe,

745
00:51:10,750 --> 00:51:13,600
issued an executive order--

746
00:51:13,600 --> 00:51:17,380
this is after the demise
of President Nixon--

747
00:51:17,380 --> 00:51:21,790
an executive order for
intelligence activities

748
00:51:21,790 --> 00:51:24,550
to govern all intelligence
activities across the spectrum

749
00:51:24,550 --> 00:51:26,640
of the government.

750
00:51:26,640 --> 00:51:28,180
Of course, the
Department of Defense

751
00:51:28,180 --> 00:51:30,970
is one of these activities.

752
00:51:30,970 --> 00:51:35,020
And this executive
order specified

753
00:51:35,020 --> 00:51:40,630
that there was to be an
inspector general organized

754
00:51:40,630 --> 00:51:45,290
in every cabinet level
intelligence activity.

755
00:51:45,290 --> 00:51:47,980
In other words, if the
Commerce Department

756
00:51:47,980 --> 00:51:51,160
undertook intelligence,
they had to have an IG.

757
00:51:51,160 --> 00:51:57,640
And thus, the Department of
Defense was to have an IG also.

758
00:51:57,640 --> 00:52:00,310
At that time, there
was no IG, therefore,

759
00:52:00,310 --> 00:52:03,580
they directed that
the department come up

760
00:52:03,580 --> 00:52:11,830
with an Inspector General
who would assure the legality

761
00:52:11,830 --> 00:52:15,430
and propriety of all
intelligence activity

762
00:52:15,430 --> 00:52:18,160
and counterintelligence activity
of the Department of Defense

763
00:52:18,160 --> 00:52:22,210
that would include the Army,
Navy, Air Force, Marines,

764
00:52:22,210 --> 00:52:26,050
the National Security Agency,
the Defense Intelligence

765
00:52:26,050 --> 00:52:31,750
Agency, and sundry other
activities as well.

766
00:52:31,750 --> 00:52:34,180
The person who was
charged with doing that

767
00:52:34,180 --> 00:52:36,490
came from the Watergate staff.

768
00:52:36,490 --> 00:52:40,210
And he looked around for
people to assist him.

769
00:52:40,210 --> 00:52:43,390
And somehow someone
gave him my name.

770
00:52:43,390 --> 00:52:54,650
And he contacted me and I became
his deputy in August 1976.

771
00:52:54,650 --> 00:53:01,450
And he remained until July '79.

772
00:53:01,450 --> 00:53:03,250
And I remained his deputy.

773

00:53:03,250 --> 00:53:08,320

And when he left,
he arranged and he

774

00:53:08,320 --> 00:53:12,880

suggested and recommended that
I should be his successor.

775

00:53:12,880 --> 00:53:14,890

So I then became
Inspector General

776

00:53:14,890 --> 00:53:18,200

for Defense Intelligence.

777

00:53:18,200 --> 00:53:22,270

And in 1982, they
changed the title.

778

00:53:22,270 --> 00:53:25,900

And I became an Assistant
to the Secretary of Defense

779

00:53:25,900 --> 00:53:29,600

for Intelligence Oversight,
which was clearly our mission.

780

00:53:29,600 --> 00:53:32,680

The oversight of all
intelligence activity

781

00:53:32,680 --> 00:53:37,960

to make sure that activities
were properly supervised,

782

00:53:37,960 --> 00:53:41,920

that they were management
controls, that they

783

00:53:41,920 --> 00:53:45,400

was a legal review
to make certain

784

00:53:45,400 --> 00:53:51,850
that these activities
could withstand scrutiny.

785
00:53:51,850 --> 00:53:55,000
And that, for instance, if there
were any clandestine activities

786
00:53:55,000 --> 00:53:59,530
that the senior officials
were briefed and gave

787
00:53:59,530 --> 00:54:08,740
their approval, and that these
were conducted, and were then

788
00:54:08,740 --> 00:54:12,520
looked at at several levels.

789
00:54:12,520 --> 00:54:16,870
And that was very, very
interesting as you can imagine.

790
00:54:16,870 --> 00:54:22,060
So I stayed there until 1993.

