

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:15,960

2  
00:00:15,960 --> 00:00:16,800  
[INAUDIBLE]

3  
00:00:16,800 --> 00:00:24,020

4  
00:00:24,020 --> 00:00:25,640  
OK.

5  
00:00:25,640 --> 00:00:27,000  
I am a child.

6  
00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:30,140  
I don't know much  
about World War II,

7  
00:00:30,140 --> 00:00:33,050  
and I don't even know,  
really, much what

8  
00:00:33,050 --> 00:00:35,810  
happened in the Holocaust.

9  
00:00:35,810 --> 00:00:40,880  
Tell me briefly what  
the DP camps were.

10  
00:00:40,880 --> 00:00:45,190  
The DP camps, the  
displaced persons camps,

11  
00:00:45,190 --> 00:00:52,880  
were the camps to which the  
survivors of the Holocaust who

12  
00:00:52,880 --> 00:00:56,660  
were found alive in the  
German concentration

13  
00:00:56,660 --> 00:01:03,370  
camps on German soil  
and on Australian soil

14  
00:01:03,370 --> 00:01:09,630  
were placed after they had  
been liberated by the advancing

15  
00:01:09,630 --> 00:01:12,450  
allied armies.

16  
00:01:12,450 --> 00:01:18,270  
In other words, they were camps  
where these survivors lived

17  
00:01:18,270 --> 00:01:24,320  
and the main Jewish  
survivors until the time came

18  
00:01:24,320 --> 00:01:27,380  
for them to migrate  
to other countries

19  
00:01:27,380 --> 00:01:31,200  
where they had chosen to  
live for the remainder

20  
00:01:31,200 --> 00:01:33,900  
of their lives.

21  
00:01:33,900 --> 00:01:39,770  
Their sojourn in the camps began  
after they had been moved out

22  
00:01:39,770 --> 00:01:46,380  
of the concentration camps  
soon after their liberation,

23  
00:01:46,380 --> 00:01:48,720  
and they lived in  
the camps until they

24  
00:01:48,720 --> 00:01:55,060  
left for the countries  
where they had chosen to go.

25  
00:01:55,060 --> 00:01:58,420

26  
00:01:58,420 --> 00:02:02,830  
Now can you give me  
sort of an overview

27  
00:02:02,830 --> 00:02:06,530  
of what kind of a scale  
we're talking about,

28  
00:02:06,530 --> 00:02:12,320  
how many DP camps there  
were and different types?

29  
00:02:12,320 --> 00:02:16,090  
There were a good number  
of displaced persons camps,

30  
00:02:16,090 --> 00:02:20,310  
and they varied both  
in size and in nature.

31  
00:02:20,310 --> 00:02:25,830  
For example, there was  
a displaced persons camp

32  
00:02:25,830 --> 00:02:32,800  
in Stuttgart, which, in reality,  
had no appearance as a camp.

33  
00:02:32,800 --> 00:02:38,250  
It was a series of what we would  
call apartment houses which

34  
00:02:38,250 --> 00:02:42,720  
had been taken over  
by the American army

35

00:02:42,720 --> 00:02:49,950

and to which the Army had  
placed Jewish survivors

36

00:02:49,950 --> 00:02:53,750

from German concentration camps.

37

00:02:53,750 --> 00:03:03,410

On the other hand, there was  
a DP camp like Landsberg,

38

00:03:03,410 --> 00:03:10,160

where there were, when I  
visited it, over 6,000 survivors

39

00:03:10,160 --> 00:03:18,980

and which had been a large  
camp for military purposes

40

00:03:18,980 --> 00:03:25,250

which had been used also  
by the foreign workers who

41

00:03:25,250 --> 00:03:30,770

had come to Germany to help  
the German effort in industry

42

00:03:30,770 --> 00:03:33,570

during the war.

43

00:03:33,570 --> 00:03:39,530

So there were all kinds of  
displaced persons camps.

44

00:03:39,530 --> 00:03:43,790

In addition, there were  
groups of survivors

45

00:03:43,790 --> 00:03:51,360

who lived in a place that  
could not be termed a DP camp.

46

00:03:51,360 --> 00:03:57,850  
For example, there were  
some Hungarian Jewish women

47  
00:03:57,850 --> 00:04:03,340  
who had been liberated from a  
concentration camp in Germany

48  
00:04:03,340 --> 00:04:08,730  
and who had gone to a small  
town in northern Germany

49  
00:04:08,730 --> 00:04:12,740  
nearby where they  
just lived together

50  
00:04:12,740 --> 00:04:16,970  
in whatever kind of  
housing they could find.

51  
00:04:16,970 --> 00:04:20,649  
They lived as a group.

52  
00:04:20,649 --> 00:04:22,840  
I don't know whether you  
could call them a DP camp,

53  
00:04:22,840 --> 00:04:26,260  
but in essence, it was.

54  
00:04:26,260 --> 00:04:30,070  
So as I said at  
the outset, there

55  
00:04:30,070 --> 00:04:33,010  
were different  
kinds of DP camps.

