

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,900

2
00:00:01,900 --> 00:00:04,660
Tell me your full name.

3
00:00:04,660 --> 00:00:10,710
Elizabeth with a Z. My
middle initial is A.

4
00:00:10,710 --> 00:00:20,920
And I'll spell the last
name F-E-L-D-H-U-S-E-N.

5
00:00:20,920 --> 00:00:22,090
Nobody ever gets it.

6
00:00:22,090 --> 00:00:23,180
Feldhusen.

7
00:00:23,180 --> 00:00:24,130
Husen.

8
00:00:24,130 --> 00:00:25,330
Feldhusen.

9
00:00:25,330 --> 00:00:29,050
I guess in German,
you'd say Feldhoosen,

10
00:00:29,050 --> 00:00:31,000
and I say Feldhusen.

11
00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:50,110

12
00:00:50,110 --> 00:00:50,610
OK.

13
00:00:50,610 --> 00:00:53,450

14
00:00:53,450 --> 00:00:57,420
This is July 14th, 1995.

15
00:00:57,420 --> 00:00:59,990
We're in West Park, New York.

16
00:00:59,990 --> 00:01:03,620
This is Neenah Ellis
interviewing Elizabeth A.

17
00:01:03,620 --> 00:01:06,440
Feldhusen.

18
00:01:06,440 --> 00:01:10,880
Tell me, please, when were you
born and where were you born?

19
00:01:10,880 --> 00:01:17,150
Well, I was born in Brooklyn,
New York, April 21st, 1918.

20
00:01:17,150 --> 00:01:24,820
And where were you living when
you decided to become a nurse?

21
00:01:24,820 --> 00:01:28,400
Oh, I was still living in the
Bedford-Stuyvesant section

22
00:01:28,400 --> 00:01:33,650
of Brooklyn on MacDonough
Street between Lewis Avenue

23
00:01:33,650 --> 00:01:39,080
and Stuyvesant, which was a
very nice area at that time.

24
00:01:39,080 --> 00:01:42,780
And my family lived
there about 10 years.

25

00:01:42,780 --> 00:01:46,610

And then we moved to
Park Slope in Brooklyn.

26

00:01:46,610 --> 00:01:50,460

And why did you decide
you wanted to be a nurse?

27

00:01:50,460 --> 00:01:52,730

How did you decide that?

28

00:01:52,730 --> 00:01:57,680

Well, things happened in
my life in peculiar ways.

29

00:01:57,680 --> 00:01:59,150

I had been a Girl Scout.

30

00:01:59,150 --> 00:02:02,540

And when I was 12, I
still remember that we

31

00:02:02,540 --> 00:02:05,120

were given a course on home--

32

00:02:05,120 --> 00:02:07,460

I think the Red Cross gave it.

33

00:02:07,460 --> 00:02:10,530

Home nursing and
care of the sick.

34

00:02:10,530 --> 00:02:13,760

And I just looked at that
book, and read it once,

35

00:02:13,760 --> 00:02:16,910

and the whole thing
was memorized.

36

00:02:16,910 --> 00:02:19,160

But my mother was

always against it.

37

00:02:19,160 --> 00:02:24,230

So when I graduated from high school, I looked for a job.

38

00:02:24,230 --> 00:02:27,737

It was in the middle of the Depression.

39

00:02:27,737 --> 00:02:29,570

What year did you graduate from high school?

40

00:02:29,570 --> 00:02:34,100

In 1936, in June of '36.

41

00:02:34,100 --> 00:02:38,660

And I looked for a job and I finally found something

42

00:02:38,660 --> 00:02:40,160

in a hair net factory.

43

00:02:40,160 --> 00:02:42,800

And I worked one week and I wouldn't go back.

44

00:02:42,800 --> 00:02:47,060

My mother went back for my \$7 check--

45

00:02:47,060 --> 00:02:50,930

or cash, they paid in cash in those days.

46

00:02:50,930 --> 00:02:57,230

And then the same agency that had gotten me that job said,

47

00:02:57,230 --> 00:02:58,370

she would--

48

00:02:58,370 --> 00:03:00,020

I was a Roman Catholic.

49

00:03:00,020 --> 00:03:03,470

And they kept asking me if
I would change my religion,

50

00:03:03,470 --> 00:03:05,700

believe it or not.

51

00:03:05,700 --> 00:03:11,090

So by then, that was around
I think September or so.

52

00:03:11,090 --> 00:03:13,670

So I finally said, all
right, I'll change it.

53

00:03:13,670 --> 00:03:17,870

So she said, just fill out the
card and put Protestant down.

54

00:03:17,870 --> 00:03:21,170

Just, you know, make out
the card the same way.

55

00:03:21,170 --> 00:03:25,340

And she sent me over to
a place where there-- oh,

56

00:03:25,340 --> 00:03:27,470

there must have been
about 10 or 12 of us.

57

00:03:27,470 --> 00:03:29,570

And they gave us little tests.

58

00:03:29,570 --> 00:03:32,570

And the one test I remember
was a row of numbers.

59

00:03:32,570 --> 00:03:36,440

And they said, just put a
circle around, say, the sevens.

60
00:03:36,440 --> 00:03:39,310
Just go down the whole column.

61
00:03:39,310 --> 00:03:42,650
And then we had some other
things that were similar.

62
00:03:42,650 --> 00:03:44,690
And then they disappeared.

63
00:03:44,690 --> 00:03:48,890
And then they came out
again, and they said, well,

64
00:03:48,890 --> 00:03:50,630
miss so-and-so,
and miss so-and-so,

65
00:03:50,630 --> 00:03:53,270
and miss Feldhusen
will please remain.

66
00:03:53,270 --> 00:03:55,400
And the others may go.

67
00:03:55,400 --> 00:03:57,740
So I was hired.

68
00:03:57,740 --> 00:04:01,580
And I worked there until--

69
00:04:01,580 --> 00:04:05,090
I think it was from
November, maybe October,

70
00:04:05,090 --> 00:04:07,620
until the 1st of February.

71
00:04:07,620 --> 00:04:09,710

And then I went into
nurse's training.

72
00:04:09,710 --> 00:04:12,170
But the way the nurse's
training came about

73
00:04:12,170 --> 00:04:16,301
was that my father tuned pianos.

74
00:04:16,301 --> 00:04:20,329
Can you tell me this, I'm
going to, hang on one second.

75
00:04:20,329 --> 00:04:23,750
One of his jobs was a
Brooklyn state hospital.

76
00:04:23,750 --> 00:04:27,810
In those days, they had
big state hospitals.

77
00:04:27,810 --> 00:04:28,310
OK.

78
00:04:28,310 --> 00:04:31,520
So my father talked to the--

79
00:04:31,520 --> 00:04:34,130
well, when he went
to Brooklyn State,

80
00:04:34,130 --> 00:04:38,330
he always went in to
see the superintendent.

81
00:04:38,330 --> 00:04:41,690
And then they would let him
know where he was to go.

82
00:04:41,690 --> 00:04:44,450
So he knew the
superintendent quite well.

83
00:04:44,450 --> 00:04:47,630
So he told him about his
daughter who was having trouble

84
00:04:47,630 --> 00:04:49,070
finding a job.

85
00:04:49,070 --> 00:04:51,980
But eventually, you
know, I was working, just

86
00:04:51,980 --> 00:04:54,930
doing file clerk work.

87
00:04:54,930 --> 00:04:57,890
And so the superintendent
says, well, we

88
00:04:57,890 --> 00:05:00,260
have a nurses
training school here.

89
00:05:00,260 --> 00:05:05,840
Why don't you have your daughter
come and enter our class?

90
00:05:05,840 --> 00:05:10,590
And that was around
October, November.

91
00:05:10,590 --> 00:05:13,040
So my father came
home and told me that.

92
00:05:13,040 --> 00:05:17,940
And I said, well, I'm sure the
classes started in September.

93
00:05:17,940 --> 00:05:20,540
And I would be two months later.

94

00:05:20,540 --> 00:05:22,400
And I'd never be
able to catch up.

95
00:05:22,400 --> 00:05:25,100

96
00:05:25,100 --> 00:05:29,240
So my father says, well, I
pass by Kings County hospital

97
00:05:29,240 --> 00:05:30,680
when I go to Brooklyn State.

98
00:05:30,680 --> 00:05:32,870
Because he went on the subway.

99
00:05:32,870 --> 00:05:38,090
And so I wrote to Kings
County and applied.

100
00:05:38,090 --> 00:05:40,720
And they sent me all the
applications and whatnot.

101
00:05:40,720 --> 00:05:42,630
Now, they took
classes twice a year.

102
00:05:42,630 --> 00:05:46,490
And their next class
was the 1st of February.

103
00:05:46,490 --> 00:05:49,900
So I was accepted.

104
00:05:49,900 --> 00:05:51,940
And then where I was
working, I worked right up

105
00:05:51,940 --> 00:05:57,440
until the last day, and left,
and went into nurses training.

106
00:05:57,440 --> 00:05:59,830
And just by
happenstance, I really

107
00:05:59,830 --> 00:06:03,580
picked one of the best
schools in New York.

108
00:06:03,580 --> 00:06:07,520
In its day, it was
very, very fine.

109
00:06:07,520 --> 00:06:10,130
And I had a friend
that went to Bellevue,

110
00:06:10,130 --> 00:06:12,610
and there was just
no comparison.

111
00:06:12,610 --> 00:06:15,310
We were treated
like young ladies

112
00:06:15,310 --> 00:06:18,100
and we were expected
to be young ladies.

113
00:06:18,100 --> 00:06:22,360
And at Bellevue, it was
helter-skelter, come as you go,

114
00:06:22,360 --> 00:06:26,620
and just really you had
to be tough to go there.

115
00:06:26,620 --> 00:06:29,560
So it worked out
very well for me.

116
00:06:29,560 --> 00:06:31,060
When did you finish

your training?

117

00:06:31,060 --> 00:06:33,760

Well, that was a
three-year training course.

118

00:06:33,760 --> 00:06:36,670

And they practically
don't have those anymore.

119

00:06:36,670 --> 00:06:39,940

But when I graduated,
I had always

120

00:06:39,940 --> 00:06:42,160

wanted to go into public health.

121

00:06:42,160 --> 00:06:44,800

We had two months of
public health experience

122

00:06:44,800 --> 00:06:48,290

as part of our nurses
training, and I liked it.

123

00:06:48,290 --> 00:06:52,450

And so I went to the Brooklyn
Visiting Nurse Association

124

00:06:52,450 --> 00:06:54,740

and applied for a position.

125

00:06:54,740 --> 00:06:58,300

And she said, you have to
have one term of college.

126

00:06:58,300 --> 00:07:00,760

So then I went to
New York University

127

00:07:00,760 --> 00:07:03,460

and went to night school.

128

00:07:03,460 --> 00:07:08,820

And I finally got my
16 college points.

129

00:07:08,820 --> 00:07:11,860

And I worked for
them almost a year.

130

00:07:11,860 --> 00:07:16,090

But then people were going into
the army, and I had patients.

131

00:07:16,090 --> 00:07:19,540

My sickest patients
would say to me, what

132

00:07:19,540 --> 00:07:21,190

are you taking care of me for?

133

00:07:21,190 --> 00:07:23,500

You should be taking
care of the boys.

134

00:07:23,500 --> 00:07:24,820

Really?

135

00:07:24,820 --> 00:07:27,590

I heard that time
and time again.

136

00:07:27,590 --> 00:07:32,680

So I have a very close friend,
and she also wanted to go.

137

00:07:32,680 --> 00:07:33,770

So we went in together.

138

00:07:33,770 --> 00:07:36,700

139

00:07:36,700 --> 00:07:37,840

When was that?

140
00:07:37,840 --> 00:07:43,310
That was very vivid in my
mind, the 1st of July, 1943.

141
00:07:43,310 --> 00:07:45,220
I still remember that first day.

142
00:07:45,220 --> 00:07:46,300
What was it like?

143
00:07:46,300 --> 00:07:47,240
What happened?

144
00:07:47,240 --> 00:07:49,620
Oh, it was a day like this.

145
00:07:49,620 --> 00:07:50,680
Hot as anything.

146
00:07:50,680 --> 00:07:55,900
And her brother took us to
get the train to go down

147
00:07:55,900 --> 00:07:59,660
to Wilmington, Delaware.

148
00:07:59,660 --> 00:08:04,580
And we were given very little
instruction as to what to do.

149
00:08:04,580 --> 00:08:08,380
We got down to Delaware,
down to Wilmington.

150
00:08:08,380 --> 00:08:12,710
And I think there was
a very brief letter.

151
00:08:12,710 --> 00:08:14,350
And it said, you
go to Wilmington

152
00:08:14,350 --> 00:08:20,080
and you take the Army bus
to Fort DuPont, Delaware.

153
00:08:20,080 --> 00:08:22,480
And we couldn't find the bus.

154
00:08:22,480 --> 00:08:25,420
And there was no air
conditioning in those days.

155
00:08:25,420 --> 00:08:28,090
And we were rushing
around from here to there.

156
00:08:28,090 --> 00:08:31,210
And we were there
almost all day.

157
00:08:31,210 --> 00:08:32,620
And we were so hot.

158
00:08:32,620 --> 00:08:34,840
I was exhausted.

159
00:08:34,840 --> 00:08:38,059
And we went to the
travelers agency that

160
00:08:38,059 --> 00:08:40,330
was supposed to help travelers.

161
00:08:40,330 --> 00:08:42,520
They didn't know a
thing about Fort DuPont.

162
00:08:42,520 --> 00:08:45,910
And they were there, really,
to help people in the service.

163
00:08:45,910 --> 00:08:48,700

Didn't know anything
about their bus service.

164
00:08:48,700 --> 00:08:53,230
Well, finally, as I recall,
somebody overheard us.

165
00:08:53,230 --> 00:08:55,600
Must have been a soldier.

166
00:08:55,600 --> 00:08:59,140
And he said, oh, yes, there
was a bus around 6 o'clock

167
00:08:59,140 --> 00:09:01,790
at night, something like that.

168
00:09:01,790 --> 00:09:03,730
And he told us where to go.

169
00:09:03,730 --> 00:09:05,680
So we ended up at Fort DuPont.

170
00:09:05,680 --> 00:09:07,030
We didn't have any supper.

171
00:09:07,030 --> 00:09:09,910
And we were just exhausted.

172
00:09:09,910 --> 00:09:14,500
And the chief nurse just
acted as if we were arriving

173
00:09:14,500 --> 00:09:15,760
at 8 o'clock in the morning.

174
00:09:15,760 --> 00:09:19,760
And I thought she was going
to put us on duty right away.

175
00:09:19,760 --> 00:09:26,080
But she finally let us go

and showed us our rooms.

176
00:09:26,080 --> 00:09:29,740
And that led-- that was my
first day of Army experience.

177
00:09:29,740 --> 00:09:32,170
And it was really, really--

178
00:09:32,170 --> 00:09:35,440
it wasn't very pleasant.

179
00:09:35,440 --> 00:09:38,340
Now, I was just looking
at Phyllis's photographs.

180
00:09:38,340 --> 00:09:41,500
Now, she was in big
hospitals, like Tilton General

181
00:09:41,500 --> 00:09:43,300
and England General.

182
00:09:43,300 --> 00:09:47,270
And I was very small.

183
00:09:47,270 --> 00:09:52,120
We only had seven nurses and
four doctors, very small place.

184
00:09:52,120 --> 00:09:53,290
There at Fort DuPont?

