

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,070

2
00:00:06,070 --> 00:00:06,910
--Susan Singer.

3
00:00:06,910 --> 00:00:09,490
I'm at the International
Liberators Conference

4
00:00:09,490 --> 00:00:12,880
in Washington DC here
to talk to Mr. Freedman

5
00:00:12,880 --> 00:00:15,760
about his experiences
in liberating Buchenwald

6
00:00:15,760 --> 00:00:17,800
concentration camp.

7
00:00:17,800 --> 00:00:18,640
Hello, Mr Freedman.

8
00:00:18,640 --> 00:00:20,110
How do you do?

9
00:00:20,110 --> 00:00:22,690
Before we really get started,
I need some information

10
00:00:22,690 --> 00:00:23,560
for the record.

11
00:00:23,560 --> 00:00:24,370
OK?

12
00:00:24,370 --> 00:00:26,350
Could I have your
full name, please?

13
00:00:26,350 --> 00:00:27,580
Leon J. Freedman.

14
00:00:27,580 --> 00:00:29,080
And where do you live now?

15
00:00:29,080 --> 00:00:31,300
I live in Southwest
Harbor, Maine.

16
00:00:31,300 --> 00:00:33,920
And what was your date of birth?

17
00:00:33,920 --> 00:00:36,880
March 5, 1913.

18
00:00:36,880 --> 00:00:39,670
How old were you at the
time of the liberation?

19
00:00:39,670 --> 00:00:43,590

20
00:00:43,590 --> 00:00:45,390
32.

21
00:00:45,390 --> 00:00:48,600
And you had a professor
before the war?

22
00:00:48,600 --> 00:00:49,170
Yes.

23
00:00:49,170 --> 00:00:50,790
And what was that?

24
00:00:50,790 --> 00:00:56,460
I was interested in art, books,
documents, and music-- music.

25
00:00:56,460 --> 00:01:00,100

And what is your
present occupation?

26
00:01:00,100 --> 00:01:04,420
I own and operate an
antique and art gallery.

27
00:01:04,420 --> 00:01:07,600
And what was your military
unit during the war?

28
00:01:07,600 --> 00:01:13,070
76th Division, 304th
Infantry, Company C.

29
00:01:13,070 --> 00:01:13,750
And your rank--

30
00:01:13,750 --> 00:01:14,480
Second Platoon.

31
00:01:14,480 --> 00:01:15,100
Oh, I'm sorry.

32
00:01:15,100 --> 00:01:17,020
And your rank?

33
00:01:17,020 --> 00:01:18,850
Just a plain private.

34
00:01:18,850 --> 00:01:22,930
And you were involved in the
liberation of Buchenwald,

35
00:01:22,930 --> 00:01:24,070
is that correct?

36
00:01:24,070 --> 00:01:25,300
Yes, I was.

37
00:01:25,300 --> 00:01:26,350
OK.

38
00:01:26,350 --> 00:01:30,310
How did you first hear about
the camps or Buchenwald?

39
00:01:30,310 --> 00:01:31,720
And could you give a--

40
00:01:31,720 --> 00:01:35,950
I'd been stationed
on a road block

41
00:01:35,950 --> 00:01:39,730
on the perimeter
of a small village.

42
00:01:39,730 --> 00:01:42,970
It's Saxony Thuringia.

43
00:01:42,970 --> 00:01:51,180
And we noticed small groups, the
first one small group of people

44
00:01:51,180 --> 00:02:00,300
approaching us in the road ahead
of us wearing striped clothes,

45
00:02:00,300 --> 00:02:02,130
raggedy, shuffling along.

46
00:02:02,130 --> 00:02:05,270

47
00:02:05,270 --> 00:02:06,980
No women.

48
00:02:06,980 --> 00:02:08,420
Men hobbling.

49
00:02:08,420 --> 00:02:10,979

50

00:02:10,979 --> 00:02:17,410

Three or four young boys,
14, 16, 17 years of age.

51

00:02:17,410 --> 00:02:22,300

And from a distance we couldn't
make out what type of people

52

00:02:22,300 --> 00:02:27,490

they were, because it was our
first experience in seeing

53

00:02:27,490 --> 00:02:30,940

something of that nature.

54

00:02:30,940 --> 00:02:36,300

We've seen other stragglers,
so-called farm workers

55

00:02:36,300 --> 00:02:37,460

and things of that nature.

56

00:02:37,460 --> 00:02:41,430

But it was the first time
we had ever encountered

57

00:02:41,430 --> 00:02:43,350

the sight of that type.

58

00:02:43,350 --> 00:02:46,740

And as they approached,
we had to be

59

00:02:46,740 --> 00:02:49,590

very cautious under
strict military orders

60

00:02:49,590 --> 00:02:57,290

to be aware of all sorts
of people disguised

61

00:02:57,290 --> 00:03:01,190

as innocent people
but who had turned out

62
00:03:01,190 --> 00:03:14,510
to be hardline SS troops,
who infiltrated our lines.

