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0:00:51 Rose volunteered for the British Army, giving a false age, in 1941. He served in Italy with the British 8th Army and with the 22nd Army brigade. Then he was sent back to Great Britain. He invaded Europe on D-Day.

0:02:00 On D-Day, he landed in Normandy where his unit joined up with the 3rd Army. He participated in the battle of Caen, the battle of Falaise-Gap, and the battle of Normandy.

0:02:31 Rose was wounded at Caen but was back with his unit within two weeks. His unit then moved into Belgium through Northern France and Holland.

0:03:37 He saw Fort Breendonk in Belgium after it had been liberated. There, the Germans tortured Belgian and Jewish resistance fighters. Breendonk was located in an old castle, maintained by the SD, and run by the SS.

0:04:17 Rose saw the places where people were put on racks and flogged to death, where men and women's legs were separated and fires lit under them, branding irons, machines to rip out fingers and toe nails, electrocution machines. He still finds it difficult to speak about.

0:05:22 He cannot understand that a culture of civilized people, the people of Beethoven and Goethe, committed this act. At this point, he had no idea of what he would see in Bergen-Belsen.

0:06:00 He had heard a BBC broadcast about a concentration camp in eastern Europe which had been liberated (he believes it was Sobibor). The broadcast indicated that hundreds had been killed and this information was a terrible shock to him.

0:07:00 Rose's unit was involved in the middle of the war and had no indication of what they would come up to on April 15, 1945. They found a replication of what had happened at Sobibor in Bergen-Belsen. What they saw is beyond the comprehension of civilized people.

0:08:05 The soldiers took the towns of Celle and Valla. There first indication of Bergen Belsen was the stench they could smell from one kilometer away. Rose was in the lead tank whose driver had worked in a slaughter house and commented that the smell was the same.

0:08:55 (Interviewer) The smell stayed with her always. it was the smell of hair and flesh burning because they just burned the bodies of the dead. There were always too many to burn.

0:10:03 The soldiers entered on the south side of the camp, through the barbed wire. Their first indication of the magnitude of what they were to find was when they saw what looked like a bundle of rags in front of the tank. Rose told the driver to stop because it was moving. The rags turned out to be a dying child, age 2 or 3.

0:11:45 They got to the barracks of what Rose calls the "living dead" who were just able to move. One man tottered towards him. They drove diagonally across the camp and were incapable of continuing because of the impact of what they had seen. The squadron leader radioed to ask why they had stopped. it was impossible to describe why, so they told him to come see.

0:12:13 The inmates of the camp were Jews. The impact of this event on Rose's life was that he changed his lifetime goals. He had wanted to become an architect after the war but decided to abandon this and work for the Jewish people.

0:14:05 What they saw was indescribable and left them unfit to command the tanks. The soldiers had rations with them which they distributed to the people. But, the people were not in a condition to eat. This was their instinctive reaction. They also gave all their medical supplies to a woman in the camp who had been a nurse in Poland.

0:16:03 The camp inmates pointed out German or Hungarian SS who were running away. The soldiers were under orders to had over Germans involved in war crimes so the crimes could be documented and the people tried and hung instead of shot on sight.

(Interviewer) There was a period when the Germans had left but the Hungarian guards were still in the camp. They threw hand-grenades into groups of inmates to kill more of them.

0:17:45 The soldiers came upon a scene of incredible confusion. They had to move on, but had radioed for help and Rose asked that Rabbi Leslie Hartman (the chaplain attached to the unit) be called to say Kaddish. There was also the possibility of saving some people.

0:19:30 They had to move on because they were holding up the advance of the entire British Army. Another convoy with help for the camp was coming in already by the time they left. The soldiers who came up after Rose also found the scene impossible to comprehend.

0:22:05 Rose decided to devote himself to Jewish life. He is the executive Vice President of the Canadian Jewish Congress. After the war, he worked in Great Britain with the rehabilitation of the camp survivors. The war in Israel broke out during this time. He found it unthinkable that this should happen to the Jewish people after the suffering. he also saw Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, Sobibor, and Dachau while in Germany with the Army of Occupation. he had difficulty speaking to Germans after the war, except those who had also been prisoners. Everyone in Germany had some excuse for not having known about the camps. he does not understand how this could be true in most cases, especially in the towns the railroads when through.

0:22:33 The liberation of the concentration camps had an effect of relations between the British army and the German civilians.

0:23:22 Rose did not experience much anti-Semitism in the British army. He was in a prestigious tank unit and found a little anti-semitism here and there, but the Army was very tough on racism. He was an officer and at the head of his class in Army, he found warm feelings towards him which intensified after the liberation.

0:24:14 The other soldiers reacted to what they saw in a similar manner. They would have liked to murder or execute every German soldier they found. All those involved in Bergen -Belsen were hanged.

0:25:45 (Interviewer) The British came into the hospital with masks, gloves, and boots to protect from infection. The SS also had typhoid, not just the inmates. There were so many lice that they covered the body, even on the ground. You could push them off with your hands. The British and other volunteers came in the cleaning process. They washed people in many solutions, dusted them with DDT, and shaved them.

0:27:01 Rose came back to Bergen -Belsen one month later, in mid-May. His commander warned him of the typhus but he went anyway. he was amazed to see the difference in the camp in one month. The people were recovering and had been cleaned up. They were moving people to other locations. The Scandinavian, British, and American Red Cross were involved.

0:27:47 How can you ever recover from this> Rose spoke with British arm officers who said they had had to remove the bodies with bulldozers. They said this was the most terrible thing because they could not get over the natural reverence for life and death and moving bodies with the bulldozers did not seem right.

0:28:45 (Interviewer) There were more than ten thousand bodies. Before the liberation, they went for three weeks without water. People drank urine and were only interested in fluid. There was food in the warehouse with ground-up glass in it - another method to kill the inmates. Rumors of dynamited stored around the perimeters of the camp.

0:29:45 The Germans tried to blow up all of the camps. Rose and the soldiers with him distributed water first to the inmates but ran out quickly. Someone wanted them to drain the water from the tanks' engines but the rust would have killed them.

0:31:10 A sergeant was sent into Celle to get water. it was the first thing that was needed.

(interviewer) She went for nine weeks without water on her body. There was constant disease. People had been brought to Bergen-Belsen from all over, marching for weeks to get there. There were so many people that there was no room to lie down. The lice and bugs were rampant. She had holes in her ankles for the insects.

0:33:00 The soldiers were embraced by the people and got lice too. Rose was in Bergen-Belsen for a maximum of two hours but it left a powerful visual and emotional impression. He thinks the Liberators Conference should adopt a declaration testifying that the Holocaust took place because of the recent trend of revisionist theories. if it did not take place, then the liberation is fraudulent as well. it is important that liberators from all armies bear witness to the Holocaust.
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