185
00:09:53,290 --> 00:09:55,600
At Fort DuPont, Delaware.

186
00:09:55,600 --> 00:09:57,170
How long were you there?

187
00:09:57,170 --> 00:10:00,110
I was there, I think,
about a year and a half.

188
00:10:00,110 --> 00:10:06,640
And then my friend and I
were picked to go overseas.

189
00:10:06,640 --> 00:10:11,110
And we joined this 131st
Evacuation Hospital.

190
00:10:11,110 --> 00:10:12,850
Where did you join them?

191
00:10:12,850 --> 00:10:15,550
Well, I try to think.

192
00:10:15,550 --> 00:10:18,310
I'm not really-- we went.

193
00:10:18,310 --> 00:10:23,170
I really don't remember,
really, how we formed

194
00:10:23,170 --> 00:10:28,390
or whether we had to
report someplace down

195
00:10:28,390 --> 00:10:31,220
in South Carolina.

196
00:10:31,220 --> 00:10:33,070
That's where we left from.

197
00:10:33,070 --> 00:10:35,830
But it's really very
vague in my mind.

198
00:10:35,830 --> 00:10:38,518
Were you on the ship, then,
on the Queen Elizabeth

199
00:10:38,518 --> 00:10:39,310
crossing with them?

200
00:10:39,310 --> 00:10:41,440
Yes, we were all together.

201
00:10:41,440 --> 00:10:42,910
Yes.

202
00:10:42,910 --> 00:10:45,340
And there were 40 of us.

203
00:10:45,340 --> 00:10:50,780
And half were in one state room
and half in another state room.

204
00:10:50,780 --> 00:10:54,110
And we had bunks
up to the ceiling.

205
00:10:54,110 --> 00:10:56,540
And I had a bottom bunk.

206
00:10:56,540 --> 00:10:58,940
And I really had to lie
on the floor in order

207
00:10:58,940 --> 00:11:02,510
to get into that bunk.

208
00:11:02,510 --> 00:11:05,180
And then all night
long, the ship

209
00:11:05,180 --> 00:11:08,150
would go this way and that was--
so you're either on your feet

210
00:11:08,150 --> 00:11:09,920
or on your head.

211
00:11:09,920 --> 00:11:12,110
But the reason was--

212

00:11:12,110 --> 00:11:14,480

I don't know if the
other girls told you.

213

00:11:14,480 --> 00:11:17,930

But that we turned every
seven minutes in order

214

00:11:17,930 --> 00:11:19,820

to avoid the submarines.

215

00:11:19,820 --> 00:11:25,790

Because we did not have any
escort across the ocean.

216

00:11:25,790 --> 00:11:27,830

Were you nervous?

217

00:11:27,830 --> 00:11:29,600

I don't remember that I was.

218

00:11:29,600 --> 00:11:30,890

You know, when you're young.

219

00:11:30,890 --> 00:11:33,560

And it was like an adventure.

220

00:11:33,560 --> 00:11:36,290

You know, and all these
activities and whatnot you

221

00:11:36,290 --> 00:11:39,650

had never been
exposed to before.

222

00:11:39,650 --> 00:11:41,240

But we were very crowded.

223

00:11:41,240 --> 00:11:42,140

That I remember.

224

00:11:42,140 --> 00:11:44,090

It was very hard to
find a place to sit

225

00:11:44,090 --> 00:11:46,520

down anywhere, as
you know we had about

226

00:11:46,520 --> 00:11:48,320

10,000 troops on that ship.

227

00:11:48,320 --> 00:11:49,310

Wow.

228

00:11:49,310 --> 00:11:50,790

And 40 nurses?

229

00:11:50,790 --> 00:11:51,290

Yeah.

230

00:11:51,290 --> 00:11:55,010

Well, the nurses, we
didn't do anything.

231

00:11:55,010 --> 00:11:57,560

You know, we were
just in a group.

232

00:11:57,560 --> 00:12:00,800

We weren't performing
any nursing--

233

00:12:00,800 --> 00:12:02,510

excuse me, any
nursing functions.

234

00:12:02,510 --> 00:12:04,370

Were you the only
women on the ship?

235

00:12:04,370 --> 00:12:07,310

Yeah, as I remember,
we were the only women.

236
00:12:07,310 --> 00:12:10,520
40 women out of 10,000.

237
00:12:10,520 --> 00:12:15,510
Well, I'll tell you, men were
more respectful in those days.

238
00:12:15,510 --> 00:12:17,990
In fact, I remember when
I was at Fort DuPont,

239
00:12:17,990 --> 00:12:20,000
and two of the men,
two of the corpsmen

240
00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:23,840
were out in the hall, and
one of them used a foul word.

241
00:12:23,840 --> 00:12:25,070
Watch your microphone there.

242
00:12:25,070 --> 00:12:28,040
And he immediately
came in and apologized.

243
00:12:28,040 --> 00:12:29,750
You see, and that
wouldn't exist today

244
00:12:29,750 --> 00:12:32,670
because the girls themselves
use terrible language.

245
00:12:32,670 --> 00:12:36,270
I hear it when I go to
Brooklyn, right in the street.

246
00:12:36,270 --> 00:12:40,520
So I think women have
really damaged themselves

247

00:12:40,520 --> 00:12:43,340
by trying to become--

248

00:12:43,340 --> 00:12:45,710
meet the level of
everybody else.

249

00:12:45,710 --> 00:12:48,650

250

00:12:48,650 --> 00:12:50,930
Tell me what it was
like in England.

251

00:12:50,930 --> 00:12:52,490
What did you do in England?

252

00:12:52,490 --> 00:12:57,800
Well, course, we landed
in Greenock, Scotland.

253

00:12:57,800 --> 00:13:02,270
And we had to
climb over the side

254

00:13:02,270 --> 00:13:06,170
and get down onto a trawler
because the Queen could only

255

00:13:06,170 --> 00:13:08,300
go in so far.

256

00:13:08,300 --> 00:13:10,820
And then we tramped--

257

00:13:10,820 --> 00:13:14,390
we had these heavy
boots on and fatigues.

258

00:13:14,390 --> 00:13:17,180
And we tramped to
a train station.

259

00:13:17,180 --> 00:13:19,985

And I can still remember
that the noise, you know,

260

00:13:19,985 --> 00:13:22,190

as we walked in the street.

261

00:13:22,190 --> 00:13:23,870

And everybody, of
course, I think

262

00:13:23,870 --> 00:13:26,030

everybody was probably
nervous because we didn't

263

00:13:26,030 --> 00:13:27,770

know what was going to happen.

264

00:13:27,770 --> 00:13:31,520

And we came to a train station
and we got on the train.

265

00:13:31,520 --> 00:13:34,730

And this is about 2:00 or
3 o'clock in the morning.

266

00:13:34,730 --> 00:13:37,700

And we rode for a while
and then we got off.

267

00:13:37,700 --> 00:13:39,650

And then we tramped some more.

268

00:13:39,650 --> 00:13:43,160

And then they said, the girls
will have this building,

269

00:13:43,160 --> 00:13:45,710

and then the men will be
here, and the other men

270

00:13:45,710 --> 00:13:46,800
will be there.

271
00:13:46,800 --> 00:13:50,870
And as we went down the street,
everybody got a place to live.

272
00:13:50,870 --> 00:13:53,840
And you went in,
and there was a pile

273
00:13:53,840 --> 00:13:55,940
of blankets in the front hall.

274
00:13:55,940 --> 00:13:58,690
And you grabbed a blanket
and you just laid on it.

275
00:13:58,690 --> 00:14:00,110
And mine was so greasy.

276
00:14:00,110 --> 00:14:03,660
I was awake all night,
I couldn't sleep.

277
00:14:03,660 --> 00:14:07,820
And that was the beginning
of our adventure there.

278
00:14:07,820 --> 00:14:10,550
See, we were supposed
to go right into France,

279
00:14:10,550 --> 00:14:12,890
and then changes were made.

280
00:14:12,890 --> 00:14:16,430
Something happened to
the American troops.

281
00:14:16,430 --> 00:14:19,940
And so everything was changed.

282

00:14:19,940 --> 00:14:23,160

So then we didn't
do much of anything.

283

00:14:23,160 --> 00:14:28,100

And finally, we were
assigned to local units.

284

00:14:28,100 --> 00:14:32,120

And I know I went to
Wales and worked there.

285

00:14:32,120 --> 00:14:34,670

But I really don't know
how long I was there.

286

00:14:34,670 --> 00:14:36,287

A couple of weeks.

287

00:14:36,287 --> 00:14:38,120

You were there caring
for American soldiers?

288

00:14:38,120 --> 00:14:40,610

Yeah, they were
running, actually,

289

00:14:40,610 --> 00:14:43,310

American-run hospitals.

290

00:14:43,310 --> 00:14:49,430

And the one in Wales, the nurses
lived in these Nissen huts.

291

00:14:49,430 --> 00:14:53,790

And when you wanted to take
a bath, you had to run out

292

00:14:53,790 --> 00:14:57,500

and, well, quite a distance
to go to the bathroom

293

00:14:57,500 --> 00:14:59,990
or to take your bath.

294
00:14:59,990 --> 00:15:02,910
And so you didn't
take a bath too often.

295
00:15:02,910 --> 00:15:05,900
But I know the nights
when I got off duty,

296
00:15:05,900 --> 00:15:07,700
I had everything all ready.

297
00:15:07,700 --> 00:15:12,050
And I just grabbed everything
and then ran up to that place.

298
00:15:12,050 --> 00:15:13,910
Because if you didn't
get there first,

299
00:15:13,910 --> 00:15:18,320
somebody else did, and you
didn't get any more hot water.

300
00:15:18,320 --> 00:15:20,900
So I mean, even if you
took a bath twice a week,

301
00:15:20,900 --> 00:15:24,960
at least you got a good
one if you got there first.

302
00:15:24,960 --> 00:15:28,710
So I was there probably
a couple of weeks.

303
00:15:28,710 --> 00:15:33,680
And I was on a psychiatric
ward, which I never

304
00:15:33,680 --> 00:15:35,000

cared for that service.

305
00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:35,720
But anyhow.

306
00:15:35,720 --> 00:15:38,420
And then eventually,
we were all recalled,

307
00:15:38,420 --> 00:15:40,970
and then we went over
into Europe proper.

308
00:15:40,970 --> 00:15:42,260
All of you 40 together.

309
00:15:42,260 --> 00:15:43,730
Yes, all of us, yes.

310
00:15:43,730 --> 00:15:45,770
Except one nurse.

311
00:15:45,770 --> 00:15:51,660
She was married and before we
went overseas, we had time off.

312
00:15:51,660 --> 00:15:53,435
And she met her
husband in Florida.

313
00:15:53,435 --> 00:15:56,130
We were all wondering
what's happened to her.

314
00:15:56,130 --> 00:15:58,050
You know, we lost sight of her.

315
00:15:58,050 --> 00:16:04,090
And she got pregnant
in that short period.

316
00:16:04,090 --> 00:16:06,300

So by the time we
got to England,

317
00:16:06,300 --> 00:16:08,580
she knew she was pregnant.

318
00:16:08,580 --> 00:16:10,440
And they sent her right home.

319
00:16:10,440 --> 00:16:13,110
So we had 39.

320
00:16:13,110 --> 00:16:15,840
And we never-- and they told
us, if anything happened,

321
00:16:15,840 --> 00:16:19,030
we would never-- nobody
would be replaced.

322
00:16:19,030 --> 00:16:24,270
So we functioned just
with the 39 then.

323
00:16:24,270 --> 00:16:27,750
So you crossed the English
Channel and went to--

324
00:16:27,750 --> 00:16:30,810
And we did that in the
middle of the night also.

325
00:16:30,810 --> 00:16:34,890
And they dropped
these big gasoline--

326
00:16:34,890 --> 00:16:36,780
I don't know what
they call them.

327
00:16:36,780 --> 00:16:40,270
They're about as big
as gasoline cans.

328
00:16:40,270 --> 00:16:41,490
And that went on all night.

329
00:16:41,490 --> 00:16:42,525
You just heard boom--

330
00:16:42,525 --> 00:16:43,108
Death charges?

331
00:16:43,108 --> 00:16:47,640
--boom, boom because
of the submarines.

332
00:16:47,640 --> 00:16:50,820
So and then we landed in France.

333
00:16:50,820 --> 00:16:53,465

334
00:16:53,465 --> 00:16:55,305
Gee, I've forgotten
the name of the place.

335
00:16:55,305 --> 00:16:56,020
Le Havre.

336
00:16:56,020 --> 00:17:00,070
Le Havre, Le Havre is where we--

337
00:17:00,070 --> 00:17:02,160
because I'd never
been to Europe before.

338
00:17:02,160 --> 00:17:05,280
And I wanted to see
everything I could.

339
00:17:05,280 --> 00:17:09,819
And then they loaded
us into trucks.

340

00:17:09,819 --> 00:17:11,819

Do you remember what month
this would have been?

341

00:17:11,819 --> 00:17:14,369

342

00:17:14,369 --> 00:17:16,800

We were not allowed
to keep diaries.

343

00:17:16,800 --> 00:17:18,630

And I had everything with me.

344

00:17:18,630 --> 00:17:21,720

And we were told we must
get rid of everything.

345

00:17:21,720 --> 00:17:24,510

And that's my-- and
a lot of people--

346

00:17:24,510 --> 00:17:28,480

I don't know about my unit, but
other people did keep diaries.

347

00:17:28,480 --> 00:17:30,340

I mean men.

348

00:17:30,340 --> 00:17:35,200

And so the dates are
very vague to me.

349

00:17:35,200 --> 00:17:36,250

And I don't know if--

350

00:17:36,250 --> 00:17:36,750

Was it warm?

351

00:17:36,750 --> 00:17:37,720

Was it summer?

352

00:17:37,720 --> 00:17:38,520

Do you remember?

353

00:17:38,520 --> 00:17:40,143

Oh, no, no.

354

00:17:40,143 --> 00:17:41,310

Was it, would it have been--

355

00:17:41,310 --> 00:17:42,360

I remember now.

356

00:17:42,360 --> 00:17:44,670

Now, I'm beginning to remember.

357

00:17:44,670 --> 00:17:48,990

When we were still in

England, we landed two days

358

00:17:48,990 --> 00:17:50,010

before Christmas.

359

00:17:50,010 --> 00:17:52,110

Now, it's coming back to me.

360

00:17:52,110 --> 00:17:55,200

And when we were still back

in the States, somebody,

361

00:17:55,200 --> 00:17:59,100

one of the girls said, we're

going to land near Christmas,

362

00:17:59,100 --> 00:18:02,370

let's get gifts for the men.

363

00:18:02,370 --> 00:18:05,130

And I don't know who that was.

364

00:18:05,130 --> 00:18:07,530

Or a couple of them

bought all little gifts

365
00:18:07,530 --> 00:18:09,840
and wrapped them all up.

366
00:18:09,840 --> 00:18:12,640
And we knew how many
people there were.

367
00:18:12,640 --> 00:18:15,540
And one of the men
dressed up in Santa Claus.

368
00:18:15,540 --> 00:18:20,580
This is after we were
in England, in Bowden--

369
00:18:20,580 --> 00:18:21,360
what's the name.

370
00:18:21,360 --> 00:18:23,020
There were three names.

371
00:18:23,020 --> 00:18:23,520
Anyhow.

372
00:18:23,520 --> 00:18:26,580

373
00:18:26,580 --> 00:18:30,270
And Santa Claus went around
and gave out the gifts.

