

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:06,330

2
00:01:06,330 --> 00:01:07,450
Shall we begin?

3
00:01:07,450 --> 00:01:17,250

4
00:01:17,250 --> 00:01:20,520
It might be easier for you if
you put that down in the chair

5
00:01:20,520 --> 00:01:22,800
until we're ready to do it.

6
00:01:22,800 --> 00:01:24,240
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

7
00:01:24,240 --> 00:01:24,930
OK.

8
00:01:24,930 --> 00:01:26,220
Any time.

9
00:01:26,220 --> 00:01:27,330
I'm ready.

10
00:01:27,330 --> 00:01:29,580
Any time.

11
00:01:29,580 --> 00:01:31,950
We are interviewing
Tony Cardinale

12
00:01:31,950 --> 00:01:34,230
for the Holocaust
Oral History Project

13
00:01:34,230 --> 00:01:36,270

in San Francisco, California.

14

00:01:36,270 --> 00:01:39,600

Today is June 30, 1993.

15

00:01:39,600 --> 00:01:43,470

I am Peggy Coster, and
with me is Ruth Durling.

16

00:01:43,470 --> 00:01:45,480

The producer is John Grant.

17

00:01:45,480 --> 00:01:48,360

18

00:01:48,360 --> 00:01:52,650

Could you start by telling us
where you were born and when?

19

00:01:52,650 --> 00:01:55,740

I was born in Pittsburg,
California, at the time

20

00:01:55,740 --> 00:02:02,650

a little fishing
village, on May 29, 1920.

21

00:02:02,650 --> 00:02:06,520

And who are your parents
and brothers and sisters,

22

00:02:06,520 --> 00:02:09,949

and your age differences,
that kind of stuff.

23

00:02:09,949 --> 00:02:13,040

This is a real trick question.

24

00:02:13,040 --> 00:02:16,510

My dad was named also
Anthony, Tony, Senior,

25

00:02:16,510 --> 00:02:18,640
and I'm Anthony
Junior, of course.

26
00:02:18,640 --> 00:02:27,100
My mother's name was Antoinette,
and they gave life to us

27
00:02:27,100 --> 00:02:30,340
five sisters and five brothers.

28
00:02:30,340 --> 00:02:35,770
And my oldest brother, the
first child of the family,

29
00:02:35,770 --> 00:02:39,460
Claude, he's in a rest home now.

30
00:02:39,460 --> 00:02:43,725
He's 87 years old.

31
00:02:43,725 --> 00:02:44,350
And forgive me.

32
00:02:44,350 --> 00:02:46,240
I can't remember the
ages of all of them.

33
00:02:46,240 --> 00:02:49,690
The next child was a daughter,
my older sister, Rose,

34
00:02:49,690 --> 00:02:52,660
and there's probably a
year and a half or two

35
00:02:52,660 --> 00:02:57,100
between all of us, except
for the last, the 10th child,

36
00:02:57,100 --> 00:02:59,740
my brother Joe.

37

00:02:59,740 --> 00:03:06,580

There was a difference
between the number 9 brother

38

00:03:06,580 --> 00:03:13,400

and number 10 of maybe
five, six years or so,

39

00:03:13,400 --> 00:03:15,230

to the best of my recollection.

40

00:03:15,230 --> 00:03:15,990

Oh, that's fine.

41

00:03:15,990 --> 00:03:18,170

No problem.

42

00:03:18,170 --> 00:03:19,920

How was the family supported?

43

00:03:19,920 --> 00:03:21,600

What did your father do?

44

00:03:21,600 --> 00:03:26,240

My dad, when he came over from
the old country in about 1900,

45

00:03:26,240 --> 00:03:30,410

opened up the first meat market
in Pittsburg, California.

46

00:03:30,410 --> 00:03:32,975

And all of us brothers
became meat cutters.

47

00:03:32,975 --> 00:03:34,790

We were butchers.

48

00:03:34,790 --> 00:03:36,740

And they old country
is Italy, of course.

49

00:03:36,740 --> 00:03:38,360

Sicily, actually.

50

00:03:38,360 --> 00:03:42,470

My dad was born in a
little village near Sicily.

51

00:03:42,470 --> 00:03:44,670

And, oh, about six
or eight years ago,

52

00:03:44,670 --> 00:03:48,140

I took a trip over there because
have a son, Tony III, who's

53

00:03:48,140 --> 00:03:51,560

a Lieutenant in the Navy,
stationed at the Naval Air

54

00:03:51,560 --> 00:03:53,550

base in Sicily.

55

00:03:53,550 --> 00:03:58,880

So I went over mainly to
visit him and went to--

56

00:03:58,880 --> 00:04:01,030

he took me for a tour around.

57

00:04:01,030 --> 00:04:05,540

Went to visit the little town of
Capaci, where my dad was born,

58

00:04:05,540 --> 00:04:11,330

just a little village outside
of Palermo, and a little village

59

00:04:11,330 --> 00:04:13,970

called Isole Della
Femmine, which

60

00:04:13,970 --> 00:04:18,350

translates into Isle of Women,
where my mother was born.

61
00:04:18,350 --> 00:04:20,000
And it was sort of
an emotional thing

62
00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:22,940
to visit those little
towns and try to picture

63
00:04:22,940 --> 00:04:25,370
my mom and dad as youngsters
when they were there.

64
00:04:25,370 --> 00:04:28,550
And also went to visit
the Cardinale Meat Market,

65
00:04:28,550 --> 00:04:34,670
which was originally owned
by my great-grandfather.

66
00:04:34,670 --> 00:04:36,410
And it's still
standing and operated

67
00:04:36,410 --> 00:04:39,800
by a cousin about
40 times removed,

68
00:04:39,800 --> 00:04:41,280
but it's still operating.

69
00:04:41,280 --> 00:04:42,570
Ah, is it?

70
00:04:42,570 --> 00:04:44,210
Yeah.

71
00:04:44,210 --> 00:04:49,880
What was your family's religion
and attitude toward religion?

72
00:04:49,880 --> 00:04:51,530
The attitude towards
religion was good,

73
00:04:51,530 --> 00:04:53,420
and we were all brought
up as Catholics.

74
00:04:53,420 --> 00:04:56,410

75
00:04:56,410 --> 00:04:59,230
Here's the lamp.

76
00:04:59,230 --> 00:05:01,630
Thanks.

77
00:05:01,630 --> 00:05:02,470
OK, go ahead.

78
00:05:02,470 --> 00:05:05,470

79
00:05:05,470 --> 00:05:08,750
And, well, their attitude--
our attitude was good.

80
00:05:08,750 --> 00:05:13,990
We had no different
attitudes from the way

81
00:05:13,990 --> 00:05:16,690
we were brought up as Catholics.

82
00:05:16,690 --> 00:05:19,300
Well, when I say
attitude, I mean,

83
00:05:19,300 --> 00:05:20,830
did you take it seriously?

84

00:05:20,830 --> 00:05:23,860

Or was it kind of--

85

00:05:23,860 --> 00:05:25,520

Oh, no, I took it seriously.

86

00:05:25,520 --> 00:05:29,080

Went to catechism and
learned about our dear Lord

87

00:05:29,080 --> 00:05:31,210

and went to mass.

88

00:05:31,210 --> 00:05:35,920

But I'm ashamed to admit that
I haven't been practicing

89

00:05:35,920 --> 00:05:39,700

my religion very faithfully for
the last number of years, just

90

00:05:39,700 --> 00:05:43,300

a personal thing, because
I married out of the church

91

00:05:43,300 --> 00:05:43,900

to begin with.

92

00:05:43,900 --> 00:05:46,780

93

00:05:46,780 --> 00:05:50,970

So that's about all I can
remember about religion,

94

00:05:50,970 --> 00:05:54,450

unless you have more
questions on it.

95

00:05:54,450 --> 00:05:58,830

What values did your
beliefs instill within you?

96
00:05:58,830 --> 00:06:02,880
I'm talking in terms
of about attitudes that

97
00:06:02,880 --> 00:06:07,830
bordered on racism,
antisemitism, or anti-Black

98
00:06:07,830 --> 00:06:10,000
or any kind of racism.

99
00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:15,240
I've never personally held
any malice or any bad thoughts

100
00:06:15,240 --> 00:06:19,710
about anyone, regardless
of religion, color, or--

101
00:06:19,710 --> 00:06:22,440

102
00:06:22,440 --> 00:06:27,750
one in Pittsburg, we lived
amongst many Hispanic

103
00:06:27,750 --> 00:06:33,682
and Afro-Americans, as they
like to be called now, just very

104
00:06:33,682 --> 00:06:35,640
good friends, went to
school with them and all.

105
00:06:35,640 --> 00:06:36,720
And there was never--

106
00:06:36,720 --> 00:06:40,140
played kick the can with them,
run sheep run, or whatever.

107

00:06:40,140 --> 00:06:43,800

In fact, we'd invite
couple of the Black people

108

00:06:43,800 --> 00:06:49,710

into our home and vice versa,
and there was never any--

109

00:06:49,710 --> 00:06:51,765

maybe kids badmouthing
or something like that.

110

00:06:51,765 --> 00:06:52,890

You understand what I mean?

111

00:06:52,890 --> 00:06:58,830

But nothing real deep against
their race or religion

112

00:06:58,830 --> 00:07:00,360

or whatever.

113

00:07:00,360 --> 00:07:04,140

So you don't feel that
you, just by living

114

00:07:04,140 --> 00:07:07,470

in the culture you
lived in, developed

115

00:07:07,470 --> 00:07:10,140

any kind of racist attitudes.

116

00:07:10,140 --> 00:07:11,460

Not at all, no.

117

00:07:11,460 --> 00:07:14,670

Do you think your religion
had anything to do with that?

118

00:07:14,670 --> 00:07:15,750

Well, it's possible.

119

00:07:15,750 --> 00:07:19,380

But also, I think, from the
way our mom and dad brought us

120

00:07:19,380 --> 00:07:22,380

up and taught us to
love thy neighbor.

121

00:07:22,380 --> 00:07:31,110

And so it was a combination of
feedback from my mom and dad

122

00:07:31,110 --> 00:07:35,762

and from our religion.

123

00:07:35,762 --> 00:07:36,758

Thank you.

124

00:07:36,758 --> 00:07:41,250

125

00:07:41,250 --> 00:07:46,910

How did your education,
community attitudes,

126

00:07:46,910 --> 00:07:49,760

and family life shape
your values and attitudes

127

00:07:49,760 --> 00:07:51,203

prior to the war?

128

00:07:51,203 --> 00:07:53,495

It's sort of similar to the
last question, but broader.

129

00:07:53,495 --> 00:07:56,850

130

00:07:56,850 --> 00:08:00,480

I'm not quite sure
how to answer that.

131
00:08:00,480 --> 00:08:02,370
Would you repeat that, please?

132
00:08:02,370 --> 00:08:04,890
How did your education,
community attitudes,

133
00:08:04,890 --> 00:08:07,710
and family life shape
your values and attitudes

134
00:08:07,710 --> 00:08:10,650
prior to the war?

135
00:08:10,650 --> 00:08:15,198
How did they shape my attitudes?

136
00:08:15,198 --> 00:08:15,990
Well, I don't know.

137
00:08:15,990 --> 00:08:19,230
It's sort of a
repetitive answer,

138
00:08:19,230 --> 00:08:21,720
as I answered the
previous question.

139
00:08:21,720 --> 00:08:23,655
We were brought up
as a happy family.

140
00:08:23,655 --> 00:08:27,280

141
00:08:27,280 --> 00:08:31,740
I never had any deep prejudice
against any particular person

142
00:08:31,740 --> 00:08:32,830
or race.

143
00:08:32,830 --> 00:08:37,830

144
00:08:37,830 --> 00:08:41,130
In some ways, it's unusual
to have found a community

145
00:08:41,130 --> 00:08:46,920
at that time in which the
Blacks were accepted as equals.

146
00:08:46,920 --> 00:08:48,150
And to some extent--

147
00:08:48,150 --> 00:08:50,680
I don't have any personal
experience with antisemitism

148
00:08:50,680 --> 00:08:56,400
as a child, so I can
easily perceive that as--

149
00:08:56,400 --> 00:09:00,120
but it just seems like
anti-Black has so permeated

150
00:09:00,120 --> 00:09:03,780
American culture that it
seems really strange to me

151
00:09:03,780 --> 00:09:04,462
and unusual.

152
00:09:04,462 --> 00:09:06,420
And so could you talk
about that a little more,

153
00:09:06,420 --> 00:09:09,370
about how the Blacks and
whites interacted in your town?

154

00:09:09,370 --> 00:09:11,990

155

00:09:11,990 --> 00:09:12,800

Well, we had--

156

00:09:12,800 --> 00:09:16,100

157

00:09:16,100 --> 00:09:18,440

Peggy, there were some
isolated instances

158

00:09:18,440 --> 00:09:20,630

in our neighborhood where--

159

00:09:20,630 --> 00:09:23,480

and I think you find that all
over any city in the world,

160

00:09:23,480 --> 00:09:29,210

where there are some
youngsters who were bad, shall

161

00:09:29,210 --> 00:09:32,600

we say, quote, "bad,"
which we disliked, but not

162

00:09:32,600 --> 00:09:36,230

because of their race,
only because they

163

00:09:36,230 --> 00:09:39,320

were juvenile delinquents,
or even in those days.

164

00:09:39,320 --> 00:09:46,430

165

00:09:46,430 --> 00:09:49,520

Forgive me I forget the
gist of the question

166

00:09:49,520 --> 00:09:50,660

again as I keep talking.

