

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,720

2

00:00:01,720 --> 00:00:02,590

That's the fan.

3

00:00:02,590 --> 00:00:09,835

4

00:00:09,835 --> 00:00:11,780

OK.

5

00:00:11,780 --> 00:00:17,420

This is side two with
Louise Birch, July 15,

6

00:00:17,420 --> 00:00:22,310

1995 in West Park, New York.

7

00:00:22,310 --> 00:00:23,270

We stopped.

8

00:00:23,270 --> 00:00:34,670

Before, we were talking about
being in Germany in April 1945.

9

00:00:34,670 --> 00:00:38,940

You must have gotten word there
about the death of President

10

00:00:38,940 --> 00:00:39,440

Roosevelt.

11

00:00:39,440 --> 00:00:40,970

Mm-hmm.

12

00:00:40,970 --> 00:00:42,470

Do you remember
anything about that?

13

00:00:42,470 --> 00:00:45,350

Well, being a
staunch Republican,

14

00:00:45,350 --> 00:00:49,920

I said, "That's too
bad," which is terrible.

15

00:00:49,920 --> 00:00:54,320

But everyone was
stunned and, you know,

16

00:00:54,320 --> 00:00:56,450

what's going to happen now?

17

00:00:56,450 --> 00:00:58,970

That, I think, was the
first [? concerned ?]

18

00:00:58,970 --> 00:00:59,990

about everybody.

19

00:00:59,990 --> 00:01:02,210

What's going to happen now?

20

00:01:02,210 --> 00:01:07,406

Because he certainly, you know,
did give us good leadership.

21

00:01:07,406 --> 00:01:12,020

But then we heard about
this guy named Truman

22

00:01:12,020 --> 00:01:16,520

and went on with our work.

23

00:01:16,520 --> 00:01:18,410

And shortly thereafter?

24

00:01:18,410 --> 00:01:21,426

Was VE Day.

25

00:01:21,426 --> 00:01:25,660
And I think I told you about
stealing the denatured alcohol

26
00:01:25,660 --> 00:01:27,070
out of the operating room, and--

27
00:01:27,070 --> 00:01:27,980
No, you didn't.

28
00:01:27,980 --> 00:01:28,910
Oh, didn't I?

29
00:01:28,910 --> 00:01:29,410
No.

30
00:01:29,410 --> 00:01:30,370
[LAUGHTER]

31
00:01:30,370 --> 00:01:32,650
I think you need to.

32
00:01:32,650 --> 00:01:35,100
We had what we called
solution basins.

33
00:01:35,100 --> 00:01:38,980
They were little,
oh, porcelain basins

34
00:01:38,980 --> 00:01:41,470
that we'd soak instruments
in, in alcohol and stuff.

35
00:01:41,470 --> 00:01:44,080
And we swiped-- we had
this denatured alcohol.

36
00:01:44,080 --> 00:01:45,060
It'd kill you.

37
00:01:45,060 --> 00:01:46,416

You know, kill you.

38

00:01:46,416 --> 00:01:49,480

We put that in, and we
had powdered grape juice

39

00:01:49,480 --> 00:01:51,070

and it would turn it all purple.

40

00:01:51,070 --> 00:01:54,040

(WHISPERING) We'd swish it
around, swish it around.

41

00:01:54,040 --> 00:01:55,760

Oh!

42

00:01:55,760 --> 00:01:56,260

Terrible.

43

00:01:56,260 --> 00:01:57,250

Horrible.

44

00:01:57,250 --> 00:01:58,310

Terrible.

45

00:01:58,310 --> 00:02:00,913

And our whole-- [? Eckie ?]
was the only one

46

00:02:00,913 --> 00:02:02,830

that was sober that
night, and she had these--

47

00:02:02,830 --> 00:02:05,020

what we called number 10 cans.

48

00:02:05,020 --> 00:02:07,210

You know, peanut butter
and jelly came in them.

49

00:02:07,210 --> 00:02:10,539

She had one by each

one of our bunks

50

00:02:10,539 --> 00:02:13,170

because we'd just roll out of
bed and go, [? ah. ?] [LAUGHS]

51

00:02:13,170 --> 00:02:15,110

We couldn't get up.

52

00:02:15,110 --> 00:02:18,200

It's a wonder we didn't die.

53

00:02:18,200 --> 00:02:19,540

So you had a big party?

54

00:02:19,540 --> 00:02:20,895

Well, not really.

55

00:02:20,895 --> 00:02:22,921

You know, we just--

56

00:02:22,921 --> 00:02:24,310

just among ourselves.

57

00:02:24,310 --> 00:02:27,040

And, ooh, you know, whoopie do.

58

00:02:27,040 --> 00:02:30,070

Because, at that time,
we were right next

59

00:02:30,070 --> 00:02:32,260

to the 34th Evacuation Hospital.

60

00:02:32,260 --> 00:02:34,810

They had brought
us in, and we were

61

00:02:34,810 --> 00:02:37,960

supposed to help them
out or relieve them

62

00:02:37,960 --> 00:02:39,860
of some of their duties.

63

00:02:39,860 --> 00:02:42,350
They didn't like us,
and we didn't like them.

64

00:02:42,350 --> 00:02:47,710
And I think it was just
an ego trip, you know,

65

00:02:47,710 --> 00:02:49,270
that maybe the
nurses were afraid

66

00:02:49,270 --> 00:02:51,640
that we'd infringe on their
officers, or whatever.

67

00:02:51,640 --> 00:02:53,980
But we could care
less, you know?

68

00:02:53,980 --> 00:02:58,360
We were our own-- we were very
cliquey, as you could notice--

69

00:02:58,360 --> 00:03:00,850
and we were our own
little establishment.

70

00:03:00,850 --> 00:03:04,110
And so we did what we
had to do, and they

71

00:03:04,110 --> 00:03:06,220
did what they had to do--

72

00:03:06,220 --> 00:03:08,563
until our men up and
left us, and then we

73

00:03:08,563 --> 00:03:10,480
had to stay with the
34th because they would--

74
00:03:10,480 --> 00:03:11,750
Well, what happened there?

75
00:03:11,750 --> 00:03:12,250
Your--

76
00:03:12,250 --> 00:03:14,720
Well, that was
right after VE Day,

77
00:03:14,720 --> 00:03:16,810
maybe two days after,
three days after.

78
00:03:16,810 --> 00:03:20,950
I'm not sure on what date.

79
00:03:20,950 --> 00:03:22,990
We were used to
hearing our tents

80
00:03:22,990 --> 00:03:27,310
being pulled down because the
hospital was always moving.

81
00:03:27,310 --> 00:03:31,330
And, one morning, there's
tents coming down,

82
00:03:31,330 --> 00:03:34,270
and they came and told us we
had to move out of our tents,

83
00:03:34,270 --> 00:03:35,985
but we weren't going with them.

84
00:03:35,985 --> 00:03:39,730
And they had one big tent,
so all of us, 40 nurses,

85
00:03:39,730 --> 00:03:43,450
were in this one big tent.

86
00:03:43,450 --> 00:03:46,360
We had to stay
behind, and we just

87
00:03:46,360 --> 00:03:51,370
felt so abandoned because we'd
been a family for so long.

88
00:03:51,370 --> 00:03:52,937
How could you do this, you know?

89
00:03:52,937 --> 00:03:54,520
"We're going on to
Austria, and you're

90
00:03:54,520 --> 00:03:56,860
staying here with the 34th."

91
00:03:56,860 --> 00:04:00,190
And, oh, there were
tears because we

92
00:04:00,190 --> 00:04:02,590
had some romances going on.

93
00:04:02,590 --> 00:04:06,700
And, you know, "We don't know.

94
00:04:06,700 --> 00:04:08,170
We don't know nothing.

95
00:04:08,170 --> 00:04:09,280
You stay here.

96
00:04:09,280 --> 00:04:10,330
They'll feed you.

97

00:04:10,330 --> 00:04:13,030
You work with them,"
and that's it.

98
00:04:13,030 --> 00:04:18,610
And some of these girls
were angry and some were sad

99
00:04:18,610 --> 00:04:20,470
and some were indignant.

100
00:04:20,470 --> 00:04:22,930
Because how could
they do this to us?

101
00:04:22,930 --> 00:04:26,230
You know, we're part of this
unit, and they're leaving us.

102
00:04:26,230 --> 00:04:30,590
But off they went, and
we didn't know why.

103
00:04:30,590 --> 00:04:31,750
And so we made hay.

104
00:04:31,750 --> 00:04:34,944
You know, we played
around and made--

105
00:04:34,944 --> 00:04:39,718
ah, (LAUGHS) we did
what we had to do.

106
00:04:39,718 --> 00:04:41,010
You worked with the other unit?

107
00:04:41,010 --> 00:04:42,350
We worked with the other unit.

108
00:04:42,350 --> 00:04:43,210
Not too much.

109

00:04:43,210 --> 00:04:45,610

They were getting rid
of-- their patients

110

00:04:45,610 --> 00:04:49,900

were being pushed out and back
to the general hospitals, too.

111

00:04:49,900 --> 00:04:55,960

And I can't remember except
for just horsing around.

112

00:04:55,960 --> 00:04:57,490

Like, we found that
old cart, and we

113

00:04:57,490 --> 00:05:01,540

used to run around the
place pulling this cart.

114

00:05:01,540 --> 00:05:02,380

Horse cart?

115

00:05:02,380 --> 00:05:03,400

Well, it was--

116

00:05:03,400 --> 00:05:04,270

I don't know what.

117

00:05:04,270 --> 00:05:06,610

It-- maybe it was, but
it was like a push cart,

118

00:05:06,610 --> 00:05:07,960

but a big push cart.

119

00:05:07,960 --> 00:05:10,430

We'd put two of the girls
in it and two would pull it,

120

00:05:10,430 --> 00:05:10,930

you know.

121
00:05:10,930 --> 00:05:13,750
And, oh, it was stupid,
you know, but it was silly.

122
00:05:13,750 --> 00:05:16,910
And I can remember sunbathing.

123
00:05:16,910 --> 00:05:19,930
We-- it was getting, you
know, it was May then,

124
00:05:19,930 --> 00:05:23,590
and it was getting warm.

125
00:05:23,590 --> 00:05:27,130
And the earth, I can
still smell the earth.

126
00:05:27,130 --> 00:05:30,020
The earth was very sour.

127
00:05:30,020 --> 00:05:32,350
We were set up in
what might have

128
00:05:32,350 --> 00:05:35,000
been a pasture or something.

129
00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:39,970
And you don't realize, America,
here, is a new country,

130
00:05:39,970 --> 00:05:41,500
and our earth is still new.

131
00:05:41,500 --> 00:05:46,690
But that's centuries-old
over there, and it stunk.

132
00:05:46,690 --> 00:05:50,225
The earth was sour, like--

133
00:05:50,225 --> 00:05:53,600
like it was moldy, but
it had [? an odor. ?]

134
00:05:53,600 --> 00:05:57,100
So when the sun hit it, ooh!

135
00:05:57,100 --> 00:06:01,810
But anyhow, one morning,
down the dirt road

136
00:06:01,810 --> 00:06:04,630
comes our trucks trundling
around and, yeah,

137
00:06:04,630 --> 00:06:05,500
tooting the horn.