63
00:03:14,510 --> 00:03:18,230
And so we waited a bit
till they came closer

64
00:03:18,230 --> 00:03:25,240
we could see that these people
were absolutely not military

65
00:03:25,240 --> 00:03:27,670
in any way, shape or manner.

66
00:03:27,670 --> 00:03:32,900
And upon questioning
them, we found out

67
00:03:32,900 --> 00:03:39,110
that they had run
away from a camp.

68
00:03:39,110 --> 00:03:43,030
And I was able to speak some
Yiddish with some of them.

69
00:03:43,030 --> 00:03:49,270
And they described they
were in a labor camp.

70
00:03:49,270 --> 00:03:53,560
I couldn't understand
what it could have been.

71
00:03:53,560 --> 00:04:03,100
However, after a little
bit, myself and a colleague

72
00:04:03,100 --> 00:04:07,030

understood what they
were trying to tell us.

73
00:04:07,030 --> 00:04:11,740
Never seen the pitiful
condition of them physically,

74
00:04:11,740 --> 00:04:15,640
and two or three
mentally didn't seem

75
00:04:15,640 --> 00:04:20,300
to be acting normal and
under great mental stress.

76
00:04:20,300 --> 00:04:25,150
And one or two were actually
in a wandering state of mind,

77
00:04:25,150 --> 00:04:28,250
helped along by
other colleagues.

78
00:04:28,250 --> 00:04:32,150
We immediately made
arrangements in the village.

79
00:04:32,150 --> 00:04:35,240
The first house
that we approached,

80
00:04:35,240 --> 00:04:37,930
we ordered the people
out of the house.

81
00:04:37,930 --> 00:04:43,000
And at the same time we
provided another cottage

82
00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:48,130
another little house with
a few, dividing them,

83

00:04:48,130 --> 00:04:56,455
and forced, literally
forced out of anger

84
00:04:56,455 --> 00:05:00,910
to have these
residents of the homes

85
00:05:00,910 --> 00:05:06,100
provide hot water, whatever food
they could scramble together,

86
00:05:06,100 --> 00:05:12,100
augmented by what we immediately
gave them of our rations,

87
00:05:12,100 --> 00:05:16,690
and a hurried call
to the mess sergeant

88
00:05:16,690 --> 00:05:24,440
to get some food up and make
these people comfortable

89
00:05:24,440 --> 00:05:27,790
as much as we possibly could.

90
00:05:27,790 --> 00:05:31,710
By that time, we began to get
other groups coming towards us.

91
00:05:31,710 --> 00:05:34,980

92
00:05:34,980 --> 00:05:38,203
And it became clear to us
that something dreadful

93
00:05:38,203 --> 00:05:38,745
had happened.

94
00:05:38,745 --> 00:05:43,410

95
00:05:43,410 --> 00:05:47,680
The following day,
being a member

96
00:05:47,680 --> 00:05:54,940
of a little group of three of us
had done a little entertaining

97
00:05:54,940 --> 00:05:58,150
amongst the troops, I
played the violin a bit.

98
00:05:58,150 --> 00:06:01,713
And I had an Italian colleague,
two Italian colleagues,

99
00:06:01,713 --> 00:06:03,630
one play the guitar, one
played the accordion.

100
00:06:03,630 --> 00:06:06,890
And we performed a
little entertainment,

101
00:06:06,890 --> 00:06:10,990
some kind of an
entertainment for the troops,

102
00:06:10,990 --> 00:06:14,050
starting way back in
Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

103
00:06:14,050 --> 00:06:19,465
We all traveled over,
embarked in Plymouth,

104
00:06:19,465 --> 00:06:22,330
left Plymouth, port
of embarkation,

105
00:06:22,330 --> 00:06:27,160
and entertained the troops

going across 11 long days and 11

106
00:06:27,160 --> 00:06:29,410
nights till we came to England.

107
00:06:29,410 --> 00:06:33,530
And we entertain
whenever we could.

108
00:06:33,530 --> 00:06:38,560
And so the special
service officer

109
00:06:38,560 --> 00:06:45,696
asked us to come along
with him the following day,

110
00:06:45,696 --> 00:06:47,910
see if could entertain
some of these people

111
00:06:47,910 --> 00:06:52,660
in the so-called
slave labor camp.

112
00:06:52,660 --> 00:06:56,790
Well, as we approached this
huge complex of buildings

113
00:06:56,790 --> 00:07:00,330
with barbed wire
fences, we began

114
00:07:00,330 --> 00:07:06,770
to notice a very
distinct foul odor.

115
00:07:06,770 --> 00:07:09,760

116
00:07:09,760 --> 00:07:17,460
Well, during our
combat days, we had

117
00:07:17,460 --> 00:07:26,100
occasion to experience all sorts
of filth, dirt, odors, scenes,

118
00:07:26,100 --> 00:07:31,190
sights, but we all
reacted immediately

119
00:07:31,190 --> 00:07:36,200
to this very foreign
horrible odor.