167

00:09:50,660 --> 00:09:52,743

Just how Blacks and whites
interacted at the time.

168

00:09:52,743 --> 00:09:55,400

Oh, yeah, well, we
interacted very well.

169

00:09:55,400 --> 00:09:57,150

Like I told you, we
used to play together,

170

00:09:57,150 --> 00:09:58,790

we went to school together.

171

00:09:58,790 --> 00:09:59,730

How about the adults?

172

00:09:59,730 --> 00:10:00,647

How did they interact?

173

00:10:00,647 --> 00:10:02,930

The adults were the same.

174

00:10:02,930 --> 00:10:05,350

They were very nice people.

175

00:10:05,350 --> 00:10:07,880

In those days, I'm
talking about the--

176

00:10:07,880 --> 00:10:09,980

I was born in 1920,
so I'm talking

177

00:10:09,980 --> 00:10:14,510

about from the time when
I can remember, I guess,

178

00:10:14,510 --> 00:10:19,610
when I was from six, seven
years old on up till I was 16.

179

00:10:19,610 --> 00:10:22,350
Everything was OK.

180

00:10:22,350 --> 00:10:24,600
Everybody went to the
same schools and churches?

181

00:10:24,600 --> 00:10:25,200
Right, yeah.

182

00:10:25,200 --> 00:10:28,203
In San Francisco, for
instance, St. Benedict

183

00:10:28,203 --> 00:10:30,370
was the Black church, and
that was the Black church.

184

00:10:30,370 --> 00:10:33,390
Oh, no, we had no
segregation whatsoever

185

00:10:33,390 --> 00:10:36,290
in the churches, the schools,
or anything in those days.

186

00:10:36,290 --> 00:10:42,240

187

00:10:42,240 --> 00:10:44,080
May I sip my coffee?

188

00:10:44,080 --> 00:10:44,830
Absolutely.

189

00:10:44,830 --> 00:10:49,300

190

00:10:49,300 --> 00:10:51,740

So you didn't receive any
racism as a child here--

191

00:10:51,740 --> 00:10:52,240

No.

192

00:10:52,240 --> 00:10:53,080

--towards anybody.

193

00:10:53,080 --> 00:10:54,585

No.

194

00:10:54,585 --> 00:10:55,960

There may have
been, like I said,

195

00:10:55,960 --> 00:10:59,770

personal prejudices against
one particular person,

196

00:10:59,770 --> 00:11:08,900

but not because of race
or religious attitudes.

197

00:11:08,900 --> 00:11:11,260

And this continued all
the way through till you

198

00:11:11,260 --> 00:11:14,440

joined the Navy?

199

00:11:14,440 --> 00:11:15,040

Army?

200

00:11:15,040 --> 00:11:15,927

The Army, yes.

201

00:11:15,927 --> 00:11:16,861

The Army.

202

00:11:16,861 --> 00:11:20,130

203

00:11:20,130 --> 00:11:26,370

Of course, then I developed
a prejudice against Hitler,

204

00:11:26,370 --> 00:11:30,210

not necessarily Germans, but
Hitler and the Nazis, the SS

205

00:11:30,210 --> 00:11:30,930

troopers.

206

00:11:30,930 --> 00:11:32,010

Talk about that.

207

00:11:32,010 --> 00:11:34,390

How did you begin
hearing about that?

208

00:11:34,390 --> 00:11:35,820

How do I begin
hearing about that?

209

00:11:35,820 --> 00:11:45,040

Through news reports about the
atrocities that were occurring.

210

00:11:45,040 --> 00:11:50,160

And then, of course,
when we entered the war,

211

00:11:50,160 --> 00:11:52,130

we started hearing
about the atrocities.

212

00:11:52,130 --> 00:11:55,730

And as a young man, I
felt, gee, this is bad.

213

00:11:55,730 --> 00:11:57,740

You know, but I

didn't dwell on it.

214

00:11:57,740 --> 00:12:00,440

215

00:12:00,440 --> 00:12:03,020

When did you first begin
hearing these atrocities?

216

00:12:03,020 --> 00:12:04,470

Where were they first--

217

00:12:04,470 --> 00:12:07,640

excuse me-- reported?

218

00:12:07,640 --> 00:12:11,540

Well, probably before
I entered the service,

219

00:12:11,540 --> 00:12:19,970

but I began to have more
of a feeling about it

220

00:12:19,970 --> 00:12:22,100

when I joined the service.

221

00:12:22,100 --> 00:12:24,638

And we had a--

222

00:12:24,638 --> 00:12:28,130

the military issued a
newspaper for the military

223

00:12:28,130 --> 00:12:32,733

called The Stars and
Stripes, which was--

224

00:12:32,733 --> 00:12:34,400

excuse me-- something
like a local paper

225

00:12:34,400 --> 00:12:40,250

that we'd hear reports about
how our progress was going along

226
00:12:40,250 --> 00:12:44,720
with different sectors
of the war zone.

227
00:12:44,720 --> 00:12:46,790
And I'd read about
the atrocities

228
00:12:46,790 --> 00:12:48,600
and the various
concentration camps.

229
00:12:48,600 --> 00:12:49,850
And it was disgusting.

230
00:12:49,850 --> 00:12:53,720

231
00:12:53,720 --> 00:12:56,150
But then I sort
of forget about it

232
00:12:56,150 --> 00:12:58,520
because I was so busy
doing my job there

233
00:12:58,520 --> 00:13:00,380
in the army during the war.

234
00:13:00,380 --> 00:13:03,620
But then, of course,
when we entered

235
00:13:03,620 --> 00:13:07,790
the Dachau concentration
camp, and then that

236
00:13:07,790 --> 00:13:09,080
was a sickening sight.

237

00:13:09,080 --> 00:13:14,210

And I felt then that it was
necessary for us or someone

238

00:13:14,210 --> 00:13:16,490

to be there to stop
that wholesale slaughter

239

00:13:16,490 --> 00:13:19,460

of human life.

240

00:13:19,460 --> 00:13:30,140

And after leaving Dachau, I
had an emotional thing about it

241

00:13:30,140 --> 00:13:31,670

for about six
months after seeing

242

00:13:31,670 --> 00:13:35,180

what I had seen in person.

243

00:13:35,180 --> 00:13:40,460

So my attitude towards the
Nazis was, so to speak.

244

00:13:40,460 --> 00:13:44,060

245

00:13:44,060 --> 00:13:46,190

Earlier, back in the
'30s, when you first

246

00:13:46,190 --> 00:13:52,150

began hearing
stories, did you hear

247

00:13:52,150 --> 00:13:56,770

much about how Jews
were being singled out?

248

00:13:56,770 --> 00:13:57,540

No.

249
00:13:57,540 --> 00:14:01,180
In the '30s, I don't recall.

250
00:14:01,180 --> 00:14:02,950
I might have read it or heard.

251
00:14:02,950 --> 00:14:06,160
But as a child in
the '30s, I would--

252
00:14:06,160 --> 00:14:09,250
in 1930, I'd be
only 10 years old.

253
00:14:09,250 --> 00:14:13,870
And I probably
heard, but I don't

254
00:14:13,870 --> 00:14:15,700
recall any particular
instance where

255
00:14:15,700 --> 00:14:22,300
I'd heard any antisemitism
that I can recall.

256
00:14:22,300 --> 00:14:26,380
I may have heard it,
but I just don't recall.

257
00:14:26,380 --> 00:14:28,480
Were you drafted
or did you enlist?

258
00:14:28,480 --> 00:14:31,300
Well, I was drafted.

259
00:14:31,300 --> 00:14:34,330
I got my letter of greeting
from President Franklin D.

260

00:14:34,330 --> 00:14:38,380

Roosevelt back 19--

261

00:14:38,380 --> 00:14:42,160

I think it was early of 1942.

262

00:14:42,160 --> 00:14:44,950

And I was all gung ho.

263

00:14:44,950 --> 00:14:48,400

My mother and dad had
given me a farewell party

264

00:14:48,400 --> 00:14:52,160

with relatives and neighborhood
friends and so forth.

265

00:14:52,160 --> 00:14:54,310

So I'd happily come
to San Francisco

266

00:14:54,310 --> 00:14:59,990

here at one of the places
that I forget where now.

267

00:14:59,990 --> 00:15:04,060

And I was rejected for
being 6 pounds underweight.

268

00:15:04,060 --> 00:15:07,810

I only weighed 136 pounds.

269

00:15:07,810 --> 00:15:10,450

So I came home with a long face.

270

00:15:10,450 --> 00:15:13,010

Mom says, honey, what happened?

271

00:15:13,010 --> 00:15:15,310

They wouldn't take me, Mom.

272

00:15:15,310 --> 00:15:19,930
So at any rate, I waited
about maybe six months or so.

273
00:15:19,930 --> 00:15:23,110
They told me that I would be
called again at a later date.

274
00:15:23,110 --> 00:15:26,650
And I just got antsy and I
didn't want to wait for them.

275
00:15:26,650 --> 00:15:29,750
I figured I knew I was going
to go one day or another.

276
00:15:29,750 --> 00:15:33,670
So about six, seven
months maybe, I

277
00:15:33,670 --> 00:15:39,250
tried to put on or six
pounds, and I enlisted.

278
00:15:39,250 --> 00:15:41,530
So they called me for my
examination, my physical,

279
00:15:41,530 --> 00:15:44,020
and so forth, and I ate
breakfast three times a day,

280
00:15:44,020 --> 00:15:46,690
from Oakland to San Francisco.

281
00:15:46,690 --> 00:15:50,090
And I brought two
bananas with me.

282
00:15:50,090 --> 00:15:53,620
I ate breakfast at
home, then I think

283

00:15:53,620 --> 00:15:57,130
I had hot cakes and
butter, or something heavy.

284
00:15:57,130 --> 00:16:00,320
And when I came over, I had
brought two bananas with me.

285
00:16:00,320 --> 00:16:04,210
When I got to San
Francisco, at that time,

286
00:16:04,210 --> 00:16:09,700
there was a very well-known
cafe, big chain all over,

287
00:16:09,700 --> 00:16:10,630
called Fosters.

288
00:16:10,630 --> 00:16:11,955
I don't know if you remember.

289
00:16:11,955 --> 00:16:14,710
They're the ones originated
Fosters English muffins,

290
00:16:14,710 --> 00:16:15,640
I think.

291
00:16:15,640 --> 00:16:19,960
At any rate, I stopped there
and I had breakfast again.

292
00:16:19,960 --> 00:16:22,450
And then before going
over across the street

293
00:16:22,450 --> 00:16:24,400
to the building to be
to get my physical,

294
00:16:24,400 --> 00:16:25,600
I ate was two bananas.

295

00:16:25,600 --> 00:16:27,730

And I made it.

296

00:16:27,730 --> 00:16:41,530

That was in September,
late September of 1942.

297

00:16:41,530 --> 00:16:43,090

Why did you enlist?

298

00:16:43,090 --> 00:16:45,268

Why did you want
so badly to be--

299

00:16:45,268 --> 00:16:46,060

Well, I don't know.

300

00:16:46,060 --> 00:16:47,560

I guess it was--

301

00:16:47,560 --> 00:16:49,000

I don't know.

302

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:52,090

I'm sure down deep it
was a patriotic thing,

303

00:16:52,090 --> 00:16:56,890

but it was also maybe I
needed a change of life,

304

00:16:56,890 --> 00:16:59,290

not that I wanted to leave
my mom and dad and my sisters

305

00:16:59,290 --> 00:17:01,415

and brothers. of course,
a lot of them at that time

306

00:17:01,415 --> 00:17:02,350

had been married.

307
00:17:02,350 --> 00:17:03,760
They were in their own homes.

308
00:17:03,760 --> 00:17:06,220
But I guess it was
just a young man's

309
00:17:06,220 --> 00:17:08,560
dream of being in the Army.

310
00:17:08,560 --> 00:17:10,950
Someday maybe I might be
a General or something,

311
00:17:10,950 --> 00:17:13,000
I don't know.

312
00:17:13,000 --> 00:17:13,839
General nuisance.

313
00:17:13,839 --> 00:17:20,460

314
00:17:20,460 --> 00:17:24,589
But when I joined the Army--

315
00:17:24,589 --> 00:17:27,150
I don't know if you want to if
you want to print this or not,

316
00:17:27,150 --> 00:17:32,430
but it's a funny joke I always
tell when I have a chance to.

317
00:17:32,430 --> 00:17:36,960
When I joined the Army, I
trained to be an astronaut.

318
00:17:36,960 --> 00:17:37,890
I took up space.

319

00:17:37,890 --> 00:17:47,010

320

00:17:47,010 --> 00:17:48,450

OK.

321

00:17:48,450 --> 00:17:49,320

Space in the Army.

322

00:17:49,320 --> 00:17:53,820

323

00:17:53,820 --> 00:17:55,870

Do you have any
questions prior to next--

324

00:17:55,870 --> 00:17:58,840

325

00:17:58,840 --> 00:17:59,886

So far I've--

326

00:17:59,886 --> 00:18:02,700

327

00:18:02,700 --> 00:18:06,360

I was going to ask
you, how old were you

328

00:18:06,360 --> 00:18:12,000

when you began
hearing about, when

329

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:15,330

become more conscious about
what was happening in Germany?

330

00:18:15,330 --> 00:18:17,420

This must've been
in '39 and after.

331

00:18:17,420 --> 00:18:21,170

But did you hear
anything about Hitler's--

332

00:18:21,170 --> 00:18:22,460

Well, yeah.