791
00:54:22,060 --> 00:54:29,290
And on the 2nd of April 1993,
after 17 years in that job,

792
00:54:29,290 --> 00:54:30,595
I retired again.

793
00:54:30,595 --> 00:54:35,440

794
00:54:35,440 --> 00:54:36,748
What have you been doing since?

795
00:54:36,748 --> 00:54:40,234

796

00:54:40,234 --> 00:54:44,010
Since that time I've
been retired again.

797
00:54:44,010 --> 00:54:49,590
I did some volunteering down
at the Jewish War Veterans.

798
00:54:49,590 --> 00:54:53,570
I haven't been down there in
the last couple of months.

799
00:54:53,570 --> 00:54:59,610
But other than that, I have
monitored the activities

800
00:54:59,610 --> 00:55:04,890
of my wife very closely
and visit my children

801
00:55:04,890 --> 00:55:07,560
in parts of the United States.

802
00:55:07,560 --> 00:55:10,050
I have done a few other things.

803
00:55:10,050 --> 00:55:14,340
I've participated in
seminars on national security

804
00:55:14,340 --> 00:55:15,180
and intelligence.

805
00:55:15,180 --> 00:55:22,620
I belong to the Army Historical
Foundation and activities

806
00:55:22,620 --> 00:55:25,860
of that nature, basically.

807
00:55:25,860 --> 00:55:28,500
And I'm trying to
grow old gracefully

808
00:55:28,500 --> 00:55:32,760
while maintaining a little
bit of tennis capability.

809
00:55:32,760 --> 00:55:35,680

810
00:55:35,680 --> 00:55:39,250
Over your many
years in the service

811
00:55:39,250 --> 00:55:42,130
as a civilian and as
part of the service

812
00:55:42,130 --> 00:55:46,030
you've seen some major
changes in the way things

813
00:55:46,030 --> 00:55:49,295
have been organized and run.

814
00:55:49,295 --> 00:55:51,670
I'd like you, if you could,
take a few minutes to reflect

815
00:55:51,670 --> 00:55:56,920
on the changes you've seen with
respect to the Civil Rights

816
00:55:56,920 --> 00:55:59,380
Movement and how
that has changed

817
00:55:59,380 --> 00:56:01,360
the military and
the Women's Movement

818
00:56:01,360 --> 00:56:05,080
and how that has
changed the military.

819

00:56:05,080 --> 00:56:10,700

Well, I'd like to not
limit myself to that alone.

820

00:56:10,700 --> 00:56:18,110

But I would like to say that
I particularly saw integration

821

00:56:18,110 --> 00:56:20,120

in the army.

822

00:56:20,120 --> 00:56:25,070

And I'm very proud to say
that the United States

823

00:56:25,070 --> 00:56:31,250

Army integrated on the orders
of President Truman 1949

824

00:56:31,250 --> 00:56:39,050

has provided a splendid and
extraordinary opportunity

825

00:56:39,050 --> 00:56:49,400

for minority personnel and women
as well to participate fully,

826

00:56:49,400 --> 00:56:52,160

including Jewish guys like me.

827

00:56:52,160 --> 00:57:01,040

And, as I probably
told you, I never

828

00:57:01,040 --> 00:57:05,600

cease to marvel when I
was on the staff of--

829

00:57:05,600 --> 00:57:08,960

I was on the staff, of course,
of five Secretaries of Defense.

830

00:57:08,960 --> 00:57:12,740

I was particularly-- was
tremendously impressed

831

00:57:12,740 --> 00:57:15,830

with Secretary Cheney.

832

00:57:15,830 --> 00:57:19,950

And I'd be sitting at some
staff meeting and there he was.

833

00:57:19,950 --> 00:57:22,130

And I said, I wonder
if they know there's

834

00:57:22,130 --> 00:57:24,500

a kid from Landau sitting here.

835

00:57:24,500 --> 00:57:29,600

And it's amazing when
you looked around

836

00:57:29,600 --> 00:57:33,050

at the spectrum of
people that no one really

837

00:57:33,050 --> 00:57:38,120

wanted to know where the
origin, the background,

838

00:57:38,120 --> 00:57:40,400

the ethnic makeup.