138
00:06:05,500 --> 00:06:07,700
You know, "Pack
your bags, girls.

139
00:06:07,700 --> 00:06:09,100
We're going."

140
00:06:09,100 --> 00:06:12,130
And you didn't see a
happier bunch, you know,

141
00:06:12,130 --> 00:06:13,570
and in the trucks we went.

142
00:06:13,570 --> 00:06:16,180
One [? truck was ?] for
our bedrolls and two trucks

143
00:06:16,180 --> 00:06:17,980
for the nurses.

144
00:06:17,980 --> 00:06:22,990
And off we went,

singing all the way.

145
00:06:22,990 --> 00:06:25,045
And the tarp was down
off of the trucks

146
00:06:25,045 --> 00:06:27,730
because it was nice weather.

147
00:06:27,730 --> 00:06:29,180
And we didn't even ask.

148
00:06:29,180 --> 00:06:33,700
We just went and sang and
drove through the roads.

149
00:06:33,700 --> 00:06:36,310
And the countryside
was so beautiful,

150
00:06:36,310 --> 00:06:39,280
Tyrolean houses with
the flower boxes.

151
00:06:39,280 --> 00:06:41,710
And all the flowers
were starting to bloom.

152
00:06:41,710 --> 00:06:44,230
And then we crossed the--

153
00:06:44,230 --> 00:06:48,100
into Austria, and you
could see these rolling

154
00:06:48,100 --> 00:06:49,450
Alps in the background.

155
00:06:49,450 --> 00:06:52,525
Some still had snow on
it, and it was just ideal.

156

00:06:52,525 --> 00:06:56,560

We were in heaven,
really in heaven.

157

00:06:56,560 --> 00:06:57,770

The war was over.

158

00:06:57,770 --> 00:06:58,930

Yeah, the war was over.

159

00:06:58,930 --> 00:07:03,400

And this was beautiful
and serene and happy.

160

00:07:03,400 --> 00:07:05,310

And what more could you ask for?

161

00:07:05,310 --> 00:07:10,540

And there's the Danube, and
we crossed the Danube at Linz.

162

00:07:10,540 --> 00:07:13,750

And I remember going across the
bridge at Linz and the Danube,

163

00:07:13,750 --> 00:07:17,770

and someone mentioned, "This
is the city Hitler was born in.

164

00:07:17,770 --> 00:07:20,230

Linz, Austria, he
was born here."

165

00:07:20,230 --> 00:07:21,210

So?

166

00:07:21,210 --> 00:07:23,330

[LAUGHS] He ain't
around anymore.

167

00:07:23,330 --> 00:07:24,580

We don't care.

168

00:07:24,580 --> 00:07:27,790

And we drove out, just through
a corner of Linz itself,

169

00:07:27,790 --> 00:07:28,750

and off we went.

170

00:07:28,750 --> 00:07:32,380

All alongside the river, we
were driving, just beautiful,

171

00:07:32,380 --> 00:07:37,360

singing away, having a ball.

172

00:07:37,360 --> 00:07:38,590

How long did you travel?

173

00:07:38,590 --> 00:07:39,430

Just one day?

174

00:07:39,430 --> 00:07:39,950

Oh, yeah.

175

00:07:39,950 --> 00:07:41,260

Not even a whole day.

176

00:07:41,260 --> 00:07:42,160

It wasn't that long.

177

00:07:42,160 --> 00:07:47,680

I think we were not too far
from the Austrian border.

178

00:07:47,680 --> 00:07:51,700

And, all of the sudden,
the singing stopped.

179

00:07:51,700 --> 00:07:54,080

One by one, we stopped singing.

180

00:07:54,080 --> 00:07:55,900

(WHISPERING) Something's wrong.

181

00:07:55,900 --> 00:07:56,650

Something's wrong.

182

00:07:56,650 --> 00:07:57,280

What's wrong?

183

00:07:57,280 --> 00:07:58,090

I don't know.

184

00:07:58,090 --> 00:07:59,560

What's wrong?

185

00:07:59,560 --> 00:08:02,010

[SNIFFING]

186

00:08:02,010 --> 00:08:05,130

Something's the
matter with the air.

187

00:08:05,130 --> 00:08:09,436

We didn't even see the
place, and we could smell it.

188

00:08:09,436 --> 00:08:13,110

And the truck came down around
a corner, and there she was--

189

00:08:13,110 --> 00:08:18,310

this big gray granite
wall with guard

190

00:08:18,310 --> 00:08:22,420

houses every so often,
barbed wire on the tent.

191

00:08:22,420 --> 00:08:25,570

And we just-- first,
your mouth would open,

192

00:08:25,570 --> 00:08:28,930

and then your hand
went over your mouth.

193
00:08:28,930 --> 00:08:30,890
And we drove up in front
of these huge gates.

194
00:08:30,890 --> 00:08:31,390
[CLATTERING]

195
00:08:31,390 --> 00:08:32,733
Watch your microphone.

196
00:08:32,733 --> 00:08:33,520
Yeah.

197
00:08:33,520 --> 00:08:36,730
Drove up in front
of these huge gates.

198
00:08:36,730 --> 00:08:39,520
And, usually, the enlisted men
got right out of the trucks

199
00:08:39,520 --> 00:08:42,159
and opened the tailgate for
us so we could get down.

200
00:08:42,159 --> 00:08:43,629
This time, they didn't.

201
00:08:43,629 --> 00:08:46,120
The gates were shut.

202
00:08:46,120 --> 00:08:50,170
And we just sat there, all
with our hands over our mouth,

203
00:08:50,170 --> 00:08:53,470
eyes as big as saucers.

204
00:08:53,470 --> 00:08:55,660

At that time, we
didn't see any bodies.

205
00:08:55,660 --> 00:08:57,550
There were a few--

206
00:08:57,550 --> 00:08:59,740
I like to call
them stick figures.

207
00:08:59,740 --> 00:09:02,200
You know how you
draw a stick figure?

208
00:09:02,200 --> 00:09:03,400
Their hips stuck out.

209
00:09:03,400 --> 00:09:09,550
Their legs came down, and this
little ball on top for a head.

210
00:09:09,550 --> 00:09:11,920
A couple of them
were walking around.

211
00:09:11,920 --> 00:09:13,180
Outside of the gates?

212
00:09:13,180 --> 00:09:15,850
No, inside, because
we were inside the--

213
00:09:15,850 --> 00:09:18,460
the wall came around,
and then big gate

214
00:09:18,460 --> 00:09:22,700
was in here, on the blockhouse.

215
00:09:22,700 --> 00:09:27,930
And some had
striped uniforms on.

216

00:09:27,930 --> 00:09:32,902

Some had just a blanket
on them, stark naked.

217

00:09:32,902 --> 00:09:34,860

Some had the blanket
wrapped around their heads

218

00:09:34,860 --> 00:09:36,435

so you wouldn't
know who they were.

219

00:09:36,435 --> 00:09:38,040

They were afraid of
being recognized.

220

00:09:38,040 --> 00:09:43,860

That's how-- and, you
know, (WHISPERING) what?

221

00:09:43,860 --> 00:09:46,040

What is this?

222

00:09:46,040 --> 00:09:50,610

And the other girls may have
told you the same thing.

223

00:09:50,610 --> 00:09:54,690

Our Colonel came out, and the
first words out of his mouth

224

00:09:54,690 --> 00:10:00,370

were, "There no Americans
here," which would-- (SIGHING)

225

00:10:00,370 --> 00:10:02,620

because you didn't know
what you were looking at.

226

00:10:02,620 --> 00:10:05,080

There was no
identification on them.

227

00:10:05,080 --> 00:10:07,650

You were afraid it could have
been an American POW camp?

228

00:10:07,650 --> 00:10:07,865

Yeah.

229

00:10:07,865 --> 00:10:08,080

Yeah.

230

00:10:08,080 --> 00:10:08,410

Yeah.

231

00:10:08,410 --> 00:10:09,077

You didn't know.

232

00:10:09,077 --> 00:10:09,790

Yeah.

233

00:10:09,790 --> 00:10:10,930

We didn't know.

234

00:10:10,930 --> 00:10:12,200

You couldn't tell.

235

00:10:12,200 --> 00:10:14,138

[? Was ?] just a-- hmm.

236

00:10:14,138 --> 00:10:17,000

237

00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:19,970

So then he started
his little spiel

238

00:10:19,970 --> 00:10:25,290

about, "You girls were not
sent over here to do this work.

239

00:10:25,290 --> 00:10:28,880

You girls were not

trained to do this work.

240
00:10:28,880 --> 00:10:32,670
You girls were not-- are not
equipped to do this work,

241
00:10:32,670 --> 00:10:38,060
and I will not order any
one of you in this camp."

242
00:10:38,060 --> 00:10:40,250
He was visibly upset.

243
00:10:40,250 --> 00:10:45,590
And I personally think that
he had grandiose plans of,

244
00:10:45,590 --> 00:10:50,600
for himself, being in
some nice hospital doing

245
00:10:50,600 --> 00:10:52,820
some great deeds.

246
00:10:52,820 --> 00:10:53,368
I don't know.

247
00:10:53,368 --> 00:10:54,410
That's my personal thing.

248
00:10:54,410 --> 00:10:55,820
This was your
Commanding Officer?

249
00:10:55,820 --> 00:10:56,690
Commanding Officer.

250
00:10:56,690 --> 00:10:57,440
What was his name.

251
00:10:57,440 --> 00:11:03,710
Colonel Dale Friend, who

was quite a researcher

252

00:11:03,710 --> 00:11:05,675
at Peter Bent Brigham
Hospital in Boston.

253

00:11:05,675 --> 00:11:09,380

254

00:11:09,380 --> 00:11:13,130
But so, after he gave
his spiel, the GIs

255

00:11:13,130 --> 00:11:15,760
let down those tailgates,
and we jumped out

256

00:11:15,760 --> 00:11:18,060
to a one, every one of them.

257

00:11:18,060 --> 00:11:22,823
And I think he was shocked that
we all responded in that way

258

00:11:22,823 --> 00:11:23,990
because he just stood there.

259

00:11:23,990 --> 00:11:26,090
"Now, wait a minute," he says.

260

00:11:26,090 --> 00:11:28,880
"There's going to be rules
and regulations," or words

261

00:11:28,880 --> 00:11:30,950
to that effect.

262

00:11:30,950 --> 00:11:32,990
"You can't be here after dark.

263

00:11:32,990 --> 00:11:34,940
You can't be here by yourself.

264
00:11:34,940 --> 00:11:37,260
At all times, you're
with another person,

265
00:11:37,260 --> 00:11:38,540
even in the wards.

266
00:11:38,540 --> 00:11:40,520
You have to be
completely covered.

267
00:11:40,520 --> 00:11:44,820
I don't want them to even
know you're a female."

268
00:11:44,820 --> 00:11:48,620
We had-- we're supposed to
wear our the turbans, masks

269
00:11:48,620 --> 00:11:53,930
over our face, our
dungarees that we had,

270
00:11:53,930 --> 00:11:57,620
little puttees around
our ankles and our boots.