333

00:18:22,460 --> 00:18:25,880

Yeah, I think I became
more attentive to it

334

00:18:25,880 --> 00:18:28,850

after I'd joined the service.

335

00:18:28,850 --> 00:18:32,540

Before entering the
service, I'd read about it.

336

00:18:32,540 --> 00:18:38,400

And there were at
that time, I recall,

337

00:18:38,400 --> 00:18:43,130

there were many,
many Congressmen

338

00:18:43,130 --> 00:18:47,840

who were called isolationists,
who advocated the United

339

00:18:47,840 --> 00:18:49,940

States staying out
of their business

340

00:18:49,940 --> 00:18:52,460

and let England
fight her own wars,

341

00:18:52,460 --> 00:18:55,730

and we should stay
and remain neutral.

342

00:18:55,730 --> 00:18:59,660

But I firmly believed that,
especially when I entered

343
00:18:59,660 --> 00:19:03,320
Dachau, I said to
myself, we had to be

344
00:19:03,320 --> 00:19:05,120
there, either us or
someone else too,

345
00:19:05,120 --> 00:19:10,020
but to stop what was going on.

346
00:19:10,020 --> 00:19:14,905
Do you remember any news about
Hitler from 1933-- well, 1933,

347
00:19:14,905 --> 00:19:15,780
you would've been 13.

348
00:19:15,780 --> 00:19:20,060
But when you became more
aware of the world around you,

349
00:19:20,060 --> 00:19:23,390
do you remember any
feelings of anxiety

350
00:19:23,390 --> 00:19:25,370
about Hitler in that States?

351
00:19:25,370 --> 00:19:27,530
Well, I had angry feelings
about what he was doing.

352
00:19:27,530 --> 00:19:31,820
And I just couldn't
understand and still can't

353
00:19:31,820 --> 00:19:34,850
understand to this day
how a mad man like that

354
00:19:34,850 --> 00:19:40,910
can brainwash a whole
people, the whole country,

355
00:19:40,910 --> 00:19:44,720
to follow what he wanted.

356
00:19:44,720 --> 00:19:47,480
I was always angry
about what he was doing.

357
00:19:47,480 --> 00:19:54,348

358
00:19:54,348 --> 00:19:55,890
Where did you receive
basic training?

359
00:19:55,890 --> 00:20:00,270

360
00:20:00,270 --> 00:20:05,550
I was inducted at the Presidio
in Monterey, California,

361
00:20:05,550 --> 00:20:08,370
and me along with a band
with a group of other men

362
00:20:08,370 --> 00:20:13,620
were set to Camp Roberts
California, which is south

363
00:20:13,620 --> 00:20:16,470
of here, near San Luis Obispo.

364
00:20:16,470 --> 00:20:18,150
Received my basic
training there.

365
00:20:18,150 --> 00:20:20,820

366
00:20:20,820 --> 00:20:22,920
Did you receive any
specialized military training?

367
00:20:22,920 --> 00:20:26,370

368
00:20:26,370 --> 00:20:28,440
Not till after basic training.

369
00:20:28,440 --> 00:20:29,310
And what was it?

370
00:20:29,310 --> 00:20:32,520
The basic training mainly was
going through obstacle courses,

371
00:20:32,520 --> 00:20:37,110
learning how to handle and shoot
rifles and throw hand grenades

372
00:20:37,110 --> 00:20:41,370
and machine guns and crawling
underneath barbed wire

373
00:20:41,370 --> 00:20:44,540
with live ammunition
flying over you.

374
00:20:44,540 --> 00:20:45,330
That was basic--

375
00:20:45,330 --> 00:20:47,210
Did they actually
use live ammunition?

376
00:20:47,210 --> 00:20:47,940
Oh, definitely.

377
00:20:47,940 --> 00:20:48,780

Oh, yeah.

378
00:20:48,780 --> 00:20:49,680
Yes.

379
00:20:49,680 --> 00:20:55,080
However, the machine gun
that they were firing at us

380
00:20:55,080 --> 00:20:59,640
was fixed so that it had a
big wooden block underneath it

381
00:20:59,640 --> 00:21:02,550
so that it won't go any
further down than that.

382
00:21:02,550 --> 00:21:05,160
But we had to keep
our heads down,

383
00:21:05,160 --> 00:21:06,690
underneath the
barbed wire, to learn

384
00:21:06,690 --> 00:21:10,920
how to crawl with our rifles
and full field packs, which

385
00:21:10,920 --> 00:21:14,820
was good training because we
needed to know that overseas.

386
00:21:14,820 --> 00:21:16,933
We used to complain
and gripe, why do we

387
00:21:16,933 --> 00:21:19,350
have to go through all of this,
this, that, and the other.

388
00:21:19,350 --> 00:21:23,130
The training was

excellent, really.

389

00:21:23,130 --> 00:21:26,250

And what kind of specialized
training did you receive?

390

00:21:26,250 --> 00:21:29,790

When my basic training
was ended at Camp Roberts,

391

00:21:29,790 --> 00:21:33,180

California, I and a
group of other fellows

392

00:21:33,180 --> 00:21:39,520

were assigned to a
regiment up in Fort Lewis,

393

00:21:39,520 --> 00:21:49,260

Washington called the
115th Mechanized Cavalry.

394

00:21:49,260 --> 00:21:51,120

And I was glad to
learn when we got there

395

00:21:51,120 --> 00:21:53,130

that they had just
recently changed

396

00:21:53,130 --> 00:21:54,540

from the old-style
horse cavalry.

397

00:21:54,540 --> 00:21:57,270

398

00:21:57,270 --> 00:22:05,880

And that's where, I guess
because of my application--

399

00:22:05,880 --> 00:22:08,015

when you fill out all

these questions and all

400
00:22:08,015 --> 00:22:11,220
at basic training, they
ask what your hobbies are

401
00:22:11,220 --> 00:22:13,090
and this, this, and that.

402
00:22:13,090 --> 00:22:14,220
Well, my hobby is music.

403
00:22:14,220 --> 00:22:15,810
I like to sing.

404
00:22:15,810 --> 00:22:22,180
And I found out later that
they picked a lot of us fellas

405
00:22:22,180 --> 00:22:24,240
who were either
musicians or singers

406
00:22:24,240 --> 00:22:27,500
or what because we had a
natural rhythm and that.

407
00:22:27,500 --> 00:22:29,100
And so I was sent
to radio school

408
00:22:29,100 --> 00:22:30,630
because you need
a real good rhythm

409
00:22:30,630 --> 00:22:33,810
to operate the Morse code on
the telegraph keys and all that.

410
00:22:33,810 --> 00:22:36,390
So I became a radio
operator, and they sent me

411

00:22:36,390 --> 00:22:39,240
to a radio operator school
at Fort Riley, Kansas,

412

00:22:39,240 --> 00:22:42,880
from Fort Lewis,
Washington to Fort Riley,

413

00:22:42,880 --> 00:22:46,380
Kansas, which was
the big command

414

00:22:46,380 --> 00:22:49,770
of for the Mechanized Cavalry.

415

00:22:49,770 --> 00:22:54,150

416

00:22:54,150 --> 00:22:55,890
Fort Riley, Kansas, yeah.

417

00:22:55,890 --> 00:22:58,200
So that's how I became
a radio operator.

418

00:22:58,200 --> 00:23:00,600
Then I was sent
back to my outfit

419

00:23:00,600 --> 00:23:05,370
in the 115th Cavalry in
Fort Lewis, Washington.

420

00:23:05,370 --> 00:23:11,670
And I had always had an inner
urge to want to become a pilot.

421

00:23:11,670 --> 00:23:13,920
I don't know why.

422

00:23:13,920 --> 00:23:18,300
But up until that time, I had

never been inside of a plane.

423

00:23:18,300 --> 00:23:20,302

Anyway, and I tried
intermittently getting

424

00:23:20,302 --> 00:23:21,510

information on this and that.

425

00:23:21,510 --> 00:23:22,927

Finally, after a
number of months,

426

00:23:22,927 --> 00:23:26,160

when I was still
stationed at Fort Lewis

427

00:23:26,160 --> 00:23:30,060

with the 115th
Cavalry, I finally

428

00:23:30,060 --> 00:23:37,920

got a notice to appear for
a written and physical exam

429

00:23:37,920 --> 00:23:41,820

at McCord Field in Washington,
the state of Washington.

430

00:23:41,820 --> 00:23:44,460

And I passed, happily.

431

00:23:44,460 --> 00:23:47,250

So then I was separated
from the buddies

432

00:23:47,250 --> 00:23:52,530

I had made with 115th
Cavalry, and I was sent to, me

433

00:23:52,530 --> 00:23:55,240

and a few of the other
guys who made it,

434
00:23:55,240 --> 00:23:58,990
we're all happy about we're
going to begin our flight cadet

435
00:23:58,990 --> 00:23:59,490
training.

436
00:23:59,490 --> 00:24:02,460
So we were sent to Buckley
Field, Colorado, just outside

437
00:24:02,460 --> 00:24:04,770
of Denver.

438
00:24:04,770 --> 00:24:06,510
And the next day
we were all marched

439
00:24:06,510 --> 00:24:10,710
in this huge
auditorium, and a major

440
00:24:10,710 --> 00:24:14,430
came out there on the stage and
announced that all flight cadet

441
00:24:14,430 --> 00:24:18,390
training has been
suspended because they

442
00:24:18,390 --> 00:24:20,385
had more flyboys than
they knew what to do with

443
00:24:20,385 --> 00:24:22,325
and they needed foot troops.

444
00:24:22,325 --> 00:24:23,700
But they told us
that we would be

445

00:24:23,700 --> 00:24:26,880
sent to our original outfits,
which I was happy to go back

446
00:24:26,880 --> 00:24:28,607
to my old buddies and all.

447
00:24:28,607 --> 00:24:29,940
But it didn't turn out that way.

448
00:24:29,940 --> 00:24:32,250
I wound up with the
42nd Rainbow Division

449
00:24:32,250 --> 00:24:36,600
at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, and
that's where I started the war.

450
00:24:36,600 --> 00:24:37,650
As a radio operator?

451
00:24:37,650 --> 00:24:40,100
Yes.

452
00:24:40,100 --> 00:24:42,600
Yeah.

453
00:24:42,600 --> 00:24:47,160
But I had to go through all
the basic training again,

454
00:24:47,160 --> 00:24:50,190
like I did the first three
months at Camp Roberts,

455
00:24:50,190 --> 00:24:51,810
the machine guns and crawling.

456
00:24:51,810 --> 00:24:54,508
And I almost broke
my fool neck one time

457

00:24:54,508 --> 00:24:55,800
on one of the obstacle courses.

458
00:24:55,800 --> 00:24:58,500

459
00:24:58,500 --> 00:25:01,850
A part of one of the
obstacle courses was--

460
00:25:01,850 --> 00:25:05,130
you know what a cargo net,
those nets that they have

461
00:25:05,130 --> 00:25:09,020
over the side of a big ship?

462
00:25:09,020 --> 00:25:11,550
A rope ladder is what it
is, but it's real wide.

463
00:25:11,550 --> 00:25:14,190
A lot of guys can
scramble up and down them.

464
00:25:14,190 --> 00:25:18,120
Well, they had one of the
things on this obstacle course

465
00:25:18,120 --> 00:25:25,270
was this cargo net stretched out
across two huge trees, way up,

466
00:25:25,270 --> 00:25:28,800
I don't know, maybe
25, 30 feet or more.

467
00:25:28,800 --> 00:25:31,530
And we were subjected
to climbing over

468
00:25:31,530 --> 00:25:33,930
that with there our

rifles and our full field

469

00:25:33,930 --> 00:25:36,120

packed and helmets
and everything.

470

00:25:36,120 --> 00:25:38,670

Well, the ropes
are about so thick.

471

00:25:38,670 --> 00:25:40,800

They're pretty strong and all.

472

00:25:40,800 --> 00:25:44,460

But a bunch of us guys
were climbing up one side,

473

00:25:44,460 --> 00:25:46,950

and then we had to scale
and go down the other side.

474

00:25:46,950 --> 00:25:49,260

Well, when I'm coming
down this side,

475

00:25:49,260 --> 00:25:50,730

there's guys coming up this way.

476

00:25:50,730 --> 00:25:54,600

So as I'm coming down, instead
of grabbing one of the rope

477

00:25:54,600 --> 00:25:57,090

rungs, I grabbed a hold
of one of the guy's shoes

478

00:25:57,090 --> 00:25:59,860

that was coming up this
way, and I lost my grip.

479

00:25:59,860 --> 00:26:02,730

And down I go, right
smack on my head.

480
00:26:02,730 --> 00:26:05,280
Luckily, it had rained
the night before.

481
00:26:05,280 --> 00:26:06,630
The ground was soft.

482
00:26:06,630 --> 00:26:09,480
If that was concrete, I wouldn't
be here today, I don't think.

483
00:26:09,480 --> 00:26:12,090

484
00:26:12,090 --> 00:26:13,170
Yeah.

485
00:26:13,170 --> 00:26:15,540
I think about that
once in a while.

486
00:26:15,540 --> 00:26:19,470
So I was excused for the rest
of the day from the training

487
00:26:19,470 --> 00:26:21,360
maneuvers there.

488
00:26:21,360 --> 00:26:22,740
I was sent back to the barracks.

489
00:26:22,740 --> 00:26:26,040
But I wasn't hurt, really,
but talk about seeing stars.

490
00:26:26,040 --> 00:26:30,780
I really saw stars that
day when I hit my noggin.

491
00:26:30,780 --> 00:26:32,040
Luckily, I had my helmet on.