56  
00:04:33,010 --> 00:04:39,070  
As to the number of them, I'm  
not exactly sure, perhaps 20

57  
00:04:39,070 --> 00:04:42,130

more or less.

58

00:04:42,130 --> 00:04:46,080

And what kinds of numbers of displaced persons were there?

59

00:04:46,080 --> 00:04:49,110

60

00:04:49,110 --> 00:04:55,560

That's a difficult question to answer, and I'll tell you why.

61

00:04:55,560 --> 00:04:58,680

Perhaps at the time of the liberation

62

00:04:58,680 --> 00:05:02,030

of the German concentration camps

63

00:05:02,030 --> 00:05:08,380

there may have been a total of 50,000 Jewish survivors

64

00:05:08,380 --> 00:05:10,720

in the American zone of Germany.

65

00:05:10,720 --> 00:05:16,850

Remember that Germany, immediately after the defeat

66

00:05:16,850 --> 00:05:25,270

of the German Army, was divided among four conquering armies

67

00:05:25,270 --> 00:05:31,090

and were governed by the British, the Russians,

68

00:05:31,090 --> 00:05:35,080

the French, and the Americans.

69

00:05:35,080 --> 00:05:40,390

The largest zone in Germany  
was the American zone,

70

00:05:40,390 --> 00:05:45,040

and there were about  
50,000 Jewish survivors

71

00:05:45,040 --> 00:05:48,120

in the American zone.

72

00:05:48,120 --> 00:05:55,150

But Jews kept coming into the  
American zone of Germany day

73

00:05:55,150 --> 00:06:04,020

by day, and soon the number  
was not 50,000 but 80,000.

74

00:06:04,020 --> 00:06:11,760

By soon I mean over a period  
of a month, six weeks, or more.

75

00:06:11,760 --> 00:06:14,340

I'm now speaking only about  
the American zone in Germany.

76

00:06:14,340 --> 00:06:18,800

77

00:06:18,800 --> 00:06:20,480

So it was a huge--

78

00:06:20,480 --> 00:06:26,270

it was a huge problem  
or huge situation

79

00:06:26,270 --> 00:06:28,940

that had to be dealt with?

80

00:06:28,940 --> 00:06:33,020

It was a very difficult problem

that had to be dealt with

81  
00:06:33,020 --> 00:06:37,790  
and a problem that  
had been unforeseen

82  
00:06:37,790 --> 00:06:42,080  
by the American military  
authorities who had long

83  
00:06:42,080 --> 00:06:48,680  
planned for the  
kind of governance

84  
00:06:48,680 --> 00:06:54,760  
they would establish  
in a defeated Germany.

85  
00:06:54,760 --> 00:07:02,310  
The American plans called,  
once Germany would be defeated,

86  
00:07:02,310 --> 00:07:06,210  
for the liberation of  
course of all those

87  
00:07:06,210 --> 00:07:09,560  
found in German  
concentration camps

88  
00:07:09,560 --> 00:07:15,260  
and for the return of all those  
survivors to the countries

89  
00:07:15,260 --> 00:07:18,250  
from which they  
had come, and that

90  
00:07:18,250 --> 00:07:21,270  
was to be done within 90 days.

91  
00:07:21,270 --> 00:07:25,180  
So the plans called for.



92  
00:07:25,180 --> 00:07:28,960  
And indeed, after the  
concentration camps

93  
00:07:28,960 --> 00:07:34,530  
had been liberated, the  
American military authorities

94  
00:07:34,530 --> 00:07:40,590  
worked efficiently,  
and within 90 days,

95  
00:07:40,590 --> 00:07:47,150  
the Belgians, the French,  
the Greeks, the Poles,

96  
00:07:47,150 --> 00:07:50,600  
whoever were found  
in the concentration

97  
00:07:50,600 --> 00:07:56,010  
camps who wanted to go back to  
their homelands were sent home.

98  
00:07:56,010 --> 00:08:00,480  
But the military planners  
had not foreseen the fact

99  
00:08:00,480 --> 00:08:05,280  
that there would be Jews  
in the concentration camps,

100  
00:08:05,280 --> 00:08:08,270  
they would be the  
largest number,

101  
00:08:08,270 --> 00:08:11,720  
and they would be people  
who would not or could not

102  
00:08:11,720 --> 00:08:15,910  
return to their homelands.

103

00:08:15,910 --> 00:08:23,090

They could not because their  
homes and their businesses

104

00:08:23,090 --> 00:08:26,470

in their native  
countries had been seized

105

00:08:26,470 --> 00:08:29,870

by their former neighbors.

106

00:08:29,870 --> 00:08:33,370

They knew that if they  
returned and tried

107

00:08:33,370 --> 00:08:38,690

to reclaim their homes  
and businesses that they

108

00:08:38,690 --> 00:08:43,500

would be set upon, attacked,  
and perhaps even killed.

109

00:08:43,500 --> 00:08:49,000

And indeed, that did happen  
with a few Jews who did go back

110

00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:54,930

and who tried to regain  
what they had once owned.