839

00:57:40,400 --> 00:57:45,110

It was a true
meritocracy, which is,

840

00:57:45,110 --> 00:57:50,640

I think, the highest objective
any of us can hope for.

841

00:57:50,640 --> 00:57:56,870

And I would say that

the military is probably

842

00:57:56,870 --> 00:58:02,480

in the forefront in spite
of the wars and things that

843

00:58:02,480 --> 00:58:03,950

happen periodically.

844

00:58:03,950 --> 00:58:07,490

I think the military
as a whole has

845

00:58:07,490 --> 00:58:12,410

offered great
opportunity, equality

846

00:58:12,410 --> 00:58:20,600

of opportunity to
minorities, to ethnic groups.

847

00:58:20,600 --> 00:58:22,970

They don't care if
you're Jewish, or black,

848

00:58:22,970 --> 00:58:24,950

or whatever you are.

849

00:58:24,950 --> 00:58:28,640

If you can accomplish
the task at hand,

850

00:58:28,640 --> 00:58:30,190

that's what they're
interested in.

851

00:58:30,190 --> 00:58:33,950

Now, that doesn't mean that
they're not human beings.

852

00:58:33,950 --> 00:58:39,140

There are some awful people
of all ethnic backgrounds

853
00:58:39,140 --> 00:58:41,130
who are terribly
difficult to deal with.

854
00:58:41,130 --> 00:58:48,170
And sometimes the
system is so constrained

855
00:58:48,170 --> 00:58:53,870
that it's difficult to get
rid of really unproductive--

856
00:58:53,870 --> 00:58:56,810
people who are unproductive
for various reasons;

857
00:58:56,810 --> 00:59:01,340
personality that is
abrasive, or a man

858
00:59:01,340 --> 00:59:05,960
who has a severe
psychological problem.

859
00:59:05,960 --> 00:59:08,780
Our system has so
many safeguards

860
00:59:08,780 --> 00:59:10,850
built into it today
that sometimes it's

861
00:59:10,850 --> 00:59:14,940
very difficult to make a
quick personnel decision.

862
00:59:14,940 --> 00:59:17,870
So there are two
sides to this coin,

863
00:59:17,870 --> 00:59:20,300
but all in all I

must say what we

864

00:59:20,300 --> 00:59:23,960

have done in the wisdom
of our leadership

865

00:59:23,960 --> 00:59:29,570

has been tremendous in providing
this kind of an opportunity.

866

00:59:29,570 --> 00:59:31,490

Does that-- good enough?

867

00:59:31,490 --> 00:59:35,800

868

00:59:35,800 --> 00:59:37,990

You mentioned that
you have children.

869

00:59:37,990 --> 00:59:41,350

I'd like to know how
many children you have

870

00:59:41,350 --> 00:59:46,900

and what you told them, if
anything, about your life

871

00:59:46,900 --> 00:59:51,400

in Germany before
coming to this country.

872

00:59:51,400 --> 00:59:53,920

I have two girls.

873

00:59:53,920 --> 00:59:58,600

One is here in this area.

874

00:59:58,600 --> 01:00:04,640

And the other one lives, as
of now, in Augusta, Georgia.

875

01:00:04,640 --> 01:00:08,680

And she has two daughters,
my two granddaughters.

876

01:00:08,680 --> 01:00:13,380

And they are both very much
aware of what happened.

877

01:00:13,380 --> 01:00:16,420

I've taken them to
the cemetery in Landau

878

01:00:16,420 --> 01:00:18,160

and shown them, not
only the ones who

879

01:00:18,160 --> 01:00:20,800

are buried there,
but the ones who

880

01:00:20,800 --> 01:00:27,380

couldn't be buried there because
they died somewhere else.

881

01:00:27,380 --> 01:00:34,360

And they-- both my
children feel very Jewish.

882

01:00:34,360 --> 01:00:36,730

They're very committed.