492
00:26:32,040 --> 00:26:34,920

493
00:26:34,920 --> 00:26:37,920
If I hit in the right position,
I could have busted my neck.

494
00:26:37,920 --> 00:26:43,080

495
00:26:43,080 --> 00:26:44,970
So you did get to fly after all.

496
00:26:44,970 --> 00:26:46,500
No, I didn't.

497
00:26:46,500 --> 00:26:48,360
Yeah.

498
00:26:48,360 --> 00:26:50,040
Touche.

499
00:26:50,040 --> 00:26:52,080
Touche, Rosie.

500
00:26:52,080 --> 00:26:55,440
That's pretty good.

501
00:26:55,440 --> 00:26:57,240
What rank did you achieve?

502
00:26:57,240 --> 00:27:05,160
I achieved what they call,
because of my radio experience,

503
00:27:05,160 --> 00:27:07,530
from a Private, I
worked up to what

504
00:27:07,530 --> 00:27:11,190

they call Technician
Fourth Grade, which

505
00:27:11,190 --> 00:27:15,060
has three stripes,
which is a Sergeant,

506
00:27:15,060 --> 00:27:16,780
and with a letter
T underneath it,

507
00:27:16,780 --> 00:27:19,920
which Technician Fourth Grade.

508
00:27:19,920 --> 00:27:23,700
And I was in charge of a certain
number of guys in my platoon.

509
00:27:23,700 --> 00:27:26,580

510
00:27:26,580 --> 00:27:27,102
Big deal.

511
00:27:27,102 --> 00:27:27,810
I was a Sergeant.

512
00:27:27,810 --> 00:27:33,930

513
00:27:33,930 --> 00:27:37,020
Did you see or experience
any racial discrimination

514
00:27:37,020 --> 00:27:39,490
in your unit?

515
00:27:39,490 --> 00:27:41,400
Did you observe anyone else--

516
00:27:41,400 --> 00:27:45,210

517
00:27:45,210 --> 00:27:47,627
did you see racial
discrimination at all/

518
00:27:47,627 --> 00:27:49,960
Well, I guess you would call
it discrimination in a way,

519
00:27:49,960 --> 00:27:57,360
not personally between
white and Black.

520
00:27:57,360 --> 00:28:00,930
But the fact that the Army at
that time, all the Black troops

521
00:28:00,930 --> 00:28:03,720
were segregated from
the white troops,

522
00:28:03,720 --> 00:28:05,340
and I could never
understand that.

523
00:28:05,340 --> 00:28:11,610
American Army, Americanism, and
then segregating Black units

524
00:28:11,610 --> 00:28:14,080
from white units.

525
00:28:14,080 --> 00:28:16,410
What about the Japanese?

526
00:28:16,410 --> 00:28:20,490
Were you aware that there
were Japanese soldiers?

527
00:28:20,490 --> 00:28:23,640
Oh, I don't recall, really--

528

00:28:23,640 --> 00:28:27,030
excuse me-- in my
particular company.

529
00:28:27,030 --> 00:28:30,220

530
00:28:30,220 --> 00:28:31,610
Now, see, the 220--

531
00:28:31,610 --> 00:28:36,020
there was three regiments in
that 42nd Division, the 222nd,

532
00:28:36,020 --> 00:28:38,630
the 232nd, 242nd.

533
00:28:38,630 --> 00:28:43,550
I belonged to a regiment, and
there's quite a hundred men

534
00:28:43,550 --> 00:28:44,860
that comprise a regiment.

535
00:28:44,860 --> 00:28:46,280
And in my particular company--

536
00:28:46,280 --> 00:28:50,540
I belonged to the Regimental
Headquarter Company--

537
00:28:50,540 --> 00:28:55,970
I don't recall seeing
Japanese or orientals.

538
00:28:55,970 --> 00:28:58,280
Yeah, they weren't put in
with the regular troops,

539
00:28:58,280 --> 00:29:00,030
but I was wondering
if you knew there were

540

00:29:00,030 --> 00:29:01,790

some units that were Japanese.

541

00:29:01,790 --> 00:29:05,150

I don't know how long it was
later that I began hearing

542

00:29:05,150 --> 00:29:10,640

about the Nisei, the 442nd
Japanese troops, who did

543

00:29:10,640 --> 00:29:13,370

a great job overseas in Italy.

544

00:29:13,370 --> 00:29:14,960

What about antisemitism?

545

00:29:14,960 --> 00:29:16,930

Because the Jewish
people were interspersed

546

00:29:16,930 --> 00:29:18,110

with the regular troops.

547

00:29:18,110 --> 00:29:20,210

Did you hear of any racial--

548

00:29:20,210 --> 00:29:28,850

There were two in my particular
platoon as radio operators,

549

00:29:28,850 --> 00:29:37,580

Fred Rosenberg, who's passed
away, and Julius Hornstein.

550

00:29:37,580 --> 00:29:42,620

Great buddies, great
buddies, wonderful men.

551

00:29:42,620 --> 00:29:48,530

Fred Rosenberg was the
oldest man in our company.

552
00:29:48,530 --> 00:29:52,640
I'm 73 now, and he must
have been at least three

553
00:29:52,640 --> 00:29:55,430
or four years older than me.

554
00:29:55,430 --> 00:29:57,050
Wonderful violin player.

555
00:29:57,050 --> 00:29:59,840
He played with the
Cleveland Symphony Orchestra

556
00:29:59,840 --> 00:30:02,690
before he entered the service.

557
00:30:02,690 --> 00:30:07,490
Julie Hornstein was a wonderful
trumpet man, played trumpet

558
00:30:07,490 --> 00:30:08,180
beautifully.

559
00:30:08,180 --> 00:30:09,800
I used to sing while he played.

560
00:30:09,800 --> 00:30:13,070
We formed a little band in
Vienna after the war broke out.

561
00:30:13,070 --> 00:30:18,000
I played somewhat guitar,
and we formed a little band.

562
00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:20,030
Julius Hornstein
and Fred Rosenberg

563
00:30:20,030 --> 00:30:28,400
were, without a doubt, Jewish,

and we got along wonderfully.

564

00:30:28,400 --> 00:30:31,730

There was never any, in
my particular outfit,

565

00:30:31,730 --> 00:30:36,890

never any outward prejudices
that I could detect.

566

00:30:36,890 --> 00:30:39,190

You never heard
anything about any race?

567

00:30:39,190 --> 00:30:40,790

No.

568

00:30:40,790 --> 00:30:42,890

I might have jokingly
or something.

569

00:30:42,890 --> 00:30:45,200

You know young fellas are.

570

00:30:45,200 --> 00:30:47,000

Look at that Black
SOB or something,

571

00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:48,440

you know what I mean.

572

00:30:48,440 --> 00:30:51,380

I've heard stuff
like that, yeah.

573

00:30:51,380 --> 00:30:53,660

But you didn't perceive
that to be a racial--

574

00:30:53,660 --> 00:30:54,320

No.

575

00:30:54,320 --> 00:30:55,310
No, not really.

576
00:30:55,310 --> 00:30:59,690
I've had a lot of jokes I've
been called a wop many times,

577
00:30:59,690 --> 00:31:00,350
being Italian.

578
00:31:00,350 --> 00:31:03,110

579
00:31:03,110 --> 00:31:06,590
But there were so many
Italian jokes a few years ago,

580
00:31:06,590 --> 00:31:08,150
they were coming--

581
00:31:08,150 --> 00:31:11,150
Italian and Polish jokes.

582
00:31:11,150 --> 00:31:12,410
Yeah.

583
00:31:12,410 --> 00:31:13,310
There's a funny--

584
00:31:13,310 --> 00:31:15,020
I know one.

585
00:31:15,020 --> 00:31:18,050
One Italian joke is,
do you know how you

586
00:31:18,050 --> 00:31:20,917
can tell an Italian funeral?

587
00:31:20,917 --> 00:31:23,000
The first two garbage
trucks have their lights on.

588
00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:28,442

589
00:31:28,442 --> 00:31:29,900
I worked with a
fellow who couldn't

590
00:31:29,900 --> 00:31:31,400
wait to tell me the
new Italian joke

591
00:31:31,400 --> 00:31:33,108
because he thought
he'd hurt my feelings.

592
00:31:33,108 --> 00:31:35,870
But as far as I'm concerned,
that wasn't racial.

593
00:31:35,870 --> 00:31:39,380
I think it's just
All-American humor.

594
00:31:39,380 --> 00:31:40,790
Never bothered me at all.

595
00:31:40,790 --> 00:31:42,290
But you just said
because he thought

596
00:31:42,290 --> 00:31:43,790
he'd hurt your feelings.

597
00:31:43,790 --> 00:31:45,690
Did he really think
he'd hurt your feelings?

598
00:31:45,690 --> 00:31:46,640
I thought that.

599
00:31:46,640 --> 00:31:49,250

I thought that he would
do it deliberately

600
00:31:49,250 --> 00:31:50,220
to hurt my feelings.

601
00:31:50,220 --> 00:31:53,160
I'd just laugh at him.

602
00:31:53,160 --> 00:31:55,970
But you feel like his
motivations weren't friendly,

603
00:31:55,970 --> 00:31:57,320
they were mean.

604
00:31:57,320 --> 00:31:58,440
Well, they were friendly.

605
00:31:58,440 --> 00:31:59,420
They were friendly.

606
00:31:59,420 --> 00:32:00,140
He was friendly.

607
00:32:00,140 --> 00:32:02,130
I forget his name.

608
00:32:02,130 --> 00:32:02,630
Turner.

609
00:32:02,630 --> 00:32:04,100
Yeah, Turner Hardesty
was his name,

610
00:32:04,100 --> 00:32:07,010
a fellow employee of mine.

611
00:32:07,010 --> 00:32:08,480
So you didn't feel that way?

612

00:32:08,480 --> 00:32:12,020

No, I really didn't, because
I felt it was all in fun.

613

00:32:12,020 --> 00:32:18,170

I'm a loving guy, unless
somebody directly insults

614

00:32:18,170 --> 00:32:19,410

me or something like that.

615

00:32:19,410 --> 00:32:21,120

Otherwise, if it's
in a joking manner,

616

00:32:21,120 --> 00:32:24,530

it doesn't bother me at all.

617

00:32:24,530 --> 00:32:27,100

Like I explained
before the interview,

618

00:32:27,100 --> 00:32:29,750

for technical reasons, I
don't want to switch around

619

00:32:29,750 --> 00:32:31,450

to different parts.

620

00:32:31,450 --> 00:32:32,990

But because you
mentioned something,

621

00:32:32,990 --> 00:32:36,210

I do want to go to that and
do it right now so I don't--

622

00:32:36,210 --> 00:32:37,520

All right.

623

00:32:37,520 --> 00:32:41,720

What is this about the band
in Vienna after the war?

624
00:32:41,720 --> 00:32:42,470
About the band?

625
00:32:42,470 --> 00:32:42,970
Yeah.

626
00:32:42,970 --> 00:32:45,230
You said you formed a band
with these two friends?

627
00:32:45,230 --> 00:32:48,830
Oh, yeah, I played
guitar very inadequately.

628
00:32:48,830 --> 00:32:55,190
And I brought a guitar with me
when I went into the service.

629
00:32:55,190 --> 00:32:58,940
That's another story how
that guitar-- at any rate,

630
00:32:58,940 --> 00:33:05,270
Julie, from what he
told me, he was a member

631
00:33:05,270 --> 00:33:10,530
of a band in Omaha, Nebraska.

632
00:33:10,530 --> 00:33:12,020
And he and his
wife owned a hotel.

633
00:33:12,020 --> 00:33:15,320

634
00:33:15,320 --> 00:33:19,280
And he played--
in those days they

635
00:33:19,280 --> 00:33:23,710

used to have many vaudeville
shows, stage acts and so forth,

636
00:33:23,710 --> 00:33:26,120
variety entertainment,
singers, dancers, jugglers,

637
00:33:26,120 --> 00:33:27,090
and stuff like that.

638
00:33:27,090 --> 00:33:29,680
And he was part of
the orchestra that

639
00:33:29,680 --> 00:33:31,030
would play the music for them.

640
00:33:31,030 --> 00:33:37,780
And he plays-- anyhow, he
and I and Fred Rosenberg,

641
00:33:37,780 --> 00:33:41,200
the fiddle player, and a couple
of fellas from another outfit--

642
00:33:41,200 --> 00:33:44,980
one played a drum and another
fella played wonderful

643
00:33:44,980 --> 00:33:46,540
accordion--

644
00:33:46,540 --> 00:33:49,780
we formed this little band.

645
00:33:49,780 --> 00:33:54,490
And we worked up a book of
songs from the '40s, old people

646
00:33:54,490 --> 00:33:56,590
songs, the '40s.

647

00:33:56,590 --> 00:34:01,390

We formed this
little band, and we

648

00:34:01,390 --> 00:34:06,160

used to play on occasion
in a place in Vienna

649

00:34:06,160 --> 00:34:12,070

in some building that we
took over called Havoc Haven.

650

00:34:12,070 --> 00:34:14,260

And we'd play,
and the guys would

651

00:34:14,260 --> 00:34:16,500

fraternize with the German
or the Austrian girls

652

00:34:16,500 --> 00:34:19,780

there and dance while we
played and sang and stuff.

653

00:34:19,780 --> 00:34:20,380

It was fun.

654

00:34:20,380 --> 00:34:22,719

Was that a legal club
or an illegal club?

655

00:34:22,719 --> 00:34:23,380

It was legal.