374
00:18:30,270 --> 00:18:33,660
And the men were really shook
up, because a lot of them

375
00:18:33,660 --> 00:18:35,910
were family people.

376
00:18:35,910 --> 00:18:40,260
And anyhow, that was

our first Christmas.

377

00:18:40,260 --> 00:18:42,210

Just about two days
before Christmas

378

00:18:42,210 --> 00:18:44,160

was when we landed there.

379

00:18:44,160 --> 00:18:47,560

That was Christmas of 1944.

380

00:18:47,560 --> 00:18:48,090

Yes.

381

00:18:48,090 --> 00:18:48,630

Right.

382

00:18:48,630 --> 00:18:49,130

Yes.

383

00:18:49,130 --> 00:18:53,820

So the Battle of the
Bulge was going on in--

384

00:18:53,820 --> 00:18:57,366

Which may be why we didn't
go into France directly.

385

00:18:57,366 --> 00:19:01,590

386

00:19:01,590 --> 00:19:03,600

But we really-- I
mean, all these things

387

00:19:03,600 --> 00:19:07,110

you hear about, all the Stars
and Stripes, that newspaper.

388

00:19:07,110 --> 00:19:08,370

I never saw that paper.

389
00:19:08,370 --> 00:19:10,560
We never had any of
this entertainment,

390
00:19:10,560 --> 00:19:13,590
you know, of the troops
being entertained.

391
00:19:13,590 --> 00:19:15,630
And we never had any of that.

392
00:19:15,630 --> 00:19:18,960
We were always very isolated.

393
00:19:18,960 --> 00:19:23,130
When we went into Europe proper,
then we were living in tents.

394
00:19:23,130 --> 00:19:27,180
And there were about six
of us in each squad tent.

395
00:19:27,180 --> 00:19:33,060
So we did go over, I
would say February, March.

396
00:19:33,060 --> 00:19:34,470
Some ways around then.

397
00:19:34,470 --> 00:19:36,180
Somebody else told me March.

398
00:19:36,180 --> 00:19:38,610
Yeah, it could have been March.

399
00:19:38,610 --> 00:19:42,730
And you were transported,
then, through France?

400
00:19:42,730 --> 00:19:45,840
Well, we always drove

in 2 and 1/2 ton trucks.

401
00:19:45,840 --> 00:19:48,510
And our unit was
always together.

402
00:19:48,510 --> 00:19:52,920
And we had a colonel that was
very considerate of the nurses.

403
00:19:52,920 --> 00:19:58,410
And he always had a party
go ahead to wherever

404
00:19:58,410 --> 00:20:00,760
we were going to be.

405
00:20:00,760 --> 00:20:04,950
And he had the trenches
dug, you know, because we--

406
00:20:04,950 --> 00:20:06,180
and the tents put up.

407
00:20:06,180 --> 00:20:09,600
So when the nurses arrived, they
went right into their tents.

408
00:20:09,600 --> 00:20:12,660
And we had our latrines
and everything set up.

409
00:20:12,660 --> 00:20:14,340
He always had that done first.

410
00:20:14,340 --> 00:20:17,190
He was a very
considerate man, which

411
00:20:17,190 --> 00:20:19,525
is sort of unusual, you
know, especially when they're

412
00:20:19,525 --> 00:20:20,025
doctors.

413
00:20:20,025 --> 00:20:25,050

414
00:20:25,050 --> 00:20:26,820
And then he loved to travel.

415
00:20:26,820 --> 00:20:30,150
And eventually, when we
were working at Gusen,

416
00:20:30,150 --> 00:20:34,260
camp Gusen, and we were
near some of these--

417
00:20:34,260 --> 00:20:36,780
now, one of the girls
mentioned this place.

418
00:20:36,780 --> 00:20:38,640
And I'd been there twice.

419
00:20:38,640 --> 00:20:42,540
And he knew about it because
he traveled a lot in Europe

420
00:20:42,540 --> 00:20:44,940
and wanted us to see that.

421
00:20:44,940 --> 00:20:48,630
And I had two chances to go
because not everybody wanted

422
00:20:48,630 --> 00:20:51,610
to go.

423
00:20:51,610 --> 00:20:52,930
Let's go back.

424

00:20:52,930 --> 00:20:55,480

A little bit before
you got to Gusen,

425

00:20:55,480 --> 00:20:57,940

that wasn't the first
place where you set up.

426

00:20:57,940 --> 00:20:59,530

You were set up in tents?

427

00:20:59,530 --> 00:21:03,100

Oh, yeah, we were set up in
quite a number of places, yes.

428

00:21:03,100 --> 00:21:05,040

In the spring of '45.

429

00:21:05,040 --> 00:21:05,540

Yeah.

430

00:21:05,540 --> 00:21:06,710

March, April, May.

431

00:21:06,710 --> 00:21:07,720

Before the war.

432

00:21:07,720 --> 00:21:09,340

There was still
fighting going on.

433

00:21:09,340 --> 00:21:10,420

Oh, yes.

434

00:21:10,420 --> 00:21:11,560

April.

435

00:21:11,560 --> 00:21:16,480

I mean, when we were in
Germany, when the war was over--

436

00:21:16,480 --> 00:21:23,320

no, before that, we were going
to be overrun by the Germans.

437
00:21:23,320 --> 00:21:25,750

We all got a Battle
Star for that.

438
00:21:25,750 --> 00:21:27,670
And we were given instructions.

439
00:21:27,670 --> 00:21:29,530
That I remember vividly.

440
00:21:29,530 --> 00:21:33,310
And we were told,
just continue working

441
00:21:33,310 --> 00:21:35,770
as if nothing was happening.

442
00:21:35,770 --> 00:21:38,890
Take care of your patients,
do the same thing.

443
00:21:38,890 --> 00:21:43,360
And you may be questioned,
but just answer the questions.

444
00:21:43,360 --> 00:21:45,080
But don't let it bother you.

445
00:21:45,080 --> 00:21:47,470
And of course, we weren't.

446
00:21:47,470 --> 00:21:49,000
But we were very close.

447
00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:52,810
And you could hear these
great, big tanks coming.

448
00:21:52,810 --> 00:21:58,090

In fact, one day, on my
ward, one tank was so close,

449
00:21:58,090 --> 00:22:01,750
and you could hear it coming,
that even the bed patients got

450
00:22:01,750 --> 00:22:03,610
out of bed to see it.

451
00:22:03,610 --> 00:22:06,040
You know, you could
hear this noise coming.

452
00:22:06,040 --> 00:22:07,900
And I guess they were
alarmed because you

453
00:22:07,900 --> 00:22:09,070
didn't know who it was.

454
00:22:09,070 --> 00:22:12,700
But they were Americans.

455
00:22:12,700 --> 00:22:16,420
So we were very close,
just at that one period.

456
00:22:16,420 --> 00:22:19,150
And that was some
place in Germany.

457
00:22:19,150 --> 00:22:22,800
I couldn't tell you where.

458
00:22:22,800 --> 00:22:26,170
And then eventually,
we went into Austria.

459
00:22:26,170 --> 00:22:29,020
And that was when
our unit left us

460

00:22:29,020 --> 00:22:31,750
for about a week or two weeks.

461

00:22:31,750 --> 00:22:35,200
And the colonel
said, we'll be back.

462

00:22:35,200 --> 00:22:37,930
And one of the girls, she
was going with one of the men

463

00:22:37,930 --> 00:22:40,120
that she eventually married.

464

00:22:40,120 --> 00:22:42,220
And she started crying.

465

00:22:42,220 --> 00:22:45,190
I can remember Jeanie
[? Albers ?],, so upset.

466

00:22:45,190 --> 00:22:48,250
She says, we're never
going to see them again.

467

00:22:48,250 --> 00:22:51,880
Anyhow, they did come back
when they said they would.

468

00:22:51,880 --> 00:22:53,890
And they got us.

469

00:22:53,890 --> 00:22:56,350
And then the colonel
in the morning said,

470

00:22:56,350 --> 00:22:58,520
you know-- where he
had us all standing.

471

00:22:58,520 --> 00:23:02,450
This makes me very emotional.

472
00:23:02,450 --> 00:23:05,200
I can't help it.

473
00:23:05,200 --> 00:23:08,290
Every time I tell this.

474
00:23:08,290 --> 00:23:10,960
He said, you don't have to go.

475
00:23:10,960 --> 00:23:14,050
He said, there's a
lot of tuberculosis

476
00:23:14,050 --> 00:23:17,020
and a lot of chronic illnesses.

477
00:23:17,020 --> 00:23:20,530
And he said, you don't have
to go if you don't want to.

478
00:23:20,530 --> 00:23:24,790
Well, everybody went except
about three or four people.

479
00:23:24,790 --> 00:23:29,240
And when we came back the
next day, everybody went.

480
00:23:29,240 --> 00:23:29,740
Where was?

481
00:23:29,740 --> 00:23:31,282
Where were you when
he told you this?

482
00:23:31,282 --> 00:23:32,080
That was at Gusen.

483
00:23:32,080 --> 00:23:33,510
When you arrived there?

484

00:23:33,510 --> 00:23:35,140

Yeah, we were living in Linz.

485

00:23:35,140 --> 00:23:37,240

Well, we had to go
on duty the next day,

486

00:23:37,240 --> 00:23:39,430

as soon as they came and got us.

487

00:23:39,430 --> 00:23:41,350

Wait, let me make
sure this is clear.

488

00:23:41,350 --> 00:23:43,880

You went to Austria
from Germany.

489

00:23:43,880 --> 00:23:44,380

Yes.

490

00:23:44,380 --> 00:23:44,880

Right.

491

00:23:44,880 --> 00:23:50,560

And this would have been
the end of April, early May.

492

00:23:50,560 --> 00:23:54,190

Maybe, could be.

493

00:23:54,190 --> 00:23:58,300

I've always been wanting
to get my units--

494

00:23:58,300 --> 00:24:02,320

you know, each unit had to
write up their experience.

495

00:24:02,320 --> 00:24:06,040

And I've always been wanting
to get a copy of that.

496
00:24:06,040 --> 00:24:09,550
Because I don't know
about the dates.

497
00:24:09,550 --> 00:24:11,320
Well, when did he tell you this?

498
00:24:11,320 --> 00:24:12,880
Before you got to Linz?

499
00:24:12,880 --> 00:24:16,150
Oh, no, when we arrived at Linz.

500
00:24:16,150 --> 00:24:20,560
He then said he wanted
the nurses lined up.

501
00:24:20,560 --> 00:24:23,980
You know, you lined
up for everything.

502
00:24:23,980 --> 00:24:24,970
And we stood.

503
00:24:24,970 --> 00:24:28,240
And and that was when he told
us that, that we did not have

504
00:24:28,240 --> 00:24:29,800
to go if we didn't want to.

505
00:24:29,800 --> 00:24:32,470
Did he tell you
what you would see?

506
00:24:32,470 --> 00:24:33,620
I don't remember.

507
00:24:33,620 --> 00:24:36,040
All I remember is
that he said there's

508
00:24:36,040 --> 00:24:38,270
a great deal of
tuberculosis here,

509
00:24:38,270 --> 00:24:40,390
which is quite infectious.

510
00:24:40,390 --> 00:24:44,680
And whatever else
he told us, that's

511
00:24:44,680 --> 00:24:47,710
about all I remember of it.

512
00:24:47,710 --> 00:24:52,780
And maybe he told us we'd
see a lot of things that

513
00:24:52,780 --> 00:24:54,940
would be very hard to accept.

514
00:24:54,940 --> 00:24:57,400
But I'm very vague on that.

515
00:24:57,400 --> 00:24:59,660
Had you heard anything
about concentration camps?

516
00:24:59,660 --> 00:25:00,845
No, I never had.

517
00:25:00,845 --> 00:25:01,345
No.

518
00:25:01,345 --> 00:25:05,650

519
00:25:05,650 --> 00:25:09,400
Now see, some of the girls
knew a lot of the officers,

520

00:25:09,400 --> 00:25:09,910

you know.

521

00:25:09,910 --> 00:25:12,550

And they may have
learned things that way.

522

00:25:12,550 --> 00:25:13,270

But I never knew.

523

00:25:13,270 --> 00:25:15,487

I never had anything
to do with them.

524

00:25:15,487 --> 00:25:16,195

I never bothered.

525

00:25:16,195 --> 00:25:19,180

526

00:25:19,180 --> 00:25:22,270

Well, like that one girl,
they were keeping company.

527

00:25:22,270 --> 00:25:24,880

So I'm sure he must have
talked to her about things.

528

00:25:24,880 --> 00:25:26,530

Now, what he heard,
I don't know.

529

00:25:26,530 --> 00:25:31,870

530

00:25:31,870 --> 00:25:33,310

The next day, then.

531

00:25:33,310 --> 00:25:38,800

The next day, we went
on duty right away.

532

00:25:38,800 --> 00:25:40,240

The next morning.

533

00:25:40,240 --> 00:25:42,730

And that was when
he told us that.

534

00:25:42,730 --> 00:25:44,230

And that was at Gusen?

535

00:25:44,230 --> 00:25:46,330

Yes.

536

00:25:46,330 --> 00:25:48,970

And what was your
responsibility?

537

00:25:48,970 --> 00:25:52,190

Well, I had a ward, big ward.

538

00:25:52,190 --> 00:25:55,770

And there was a great
deal of diarrhea.

539

00:25:55,770 --> 00:25:58,220

And we were giving
out sulfanilamide,

540

00:25:58,220 --> 00:26:01,580

which is I don't think
it's a drug used anymore.

541

00:26:01,580 --> 00:26:06,470

But it's before the
antibiotics came in.

542

00:26:06,470 --> 00:26:10,400

And oh, we gave
out like 20 pills.

543

00:26:10,400 --> 00:26:12,920

And everybody was up in tiers.

544

00:26:12,920 --> 00:26:15,170

In order to get up
to the top person,

545

00:26:15,170 --> 00:26:19,910

you had to stand on the
lower tiers to reach them.

546

00:26:19,910 --> 00:26:21,500

Was this a barracks
that they were in?

547

00:26:21,500 --> 00:26:23,120

It was like a barracks, yes.

548

00:26:23,120 --> 00:26:24,470

It wasn't a hospital.

549

00:26:24,470 --> 00:26:29,030

Well, I think our hospital
called it the hospital

550

00:26:29,030 --> 00:26:32,480

because all these were
the sickest people.

551

00:26:32,480 --> 00:26:38,240

And they were in line in
these tiers, these one, two--

552

00:26:38,240 --> 00:26:39,420

there were at least three.

553

00:26:39,420 --> 00:26:43,400

554

00:26:43,400 --> 00:26:45,530

Were those are the
barracks that they had been

555

00:26:45,530 --> 00:26:46,580

living in previously?

556
00:26:46,580 --> 00:26:48,350
That I really don't know.

557
00:26:48,350 --> 00:26:51,560
That I don't know.

558
00:26:51,560 --> 00:26:54,650
But you would-- that
became your ward, then.

559
00:26:54,650 --> 00:26:55,345
And you cared--

560
00:26:55,345 --> 00:26:55,970
That was-- yes.

561
00:26:55,970 --> 00:26:57,620
--for them every day?

562
00:26:57,620 --> 00:27:01,040
And eventually, we got these
young German prisoners of war

563
00:27:01,040 --> 00:27:05,870
to help us as wardmen, you know,
to carry bedpans, and urinals,

564
00:27:05,870 --> 00:27:07,650
and help.

