

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:14,297

2
00:00:14,297 --> 00:00:15,310
Oh, dear.

3
00:00:15,310 --> 00:00:16,215
Is that me?

4
00:00:16,215 --> 00:00:20,310

5
00:00:20,310 --> 00:00:21,190
It is.

6
00:00:21,190 --> 00:00:23,470
Something's happening here.

7
00:00:23,470 --> 00:00:24,670
Need a car?

8
00:00:24,670 --> 00:00:27,910
No, I'm fine.

9
00:00:27,910 --> 00:00:34,230
Can you tell me about
the radio patrol that

10
00:00:34,230 --> 00:00:36,000
came to you when you first--

11
00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:40,200
what they said to you before
you came to Mauthausen?

12
00:00:40,200 --> 00:00:45,270
Well, we sent the
patrol out in an effort

13
00:00:45,270 --> 00:00:49,320

to maintain contact with
the enemy, the Germans,

14
00:00:49,320 --> 00:00:51,630
or the Russians.

15
00:00:51,630 --> 00:00:56,700
And they ran across this
concentration camp, Mauthausen.

16
00:00:56,700 --> 00:00:59,760
And they radioed in and said
we've come across something

17
00:00:59,760 --> 00:01:01,350
we don't know what it is.

18
00:01:01,350 --> 00:01:05,610
It's like a big jail and
there's people running all over.

19
00:01:05,610 --> 00:01:10,020
And I said, all
right, you come back.

20
00:01:10,020 --> 00:01:13,320
And so patrol returned
to our headquarters.

21
00:01:13,320 --> 00:01:15,240
I reinforced the patrol.

22
00:01:15,240 --> 00:01:17,910
You must remember
the war is still on.

23
00:01:17,910 --> 00:01:19,830
And I went back.

24
00:01:19,830 --> 00:01:23,100
And I made a
thorough inspection,

25

00:01:23,100 --> 00:01:26,190

the best I could, of
Mauthausen, not knowing anything

26

00:01:26,190 --> 00:01:28,690

about a concentration camp.

27

00:01:28,690 --> 00:01:31,500

And I made the inspection.

28

00:01:31,500 --> 00:01:34,110

And I returned to
our headquarters.

29

00:01:34,110 --> 00:01:38,940

And I reported to our commanding
general, General Daiger

30

00:01:38,940 --> 00:01:42,620

and told him what it was.

31

00:01:42,620 --> 00:01:46,520

Along with that, there was
two Americans in the camp.

32

00:01:46,520 --> 00:01:50,900

And one in particular,
Lieutenant Jack Taylor,

33

00:01:50,900 --> 00:01:53,750

who is a member of the OSS.

34

00:01:53,750 --> 00:01:56,840

He told me what Mauthausen was.

35

00:01:56,840 --> 00:02:00,450

And then I told General
Daiger what it was.

36

00:02:00,450 --> 00:02:03,320

And I went to get some lunch.

37

00:02:03,320 --> 00:02:06,200

And the telephone rang.

38

00:02:06,200 --> 00:02:07,190

It was General Daiger.

39

00:02:07,190 --> 00:02:09,500

He wanted to talk to me.

40

00:02:09,500 --> 00:02:12,270

And he said, Dick.

41

00:02:12,270 --> 00:02:16,350

He said, I want you to
return to Mauthausen

42

00:02:16,350 --> 00:02:20,160

and take supreme
command of the camp.

43

00:02:20,160 --> 00:02:23,840

He said, you've got
a lousy job to do.

44

00:02:23,840 --> 00:02:28,140

And he said you cannot accept
any orders from anybody.

45

00:02:28,140 --> 00:02:30,600

And he said I have
enough confidence in you

46

00:02:30,600 --> 00:02:33,090

to know that you will
do what is right.

47

00:02:33,090 --> 00:02:35,550

And therefore, you
will take command

48

00:02:35,550 --> 00:02:37,410

and stay there and run it.

49

00:02:37,410 --> 00:02:39,180

And that's how it
all came about.

50

00:02:39,180 --> 00:02:43,140

And that's how I wound up in
Mauthausen with the capture

51

00:02:43,140 --> 00:02:45,690

and the occupation of the camp.

52

00:02:45,690 --> 00:02:50,510

OK, now let's go back to
when you first came in,

53

00:02:50,510 --> 00:02:53,360

before you reported back.

54

00:02:53,360 --> 00:02:55,870

And tell me what happened
when you came in?

55

00:02:55,870 --> 00:03:00,130

What you saw, how the
people reacted to you.

56

00:03:00,130 --> 00:03:05,380

Well, actually and truly,
it was unbelievable.