656

00:34:23,380 --> 00:34:24,340

Oh, yeah, it was legal.

657

00:34:24,340 --> 00:34:26,560

Oh, yes.

658

00:34:26,560 --> 00:34:31,000

Actually, Havoc Haven
actually was a name that--

659

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:35,440

another Army unit
had taken that,

660

00:34:35,440 --> 00:34:40,360

and they took that over as
their sort of recreation hall.

661

00:34:40,360 --> 00:34:43,840

And we used it once on
occasion to put on a dance

662

00:34:43,840 --> 00:34:46,210

or something for the guys.

663

00:34:46,210 --> 00:34:48,710

So it wasn't very hard for that
club to get food and drinks

664

00:34:48,710 --> 00:34:51,219

and served?

665

00:34:51,219 --> 00:34:54,489

No, it was a lot of fun.

666

00:34:54,489 --> 00:34:55,870

Now I'm going to go back--

667

00:34:55,870 --> 00:34:56,788

All right, fine.

668

00:34:56,788 --> 00:34:57,764

--to where we were.

669

00:34:57,764 --> 00:35:11,450

670

00:35:11,450 --> 00:35:15,080

How would people in the service
tend to talk about the Germans

671

00:35:15,080 --> 00:35:18,690

and about Germany
before you left America?

672

00:35:18,690 --> 00:35:21,252

And how did people talk
about the Germans and Germany

673

00:35:21,252 --> 00:35:22,460

after you joined the service?

674

00:35:22,460 --> 00:35:26,230

675

00:35:26,230 --> 00:35:31,210

Well, Peggy, I don't
recall any comments

676

00:35:31,210 --> 00:35:36,040

before I went into the
service regarding the Germans,

677

00:35:36,040 --> 00:35:41,650

until maybe just before
we entered the war.

678

00:35:41,650 --> 00:35:44,560

679

00:35:44,560 --> 00:35:52,440

From what I recall, there was,
instead of referring to, saying

680

00:35:52,440 --> 00:35:56,370

bad things about Hitler
personally or the Nazis,

681

00:35:56,370 --> 00:35:58,710

it was always, the
Germans this, the Germans

682

00:35:58,710 --> 00:36:00,550

that, they're no good.

683

00:36:00,550 --> 00:36:03,390

In other words,
the comments mainly

684

00:36:03,390 --> 00:36:09,390

were projected at
Germans as a whole,

685

00:36:09,390 --> 00:36:13,290

not this particular
segment of Nazis.

686

00:36:13,290 --> 00:36:15,930

But then after I entered
the war, of course,

687

00:36:15,930 --> 00:36:21,150

the animosity was mostly
aimed at Hitler and the Nazis

688

00:36:21,150 --> 00:36:28,910

and his big propaganda
ministers and all those guys.

689

00:36:28,910 --> 00:36:32,030

Was there an assumption
that most Germans were Nazis

690

00:36:32,030 --> 00:36:34,450

or all Germans were Nazis?

691

00:36:34,450 --> 00:36:36,290

No, no.

692

00:36:36,290 --> 00:36:39,770

We knew that because of
the concentration camps

693

00:36:39,770 --> 00:36:43,970

and the news that we heard
about people being imprisoned

694

00:36:43,970 --> 00:36:48,160
because of their attitudes
against what Hitler was doing.

695

00:36:48,160 --> 00:36:52,250
So when did you first begin
hearing about those camps?

696

00:36:52,250 --> 00:36:56,210
Well, I can't really
pinpoint a particular time.

697

00:36:56,210 --> 00:36:59,360
But as I mentioned
earlier, the news that we'd

698

00:36:59,360 --> 00:37:02,780
get into the Army paper,
The Stars and Stripes,

699

00:37:02,780 --> 00:37:05,840
it's just like regular
community newspapers,

700

00:37:05,840 --> 00:37:09,920
news from what was happening,
how the American troops were

701

00:37:09,920 --> 00:37:14,930
faring and when retreating
or advancing, whatever.

702

00:37:14,930 --> 00:37:17,600
So if I can kind
of paraphrase what

703

00:37:17,600 --> 00:37:20,840
I think I heard you've been
saying for the last however

704

00:37:20,840 --> 00:37:23,363
long, it's just sort of

awareness kind of seeped

705

00:37:23,363 --> 00:37:25,280

into your memory, and
then all of a sudden you

706

00:37:25,280 --> 00:37:28,784

kind of realized what
was going on with that.

707

00:37:28,784 --> 00:37:29,284

Right.

708

00:37:29,284 --> 00:37:30,643

Right, right, right.

709

00:37:30,643 --> 00:37:36,330

710

00:37:36,330 --> 00:37:37,650

When did you ship out?

711

00:37:37,650 --> 00:37:40,580

712

00:37:40,580 --> 00:37:44,760

It was November from
Camp Kilmer, New Jersey,

713

00:37:44,760 --> 00:37:48,890

November of 1944.

714

00:37:48,890 --> 00:37:54,440

And if I can recall correctly,
we had Thanksgiving dinner

715

00:37:54,440 --> 00:37:58,010

on the ship overseas, as we
were trying to figure out

716

00:37:58,010 --> 00:38:00,050

where we were going.

717
00:38:00,050 --> 00:38:02,990
And incidentally, that brings
to mind something interesting.

718
00:38:02,990 --> 00:38:05,450
We all wondered where-- we
know we were going overseas

719
00:38:05,450 --> 00:38:08,510
somewhere, but we just
couldn't pinpoint where.

720
00:38:08,510 --> 00:38:14,570
One of the boys on
the ship had evidently

721
00:38:14,570 --> 00:38:18,350
studied star navigation.

722
00:38:18,350 --> 00:38:22,130
And at night, he'd get
out there, look up there,

723
00:38:22,130 --> 00:38:24,320
and he had this big chart.

724
00:38:24,320 --> 00:38:26,170
He pinpointed where
we were going.

725
00:38:26,170 --> 00:38:28,940
He says, we're going through
the Straits of Gibraltar,

726
00:38:28,940 --> 00:38:30,950
through the
Mediterranean, and we're

727
00:38:30,950 --> 00:38:33,902
going to land around the
Mediterranean there somewhere.

728
00:38:33,902 --> 00:38:35,360
He didn't pinpoint
the town, but we

729
00:38:35,360 --> 00:38:37,730
landed in Marseilles, France.

730
00:38:37,730 --> 00:38:40,340
Of course, it had already been
occupied by American troops

731
00:38:40,340 --> 00:38:42,200
at that time.

732
00:38:42,200 --> 00:38:43,550
But that was interesting.

733
00:38:43,550 --> 00:38:46,175

734
00:38:46,175 --> 00:38:47,300
Did I answer your question?

735
00:38:47,300 --> 00:38:51,550
I think I sort of went past it.

736
00:38:51,550 --> 00:38:54,070
What was the ship?

737
00:38:54,070 --> 00:38:54,940
The ship was--

738
00:38:54,940 --> 00:38:57,765

739
00:38:57,765 --> 00:38:59,640
If you can't recall,
it's not that important.

740
00:38:59,640 --> 00:39:02,580
Gee, I have a picture, but I

don't think I brought it here.

741

00:39:02,580 --> 00:39:04,780

It was called the--

742

00:39:04,780 --> 00:39:10,590

it was an old ship that had been
a passenger ship at one time.

743

00:39:10,590 --> 00:39:12,600

I think it was called--

744

00:39:12,600 --> 00:39:17,280

oh, the Alexander,
the SS Alexander.

745

00:39:17,280 --> 00:39:20,610

It was a very smooth trip.

746

00:39:20,610 --> 00:39:22,560

On shipboard, what
would soldiers do?

747

00:39:22,560 --> 00:39:26,190

And did you hear any racial
slurs yet at this point?

748

00:39:26,190 --> 00:39:27,900

Were you aware of racism?

749

00:39:27,900 --> 00:39:29,415

I wasn't aware of any, no.

750

00:39:29,415 --> 00:39:32,670

751

00:39:32,670 --> 00:39:35,070

And at this point, were you
aware that Japanese-Americans

752

00:39:35,070 --> 00:39:36,720

were being interned?

753
00:39:36,720 --> 00:39:38,693
Oh, yes.

754
00:39:38,693 --> 00:39:40,110
Why don't you talk
about that now.

755
00:39:40,110 --> 00:39:41,850
Before we started
the interview, you

756
00:39:41,850 --> 00:39:43,430
were talking about that first.

757
00:39:43,430 --> 00:39:45,660
Oh, yeah.

758
00:39:45,660 --> 00:39:49,340
It brought to mind sometime
later, after I got into the war

759
00:39:49,340 --> 00:39:58,240
and when the Japanese attacked
Pearl Harbor, even after I

760
00:39:58,240 --> 00:40:02,802
joined the service, one
day as I was just thinking,

761
00:40:02,802 --> 00:40:04,260
it occurred to me
that I remembered

762
00:40:04,260 --> 00:40:06,930
the part of my childhood
in Pittsburg, California,

763
00:40:06,930 --> 00:40:09,452
where we lived probably
three or four blocks

764

00:40:09,452 --> 00:40:11,160
from the main waterfront,
from the wharf.

765
00:40:11,160 --> 00:40:14,700

766
00:40:14,700 --> 00:40:17,850
And I remember, as we'd go
over and jump into the river

767
00:40:17,850 --> 00:40:22,020
during the hot summer
days, we'd always, always

768
00:40:22,020 --> 00:40:26,070
see a lot of Japanese
males getting

769
00:40:26,070 --> 00:40:28,740
into boats and
very heavily loaded

770
00:40:28,740 --> 00:40:32,820
with all kinds of photographic
equipment, telephoto lenses,

771
00:40:32,820 --> 00:40:34,740
binoculars.

772
00:40:34,740 --> 00:40:39,420
I got to thinking, and
it occurred to me--

773
00:40:39,420 --> 00:40:42,090
I know it probably was
a wrong thing, maybe,

774
00:40:42,090 --> 00:40:46,500
for the government to and in
turn all the Japanese-Americans

775
00:40:46,500 --> 00:40:49,080

away from the coastal areas.

776

00:40:49,080 --> 00:40:50,470

But then I understood why.

777

00:40:50,470 --> 00:40:54,720

Because of what I saw,

I conjured up in my mind

778

00:40:54,720 --> 00:40:57,960

that those Japanese

all those years

779

00:40:57,960 --> 00:41:03,570

have been photographing

waterways, rivers,

780

00:41:03,570 --> 00:41:06,640

and coastal areas and so forth.

781

00:41:06,640 --> 00:41:09,960

And those people in

the Pittsburg area,

782

00:41:09,960 --> 00:41:13,230

along the San Joaquin River,

were probably, in my mind,

783

00:41:13,230 --> 00:41:19,080

a small segment of a complete

organization of Japanese

784

00:41:19,080 --> 00:41:23,700

were photographing our whole

coast for the Japanese Imperial

785

00:41:23,700 --> 00:41:26,070

government.

786

00:41:26,070 --> 00:41:27,810

That was my feeling.

787

00:41:27,810 --> 00:41:30,315
And I felt bad about the--

788
00:41:30,315 --> 00:41:34,110
the internment,
incidentally, almost

789
00:41:34,110 --> 00:41:39,690
affected my parents and many
Italians because, at that time,

790
00:41:39,690 --> 00:41:45,720
99% of Pittsburg, California
was Sicilians, Italians.

791
00:41:45,720 --> 00:41:49,530
Their main livelihood
was fishing.

792
00:41:49,530 --> 00:41:53,340
And we'd heard news
reports of possibly,

793
00:41:53,340 --> 00:41:55,680
along with the Japanese,
that all the Italians,

794
00:41:55,680 --> 00:42:00,690
especially when
Mussolini joined Hitler--

795
00:42:00,690 --> 00:42:03,750
my dad was all for Mussolini
in the early days, when

796
00:42:03,750 --> 00:42:08,130
he put Italy back up on its
feet economically and all.

797
00:42:08,130 --> 00:42:11,400
He was-- then when
Mussolini joined Hitler,

798

00:42:11,400 --> 00:42:13,650
my dad had nothing to do
with Mussolini anymore.

799
00:42:13,650 --> 00:42:18,720
Anyhow, because of the joining
of Hitler and Mussolini,

800
00:42:18,720 --> 00:42:20,610
there was talk about
all the Italians

801
00:42:20,610 --> 00:42:25,530
along with the Japanese taken
away from the coastal areas.

802
00:42:25,530 --> 00:42:29,190
And a group of our city
fathers from Pittsburg,

803
00:42:29,190 --> 00:42:32,910
supervisors and
Mayor and whatever,

804
00:42:32,910 --> 00:42:37,950
made a jaunt to Washington,
DC to plead for the Italians.

805
00:42:37,950 --> 00:42:41,670
And I guess they were successful
because we were worried

806
00:42:41,670 --> 00:42:43,590
about that, having
all our parents

807
00:42:43,590 --> 00:42:45,800
and all being interned, too,
along with the Japanese.

808
00:42:45,800 --> 00:42:48,850

809

00:42:48,850 --> 00:42:51,420
So how did you--

810
00:42:51,420 --> 00:42:53,610
in general, you feel
like the Japanese

811
00:42:53,610 --> 00:42:55,730
did have spies over here?

812
00:42:55,730 --> 00:42:57,452
Yes.

813
00:42:57,452 --> 00:42:59,910
But you didn't feel like the
Japanese-Americans should have

814
00:42:59,910 --> 00:43:01,077
all been interned like that?

815
00:43:01,077 --> 00:43:02,160
Right.