111

00:08:54,930 --> 00:08:57,990

So most of the Jews  
didn't want to go back

112

00:08:57,990 --> 00:09:01,440

because they could not.

113

00:09:01,440 --> 00:09:04,950

There were no homes  
for them to return to.

114  
00:09:04,950 --> 00:09:10,710  
In addition, they would  
not because the lands

115  
00:09:10,710 --> 00:09:13,310  
where they had lived--

116  
00:09:13,310 --> 00:09:15,320  
and at the moment I'm  
thinking particularly

117  
00:09:15,320 --> 00:09:20,700  
of Poland as well as  
the Baltic countries,

118  
00:09:20,700 --> 00:09:26,540  
that they knew that the  
former neighbors in many cases

119  
00:09:26,540 --> 00:09:34,250  
had reported on their  
whereabouts to the Germans,

120  
00:09:34,250 --> 00:09:40,660  
that they could not live  
among those people who

121  
00:09:40,660 --> 00:09:43,540  
were responsible for  
their having suffered

122  
00:09:43,540 --> 00:09:47,560  
during the years of the  
war in concentration camps

123  
00:09:47,560 --> 00:09:51,010  
and who had been  
responsible for the fact

124  
00:09:51,010 --> 00:09:54,040  
that their nearest  
and dearest ones

125

00:09:54,040 --> 00:09:58,500

had been killed either  
on their native soil

126

00:09:58,500 --> 00:10:03,300

or in the concentration  
camps later.

127

00:10:03,300 --> 00:10:05,940

They knew that the  
countries from which they

128

00:10:05,940 --> 00:10:14,200

had come where now lands where  
the soil had been polluted

129

00:10:14,200 --> 00:10:21,270

by the blood of their  
loved ones and the very air

130

00:10:21,270 --> 00:10:25,950

had been polluted by the smoke  
of the concentration camps

131

00:10:25,950 --> 00:10:29,220

that had come out of the  
crematoria where members

132

00:10:29,220 --> 00:10:32,950

of their families had been  
burned, at least their bodies

133

00:10:32,950 --> 00:10:34,960

had been burned.

134

00:10:34,960 --> 00:10:37,610

So as I said, at the outset,  
they could not return,

135

00:10:37,610 --> 00:10:39,920

and they would not return.

136

00:10:39,920 --> 00:10:43,230  
They wanted to live elsewhere.

137  
00:10:43,230 --> 00:10:47,010  
So the American Army  
found these people

138  
00:10:47,010 --> 00:10:50,250  
who would not go anywhere,  
who could not go anywhere,

139  
00:10:50,250 --> 00:10:55,350  
and no plans had been  
arranged for such people

140  
00:10:55,350 --> 00:10:58,710  
beforehand because the  
problem had not been foreseen.

141  
00:10:58,710 --> 00:11:03,110

142  
00:11:03,110 --> 00:11:08,740  
Let's stop because I think we're  
just about running out of film.

143  
00:11:08,740 --> 00:11:11,650  
Go to camera roll number  
two, slate number two.

144  
00:11:11,650 --> 00:11:27,610

145  
00:11:27,610 --> 00:11:31,180  
Tell me, when you  
finally started

146  
00:11:31,180 --> 00:11:35,340  
seeing some of the displaced  
persons camps, which,

147  
00:11:35,340 --> 00:11:40,780  
as I remember, was maybe

in August, September,

148  
00:11:40,780 --> 00:11:45,090  
tell me what the conditions  
were that you found.

149  
00:11:45,090 --> 00:11:49,540  
The conditions, of course,  
varied from camp to camp,

150  
00:11:49,540 --> 00:11:52,990  
but by and large, I think  
the following conditions were

151  
00:11:52,990 --> 00:11:59,610  
pretty much accurate for,  
if not all the camps,

152  
00:11:59,610 --> 00:12:02,560  
most of the camps.

153  
00:12:02,560 --> 00:12:05,860  
Firstly, the housing  
was inadequate.

154  
00:12:05,860 --> 00:12:09,630  
That is, they were crowded.

155  
00:12:09,630 --> 00:12:13,650  
The survivors were  
crowded in the housing.

156  
00:12:13,650 --> 00:12:20,060  
There weren't enough beds  
and mattresses to go around.

157  
00:12:20,060 --> 00:12:23,690  
In addition, many  
of the structures

158  
00:12:23,690 --> 00:12:32,210  
were poor wooden structures  
that would not be good enough

159  
00:12:32,210 --> 00:12:36,540  
for the oncoming  
winter, and some

160  
00:12:36,540 --> 00:12:38,880  
of the structures,  
some of the buildings--

161  
00:12:38,880 --> 00:12:45,720  
the water supply  
was insufficient,

162  
00:12:45,720 --> 00:12:48,270  
and there were often leaks.

163  
00:12:48,270 --> 00:12:52,430  
So generally, their housing was  
not what it should have been.

164  
00:12:52,430 --> 00:12:55,850  
Secondly, they weren't  
getting enough food.