565
00:27:07,650 --> 00:27:10,490
And we had very little to eat.

566
00:27:10,490 --> 00:27:11,840
We didn't have much food.

567
00:27:11,840 --> 00:27:16,490
And our group went around,
thinking they could get food

568

00:27:16,490 --> 00:27:18,050
from the German warehouses.

569

00:27:18,050 --> 00:27:20,090
And they found they were empty.

570

00:27:20,090 --> 00:27:25,040
Everything had been used up, you
know, because it was the end.

571

00:27:25,040 --> 00:27:26,370
And everybody was--

572

00:27:26,370 --> 00:27:30,320
I guess the Germans were
fleeing and had used up

573

00:27:30,320 --> 00:27:31,190
what they could.

574

00:27:31,190 --> 00:27:35,060
And that was really, I
guess, they ran out of--

575

00:27:35,060 --> 00:27:37,155
must have run out of
supplies and whatnot.

576

00:27:37,155 --> 00:27:39,920

577

00:27:39,920 --> 00:27:42,440
And what was the condition
of the people when you first

578

00:27:42,440 --> 00:27:43,378
saw them?

579

00:27:43,378 --> 00:27:45,170
Were they all men that
you were caring for?

580

00:27:45,170 --> 00:27:47,520

Yeah, they were all
men where I was.

581

00:27:47,520 --> 00:27:48,470

Yes.

582

00:27:48,470 --> 00:27:52,930

And the first day you saw
them, what was their condition?

583

00:27:52,930 --> 00:27:55,040

Well, they were lying
in bed, and they

584

00:27:55,040 --> 00:27:58,610

were weak, and very thin.

585

00:27:58,610 --> 00:28:03,890

And I guess it was
shocking when you're not

586

00:28:03,890 --> 00:28:08,000

used to seeing all those
types of things and people.

587

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:09,890

Were they clothed?

588

00:28:09,890 --> 00:28:14,450

Yeah, they had shirts
on of some kind.

589

00:28:14,450 --> 00:28:16,518

And pajamas.

590

00:28:16,518 --> 00:28:17,060

The striped--

591

00:28:17,060 --> 00:28:17,600

Seems to me.

592

00:28:17,600 --> 00:28:18,530
--did they have on the striped?

593

00:28:18,530 --> 00:28:19,613
No, I don't remember that.

594

00:28:19,613 --> 00:28:22,550
It just seems to me that
they had plain pajamas on.

595

00:28:22,550 --> 00:28:26,840
I don't really remember
exactly what they had on.

596

00:28:26,840 --> 00:28:29,240
But they were covered.

597

00:28:29,240 --> 00:28:31,460
Were they able to speak to you?

598

00:28:31,460 --> 00:28:33,500
Well, they didn't speak English.

599

00:28:33,500 --> 00:28:36,500
But I can get by
with a little German.

600

00:28:36,500 --> 00:28:39,050
And so that was--

601

00:28:39,050 --> 00:28:41,557

602

00:28:41,557 --> 00:28:43,890
but I mean, there really
wasn't too much to say, either,

603

00:28:43,890 --> 00:28:45,830
you know, when you're
coming with the pills,

604

00:28:45,830 --> 00:28:46,850
and they're objecting.

605
00:28:46,850 --> 00:28:51,370
And you're saying,
[GERMAN] taking, you know,

606
00:28:51,370 --> 00:28:53,840
me with my German and English.

607
00:28:53,840 --> 00:28:56,200
So they got the picture.

608
00:28:56,200 --> 00:28:58,250
And then they'd swallow them.

609
00:28:58,250 --> 00:29:02,690

610
00:29:02,690 --> 00:29:04,220
Were you bathing them?

611
00:29:04,220 --> 00:29:07,580
No, we didn't do
anything like that, no.

612
00:29:07,580 --> 00:29:09,500
Did other people
do that for them?

613
00:29:09,500 --> 00:29:12,680
No, I don't think so.

614
00:29:12,680 --> 00:29:16,400
Really, it just took you all
day giving out the medication.

615
00:29:16,400 --> 00:29:20,381

616
00:29:20,381 --> 00:29:22,400
Why did that take so long?

617
00:29:22,400 --> 00:29:24,590
Well, because we
had so many people.

618
00:29:24,590 --> 00:29:27,558
Oh, I had a big ward.

619
00:29:27,558 --> 00:29:28,100
I don't know.

620
00:29:28,100 --> 00:29:33,050
I had rooms and rooms with all
these people in tiers, three

621
00:29:33,050 --> 00:29:35,190
or four tiers growing up.

622
00:29:35,190 --> 00:29:40,670
In one room, you had, boy,
three, four, eight, 12.

623
00:29:40,670 --> 00:29:44,240
I bet you had about at
least 20 people in one room.

624
00:29:44,240 --> 00:29:47,776
You know, all these,
like three and three.

625
00:29:47,776 --> 00:29:49,640
It's sort of vague
to me, though.

626
00:29:49,640 --> 00:29:54,010

627
00:29:54,010 --> 00:29:55,660
Did you feed them?

628
00:29:55,660 --> 00:29:57,620
Did you have food for them?

629
00:29:57,620 --> 00:29:59,530
Well, we had food.

630
00:29:59,530 --> 00:30:00,790
And that's another thing.

631
00:30:00,790 --> 00:30:04,610
I don't quite recall
how we did that.

632
00:30:04,610 --> 00:30:06,490
We would have to have had trays.

633
00:30:06,490 --> 00:30:09,880
Unless we had-- maybe
there were tin dishes

634
00:30:09,880 --> 00:30:12,130
and we gave them the dishes.

635
00:30:12,130 --> 00:30:14,170
You know.

636
00:30:14,170 --> 00:30:17,170
That, again, is vague to me.

637
00:30:17,170 --> 00:30:20,230

638
00:30:20,230 --> 00:30:24,310
Just how we did that, I
don't remember anymore.

639
00:30:24,310 --> 00:30:26,740
What kinds of
precautions were you

640
00:30:26,740 --> 00:30:29,470
able to take to
protect yourself from?

641

00:30:29,470 --> 00:30:30,940

We really didn't take any.

642

00:30:30,940 --> 00:30:31,900

Nothing.

643

00:30:31,900 --> 00:30:34,480

No, we had fatigues
on and that was all.

644

00:30:34,480 --> 00:30:38,530

We didn't wear
gowns or anything.

645

00:30:38,530 --> 00:30:41,860

Other people have
mentioned DDT spray.

646

00:30:41,860 --> 00:30:44,200

Oh, that's another thing.

647

00:30:44,200 --> 00:30:45,580

Yes.

648

00:30:45,580 --> 00:30:49,900

Before we went on duty, we had
a gun that was about that long,

649

00:30:49,900 --> 00:30:52,180

and they'd fill it with DDT.

650

00:30:52,180 --> 00:30:55,390

And then it had a plunger,
and you held your thing,

651

00:30:55,390 --> 00:30:59,050

your suit open like this,
and somebody would plunge it

652

00:30:59,050 --> 00:31:01,300

and plunge it down the back.

653

00:31:01,300 --> 00:31:03,040
And then your hair was all done.

654

00:31:03,040 --> 00:31:04,210
We wore helmets.

655

00:31:04,210 --> 00:31:05,020
It was powder.

656

00:31:05,020 --> 00:31:05,692
DDT powder.

657

00:31:05,692 --> 00:31:06,400
With powder, yes.

658

00:31:06,400 --> 00:31:09,730

659

00:31:09,730 --> 00:31:10,750
And I don't know.

660

00:31:10,750 --> 00:31:12,430
I had cancer of the breast.

661

00:31:12,430 --> 00:31:16,840
And nobody ever asked me
if I was exposed to DDT.

662

00:31:16,840 --> 00:31:20,217
And I often wonder if I don't
have anything to do with that.

663

00:31:20,217 --> 00:31:22,300
But then there are an awful
lot of women that have

664

00:31:22,300 --> 00:31:24,100
had the same thing that I have.

665

00:31:24,100 --> 00:31:27,160

666
00:31:27,160 --> 00:31:30,760
But we certainly
was full of DTT.

667
00:31:30,760 --> 00:31:31,540
Every day.

668
00:31:31,540 --> 00:31:36,370
Every day we did it, tons of it.

669
00:31:36,370 --> 00:31:40,030
Nobody realized how
dangerous it was.

670
00:31:40,030 --> 00:31:42,610
Probably grateful to have it.

671
00:31:42,610 --> 00:31:43,750
Yeah.

672
00:31:43,750 --> 00:31:46,000
Yeah, because they said
there might be lice,

673
00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:47,175
you know, and whatnot.

674
00:31:47,175 --> 00:31:50,480

675
00:31:50,480 --> 00:31:52,840
But I never caught anything.

676
00:31:52,840 --> 00:31:54,140
Did anybody?

677
00:31:54,140 --> 00:31:55,120
I don't think so.

678
00:31:55,120 --> 00:31:58,400

679

00:31:58,400 --> 00:32:00,430

I was very sick when
I was in England,

680

00:32:00,430 --> 00:32:05,120

but that's before I ever
had any contact with them.

681

00:32:05,120 --> 00:32:09,910

So I think we were
all quite healthy.

682

00:32:09,910 --> 00:32:12,680

In the evenings, when
you weren't on duty,

683

00:32:12,680 --> 00:32:16,420

what did you do?

684

00:32:16,420 --> 00:32:21,460

Well, all we had were
these tents to sit in.

685

00:32:21,460 --> 00:32:22,810

We went on walks.

686

00:32:22,810 --> 00:32:25,195

Oh, that was in England,
when I went on that walk.

687

00:32:25,195 --> 00:32:30,370

688

00:32:30,370 --> 00:32:31,360

Oh, I know.

689

00:32:31,360 --> 00:32:34,105

When we were in
Germany, in one area,

690

00:32:34,105 --> 00:32:37,150
a whole group of us,
including the men,

691
00:32:37,150 --> 00:32:39,550
decided to go on a walk.

692
00:32:39,550 --> 00:32:42,220
And we did walk up on a hill.

693
00:32:42,220 --> 00:32:44,140
And there was-- you
could hear the cuckoo.

694
00:32:44,140 --> 00:32:46,420
You know, in Germany,
the cuckoos sound

695
00:32:46,420 --> 00:32:47,770
like the cuckoo clock.

696
00:32:47,770 --> 00:32:52,240
And I was a bird watcher,
and I says, oh, I'm

697
00:32:52,240 --> 00:32:54,610
dying to see that cuckoo.

698
00:32:54,610 --> 00:32:59,920
So the whole group of us went
up and climbed up that hill.

699
00:32:59,920 --> 00:33:01,900
And we were walking
around and looking.

700
00:33:01,900 --> 00:33:04,480
And we could hear it
coming from different.

701
00:33:04,480 --> 00:33:08,110
And all of a sudden,
bullets started firing.

702
00:33:08,110 --> 00:33:11,380
See, it was a come on.

703
00:33:11,380 --> 00:33:15,130
And we got down from
there very, very fast.

704
00:33:15,130 --> 00:33:16,840
And there was no
mistaking who we

705
00:33:16,840 --> 00:33:19,930
were, because we had big red
crosses on all our tents.

706
00:33:19,930 --> 00:33:23,410
Our tents were all
down at the base.

707
00:33:23,410 --> 00:33:26,770
But you could hear the
bullets flying right overhead.

708
00:33:26,770 --> 00:33:29,230
You could hear them whistling.

709
00:33:29,230 --> 00:33:30,430
Never saw anybody.

710
00:33:30,430 --> 00:33:33,520

711
00:33:33,520 --> 00:33:40,210
When you were working every
day at Gusen in Austria,

712
00:33:40,210 --> 00:33:44,200
do you remember ever going
out into the town there?

713
00:33:44,200 --> 00:33:46,295

Seeing the local people at all?

714
00:33:46,295 --> 00:33:47,170
Did you ever do that?

715
00:33:47,170 --> 00:33:52,660
Well, we lived
about 10 miles away.

716
00:33:52,660 --> 00:33:56,200
And they transported us
back and forth by truck.

717
00:33:56,200 --> 00:34:01,660
And we did-- in the building
I was, we were in two houses,

718
00:34:01,660 --> 00:34:05,710
the nurses were because we
were all bunched up together

719
00:34:05,710 --> 00:34:07,240
in the rooms.

720
00:34:07,240 --> 00:34:11,409
And we had a girl,
a German girl,

721
00:34:11,409 --> 00:34:15,745
that took care of-- kept
everything clean and whatnot.

722
00:34:15,745 --> 00:34:18,699

723
00:34:18,699 --> 00:34:21,070
But we really didn't
converse very much with her

724
00:34:21,070 --> 00:34:23,230
because most of the girls
didn't know any German.

725

00:34:23,230 --> 00:34:25,060
And she didn't know any English.

726

00:34:25,060 --> 00:34:27,760
But there was one
girl in my group

727

00:34:27,760 --> 00:34:29,860
that wanted a
tablecloth that she

728

00:34:29,860 --> 00:34:34,120
had fixed up nicely to
decorate, you know, make

729

00:34:34,120 --> 00:34:35,949
everything look nicer.

730

00:34:35,949 --> 00:34:39,580
And she wanted that tablecloth.

731

00:34:39,580 --> 00:34:44,679
And she said, ask her, you know,
if I can have the tablecloth,

732

00:34:44,679 --> 00:34:47,110
or she'll sell it
to me, or what.

733

00:34:47,110 --> 00:34:48,790
So I asked her.

734

00:34:48,790 --> 00:34:51,580
And she said no.

735

00:34:51,580 --> 00:34:54,159
She says, my husband
gave me that,

736

00:34:54,159 --> 00:34:57,550
and I don't know where he is.

737

00:34:57,550 --> 00:35:02,150

So I mean, the sorrow
was on their side also.

738

00:35:02,150 --> 00:35:05,590

So war is just awful.

739

00:35:05,590 --> 00:35:09,550

That's why this Bosnia
really bothers me.

740

00:35:09,550 --> 00:35:12,700

What they're doing there
to people, just awful.

741

00:35:12,700 --> 00:35:19,440

742

00:35:19,440 --> 00:35:22,920

How long did you stay
there working at Gusen?

743

00:35:22,920 --> 00:35:26,520

Well, we came home--

744

00:35:26,520 --> 00:35:30,171

the war in Japan.

745

00:35:30,171 --> 00:35:32,340

Well, while we were still--

746

00:35:32,340 --> 00:35:36,510

no, that was in Germany
when the war was over

747

00:35:36,510 --> 00:35:38,970

and Hitler killed himself.

748

00:35:38,970 --> 00:35:43,020

And my friend Grace brought
this radio with her.

749

00:35:43,020 --> 00:35:46,240

I think she was ready to
throw it away many a time.

750

00:35:46,240 --> 00:35:48,780

And you could never
really get anything on it

751

00:35:48,780 --> 00:35:50,820

because we had so
little electricity.

752

00:35:50,820 --> 00:35:52,830

But she had it
connected that night.

753

00:35:52,830 --> 00:35:55,770

And we could hear
the funeral music.

754

00:35:55,770 --> 00:35:58,650

And we said, something
has happened.

755

00:35:58,650 --> 00:36:00,330

But we found out
later, you know,

756

00:36:00,330 --> 00:36:02,940

that Hitler had killed himself.

757

00:36:02,940 --> 00:36:04,560

And that was all, you know.