816
00:43:02,160 --> 00:43:06,640
I can understand a reason for
our government doing that.

817
00:43:06,640 --> 00:43:13,650
And in doing that, it was
very bad for a lot of American

818
00:43:13,650 --> 00:43:17,460
Japanese, their
homes taken away,

819
00:43:17,460 --> 00:43:19,680
their businesses
taken away and all.

820
00:43:19,680 --> 00:43:21,420
I feel very bad
about that, but I

821

00:43:21,420 --> 00:43:24,720

could understand the
reason for that action

822

00:43:24,720 --> 00:43:26,340

because of what I
witnessed as a kid.

823

00:43:26,340 --> 00:43:30,360

824

00:43:30,360 --> 00:43:32,370

When you say you
understand, do you mean

825

00:43:32,370 --> 00:43:34,980

that you approve or that you--

826

00:43:34,980 --> 00:43:35,830

Well--

827

00:43:35,830 --> 00:43:39,930

What exactly are you saying
when you say you understand?

828

00:43:39,930 --> 00:43:43,650

I understand the reason
why our government interned

829

00:43:43,650 --> 00:43:47,040

the Japanese is because
they were undoubtedly

830

00:43:47,040 --> 00:43:50,370

aware of a great
deal more than I

831

00:43:50,370 --> 00:43:54,450

saw as a child of the
Japanese photographing,

832

00:43:54,450 --> 00:43:58,350

constantly photographing,
our river highways

833
00:43:58,350 --> 00:43:59,830
and so forth along the coast.

834
00:43:59,830 --> 00:44:03,840
I'm sure the government
intelligence had

835
00:44:03,840 --> 00:44:05,790
much documentary
evidence of that,

836
00:44:05,790 --> 00:44:08,220
and that's probably
why, when Japanese

837
00:44:08,220 --> 00:44:14,690
hit Pearl Harbor, that's
the reason for it, I think.

838
00:44:14,690 --> 00:44:17,670
It's my personal opinion.

839
00:44:17,670 --> 00:44:20,400
Could the same have been
said for the Italians?

840
00:44:20,400 --> 00:44:24,000
I mean, had the Italians been
photographing or whatever?

841
00:44:24,000 --> 00:44:25,770
Possible, but I had
no knowledge of it.

842
00:44:25,770 --> 00:44:30,120
I had no visual knowledge of
it, nor any hearsay knowledge

843
00:44:30,120 --> 00:44:30,720
of it.

844

00:44:30,720 --> 00:44:35,880

Why do you think the government
didn't inter the Italians?

845

00:44:35,880 --> 00:44:37,710

I really don't-- excuse me--

846

00:44:37,710 --> 00:44:41,640

I really don't know
why they didn't, Peggy.

847

00:44:41,640 --> 00:44:44,100

It could be that they had no--

848

00:44:44,100 --> 00:44:46,650

their only reason would
be that they figured,

849

00:44:46,650 --> 00:44:49,980

as long as we
interned the Japanese,

850

00:44:49,980 --> 00:44:53,430

Mussolini is in with Hitler,
we may just as well in

851

00:44:53,430 --> 00:44:57,030

turn the Italians, too.

852

00:44:57,030 --> 00:45:00,690

But as far as any
government intelligence

853

00:45:00,690 --> 00:45:07,320

documents regarding subversive
acts by Italians, I don't know.

854

00:45:07,320 --> 00:45:11,228

It's possible, but I
just can't comment on it.

855

00:45:11,228 --> 00:45:16,600

856

00:45:16,600 --> 00:45:20,170

The Army had a number of
slogans, such as, the only good

857

00:45:20,170 --> 00:45:25,300

German is a dead German, and,
shoot first and ask questions

858

00:45:25,300 --> 00:45:26,350

later.

859

00:45:26,350 --> 00:45:27,760

What other slogans
do you recall?

860

00:45:27,760 --> 00:45:30,680

861

00:45:30,680 --> 00:45:32,150

Those were the two main ones.

862

00:45:32,150 --> 00:45:34,860

863

00:45:34,860 --> 00:45:42,080

And by that, again, I can't
talk for the attitudes

864

00:45:42,080 --> 00:45:47,660

of my fellow Army buddies,
but for myself, the slogan,

865

00:45:47,660 --> 00:45:51,590

the only good German is a
dead German, in my mind,

866

00:45:51,590 --> 00:45:56,760

it meant it's either you or me.

867

00:45:56,760 --> 00:45:59,720

And if I have the chance,
it's going to be you,

868

00:45:59,720 --> 00:46:02,240

as a German soldier, not--

869

00:46:02,240 --> 00:46:07,250

in my mind, that slogan
didn't encompass anybody

870

00:46:07,250 --> 00:46:08,720

because he or she was German.

871

00:46:08,720 --> 00:46:13,250

It's only because a German
soldier, if it's you

872

00:46:13,250 --> 00:46:15,950

or me, then I'm going
to try to make it you.

873

00:46:15,950 --> 00:46:19,850

Let's face it,
self-preservation.

874

00:46:19,850 --> 00:46:23,660

And the other slogan was what?

875

00:46:23,660 --> 00:46:25,490

Shoot first and ask
questions later.

876

00:46:25,490 --> 00:46:27,680

Yeah, well, that was a saying.

877

00:46:27,680 --> 00:46:28,340

Saying.

878

00:46:28,340 --> 00:46:31,280

Yeah.

879

00:46:31,280 --> 00:46:35,570

I forgot to ask when you
were back on the Nisei,

880

00:46:35,570 --> 00:46:39,920

what explanation was there?

881

00:46:39,920 --> 00:46:41,480

You think that
possibly they really

882

00:46:41,480 --> 00:46:46,380

were taking photographs for
the Japanese government.

883

00:46:46,380 --> 00:46:47,660

But what was their--

884

00:46:47,660 --> 00:46:49,660

when people would ask
them what they were doing,

885

00:46:49,660 --> 00:46:51,260

what would they say?

886

00:46:51,260 --> 00:46:52,930

Well, like I say,
we were just kids.

887

00:46:52,930 --> 00:46:54,260

We never asked.

888

00:46:54,260 --> 00:46:55,760

We never asked
because at that time,

889

00:46:55,760 --> 00:46:57,860

we didn't think much of it.

890

00:46:57,860 --> 00:47:01,100

This only occurred to me
years later, years later.

891

00:47:01,100 --> 00:47:07,670

I'm talking about as a kid, 10,
12 years old, with my younger

892

00:47:07,670 --> 00:47:10,140

brother and friends, neighbors.

893

00:47:10,140 --> 00:47:12,223

And so if we were going
swimming, I'd notice them.

894

00:47:12,223 --> 00:47:13,640

I don't know about
the other kids,

895

00:47:13,640 --> 00:47:15,050

whether they noticed or not.

896

00:47:15,050 --> 00:47:17,430

But for some reason,
that stuck in my mind.

897

00:47:17,430 --> 00:47:24,020

And then some years later,
20 years later or so,

898

00:47:24,020 --> 00:47:29,180

that picture reoccurred
in my mind and I thought,

899

00:47:29,180 --> 00:47:30,890

I don't know if
I'm right or wrong.

900

00:47:30,890 --> 00:47:35,150

I thought that was a reason
for the Japanese internment.

901

00:47:35,150 --> 00:47:37,130

Was that a touristy area?

902

00:47:37,130 --> 00:47:38,990

No, not really.

903
00:47:38,990 --> 00:47:41,150
So pretty much, you
didn't see any tourists?

904
00:47:41,150 --> 00:47:42,100
No.

905
00:47:42,100 --> 00:47:42,850
So it really was--

906
00:47:42,850 --> 00:47:45,800
No, mainly, like
I say, about 99%

907
00:47:45,800 --> 00:47:50,210
of the population at that time
was Italian fishermen that

908
00:47:50,210 --> 00:47:52,580
had come over from
Sicily, which they

909
00:47:52,580 --> 00:47:53,960
did the same thing in Sicily.

910
00:47:53,960 --> 00:47:56,870
So they came over here and--

911
00:47:56,870 --> 00:47:58,400
I used to go out
there and watch.

912
00:47:58,400 --> 00:48:03,020
We used to have a very
famous and well-known cannery

913
00:48:03,020 --> 00:48:07,010
there, just about probably
four or five blocks from where

914

00:48:07,010 --> 00:48:08,585
we lived on First Street.

915
00:48:08,585 --> 00:48:11,060
It was called FE Booth.

916
00:48:11,060 --> 00:48:15,090
And you still may see
labels, like sardines.

917
00:48:15,090 --> 00:48:18,155
So anyhow, we used to go out
there and see this big purse

918
00:48:18,155 --> 00:48:21,170
seiners come in with their
great, big load of fish,

919
00:48:21,170 --> 00:48:23,510
and they'd scoop them
up in these big nets

920
00:48:23,510 --> 00:48:25,820
and drop them on conveyors
and all these things.

921
00:48:25,820 --> 00:48:26,840
Interesting.

922
00:48:26,840 --> 00:48:35,600
So 99% of the population
were Italian fishermen.

923
00:48:35,600 --> 00:48:39,350
See, again, I deviate, and I
forget what your question was.

924
00:48:39,350 --> 00:48:40,888
I'm sorry.

925
00:48:40,888 --> 00:48:43,180
I was just checking to see
if this was a touristy area.

926
00:48:43,180 --> 00:48:44,360
Oh, no.

927
00:48:44,360 --> 00:48:47,060
As I recall, Peggy,
there was nothing there

928
00:48:47,060 --> 00:48:49,580
for tourists to see.

929
00:48:49,580 --> 00:48:56,090
The only, how should I
say, interesting thing

930
00:48:56,090 --> 00:48:59,870
about the name of
Pittsburg, California,

931
00:48:59,870 --> 00:49:03,110
it was named after
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

932
00:49:03,110 --> 00:49:05,270
And the slogan for
Pittsburg in those days

933
00:49:05,270 --> 00:49:09,240
was the Industrial city of the
West, named after Pittsburgh,

934
00:49:09,240 --> 00:49:12,200
Pennsylvania because
they had the lumber mill,

935
00:49:12,200 --> 00:49:14,750
they had at that time the
Columbia Steel Company,

936
00:49:14,750 --> 00:49:16,610
which later became
United States Steel.

937

00:49:16,610 --> 00:49:19,430

They had the big
PG&E plant, they

938

00:49:19,430 --> 00:49:22,310

had the rubber mill, the
lumber mill, all kinds of stuff

939

00:49:22,310 --> 00:49:23,750

like that, the paper factory.

940

00:49:23,750 --> 00:49:27,680

So it was sort of an industrial
along with the fishing

941

00:49:27,680 --> 00:49:29,360

industry.

942

00:49:29,360 --> 00:49:34,160

But as far as tourism, there
was really nothing there

943

00:49:34,160 --> 00:49:36,920

for people to come
to, to see, really.

944

00:49:36,920 --> 00:49:39,710

Now, when you saw
these Nisei people

945

00:49:39,710 --> 00:49:41,720

taking all these
pictures, was this all

946

00:49:41,720 --> 00:49:43,700

within a certain period of time?

947

00:49:43,700 --> 00:49:46,353

Or was it just a
group would come

948

00:49:46,353 --> 00:49:48,020

and then later another
group would come,

949
00:49:48,020 --> 00:49:49,520
then later another
group would come?

950
00:49:49,520 --> 00:49:52,040
Was it one instance or--

951
00:49:52,040 --> 00:49:56,780
I just can't recall
that intricacies there.

952
00:49:56,780 --> 00:49:57,990
I recall seeing them.

953
00:49:57,990 --> 00:50:00,200
Now, I can't remember whether
one group left and then

954
00:50:00,200 --> 00:50:02,542
another group came and
left after them or--

955
00:50:02,542 --> 00:50:04,250
I'm just wondering
about a general period

956
00:50:04,250 --> 00:50:06,590
of time, that's all.

957
00:50:06,590 --> 00:50:07,535
It happened often.

958
00:50:07,535 --> 00:50:10,818

959
00:50:10,818 --> 00:50:11,360
I don't know.

960
00:50:11,360 --> 00:50:13,070

I would just be
guessing if I were

961
00:50:13,070 --> 00:50:16,280
to give you a period of time
that I saw this, I don't know.

962
00:50:16,280 --> 00:50:17,720
OK.

963
00:50:17,720 --> 00:50:19,400
I could say in a
space of a year,

964
00:50:19,400 --> 00:50:21,770
maybe a number of
times I would see this.

965
00:50:21,770 --> 00:50:26,060
But I would be just guessing
as far as the time period.

966
00:50:26,060 --> 00:50:27,920
But you're guessing
that had happened over

967
00:50:27,920 --> 00:50:30,210
approximately a year,
different groups of people.

968
00:50:30,210 --> 00:50:30,710
Yeah.

969
00:50:30,710 --> 00:50:31,210
Yeah.

970
00:50:31,210 --> 00:50:34,310

971
00:50:34,310 --> 00:50:37,040
But I wouldn't
state that as fact.

972

00:50:37,040 --> 00:50:39,680

It's just what I think

I recall about it.

973

00:50:39,680 --> 00:50:49,950

974

00:50:49,950 --> 00:50:53,790

How did you handle being forced

to kill other human beings when

975

00:50:53,790 --> 00:50:55,140

you got into the war?

976

00:50:55,140 --> 00:50:58,710

You know, Peggy, I thank

our dear Lord to this day

977

00:50:58,710 --> 00:51:02,730

that I had never had to

shoot an enemy soldier.