57

00:03:05,380 --> 00:03:09,290

I had never seen anything
like this before in my life.

58

00:03:09,290 --> 00:03:12,530

I knew nothing of a
concentration camp.

59

00:03:12,530 --> 00:03:15,880

We had heard of them, but
that was the extent of it.

60

00:03:15,880 --> 00:03:18,610

And to see all of
these bodies piled up

61

00:03:18,610 --> 00:03:22,240

and these starving,
sick people in the camp,

62

00:03:22,240 --> 00:03:25,240

I just couldn't imagine it.

63

00:03:25,240 --> 00:03:27,430

We didn't know what--

64

00:03:27,430 --> 00:03:30,220

actually and truly, we
didn't know what to do.

65

00:03:30,220 --> 00:03:35,220

And then, as I said, I returned.

66

00:03:35,220 --> 00:03:40,980

But my initial shock when we
found about 700 bodies lying

67

00:03:40,980 --> 00:03:48,890

around and just piled up like
wood, if you will, I couldn't--

68

00:03:48,890 --> 00:03:50,450

I couldn't believe it.

69

00:03:50,450 --> 00:03:53,570

I just couldn't believe it.

70

00:03:53,570 --> 00:03:58,400

That man's inhumanity
to man actually

71

00:03:58,400 --> 00:04:05,330

existed between men and women
and the starving, sick, dead

72
00:04:05,330 --> 00:04:07,370
people in that camp.

73
00:04:07,370 --> 00:04:08,420
Unbelievable.

74
00:04:08,420 --> 00:04:16,399
I stop and think about it,
and I don't know how I ever

75
00:04:16,399 --> 00:04:18,600
managed to stay through it.

76
00:04:18,600 --> 00:04:21,720
In my opinion, it
was that horrible.

77
00:04:21,720 --> 00:04:28,100
When you first came back, what
did the people in the camp

78
00:04:28,100 --> 00:04:31,110
say to you?

79
00:04:31,110 --> 00:04:36,160
They were so happy
that we were there.

80
00:04:36,160 --> 00:04:39,350

81
00:04:39,350 --> 00:04:43,250
Of course, we felt that we
had done a tremendous thing

82
00:04:43,250 --> 00:04:46,040
by capturing the place
and turning it over

83
00:04:46,040 --> 00:04:55,200
to the Americans to solve

the problem, if you will.

84
00:04:55,200 --> 00:05:03,920
But I can't describe
to you exactly.

85
00:05:03,920 --> 00:05:09,725
We were there and it
was the second day.

86
00:05:09,725 --> 00:05:12,710

87
00:05:12,710 --> 00:05:16,590
One of my people came into
the headquarters and said,

88
00:05:16,590 --> 00:05:19,880
you better come quick, out
into the main compound.

89
00:05:19,880 --> 00:05:22,990
He said there's trouble.

90
00:05:22,990 --> 00:05:24,270
And so I went out.

91
00:05:24,270 --> 00:05:29,310
And there are four people on
the pavement with their throats

92
00:05:29,310 --> 00:05:35,230
cut, which I had never
seen before in my life.

93
00:05:35,230 --> 00:05:43,280
And the political unrest in the
camp, I couldn't believe it.

94
00:05:43,280 --> 00:05:45,620
Because we were
shocked, actually

95

00:05:45,620 --> 00:05:47,720

and truly, that
those people would

96

00:05:47,720 --> 00:05:50,610

be fighting among themselves.

97

00:05:50,610 --> 00:05:54,620

And I think it was primarily
in control of the camp.

98

00:05:54,620 --> 00:05:56,570

I just couldn't believe it.

99

00:05:56,570 --> 00:06:03,240

Because here they
are, liberated people,

100

00:06:03,240 --> 00:06:06,900

and fighting among themselves.

101

00:06:06,900 --> 00:06:08,880

I don't know what they
were fighting about.

102

00:06:08,880 --> 00:06:15,010

And of course, it's political.

103

00:06:15,010 --> 00:06:16,120

Let's put it that way.

104

00:06:16,120 --> 00:06:18,080

This was political.

105

00:06:18,080 --> 00:06:24,820

And so from that time on,
we become very strict.

106

00:06:24,820 --> 00:06:29,600

And we segregated that
camp, 18,000 people.

107

00:06:29,600 --> 00:06:32,690

We segregated the
camp by nationality

108

00:06:32,690 --> 00:06:37,010

and got all of the various
nations living together

109

00:06:37,010 --> 00:06:38,120

rather than--

110

00:06:38,120 --> 00:06:40,970

the Poles hated the Russians.