758

00:36:04,560 --> 00:36:05,700

Everything was garbled.

759

00:36:05,700 --> 00:36:07,350

You couldn't get anything.

760

00:36:07,350 --> 00:36:09,420

We hardly had a light to see by.

761
00:36:09,420 --> 00:36:13,830
You know, one light and just
enough electricity so you

762
00:36:13,830 --> 00:36:15,120
could find your way around.

763
00:36:15,120 --> 00:36:18,210
Because we had our
own generators and

764
00:36:18,210 --> 00:36:20,190
they were very limited.

765
00:36:20,190 --> 00:36:24,390
But when we were in
Gusen, did somebody

766
00:36:24,390 --> 00:36:26,220
tell you about that
terrible accident

767
00:36:26,220 --> 00:36:29,400
when we were crossing the river?

768
00:36:29,400 --> 00:36:30,795
We were talking
about it earlier.

769
00:36:30,795 --> 00:36:34,140

770
00:36:34,140 --> 00:36:37,620
Every once in a while, you
know, like the infantry

771
00:36:37,620 --> 00:36:39,360
or the armored
group would find out

772
00:36:39,360 --> 00:36:41,430

that there were
nurses in the area.

773
00:36:41,430 --> 00:36:45,510
And then we would be invited
over for a social evening.

774
00:36:45,510 --> 00:36:47,700
And we'd all went
in a big group.

775
00:36:47,700 --> 00:36:49,950
And we all came back together.

776
00:36:49,950 --> 00:36:54,990
And we were going to cross
the river, the Danube.

777
00:36:54,990 --> 00:36:58,230
And that's a very
fast-flowing river.

778
00:36:58,230 --> 00:37:01,200
And there were signs there.

779
00:37:01,200 --> 00:37:03,930
I'd been across it
a couple of times.

780
00:37:03,930 --> 00:37:06,240
And signs that
said to the Jeeps,

781
00:37:06,240 --> 00:37:10,680
do not start up your engines
until the boat has docked.

782
00:37:10,680 --> 00:37:15,090
And it was just a flat
board, you know, boards.

783
00:37:15,090 --> 00:37:18,810
And we went over on a wire.

784
00:37:18,810 --> 00:37:22,440
And the wire was
connected to the boat.

785
00:37:22,440 --> 00:37:24,960
And that would guide it over.

786
00:37:24,960 --> 00:37:26,770
And then it would
come back again.

787
00:37:26,770 --> 00:37:29,130
Otherwise, the boat would--
it wasn't really a boat,

788
00:37:29,130 --> 00:37:30,060
it was a raft--

789
00:37:30,060 --> 00:37:32,910
would be swept down the river.

790
00:37:32,910 --> 00:37:35,610
So we arrived this evening.

791
00:37:35,610 --> 00:37:40,080
We were quite a group of us.

792
00:37:40,080 --> 00:37:43,830
For a social evening, some
group across the river.

793
00:37:43,830 --> 00:37:48,630
And the soldier that
was there on duty

794
00:37:48,630 --> 00:37:51,360
was in a terrible state.

795
00:37:51,360 --> 00:37:55,320
And he said the most awful
thing has happened, he said.

796
00:37:55,320 --> 00:37:57,480
So there'll be a little delay.

797
00:37:57,480 --> 00:38:00,510
He said, one of the Jeeps
started up their engine.

798
00:38:00,510 --> 00:38:04,140
And a nun had come along
with her horse and carriage.

799
00:38:04,140 --> 00:38:08,940
And the horse bolted,
it frightened him so,

800
00:38:08,940 --> 00:38:10,860
that he just ran.

801
00:38:10,860 --> 00:38:13,230
And of course, there
was nothing to stop him.

802
00:38:13,230 --> 00:38:14,530
Ended up in the river.

803
00:38:14,530 --> 00:38:16,680
And she and the horse drowned.

804
00:38:16,680 --> 00:38:19,050
Now, we were talking
about that earlier today.

805
00:38:19,050 --> 00:38:21,240
And they said, they
thought that the nun

806
00:38:21,240 --> 00:38:23,610
had some children in the--

807
00:38:23,610 --> 00:38:24,890
orphans or something.

808
00:38:24,890 --> 00:38:27,870
I says, I don't ever
remember hearing that.

809
00:38:27,870 --> 00:38:29,520
But I know then--
and they finally

810
00:38:29,520 --> 00:38:31,350
found her and the horse.

811
00:38:31,350 --> 00:38:33,060
The horse, they let him just go.

812
00:38:33,060 --> 00:38:34,500
He was already gone.

813
00:38:34,500 --> 00:38:36,630
But she was drowned.

814
00:38:36,630 --> 00:38:40,710
The waters was so swift there.

815
00:38:40,710 --> 00:38:44,160
So little things like
that happened, you know.

816
00:38:44,160 --> 00:38:45,960
And tragedy.

817
00:38:45,960 --> 00:38:47,250
Didn't have to.

818
00:38:47,250 --> 00:38:49,830
Yeah.

819
00:38:49,830 --> 00:38:51,990
But it was the way they--
because all the bridges

820

00:38:51,990 --> 00:38:54,570
had been blown up, you see.

821
00:38:54,570 --> 00:39:00,150
In fact, when we crossed
the bridge, the Rhine,

822
00:39:00,150 --> 00:39:02,230
we came down a hill.

823
00:39:02,230 --> 00:39:05,070
And we were in a truck.

824
00:39:05,070 --> 00:39:09,840
And we went across on
pontoon, a pontoon bridge.

825
00:39:09,840 --> 00:39:12,120
And I remember, we were
coming down the hill,

826
00:39:12,120 --> 00:39:14,580
and one of the girls stood
up, and she started screaming.

827
00:39:14,580 --> 00:39:16,788
She thought we were going
to go right into the water.

828
00:39:16,788 --> 00:39:19,290

829
00:39:19,290 --> 00:39:21,660
And the pontoon
bridge, you know,

830
00:39:21,660 --> 00:39:25,800
the pontoons with something in
between were just wide enough.

831
00:39:25,800 --> 00:39:28,860
And the truck went
across very carefully.

832
00:39:28,860 --> 00:39:32,630
So that was an experience, too.

833
00:39:32,630 --> 00:39:36,670

834
00:39:36,670 --> 00:39:41,200
Do you ever remember
having any sense of

835
00:39:41,200 --> 00:39:44,170
whether or not the local
people knew that there

836
00:39:44,170 --> 00:39:46,180
was a concentration camp there?

837
00:39:46,180 --> 00:39:51,280
No, I really never mingled.

838
00:39:51,280 --> 00:39:54,100
We really didn't
have that occasion.

839
00:39:54,100 --> 00:39:56,560
And the only person
was this maid

840
00:39:56,560 --> 00:39:58,630
that we had in our building.

841
00:39:58,630 --> 00:40:00,760
And I don't remember
her name anymore.

842
00:40:00,760 --> 00:40:05,180
She was, really as I
remember, a very nice person.

843
00:40:05,180 --> 00:40:09,490
And some of the girls

said they asked her.

844
00:40:09,490 --> 00:40:10,750
I never did.

845
00:40:10,750 --> 00:40:14,200
And they said she didn't
know anything about it.

846
00:40:14,200 --> 00:40:17,890
But I mean, when things have
come up like that, I said,

847
00:40:17,890 --> 00:40:20,530
if terrible things
go on in our prison,

848
00:40:20,530 --> 00:40:23,230
do we really know about it?

849
00:40:23,230 --> 00:40:26,560
I said, like the people
living in Sing Sing.

850
00:40:26,560 --> 00:40:30,670
Unless they know the guards
who come home at night, how,

851
00:40:30,670 --> 00:40:34,120
really, are you going to
find out about things?

852
00:40:34,120 --> 00:40:39,280
So I don't really know that
you can really blame somebody

853
00:40:39,280 --> 00:40:41,140
and said they must have known.

854
00:40:41,140 --> 00:40:43,060
But I mean, how
do you really know

855

00:40:43,060 --> 00:40:47,260
unless you knew somebody that
had something to do with it?

856

00:40:47,260 --> 00:40:50,170
Well in some cases, if
there was a crematorium,

857

00:40:50,170 --> 00:40:51,760
there would be smoke.

858

00:40:51,760 --> 00:40:54,370
And, you know, thousands
of people coming in

859

00:40:54,370 --> 00:40:55,720
and nobody coming out.

860

00:40:55,720 --> 00:40:57,700
But see, the town we
lived in, they said,

861

00:40:57,700 --> 00:41:00,400
was about 10 miles away.

862

00:41:00,400 --> 00:41:01,450
They told us.

863

00:41:01,450 --> 00:41:02,560
You know, we'd be--

864

00:41:02,560 --> 00:41:05,230
apparently, that was the
only housing they could find.

865

00:41:05,230 --> 00:41:06,610
And we had to.

866

00:41:06,610 --> 00:41:08,680
We were driven
those 10 miles going

867

00:41:08,680 --> 00:41:11,620
in the morning and 10 miles
coming back in the evening.

868

00:41:11,620 --> 00:41:14,440

869

00:41:14,440 --> 00:41:17,690
You didn't have
any sense of that.

870

00:41:17,690 --> 00:41:19,420
No.

871

00:41:19,420 --> 00:41:22,750
And there weren't
people living around us.

872

00:41:22,750 --> 00:41:28,120
I think the German officers
had lived in these houses

873

00:41:28,120 --> 00:41:29,350
and left in a hurry.

874

00:41:29,350 --> 00:41:31,690
Did you get that
story from anybody?

875

00:41:31,690 --> 00:41:34,810
And they left two dachshunds.

876

00:41:34,810 --> 00:41:37,990
And we adopted one dachshund.

877

00:41:37,990 --> 00:41:41,410
And we took them all
the ways back to France

878

00:41:41,410 --> 00:41:43,180
when we were going home.

879

00:41:43,180 --> 00:41:46,600

And then we had to stay
in these Lucky Strike.

880

00:41:46,600 --> 00:41:47,720

Did you hear about those?

881

00:41:47,720 --> 00:41:48,970

The different--

882

00:41:48,970 --> 00:41:49,660

Camps.

883

00:41:49,660 --> 00:41:50,410

--camps.

884

00:41:50,410 --> 00:41:53,020

And we stayed in Lucky Strike.

885

00:41:53,020 --> 00:41:56,560

And they wouldn't let
us take our dog in.

886

00:41:56,560 --> 00:42:00,520

And the fellow said,
no animals allowed.

887

00:42:00,520 --> 00:42:02,600

But when you go home,
you can have them back.

888

00:42:02,600 --> 00:42:03,890

And we never saw him again.

889

00:42:03,890 --> 00:42:05,020

What was his name?

890

00:42:05,020 --> 00:42:05,950

Schlafen.

891

00:42:05,950 --> 00:42:07,730

Means he was sleepy.

892

00:42:07,730 --> 00:42:09,940

He was probably an older dog.

893

00:42:09,940 --> 00:42:11,890

And he was such a nice dog.

894

00:42:11,890 --> 00:42:14,020

We have photographs of him.

895

00:42:14,020 --> 00:42:18,490

And when we were going back,
we went back on the train.

896

00:42:18,490 --> 00:42:20,140

And then we'd take
turns, you know,

897

00:42:20,140 --> 00:42:23,110

when the dog had to
wee-wee, jump off the train.

898

00:42:23,110 --> 00:42:27,670

Or the train would stop in the
middle of woods, wooded areas.

899

00:42:27,670 --> 00:42:30,710

We don't know why it
stopped, but it would stop.

900

00:42:30,710 --> 00:42:33,130

And sometimes, it would
be there a half hour

901

00:42:33,130 --> 00:42:34,720

and sometimes 10 minutes.

902

00:42:34,720 --> 00:42:37,480

Well, I know when I
jumped off with the dog,

903

00:42:37,480 --> 00:42:41,350
and he's going from one
tree to another, as dogs do.

904
00:42:41,350 --> 00:42:43,265
All of a sudden, the
train started up.

905
00:42:43,265 --> 00:42:44,140
He didn't stay there.

906
00:42:44,140 --> 00:42:45,682
He must have been
there five minutes.

907
00:42:45,682 --> 00:42:47,380
And I'm running.

908
00:42:47,380 --> 00:42:48,970
And I lifted up the dog.

909
00:42:48,970 --> 00:42:51,640
And I could still
remember all the hands.

910
00:42:51,640 --> 00:42:55,690
And they took the dog
and then they grabbed me

911
00:42:55,690 --> 00:42:57,355
because it was going
faster and faster.

912
00:42:57,355 --> 00:42:59,990

913
00:42:59,990 --> 00:43:02,200
So I would still
be there, I guess,

914
00:43:02,200 --> 00:43:05,380
if they hadn't got me back on.

915
00:43:05,380 --> 00:43:09,670
Well, do you know how
long were you in Gusen?

916
00:43:09,670 --> 00:43:10,810
When did you leave there?

917
00:43:10,810 --> 00:43:13,520
I couldn't tell you
exactly how long.

918
00:43:13,520 --> 00:43:20,170
But I was home for August,
when the war was over,

919
00:43:20,170 --> 00:43:22,090
the Japanese War.

920
00:43:22,090 --> 00:43:24,160
I had just gotten
home before that.

921
00:43:24,160 --> 00:43:25,570
Well, our unit did.

922
00:43:25,570 --> 00:43:28,910
And they gave us
a month vacation.

923
00:43:28,910 --> 00:43:31,300
And I was home
during that period.

924
00:43:31,300 --> 00:43:32,200
On leave.

925
00:43:32,200 --> 00:43:33,460
On leave.

926
00:43:33,460 --> 00:43:34,840
And then we reassembled.

927

00:43:34,840 --> 00:43:37,040

And that was August.

928

00:43:37,040 --> 00:43:41,840

So I must have been there then
till the beginning of August.

929

00:43:41,840 --> 00:43:43,580

Or maybe the end of July.

930

00:43:43,580 --> 00:43:46,580

931

00:43:46,580 --> 00:43:49,820

And do you think you
were at Gusen three, four

932

00:43:49,820 --> 00:43:51,050

weeks, something like that?

933

00:43:51,050 --> 00:43:52,460

Oh, at least.

934

00:43:52,460 --> 00:43:53,640

Oh, I think so.

935

00:43:53,640 --> 00:43:55,110

Longer than that.

936

00:43:55,110 --> 00:43:57,860

And then the different
nationalities were coming.

937

00:43:57,860 --> 00:44:00,830

And I can remember
the French came

938

00:44:00,830 --> 00:44:04,740

to take all those prisoners
that had been French.

939

00:44:04,740 --> 00:44:08,100
Or victims.

940
00:44:08,100 --> 00:44:12,930
And the French
were so ungrateful.

941
00:44:12,930 --> 00:44:16,050
Because we hadn't fed
them, and we hadn't this,

942
00:44:16,050 --> 00:44:17,640
and we hadn't that.

943
00:44:17,640 --> 00:44:21,381
And there wasn't anything
to do anything with.

944
00:44:21,381 --> 00:44:22,388
Who?

945
00:44:22,388 --> 00:44:23,180
Who was ungrateful?

946
00:44:23,180 --> 00:44:25,520
They were like the
French nationals.

947
00:44:25,520 --> 00:44:27,500
Who were in the
concentration camp?

948
00:44:27,500 --> 00:44:29,270
Oh, well, people.

949
00:44:29,270 --> 00:44:31,910
We had all nationalities there.

950
00:44:31,910 --> 00:44:33,860
And the different
representatives

951

00:44:33,860 --> 00:44:37,820
from those countries came.