120
00:07:36,200 --> 00:07:43,670
And shortly before coming to
the gates of this complex,

121
00:07:43,670 --> 00:07:50,380
we had noticed some
railroad cars on a siding.

122
00:07:50,380 --> 00:07:54,810
And one was partially opened up.

123
00:07:54,810 --> 00:08:01,730
And we could see bits
of clothing, colors.

124
00:08:01,730 --> 00:08:06,950
And we ran the Jeep over
close to the siding,

125
00:08:06,950 --> 00:08:10,640
and we noticed that it was
composed of all children's

126
00:08:10,640 --> 00:08:20,820
clothing, shoes, sweaters,
hats, mittens, coats,

127
00:08:20,820 --> 00:08:23,980
clothing of all description,
only of children.

128
00:08:23,980 --> 00:08:26,890
We couldn't seem
to understand it.

129
00:08:26,890 --> 00:08:28,510
You saw no children anywhere.

130
00:08:28,510 --> 00:08:29,470
We saw no children.

131
00:08:29,470 --> 00:08:33,470

132
00:08:33,470 --> 00:08:36,470
One or two of the
fellows got really--

133
00:08:36,470 --> 00:08:38,270
began to have some--

134
00:08:38,270 --> 00:08:40,970
we had another Jeep with
us, accompanying us.

135
00:08:40,970 --> 00:08:45,620
There were two Jeeps, special
service group, lieutenant,

136
00:08:45,620 --> 00:08:47,120
couple soldiers.

137
00:08:47,120 --> 00:08:50,810
We all had mounted 50 caliber
machine guns on the Jeeps.

138
00:08:50,810 --> 00:08:54,000

139
00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:57,660
One of them says, if I
think this is what I think

140
00:08:57,660 --> 00:09:00,390
it is I'm pretty damn mad.

141
00:09:00,390 --> 00:09:04,290
And he let off a volley
of 50 caliber machine guns

142
00:09:04,290 --> 00:09:06,255
on a tank car.

143
00:09:06,255 --> 00:09:08,790

144
00:09:08,790 --> 00:09:11,120
And we began to see
liquid coming out of it.

145
00:09:11,120 --> 00:09:15,064

146
00:09:15,064 --> 00:09:18,020
It turned out to be gasoline.

147
00:09:18,020 --> 00:09:21,200

148
00:09:21,200 --> 00:09:24,950
However, we went into the camp.

149
00:09:24,950 --> 00:09:30,500
And we saw evidences
of ragged clothing

150
00:09:30,500 --> 00:09:37,920
on wires and a few remnants
of bodies, partially clothed

151
00:09:37,920 --> 00:09:41,610
in striped clothes,
such as we seen

152

00:09:41,610 --> 00:09:49,470
our first instance of those
stragglers coming up the road.

153

00:09:49,470 --> 00:09:54,000
And we didn't make
any tour of the camp,

154

00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:58,440
but we were directed
into a building.

155

00:09:58,440 --> 00:10:02,830
And upon entering
this building, we

156

00:10:02,830 --> 00:10:09,270
found it occupied by
women, young women--

157

00:10:09,270 --> 00:10:11,490
Who is giving you this tour?

158

00:10:11,490 --> 00:10:12,540
This was not a tour.

159

00:10:12,540 --> 00:10:14,250
We were directed to--

160

00:10:14,250 --> 00:10:15,450
A building.

161

00:10:15,450 --> 00:10:16,410
Who was there to--

162

00:10:16,410 --> 00:10:20,820
We had a special service officer
in charge of entertainment.

163

00:10:20,820 --> 00:10:25,950
And he was called upon to
provide some entertainment

164
00:10:25,950 --> 00:10:31,620
for these few people that were
in this building, which turned

165
00:10:31,620 --> 00:10:37,830
out to be all women,
mostly Hungarian women,

166
00:10:37,830 --> 00:10:44,100
and young girls, from the
age of probably 16, 17 years,

167
00:10:44,100 --> 00:10:48,750
to women, possibly in their 30s.

168
00:10:48,750 --> 00:10:53,970
And it seems that
they were left there

169
00:10:53,970 --> 00:11:00,000
or kept there to await
transportation back

170
00:11:00,000 --> 00:11:01,650
to the Allied lines.

171
00:11:01,650 --> 00:11:05,190
How many days had elapsed from
the actual first liberation

172
00:11:05,190 --> 00:11:05,690
to--

173
00:11:05,690 --> 00:11:08,230
About four days,
four to five days.

174
00:11:08,230 --> 00:11:11,250
Do you know if any medical
people had been through?

175

00:11:11,250 --> 00:11:14,340
Apparently, there had been
some medical people through.