271
00:11:57,620 --> 00:11:58,290
What are those?

272
00:11:58,290 --> 00:11:58,790
I'm sorry.

273
00:11:58,790 --> 00:12:01,130
Puttees are actually
left over from World War

274
00:12:01,130 --> 00:12:08,180
I. They're canvas, like a ski
sock, and they buckle across,

275

00:12:08,180 --> 00:12:11,340
so they keep your
pants into your boots.

276
00:12:11,340 --> 00:12:14,180
Because, of course, typhus
was such a rage there.

277
00:12:14,180 --> 00:12:17,000
Anything get up your
pants, and you had it.

278
00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:21,260
So-- although we'd
all been inoculated.

279
00:12:21,260 --> 00:12:28,070
So, with that, you know, they
took us to our nurses quarters

280
00:12:28,070 --> 00:12:32,030
because we didn't go right
into the camp itself then,

281
00:12:32,030 --> 00:12:32,990
and which was nice.

282
00:12:32,990 --> 00:12:34,520
It was the first
time we had nice--

283
00:12:34,520 --> 00:12:36,290
and we had three nice houses.

284
00:12:36,290 --> 00:12:37,290
I think that were three.

285
00:12:37,290 --> 00:12:40,370
Yeah, three nice houses
up on top of a hill

286
00:12:40,370 --> 00:12:42,020
overlooking the Danube.

287
00:12:42,020 --> 00:12:43,130
Couldn't have been better.

288
00:12:43,130 --> 00:12:46,860
And these German girls,
oh, ooh, you know, "I do.

289
00:12:46,860 --> 00:12:47,360
I do.

290
00:12:47,360 --> 00:12:47,990
Can I do?

291
00:12:47,990 --> 00:12:48,590
Can I do?"

292
00:12:48,590 --> 00:12:50,150
You know, they
[? couldn't ?] do it.

293
00:12:50,150 --> 00:12:51,950
Like, one of the
girls was saying,

294
00:12:51,950 --> 00:12:55,727
today, "You remember, you
put down your panties,

295
00:12:55,727 --> 00:12:57,560
and they's snatch them
up and go wash them?"

296
00:12:57,560 --> 00:13:00,150
You'd put them-- take
them out to put them on,

297
00:13:00,150 --> 00:13:00,980
and they're gone.

298
00:13:00,980 --> 00:13:02,620
She's out there washing them.

299
00:13:02,620 --> 00:13:03,120
They could--

300
00:13:03,120 --> 00:13:04,200
They were from the local?

301
00:13:04,200 --> 00:13:04,700
Yeah.

302
00:13:04,700 --> 00:13:05,330
From Linz?

303
00:13:05,330 --> 00:13:05,830
Yeah.

304
00:13:05,830 --> 00:13:07,820
Yeah, they couldn't
do enough for you.

305
00:13:07,820 --> 00:13:13,510
And I-- still having
this hatred in me--

306
00:13:13,510 --> 00:13:14,010
hey.

307
00:13:14,010 --> 00:13:14,780
You know?

308
00:13:14,780 --> 00:13:17,330
Who are you trying
to kid, you know?

309
00:13:17,330 --> 00:13:19,040
Which side were
you on, you know?

310
00:13:19,040 --> 00:13:20,920
Now, you turn turncoat?

311

00:13:20,920 --> 00:13:23,780

I didn't trust anybody
that was like that.

312

00:13:23,780 --> 00:13:27,440

I really couldn't.

313

00:13:27,440 --> 00:13:31,420

I figured, last week, you were
doing that for the Germans.

314

00:13:31,420 --> 00:13:34,535

But, anyhow.

315

00:13:34,535 --> 00:13:35,410

They were good to us.

316

00:13:35,410 --> 00:13:37,020

And what-- had they been
working for the German officers?

317

00:13:37,020 --> 00:13:37,490

I don't know.

318

00:13:37,490 --> 00:13:37,930

I don't know.

319

00:13:37,930 --> 00:13:38,555

You don't know?

320

00:13:38,555 --> 00:13:40,210

I wouldn't be surprised.

321

00:13:40,210 --> 00:13:41,770

You know?

322

00:13:41,770 --> 00:13:45,910

And, there again, it's
survival, a sense of survival,

323

00:13:45,910 --> 00:13:49,060

just like the poor

inmates in the camp.

324

00:13:49,060 --> 00:13:53,770

Why did this one live,
and thousands other die?

325

00:13:53,770 --> 00:13:54,670

They had a survival.

326

00:13:54,670 --> 00:13:57,810

327

00:13:57,810 --> 00:14:02,330

And I'm sure a lot
of them must have

328

00:14:02,330 --> 00:14:05,390

had a guilty complex
going home, especially

329

00:14:05,390 --> 00:14:07,030

if their whole family died.

330

00:14:07,030 --> 00:14:08,100

Why did he live?

331

00:14:08,100 --> 00:14:11,990

332

00:14:11,990 --> 00:14:15,380

That's-- you know, I would have
no idea what that feeling is

333

00:14:15,380 --> 00:14:19,340

like, but I imagine there must
be a lot but that had that

334

00:14:19,340 --> 00:14:19,840

feeling.

335

00:14:19,840 --> 00:14:23,620

336
00:14:23,620 --> 00:14:27,520
So you would have your
quarters, and then they

337
00:14:27,520 --> 00:14:28,900
would come and get you?

338
00:14:28,900 --> 00:14:30,340
And you would go
down to the can?

339
00:14:30,340 --> 00:14:32,970
Yeah, the trucks would always
take-- we couldn't walk.

340
00:14:32,970 --> 00:14:36,040
We weren't supposed to be
walking outside the areas

341
00:14:36,040 --> 00:14:39,910
because you didn't know
what was out there.

342
00:14:39,910 --> 00:14:41,990
The trucks would bring
us down to the camp,

343
00:14:41,990 --> 00:14:43,900
and we would work and eat.

344
00:14:43,900 --> 00:14:46,360
And they'd take us back to
quarters, and we stayed there.

345
00:14:46,360 --> 00:14:47,410
And the name of the camp?

346
00:14:47,410 --> 00:14:53,320
It was Camp Gusen, and which
was a satellite of Mauthausen.

347

00:14:53,320 --> 00:14:56,875
Mauthausen was up on the
hill, and they brought down--

348
00:14:56,875 --> 00:14:59,650
well, Gusen, had enough
of its own patients,

349
00:14:59,650 --> 00:15:02,980
but some of the
patients from Mauthausen

350
00:15:02,980 --> 00:15:06,070
because there was no
medical facilities up there.

351
00:15:06,070 --> 00:15:09,550

352
00:15:09,550 --> 00:15:12,100
And our wards were set up--
they must have told you--

353
00:15:12,100 --> 00:15:15,250
in the former SS barracks.

354
00:15:15,250 --> 00:15:18,400
But we used the same,
I guess you'd call it--

355
00:15:18,400 --> 00:15:22,450
the same three-tiered
bunks for the inmates,

356
00:15:22,450 --> 00:15:24,730
except there was only
one and each bunk instead

357
00:15:24,730 --> 00:15:27,490
of three or four.

358
00:15:27,490 --> 00:15:28,840
And they had beds of straw.

359

00:15:28,840 --> 00:15:33,640

Because I-- you know, I never
questioned, when I was there,

360

00:15:33,640 --> 00:15:36,870

where did all these
blankets come from?

361

00:15:36,870 --> 00:15:39,240

Where'd these pajamas come from?

362

00:15:39,240 --> 00:15:42,030

And evidently, they
must have flown them in.

363

00:15:42,030 --> 00:15:45,300

And it wasn't-- this Mike
[? Warber, ?] who I'd wanted

364

00:15:45,300 --> 00:15:50,010

to come, he told me, and I
didn't realize it at the time,

365

00:15:50,010 --> 00:15:54,720

there were two units that
were sent in which were called

366

00:15:54,720 --> 00:15:56,310

delousing units.

367

00:15:56,310 --> 00:15:58,800

That's all they did.

368

00:15:58,800 --> 00:16:02,820

And they were behind the
walls because these guys all--

369

00:16:02,820 --> 00:16:05,180

inmates, patients, whatever
you want to call them--

370

00:16:05,180 --> 00:16:08,460
had to be completely deloused
before they were brought out

371
00:16:08,460 --> 00:16:09,870
to us.

372
00:16:09,870 --> 00:16:12,010
So that had been going
on before you arrived?

373
00:16:12,010 --> 00:16:12,510
Yeah.

374
00:16:12,510 --> 00:16:14,490
Yeah, before we arrived.

375
00:16:14,490 --> 00:16:16,710
And then, and while
we were there because,

376
00:16:16,710 --> 00:16:20,370
as we would have, say,
eight deaths a night,

377
00:16:20,370 --> 00:16:24,540
we'd have eight empty
beds they'd bring out.

378
00:16:24,540 --> 00:16:27,440
But they were doing
this behind the wall,

379
00:16:27,440 --> 00:16:29,730
washing them down
and delousing them

380
00:16:29,730 --> 00:16:33,480
and giving them either a
blanket or pajamas, whatever

381
00:16:33,480 --> 00:16:35,025
was flown in.

382
00:16:35,025 --> 00:16:37,400
And I didn't know about that,
and I didn't even question.

383
00:16:37,400 --> 00:16:38,400
Where's this all coming?

384
00:16:38,400 --> 00:16:40,680
I should have said, how come?

385
00:16:40,680 --> 00:16:43,060
You know?

386
00:16:43,060 --> 00:16:44,370
And what did you do, then?

387
00:16:44,370 --> 00:16:45,600
You would come every day--

388
00:16:45,600 --> 00:16:45,840
We'd come--

389
00:16:45,840 --> 00:16:46,740
--into the same ward?

390
00:16:46,740 --> 00:16:48,390
Into the same ward, yeah.

391
00:16:48,390 --> 00:16:50,610
And how many people
would be in there?

392
00:16:50,610 --> 00:16:51,120
Do you know?

393
00:16:51,120 --> 00:16:53,940
(SIGHING) Whew.

394
00:16:53,940 --> 00:16:58,020
I would say at least a

hundred, but I am not sure.

395
00:16:58,020 --> 00:16:58,960
120?

396
00:16:58,960 --> 00:16:59,760
140?

397
00:16:59,760 --> 00:17:00,825
I'm not sure.

398
00:17:00,825 --> 00:17:06,510
There were rooms on both sides,
and they were big, big rooms,

399
00:17:06,510 --> 00:17:07,020
and--

400
00:17:07,020 --> 00:17:08,410
And the hallway in the middle?

401
00:17:08,410 --> 00:17:10,405
Big hallway, and
there were open door

402
00:17:10,405 --> 00:17:12,030
here and an open door
at the other end,

403
00:17:12,030 --> 00:17:15,030
so you could-- the hallway
itself was very dark,

404
00:17:15,030 --> 00:17:17,410
but you could see light
at the end of the tunnel.

405
00:17:17,410 --> 00:17:18,930
And I like to think of that.

406
00:17:18,930 --> 00:17:22,740
Yes, there is a light at

the end of the tunnel.