111

00:06:40,970 --> 00:06:44,180

And so they were
locked up separately.

112

00:06:44,180 --> 00:06:50,120

And the other nations,
like the Yugoslavians.

113

00:06:50,120 --> 00:06:53,270

Anybody who was there--
and I learned this

114

00:06:53,270 --> 00:06:58,790

from the Yugoslavians.

115

00:06:58,790 --> 00:07:03,770

People in there who are
the followers of King Peter

116

00:07:03,770 --> 00:07:08,600

and Mikhailovich, they were
not accepted by the people

117

00:07:08,600 --> 00:07:11,170

who followed Tito.

118

00:07:11,170 --> 00:07:15,470

And therefore, there was great

unrest among those people.

119
00:07:15,470 --> 00:07:17,020
And it was all political.

120
00:07:17,020 --> 00:07:19,330
And we were really shocked.

121
00:07:19,330 --> 00:07:23,030
We thought, here we are,
the great white father

122
00:07:23,030 --> 00:07:26,530
had liberated these people
from a concentration camp,

123
00:07:26,530 --> 00:07:29,090
and here they are
fighting among themselves.

124
00:07:29,090 --> 00:07:33,460
And so we took some very severe
action and put a stop to it

125
00:07:33,460 --> 00:07:34,270
real quick.

126
00:07:34,270 --> 00:07:37,610

127
00:07:37,610 --> 00:07:45,580
What about the initial reaction
of the people when you first

128
00:07:45,580 --> 00:07:48,070
came in with--

129
00:07:48,070 --> 00:07:49,550
did they speak to you?

130
00:07:49,550 --> 00:07:50,660
Did they cry?

131
00:07:50,660 --> 00:07:51,940
Did they laugh?

132
00:07:51,940 --> 00:07:54,080
Did they--

133
00:07:54,080 --> 00:07:57,110
Mixed emotions,
really and truly.

134
00:07:57,110 --> 00:08:01,770
Some people I know would come
up to me, wanted to touch me.

135
00:08:01,770 --> 00:08:07,280
Other people were are not
particularly concerned.

136
00:08:07,280 --> 00:08:11,330
But after we were there a
little while, that all changed.

137
00:08:11,330 --> 00:08:18,570
And they recognized us as
their saviors, if you will.

138
00:08:18,570 --> 00:08:21,780
What about-- wasn't
there one prisoner

139
00:08:21,780 --> 00:08:24,690
who had taken over an office?

140
00:08:24,690 --> 00:08:26,470
Tell me about that.

141
00:08:26,470 --> 00:08:28,800
Well, that's sort of
one of the highlights.

142
00:08:28,800 --> 00:08:33,200

143

00:08:33,200 --> 00:08:39,700

We came back-- [LAUGHS] when we
came back to occupy the camp,

144

00:08:39,700 --> 00:08:44,400

take it over, we went
in to the headquarters.

145

00:08:44,400 --> 00:08:49,990

And first of all,
I must tell you,

146

00:08:49,990 --> 00:08:53,620

I speak only English and
not too good at that.

147

00:08:53,620 --> 00:08:57,730

And here's all these
different nationalities.

148

00:08:57,730 --> 00:09:02,950

And for me to correspond
with them, no way.

149

00:09:02,950 --> 00:09:07,160

So there was a prisoner there
and he still lives in London.

150

00:09:07,160 --> 00:09:11,740

His name is Premislav Dobius
and I correspond with him.

151

00:09:11,740 --> 00:09:16,600

And in fact, I'll be seeing
him in Austria in May.

152

00:09:16,600 --> 00:09:19,090

He volunteered to
be my interpreter.

153

00:09:19,090 --> 00:09:21,840

He spoke six languages.

154
00:09:21,840 --> 00:09:25,510
And so he was with me.

155
00:09:25,510 --> 00:09:27,550
And this fellow that
was sitting behind

156
00:09:27,550 --> 00:09:30,130
the desk, and, I don't know,
three or four other people

157
00:09:30,130 --> 00:09:32,180
behind him.

158
00:09:32,180 --> 00:09:38,810
I said via an interpreter, I
said, what's he doing there?

159
00:09:38,810 --> 00:09:40,160
And he asked him.

160
00:09:40,160 --> 00:09:45,710
Well, he was a Russian major
who is a prisoner in the camp.

161
00:09:45,710 --> 00:09:49,750
And that they had taken
over command of the camp.

162
00:09:49,750 --> 00:09:52,680
So I said, is that so?