952
00:44:37,820 --> 00:44:41,210
And then they'd go off for
the whole group of, say,

953
00:44:41,210 --> 00:44:45,230
French-speaking or
Dutch people, or--

954
00:44:45,230 --> 00:44:47,230
there were other
nationalities there.

955
00:44:47,230 --> 00:44:49,850
I remember the
French most vividly.

956
00:44:49,850 --> 00:44:52,570
And who was not grateful?

957
00:44:52,570 --> 00:44:56,988
The French that came
for their nationals.

958
00:44:56,988 --> 00:44:58,780
They thought that you
should care for them.

959
00:44:58,780 --> 00:45:01,060
We should have done
much better than we did.

960
00:45:01,060 --> 00:45:01,660
For them?

961
00:45:01,660 --> 00:45:06,560
Yeah, for their nationals that
were in the concentration camp.

962
00:45:06,560 --> 00:45:08,060
Did you treat

everybody the same?

963

00:45:08,060 --> 00:45:09,750

Everybody was treated the same.

964

00:45:09,750 --> 00:45:13,770

In fact, you didn't know who
was who, one from the other.

965

00:45:13,770 --> 00:45:16,920

966

00:45:16,920 --> 00:45:20,460

But that was-- you know, when
everything was winding down

967

00:45:20,460 --> 00:45:25,240

and these people were going home
back to their own countries.

968

00:45:25,240 --> 00:45:28,620

But in retrospect, was it--

969

00:45:28,620 --> 00:45:31,230

are you saying it was the
best care you could give?

970

00:45:31,230 --> 00:45:32,620

But was it?

971

00:45:32,620 --> 00:45:34,810

It wasn't really the best.

972

00:45:34,810 --> 00:45:37,630

But it was the best
in the circumstances.

973

00:45:37,630 --> 00:45:40,530

I don't think anything
more could have been done.

974

00:45:40,530 --> 00:45:43,550

975

00:45:43,550 --> 00:45:45,980

I mean, you could think of
when you run a hospital,

976

00:45:45,980 --> 00:45:47,640

what about the laundry service?

977

00:45:47,640 --> 00:45:49,100

And what about this service?

978

00:45:49,100 --> 00:45:51,110

And that service?

979

00:45:51,110 --> 00:45:56,640

And I guess it was all minimal.

980

00:45:56,640 --> 00:45:59,640

Probably there wasn't
any laundry service.

981

00:45:59,640 --> 00:46:02,895

But I can remember
that they had sheets.

982

00:46:02,895 --> 00:46:06,310

983

00:46:06,310 --> 00:46:09,610

I think they had
straw as mattresses.

984

00:46:09,610 --> 00:46:13,270

And it seems to me that
it was like in a bag,

985

00:46:13,270 --> 00:46:14,740

like a sleeping bag.

986

00:46:14,740 --> 00:46:16,640

You know, it would all

be stuffed in there.

987

00:46:16,640 --> 00:46:18,760

Otherwise, it would
be flying all over.

988

00:46:18,760 --> 00:46:20,770

And it seems to me
that's what they had.

989

00:46:20,770 --> 00:46:25,930

And I don't remember that it was
especially soiled or anything.

990

00:46:25,930 --> 00:46:28,870

You know, when you look
back all those years

991

00:46:28,870 --> 00:46:32,410

and you don't pay
that much attention,

992

00:46:32,410 --> 00:46:34,600

you don't really
recall all that.

993

00:46:34,600 --> 00:46:37,456

Yeah.

994

00:46:37,456 --> 00:46:40,320

Hang on a second.

995

00:46:40,320 --> 00:46:47,375

This is the end of tape two,
side A, Elizabeth Feldhusen.

996

00:46:47,375 --> 00:46:56,925

997

00:46:56,925 --> 00:46:57,425

OK.

998

00:46:57,425 --> 00:47:00,010

999

00:47:00,010 --> 00:47:01,120

Here we are.

1000

00:47:01,120 --> 00:47:02,890

Hello, hello, hello, hello.

1001

00:47:02,890 --> 00:47:06,310

1002

00:47:06,310 --> 00:47:07,960

When you were in--
oh, I'm sorry,

1003

00:47:07,960 --> 00:47:16,420

this is tape three, side
B, Elizabeth Feldhusen.

1004

00:47:16,420 --> 00:47:20,140

When you were in
Austria and attending

1005

00:47:20,140 --> 00:47:26,890

to the survivors at
Gusen, I understand

1006

00:47:26,890 --> 00:47:31,720

that there was also near by the
Mauthausen concentration camp.

1007

00:47:31,720 --> 00:47:32,290

Yes.

1008

00:47:32,290 --> 00:47:34,730

Were there nurses caring
for people there also?

1009

00:47:34,730 --> 00:47:36,440

Not that I know of.

1010

00:47:36,440 --> 00:47:40,420
I really don't know of any
other nurses that ever worked

1011
00:47:40,420 --> 00:47:44,080
with concentration patients.

1012
00:47:44,080 --> 00:47:44,580
Americans.

1013
00:47:44,580 --> 00:47:45,790
I don't know of any.

1014
00:47:45,790 --> 00:47:48,280
No.

1015
00:47:48,280 --> 00:47:49,450
Americans in Europe?

1016
00:47:49,450 --> 00:47:52,180
Yes.

1017
00:47:52,180 --> 00:47:53,320
I didn't realize that.

1018
00:47:53,320 --> 00:47:57,370
It would be interesting to find
out if there were any others.

1019
00:47:57,370 --> 00:48:00,430
But I never heard of any others.

1020
00:48:00,430 --> 00:48:07,690
And there may have been, but I
don't know of any, personally.

1021
00:48:07,690 --> 00:48:12,820
When you would come back from
your duty during the day,

1022
00:48:12,820 --> 00:48:14,740
what would you all

talk about at night?

1023

00:48:14,740 --> 00:48:15,400

What was?

1024

00:48:15,400 --> 00:48:16,000

Oh, my.

1025

00:48:16,000 --> 00:48:16,960

That's so many.

1026

00:48:16,960 --> 00:48:19,510

I guess we talked
about our work.

1027

00:48:19,510 --> 00:48:22,790

Because nurses tend to do that.

1028

00:48:22,790 --> 00:48:27,280

And so we probably did
talk about what we saw

1029

00:48:27,280 --> 00:48:29,320

and experiences during the day.

1030

00:48:29,320 --> 00:48:32,620

Do you remember it being
hard for people to cope with

1031

00:48:32,620 --> 00:48:33,820

or was it just--

1032

00:48:33,820 --> 00:48:35,080

No, I really don't.

1033

00:48:35,080 --> 00:48:37,090

I don't really.

1034

00:48:37,090 --> 00:48:42,070

And how did you find out about
us having a get-together?

1035

00:48:42,070 --> 00:48:46,610

Not through this Genie
Striker, she's down in Florida.

1036

00:48:46,610 --> 00:48:48,520

Her name, she's married now.

1037

00:48:48,520 --> 00:48:49,690

She has a different name.

1038

00:48:49,690 --> 00:48:57,110

1039

00:48:57,110 --> 00:49:02,900

How is it that, out of
40 nurses, so many of you

1040

00:49:02,900 --> 00:49:07,070

have kept in touch
over 50 years?

1041

00:49:07,070 --> 00:49:09,710

What was it about
that experience

1042

00:49:09,710 --> 00:49:13,190

that made you all be
so bonded together?

1043

00:49:13,190 --> 00:49:17,150

Well, I think one thing was
that we had lived together

1044

00:49:17,150 --> 00:49:20,180

so closely.

1045

00:49:20,180 --> 00:49:24,650

The whole time we were in
Europe, until we got to Linz,

1046

00:49:24,650 --> 00:49:27,320

we lived in these squad

tents, and there were always

1047
00:49:27,320 --> 00:49:30,110
five or six of us in a tent.

1048
00:49:30,110 --> 00:49:34,220
And when we were in England,
we lived in one house.

1049
00:49:34,220 --> 00:49:38,360
And we had to fit
into that house.

1050
00:49:38,360 --> 00:49:41,880
There were always quite a
number of us in each room.

1051
00:49:41,880 --> 00:49:45,770
So you grew to be very close.

1052
00:49:45,770 --> 00:49:48,920
I think if we probably
all had our own rooms--

1053
00:49:48,920 --> 00:49:52,490
and yet, in my nurse's
training, we had our own rooms,

1054
00:49:52,490 --> 00:49:55,370
and my class is
still very close.

1055
00:49:55,370 --> 00:50:02,060
We still-- in fact, I go to
all my Kings County luncheons.

1056
00:50:02,060 --> 00:50:05,150
We have one in Pennsylvania and
we have one in New York City.

1057
00:50:05,150 --> 00:50:07,340
I go to both of them.

1058

00:50:07,340 --> 00:50:11,360

But most of the girls go
to the one in Pennsylvania.

1059

00:50:11,360 --> 00:50:14,640

So most of them have
moved out of New York

1060

00:50:14,640 --> 00:50:19,070

and live there in Pennsylvania.

1061

00:50:19,070 --> 00:50:22,430

But I think it's
the living close.

1062

00:50:22,430 --> 00:50:24,660

And we all got along
very well together.

1063

00:50:24,660 --> 00:50:29,210

I really don't know of any
enmity between anybody,

1064

00:50:29,210 --> 00:50:33,360

you know, ruffled
feelings or anything.

1065

00:50:33,360 --> 00:50:35,960

I think we've always
gotten together.

1066

00:50:35,960 --> 00:50:41,150

But really, I think I have
to pat myself on the back.

1067

00:50:41,150 --> 00:50:46,220

Because I think I started
having us get together.

1068

00:50:46,220 --> 00:50:53,450

And there was-- in 1947,
that was the big snowstorm.

1069

00:50:53,450 --> 00:50:56,360

And I had arranged for
us to have luncheon down

1070

00:50:56,360 --> 00:50:59,990

at a candlelight restaurant
in Brooklyn Heights, which

1071

00:50:59,990 --> 00:51:02,960

was a lovely restaurant
in a brownstone.

1072

00:51:02,960 --> 00:51:04,820

And they gave you popovers.

1073

00:51:04,820 --> 00:51:07,070

The whole dinner,
they kept coming out

1074

00:51:07,070 --> 00:51:09,590

of the oven with these
delicious popovers.

1075

00:51:09,590 --> 00:51:12,440

1076

00:51:12,440 --> 00:51:14,150

And we had this get-together.

1077

00:51:14,150 --> 00:51:18,470

And with the storm
that we had, two people

1078

00:51:18,470 --> 00:51:20,090

came down from Syracuse.

1079

00:51:20,090 --> 00:51:25,820

Phyllis Law was one of them
and Loreena, who passed away,

1080

00:51:25,820 --> 00:51:26,810

was the other one.

1081
00:51:26,810 --> 00:51:29,690
And Loreena says,
I was so amazed

1082
00:51:29,690 --> 00:51:34,280
to see all that snow because
Syracuse has the snow, usually.

1083
00:51:34,280 --> 00:51:35,300
But they didn't have it.

1084
00:51:35,300 --> 00:51:37,070
And we were just snowed in.

1085
00:51:37,070 --> 00:51:39,510
And our chief nurse
just couldn't get there.

1086
00:51:39,510 --> 00:51:40,280
She called me.

1087
00:51:40,280 --> 00:51:42,200
She says, I can't
get the doors open.

1088
00:51:42,200 --> 00:51:44,630
How many people were able
to make that first reunion?

1089
00:51:44,630 --> 00:51:47,780
I think we had about 10 or 11.

1090
00:51:47,780 --> 00:51:51,440
And I believe we were
expecting about 20

1091
00:51:51,440 --> 00:51:54,800
because they would be the
people from the New York area.

1092
00:51:54,800 --> 00:51:56,780

But the two came from Syracuse.

1093

00:51:56,780 --> 00:51:59,540

1094

00:51:59,540 --> 00:52:01,910

But it was the big snowstorm.

1095

00:52:01,910 --> 00:52:07,880

And then they said that we had
a reunion at Hotel St. George.

1096

00:52:07,880 --> 00:52:10,400

I said, I'm sure it
was the candlelight.

1097

00:52:10,400 --> 00:52:13,010

Because I know the one
was at the candlelight.

1098

00:52:13,010 --> 00:52:16,070

And I almost think we had
two at the candlelight.

1099

00:52:16,070 --> 00:52:19,280

And I kept calling the woman
who owned the restaurant.

1100

00:52:19,280 --> 00:52:20,990

And she says, it's
perfectly all right.

1101

00:52:20,990 --> 00:52:24,230

Because I thought we'd be
charged for all those dinners.

1102

00:52:24,230 --> 00:52:27,470

And she said no, it's perfectly
understandable, you know,

1103

00:52:27,470 --> 00:52:29,100

when people can't get in.

1104

00:52:29,100 --> 00:52:32,576

And so every time I had a
cancellation, I'd call up.

1105

00:52:32,576 --> 00:52:35,200

1106

00:52:35,200 --> 00:52:38,510

When you look back on your
experience 50 years ago

1107

00:52:38,510 --> 00:52:44,630

as a nurse and during World
War II, and especially

1108

00:52:44,630 --> 00:52:49,190

that experience you had
caring for the survivors

1109

00:52:49,190 --> 00:52:53,510

of the concentration camp,
what is the lesson for you?

1110

00:52:53,510 --> 00:52:56,900

Or how do you think that
changed your life in any way,

1111

00:52:56,900 --> 00:52:59,150

or you as a person?

1112

00:52:59,150 --> 00:53:04,640

Well, I mean, I was talking
to the other girls earlier.

1113

00:53:04,640 --> 00:53:06,740

I don't know if you were there.

1114

00:53:06,740 --> 00:53:09,410

But I mean, what's going
on in today's world,

1115

00:53:09,410 --> 00:53:12,830

I don't think we've
learned lessons at all.

1116
00:53:12,830 --> 00:53:17,810
And at that time, I felt
just like the United Nations.

1117
00:53:17,810 --> 00:53:20,330
We would all be
getting along together

1118
00:53:20,330 --> 00:53:22,700
and create an understanding.

1119
00:53:22,700 --> 00:53:24,590
I've been a member
of the United Nations

1120
00:53:24,590 --> 00:53:25,920
for quite a number of years.

1121
00:53:25,920 --> 00:53:30,420
When I lived in New York, I went
to a lot of their activities.

1122
00:53:30,420 --> 00:53:33,450
But it seems worse
to me than ever.

1123
00:53:33,450 --> 00:53:35,450
Which I can't understand.

1124
00:53:35,450 --> 00:53:37,100
You were hopeful at
the end of the war.

1125
00:53:37,100 --> 00:53:38,445
I was very hopeful.

1126
00:53:38,445 --> 00:53:38,945
Yeah.

1127

00:53:38,945 --> 00:53:42,440

1128
00:53:42,440 --> 00:53:45,350
But I mean, it's all
within the last 10 years

1129
00:53:45,350 --> 00:53:48,650
that things have changed.

1130
00:53:48,650 --> 00:53:52,310
And to me, it's so
hard to understand,

1131
00:53:52,310 --> 00:53:55,970
when we can all get along
together and be happy.

1132
00:53:55,970 --> 00:53:59,030
It's very disillusioning to me.

1133
00:53:59,030 --> 00:54:02,570
And you would think, after that
experience of the Holocaust,

1134
00:54:02,570 --> 00:54:07,860
that everything would
have dramatically changed.