407

00:17:22,740 --> 00:17:27,329

One of-- and I think I
told you that we were not

408

00:17:27,329 --> 00:17:31,110

allowed to have any physical
contact with the patients.

409

00:17:31,110 --> 00:17:34,320

We could not-- inmates,
whatever you want to call them--

410

00:17:34,320 --> 00:17:38,490

we were not allowed to
give them nursing care.

411

00:17:38,490 --> 00:17:42,390

And they brought in
either prisoners of war,

412

00:17:42,390 --> 00:17:47,580

German prisoners of war, or
people from the community,

413

00:17:47,580 --> 00:17:50,820

went out in trucks
and rounded them up.

414

00:17:50,820 --> 00:17:55,200

And they stayed there
for the day, fed, washed,

415

00:17:55,200 --> 00:17:59,970

and cleaned these guys,
did what they could.

416

00:17:59,970 --> 00:18:01,210

So you didn't touch them?

417

00:18:01,210 --> 00:18:02,400

We didn't touch them.

418
00:18:02,400 --> 00:18:04,030
We weren't allowed
to touch them.

419
00:18:04,030 --> 00:18:07,470
The only thing we did
was give them medication.

420
00:18:07,470 --> 00:18:08,330
Every day?

421
00:18:08,330 --> 00:18:08,970
Every day.

422
00:18:08,970 --> 00:18:10,680
Those that need it.

423
00:18:10,680 --> 00:18:15,370
We learned the word
"diarrhea" in three languages,

424
00:18:15,370 --> 00:18:19,380
and I'm not sure that I can
even say the names today,

425
00:18:19,380 --> 00:18:20,910
and I'm sure they were true.

426
00:18:20,910 --> 00:18:25,740
Because one was Russian, one was
Polish, and one was, I guess,

427
00:18:25,740 --> 00:18:30,270
French because we had a
very sweet Frenchman who

428
00:18:30,270 --> 00:18:32,850
spoke beautiful English.

429
00:18:32,850 --> 00:18:34,850
And whatever we were

saying, he says,

430

00:18:34,850 --> 00:18:39,660

"Sister," because they call
the nurses Sister, "don't say."

431

00:18:39,660 --> 00:18:42,930

And I think we were--

432

00:18:42,930 --> 00:18:44,670

I forget the word
we were saying.

433

00:18:44,670 --> 00:18:48,140

But, excuse me, but we
were saying "shits."

434

00:18:48,140 --> 00:18:49,110

[LAUGHTER]

435

00:18:49,110 --> 00:18:53,190

And he wanted-- he
said, "It's diarrhea."

436

00:18:53,190 --> 00:18:54,480

"That's not nice," he said.

437

00:18:54,480 --> 00:18:56,790

Because we'd stand at the
[? hall-- ?] at the door

438

00:18:56,790 --> 00:19:01,320

and yell out these three words,
and those who had diarrhea

439

00:19:01,320 --> 00:19:03,840

would raise their little
old hand up, you know.

440

00:19:03,840 --> 00:19:08,320

And we'd go over and we'd
give them the medicine.

441

00:19:08,320 --> 00:19:09,880

And that's how you
cared for them?

442

00:19:09,880 --> 00:19:10,380

What was--

443

00:19:10,380 --> 00:19:12,850

That's the only--
well, I don't think

444

00:19:12,850 --> 00:19:17,680

we kept any records,
maybe number-wise.

445

00:19:17,680 --> 00:19:19,765

And things like that,
I don't remember.

446

00:19:19,765 --> 00:19:22,223

447

00:19:22,223 --> 00:19:23,890

I know we didn't keep
records because we

448

00:19:23,890 --> 00:19:26,620

didn't know their names.

449

00:19:26,620 --> 00:19:29,170

Towards the end
of our stay there,

450

00:19:29,170 --> 00:19:33,460

things seemed to ease,
maybe because we'd

451

00:19:33,460 --> 00:19:39,010

been there long enough to
not be so tense, that we

452

00:19:39,010 --> 00:19:40,960

were able to talk to
some of the patients

453
00:19:40,960 --> 00:19:43,030
through an interpreter.

454
00:19:43,030 --> 00:19:50,330
And I got a couple of names
that I wrote to their--

455
00:19:50,330 --> 00:19:52,360
one was a sister
back in the States

456
00:19:52,360 --> 00:19:55,150
and one was some other
kind of a relative--

457
00:19:55,150 --> 00:19:57,280
to tell them.

458
00:19:57,280 --> 00:20:01,680
They're begging, "Tell
America I'm here," you know.

459
00:20:01,680 --> 00:20:03,580
And, at that time,
you couldn't say

460
00:20:03,580 --> 00:20:07,120
exactly where they were,
just "someplace in Austria"

461
00:20:07,120 --> 00:20:10,810
was the term you had to use,
and you couldn't say exactly

462
00:20:10,810 --> 00:20:13,750
what their condition was.

463
00:20:13,750 --> 00:20:16,810
When I got back to
the States, and I

464
00:20:16,810 --> 00:20:19,000
must have given my address
back in the States,

465
00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:24,110
I got a letter from one
woman in Evanston, Illinois.

466
00:20:24,110 --> 00:20:30,280
And she had gotten my letter
and sent me a check for \$50

467
00:20:30,280 --> 00:20:31,840
to do something for her brother.

468
00:20:31,840 --> 00:20:33,423
It was her brother.

469
00:20:33,423 --> 00:20:35,590
And so, by this time, I'm
back in the United States,

470
00:20:35,590 --> 00:20:37,960
so I wrote back to
her exactly where

471
00:20:37,960 --> 00:20:43,100
he was, exactly his condition,
and sent her back the \$50.

472
00:20:43,100 --> 00:20:45,530
Hopefully, he was still alive.

473
00:20:45,530 --> 00:20:47,680
And I said, "Contact
your Red Cross.

474
00:20:47,680 --> 00:20:50,680
Now you know exactly
where he was.

475

00:20:50,680 --> 00:20:53,910

Whether he's still there
now, I don't know."

476

00:20:53,910 --> 00:20:58,210

I never heard from the
other one that I wrote to.

477

00:20:58,210 --> 00:21:02,213

So I, sometimes, I think,
I wonder how he made out.

478

00:21:02,213 --> 00:21:03,380

Did he make it out of there?

479

00:21:03,380 --> 00:21:06,064

Did he make it to America?

480

00:21:06,064 --> 00:21:06,920

So.

481

00:21:06,920 --> 00:21:10,360

So you did-- you
were, after a while,

482

00:21:10,360 --> 00:21:14,130

able to have some communication
with some of the people.

483

00:21:14,130 --> 00:21:15,070

Some of them.

484

00:21:15,070 --> 00:21:16,600

Not very many.

485

00:21:16,600 --> 00:21:19,600

Our corpsman happened
to be a great guy.

486

00:21:19,600 --> 00:21:25,570

He was-- I think he was Mexican,
and he spoke Spanish fluently.

487

00:21:25,570 --> 00:21:28,960

And he could speak a few
words of German or Polish,

488

00:21:28,960 --> 00:21:31,510

whatever it was,
and he was able to--

489

00:21:31,510 --> 00:21:32,020

well, this.

490

00:21:32,020 --> 00:21:35,320

You know, and then you could
do with hand signals, too.

491

00:21:35,320 --> 00:21:41,100

And there wasn't much you
could talk to them about.

492

00:21:41,100 --> 00:21:42,720

They were too weak,
for one thing.

493

00:21:42,720 --> 00:21:45,710

494

00:21:45,710 --> 00:21:47,280

I don't know if I told you that.

495

00:21:47,280 --> 00:21:49,220

And [? Eckie ?]
knows I will tell you

496

00:21:49,220 --> 00:21:54,080

the story where we weren't
supposed to look like women.

497

00:21:54,080 --> 00:21:57,420

And, like I told you, we used
to give out these medicines

498

00:21:57,420 --> 00:21:57,920

together.

499

00:21:57,920 --> 00:21:59,300

And she'd give
the pills, and I'd

500

00:21:59,300 --> 00:22:02,540

be behind her with a
bottle of whatever it

501

00:22:02,540 --> 00:22:04,820

was I had to pour out
and give it to them.

502

00:22:04,820 --> 00:22:06,150

And I'm waiting for her.

503

00:22:06,150 --> 00:22:09,200

She's bending over,
giving this guy his pills.

504

00:22:09,200 --> 00:22:12,755

And out from the other bunk
comes this little bony hand,

505

00:22:12,755 --> 00:22:15,260

and pats her on the fanny.

506

00:22:15,260 --> 00:22:20,300

And I'm standing there, not
laughing out loud, but saying,

507

00:22:20,300 --> 00:22:21,990

there's hope for them after all.

508

00:22:21,990 --> 00:22:23,450

There's still life in them.

509

00:22:23,450 --> 00:22:25,340

You know, really.

510

00:22:25,340 --> 00:22:27,170

And, of course, she
didn't even feel it.

511
00:22:27,170 --> 00:22:28,950
It was so weak.

512
00:22:28,950 --> 00:22:31,601
And when she stood up, and I'm--

513
00:22:31,601 --> 00:22:34,730
and I says, "Who are we kidding?"

514
00:22:34,730 --> 00:22:36,680
They know who we are."

515
00:22:36,680 --> 00:22:38,225
And she-- why?

516
00:22:38,225 --> 00:22:40,530
And I get tears.

517
00:22:40,530 --> 00:22:43,670
But I can still see
him, now, doing that.

518
00:22:43,670 --> 00:22:45,170
It was cute.

519
00:22:45,170 --> 00:22:45,800
Yeah.

520
00:22:45,800 --> 00:22:47,290
It was pathetic,
but it was cute.

521
00:22:47,290 --> 00:22:50,285
Did you know who
these people were?

522
00:22:50,285 --> 00:22:54,260
Were they-- I mean, some, they
were from different countries.

523
00:22:54,260 --> 00:22:56,270
Were there-- there were
some Jewish people?

524
00:22:56,270 --> 00:22:56,770
Oh.

525
00:22:56,770 --> 00:22:57,800
Mostly Jewish people?

526
00:22:57,800 --> 00:22:57,950
I think there were--

527
00:22:57,950 --> 00:22:58,450
Do you know?

528
00:22:58,450 --> 00:23:03,410
I couldn't swear, but I would
say I thought most of them

529
00:23:03,410 --> 00:23:04,095
were Jewish.

530
00:23:04,095 --> 00:23:04,970
At the time, you did.

531
00:23:04,970 --> 00:23:05,240
Yeah.

532
00:23:05,240 --> 00:23:05,740
Yeah.

533
00:23:05,740 --> 00:23:07,760
But we had Frenchmen.

534
00:23:07,760 --> 00:23:10,910
We had one Spanish guy
who worked on the ward.

535
00:23:10,910 --> 00:23:13,160

He was another one I
didn't trust because he

536
00:23:13,160 --> 00:23:16,790
was a trusty for the Germans.

537
00:23:16,790 --> 00:23:19,070
And he was-- looked
well-preserved.

538
00:23:19,070 --> 00:23:22,040
And he had been in
the Spanish Revolution

539
00:23:22,040 --> 00:23:24,620
and had gotten caught,
somehow and, you know,

540
00:23:24,620 --> 00:23:26,900
when the Germans
helped them out.