163
00:09:52,680 --> 00:09:55,110
I said, will you
please inform him

164
00:09:55,110 --> 00:09:57,990
that this is in
the American zone

165

00:09:57,990 --> 00:10:00,000
and we are responsible for it.

166
00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:04,150
And therefore, we are
in command of the camp.

167
00:10:04,150 --> 00:10:05,370
And he wouldn't budge.

168
00:10:05,370 --> 00:10:06,790
He wouldn't move.

169
00:10:06,790 --> 00:10:10,530
I said, please tell
him again that we

170
00:10:10,530 --> 00:10:14,520
are responsible for this
camp and that I am personally

171
00:10:14,520 --> 00:10:16,650
in command.

172
00:10:16,650 --> 00:10:18,990
Wouldn't move.

173
00:10:18,990 --> 00:10:25,440
So I reached down and
pulled out my 45 pistol.

174
00:10:25,440 --> 00:10:26,580
And I cocked it.

175
00:10:26,580 --> 00:10:29,970
And I shoved it right
across the desk in his face.

176
00:10:29,970 --> 00:10:33,420
I said, now you tell that
S of a B to get out of here

177

00:10:33,420 --> 00:10:34,770
or I'm going to shoot him.

178
00:10:34,770 --> 00:10:36,880
Boy, they took off
just like that.

179
00:10:36,880 --> 00:10:40,170
And that was one of the
highlights of our occupation.

180
00:10:40,170 --> 00:10:41,340
But they wouldn't budge.

181
00:10:41,340 --> 00:10:44,140
They wouldn't move at all
till I used some force.

182
00:10:44,140 --> 00:10:45,702
And that they understood.

183
00:10:45,702 --> 00:10:49,400

184
00:10:49,400 --> 00:10:51,710
Did you know who the--

185
00:10:51,710 --> 00:10:52,700
we're just about out.

186
00:10:52,700 --> 00:10:54,260
We have to put another roll of--

187
00:10:54,260 --> 00:10:54,800
All right.

188
00:10:54,800 --> 00:11:10,330

189
00:11:10,330 --> 00:11:10,830
Two.

190
00:11:10,830 --> 00:11:15,490

191
00:11:15,490 --> 00:11:18,790
Tell me how they
wanted to establish--

192
00:11:18,790 --> 00:11:21,940
tell me how bitter
the inmates were

193
00:11:21,940 --> 00:11:25,770
and how much they
wanted to bring

194
00:11:25,770 --> 00:11:28,880
their perpetrators to justice.

195
00:11:28,880 --> 00:11:34,190
Well, that was one thing that
we had to calm all of the people

196
00:11:34,190 --> 00:11:37,070
down because.

197
00:11:37,070 --> 00:11:39,440
Under the stress and
strain that they had been,

198
00:11:39,440 --> 00:11:42,470
and all of a sudden
they're free people.

199
00:11:42,470 --> 00:11:47,300
And it was very difficult
for them to accept that fact.

200
00:11:47,300 --> 00:11:53,220
And they had certain rivalries,
I'll say, in the camp.

201
00:11:53,220 --> 00:11:58,040

And we had to stop that because
so many people would be hurt.

202
00:11:58,040 --> 00:12:08,600
And the feelings-- we
were so surprised that--

203
00:12:08,600 --> 00:12:13,340
we thought that they would just
bow down and scrape, you know,

204
00:12:13,340 --> 00:12:16,880
because here we had saved
their lives and such.

205
00:12:16,880 --> 00:12:22,140
And so we were trying to be
"good guys," if you will.

206
00:12:22,140 --> 00:12:25,010
And then we had to
stop being good guys

207
00:12:25,010 --> 00:12:30,530
and become quite severe,
if that's the proper word,

208
00:12:30,530 --> 00:12:34,940
to get them to understand that
it was still a concentration

209
00:12:34,940 --> 00:12:35,540
camp.

210
00:12:35,540 --> 00:12:39,470
And we were going to run it to
the very best of our ability

211
00:12:39,470 --> 00:12:41,150
and take care of them.

212
00:12:41,150 --> 00:12:45,920
And we expected cooperation from

all of the people in the camp.

213
00:12:45,920 --> 00:12:51,560
That was our feeling and
how we got them in line

214
00:12:51,560 --> 00:12:57,260
to be normal beings again.

215
00:12:57,260 --> 00:13:02,010
Tell me about how the
Jews requested not

216
00:13:02,010 --> 00:13:06,800
to be put with their countries.

217
00:13:06,800 --> 00:13:08,390
Tell me about that request.

218
00:13:08,390 --> 00:13:09,980
All right.

219
00:13:09,980 --> 00:13:14,750
Of course, I came from a
very small town in Ohio.