165  
00:12:55,850 --> 00:13:00,480  
These were people who  
had been malnourished

166  
00:13:00,480 --> 00:13:03,420  
for years under the Germans.

167  
00:13:03,420 --> 00:13:06,460  
They were now suffering  
from malnutrition,

168  
00:13:06,460 --> 00:13:11,220  
and they weren't  
getting enough calories.

169  
00:13:11,220 --> 00:13:16,580  
When more calories were added,  
very often those calories

170

00:13:16,580 --> 00:13:18,590  
came from the wrong sources.

171

00:13:18,590 --> 00:13:23,520  
They were given a lot  
of potatoes and bread.

172

00:13:23,520 --> 00:13:26,160  
Sometimes even that wasn't good.

173

00:13:26,160 --> 00:13:30,650  
The bread was stale, and  
the potatoes were rotten.

174

00:13:30,650 --> 00:13:36,000  
So food was a problem. .

175

00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:43,640  
In addition, they lacked  
all kinds of things

176

00:13:43,640 --> 00:13:48,230  
with which to occupy their time.

177

00:13:48,230 --> 00:13:57,810  
They had no means of  
doing any kind of work.

178

00:13:57,810 --> 00:14:02,170  
Those who had been  
musicians before the war

179

00:14:02,170 --> 00:14:05,700  
and who are very anxious  
to get their hands

180

00:14:05,700 --> 00:14:08,130  
and fingers on a  
musical instrument

181

00:14:08,130 --> 00:14:11,530  
again didn't have those.



182  
00:14:11,530 --> 00:14:20,540  
Even those who wanted to spend  
some time exercising, sports,

183  
00:14:20,540 --> 00:14:25,010  
using what we call in America  
a soccer ball to play with

184  
00:14:25,010 --> 00:14:26,150  
didn't have those things.

185  
00:14:26,150 --> 00:14:28,550  
And of course, some  
people might say

186  
00:14:28,550 --> 00:14:32,450  
those were unimportant  
things, but for people

187  
00:14:32,450 --> 00:14:37,220  
who had been without everything  
for years, every little thing

188  
00:14:37,220 --> 00:14:40,350  
was important.

189  
00:14:40,350 --> 00:14:44,880  
Their are clothing lacked  
much to be desired.

190  
00:14:44,880 --> 00:14:48,850  
Their clothing was poor.

191  
00:14:48,850 --> 00:14:51,670  
It certainly was not enough  
for the oncoming winter.

192  
00:14:51,670 --> 00:14:59,300  
They needed warm clothing of all  
kinds, beginning with underwear

193

00:14:59,300 --> 00:15:05,550  
and going all the way out to  
overcoats, and hats, and caps.

194  
00:15:05,550 --> 00:15:08,900  
Their shoes were  
in bad condition.

195  
00:15:08,900 --> 00:15:12,360  
They needed shoes of all kinds.

196  
00:15:12,360 --> 00:15:17,420  
They needed medical  
attention, although I

197  
00:15:17,420 --> 00:15:22,630  
must say at this point  
that Jewish doctors

198  
00:15:22,630 --> 00:15:26,960  
among the survivors, as soon  
as liberation took place,

199  
00:15:26,960 --> 00:15:36,140  
tried to take care of their  
fellow now-liberated inmates

200  
00:15:36,140 --> 00:15:39,860  
of the former  
concentration camps.

201  
00:15:39,860 --> 00:15:41,600  
But they didn't have medicines.

202  
00:15:41,600 --> 00:15:45,230  
They didn't have  
medical instruments

203  
00:15:45,230 --> 00:15:46,550  
or surgical instruments.

204  
00:15:46,550 --> 00:15:49,460

205

00:15:49,460 --> 00:15:56,120

The teeth of the survivors  
were in terrible condition.

206

00:15:56,120 --> 00:16:01,700

They had had no dental care all  
through the years of the war,

207

00:16:01,700 --> 00:16:10,530

and their teeth needed immediate  
inspection and treatment.

208

00:16:10,530 --> 00:16:12,740

There were dentists  
among the survivors who

209

00:16:12,740 --> 00:16:14,630

would have been glad  
to go to work on that,

210

00:16:14,630 --> 00:16:19,160

but they had nothing  
with which to work.

211

00:16:19,160 --> 00:16:21,890

In addition, they  
needed the materials

212

00:16:21,890 --> 00:16:26,000

from which to make false  
teeth, for example, bridges,

213

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:26,570

and so on.

214

00:16:26,570 --> 00:16:29,190

215

00:16:29,190 --> 00:16:32,700

I'm just telling you that which  
comes to my mind at the moment,

216

00:16:32,700 --> 00:16:34,980

but the most important  
things they needed

217

00:16:34,980 --> 00:16:40,420

were better housing, better  
food, better clothing,

218

00:16:40,420 --> 00:16:43,840

and other things.

219

00:16:43,840 --> 00:16:45,400

What about--

220

00:16:45,400 --> 00:16:46,660

Oh, excuse me.