541
00:23:26,900 --> 00:23:29,960
Roberto, his name was.

542
00:23:29,960 --> 00:23:31,220
But he helped us out.

543
00:23:31,220 --> 00:23:37,225
But these people, no, we
didn't know who they were.

544
00:23:37,225 --> 00:23:45,530
Had no idea, [? any. ?] There
was even Russians there too,

545
00:23:45,530 --> 00:23:46,030
I think.

546
00:23:46,030 --> 00:23:48,850

547

00:23:48,850 --> 00:23:53,470

At the time, did you
feel that what you were

548

00:23:53,470 --> 00:23:54,735

doing for them was helpful?

549

00:23:54,735 --> 00:23:57,320

550

00:23:57,320 --> 00:23:58,990

It must have helped
a little bit,

551

00:23:58,990 --> 00:24:01,180

but it was like
swimming upstream.

552

00:24:01,180 --> 00:24:03,620

You made a little
progress, but not much.

553

00:24:03,620 --> 00:24:04,120

You know?

554

00:24:04,120 --> 00:24:07,210

555

00:24:07,210 --> 00:24:09,340

You nourished them, but
you have to start out

556

00:24:09,340 --> 00:24:17,800

with thin, thin soup because
you couldn't give them food,

557

00:24:17,800 --> 00:24:20,000

per se.

558

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:28,590

And just the thought that
they were free, you know,

559

00:24:28,590 --> 00:24:32,420
it must have been something.

560

00:24:32,420 --> 00:24:37,310
And I'm sure-- you know, I see
pictures of these survivors

561

00:24:37,310 --> 00:24:39,370
now in the Holocaust.

562

00:24:39,370 --> 00:24:42,410
And, God, they look great.

563

00:24:42,410 --> 00:24:46,100
So they-- you know, life does--

564

00:24:46,100 --> 00:24:47,570
the body does improve.

565

00:24:47,570 --> 00:24:49,830
Oh, you mean survivors today?

566

00:24:49,830 --> 00:24:50,330
Yeah.

567

00:24:50,330 --> 00:24:52,760
Yeah, that they interview on TV.

568

00:24:52,760 --> 00:24:56,090
And you would say,
looking at them,

569

00:24:56,090 --> 00:24:58,850
you couldn't have been
in a concentration camp.

570

00:24:58,850 --> 00:25:02,630
But you know, yourself,
if someone's really sick

571

00:25:02,630 --> 00:25:06,780

and loses a lot of weight and
gets better, they do come back.

572
00:25:06,780 --> 00:25:11,980
But the body is a
wonderful machine.

573
00:25:11,980 --> 00:25:15,630

574
00:25:15,630 --> 00:25:16,130
So.

575
00:25:16,130 --> 00:25:20,650

576
00:25:20,650 --> 00:25:24,100
It's too bad it gets abused.

577
00:25:24,100 --> 00:25:27,850
How long were you at Gusen?

578
00:25:27,850 --> 00:25:31,570
I think, about five
weeks, we were there

579
00:25:31,570 --> 00:25:34,060
because we left to go
home, either it was either

580
00:25:34,060 --> 00:25:36,070
on my birthday or the day after.

581
00:25:36,070 --> 00:25:38,230
It was either June 21st or 22nd.

582
00:25:38,230 --> 00:25:41,410
I remember my birthday.

583
00:25:41,410 --> 00:25:45,080
And were you informed suddenly
that you were going to leave?

584
00:25:45,080 --> 00:25:45,580
And--

585
00:25:45,580 --> 00:25:48,180
I think probably
a week's notice.

586
00:25:48,180 --> 00:25:49,000
You know?

587
00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:52,450
And did you, by the
end of that period,

588
00:25:52,450 --> 00:25:56,740
did you feel as if some of the
people that you were caring for

589
00:25:56,740 --> 00:25:57,880
had made progress?

590
00:25:57,880 --> 00:26:01,300
Or was the situation better when
you left than when you came?

591
00:26:01,300 --> 00:26:09,192
Well, the attitude was better.

592
00:26:09,192 --> 00:26:12,970
It was a lot more
relaxed because we

593
00:26:12,970 --> 00:26:19,780
went in there with so tight and
so tense, and you were all--

594
00:26:19,780 --> 00:26:22,080
literally afraid of
them because they

595
00:26:22,080 --> 00:26:25,380

were so riddled with disease.

596

00:26:25,380 --> 00:26:28,980

And, hey, you know,
you're protected.

597

00:26:28,980 --> 00:26:29,880

And--

598

00:26:29,880 --> 00:26:32,130

Did any of the nurses get sick?

599

00:26:32,130 --> 00:26:33,090

Well, as far as we--

600

00:26:33,090 --> 00:26:37,120

now, they're talking about the
DDT, which you heard about,

601

00:26:37,120 --> 00:26:41,490

that several of our nurses
have developed breast cancer.

602

00:26:41,490 --> 00:26:44,160

But with the ratio
of breast cancer

603

00:26:44,160 --> 00:26:48,660

today, I can't see blaming
it on the DDT that we had.

604

00:26:48,660 --> 00:26:50,850

You didn't tell me this.

605

00:26:50,850 --> 00:26:52,800

You were sprayed
with DDT every day?

606

00:26:52,800 --> 00:26:57,420

Every day, yeah, down
our pants, up our arms,

607

00:26:57,420 --> 00:26:59,640
and in the back of our necks.

608
00:26:59,640 --> 00:27:00,730
She had an old flint gun.

609
00:27:00,730 --> 00:27:02,605
I don't know if you know
what a flint gun is.

610
00:27:02,605 --> 00:27:07,170
It's a canister on the end
of, sh-sh-sh, pump thing.

611
00:27:07,170 --> 00:27:10,770
And I think flint, they used
to use for flies or mosquitoes

612
00:27:10,770 --> 00:27:11,400
or something.

613
00:27:11,400 --> 00:27:14,100
You'd fill this
canister with whatever.

614
00:27:14,100 --> 00:27:16,560
And that was filled
with DDT powder,

615
00:27:16,560 --> 00:27:18,440
and we'd stay in front
of our chief nurse

616
00:27:18,440 --> 00:27:20,610
and pull our pants out.

617
00:27:20,610 --> 00:27:23,970
How degrading, when
you think of it.

618
00:27:23,970 --> 00:27:26,580
But that's how we had to go on.

619

00:27:26,580 --> 00:27:29,650

The first couple of days
that we worked at the camp,

620

00:27:29,650 --> 00:27:34,170

we felt so bad, so
dirty, so contaminated

621

00:27:34,170 --> 00:27:37,110

that we would come back
to our nurse's quarters

622

00:27:37,110 --> 00:27:40,410

and literally strip
outside the door

623

00:27:40,410 --> 00:27:42,810

and just drop our
drawers right there.

624

00:27:42,810 --> 00:27:46,380

And these nice German girls
would grab them and wash them

625

00:27:46,380 --> 00:27:47,640

for us.

626

00:27:47,640 --> 00:27:52,810

Because we didn't want to go
in the house with this aroma

627

00:27:52,810 --> 00:27:53,830

around us, you know.

628

00:27:53,830 --> 00:27:57,010

And it-- that odor clung to you.

629

00:27:57,010 --> 00:27:58,870

Your clothes,
after a while, too.

630

00:27:58,870 --> 00:28:01,620

631
00:28:01,620 --> 00:28:03,810
So.

632
00:28:03,810 --> 00:28:05,959
And, after a while,
you didn't notice it.

633
00:28:05,959 --> 00:28:08,953

634
00:28:08,953 --> 00:28:10,950
So.

635
00:28:10,950 --> 00:28:13,890
What other kinds of
things that you know of

636
00:28:13,890 --> 00:28:16,800
were going on at the camp?

637
00:28:16,800 --> 00:28:19,980
In addition to the care
that you were giving,

638
00:28:19,980 --> 00:28:21,360
what else was happening there?

639
00:28:21,360 --> 00:28:22,886
Do you know?

640
00:28:22,886 --> 00:28:26,130
[SIGHING]

641
00:28:26,130 --> 00:28:28,680
Well, I know they got
musical instruments

642
00:28:28,680 --> 00:28:31,950
for some of the inmates that
were musically inclined.

643
00:28:31,950 --> 00:28:33,550
I don't know where
they came from.

644
00:28:33,550 --> 00:28:36,555
I imagine they just walked into
somebody's house and took them.

645
00:28:36,555 --> 00:28:39,510
That's what they usually did.

646
00:28:39,510 --> 00:28:45,840
This Jeanie [? Striker, ?]
that I gave you her papers,

647
00:28:45,840 --> 00:28:47,460
she worked with the women.

648
00:28:47,460 --> 00:28:48,870
Now, I never saw the women.

649
00:28:48,870 --> 00:28:52,440
I know they were there,
but I never saw them.

650
00:28:52,440 --> 00:28:57,090
Some of the men went in town
and got bolts of material

651
00:28:57,090 --> 00:28:58,530
and brought it out to the women.

652
00:28:58,530 --> 00:29:01,620
And she said they practically
clawed at the material.

653
00:29:01,620 --> 00:29:03,600
They couldn't wait
to get a piece of it

654
00:29:03,600 --> 00:29:09,180

to make themselves a top or
muumuu-type dress or shorts

655
00:29:09,180 --> 00:29:13,470
or something, something
to put on their bodies.

656
00:29:13,470 --> 00:29:15,570
And but that's the
only story I ever

657
00:29:15,570 --> 00:29:17,610
heard from her, from the women.

658
00:29:17,610 --> 00:29:19,380
Do you know if there
were children around?

659
00:29:19,380 --> 00:29:21,300
I never saw a child, no.

660
00:29:21,300 --> 00:29:21,900
Thank God.

661
00:29:21,900 --> 00:29:26,550

662
00:29:26,550 --> 00:29:29,250
So there were
survivors there who

663
00:29:29,250 --> 00:29:31,680
were well enough to play
musical instruments?

664
00:29:31,680 --> 00:29:38,340
Yeah, but, you know,
[? there ?] were all grades

665
00:29:38,340 --> 00:29:42,077
of [? degradation ?]
or something.

666

00:29:42,077 --> 00:29:43,660

I don't know what
you want to call it.

667

00:29:43,660 --> 00:29:46,540

There were some that
could not move at all

668

00:29:46,540 --> 00:29:48,280

and some that walked around.

669

00:29:48,280 --> 00:29:52,090

And, yes, they could play
a violin, maybe not as well

670

00:29:52,090 --> 00:29:54,385

as they did in days gone by.

671

00:29:54,385 --> 00:29:57,250

672

00:29:57,250 --> 00:30:00,250

And the spirit was always there,
I guess, if you're a musician.

673

00:30:00,250 --> 00:30:01,840

I'm not.

674

00:30:01,840 --> 00:30:04,660

But--

675

00:30:04,660 --> 00:30:08,430

Was Gusen, by that time,
being called a DP camp?

676

00:30:08,430 --> 00:30:09,100

Mm-mm.

677

00:30:09,100 --> 00:30:09,850

Never was?

678

00:30:09,850 --> 00:30:11,740
Mm-mm, not as far as I know.