220
00:13:14,750 --> 00:13:17,720
The population at that
time was somewhere

221
00:13:17,720 --> 00:13:20,330
in the neighborhood
of 9,000 people.

222
00:13:20,330 --> 00:13:22,700
And we had two Jewish families.

223
00:13:22,700 --> 00:13:24,950
They weren't Jewish as
far as we were concerned.

224
00:13:24,950 --> 00:13:27,410

They were members
of a community,

225
00:13:27,410 --> 00:13:30,360
and didn't recognize
them as Jews.

226
00:13:30,360 --> 00:13:35,720
So my education in
that respect was nil.

227
00:13:35,720 --> 00:13:40,970
One day, one of the
boys came in and said

228
00:13:40,970 --> 00:13:44,900
there's a prisoner out
here that wants to see you.

229
00:13:44,900 --> 00:13:47,420
And I said, all
right, bring him in.

230
00:13:47,420 --> 00:13:48,740
And he came in.

231
00:13:48,740 --> 00:13:52,370
And I said, what do you want?

232
00:13:52,370 --> 00:13:56,590
And he said, I'm a Jew.

233
00:13:56,590 --> 00:14:00,982
And he said, I want to know
why all the Jews in the camp

234
00:14:00,982 --> 00:14:01,690
are not together?

235
00:14:01,690 --> 00:14:05,030

236

00:14:05,030 --> 00:14:08,600
I said, that's a good question.

237
00:14:08,600 --> 00:14:11,410
I said, what's your nationality?

238
00:14:11,410 --> 00:14:12,970
He said, I'm a Hungarian.

239
00:14:12,970 --> 00:14:14,320
He spoke excellent English.

240
00:14:14,320 --> 00:14:19,500

241
00:14:19,500 --> 00:14:26,310
I said, of all the hell that you
people had been through before,

242
00:14:26,310 --> 00:14:30,270
wearing the Star of
David on your clothing

243
00:14:30,270 --> 00:14:34,680
and being treated as Jews
and to severe punishment

244
00:14:34,680 --> 00:14:40,300
and severe actions, that
doesn't happen anymore.

245
00:14:40,300 --> 00:14:48,480
I said, you may be a Jew,
but to me you are Hungarian.

246
00:14:48,480 --> 00:14:52,910
I said, Judaism
is your religion.

247
00:14:52,910 --> 00:14:53,743
He said, yes.

248

00:14:53,743 --> 00:14:54,410
He said, I know.

249
00:14:54,410 --> 00:14:57,440
But I think all the
Jews should be together.

250
00:14:57,440 --> 00:15:00,350
I said, not
according to my book.

251
00:15:00,350 --> 00:15:02,210
I said, you are Hungarian.

252
00:15:02,210 --> 00:15:05,850
Therefore, you will live
with the Hungarians.

253
00:15:05,850 --> 00:15:09,120
And so finally, he accepted it.

254
00:15:09,120 --> 00:15:11,700
And this is kind of odd.

255
00:15:11,700 --> 00:15:14,860
When he got ready to
leave, he thanked me.

256
00:15:14,860 --> 00:15:17,310
And he said, sir.

257
00:15:17,310 --> 00:15:21,180
He said, could you give me
a couple of Hershey bars?

258
00:15:21,180 --> 00:15:22,440
[LAUGHS]

259
00:15:22,440 --> 00:15:33,350
And from that time on, the
Jewish Zionist Organization

260

00:15:33,350 --> 00:15:39,680
from Switzerland, the chief
of the Zionist organization

261
00:15:39,680 --> 00:15:42,920
plus other members
of the organization,

262
00:15:42,920 --> 00:15:49,280
came to Mauthausen and
really put the steam on me

263
00:15:49,280 --> 00:15:52,130
to put the Jews all together.

264
00:15:52,130 --> 00:15:54,130
And I wouldn't do it.

265
00:15:54,130 --> 00:15:56,140
I said absolutely not.

266
00:15:56,140 --> 00:15:59,950
I said, I do not recognize
these people as Jews.

267
00:15:59,950 --> 00:16:02,650
I said, I recognize them
as their nationality.

268
00:16:02,650 --> 00:16:04,300
And that's the way
it's going to be

269
00:16:04,300 --> 00:16:06,500
and nobody is
going to change it.

270
00:16:06,500 --> 00:16:09,730
And so they accepted
it but not willingly,

271
00:16:09,730 --> 00:16:12,110
I'll put it that way.

272
00:16:12,110 --> 00:16:15,530
So from that time on, we
didn't have any problem.