1135
00:54:07,860 --> 00:54:12,470
But now, these skinheads
that you read about,

1136
00:54:12,470 --> 00:54:14,810
they even have them
in this country.

1137
00:54:14,810 --> 00:54:19,100
I mean, nobody seems to
appreciate what they have.

1138
00:54:19,100 --> 00:54:21,470
And in this country, you

have more of the good life

1139
00:54:21,470 --> 00:54:26,210
than you have almost any place.

1140
00:54:26,210 --> 00:54:30,500
And because I'm very much
against these people, what

1141
00:54:30,500 --> 00:54:35,060
is it, that rifle group.

1142
00:54:35,060 --> 00:54:37,130
I think they all
help to perpetuate

1143
00:54:37,130 --> 00:54:39,720
these terrible things
that are going on.

1144
00:54:39,720 --> 00:54:43,380
And I think things are
going to get worse.

1145
00:54:43,380 --> 00:54:49,040
How do you think that having
witnessed what you witnessed--

1146
00:54:49,040 --> 00:54:51,395
what kind of an impact
did that have on you

1147
00:54:51,395 --> 00:54:53,960
as a person after the war?

1148
00:54:53,960 --> 00:54:58,490
Well, I think that--

1149
00:54:58,490 --> 00:55:01,430
everybody said it
can't happen again.

1150

00:55:01,430 --> 00:55:06,110
You know, it just
can't happen again.

1151
00:55:06,110 --> 00:55:09,380
You know, we had a
chaplain, and he gave us

1152
00:55:09,380 --> 00:55:11,380
all these photographs.

1153
00:55:11,380 --> 00:55:12,560
You probably saw them.

1154
00:55:12,560 --> 00:55:14,060
I don't know whether
you did or not.

1155
00:55:14,060 --> 00:55:16,130
We all had a set of them.

1156
00:55:16,130 --> 00:55:17,270
Horrible.

1157
00:55:17,270 --> 00:55:19,610
But I mean, those
photographs, I think,

1158
00:55:19,610 --> 00:55:22,670
were worse than
anything I really saw.

1159
00:55:22,670 --> 00:55:26,720
You know, the bodies in
the pits being buried,

1160
00:55:26,720 --> 00:55:28,430
and all this and that stuff.

1161
00:55:28,430 --> 00:55:33,680
I think that we were sort
of shielded from that,

1162
00:55:33,680 --> 00:55:39,770
and really didn't see as
much as in those photographs.

1163
00:55:39,770 --> 00:55:42,320
So it's hard to say.

1164
00:55:42,320 --> 00:55:46,940
And I mean, I
happen to be German.

1165
00:55:46,940 --> 00:55:49,890
And I have relatives over there.

1166
00:55:49,890 --> 00:55:51,740
I have never talked
to them about it.

1167
00:55:51,740 --> 00:55:56,120
Well, the younger ones
were born way after.

1168
00:55:56,120 --> 00:55:59,780
You know, they're all
about in their 30s.

1169
00:55:59,780 --> 00:56:04,820
But my cousin, she's my
second cousin, she's about 65.

1170
00:56:04,820 --> 00:56:06,470
I never brought it up to her.

1171
00:56:06,470 --> 00:56:09,770
I never talked to her because
I was sort of embarrassed.

1172
00:56:09,770 --> 00:56:12,480
And I didn't know
how to bring it up.

1173
00:56:12,480 --> 00:56:16,250

And so I never really
said anything to her.

1174
00:56:16,250 --> 00:56:18,740
And I had stayed
with her parents

1175
00:56:18,740 --> 00:56:21,320
once, when I first
went to Europe.

1176
00:56:21,320 --> 00:56:24,080
I stayed with her parents
for almost a week.

1177
00:56:24,080 --> 00:56:26,270
Five or six days.

1178
00:56:26,270 --> 00:56:29,660
And they never really
talked about the war.

1179
00:56:29,660 --> 00:56:32,360

1180
00:56:32,360 --> 00:56:37,550
And in '58, you know, it
wasn't too far behind.

1181
00:56:37,550 --> 00:56:39,950
And they had one
chair in the house.

1182
00:56:39,950 --> 00:56:42,740
And I don't know how that came
up, whether I said something,

1183
00:56:42,740 --> 00:56:44,420
what a nice chair it was or not.

1184
00:56:44,420 --> 00:56:46,160
I don't recall.

1185
00:56:46,160 --> 00:56:49,730
And he said, we were all out.

1186
00:56:49,730 --> 00:56:52,190
He said, the children
were in school.

1187
00:56:52,190 --> 00:56:53,540
And he and his wife--

1188
00:56:53,540 --> 00:56:56,120
he was at work and his
wife was off someplace.

1189
00:56:56,120 --> 00:57:01,180
And when they came home,
the house was just rubble.

1190
00:57:01,180 --> 00:57:06,100
And he said, I pulled that
chair from the rubble.

1191
00:57:06,100 --> 00:57:10,330
He said it was the only
thing that was any good.

1192
00:57:10,330 --> 00:57:12,820
And that's all
that was ever said.

1193
00:57:12,820 --> 00:57:17,320
I never said anything
more, never brought it up.

1194
00:57:17,320 --> 00:57:19,220
Well, I mean, that's
no joke either.

1195
00:57:19,220 --> 00:57:22,180

1196
00:57:22,180 --> 00:57:27,200

What about since that time?

1197

00:57:27,200 --> 00:57:29,470

Have you ever had a conversation with somebody

1198

00:57:29,470 --> 00:57:31,750

where they tried to tell you that the Holocaust didn't

1199

00:57:31,750 --> 00:57:33,400

happen?

1200

00:57:33,400 --> 00:57:34,210

Not really.

1201

00:57:34,210 --> 00:57:37,420

It's only what I have been reading in the paper.

1202

00:57:37,420 --> 00:57:41,280

And I really don't know how they can believe that.

1203

00:57:41,280 --> 00:57:44,350

I mean, when all the evidence is there.

1204

00:57:44,350 --> 00:57:46,330

To me, I can't see.

1205

00:57:46,330 --> 00:57:48,430

It just doesn't match up at all.

1206

00:57:48,430 --> 00:57:51,080

1207

00:57:51,080 --> 00:57:54,940

How can you deny something when you have all the evidence?

1208

00:57:54,940 --> 00:57:57,520

The photographs, and you can go over there and see it,

1209
00:57:57,520 --> 00:58:00,610
and everything else.

1210
00:58:00,610 --> 00:58:03,530
Well, I think we just have a lot of crackpots or something

1211
00:58:03,530 --> 00:58:04,030
or other.

1212
00:58:04,030 --> 00:58:06,590

1213
00:58:06,590 --> 00:58:08,590
Just like those skinheads.

1214
00:58:08,590 --> 00:58:11,410
They're not all normal, they can't be,

1215
00:58:11,410 --> 00:58:14,080
to act the way they are.

1216
00:58:14,080 --> 00:58:17,455
And arousing all these anti feelings against people.

1217
00:58:17,455 --> 00:58:20,280

1218
00:58:20,280 --> 00:58:22,410
Because I grew up in New York, where your friends--

1219
00:58:22,410 --> 00:58:23,460
I had all kinds of--

1220
00:58:23,460 --> 00:58:27,660
I had Black, and White,

and Jewish, and all.

1221
00:58:27,660 --> 00:58:29,280
And you just knew everybody.

1222
00:58:29,280 --> 00:58:32,190
And a lot of my
friends from childhood,

1223
00:58:32,190 --> 00:58:33,580
I still keep up with.

1224
00:58:33,580 --> 00:58:36,660

1225
00:58:36,660 --> 00:58:39,510
You accept people
for the way they are.

1226
00:58:39,510 --> 00:58:42,870
And maybe people growing
up in smaller towns

1227
00:58:42,870 --> 00:58:48,360
aren't exposed to different
types of people to that extent.

1228
00:58:48,360 --> 00:58:50,293
Did you have Jewish
friends growing up?

1229
00:58:50,293 --> 00:58:51,210
And in nursing school?

1230
00:58:51,210 --> 00:58:51,990
Oh, yeah.

1231
00:58:51,990 --> 00:58:55,520
I have a friend in
Lakewood, Lilian Scherr.

1232
00:58:55,520 --> 00:58:57,668

And I always, I say
to Lilian, how'd we

1233
00:58:57,668 --> 00:58:58,710
have ever get acquainted?

1234
00:58:58,710 --> 00:59:01,120
Because she's about three or
four years older than I am.

1235
00:59:01,120 --> 00:59:03,360
And she was working
in the operating room.

1236
00:59:03,360 --> 00:59:05,190
And we're very good friends.

1237
00:59:05,190 --> 00:59:09,510
Do you ever remember her or
anybody else saying something

1238
00:59:09,510 --> 00:59:13,650
to you about the difficulties
that Jewish people were having

1239
00:59:13,650 --> 00:59:15,450
in Europe before the war?

1240
00:59:15,450 --> 00:59:17,210
Were you conscious
of that at all?

1241
00:59:17,210 --> 00:59:18,540
No, no, no.

1242
00:59:18,540 --> 00:59:21,060

1243
00:59:21,060 --> 00:59:25,170
Now Lillian went into the
Army, but she was in Burma.

1244

00:59:25,170 --> 00:59:28,740
And she will not speak
about her Army experiences.

1245
00:59:28,740 --> 00:59:30,880
And lately, I've been
thinking about it.

1246
00:59:30,880 --> 00:59:32,880
I wonder why.

1247
00:59:32,880 --> 00:59:36,090
Because I always thought
so many of my experiences

1248
00:59:36,090 --> 00:59:38,670
were so interesting.

1249
00:59:38,670 --> 00:59:42,060
But I once asked
her about Burma.

1250
00:59:42,060 --> 00:59:45,970
And she's different, you know?

1251
00:59:45,970 --> 00:59:47,790
She'd say, I don't want to--

1252
00:59:47,790 --> 00:59:49,120
she'd go like this, you know.

1253
00:59:49,120 --> 00:59:50,560
She didn't want to.

1254
00:59:50,560 --> 00:59:52,320
So I really don't
know what went on.

1255
00:59:52,320 --> 00:59:56,800
She never talked about
her own experiences.

1256

00:59:56,800 --> 01:00:00,180
So it must have been a very
unhappy experience for her.

1257
01:00:00,180 --> 01:00:03,480
But I don't think
they ever had anything

1258
01:00:03,480 --> 01:00:04,890
to do with the native people.

1259
01:00:04,890 --> 01:00:07,260
And I would think going
to Burma must have-- just

1260
01:00:07,260 --> 01:00:09,780
to see the country, you know.

1261
01:00:09,780 --> 01:00:15,420

1262
01:00:15,420 --> 01:00:18,720
This is the 50th
anniversary this year

1263
01:00:18,720 --> 01:00:20,550
of the end of the war.

1264
01:00:20,550 --> 01:00:24,360
Has that made you think
about your experience more?

1265
01:00:24,360 --> 01:00:26,850
No, someone asked
me, aren't you going

1266
01:00:26,850 --> 01:00:29,770
to go to some of these
reunions over in Europe?

1267
01:00:29,770 --> 01:00:34,170
And I said, I have
no desire to go.

1268
01:00:34,170 --> 01:00:35,880
And I don't know of any--

1269
01:00:35,880 --> 01:00:37,520
I haven't heard
of anybody that I

1270
01:00:37,520 --> 01:00:41,480
know that has gone,
except one man I know.

1271
01:00:41,480 --> 01:00:46,880
But he's very active in
military organizations.

1272
01:00:46,880 --> 01:00:49,020
But otherwise, I really don't.

1273
01:00:49,020 --> 01:00:51,440
And I have no desire to go.

1274
01:00:51,440 --> 01:00:53,930
I think maybe if a
group of us had gone,

1275
01:00:53,930 --> 01:00:57,110
that might have been something.

1276
01:00:57,110 --> 01:00:59,520
Would you be
interested, for example,

1277
01:00:59,520 --> 01:01:01,460
in going back to Gusen?

1278
01:01:01,460 --> 01:01:02,630
Or go to Linz?

1279
01:01:02,630 --> 01:01:04,880
Well, I've sort of
wondered about it.

1280
01:01:04,880 --> 01:01:09,710
I've been to Europe several
times, but always with a group.

1281
01:01:09,710 --> 01:01:13,610
When you're on a tour, you
can't do what you want to do.

1282
01:01:13,610 --> 01:01:16,010
But some of our
people did go back.

1283
01:01:16,010 --> 01:01:18,890

1284
01:01:18,890 --> 01:01:21,680
I don't think anybody
in this group, you know,

1285
01:01:21,680 --> 01:01:23,060
that's here today.

1286
01:01:23,060 --> 01:01:27,830
But I would say at least
three people did go.

1287
01:01:27,830 --> 01:01:35,240
And I'm trying to think who
they were that did that.

1288
01:01:35,240 --> 01:01:37,520
Woody might remember.

1289
01:01:37,520 --> 01:01:40,130
But I really don't recall.

1290
01:01:40,130 --> 01:01:42,530
And I know one
person said, well,

1291
01:01:42,530 --> 01:01:45,760

it seemed to be the same as
it was when we were there.

1292
01:01:45,760 --> 01:01:50,210

1293
01:01:50,210 --> 01:01:54,980
But I don't have any
burning desire to go.

1294
01:01:54,980 --> 01:01:59,680
It was just an
unpleasant time of life.

1295
01:01:59,680 --> 01:02:01,360
And that's how you
think about it,

1296
01:02:01,360 --> 01:02:03,080
it's something
you'd rather forget?

1297
01:02:03,080 --> 01:02:06,170
Yeah, I think so.

1298
01:02:06,170 --> 01:02:07,670
Yeah, I believe so.

1299
01:02:07,670 --> 01:02:10,370

1300
01:02:10,370 --> 01:02:12,800
And then sometimes,
I wonder why,

1301
01:02:12,800 --> 01:02:14,900
you know, rehashing everything.

1302
01:02:14,900 --> 01:02:20,930
You know, what is the real
outcome of that going to be?

1303

01:02:20,930 --> 01:02:23,980
But I think the reason was so
that it wouldn't happen again.

1304
01:02:23,980 --> 01:02:28,570

1305
01:02:28,570 --> 01:02:30,030
But when you think
of what people

1306
01:02:30,030 --> 01:02:32,550
do to people, what's
going on today,

1307
01:02:32,550 --> 01:02:35,930
I don't think it's had
any influence whatsoever.

1308
01:02:35,930 --> 01:02:40,240

1309
01:02:40,240 --> 01:02:42,760
Anything I didn't ask you
about that you would like

1310
01:02:42,760 --> 01:02:45,170
to talk about or tell me about?

1311
01:02:45,170 --> 01:02:46,420
Well, no.

1312
01:02:46,420 --> 01:02:49,000
It's only that, once in a
while, something that's said

1313
01:02:49,000 --> 01:02:51,800
brings up another idea.

1314
01:02:51,800 --> 01:02:56,590
But otherwise, just
some funny incidences.

1315

01:02:56,590 --> 01:03:02,060

And I don't think so.

1316

01:03:02,060 --> 01:03:04,780

I think we covered
the highlights.

1317

01:03:04,780 --> 01:03:05,800

OK, good.

1318

01:03:05,800 --> 01:03:08,800

Unless you want to hear about
my German prisoner of war that

1319

01:03:08,800 --> 01:03:09,490

helped us in--

1320

01:03:09,490 --> 01:03:10,210

Of course.