978

00:51:02,730 --> 00:51:05,520

I was a radio operator,

and although I

979

00:51:05,520 --> 00:51:08,010

was close to the front

lines at all time, my job,

980

00:51:08,010 --> 00:51:12,690

along with other

fellow radio operators,

981

00:51:12,690 --> 00:51:20,010

whenever we'd go from

point A to point B,

982

00:51:20,010 --> 00:51:24,010

we'd be assigned to a Jeep

with an officer, Jeep driver,

983

00:51:24,010 --> 00:51:25,410
of course, and
one of us would be

984
00:51:25,410 --> 00:51:27,540
in the back of the
Jeep operating,

985
00:51:27,540 --> 00:51:32,650
either by Morse
code or my voice.

986
00:51:32,650 --> 00:51:37,720
And I happened to be assigned
to be in the Colonel's radio

987
00:51:37,720 --> 00:51:41,770
operator the day
we went to Dachau,

988
00:51:41,770 --> 00:51:43,540
so I always had my rifle ready.

989
00:51:43,540 --> 00:51:47,110
I did a lot of ducking
and running and hiding.

990
00:51:47,110 --> 00:51:48,760
But as I said before,
I thank the Lord

991
00:51:48,760 --> 00:51:52,090
that I never had to come
face to face with it

992
00:51:52,090 --> 00:51:55,130
and have to shoot
at an enemy soldier.

993
00:51:55,130 --> 00:51:57,760

994
00:51:57,760 --> 00:51:59,530

Where did you-- you
landed in Marseilles.

995
00:51:59,530 --> 00:52:02,530
Then what happened?

996
00:52:02,530 --> 00:52:09,370
In Marseilles, we were convoyed
to an area outside the city,

997
00:52:09,370 --> 00:52:10,990
a great big field area--

998
00:52:10,990 --> 00:52:14,590
cold, I tell you, col--

999
00:52:14,590 --> 00:52:16,075
where we'd put up our pup tents.

1000
00:52:16,075 --> 00:52:17,200
The little pup tents were--

1001
00:52:17,200 --> 00:52:21,930

1002
00:52:21,930 --> 00:52:26,110
one soldier was assigned
to another soldier,

1003
00:52:26,110 --> 00:52:29,640
and we called each other
bodies, our pup tent buddies.

1004
00:52:29,640 --> 00:52:33,240
And in our pack, we each had
what they call a shelter half.

1005
00:52:33,240 --> 00:52:35,640
I carried a shelter
half, my buddy

1006
00:52:35,640 --> 00:52:37,680

carried another shelter half.

1007

00:52:37,680 --> 00:52:40,890

So whatever it was necessary
to put up the pup tents--

1008

00:52:40,890 --> 00:52:44,250

they were probably
just about so high.

1009

00:52:44,250 --> 00:52:47,370

So I'd get my shelter half,
and my buddy, Joe Gillespie,

1010

00:52:47,370 --> 00:52:49,080

would get his shelter half.

1011

00:52:49,080 --> 00:52:50,430

And we'd pitch our little tent.

1012

00:52:50,430 --> 00:52:51,810

It was just only about so high.

1013

00:52:51,810 --> 00:52:54,120

The only thing you do is
just crawl into it to sleep,

1014

00:52:54,120 --> 00:52:56,660

if you could.

1015

00:52:56,660 --> 00:53:03,960

And then, as I recall,
Peggy, we were assigned

1016

00:53:03,960 --> 00:53:06,750

to General Patton's Third Army.

1017

00:53:06,750 --> 00:53:08,520

So were you in the
Battle of the Bulge?

1018

00:53:08,520 --> 00:53:10,500

No, we got-- well, somewhat.

1019
00:53:10,500 --> 00:53:13,380
We got there at the last
stages of the Bulge,

1020
00:53:13,380 --> 00:53:16,230
the last stages of the Bulge.

1021
00:53:16,230 --> 00:53:20,490
We took up positions,
I believe it

1022
00:53:20,490 --> 00:53:26,670
was near Strasbourg and the
old French National line

1023
00:53:26,670 --> 00:53:31,320
that Hitler had encircled
and got into Paris.

1024
00:53:31,320 --> 00:53:34,710
That was an awful, dirty place.

1025
00:53:34,710 --> 00:53:36,990
We took up our we
took up positions

1026
00:53:36,990 --> 00:53:38,790
there at the old
National line, our outfit

1027
00:53:38,790 --> 00:53:42,060
along with others
around the perimeter,

1028
00:53:42,060 --> 00:53:46,770
on Christmas Day of 1944.

1029
00:53:46,770 --> 00:53:51,750
From there, we
advanced from city

1030

00:53:51,750 --> 00:53:54,825

to city and town, little
village to village.

1031

00:53:54,825 --> 00:54:01,140

1032

00:54:01,140 --> 00:54:08,920

We then got notified that to
be assigned to General Patch's

1033

00:54:08,920 --> 00:54:14,740

Seventh Army, and we belonged
to that particular unit,

1034

00:54:14,740 --> 00:54:17,980

along with other divisions in
General Patch's Seventh Army

1035

00:54:17,980 --> 00:54:22,690

through France, Lyons,
Dijon, and whatever.

1036

00:54:22,690 --> 00:54:25,210

I can't remember a
lot of the cities,

1037

00:54:25,210 --> 00:54:28,660

through Alsace-Lorraine.

1038

00:54:28,660 --> 00:54:31,990

And I learned to
speak a little French,

1039

00:54:31,990 --> 00:54:34,900

and then having to forget it
and then start to learn German,

1040

00:54:34,900 --> 00:54:38,860

as we went into Germany and into
Austria and ended up in Vienna

1041

00:54:38,860 --> 00:54:41,682
when the Germans
finally surrendered.

1042
00:54:41,682 --> 00:54:44,830

1043
00:54:44,830 --> 00:54:47,260
During your going
through Germany,

1044
00:54:47,260 --> 00:54:51,940
did you encounter any
Hitler Youth bands?

1045
00:54:51,940 --> 00:54:52,940
No.

1046
00:54:52,940 --> 00:54:53,440
No.

1047
00:54:53,440 --> 00:54:54,770
Were you aware?

1048
00:54:54,770 --> 00:54:55,720
I was aware of it.

1049
00:54:55,720 --> 00:54:57,850
They called it the
Hitlerjugend, yeah.

1050
00:54:57,850 --> 00:55:00,160
Were you aware that children,
very young children--

1051
00:55:00,160 --> 00:55:00,760
Yes.

1052
00:55:00,760 --> 00:55:01,935
--were fighting the war?

1053
00:55:01,935 --> 00:55:02,435

Yes.

1054

00:55:02,435 --> 00:55:05,968

1055

00:55:05,968 --> 00:55:07,510

So you never
encountered any, though?

1056

00:55:07,510 --> 00:55:12,130

I never encountered any
because I was never directly--

1057

00:55:12,130 --> 00:55:15,370

even as a radio operator, I
was never directly involved

1058

00:55:15,370 --> 00:55:19,210

in front line combat.

1059

00:55:19,210 --> 00:55:23,990

I'm sure that our front line
troops had encountered that.

1060

00:55:23,990 --> 00:55:26,560

But we were just
directly behind.

1061

00:55:26,560 --> 00:55:28,180

And all I'd had
heard of the Hitler

1062

00:55:28,180 --> 00:55:30,970

Youth and the German
youth, Hitler Youth,

1063

00:55:30,970 --> 00:55:31,720

I'd heard of them.

1064

00:55:31,720 --> 00:55:36,100

I don't recall ever seeing them.

1065

00:55:36,100 --> 00:55:39,700

Did you perceive them as
a danger to your troops,

1066

00:55:39,700 --> 00:55:41,686

to you or the group?

1067

00:55:41,686 --> 00:55:46,210

Yes, since they were trained
to fight the Americans

1068

00:55:46,210 --> 00:55:50,560

and to preserve their Germany.

1069

00:55:50,560 --> 00:55:53,020

How did you deal with the
idea of shooting child

1070

00:55:53,020 --> 00:55:55,810

soldiers versus adult
soldiers, should

1071

00:55:55,810 --> 00:55:59,230

you have ever had to do that?

1072

00:55:59,230 --> 00:56:01,990

That thought never
really occurred to me,

1073

00:56:01,990 --> 00:56:06,820

except for the thought that,
if it ever came to that point,

1074

00:56:06,820 --> 00:56:10,990

that I would try to save
myself and shoot first.

1075

00:56:10,990 --> 00:56:13,240

And it never occurred
to me whether it

1076

00:56:13,240 --> 00:56:16,690

would be a young Hitler Youth

or, even if he was armed,

1077

00:56:16,690 --> 00:56:25,080
well, he'd be dangerous, whether
he was a youth or an adult.

1078

00:56:25,080 --> 00:56:29,180
Some people have reported that
when prisoners were taken,

1079

00:56:29,180 --> 00:56:31,520
even young children
frequently carry

1080

00:56:31,520 --> 00:56:34,880
pornographic pictures, pictures
of bodies hanging and being

1081

00:56:34,880 --> 00:56:36,380
tortured, et cetera.

1082

00:56:36,380 --> 00:56:39,170
Did you ever hear of or
experience any of this?

1083

00:56:39,170 --> 00:56:42,320
Not personally, no.

1084

00:56:42,320 --> 00:56:45,110
Did you ever come upon
any abandoned trains

1085

00:56:45,110 --> 00:56:46,160
filled with bodies?

1086

00:56:46,160 --> 00:56:50,060
Oh, yes, in Dachau.

1087

00:56:50,060 --> 00:56:51,990
But not before
you got to Dachau.

1088

00:56:51,990 --> 00:56:53,420
Well, no, not before Dachau.

1089
00:56:53,420 --> 00:56:56,490

1090
00:56:56,490 --> 00:57:00,480
Did you ever encounter
Allied prisoners

1091
00:57:00,480 --> 00:57:03,280
of war held by Germans?

1092
00:57:03,280 --> 00:57:03,780
Yes.

1093
00:57:03,780 --> 00:57:07,350
For a short period of
time, as our troops

1094
00:57:07,350 --> 00:57:12,120
advanced, I forget where it was,
what town it was, but we had--

1095
00:57:12,120 --> 00:57:15,510

1096
00:57:15,510 --> 00:57:17,430
well, I encountered
them myself, personally.

1097
00:57:17,430 --> 00:57:19,530
They had already been
freed by our forward.

1098
00:57:19,530 --> 00:57:22,110
They had been freed from
the German prison camps.

1099
00:57:22,110 --> 00:57:25,500
What did they tell you about
their being held prisoner?

1100

00:57:25,500 --> 00:57:30,510

I don't recall hearing
anything that they

1101

00:57:30,510 --> 00:57:34,380

were treated atrociously
or anything like that

1102

00:57:34,380 --> 00:57:37,590

because they, although they were
somewhat drawn and so forth--

1103

00:57:37,590 --> 00:57:41,040

I talked to a couple
of them, as I recall.

1104

00:57:41,040 --> 00:57:43,290

They were sort of drawn and
all from their experiment.

1105

00:57:43,290 --> 00:57:46,290

But other than that,
they showed no signs

1106

00:57:46,290 --> 00:57:51,533

of being battered or whipped or
anything like that, or starved.

1107

00:57:51,533 --> 00:57:53,325

What did they tell you
about the conditions

1108

00:57:53,325 --> 00:57:54,450

when they were German POWs?

1109

00:57:54,450 --> 00:57:58,480

Well, they said they were
treated pretty good because I

1110

00:57:58,480 --> 00:58:00,480

didn't have too much of
a conversation with them

1111

00:58:00,480 --> 00:58:03,060

because, as I say, I got out
of my Jeep for a little bit,

1112

00:58:03,060 --> 00:58:05,310

but I had to get
back to the Jeep

1113

00:58:05,310 --> 00:58:08,520

to continue communications with
our command post in the rear,

1114

00:58:08,520 --> 00:58:09,300

see.

1115

00:58:09,300 --> 00:58:13,440

So I wasn't able to just
hang around and just talk.

1116

00:58:13,440 --> 00:58:16,040

1117

00:58:16,040 --> 00:58:17,720

You say you worked
for the Colonel?

1118

00:58:17,720 --> 00:58:19,070

Like were--

1119

00:58:19,070 --> 00:58:21,350

On that particular
day in Dachau,

1120

00:58:21,350 --> 00:58:23,120

I was assigned to his Jeep.

1121

00:58:23,120 --> 00:58:24,320

Just that particular day?

1122

00:58:24,320 --> 00:58:24,850

Yeah.

1123

00:58:24,850 --> 00:58:27,200

Did you ever encounter Patton?

1124

00:58:27,200 --> 00:58:28,250

No.

1125

00:58:28,250 --> 00:58:32,210

I encountered General Mark
Clark, just coincidentally.

1126

00:58:32,210 --> 00:58:34,430

And when we were
in Vienna, Austria

1127

00:58:34,430 --> 00:58:38,130

we were walking along the
street there in downtown Vienna,

1128

00:58:38,130 --> 00:58:43,030

and we see this Jeep with
the flag and the four stars,

1129

00:58:43,030 --> 00:58:45,950

and recognized General Clark,
give him the old Rainbow

1130

00:58:45,950 --> 00:58:46,563

salute.

1131

00:58:46,563 --> 00:58:47,980

We were taught the
Rainbow salute.

1132

00:58:47,980 --> 00:58:49,460

It's not just like this.

1133

00:58:49,460 --> 00:58:50,780

It's the Rainbow salute.

1134

00:58:50,780 --> 00:58:51,812

You stand up--

1135

00:58:51,812 --> 00:58:52,354

Look at John.