273
00:16:15,530 --> 00:16:18,280
But I would not put
the Jews together

274
00:16:18,280 --> 00:16:21,820
because they had been living
under horrible conditions,

275
00:16:21,820 --> 00:16:24,310
isolated as Jews.

276
00:16:24,310 --> 00:16:26,320
And I wasn't going
to stand for that,

277
00:16:26,320 --> 00:16:28,219
because I didn't believe in it.

278
00:16:28,219 --> 00:16:32,810

279
00:16:32,810 --> 00:16:39,330
When you tried to bring
order in that first month

280
00:16:39,330 --> 00:16:44,460
or so that you were there,
what were your primary goals

281
00:16:44,460 --> 00:16:45,115
and problems?

282
00:16:45,115 --> 00:16:48,170

283
00:16:48,170 --> 00:16:53,870
Well, I would say that the

big problem that we had

284

00:16:53,870 --> 00:16:59,330
was the sickness among
the prisoners, primarily

285

00:16:59,330 --> 00:17:03,440
typhus and tuberculosis.

286

00:17:03,440 --> 00:17:07,940
I had doctors with me who
kept me very well posted.

287

00:17:07,940 --> 00:17:14,030
And we deloused every prisoner
in the camp with DDT powder.

288

00:17:14,030 --> 00:17:18,349
And those people, we called
in to clearing hospitals--

289

00:17:18,349 --> 00:17:23,040
big hospitals, army hospitals
--and anybody who was ill,

290

00:17:23,040 --> 00:17:25,560
they were confined
to a hospital.

291

00:17:25,560 --> 00:17:29,150
And so we hospitalized--
while we were there,

292

00:17:29,150 --> 00:17:33,140
we hospitalized
thousands of people.

293

00:17:33,140 --> 00:17:35,910
And got them back on
their feet and got

294

00:17:35,910 --> 00:17:40,400
and with the proper

medical treatment and such

295

00:17:40,400 --> 00:17:43,055

got them to where they
were normal beings again.

296

00:17:43,055 --> 00:17:49,190

297

00:17:49,190 --> 00:17:55,080

We had about 1,300 people
die while we were there

298

00:17:55,080 --> 00:17:57,570

because they were beyond help.

299

00:17:57,570 --> 00:18:00,900

And we were giving them the
very best medical attention

300

00:18:00,900 --> 00:18:02,430

that we could.

301

00:18:02,430 --> 00:18:07,410

Everybody was in the huge
clearing hospital tents.

302

00:18:07,410 --> 00:18:11,070

And they were all
on cots so that we

303

00:18:11,070 --> 00:18:12,610

tried to give them the best.

304

00:18:12,610 --> 00:18:17,930

And the other thing that
was so important was food.

305

00:18:17,930 --> 00:18:24,500

And upon the advice
of my doctor friends

306

00:18:24,500 --> 00:18:27,550
told me what I could
and couldn't do.

307
00:18:27,550 --> 00:18:30,750
And so we started out giving
them the same type of food

308
00:18:30,750 --> 00:18:32,820
that they had been receiving--

309
00:18:32,820 --> 00:18:35,850
very watered potato soup.

310
00:18:35,850 --> 00:18:40,230
I mean, it was just
colored water, that's all.

311
00:18:40,230 --> 00:18:45,360
And so we did that for, I
don't know, two or three days.

312
00:18:45,360 --> 00:18:50,490
And then we thickened
it up a bit,

313
00:18:50,490 --> 00:18:53,910
and made it a little thicker.

314
00:18:53,910 --> 00:18:58,140
And then we had
found a warehouse

315
00:18:58,140 --> 00:19:02,290
in Linz, Austria of
dehydrated vegetables.

316
00:19:02,290 --> 00:19:04,260
And so we brought those in.

317
00:19:04,260 --> 00:19:07,260
So then we started
adding some vegetables

318
00:19:07,260 --> 00:19:08,520
to the potatoes soup.

319
00:19:08,520 --> 00:19:09,720
And that was lovely.

320
00:19:09,720 --> 00:19:11,580
They all liked it very much.

321
00:19:11,580 --> 00:19:17,910
And then as it progressed,
they went on solid food,

322
00:19:17,910 --> 00:19:21,960
boiled potatoes and vegetables.

323
00:19:21,960 --> 00:19:25,070
These dehydrated
vegetables, but not in soup.

324
00:19:25,070 --> 00:19:28,480
And meat, horse meat.

325
00:19:28,480 --> 00:19:32,230
See, in the German army,
a mechanized division

326
00:19:32,230 --> 00:19:35,110
has got umpteen horses.