176
00:11:14,340 --> 00:11:20,320
However, we saw
several instances

177
00:11:20,320 --> 00:11:26,300
of women, particularly
some young women,

178
00:11:26,300 --> 00:11:30,920
that were so weak they
could hardly even walk.

179
00:11:30,920 --> 00:11:33,590
They had swollen limbs.

180
00:11:33,590 --> 00:11:36,440
Their feet particularly
were swollen.

181
00:11:36,440 --> 00:11:38,180
Awfully emaciated.

182
00:11:38,180 --> 00:11:40,730
Somewhat cleaned up
because the first thing

183
00:11:40,730 --> 00:11:42,860
that they required
was cleanliness.

184
00:11:42,860 --> 00:11:45,770
And another thing we
noticed predominantly

185
00:11:45,770 --> 00:11:51,650
was that their hair was
cut short, close cropped.

186
00:11:51,650 --> 00:11:55,490

Some had tried to hide it
by putting bandannas on.

187
00:11:55,490 --> 00:11:58,550
But the small, short
fringes of hair

188
00:11:58,550 --> 00:12:03,080
protruded around their
front of the head.

189
00:12:03,080 --> 00:12:08,390
And we were greeted
very enthusiastically.

190
00:12:08,390 --> 00:12:15,290
And at the same time, we
had some candy bars, as much

191
00:12:15,290 --> 00:12:19,790
as we could get hold of to
distribute amongst them.

192
00:12:19,790 --> 00:12:25,070
And there were several, I say,
that they couldn't actually

193
00:12:25,070 --> 00:12:28,040
move too much, sitting.

194
00:12:28,040 --> 00:12:33,560
Some were lying
down, very pitiful.

195
00:12:33,560 --> 00:12:39,450
However, we tried to play a
few tunes for them, American.

196
00:12:39,450 --> 00:12:42,750

197
00:12:42,750 --> 00:12:47,940
We tried to play some Hungarian

tunes or some tune that

198
00:12:47,940 --> 00:12:52,360
had some Slavic notes to it.

199
00:12:52,360 --> 00:12:54,760
And they responded
very enthusiastically.

200
00:12:54,760 --> 00:12:57,640
And, as a matter of fact,
there was a piano in the room.

201
00:12:57,640 --> 00:13:02,140
And one small blonde
person, whose hair

202
00:13:02,140 --> 00:13:08,380
was cut very short, almost like
a, well, crew cut practically,

203
00:13:08,380 --> 00:13:11,740
sat down at the piano and
performed marvelously.

204
00:13:11,740 --> 00:13:17,080
We found out later she was a
concert pianist out of Hungary.

205
00:13:17,080 --> 00:13:19,300
And on the battered
piano, she produced

206
00:13:19,300 --> 00:13:21,370
some beautiful classical music.

207
00:13:21,370 --> 00:13:24,550

208
00:13:24,550 --> 00:13:26,485
Needless to say we were
very much affected.

209

00:13:26,485 --> 00:13:32,500

210

00:13:32,500 --> 00:13:35,308

You spoke to them, did you not?

211

00:13:35,308 --> 00:13:42,196

212

00:13:42,196 --> 00:13:43,672

Take a minute.

213

00:13:43,672 --> 00:13:46,630

It's OK.

214

00:13:46,630 --> 00:13:48,526

We cried with them.

215

00:13:48,526 --> 00:13:56,830

216

00:13:56,830 --> 00:14:07,836

As I cried out, we stayed
a while, a couple hours,

217

00:14:07,836 --> 00:14:09,380

came back to our unit.

218

00:14:09,380 --> 00:14:13,530

219

00:14:13,530 --> 00:14:15,480

The following day,
we went back again.

220

00:14:15,480 --> 00:14:20,847

221

00:14:20,847 --> 00:14:22,680

We were told that three
of the younger women

222

00:14:22,680 --> 00:14:26,250

had died shortly
after we had left.

223

00:14:26,250 --> 00:14:29,970

And one I remember particularly
was a beautiful girl

224

00:14:29,970 --> 00:14:32,370

with reddish hair.

225

00:14:32,370 --> 00:14:34,790

Looked at us.

226

00:14:34,790 --> 00:14:36,080

She was one lying down.

227

00:14:36,080 --> 00:14:38,680

228

00:14:38,680 --> 00:14:43,780

And she just raised the
hand weakly, smiled.

229

00:14:43,780 --> 00:14:45,340

That was the last
time I ever saw.

230

00:14:45,340 --> 00:14:46,360

She was dead.

231

00:14:46,360 --> 00:14:49,450

She passed away shortly
after we left, we were told.

232

00:14:49,450 --> 00:14:52,590

233

00:14:52,590 --> 00:14:54,960

We didn't go back there
again, because our unit

234
00:14:54,960 --> 00:15:02,310
was transferred towards
another section of line.