679
00:30:11,740 --> 00:30:14,920
It wasn't at that time, anyhow.

680
00:30:14,920 --> 00:30:19,345
We were the 131st Evacuation
Hospital at Gusen.

681
00:30:19,345 --> 00:30:20,770
Mm-hmm.

682
00:30:20,770 --> 00:30:24,240
Were there people arriving
there from other places?

683
00:30:24,240 --> 00:30:24,740
Mm-mm.

684
00:30:24,740 --> 00:30:27,190
I know that happened
in some other--

685
00:30:27,190 --> 00:30:28,000
Mm-mm.

686
00:30:28,000 --> 00:30:30,070
We had more than we
could take care of.

687
00:30:30,070 --> 00:30:31,840
Do you have any
sense of how many?

688
00:30:31,840 --> 00:30:35,950
Oh, someone, at one time,
told me we had 4,000--

689
00:30:35,950 --> 00:30:38,560
we were a 400-bed
hospital originally,

690

00:30:38,560 --> 00:30:43,850

this little tent hospital--
and that we had 4,000 patients.

691

00:30:43,850 --> 00:30:49,870

But there were, according
to that confession,

692

00:30:49,870 --> 00:30:55,430

there were, what,
60,000 inmates there?

693

00:30:55,430 --> 00:31:00,010

So that's just a
drop in the bucket.

694

00:31:00,010 --> 00:31:04,210

Did you have a chance to
walk around the camp at all?

695

00:31:04,210 --> 00:31:06,940

Or did you go up to
Mauthausen, the main camp ever?

696

00:31:06,940 --> 00:31:08,840

I never got up there.

697

00:31:08,840 --> 00:31:11,170

And you had to have--
you had to know somebody

698

00:31:11,170 --> 00:31:15,190

to get up there because that was
off-limits, as far as I know.

699

00:31:15,190 --> 00:31:17,710

I did get in-- behind
the camp, there

700

00:31:17,710 --> 00:31:22,060

was this nice rolling hill,
and I did get back there.

701

00:31:22,060 --> 00:31:26,590

And inside that hill
was a complete factory,

702

00:31:26,590 --> 00:31:29,230

railroad tracks and everything.

703

00:31:29,230 --> 00:31:32,200

And I was told that they
were making Messerschmitts,

704

00:31:32,200 --> 00:31:33,440

planes in there.

705

00:31:33,440 --> 00:31:35,950

In fact, I brought
home a piece of--

706

00:31:35,950 --> 00:31:38,530

I still have it-- a
piece of balsa wood that

707

00:31:38,530 --> 00:31:44,500

was painted like a, oh,
dark, dark olive green.

708

00:31:44,500 --> 00:31:47,560

And you can just about
see a swastika on it.

709

00:31:47,560 --> 00:31:54,310

And someone else told me it
was a new ammunition place.

710

00:31:54,310 --> 00:31:57,520

And this Mike that I talked to
on the phone who didn't make it

711

00:31:57,520 --> 00:32:01,750

here, that was our
interpreter, he

712

00:32:01,750 --> 00:32:06,850
claims that they were making
parts for the V-2 bombs there.

713
00:32:06,850 --> 00:32:10,870
But it was a complete
factory, back there, all

714
00:32:10,870 --> 00:32:14,020
underground in a big cavern.

715
00:32:14,020 --> 00:32:16,640
And when I went back
to Germany and Austria,

716
00:32:16,640 --> 00:32:22,510
years later, with my daughters,
and we were in Strasbourg.

717
00:32:22,510 --> 00:32:24,730
That was as far as
we were going to go.

718
00:32:24,730 --> 00:32:27,790
And I said, hey, we have
enough time to go to Linz.

719
00:32:27,790 --> 00:32:31,060
And my daughter, at this time,
she was doing all the driving.

720
00:32:31,060 --> 00:32:32,440
"Oh, [? Ma, ?] you're crazy."

721
00:32:32,440 --> 00:32:36,120
And I said, oh, and
like just by my nose,

722
00:32:36,120 --> 00:32:40,860
crossed the bridge, turned
right, followed the river.

723
00:32:40,860 --> 00:32:42,610

And she said, "Do you
where you're going?"

724
00:32:42,610 --> 00:32:45,200
I said, "No, but it's
in this direction."

725
00:32:45,200 --> 00:32:47,840
Oh, and she was getting
so upset with me.

726
00:32:47,840 --> 00:32:50,130
It's like looking for
a needle in a haystack.

727
00:32:50,130 --> 00:32:52,060
And I said, slow down.

728
00:32:52,060 --> 00:32:56,590
And over on the horizon,
I saw that same hill.

729
00:32:56,590 --> 00:32:58,180
I says, we're coming there.

730
00:32:58,180 --> 00:33:02,670
I know we're coming
there, and there it was.

731
00:33:02,670 --> 00:33:03,300
The camp?

732
00:33:03,300 --> 00:33:04,620
The camp.

733
00:33:04,620 --> 00:33:09,360
TV antennas out of what was our
ward's little lace curtains,

734
00:33:09,360 --> 00:33:11,750
flower boxes.

735

00:33:11,750 --> 00:33:13,440

People were living
in those buildings?

736

00:33:13,440 --> 00:33:15,682

Oh, painted white and beautiful.

737

00:33:15,682 --> 00:33:17,840

Hey.

738

00:33:17,840 --> 00:33:21,320

I have pictures downstairs
I'll have to show you.

739

00:33:21,320 --> 00:33:24,020

They had, just before
you got to the camp,

740

00:33:24,020 --> 00:33:30,410

there was a Memorial to the camp
built and it was like a maze,

741

00:33:30,410 --> 00:33:33,110

and you went around and there
were all pictures and sayings

742

00:33:33,110 --> 00:33:35,480

all around this cement wall.

743

00:33:35,480 --> 00:33:37,340

And right in the
center were the ovens.

744

00:33:37,340 --> 00:33:38,220

But it was locked.

745

00:33:38,220 --> 00:33:40,520

You couldn't get in.

746

00:33:40,520 --> 00:33:43,220

So I went-- there was a
little, like, I call it

747

00:33:43,220 --> 00:33:46,580

a 7-Eleven store next door.

748

00:33:46,580 --> 00:33:49,250

By this time, my daughter's
really mad at me.

749

00:33:49,250 --> 00:33:53,410

So I went next door and I
wanted the key to get in there.

750

00:33:53,410 --> 00:33:54,730

Oh.

751

00:33:54,730 --> 00:33:56,630

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

752

00:33:56,630 --> 00:33:57,920

He couldn't speak English.

753

00:33:57,920 --> 00:33:59,490

I couldn't speak German.

754

00:33:59,490 --> 00:34:02,000

And he was very upset that
I wanted to get in there.

755

00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:02,630

In where?

756

00:34:02,630 --> 00:34:05,210

Into this little maze,
see, that was locked.

757

00:34:05,210 --> 00:34:07,310

There was a padlock on it.

758

00:34:07,310 --> 00:34:08,762

And I said, I want to get--

759

00:34:08,762 --> 00:34:09,429

[? [MUMBLING] ?]

760
00:34:09,429 --> 00:34:11,409
And he was upset.

761
00:34:11,409 --> 00:34:13,248
He was visibly
upset, [? woo woo, ?]

762
00:34:13,248 --> 00:34:14,790
and I didn't know
what he was saying.

763
00:34:14,790 --> 00:34:16,010
He didn't know
what I was saying.

764
00:34:16,010 --> 00:34:18,199
So, finally, I'm going
because we all wore the Red

765
00:34:18,199 --> 00:34:19,290
Cross on our sleeve.

766
00:34:19,290 --> 00:34:21,920

767
00:34:21,920 --> 00:34:24,770
Boom boom, [? Kranksvester. ?]
And that's what I thought

768
00:34:24,770 --> 00:34:27,500
was nurse in German.

769
00:34:27,500 --> 00:34:30,530
Boom boom.

770
00:34:30,530 --> 00:34:32,179
All of the sudden,
he got the message.

771
00:34:32,179 --> 00:34:34,909

And his wife comes out
with wine and cheese,

772
00:34:34,909 --> 00:34:36,659
and they're hugging
me and kissing me.

773
00:34:36,659 --> 00:34:39,159
And (WHISPERING) my daughter's
standing there like this.

774
00:34:39,159 --> 00:34:40,280
She was so mad.

775
00:34:40,280 --> 00:34:42,140
He come over and
opened up the gate.

776
00:34:42,140 --> 00:34:45,949
[? Oh, ?] [? no?. ?]
Couldn't do enough for me.

777
00:34:45,949 --> 00:34:48,469
So, you know, I walked all
the way around and inside

778
00:34:48,469 --> 00:34:51,659
with the ovens, that they had.

779
00:34:51,659 --> 00:34:54,000
I've got pictures
downstairs in my album.

780
00:34:54,000 --> 00:34:56,130
I'll have to show you.

781
00:34:56,130 --> 00:34:58,160
So that was the
crematorium there?

782
00:34:58,160 --> 00:34:59,010
Well, it--

783

00:34:59,010 --> 00:35:00,343

Is that what you mean by albums?

784

00:35:00,343 --> 00:35:03,630

They had taken the ovens out
of where the crematorium was.

785

00:35:03,630 --> 00:35:08,850

And behind-- that's
another story--

786

00:35:08,850 --> 00:35:11,370

where, I'm telling
you, the barracks

787

00:35:11,370 --> 00:35:15,240

were made up like nice
houses with TV antennas.

788

00:35:15,240 --> 00:35:17,940

And then there's
the big block house,

789

00:35:17,940 --> 00:35:20,490

which had the big gates
in it, and those--

790

00:35:20,490 --> 00:35:22,110

that was all boarded over.

791

00:35:22,110 --> 00:35:24,540

The gates had been
removed to someplace.

792

00:35:24,540 --> 00:35:26,490

Maybe, they were in the maze.

793

00:35:26,490 --> 00:35:28,260

I forget.

794

00:35:28,260 --> 00:35:32,100

But we drove up on top

of the quarry, which

795

00:35:32,100 --> 00:35:35,700

is famous for those last
steps, and looked down

796

00:35:35,700 --> 00:35:38,700

into what was the big compound.

797

00:35:38,700 --> 00:35:43,410

Of course, all those barracks
were blown up and burnt down.

798

00:35:43,410 --> 00:35:45,000

Guess what they
were using it for?

799

00:35:45,000 --> 00:35:47,720

800

00:35:47,720 --> 00:35:51,360

They made tombstones there.

801

00:35:51,360 --> 00:35:53,035

From the stone in the quarry?

802

00:35:53,035 --> 00:35:55,890

803

00:35:55,890 --> 00:36:00,160

All these beautiful
carved, yeah.

804

00:36:00,160 --> 00:36:01,430

Tell me about the quarry.

805

00:36:01,430 --> 00:36:03,528

What do you know
about that whole--

806

00:36:03,528 --> 00:36:04,902

Oh, my nose is running.

807
00:36:04,902 --> 00:36:06,100
Do you want a-- let me.