221

00:16:46,660 --> 00:16:50,620

I've left out one of the  
most important things,

222

00:16:50,620 --> 00:16:54,070

and that is, when  
the war was over

223

00:16:54,070 --> 00:16:57,300

and they were transferred  
from concentration camps

224

00:16:57,300 --> 00:17:04,410

to DP camps, among the  
survivors, there were non-Jews.

225

00:17:04,410 --> 00:17:09,410

Many of those non-Jews were  
victims of the Germans,

226

00:17:09,410 --> 00:17:11,270

and they were sent  
home, as I told you

227

00:17:11,270 --> 00:17:14,930

a little earlier, within  
90 days after liberation.

228  
00:17:14,930 --> 00:17:18,530  
There were other non-Jews  
who did not go home.

229  
00:17:18,530 --> 00:17:20,359  
Who were they?

230  
00:17:20,359 --> 00:17:23,510  
Had come from Eastern Europe.

231  
00:17:23,510 --> 00:17:27,829  
Most of them had come  
to Germany willingly

232  
00:17:27,829 --> 00:17:32,340  
as volunteers to help in  
the German war effort.

233  
00:17:32,340 --> 00:17:35,770  
Since many of the  
Germans who had

234  
00:17:35,770 --> 00:17:38,410  
worked in the  
factories, most of them,

235  
00:17:38,410 --> 00:17:41,540  
were now in the  
German armed forces,

236  
00:17:41,540 --> 00:17:45,850  
there was a need for  
additional industrial workers

237  
00:17:45,850 --> 00:17:47,770  
to take their places.

238  
00:17:47,770 --> 00:17:54,170  
And many men and women had come  
from the countries of Eastern

239  
00:17:54,170 --> 00:17:57,110  
Europe as volunteers.

240  
00:17:57,110 --> 00:17:58,640  
They got good pay.

241  
00:17:58,640 --> 00:18:03,640  
They received good food,  
had adequate housing,

242  
00:18:03,640 --> 00:18:05,090  
and they worked  
in the war effort.

243  
00:18:05,090 --> 00:18:07,750  
But as soon as the  
Germans lost the war,

244  
00:18:07,750 --> 00:18:12,410  
they pronounced  
themselves survivors,

245  
00:18:12,410 --> 00:18:15,810  
and they were placed into  
displaced persons camps.

246  
00:18:15,810 --> 00:18:18,870  
Now, the problem with that  
was, first of all, there

247  
00:18:18,870 --> 00:18:23,010  
was a built-in anti-Semitism  
on the part of almost all

248  
00:18:23,010 --> 00:18:29,370  
of these non-Jewish workers who  
had come to help the Germans.

249  
00:18:29,370 --> 00:18:33,420  
Secondly, they had been  
well-fed all through the years

250

00:18:33,420 --> 00:18:37,170

of the war, and if  
efforts were now

251

00:18:37,170 --> 00:18:41,760

to be made to give  
more food to the Jews

252

00:18:41,760 --> 00:18:44,650

suffering from  
malnutrition, they

253

00:18:44,650 --> 00:18:49,360

would only pour oil on  
the fires of anti-Semitism

254

00:18:49,360 --> 00:18:53,620

and would lead to disputes,  
and conflict, and who

255

00:18:53,620 --> 00:18:59,710

knows what else between the  
Jews and the non-Jews in the DP

256

00:18:59,710 --> 00:19:00,610

camp.

257

00:19:00,610 --> 00:19:02,620

So one of the first  
things that had

258

00:19:02,620 --> 00:19:07,870

to be done when I took my  
position as advisor to General

259

00:19:07,870 --> 00:19:11,860

Eisenhower on Jewish  
affairs was to see to it

260

00:19:11,860 --> 00:19:16,960

that his orders of late August--

261

00:19:16,960 --> 00:19:20,390  
I believe August 22--

262  
00:19:20,390 --> 00:19:25,160  
should be carried out, namely  
the orders to establish

263  
00:19:25,160 --> 00:19:27,950  
DP camps in which  
the sole inhabitants

264  
00:19:27,950 --> 00:19:30,410  
would be Jewish survivors.

265  
00:19:30,410 --> 00:19:32,570  
So that was a very  
great need that

266  
00:19:32,570 --> 00:19:36,542  
had to be taken care of  
at the very beginning.

267  
00:19:36,542 --> 00:19:39,780

268  
00:19:39,780 --> 00:19:45,200  
What about the pass system  
and being locked-up?

269  
00:19:45,200 --> 00:19:47,480  
Oh, yes.

270  
00:19:47,480 --> 00:19:53,130  
There were certain camps,  
particularly in Bavaria

271  
00:19:53,130 --> 00:19:58,240  
under the supervision of the  
American Third Army commanded

272  
00:19:58,240 --> 00:20:06,440  
by General Patton, like  
Feldafing and Landsberg,



273

00:20:06,440 --> 00:20:16,680  
where the camps were locked and  
where the Jewish inmates were

274

00:20:16,680 --> 00:20:23,560  
permitted to leave camp only  
by means of a pass system that

275

00:20:23,560 --> 00:20:27,250  
permitted a small  
percentage of them

276

00:20:27,250 --> 00:20:31,150  
to go out of the  
camp on these passes.