235
00:15:02,310 --> 00:15:05,270

236
00:15:05,270 --> 00:15:12,990
And as far as I
can recall, that's

237
00:15:12,990 --> 00:15:23,130
the last I saw of any of
the so-called prisoners,

238
00:15:23,130 --> 00:15:26,745
those so-called
people of that camp.

239
00:15:26,745 --> 00:15:29,370

240
00:15:29,370 --> 00:15:30,930
Did you stay around the area?

241
00:15:30,930 --> 00:15:31,740
Or you said--

242
00:15:31,740 --> 00:15:33,660
We stayed in that general area--

243
00:15:33,660 --> 00:15:34,560
For a while.

244
00:15:34,560 --> 00:15:35,070
Yes.

245
00:15:35,070 --> 00:15:37,320
So you must have come
across some German civilians

246
00:15:37,320 --> 00:15:39,300
at the time?

247
00:15:39,300 --> 00:15:39,870
Yes.

248
00:15:39,870 --> 00:15:44,040
I had one particular
queer experience

249
00:15:44,040 --> 00:15:46,800
I think deserves to be related.

250
00:15:46,800 --> 00:15:48,900
We moved to Altenburg,
Germany, which

251
00:15:48,900 --> 00:15:52,350
is the ancient seat of
the Dukes of Saxony,

252
00:15:52,350 --> 00:15:55,080
as I found out afterwards.

253
00:15:55,080 --> 00:16:03,330
And we were-- my little unit,
so-called entertainment unit,

254
00:16:03,330 --> 00:16:05,670
was housed in a private home.

255
00:16:05,670 --> 00:16:14,580
And three or four days after
leaving the Buchenwald area,

256
00:16:14,580 --> 00:16:17,310
one of my colleagues
came in one day

257
00:16:17,310 --> 00:16:22,390
and threw a little
figurine on the desk

258
00:16:22,390 --> 00:16:27,700
I recognized it immediately as
an antique Etruscan figurine.

259
00:16:27,700 --> 00:16:30,970
On closer examination,
it proved to be just

260
00:16:30,970 --> 00:16:32,660
what I thought it was.

261
00:16:32,660 --> 00:16:36,220
I asked him where he got it.

262
00:16:36,220 --> 00:16:39,550
He said there's a castle about
half a mile on the outskirts

263
00:16:39,550 --> 00:16:41,740
of Altenburg, Germany.

264
00:16:41,740 --> 00:16:43,655
And I immediately
made up my mind

265
00:16:43,655 --> 00:16:46,030
that I had to get over there
and see what kind of a place

266
00:16:46,030 --> 00:16:46,560
this was.

267
00:16:46,560 --> 00:16:48,610
He said it was a
beautiful place.

268
00:16:48,610 --> 00:16:51,490
And he walked into the courtyard
and nobody was around, one

269
00:16:51,490 --> 00:16:54,580

or two chickens flying
around, walked up

270
00:16:54,580 --> 00:16:59,233
this ancient well-worn
stairs into a huge hall.

271
00:16:59,233 --> 00:17:05,920
And on either side
were these glass cases

272
00:17:05,920 --> 00:17:10,040
beautifully displayed with
artifacts of all sorts.

273
00:17:10,040 --> 00:17:13,369
He had no conception
of what he had.

274
00:17:13,369 --> 00:17:15,640
But he had told me
he had just reached

275
00:17:15,640 --> 00:17:20,410
and slid one of the doors open
and taken out this figurine.

276
00:17:20,410 --> 00:17:24,400
Nobody approached him,
saw no signs of life.

277
00:17:24,400 --> 00:17:26,930

278
00:17:26,930 --> 00:17:29,667
He came back to the barracks.

279
00:17:29,667 --> 00:17:31,250
And that's how I
happened to be there.

280
00:17:31,250 --> 00:17:33,920
Well, I went back

the next morning.

281
00:17:33,920 --> 00:17:36,050
I got a Jeep.

282
00:17:36,050 --> 00:17:40,090
And I found the castle.

283
00:17:40,090 --> 00:17:44,180
He described to me how
we got up to that room.

284
00:17:44,180 --> 00:17:46,550
And I followed his
directions and found myself

285
00:17:46,550 --> 00:17:47,490
in that same room.

286
00:17:47,490 --> 00:17:52,520
And it certainly was loaded
with some beautiful antique

287
00:17:52,520 --> 00:17:59,570
artifacts of all kinds and many
examples of this ancient art.

288
00:17:59,570 --> 00:18:02,240
And as I was looking
at them, farther

289
00:18:02,240 --> 00:18:08,990
end of that long corridor, one
of those high doors, probably

290
00:18:08,990 --> 00:18:12,230
15, 18 feet high, opened
up and a gentleman

291
00:18:12,230 --> 00:18:15,980
appeared there, wearing a
gray English walking suit,

292

00:18:15,980 --> 00:18:17,225
as I describe it.