883

01:00:36,730 --> 01:00:41,710

My granddaughters are very
active in B'nai B'rith

884

01:00:41,710 --> 01:00:43,900

and in Jewish activities.

885

01:00:43,900 --> 01:00:49,220

And I'm very, very
pleased with that.

886

01:00:49,220 --> 01:00:57,700

And my daughter has sponsored
a German daughter in--

887
01:00:57,700 --> 01:01:01,600
Augusta has sponsored
a young German student

888
01:01:01,600 --> 01:01:04,150
from East Berlin.

889
01:01:04,150 --> 01:01:09,430
And she took him
to Jewish services

890
01:01:09,430 --> 01:01:15,590
and gave him an appreciation
of what it means to be Jewish.

891
01:01:15,590 --> 01:01:18,580
And he came from East Germany,
where not only they didn't know

892
01:01:18,580 --> 01:01:20,830
anything about the Jews, but
they didn't know anything

893
01:01:20,830 --> 01:01:23,020
about anything.

894
01:01:23,020 --> 01:01:27,610
They were kept very much
in the dark on other

895
01:01:27,610 --> 01:01:31,450
than what had been told
to them in East Germany.

896
01:01:31,450 --> 01:01:36,760
So, yes, my children
are very committed

897
01:01:36,760 --> 01:01:40,660
and I'm very, very, very

proud of them as well.

898

01:01:40,660 --> 01:01:48,890

899

01:01:48,890 --> 01:01:52,010

How do you think your
refugee experience

900

01:01:52,010 --> 01:01:55,490

has influenced the choices
that you made in your life?

901

01:01:55,490 --> 01:02:00,070

902

01:02:00,070 --> 01:02:07,840

I think, of course, it's had
a tremendous effect on me.

903

01:02:07,840 --> 01:02:10,870

First of all, of
course, I know what

904

01:02:10,870 --> 01:02:17,470

it was to be poor, and know
what it was to be a refugee,

905

01:02:17,470 --> 01:02:25,240

and to live with a
family of strangers.

906

01:02:25,240 --> 01:02:32,650

I also probably-- it drove
me to, particularly, excel

907

01:02:32,650 --> 01:02:35,220

in the military.

908

01:02:35,220 --> 01:02:38,140

I'm not sure whether it's
conscious or subconscious,

909

01:02:38,140 --> 01:02:39,770
but it's there.

910

01:02:39,770 --> 01:02:43,240
So, in effect,
it's had a strong--

911

01:02:43,240 --> 01:02:48,190
It also, I feel a great
debt to this country.

912

01:02:48,190 --> 01:02:55,130
And I wanted to
serve this country.

913

01:02:55,130 --> 01:02:58,420
And I know that, particularly
when I was younger,

914

01:02:58,420 --> 01:03:02,020
I was probably much more--

915

01:03:02,020 --> 01:03:05,920
when one is young one
is much more idealistic,

916

01:03:05,920 --> 01:03:09,460
but that's what I
really wanted to do

917

01:03:09,460 --> 01:03:13,210
was to serve as well as I could.

918

01:03:13,210 --> 01:03:19,840
And this country has repaid
us in many, many ways,

919

01:03:19,840 --> 01:03:22,730
probably more than I
could have expected.

920

01:03:22,730 --> 01:03:25,790

921

01:03:25,790 --> 01:03:28,370

You said that your experiences
from your childhood

922

01:03:28,370 --> 01:03:30,860

caused you to want to
excel in the military.

923

01:03:30,860 --> 01:03:34,550

Can you elaborate
what you meant?

924

01:03:34,550 --> 01:03:43,950

Well, I would say that
when we left Germany,

925

01:03:43,950 --> 01:03:47,770

I particularly felt that
the Germans made us all

926

01:03:47,770 --> 01:03:52,050

feel like we were
subhumans, that we

927

01:03:52,050 --> 01:03:56,080

were an unworthy
species, if you will.

928

01:03:56,080 --> 01:03:58,620

And I think that's
probably what it was,

929

01:03:58,620 --> 01:04:03,240

and that Jews
couldn't be soldiers,

930

01:04:03,240 --> 01:04:07,290

and Jews were cowards, and
Jews were everything bad.