277

00:20:31,150 --> 00:20:33,160  
And of course, they  
returned to the camp

278

00:20:33,160 --> 00:20:36,770  
before the end of the day.

279

00:20:36,770 --> 00:20:41,550  
The Jewish survivors  
in the DP camps

280

00:20:41,550 --> 00:20:44,040  
could look beyond  
the barbed wire

281

00:20:44,040 --> 00:20:46,870  
that surrounded their camp.

282

00:20:46,870 --> 00:20:51,280  
They could see German  
civilians walking on the roads.

283

00:20:51,280 --> 00:20:53,920

284

00:20:53,920 --> 00:20:59,450  
They knew that the Germans had  
been the enemy of the American

285  
00:20:59,450 --> 00:21:06,840  
Army, yet the Germans were free  
to come and go as they pleased,

286  
00:21:06,840 --> 00:21:12,670  
but they, who had been  
liberated by the American Army,

287  
00:21:12,670 --> 00:21:15,130  
did not have that privilege.

288  
00:21:15,130 --> 00:21:20,650  
They were confined behind  
barbed wire to a DP camp

289  
00:21:20,650 --> 00:21:23,740  
with only a small percentage  
permitted to go out

290  
00:21:23,740 --> 00:21:28,550  
for a few hours each day.

291  
00:21:28,550 --> 00:21:33,110  
Moreover, psychologically, they  
had been behind barbed wire

292  
00:21:33,110 --> 00:21:35,840  
in German concentration camps.

293  
00:21:35,840 --> 00:21:41,300  
Now liberated, they were  
still behind barbed wire.

294  
00:21:41,300 --> 00:21:45,200  
I think that may have been  
among the first, if not the very

295  
00:21:45,200 --> 00:21:49,200  
first complaint

that I heard when

296  
00:21:49,200 --> 00:21:52,830  
I met with a committee  
of Jewish survivors

297  
00:21:52,830 --> 00:21:55,800  
in the Feldafing  
displaced persons camp.

298  
00:21:55,800 --> 00:21:59,010

299  
00:21:59,010 --> 00:22:02,355  
We're just about to the end  
of this roll, I'm pretty sure.

300  
00:22:02,355 --> 00:22:12,260

301  
00:22:12,260 --> 00:22:15,410  
Two, camera roll  
number three, interview

302  
00:22:15,410 --> 00:22:18,080  
continued with Judah Nadich.

303  
00:22:18,080 --> 00:22:26,650

304  
00:22:26,650 --> 00:22:27,400  
Three.

305  
00:22:27,400 --> 00:22:30,830

306  
00:22:30,830 --> 00:22:32,575  
What was the Harrison Report?

307  
00:22:32,575 --> 00:22:36,040

308

00:22:36,040 --> 00:22:39,310

Dean Earl Harrison  
of the law school

309

00:22:39,310 --> 00:22:42,850

of the University  
of Pennsylvania

310

00:22:42,850 --> 00:22:48,740

was appointed by  
President Truman

311

00:22:48,740 --> 00:22:54,020

to examine the conditions  
in the DP camps.

312

00:22:54,020 --> 00:22:57,250

313

00:22:57,250 --> 00:23:03,860

During the month of June 1945,  
newspaper correspondents,

314

00:23:03,860 --> 00:23:06,830

foreign correspondents  
in Germany

315

00:23:06,830 --> 00:23:12,180

had sent back stories  
to the American press

316

00:23:12,180 --> 00:23:16,440

that there were Jewish survivors  
of the Nazi concentration

317

00:23:16,440 --> 00:23:22,870

camps living in  
displaced persons camps

318

00:23:22,870 --> 00:23:27,730

under the American Army  
who's living conditions were

319

00:23:27,730 --> 00:23:34,270

abominable, and that  
created quite a stir,

320

00:23:34,270 --> 00:23:38,850

evidently, in the United States.

321

00:23:38,850 --> 00:23:43,790

And President Truman, as  
I said, appointed the dean

322

00:23:43,790 --> 00:23:46,610

of the law school of the  
University of Pennsylvania,

323

00:23:46,610 --> 00:23:51,690

Dean Earl G. Harryman--

324

00:23:51,690 --> 00:23:52,410

Harrison.

325

00:23:52,410 --> 00:23:59,120

--Harrison-- excuse me--  
to examine the camps

326

00:23:59,120 --> 00:24:04,670

and to report to him  
to see whether or not

327

00:24:04,670 --> 00:24:09,375

the reports of the war  
correspondents were accurate.

328

00:24:09,375 --> 00:24:12,230

329

00:24:12,230 --> 00:24:17,670

Dean Harrison came  
to Europe, and he

330

00:24:17,670 --> 00:24:22,130

was accompanied by Dr.