293

00:18:17,225 --> 00:18:20,465
A man in the 60s
announced himself.

294

00:18:20,465 --> 00:18:23,000

295

00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:26,520
He seemed very cordial.

296

00:18:26,520 --> 00:18:30,700
After described
these things to me

297

00:18:30,700 --> 00:18:34,710
and after a short few
minutes, he invited me in

298

00:18:34,710 --> 00:18:38,190
to see some more where upon
we went through the door

299

00:18:38,190 --> 00:18:41,080
he had come in a huge--

300

00:18:41,080 --> 00:18:46,590
well, it's a huge living room
with all sorts of trophies

301

00:18:46,590 --> 00:18:56,010
of heads of animals, deer,
elk, chamois, and cases

302

00:18:56,010 --> 00:18:59,970
full of beautiful
porcelains, paintings,

303

00:18:59,970 --> 00:19:03,810
oriental rugs on the floor,

huge, huge fireplace.

304

00:19:03,810 --> 00:19:08,550

I would say a room approximately
70 to 80 feet long,

305

00:19:08,550 --> 00:19:15,948

as I would say, I would compare
it to the size of the room

306

00:19:15,948 --> 00:19:18,240

that I happened to see in
the White House this morning.

307

00:19:18,240 --> 00:19:21,372

308

00:19:21,372 --> 00:19:22,830

I forget which room
it is, but it's

309

00:19:22,830 --> 00:19:26,830

a huge ballroom sort of thing.

310

00:19:26,830 --> 00:19:31,020

And he took me further on
and through another door

311

00:19:31,020 --> 00:19:36,100

at the end of that
room and into a room

312

00:19:36,100 --> 00:19:39,561

where he said I'd see some
magnificent porcelain.

313

00:19:39,561 --> 00:19:41,500

Well, it turned
out to be that it

314

00:19:41,500 --> 00:19:43,960

was the most magnificent
collection of porcelains I ever

315

00:19:43,960 --> 00:19:51,580
saw my life, including two
sets of the famous monkey-faced

316

00:19:51,580 --> 00:19:58,540
musicians made by a
famous porcelain maker,

317

00:19:58,540 --> 00:20:04,300
by the name of Kandler, as
we know it in art history.

318

00:20:04,300 --> 00:20:05,575
There were two sets of those.

319

00:20:05,575 --> 00:20:08,320

320

00:20:08,320 --> 00:20:14,920
So it happened that in that
section of Saxony Thuringia

321

00:20:14,920 --> 00:20:22,500
is the area where this famous
porcelain deposits were found,

322

00:20:22,500 --> 00:20:27,660
known as kaolin, which the
ancient Chinese had discovered

323

00:20:27,660 --> 00:20:29,670
many years ago, and
they discovered that

324

00:20:29,670 --> 00:20:34,020
in the early 17th century there
in Meissen, known as Meissen

325

00:20:34,020 --> 00:20:36,240
ware.

326

00:20:36,240 --> 00:20:42,960
And we're all familiar with
this sign of the Meissen works.

327
00:20:42,960 --> 00:20:44,025
It's the crossed swords.

328
00:20:44,025 --> 00:20:52,793

329
00:20:52,793 --> 00:20:54,210
But the point I
want to bring out,

330
00:20:54,210 --> 00:20:57,930
and I'm coming to
now, on our way out,

331
00:20:57,930 --> 00:21:02,580
we had passed through
this narrow corridor

332
00:21:02,580 --> 00:21:04,260
to this porcelain room.

333
00:21:04,260 --> 00:21:05,970
He said, I'd like you
to meet my mother.

334
00:21:05,970 --> 00:21:09,520

335
00:21:09,520 --> 00:21:13,960
And as he said that, he opened
up these large, tall doors

336
00:21:13,960 --> 00:21:19,570
into a banquet hall,
so-called, what

337
00:21:19,570 --> 00:21:28,120
we call in our antique language,
an black Italian antique

338
00:21:28,120 --> 00:21:33,500
banquet table, which
it could possibly

339
00:21:33,500 --> 00:21:37,460
seat 75 to 100 people easily.

340
00:21:37,460 --> 00:21:42,830
And at the farther end was an
elderly lady dressed in black.

341
00:21:42,830 --> 00:21:48,230
I guess she were little
white lace cap, having

342
00:21:48,230 --> 00:21:49,700
a little something to eat.

343
00:21:49,700 --> 00:21:52,650
I couldn't exactly
see what it was.

344
00:21:52,650 --> 00:21:56,840
He introduced me, American
soldat came to visit.

345
00:21:56,840 --> 00:21:59,840

346
00:21:59,840 --> 00:22:03,050
And she greeted me.

347
00:22:03,050 --> 00:22:05,660
She asked me to
come close to her.

348
00:22:05,660 --> 00:22:09,890
He accompanied me
over to meet her.