808
00:36:06,100 --> 00:36:08,740
I just saw--

809
00:36:08,740 --> 00:36:13,360
I understand there was a
quarry at this Mauthausen Gusen

810
00:36:13,360 --> 00:36:19,840
complex, where people were
forced to carry stones.

811
00:36:19,840 --> 00:36:21,070
Did you hear about that?

812
00:36:21,070 --> 00:36:22,720
Did you see evidence of that?

813
00:36:22,720 --> 00:36:26,500
Well, we have the pictures
that our chaplain gave us

814
00:36:26,500 --> 00:36:27,145
of the steps.

815
00:36:27,145 --> 00:36:29,530
They call them Steps of Death.

816
00:36:29,530 --> 00:36:30,700
And--

817
00:36:30,700 --> 00:36:31,580
What were they?

818
00:36:31,580 --> 00:36:32,080
They were?

819
00:36:32,080 --> 00:36:33,250

They were just granite.

820
00:36:33,250 --> 00:36:37,870
Everything that Mauthausen
and Gusen was built of

821
00:36:37,870 --> 00:36:39,670
were huge blocks of granite.

822
00:36:39,670 --> 00:36:42,400
And it all came
from that quarry.

823
00:36:42,400 --> 00:36:46,840
And they're still using the
quarry to make tombstones.

824
00:36:46,840 --> 00:36:49,960
But I drove down there once.

825
00:36:49,960 --> 00:36:52,180
I must have had a date with
somebody that had a Jeep.

826
00:36:52,180 --> 00:36:54,430
And it was weird, these--

827
00:36:54,430 --> 00:36:58,270
you're like in a-- almost in
the Grand Canyon, these walls

828
00:36:58,270 --> 00:37:00,010
and walls of rock.

829
00:37:00,010 --> 00:37:01,900
And I saw the steps,
and that was all

830
00:37:01,900 --> 00:37:04,440
and I wanted to get out of
there because it was eerie.

831

00:37:04,440 --> 00:37:07,460

And these were steps that
went up to the quarry?

832

00:37:07,460 --> 00:37:07,960

Or?

833

00:37:07,960 --> 00:37:11,560

No, they came out of the quarry.

834

00:37:11,560 --> 00:37:14,920

And they must have
built these steps

835

00:37:14,920 --> 00:37:18,550

because they were also of these
big black blocks of granite.

836

00:37:18,550 --> 00:37:21,250

And then there's a
big wall to one side,

837

00:37:21,250 --> 00:37:23,800

in fact, on the
side of the steps,

838

00:37:23,800 --> 00:37:26,050

that they must have
built as they went up.

839

00:37:26,050 --> 00:37:28,430

And when they got
to the very top,

840

00:37:28,430 --> 00:37:32,530

I don't know what was up
there more for maybe trucks

841

00:37:32,530 --> 00:37:36,580

or something to take these
blocks of quarries, Granite

842

00:37:36,580 --> 00:37:37,450

someplace else.

843

00:37:37,450 --> 00:37:40,040

844

00:37:40,040 --> 00:37:41,600

But it was eerie.

845

00:37:41,600 --> 00:37:45,200

And then to drive
up there 20 years--

846

00:37:45,200 --> 00:37:47,030

was it 28 years later?

847

00:37:47,030 --> 00:37:49,220

Hmm, it must have
been more than that--

848

00:37:49,220 --> 00:37:53,450

but to look down and see
all of these tombstones

849

00:37:53,450 --> 00:37:55,880

down there in that compound.

850

00:37:55,880 --> 00:37:59,935

And I thought, you son of a gun.

851

00:37:59,935 --> 00:38:01,690

So somebody is making
a good business.

852

00:38:01,690 --> 00:38:04,210

853

00:38:04,210 --> 00:38:07,840

So even the
roadblocks, there was

854

00:38:07,840 --> 00:38:11,950

a roadblock between

our quarters and Gusen

855

00:38:11,950 --> 00:38:14,560

that, of course, had
been discombobulated

856

00:38:14,560 --> 00:38:15,890

for us to go through.

857

00:38:15,890 --> 00:38:18,365

But that was built of big
blocks of this quarry.

858

00:38:18,365 --> 00:38:24,970

859

00:38:24,970 --> 00:38:31,310

We got to middle late
July, when you left Gusen.

860

00:38:31,310 --> 00:38:31,810

June.

861

00:38:31,810 --> 00:38:32,095

June?

862

00:38:32,095 --> 00:38:32,595

June.

863

00:38:32,595 --> 00:38:33,107

July.

864

00:38:33,107 --> 00:38:33,940

I thought you said--

865

00:38:33,940 --> 00:38:35,415

Middle of June, we left Gusen.

866

00:38:35,415 --> 00:38:36,380

Uh huh.

867

00:38:36,380 --> 00:38:36,880
Yeah.

868
00:38:36,880 --> 00:38:38,150
And where did you go?

869
00:38:38,150 --> 00:38:39,865
We went back to France.

870
00:38:39,865 --> 00:38:43,270

871
00:38:43,270 --> 00:38:45,760
This time, we went by train.

872
00:38:45,760 --> 00:38:49,810
The nurses and the officers
were in first class cars,

873
00:38:49,810 --> 00:38:54,160
and the men were
in horse cattles.

874
00:38:54,160 --> 00:38:57,610
Again, segregation.

875
00:38:57,610 --> 00:39:00,130
And, every so often,
the train would stop,

876
00:39:00,130 --> 00:39:02,890
and they would say,
nurses, we were not

877
00:39:02,890 --> 00:39:04,900
to look out to the side
because the men were all

878
00:39:04,900 --> 00:39:06,280
having their relief break.

879
00:39:06,280 --> 00:39:08,560

[LAUGHS]

880
00:39:08,560 --> 00:39:11,800
And the train would
stop and start

881
00:39:11,800 --> 00:39:14,690
because the tracks
were in repair,

882
00:39:14,690 --> 00:39:19,910
or it was a-- it seemed to me
a long ride to where we got.

883
00:39:19,910 --> 00:39:24,580
And then there were trucks
that took us, first, to--

884
00:39:24,580 --> 00:39:29,230
I think they took us, first,
to what we call Camp 20 Grand.

885
00:39:29,230 --> 00:39:34,060
They had all these little
like repo depots, which

886
00:39:34,060 --> 00:39:37,600
were replacement depots
for different units,

887
00:39:37,600 --> 00:39:40,700
and they were named
after cigarettes.

888
00:39:40,700 --> 00:39:42,710
First we went to Camp 20 Grand.

889
00:39:42,710 --> 00:39:45,500
Then we went to Camp Lucky
Strike, which was great.

890
00:39:45,500 --> 00:39:49,670
It was up on top of a hill

overlooking the Seine,

891
00:39:49,670 --> 00:39:51,290
in France.

892
00:39:51,290 --> 00:39:54,560
Except this was just
a huge rock pile.

893
00:39:54,560 --> 00:39:57,410
I mean, there again, we
had to live in tents again.

894
00:39:57,410 --> 00:40:00,730
They were pitched
on these rocks.

895
00:40:00,730 --> 00:40:04,870
And we had to wash our
hair out of tin cans.

896
00:40:04,870 --> 00:40:08,590
And we had a good
mess hall which

897
00:40:08,590 --> 00:40:12,460
was run by the German POWs.

898
00:40:12,460 --> 00:40:15,910
And they would be
quite fresh to us,

899
00:40:15,910 --> 00:40:19,070
but sometimes they
would say, "No sugar

900
00:40:19,070 --> 00:40:20,200
today for your coffee.

901
00:40:20,200 --> 00:40:21,280
No sugar today.

902

00:40:21,280 --> 00:40:23,656
No sugar today for your coffee."

903
00:40:23,656 --> 00:40:25,367
Well, I don't take
sugar in my coffee.

904
00:40:25,367 --> 00:40:26,200
It didn't bother me.

905
00:40:26,200 --> 00:40:28,240
They [? had to ?] go.

906
00:40:28,240 --> 00:40:31,030
That night, they'd have sugar
cookies they'd make for us.

907
00:40:31,030 --> 00:40:33,070
You know, they tried
to make up-- they

908
00:40:33,070 --> 00:40:36,620
would do this on purpose to
make something nice for us.

909
00:40:36,620 --> 00:40:39,950
So they were also
trying to be nice.

910
00:40:39,950 --> 00:40:45,420
See, I'm still had this
distrust of the people.

911
00:40:45,420 --> 00:40:52,490
And I didn't like anyone
that got too familiar.

912
00:40:52,490 --> 00:40:56,090
And we finally found
out they had a ship.

913
00:40:56,090 --> 00:40:58,130
We were going home.

914
00:40:58,130 --> 00:41:01,980
We had our foot lockers all
packed, and away they went.

915
00:41:01,980 --> 00:41:03,710
And they went down
to the harbor,

916
00:41:03,710 --> 00:41:06,650
and somebody's packing the--

917
00:41:06,650 --> 00:41:09,680
and they, because they're
all stenciled with our names.

918
00:41:09,680 --> 00:41:11,330
Who's this Mary?

919
00:41:11,330 --> 00:41:14,900
Females, no way!

920
00:41:14,900 --> 00:41:16,250
Unload.

921
00:41:16,250 --> 00:41:16,980
Unload.

922
00:41:16,980 --> 00:41:22,430
And the poor GIs, just
because we were females,

923
00:41:22,430 --> 00:41:25,330
our men couldn't go either.

924
00:41:25,330 --> 00:41:25,830
Huh.

925
00:41:25,830 --> 00:41:25,960
So they--

926

00:41:25,960 --> 00:41:26,250
Why?

927
00:41:26,250 --> 00:41:26,750
Why?

928
00:41:26,750 --> 00:41:30,140
Well, there were no facilities
on that ship for females.

929
00:41:30,140 --> 00:41:32,030
And why they kept
the men behind,

930
00:41:32,030 --> 00:41:33,230
because we couldn't get on.

931
00:41:33,230 --> 00:41:34,520
I don't know.

932
00:41:34,520 --> 00:41:36,830
What does that mean, no
facilities for females?

933
00:41:36,830 --> 00:41:41,570
Well, they would have to have
a place that was closed-off,

934
00:41:41,570 --> 00:41:44,860
where the men
couldn't, we couldn't--

935
00:41:44,860 --> 00:41:45,360
Mingle.

936
00:41:45,360 --> 00:41:47,730
No one could communicate.

937
00:41:47,730 --> 00:41:49,953
So they couldn't segregate
you, so you couldn't go.

938

00:41:49,953 --> 00:41:50,453
Yeah.

939
00:41:50,453 --> 00:41:50,576
Yeah.

940
00:41:50,576 --> 00:41:51,076
Yeah.

941
00:41:51,076 --> 00:41:52,580
No, so we couldn't.

942
00:41:52,580 --> 00:41:55,100
So because we
couldn't go, our men

943
00:41:55,100 --> 00:41:57,585
couldn't go, which I
thought was so wrong.

944
00:41:57,585 --> 00:41:59,210
And, here, these guys
have been sitting

945
00:41:59,210 --> 00:42:02,450
waiting to go home, too,
just as much as we had.

946
00:42:02,450 --> 00:42:04,400
And then we finally
got the General Bliss,

947
00:42:04,400 --> 00:42:13,880
which had an area that they
could, you know, cordon.