Joseph J Schwartz who

331  
00:24:22,130 --> 00:24:28,650  
was the European head of  
operations for the American

332  
00:24:28,650 --> 00:24:30,840  
Jewish Joint  
Distribution Committee.

333  
00:24:30,840 --> 00:24:33,430

334  
00:24:33,430 --> 00:24:40,640  
And he visited the camps in  
Germany, in the American Zone,

335  
00:24:40,640 --> 00:24:45,830  
and he came back to Washington  
and submitted his report.

336  
00:24:45,830 --> 00:24:49,260

337  
00:24:49,260 --> 00:24:56,520  
The report caused  
a number of cables

338  
00:24:56,520 --> 00:25:01,550  
to go from Washington to General  
Eisenhower's headquarters

339  
00:25:01,550 --> 00:25:05,010  
in Frankfurt.

340  
00:25:05,010 --> 00:25:11,430  
First, General Marshall,  
who was chief of staff,

341  
00:25:11,430 --> 00:25:15,360  
got in touch with  
General Eisenhower

342

00:25:15,360 --> 00:25:21,460

and told him that he  
soon would be getting

343

00:25:21,460 --> 00:25:31,060

a summary of the report of Dean  
Earl Harrison, that it was not

344

00:25:31,060 --> 00:25:36,460

a good report, that it  
did not put the American

345

00:25:36,460 --> 00:25:40,020

Army in a good light.

346

00:25:40,020 --> 00:25:48,000

And then I believe it  
was on August the 10th--

347

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:51,660

I'm certain of that  
date, August the 10th--

348

00:25:51,660 --> 00:25:54,960

General Eisenhower got a cable  
from the secretary of war--

349

00:25:54,960 --> 00:25:58,110

350

00:25:58,110 --> 00:25:59,915

his name was Secretary Stimson--

351

00:25:59,915 --> 00:26:02,450

352

00:26:02,450 --> 00:26:12,370

who gave General Eisenhower a  
summary of the Harrison Report

353

00:26:12,370 --> 00:26:15,970

and said that the

report contains

354

00:26:15,970 --> 00:26:20,710

some very damaging  
description of conditions

355

00:26:20,710 --> 00:26:26,040

in the displaced persons camps  
administered by the American

356

00:26:26,040 --> 00:26:33,320

Army, and what did  
General Eisenhower expect

357

00:26:33,320 --> 00:26:38,300

to do to correct the situation,  
and also told him that,

358

00:26:38,300 --> 00:26:42,600

in due course, he would be  
receiving the entire Harrison

359

00:26:42,600 --> 00:26:43,100

Report.

360

00:26:43,100 --> 00:26:47,350

361

00:26:47,350 --> 00:26:56,330

That report was the reason for  
the creation of a position that

362

00:26:56,330 --> 00:27:00,620

was rather unique in the history  
of the American military,

363

00:27:00,620 --> 00:27:05,240

the creation of an  
advisor to a commanding

364

00:27:05,240 --> 00:27:11,790

general on Jewish conditions  
in the area of command



365  
00:27:11,790 --> 00:27:14,385  
of the general.

366  
00:27:14,385 --> 00:27:19,520  
General Eisenhower sent  
back a cable the day

367  
00:27:19,520 --> 00:27:24,200  
after he had received  
the Stimpson cable

368  
00:27:24,200 --> 00:27:27,950  
to say that he was creating  
position of advisor

369  
00:27:27,950 --> 00:27:33,460  
to General Eisenhower, to  
himself, on Jewish affairs

370  
00:27:33,460 --> 00:27:36,430  
to be filled by an American  
Army Jewish chaplain.

371  
00:27:36,430 --> 00:27:39,070

372  
00:27:39,070 --> 00:27:42,640  
And that was the  
reason for my being

373  
00:27:42,640 --> 00:27:46,780  
ordered to fly  
from Paris, where I

374  
00:27:46,780 --> 00:27:51,780  
had been stationed for  
about a year, to Frankfurt

375  
00:27:51,780 --> 00:27:53,970  
to undertake my new  
responsibilities.

376

00:27:53,970 --> 00:28:02,530

377

00:28:02,530 --> 00:28:06,721

No I'm going to jump  
around a little bit.

378

00:28:06,721 --> 00:28:10,620

379

00:28:10,620 --> 00:28:18,220

In general, the Jewish displaced  
persons who didn't want

380

00:28:18,220 --> 00:28:20,610

to return to their homelands--

381

00:28:20,610 --> 00:28:21,930

where else could they go?

382

00:28:21,930 --> 00:28:25,320

What other problems did  
they face in terms of--

383

00:28:25,320 --> 00:28:26,868

where did they want to go?

384

00:28:26,868 --> 00:28:30,010

Did they have  
choices or options?

385

00:28:30,010 --> 00:28:33,970

Well, one of the questions  
in my questionnaire

386

00:28:33,970 --> 00:28:38,110

that I had prepared for myself  
before visiting any of the DP

387

00:28:38,110 --> 00:28:40,870

camps was precisely that.