349
00:22:09,890 --> 00:22:19,820

And she said in broken
English, she said and pointed

350
00:22:19,820 --> 00:22:26,630
a finger at me or raised her
hand and shook her forefinger

351
00:22:26,630 --> 00:22:34,620
and said, Hitler
was a great man.

352
00:22:34,620 --> 00:22:37,040
He will live in history.

353
00:22:37,040 --> 00:22:39,410
He is the Savior of
the German people.

354
00:22:39,410 --> 00:22:42,260

355
00:22:42,260 --> 00:22:43,610
That struck me as--

356
00:22:43,610 --> 00:22:46,480

357
00:22:46,480 --> 00:22:49,077
I was left speechless.

358
00:22:49,077 --> 00:22:50,160
I didn't know what to say.

359
00:22:50,160 --> 00:22:53,390

360
00:22:53,390 --> 00:22:56,630
I only remember one thing.

361
00:22:56,630 --> 00:23:05,430
My remark to her was, it is so
sad that you are so mistaken.

362
00:23:05,430 --> 00:23:10,440
I hope your grandchildren,
future generations,

363
00:23:10,440 --> 00:23:14,040
will realize what
a terrible crime

364
00:23:14,040 --> 00:23:15,540
you committed against humanity.

365
00:23:15,540 --> 00:23:19,250

366
00:23:19,250 --> 00:23:22,780
She says, I think you
might be mistaken.

367
00:23:22,780 --> 00:23:26,140
I said, I prefer to
leave it as it is.

368
00:23:26,140 --> 00:23:30,640
There is no argument,
with you especially.

369
00:23:30,640 --> 00:23:36,450
Through all this,
her son was quiet,

370
00:23:36,450 --> 00:23:41,550
showed no sign of emotion, and
walked me back to the room.

371
00:23:41,550 --> 00:23:44,160

372
00:23:44,160 --> 00:23:45,484
I said goodbye to her.

373
00:23:45,484 --> 00:23:48,150

374
00:23:48,150 --> 00:23:50,910
He asked me on the
way out if I would

375
00:23:50,910 --> 00:23:53,970
like some sort of a souvenir.

376
00:23:53,970 --> 00:23:57,930
I told them my interest in
antiques and art objects.

377
00:23:57,930 --> 00:24:02,240

378
00:24:02,240 --> 00:24:06,590
And I said not particularly.

379
00:24:06,590 --> 00:24:09,640

380
00:24:09,640 --> 00:24:14,550
He said, well, I'd like
to give you something.

381
00:24:14,550 --> 00:24:17,610
I enjoyed your visit here.

382
00:24:17,610 --> 00:24:18,870
It was very civilized.

383
00:24:18,870 --> 00:24:22,780

384
00:24:22,780 --> 00:24:25,840
He said, we had a
300th anniversary

385
00:24:25,840 --> 00:24:32,380
of the discovery of kaolin
here in Saxony Thuringia

386

00:24:32,380 --> 00:24:37,690
wherein we made up some little
porcelain plaques in a case.

387

00:24:37,690 --> 00:24:39,310
And I'd like for
you to have this.

388

00:24:39,310 --> 00:24:42,450

389

00:24:42,450 --> 00:24:47,950
And he presented me with
a little case, about 5,

390

00:24:47,950 --> 00:24:53,190
6 inches in square, silk
lined and had four plaques.

391

00:24:53,190 --> 00:24:59,970
And it showed the twin towers
of the Dukes of Saxony,

392

00:24:59,970 --> 00:25:04,650
which is in
Altenburg, Germany, ,

393

00:25:04,650 --> 00:25:07,680
and also the cross
sword designs.

394

00:25:07,680 --> 00:25:09,720
And he said, I like
very much for you

395

00:25:09,720 --> 00:25:18,730
to have something in porcelain
that was made in this district.

396

00:25:18,730 --> 00:25:23,200
And he gathered up a half
a dozen so-called demitasse

397

00:25:23,200 --> 00:25:28,150
cups and saucers, beautiful,
beautiful in design and color

398

00:25:28,150 --> 00:25:32,050
and composition, and
insisted that I take that.

399

00:25:32,050 --> 00:25:36,910

400

00:25:36,910 --> 00:25:41,230
I was to go back there
the following day.

401

00:25:41,230 --> 00:25:49,000
And he was going to let me have
to the take back to the United

402

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:55,000
States government a set of
those monkey-faced porcelain

403

00:25:55,000 --> 00:25:58,810
musicians, which I
knew was very rare.

404

00:25:58,810 --> 00:26:00,750
And he agreed with me,
they were very rare.

405

00:26:00,750 --> 00:26:03,550

406

00:26:03,550 --> 00:26:10,390
And I said, well,
when I come back,

407

00:26:10,390 --> 00:26:13,810
I'd like to give you
something in return for that.