931

01:04:07,290 --> 01:04:10,740

And I don't know whether,
as I said, some of this

932
01:04:10,740 --> 01:04:14,700
could well be subconscious.

933
01:04:14,700 --> 01:04:18,690
I probably must have impressed
some of my-- when I was

934
01:04:18,690 --> 01:04:19,950
an enlisted man--

935
01:04:19,950 --> 01:04:23,190
some of my fellow soldiers
that they probably

936
01:04:23,190 --> 01:04:25,110
thought I was half
crazed because I

937
01:04:25,110 --> 01:04:26,550
wanted to be a good soldier.

938
01:04:26,550 --> 01:04:29,130
And they wanted nothing
to do with the military.

939
01:04:29,130 --> 01:04:30,960
They wanted to get
out of the military.

940
01:04:30,960 --> 01:04:35,550
And here's this mad man who
wants to be in the military.

941
01:04:35,550 --> 01:04:39,770

942
01:04:39,770 --> 01:04:43,160
You've done so many
things in your life.

943

01:04:43,160 --> 01:04:46,490

What do you feel were your
greatest accomplishments

944

01:04:46,490 --> 01:04:48,532

or your greatest contributions?

945

01:04:48,532 --> 01:04:56,250

946

01:04:56,250 --> 01:04:57,850

That's very difficult to say.

947

01:04:57,850 --> 01:05:06,360

But I would say that
my experiences gave me

948

01:05:06,360 --> 01:05:10,770

an understanding
for the underdog.

949

01:05:10,770 --> 01:05:17,730

And I don't think I ever forgot
that, even during the days when

950

01:05:17,730 --> 01:05:22,260

being in counterintelligence
was where

951

01:05:22,260 --> 01:05:25,740

we had a great deal of
authority and power.

952

01:05:25,740 --> 01:05:29,250

And later on, when I
was Inspector General

953

01:05:29,250 --> 01:05:34,860

for intelligence, it always
lurked in the back of my mind

954

01:05:34,860 --> 01:05:40,320

that our activities
in a democracy

955
01:05:40,320 --> 01:05:43,210
should not be above the law.

956
01:05:43,210 --> 01:05:45,840
I should be accountable.

957
01:05:45,840 --> 01:05:48,500
If I helped in some
way to do that--

958
01:05:48,500 --> 01:05:51,300

959
01:05:51,300 --> 01:05:55,920
I report it in my job in
the Pentagon, to read too.

960
01:05:55,920 --> 01:05:59,190
I reported to the President's
Intelligence Oversight Board

961
01:05:59,190 --> 01:06:01,710
and to the Secretary of Defense.

962
01:06:01,710 --> 01:06:05,550
And I hope that I
was able to put jack

963
01:06:05,550 --> 01:06:09,210
to both of these gentlemen
that we in the department

964
01:06:09,210 --> 01:06:16,740
were doing that within
compliance with our policies

965
01:06:16,740 --> 01:06:20,970
and that they could rest
assured that we were doing

966

01:06:20,970 --> 01:06:22,580

our very best in that regard.

967

01:06:22,580 --> 01:06:25,700

968

01:06:25,700 --> 01:06:27,860

Is there anything
that we haven't

969

01:06:27,860 --> 01:06:31,152

talked about that you would
like to add or include before we

970

01:06:31,152 --> 01:06:32,360

conclude the interview today?

971

01:06:32,360 --> 01:06:35,090

972

01:06:35,090 --> 01:06:37,940

I've said so many things,
and so much over this time

973

01:06:37,940 --> 01:06:39,380

I can only say no.

974

01:06:39,380 --> 01:06:42,380

975

01:06:42,380 --> 01:06:43,900

I thank you very much.

976

01:06:43,900 --> 01:06:46,738

And this concludes
the interview,

977

01:06:46,738 --> 01:06:48,530

the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

978

01:06:48,530 --> 01:06:50,030
interview with Werner Michel.

979

01:06:50,030 --> 01:06:52,180
Thank you, again.

980

01:06:52,180 --> 01:06:57,000