388

00:28:40,870 --> 00:28:45,390

Where did these  
people want to go,

389

00:28:45,390 --> 00:28:49,200

assuming that there would  
be no barrier to their going

390

00:28:49,200 --> 00:28:50,910

to the lands they had chosen?

391

00:28:50,910 --> 00:28:53,450

392

00:28:53,450 --> 00:28:59,320

Between 70 and 75%  
of them said they

393

00:28:59,320 --> 00:29:03,040

wanted to go to the country  
then known as Palestine.

394

00:29:03,040 --> 00:29:05,750

395

00:29:05,750 --> 00:29:12,900

Others chose other countries,  
the United States, Canada,

396

00:29:12,900 --> 00:29:19,820

Australia, countries  
in South America,

397

00:29:19,820 --> 00:29:24,200

usually because  
they had relatives

398

00:29:24,200 --> 00:29:27,170

living in those countries  
to whom they could go.

399

00:29:27,170 --> 00:29:32,330

400

00:29:32,330 --> 00:29:36,670

And what were the barriers,  
then, for getting people out?

401

00:29:36,670 --> 00:29:39,440

Why couldn't they just go?

402

00:29:39,440 --> 00:29:48,760

They could not go because they  
had no means with which to go.

403

00:29:48,760 --> 00:29:51,130

They had no funds.

404

00:29:51,130 --> 00:29:55,010

They didn't have decent  
clothing on their backs.

405

00:29:55,010 --> 00:30:01,110

They were, many of them,  
weak because of malnutrition,

406

00:30:01,110 --> 00:30:08,520

and in addition, there was the  
obstacle of immigration laws

407

00:30:08,520 --> 00:30:12,360

that limited the  
number of people

408

00:30:12,360 --> 00:30:17,760

that could arrive in any of  
these aforementioned countries.

409

00:30:17,760 --> 00:30:20,300

410

00:30:20,300 --> 00:30:25,060

Great Britain had been  
appealed to just a short while

411

00:30:25,060 --> 00:30:30,340

before the time about which  
I speak by President Truman

412

00:30:30,340 --> 00:30:35,930

to grant special visas to  
100,000 of these people.

413

00:30:35,930 --> 00:30:38,480

Great Britain didn't act upon  
General Truman's request.

414

00:30:38,480 --> 00:30:41,080

415

00:30:41,080 --> 00:30:51,360

American immigration laws  
were strict and permitted

416

00:30:51,360 --> 00:30:57,520

four very small numbers to  
come from the lands of Eastern

417

00:30:57,520 --> 00:31:01,120

Europe, and most of the people  
in the concentration camps

418

00:31:01,120 --> 00:31:06,270

were Jews who had come from  
Eastern European lands.

419

00:31:06,270 --> 00:31:09,480

So there were all kinds  
of reasons for their not

420

00:31:09,480 --> 00:31:13,560

being able to go forthwith to  
the countries of their choice.

421

00:31:13,560 --> 00:31:22,370

422

00:31:22,370 --> 00:31:28,570  
Can you address differences  
in displaced persons,

423  
00:31:28,570 --> 00:31:31,065  
such as Feldafing and  
Landsberg, with, say,

424  
00:31:31,065 --> 00:31:36,550  
Bergen-Belsen, American-run  
camps versus British-run camps?

425  
00:31:36,550 --> 00:31:40,210  
I can't tell you  
about Bergen-Belsen.

426  
00:31:40,210 --> 00:31:42,580  
I can't answer that question  
because Bergen-Belsen was

427  
00:31:42,580 --> 00:31:45,370  
in the British zone of Germany.

428  
00:31:45,370 --> 00:31:48,340  
I wasn't allowed into the  
British zone of Germany

429  
00:31:48,340 --> 00:31:51,840  
unless I requested  
special permission.

430  
00:31:51,840 --> 00:31:57,220  
I had more than enough to  
do with my responsibilities

431  
00:31:57,220 --> 00:31:59,350  
in the American zone of Germany.

432  
00:31:59,350 --> 00:32:03,220  
All that I can tell you,  
an answer to that question,

433  
00:32:03,220 --> 00:32:09,900

is that I had gotten  
requests from London

434  
00:32:09,900 --> 00:32:15,670  
from a number of leaders of the  
Jewish community in that city

435  
00:32:15,670 --> 00:32:21,670  
to send to them copies of  
the military orders creating

436  
00:32:21,670 --> 00:32:28,500  
my post and its duties  
to them in London

437  
00:32:28,500 --> 00:32:37,410  
so that they might request  
General Montgomery to create

438  
00:32:37,410 --> 00:32:40,050  
a similar position, that is,  
advisor to the commanding

439  
00:32:40,050 --> 00:32:44,290  
general on Jewish affairs, for  
the British zone of Germany.

440  
00:32:44,290 --> 00:32:48,980  
General Montgomery  
refused point blank.

441  
00:32:48,980 --> 00:32:52,470  
We've got to stop and re-load.

442  
00:32:52,470 --> 00:32:54,410  
Camera roll number four