327
00:19:35,110 --> 00:19:39,910
And so in the combat
action, you're

328
00:19:39,910 --> 00:19:43,120
driving all these horses ahead
plus the ones that were there

329
00:19:43,120 --> 00:19:44,920
in Austria and on the farm.

330

00:19:44,920 --> 00:19:47,050

So we'd butcher horses.

331

00:19:47,050 --> 00:19:50,710

And we fed them meat, potatoes,
and vegetables, and coffee,

332

00:19:50,710 --> 00:19:52,330

of course, and bread.

333

00:19:52,330 --> 00:19:55,510

Now, bread, that
was something that

334

00:19:55,510 --> 00:19:58,910

presented a bit of a problem.

335

00:19:58,910 --> 00:20:01,420

We found a bakery and
we got some people

336

00:20:01,420 --> 00:20:04,690

who were prisoners in the
camp to do the baking.

337

00:20:04,690 --> 00:20:06,430

We didn't have any yeast.

338

00:20:06,430 --> 00:20:09,190

All we had was oats.

339

00:20:09,190 --> 00:20:13,090

And oats mixed with
water turned into bread.

340

00:20:13,090 --> 00:20:17,560

I think maybe I'm responsible
for the oat bread in the United

341

00:20:17,560 --> 00:20:18,220

States today.

342

00:20:18,220 --> 00:20:19,000

[LAUGHS]

343

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:26,030

But we baked thousands
and thousands of loaves.

344

00:20:26,030 --> 00:20:27,500

And we had to put--

345

00:20:27,500 --> 00:20:30,200

because when they're first
baked and they come out,

346

00:20:30,200 --> 00:20:34,620

they're just nothing but
squishy water, if you will.

347

00:20:34,620 --> 00:20:38,690

And so we put them in
a warehouse to dry out.

348

00:20:38,690 --> 00:20:41,870

And after they got dry enough
that we could slice them,

349

00:20:41,870 --> 00:20:45,580

every prisoner got
one slice of bread.

350

00:20:45,580 --> 00:20:50,410

And then after a little
while they got two slices.

351

00:20:50,410 --> 00:20:54,730

And bread-- prior
to our occupation,

352

00:20:54,730 --> 00:20:58,360

bread was the most
precious article of food

353

00:20:58,360 --> 00:21:03,430
that they had in the camp
or ever had or ever will.

354
00:21:03,430 --> 00:21:07,660
And so then it got to
where we could give them

355
00:21:07,660 --> 00:21:08,890
a quarter loaf of bread.

356
00:21:08,890 --> 00:21:12,400

357
00:21:12,400 --> 00:21:15,940
And our stock of bread
kept building and building.

358
00:21:15,940 --> 00:21:18,080
So finally I said,
OK, give everybody

359
00:21:18,080 --> 00:21:20,210
a half a loaf of bread.

360
00:21:20,210 --> 00:21:27,480
And one day one of the prisoners
came in and said, Colonel,

361
00:21:27,480 --> 00:21:28,950
we don't want any more bread.

362
00:21:28,950 --> 00:21:29,625
We got enough.

363
00:21:29,625 --> 00:21:36,000
[LAUGHS] Which was quite rare
because bread-- as I say,

364
00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:38,400
you could get your
head bashed in

365

00:21:38,400 --> 00:21:41,190

or your throat cut for
a half a piece of bread.

366

00:21:41,190 --> 00:21:44,250

And they used to store
it in their bunks

367

00:21:44,250 --> 00:21:48,640

and sleep on it if
they hadn't eaten it.

368

00:21:48,640 --> 00:21:50,310

OK, we're just about out--

369

00:21:50,310 --> 00:22:01,480

370

00:22:01,480 --> 00:22:03,747

Colonel Seibel, Camera 3 mark 3.

371

00:22:03,747 --> 00:22:07,950

372

00:22:07,950 --> 00:22:11,460

Did you bring in
German civilians

373

00:22:11,460 --> 00:22:13,230

to help you with the
running of the camp?

374

00:22:13,230 --> 00:22:15,690

No, we didn't bring
any civilians in.

375

00:22:15,690 --> 00:22:22,560

But we did bring in about 400
German wehrmacht soldiers.

376

00:22:22,560 --> 00:22:28,620

We had-- the SS, when they

left, they disrupted everything.

377

00:22:28,620 --> 00:22:30,690

And they were going to
burn the place down.

378

00:22:30,690 --> 00:22:35,040

But the prisoners said please
don't, and they didn't do it.

379

00:22:35,040 --> 00:22:40,110

But they had disrupted all of
the water supply, the sewage,

380

00:22:40,110 --> 00:22:41,880

the electricity-- everything.