948
00:42:13,880 --> 00:42:15,686
You know?

949
00:42:15,686 --> 00:42:16,370
Yeah.

950

00:42:16,370 --> 00:42:17,180
Cordon off.

951
00:42:17,180 --> 00:42:18,970
Cordon off.

952
00:42:18,970 --> 00:42:21,650
That was a big ship,
the General Bliss.

953
00:42:21,650 --> 00:42:24,170
It was big, but it that-- it
wasn't as big as the Queen

954
00:42:24,170 --> 00:42:25,580
Elizabeth, that's for sure.

955
00:42:25,580 --> 00:42:27,290
And where did you
leave from, what port?

956
00:42:27,290 --> 00:42:33,230
We left from Le Havre in France,
and we wound up in Boston.

957
00:42:33,230 --> 00:42:35,600
And it was great.

958
00:42:35,600 --> 00:42:40,010
You know, the boats were
out there and welcoming,

959
00:42:40,010 --> 00:42:41,540
and bands were in the boats.

960
00:42:41,540 --> 00:42:44,440
And, from there, we went to--

961
00:42:44,440 --> 00:42:48,050
in fact, we--

962
00:42:48,050 --> 00:42:50,580

I remember it was the
Fish Pier in Boston,

963
00:42:50,580 --> 00:42:51,950
which is still there.

964
00:42:51,950 --> 00:42:56,360
And we got on trains that were
right there at the Fish Pier,

965
00:42:56,360 --> 00:43:00,200
and they took us down to Camp
Myles Standish on the Cape,

966
00:43:00,200 --> 00:43:02,000
not quite too far
down on the Cape,

967
00:43:02,000 --> 00:43:03,320
but some part of the Cape.

968
00:43:03,320 --> 00:43:06,050
It's now a big
campground, I guess.

969
00:43:06,050 --> 00:43:07,580
And they were great.

970
00:43:07,580 --> 00:43:12,950
They had Welcome
Home, and we slept in

971
00:43:12,950 --> 00:43:15,813
like it was a huge ward,
so we were all together.

972
00:43:15,813 --> 00:43:16,730
But there were sheets.

973
00:43:16,730 --> 00:43:19,820
That's the first time
we'd had sheets in--

974

00:43:19,820 --> 00:43:24,530
oh, months and months and
months, we haven't had a sheet,

975

00:43:24,530 --> 00:43:26,810
and it was great.

976

00:43:26,810 --> 00:43:29,210
I remember calling my mother
because you could call

977

00:43:29,210 --> 00:43:30,920
whoever you wanted to call.

978

00:43:30,920 --> 00:43:33,110
And they had the--

979

00:43:33,110 --> 00:43:36,950
papers had a habit of
printing what units

980

00:43:36,950 --> 00:43:39,440
were landing when and where.

981

00:43:39,440 --> 00:43:42,230
And she had seen in the
paper that the 131st

982

00:43:42,230 --> 00:43:44,857
was coming into New York
Harbor at such and such a date.

983

00:43:44,857 --> 00:43:46,940
Well, that must have been
the first boat that they

984

00:43:46,940 --> 00:43:49,460
were loading our stuff on.

985

00:43:49,460 --> 00:43:50,750
So she says, "Where are you?"

986

00:43:50,750 --> 00:43:54,080

I said, "Up in Massachusetts
someplace, Camp Myles Standish.

987

00:43:54,080 --> 00:43:56,164

"You get right home, here!"

988

00:43:56,164 --> 00:43:58,010

I said, "Ma, I can't.

989

00:43:58,010 --> 00:44:00,320

I'm still in the
Army, you know."

990

00:44:00,320 --> 00:44:02,510

Well, you were supposed
to ra pa pa pa.

991

00:44:02,510 --> 00:44:04,760

I said, "No, Mother."

992

00:44:04,760 --> 00:44:10,130

So we finally went to Camp
Dix and got our leave papers.

993

00:44:10,130 --> 00:44:14,660

We had 30-day leave, and we were
able to go to CBI, China Burma

994

00:44:14,660 --> 00:44:17,030

India area.

995

00:44:17,030 --> 00:44:25,570

And we knew it, and we figured
but while we were on leave,

996

00:44:25,570 --> 00:44:28,452

VJ was declared, so.

997

00:44:28,452 --> 00:44:30,160

Do you remember the
dropping of the bomb?

998
00:44:30,160 --> 00:44:31,150
Yes, I do.

999
00:44:31,150 --> 00:44:32,380
Yes.

1000
00:44:32,380 --> 00:44:37,810
And I'm sorry to say I was
all for it, and still am.

1001
00:44:37,810 --> 00:44:40,440
Not now, I wouldn't
want it dropped today,

1002
00:44:40,440 --> 00:44:43,960
and what they're making today
is 10 times bigger than that.

1003
00:44:43,960 --> 00:44:49,660
But I just felt that
it saved our men a lot.

1004
00:44:49,660 --> 00:44:54,610
And, to me, it was, they're
the ones that started it.

1005
00:44:54,610 --> 00:44:59,440
Woody and I are going over to
Hawaii for the VJ ceremonies

1006
00:44:59,440 --> 00:45:01,090
in August, yeah.

1007
00:45:01,090 --> 00:45:01,590
Huh.

1008
00:45:01,590 --> 00:45:04,300
The end of August, so.

1009
00:45:04,300 --> 00:45:06,130
So you knew, right

away, then, that you

1010
00:45:06,130 --> 00:45:07,300
wouldn't be going over?

1011
00:45:07,300 --> 00:45:08,140
Well, we didn't.

1012
00:45:08,140 --> 00:45:10,090
But, you know, we
didn't know whether we'd

1013
00:45:10,090 --> 00:45:13,660
be made to go in the Army
of Occupation or what,

1014
00:45:13,660 --> 00:45:16,150
so we had to report
back to Camp Polk.

1015
00:45:16,150 --> 00:45:17,820
Now, Woody was in
the service longer

1016
00:45:17,820 --> 00:45:21,880
that I. Girls that had longer
service, they had points,

1017
00:45:21,880 --> 00:45:24,220
and you got out by a
certain point system.

1018
00:45:24,220 --> 00:45:26,420
If you were married,
not a widow,

1019
00:45:26,420 --> 00:45:28,030
but if you were
married, if you'd

1020
00:45:28,030 --> 00:45:31,480
been in the service so long, et
cetera, et cetera, et cetera,

1021
00:45:31,480 --> 00:45:32,830
you could be discharged.

1022
00:45:32,830 --> 00:45:36,430
And we had several
discharged from Camp Polk.

1023
00:45:36,430 --> 00:45:38,410
Another gal and I
got orders to go

1024
00:45:38,410 --> 00:45:44,470
to San Antonio, Texas,
Fort Sam Houston, which

1025
00:45:44,470 --> 00:45:48,020
is a huge hospital.

1026
00:45:48,020 --> 00:45:51,530
When I got down there,
hadn't worked on a ward,

1027
00:45:51,530 --> 00:45:52,725
didn't know what to do.

1028
00:45:52,725 --> 00:45:55,370

1029
00:45:55,370 --> 00:45:57,890
Didn't know how to do
anything, actually.

1030
00:45:57,890 --> 00:46:01,100
Hadn't worked how
to make a bed, even.

1031
00:46:01,100 --> 00:46:04,130
And this young whippersnapper
had just gotten in the Army,

1032
00:46:04,130 --> 00:46:06,070

and I'm saying, "Well,
how do you do this?"

1033
00:46:06,070 --> 00:46:07,070
And how do you do that?"

1034
00:46:07,070 --> 00:46:10,890
And she thinks, well, I must
have just got into the Army

1035
00:46:10,890 --> 00:46:11,420
before--

1036
00:46:11,420 --> 00:46:12,540
you know, after she did.

1037
00:46:12,540 --> 00:46:14,360
And so she's giving
me this [? whole. ?]

1038
00:46:14,360 --> 00:46:16,730
She says, "Well, where
were you, last month?"

1039
00:46:16,730 --> 00:46:18,620
I said, I was over in Germany.

1040
00:46:18,620 --> 00:46:19,190
You know?

1041
00:46:19,190 --> 00:46:20,720
Or, "Where were
you when VE Day?"

1042
00:46:20,720 --> 00:46:23,390
That was it, I could remember
her saying to me I said,

1043
00:46:23,390 --> 00:46:25,300
I was in Germany."

1044
00:46:25,300 --> 00:46:25,800

"Germany?"

1045

00:46:25,800 --> 00:46:27,810

What were you doing there?"

1046

00:46:27,810 --> 00:46:30,260

So she thought I had just
joined the Army, acting so dumb.

1047

00:46:30,260 --> 00:46:33,420

Well, how do you do this,
and how do you do that?

1048

00:46:33,420 --> 00:46:35,570

And so I met my present--

1049

00:46:35,570 --> 00:46:37,550

my ex-husband there.

1050

00:46:37,550 --> 00:46:43,020

He was in the Air Corps,
and we got married.

1051

00:46:43,020 --> 00:46:46,080

And life starts new.

1052

00:46:46,080 --> 00:46:46,860

Yeah.

1053

00:46:46,860 --> 00:46:48,910

How long did you
stay in the service?

1054

00:46:48,910 --> 00:46:51,280

Well, I got out just
before Christmas then.

1055

00:46:51,280 --> 00:46:55,170

So it was about 18
months total I was in.

1056

00:46:55,170 --> 00:46:56,130

What a year!

1057

00:46:56,130 --> 00:46:56,670

Yeah.

1058

00:46:56,670 --> 00:46:57,620

Yeah.

1059

00:46:57,620 --> 00:46:58,590

Yeah.

1060

00:46:58,590 --> 00:47:01,920

In fact, I was
embarrassed because, when

1061

00:47:01,920 --> 00:47:06,330

I met my husband-to-be, he was
very shy and didn't say boo.

1062

00:47:06,330 --> 00:47:08,440

And I went, oh,
what a dud you are.

1063

00:47:08,440 --> 00:47:08,940

You know?

1064

00:47:08,940 --> 00:47:12,960

And so I'm telling him how
I-- because you got \$300 when

1065

00:47:12,960 --> 00:47:13,920

you were mustered out.

1066

00:47:13,920 --> 00:47:15,610

In other words, when
you're discharged,

1067

00:47:15,610 --> 00:47:18,510

they gave you \$300
to survive on.

1068

00:47:18,510 --> 00:47:21,720

And I told him how I was
putting up a notice on the ward,

1069
00:47:21,720 --> 00:47:24,670
I'd pay anybody on the
ward my mustering-out pay

1070
00:47:24,670 --> 00:47:27,780
who would marry me to get me
out of the service (LAUGHS).

1071
00:47:27,780 --> 00:47:28,650
You did that?

1072
00:47:28,650 --> 00:47:31,120
I did that.

1073
00:47:31,120 --> 00:47:33,515
And he, in the meanwhile,
we had had a date,

1074
00:47:33,515 --> 00:47:34,890
and he had this
little brown bag.

1075
00:47:34,890 --> 00:47:36,500
And he--

1076
00:47:36,500 --> 00:47:37,000