1321

01:03:10,210 --> 01:03:10,760

--Gusen.

1322

01:03:10,760 --> 01:03:14,080

I don't always tell it because
some people don't really think

1323

01:03:14,080 --> 01:03:14,800

it's--

1324

01:03:14,800 --> 01:03:16,390

anyhow, he was a very--

1325

01:03:16,390 --> 01:03:20,290

I don't think he was
more than 18, 17.

1326

01:03:20,290 --> 01:03:23,500

And he lost his meat can.

1327

01:03:23,500 --> 01:03:26,600

You know, it's a two-part dish.

1328
01:03:26,600 --> 01:03:28,390
I still have mine at home.

1329
01:03:28,390 --> 01:03:30,520
And you have your
silverware on the inside.

1330
01:03:30,520 --> 01:03:33,580
And when you go to get
something to eat, you open it up

1331
01:03:33,580 --> 01:03:35,020
and you have two parts.

1332
01:03:35,020 --> 01:03:37,180
And they put the food in it.

1333
01:03:37,180 --> 01:03:39,370
And then you wash it and
put it together again.

1334
01:03:39,370 --> 01:03:41,620
Well, he came on duty.

1335
01:03:41,620 --> 01:03:44,740
And he hung, I guess,
a jacket and his meat

1336
01:03:44,740 --> 01:03:46,390
can on the back of a door.

1337
01:03:46,390 --> 01:03:48,340
Happened to be a hook there.

1338
01:03:48,340 --> 01:03:52,840
Well, and then he came to
me, and he told me in German

1339
01:03:52,840 --> 01:03:57,310
that his meat can was gone.

1340
01:03:57,310 --> 01:03:59,380
And I said, are you
sure you left it there?

1341
01:03:59,380 --> 01:04:01,360
And yeah.

1342
01:04:01,360 --> 01:04:05,110
So I started looking
under everybody's pillow.

1343
01:04:05,110 --> 01:04:07,870
And I'm climbing on all
these tiers and looking.

1344
01:04:07,870 --> 01:04:10,180
And I finally found it.

1345
01:04:10,180 --> 01:04:13,330
My god, he was
practically kneeling

1346
01:04:13,330 --> 01:04:15,610
every time I passed him.

1347
01:04:15,610 --> 01:04:18,010
Because he told me
he'd be killed if it

1348
01:04:18,010 --> 01:04:19,990
was found out that he lost it.

1349
01:04:19,990 --> 01:04:21,850
Oh, he was so frightened.

1350
01:04:21,850 --> 01:04:23,050
Oh.

1351
01:04:23,050 --> 01:04:26,200
Which is why I really
worked very hard to find it.

1352
01:04:26,200 --> 01:04:27,370
And I did find it.

1353
01:04:27,370 --> 01:04:29,020
Oh, he was frantic.

1354
01:04:29,020 --> 01:04:31,240
And he was just a kid, you know.

1355
01:04:31,240 --> 01:04:35,950
And we had German prisoners of
war when I was at Fort DuPont.

1356
01:04:35,950 --> 01:04:39,048
And I had some funny
experiences with them, too.

1357
01:04:39,048 --> 01:04:40,090
Before you went overseas?

1358
01:04:40,090 --> 01:04:41,290
Before I went over.

1359
01:04:41,290 --> 01:04:45,310
Yeah, we had 10,000 prisoners
there at Fort DuPont.

1360
01:04:45,310 --> 01:04:49,060
And when we were on night
duty, we worked from 7:00 PM

1361
01:04:49,060 --> 01:04:52,270
to 7:00 AM, 12 hours.

1362
01:04:52,270 --> 01:04:55,810
And then you got an
extra day off for that.

1363
01:04:55,810 --> 01:04:59,270
You did that for two weeks.

1364

01:04:59,270 --> 01:05:05,380

So the prisoners, when we
were preparing for them,

1365

01:05:05,380 --> 01:05:07,600

we had just a very
small hospital

1366

01:05:07,600 --> 01:05:11,680

with three wards and
some private rooms.

1367

01:05:11,680 --> 01:05:15,340

And the prisoners of war
were at least a mile away.

1368

01:05:15,340 --> 01:05:18,610

We had quite a big hospital
there, but it was empty.

1369

01:05:18,610 --> 01:05:22,120

So they put their ward as
far away as you could go.

1370

01:05:22,120 --> 01:05:24,370

How I wished I
had roller skates.

1371

01:05:24,370 --> 01:05:29,110

Because you had to go down
there and gave out-- you

1372

01:05:29,110 --> 01:05:30,310

put out the medicines.

1373

01:05:30,310 --> 01:05:32,560

I put them in all
little medicine glasses

1374

01:05:32,560 --> 01:05:33,910

with the name of the person.

1375

01:05:33,910 --> 01:05:37,120
Because we had a ward
man who was German.

1376
01:05:37,120 --> 01:05:38,590
He gave out all the medicines.

1377
01:05:38,590 --> 01:05:43,910
He did everything except the
narcotics and the injections.

1378
01:05:43,910 --> 01:05:48,070
So he called me one night.

1379
01:05:48,070 --> 01:05:49,570
It was pouring rain.

1380
01:05:49,570 --> 01:05:53,290
And he said, we're
being flooded down here.

1381
01:05:53,290 --> 01:05:58,570
And because I could
understand them, you see.

1382
01:05:58,570 --> 01:06:00,970
And one of the duties
of the night nurse

1383
01:06:00,970 --> 01:06:05,110
was to run across an open
ramp into the nurses' quarters

1384
01:06:05,110 --> 01:06:06,820
and close all the windows.

1385
01:06:06,820 --> 01:06:09,130
And we had these
rainstorms that came up

1386
01:06:09,130 --> 01:06:11,860
in Delaware in a second.

1387

01:06:11,860 --> 01:06:15,710

And it just came down,
you can't imagine.

1388

01:06:15,710 --> 01:06:18,730

And so I had just come back
from the nurses' quarters.

1389

01:06:18,730 --> 01:06:21,820

You ran into everybody's
room closing windows.

1390

01:06:21,820 --> 01:06:24,430

And the telephone call came in.

1391

01:06:24,430 --> 01:06:28,420

So I ran down there,
and they had a guard.

1392

01:06:28,420 --> 01:06:31,075

And he had a whole
ring like this of keys.

1393

01:06:31,075 --> 01:06:37,790

1394

01:06:37,790 --> 01:06:39,790

Well, anyhow, I said,
I got to find out

1395

01:06:39,790 --> 01:06:41,740

what's happening in here.

1396

01:06:41,740 --> 01:06:44,620

So I got in there, and
they had all the beds

1397

01:06:44,620 --> 01:06:46,090

pulled to the center.

1398

01:06:46,090 --> 01:06:47,710

And the floor was wet.

1399

01:06:47,710 --> 01:06:51,070

There was a couple inches
of water on the floors.

1400

01:06:51,070 --> 01:06:53,350

And everything-- the
bed linen was wet.

1401

01:06:53,350 --> 01:06:55,810

I know I had to go back and
get more bed linen because they

1402

01:06:55,810 --> 01:06:56,650

didn't have enough.

1403

01:06:56,650 --> 01:07:02,050

Because they didn't use
that much at one time.

1404

01:07:02,050 --> 01:07:03,490

And they got me a chair.

1405

01:07:03,490 --> 01:07:06,520

Oh, and we had bars
on all the windows.

1406

01:07:06,520 --> 01:07:08,890

Not regular bars, but screening.

1407

01:07:08,890 --> 01:07:10,660

That metal screening.

1408

01:07:10,660 --> 01:07:12,430

Each one with a lock.

1409

01:07:12,430 --> 01:07:15,370

And they were not in succession.

1410

01:07:15,370 --> 01:07:18,760

So I'm looking for the
key, got that window open.

1411
01:07:18,760 --> 01:07:20,470
Opened it, they closed it.

1412
01:07:20,470 --> 01:07:21,820
We locked that again.

1413
01:07:21,820 --> 01:07:22,960
Go to the next window.

1414
01:07:22,960 --> 01:07:24,610
By then, somebody
moved the chair.

1415
01:07:24,610 --> 01:07:26,320
I got up on the chair.

1416
01:07:26,320 --> 01:07:28,660
Got that window closed.

1417
01:07:28,660 --> 01:07:29,860
And the next one.

1418
01:07:29,860 --> 01:07:32,470
So finally, I said,
for heaven's sakes,

1419
01:07:32,470 --> 01:07:33,880
will you find the right key?

1420
01:07:33,880 --> 01:07:36,340
Go down while I'm
working on this window,

1421
01:07:36,340 --> 01:07:40,220
and you get that
lock for that window.

1422
01:07:40,220 --> 01:07:42,500
Well, and we had one
window next to one another.

1423

01:07:42,500 --> 01:07:45,470

Must have had 40
windows on that ward.

1424

01:07:45,470 --> 01:07:49,910

Well, I can tell you, about
7 o'clock in the morning,

1425

01:07:49,910 --> 01:07:54,180

I was down in the office of a
man that was in charge of that.

1426

01:07:54,180 --> 01:07:55,460

And he got a--

1427

01:07:55,460 --> 01:07:57,170

heard from me.

1428

01:07:57,170 --> 01:07:59,900

I said, there is
absolutely no sense

1429

01:07:59,900 --> 01:08:02,010

to what you people have done.

1430

01:08:02,010 --> 01:08:04,700

I said, first of all, you
don't need those metal screens

1431

01:08:04,700 --> 01:08:06,260

on those windows.

1432

01:08:06,260 --> 01:08:07,640

That's asinine.

1433

01:08:07,640 --> 01:08:09,740

I said, and if they
get out of the window,

1434

01:08:09,740 --> 01:08:11,390

how are they going
to go further?

1435
01:08:11,390 --> 01:08:16,819
Because there were big
bars and that curly--

1436
01:08:16,819 --> 01:08:18,939
Concertina wire?

1437
01:08:18,939 --> 01:08:19,550
Yeah.

1438
01:08:19,550 --> 01:08:22,130
I said, how can
anybody get over that?

1439
01:08:22,130 --> 01:08:25,880
And I said, where are they
going to go if they get out?

1440
01:08:25,880 --> 01:08:27,470
And there isn't any place.

1441
01:08:27,470 --> 01:08:29,120
I said, they can't get any food.

1442
01:08:29,120 --> 01:08:32,240
Nobody will have
anything to do with them.

1443
01:08:32,240 --> 01:08:35,180
And the next night,
they were all off.

1444
01:08:35,180 --> 01:08:38,240
Everything was
off those windows.

1445
01:08:38,240 --> 01:08:40,130
That I remember vividly.

1446
01:08:40,130 --> 01:08:43,160
Well anyhow, while I was jumping

from one chair to the other,

1447
01:08:43,160 --> 01:08:46,250
one of them says
in German, he said,

1448
01:08:46,250 --> 01:08:48,920
she's like the little old
lady who lived in the shoe.

1449
01:08:48,920 --> 01:08:51,319
She had so many children,
she didn't know what to do.

1450
01:08:51,319 --> 01:08:52,800
Well, I burst out laughing.

1451
01:08:52,800 --> 01:08:54,920
I couldn't help it.

1452
01:08:54,920 --> 01:08:57,080
And I was supposed
to be very stern.

1453
01:08:57,080 --> 01:08:58,850
You see, they were our enemies.

1454
01:08:58,850 --> 01:08:59,600
I'm just couldn't.

1455
01:08:59,600 --> 01:09:01,520
They were all young
people, you know.

1456
01:09:01,520 --> 01:09:02,630
And I couldn't help it.

1457
01:09:02,630 --> 01:09:05,010
I was accused of
being too friendly.

1458
01:09:05,010 --> 01:09:06,340

I couldn't help it.

1459

01:09:06,340 --> 01:09:07,760

I was going with a fellow then.

1460

01:09:07,760 --> 01:09:11,149

And he said, the word is
that you're too friendly.

1461

01:09:11,149 --> 01:09:13,189

I says, I can't help it.

1462

01:09:13,189 --> 01:09:16,520

I said, they're nice, young men.

1463

01:09:16,520 --> 01:09:18,800

Most of them were very young.

1464

01:09:18,800 --> 01:09:21,950

And there was one
fellow that had had--

1465

01:09:21,950 --> 01:09:24,200

I think he had his appendix out.

1466

01:09:24,200 --> 01:09:28,819

And they get morphine,
you know, every four hours

1467

01:09:28,819 --> 01:09:30,029

if they need it.

1468

01:09:30,029 --> 01:09:33,200

So I prepared up at my place.

1469

01:09:33,200 --> 01:09:37,250

We kept the morphine and
those drugs, you know.

1470

01:09:37,250 --> 01:09:38,960

They didn't have
them down there.

1471
01:09:38,960 --> 01:09:41,540
So I went down with my syringe.

1472
01:09:41,540 --> 01:09:46,370
And because Hans's, I
remember, had called me

1473
01:09:46,370 --> 01:09:48,840
and said he was
in terrible pain.

1474
01:09:48,840 --> 01:09:53,990
So I went down and the poor
fellow, when he saw me,

1475
01:09:53,990 --> 01:09:55,400
the sweats started coming.

1476
01:09:55,400 --> 01:09:58,250
And he was in awful pain.

1477
01:09:58,250 --> 01:10:01,040
And he's inching away
back to the wall.

1478
01:10:01,040 --> 01:10:03,140
He saw me with the syringe.

1479
01:10:03,140 --> 01:10:05,840
And I remember,
Hans said, he thinks

1480
01:10:05,840 --> 01:10:08,040
you're going to kill him.

1481
01:10:08,040 --> 01:10:10,260
Put him to sleep or something.

1482
01:10:10,260 --> 01:10:14,270
So I'm trying to tell him,
you know, this is to help him.

1483
01:10:14,270 --> 01:10:15,680
See, they were so, so--

1484
01:10:15,680 --> 01:10:18,600
I mean, the tales that
we heard on our side,

1485
01:10:18,600 --> 01:10:21,440
they also heard against us.

1486
01:10:21,440 --> 01:10:28,550
So anyhow, so I finally
got him, gave it to him.

1487
01:10:28,550 --> 01:10:30,830
He was almost fighting me.

1488
01:10:30,830 --> 01:10:33,080
You know, and he was
in terrible pain.

1489
01:10:33,080 --> 01:10:36,080
It was probably gas.

1490
01:10:36,080 --> 01:10:39,770
So we had a remedy
that I used to use.

1491
01:10:39,770 --> 01:10:41,090
What was it now?

1492
01:10:41,090 --> 01:10:42,500
Something old-fashioned.

1493
01:10:42,500 --> 01:10:46,190
It had two things, and I
got it from the pharmacy.

1494
01:10:46,190 --> 01:10:48,770
And all they needed was
a little sip of that

1495
01:10:48,770 --> 01:10:50,180
and it brought the gas up.

1496
01:10:50,180 --> 01:10:51,635
And it worked miracles.

1497
01:10:51,635 --> 01:10:54,900

1498
01:10:54,900 --> 01:10:56,150
I think we're done, Elizabeth.

1499
01:10:56,150 --> 01:10:56,950
Yeah, OK.

1500
01:10:56,950 --> 01:10:59,210
I think so.

1501
01:10:59,210 --> 01:11:04,280
This is the end of the interview
with Elizabeth Feldhusen.

1502
01:11:04,280 --> 01:11:07,990
This is tape three, side B.

1503
01:11:07,990 --> 01:11:14,072