381

00:22:41,880 --> 00:22:43,650

There wasn't
anything in the camp.

382

00:22:43,650 --> 00:22:49,830

And so we found out that there
was a prisoner of war camp

383

00:22:49,830 --> 00:22:52,110

where there had a
lot of prisoners

384

00:22:52,110 --> 00:22:55,550

who were capable of
doing special things.

385

00:22:55,550 --> 00:23:00,090

And so we got 400 German
PWs and brought them

386

00:23:00,090 --> 00:23:04,020

in to do all of the things
that were necessary,

387

00:23:04,020 --> 00:23:06,270

which helped us tremendously.

388
00:23:06,270 --> 00:23:09,660
And they were
conducted as soldiers.

389
00:23:09,660 --> 00:23:11,850
And they were not
treated as prisoners.

390
00:23:11,850 --> 00:23:14,290
And we got along very well.

391
00:23:14,290 --> 00:23:18,810
And they brought life
back into the camp.

392
00:23:18,810 --> 00:23:22,930
How do you think they
felt seeing the camp?

393
00:23:22,930 --> 00:23:28,970
Well, I remember the
captain who was put

394
00:23:28,970 --> 00:23:31,400
in command of this detachment.

395
00:23:31,400 --> 00:23:34,520
His name is Von Broll
and he was an Austrian.

396
00:23:34,520 --> 00:23:38,730

397
00:23:38,730 --> 00:23:40,660
They couldn't believe it.

398
00:23:40,660 --> 00:23:43,110
They were combat soldiers.

399
00:23:43,110 --> 00:23:47,910
And they really and

truly didn't believe

400
00:23:47,910 --> 00:23:50,970
that their own peoples
and other peoples

401
00:23:50,970 --> 00:23:54,260
were being treated like that.

402
00:23:54,260 --> 00:23:58,390
It was an experience for
them the same as for us.

403
00:23:58,390 --> 00:24:01,020

404
00:24:01,020 --> 00:24:05,190
Tell me again about
the sensory things

405
00:24:05,190 --> 00:24:10,165
like the smells and the sounds,
and the women's barrack.

406
00:24:10,165 --> 00:24:13,810

407
00:24:13,810 --> 00:24:21,390
Well, I'll tell you,
to explain or describe

408
00:24:21,390 --> 00:24:28,820
the condition of the women in
that barracks, words fail me.

409
00:24:28,820 --> 00:24:34,930
After we occupied
the camp in force,

410
00:24:34,930 --> 00:24:37,480
when I brought
more people in, we

411

00:24:37,480 --> 00:24:40,160
burned all of those buildings.

412

00:24:40,160 --> 00:24:44,330
Because they were so
full of vermin, it was--

413

00:24:44,330 --> 00:24:46,050
oh, you couldn't believe it.

414

00:24:46,050 --> 00:24:48,750
It's beyond imagination.

415

00:24:48,750 --> 00:24:56,460
The women living under these
horrible, horrible conditions,

416

00:24:56,460 --> 00:24:57,990
they were all
gotten out of there.

417

00:24:57,990 --> 00:24:59,190
They were all cleaned up.

418

00:24:59,190 --> 00:25:00,840
They were all deloused.

419

00:25:00,840 --> 00:25:04,260
And we just burnt the buildings
down, got rid of them.

420

00:25:04,260 --> 00:25:07,030
They were no good.

421

00:25:07,030 --> 00:25:13,460
It's-- I don't know.

422

00:25:13,460 --> 00:25:17,320
To see these women
and why they were

423

00:25:17,320 --> 00:25:22,810
treated as they were and
under the horrible conditions

424
00:25:22,810 --> 00:25:25,750
that they were
living, I don't know.

425
00:25:25,750 --> 00:25:31,620
I have no answer for
that, except the brutality

426
00:25:31,620 --> 00:25:36,210
and, again, man's
inhumanity to man.

427
00:25:36,210 --> 00:25:37,890
That's the only way
I can describe it.

428
00:25:37,890 --> 00:25:45,170

429
00:25:45,170 --> 00:25:46,872
Are we almost done?

430
00:25:46,872 --> 00:25:49,670

431
00:25:49,670 --> 00:25:53,420
We need to just
record 30 seconds

432
00:25:53,420 --> 00:25:55,790
of the sound of the room.

433
00:25:55,790 --> 00:25:59,810
So just be very quiet
for about 30 seconds.

434
00:25:59,810 --> 00:26:01,540
All right.

435

00:26:01,540 --> 00:26:05,000