408

00:26:13,810 --> 00:26:20,220

He said if you would bring me
perhaps some coffee, cheese,

409

00:26:20,220 --> 00:26:23,570

cigarettes.

410

00:26:23,570 --> 00:26:25,730

I said, I'll see what I can do.

411

00:26:25,730 --> 00:26:29,350

412

00:26:29,350 --> 00:26:32,620

Well, I went back
and made preparations

413

00:26:32,620 --> 00:26:36,580

to be back the following
morning if I wasn't

414

00:26:36,580 --> 00:26:39,940

deterred by other duties.

415

00:26:39,940 --> 00:26:44,980

And I did acquire some things,
extra little pieces of food

416

00:26:44,980 --> 00:26:49,060

from the mess sergeant, things
we gathered up in our quarters.

417

00:26:49,060 --> 00:26:52,310

418

00:26:52,310 --> 00:26:58,280

And that night or in the
morning, following morning,

419

00:26:58,280 --> 00:27:01,190

at 4 o'clock in the
morning, we had our orders

420
00:27:01,190 --> 00:27:04,820
that we had to be out of there
in two hours, by 6 o'clock

421
00:27:04,820 --> 00:27:06,440
in the morning.

422
00:27:06,440 --> 00:27:09,050
And there was no way
to go anywhere else

423
00:27:09,050 --> 00:27:14,300
but to prepare and get on
trucks to be transported

424
00:27:14,300 --> 00:27:16,960
to another location.

425
00:27:16,960 --> 00:27:19,330
And I was the last--

426
00:27:19,330 --> 00:27:22,720
at 6 o'clock in the morning,
I, was the last soldier

427
00:27:22,720 --> 00:27:26,500
on what we call a 6-5 truck.

428
00:27:26,500 --> 00:27:28,210
And I had the driver
take a picture

429
00:27:28,210 --> 00:27:33,430
of me leaving Altenburg,
Germany, which I still have

430
00:27:33,430 --> 00:27:38,880
somewhere in my possession, and
never did get back there again.

431
00:27:38,880 --> 00:27:40,860

The Russians came in.

432

00:27:40,860 --> 00:27:43,740

As we were leaving, the Russians entered Altenburg, Germany.

433

00:27:43,740 --> 00:27:45,050

They took over that sector.

434

00:27:45,050 --> 00:27:48,250

435

00:27:48,250 --> 00:27:52,402

Other than that, I'll tell you a few other things,

436

00:27:52,402 --> 00:27:53,860

but they didn't have anything to do

437

00:27:53,860 --> 00:28:00,880

with liberation or with in a camp that had been liberated.

438

00:28:00,880 --> 00:28:06,680

Let me ask you this before we end, which we have to do,

439

00:28:06,680 --> 00:28:08,493

do you feel that this--

440

00:28:08,493 --> 00:28:09,910

let's put it this way, what do you

441

00:28:09,910 --> 00:28:15,520

think the best way to teach people about this era is?

442

00:28:15,520 --> 00:28:16,570

Or should it be taught?

443

00:28:16,570 --> 00:28:18,940
Or how do we handle--

444
00:28:18,940 --> 00:28:25,960
Whatever medium is necessary,
in any way, shape or manner,

445
00:28:25,960 --> 00:28:33,850
to bring what had
happened in the Holocaust

446
00:28:33,850 --> 00:28:41,720
to the eyes and the
minds, to every person

447
00:28:41,720 --> 00:28:50,370
in the world, because human
beings basically are the same.

448
00:28:50,370 --> 00:28:56,040
And they have to be made aware
of the weaknesses and morality

449
00:28:56,040 --> 00:29:01,060
of their attitude towards man.

450
00:29:01,060 --> 00:29:06,130
And as one of the great speakers
said, we're all brothers

451
00:29:06,130 --> 00:29:10,160
and we're are brothers' keepers.

452
00:29:10,160 --> 00:29:15,820
So any medium, so any
country with any people,

453
00:29:15,820 --> 00:29:21,630
the morality of
treating your fellow man

454
00:29:21,630 --> 00:29:27,270
as you would like to be

treated morally, mentally,

455

00:29:27,270 --> 00:29:31,050

should be instilled in
every person's mind.

456

00:29:31,050 --> 00:29:33,780

Teaching youngster, making
them aware of what happened

457

00:29:33,780 --> 00:29:37,530

and what could
happen, if we're not

458

00:29:37,530 --> 00:29:45,470

safeguarding humanity from doing
the awful things that happened.

459

00:29:45,470 --> 00:29:46,585

Thank you very much.

460

00:29:46,585 --> 00:29:47,987

And thank you for sharing.

461

00:29:47,987 --> 00:29:48,820

Thank you very much.

462

00:29:48,820 --> 00:29:55,720

463

00:29:55,720 --> 00:29:57,220

I had to cut you off.

464

00:29:57,220 --> 00:29:59,670

I start the next--

465

00:29:59,670 --> 00:30:21,000