1136

00:58:52,354 --> 00:58:53,240

Look at John.

1137

00:58:53,240 --> 00:58:54,620

No, that's all right.

1138

00:58:54,620 --> 00:58:56,196

I can do it sitting.

1139

00:58:56,196 --> 00:59:01,472

1140

00:59:01,472 --> 00:59:02,930

Yeah, we were taught
in the Rainbow

1141

00:59:02,930 --> 00:59:05,090

that what was called
the Rainbow salute.

1142

00:59:05,090 --> 00:59:09,002

1143

00:59:09,002 --> 00:59:10,460

Sorry to have to
interrupt, though.

1144

00:59:10,460 --> 00:59:11,335

Oh, that's all right.

1145

00:59:11,335 --> 00:59:14,450

He's going to give us the
Rainbow salute we need to hear.

1146

00:59:14,450 --> 00:59:16,520

I'll let you know.

1147

00:59:16,520 --> 00:59:18,120

It happens.

1148
00:59:18,120 --> 00:59:18,720
Let's see.

1149
00:59:18,720 --> 00:59:22,070

1150
00:59:22,070 --> 00:59:24,430
OK, so we're going to do
the Rainbow salute here.

1151
00:59:24,430 --> 00:59:25,430
Is that what's going on?

1152
00:59:25,430 --> 00:59:25,930
Right.

1153
00:59:25,930 --> 00:59:30,020
Yeah, I was explaining
it to the girls.

1154
00:59:30,020 --> 00:59:32,840
Peggy asked me if I'd ever
encountered General Patton.

1155
00:59:32,840 --> 00:59:35,720
I said, no, but I did
encounter General Mark

1156
00:59:35,720 --> 00:59:41,570
Clark, who was the commander
of a group of one--

1157
00:59:41,570 --> 00:59:44,820
I can't remember the number of
it, but a big brigade anyhow.

1158
00:59:44,820 --> 00:59:47,910
We'd walk along one of
the streets in Vienna,

1159

00:59:47,910 --> 00:59:49,670
and I gave him--

1160
00:59:49,670 --> 00:59:51,860
I saw the flag with
the four stars and all,

1161
00:59:51,860 --> 00:59:53,660
so I gave him the
Rainbow salute.

1162
00:59:53,660 --> 00:59:55,760
So Peggy says, well, what
is the Rainbow salute?

1163
00:59:55,760 --> 00:59:58,370
Well, it's not just like most
guys will salute like this.

1164
00:59:58,370 --> 00:59:59,320
It's a Rainbow salute.

1165
00:59:59,320 --> 01:00:01,070
You bring it up like
the arc of a rainbow.

1166
01:00:01,070 --> 01:00:04,820

1167
01:00:04,820 --> 01:00:07,800
That's the Rainbow salute.

1168
01:00:07,800 --> 01:00:08,300
Nice.

1169
01:00:08,300 --> 01:00:11,630

1170
01:00:11,630 --> 01:00:16,200
Well, since John's here, we
might as well take a break.

1171

01:00:16,200 --> 01:00:16,700
Good.

1172
01:00:16,700 --> 01:00:18,492
I got to have a cigarette
I'm having a fit.

1173
01:00:18,492 --> 01:00:47,460

1174
01:00:47,460 --> 01:00:48,960
OK.

1175
01:00:48,960 --> 01:00:50,760
OK, any time.

1176
01:00:50,760 --> 01:00:52,070
OK.

1177
01:00:52,070 --> 01:00:54,930
Are you aware of the difference
between concentration camp

1178
01:00:54,930 --> 01:01:01,200
slave laborers and the forced
laborers Germany imported?

1179
01:01:01,200 --> 01:01:02,110
The difference?

1180
01:01:02,110 --> 01:01:04,260
Yeah.

1181
01:01:04,260 --> 01:01:08,280
It's never occurred
to me to think

1182
01:01:08,280 --> 01:01:10,710
about the difference
between a concentration camp

1183
01:01:10,710 --> 01:01:12,000

and forced labor.

1184

01:01:12,000 --> 01:01:14,280

The forced laborers you
would have encountered as you

1185

01:01:14,280 --> 01:01:16,500

kind of went through Germany
on farms and whatever,

1186

01:01:16,500 --> 01:01:17,590

in factories.

1187

01:01:17,590 --> 01:01:19,560

They were the people of other--

1188

01:01:19,560 --> 01:01:22,380

like the Dutch nationals
or the Polish nationals

1189

01:01:22,380 --> 01:01:23,750

who weren't Jews.

1190

01:01:23,750 --> 01:01:24,550

I understand.

1191

01:01:24,550 --> 01:01:26,880

Yeah, I remember hearing
about forced labor,

1192

01:01:26,880 --> 01:01:32,460

but I've never
encountered or read

1193

01:01:32,460 --> 01:01:35,040

anything about any
particular difference.

1194

01:01:35,040 --> 01:01:43,860

I would say the difference was
in the concentration camps,

1195

01:01:43,860 --> 01:01:46,080
they were atrociously treated.

1196
01:01:46,080 --> 01:01:50,113
And the slave labor was--

1197
01:01:50,113 --> 01:01:51,780
I guess they had to
keep them healthy so

1198
01:01:51,780 --> 01:01:54,777
that they could work and produce
for the factories and so forth.

1199
01:01:54,777 --> 01:01:55,860
You mean the forced labor.

1200
01:01:55,860 --> 01:01:57,150
The forced labor, yeah.

1201
01:01:57,150 --> 01:01:59,700
So you never encountered
any forced laborers.

1202
01:01:59,700 --> 01:02:00,970
No.

1203
01:02:00,970 --> 01:02:02,220
You said you heard about them.

1204
01:02:02,220 --> 01:02:03,160
What did you hear?

1205
01:02:03,160 --> 01:02:04,140
Do you recall?

1206
01:02:04,140 --> 01:02:07,410
Well, just reading
about forced labor.

1207
01:02:07,410 --> 01:02:08,670
At the time, though.

1208
01:02:08,670 --> 01:02:10,450
No.

1209
01:02:10,450 --> 01:02:16,770
And so it never occurred to
me what the difference would

1210
01:02:16,770 --> 01:02:19,830
be between-- except to
say that the forced labor,

1211
01:02:19,830 --> 01:02:24,210
they probably were fed
better and were not

1212
01:02:24,210 --> 01:02:27,840
mistreated severely so
that they could still

1213
01:02:27,840 --> 01:02:33,870
remain healthy and work for
German production factories.

1214
01:02:33,870 --> 01:02:36,060
That's the only
difference I would see.

1215
01:02:36,060 --> 01:02:37,560
And you got that from reading.

1216
01:02:37,560 --> 01:02:42,060
Right, my own assumption that
would be a difference, yeah.

1217
01:02:42,060 --> 01:02:46,170
Did you liberate any
prisoners on a death march?

1218
01:02:46,170 --> 01:02:47,010
On a death march?

1219

01:02:47,010 --> 01:02:47,510
No.

1220
01:02:47,510 --> 01:02:50,160

1221
01:02:50,160 --> 01:02:54,930
Did you hear of prisoners being
liberated on death marches?

1222
01:02:54,930 --> 01:02:56,730
Yes, I've heard some.

1223
01:02:56,730 --> 01:02:58,590
I don't recall exactly.

1224
01:02:58,590 --> 01:03:00,810
I don't mean meeting
later, but at the time,

1225
01:03:00,810 --> 01:03:03,548
did you encounter any fellow
soldiers who told you?

1226
01:03:03,548 --> 01:03:04,090
Remember any?

1227
01:03:04,090 --> 01:03:05,700
No, no.

1228
01:03:05,700 --> 01:03:06,660
OK.

1229
01:03:06,660 --> 01:03:11,220
I never encountered any persons
that were in a death march.

1230
01:03:11,220 --> 01:03:15,135

1231
01:03:15,135 --> 01:03:16,510
Did you become

aware of the death

1232

01:03:16,510 --> 01:03:18,260

marches while you were
in Germany, though?

1233

01:03:18,260 --> 01:03:21,910

1234

01:03:21,910 --> 01:03:25,750

Really, the only death
march that I really

1235

01:03:25,750 --> 01:03:30,370

remember hearing a lot about
was over on the other side,

1236

01:03:30,370 --> 01:03:33,010

in Japan, at
Corregidor, the death

1237

01:03:33,010 --> 01:03:34,590

march from Corregidor to Baton.

1238

01:03:34,590 --> 01:03:38,386

1239

01:03:38,386 --> 01:03:45,040

I met a man who was a Colonel,
who was a member of that death

1240

01:03:45,040 --> 01:03:50,720

march, and what he told me
just wouldn't be printable.

1241

01:03:50,720 --> 01:03:54,650

That's really the only
death march that I know of.

1242

01:03:54,650 --> 01:03:56,860

But the other death
marches that occurred

1243

01:03:56,860 --> 01:04:00,890

and in Germany I'm not
familiar with at all,

1244

01:04:00,890 --> 01:04:02,530

in personal experience, no.

1245

01:04:02,530 --> 01:04:06,130

Were you aware of, ever
told of the Germans

1246

01:04:06,130 --> 01:04:09,640

having citizens bury--

1247

01:04:09,640 --> 01:04:12,250

I don't know who buried all
the bodies on death marches,

1248

01:04:12,250 --> 01:04:14,980

but somebody had to have
buried them or they would

1249

01:04:14,980 --> 01:04:16,220

have been strewn all over.

1250

01:04:16,220 --> 01:04:16,720

Right.

1251

01:04:16,720 --> 01:04:19,570

Do you recall hearing
anything about that,

1252

01:04:19,570 --> 01:04:23,580

about the number of bodies
just buried all over?

1253

01:04:23,580 --> 01:04:25,990

No, I just remember
hearing and reading

1254

01:04:25,990 --> 01:04:31,450

about wholesale burials, where

they'd get these big bulldozers

1255

01:04:31,450 --> 01:04:35,080
and scrape out a great
big section of earth,

1256

01:04:35,080 --> 01:04:37,357
dump the dead bodies in
it, and cover them up.

1257

01:04:37,357 --> 01:04:37,940
And you read--

1258

01:04:37,940 --> 01:04:39,370
I read about it.

1259

01:04:39,370 --> 01:04:41,680
I've never witnessed
any of that, personally.

1260

01:04:41,680 --> 01:04:43,960
And you never heard anybody
talk about it at the time?

1261

01:04:43,960 --> 01:04:45,100
No.

1262

01:04:45,100 --> 01:04:46,060
OK.

1263

01:04:46,060 --> 01:04:48,820
When did you first become
aware of concentration camps,

1264

01:04:48,820 --> 01:04:49,390
and how?

1265

01:04:49,390 --> 01:04:52,150

1266

01:04:52,150 --> 01:04:56,035
Through news reports before

and during my service.

1267

01:04:56,035 --> 01:04:59,400

1268

01:04:59,400 --> 01:05:02,752

That's when I first
became aware of them.

1269

01:05:02,752 --> 01:05:06,450

1270

01:05:06,450 --> 01:05:08,760

What was your first indication?

1271

01:05:08,760 --> 01:05:13,130

Was Dachau the only
camp you liberated?

1272

01:05:13,130 --> 01:05:17,220

Yes, my particular unit,
that's the only one.

1273

01:05:17,220 --> 01:05:21,990

And you liberated the main camp?

1274

01:05:21,990 --> 01:05:23,520

Yes.

1275

01:05:23,520 --> 01:05:24,340

OK.

1276

01:05:24,340 --> 01:05:26,070

What was your first
indication that you

1277

01:05:26,070 --> 01:05:29,250

were approaching Dachau?

1278

01:05:29,250 --> 01:05:37,020

My first indication was
when, at our command post,

1279
01:05:37,020 --> 01:05:39,780
I was assigned to the Colonel's
Jeep as a radio operator.

1280
01:05:39,780 --> 01:05:40,983
So we got in a convoy.

1281
01:05:40,983 --> 01:05:42,400
I didn't know where
we were going.

1282
01:05:42,400 --> 01:05:45,170
I was constantly on the radio.

1283
01:05:45,170 --> 01:05:48,190
And the Colonel would want
to transmit a message,

1284
01:05:48,190 --> 01:05:49,863
so I'd just hand the
microphone over him

1285
01:05:49,863 --> 01:05:51,030
and turn on the transmitter.

1286
01:05:51,030 --> 01:05:58,710
And we wound up outside
the main camp, where--

1287
01:05:58,710 --> 01:06:01,720
can I show you a picture
here now, or not?

1288
01:06:01,720 --> 01:06:02,220
OK.

1289
01:06:02,220 --> 01:06:03,480
We need John for pictures.

1290
01:06:03,480 --> 01:06:05,970
Maybe we can get

John in here for now.

1291

01:06:05,970 --> 01:06:14,070

But anyway, the unit that I
was with, we entered a site--

1292

01:06:14,070 --> 01:06:16,740

there was a railroad siding
on the outside of the camp

1293

01:06:16,740 --> 01:06:20,610

with about maybe
15, 20, 25 boxcars.

1294

01:06:20,610 --> 01:06:23,140

1295

01:06:23,140 --> 01:06:26,820

Each one had large
opening in the front.

1296

01:06:26,820 --> 01:06:30,300

And we were walking
along, a buddy of mine,

1297

01:06:30,300 --> 01:06:34,210

and I can't even remember
who he was to this day.

1298

01:06:34,210 --> 01:06:37,320

And there was some of our
soldiers walking ahead of us,

1299

01:06:37,320 --> 01:06:39,360

and we were all peering
into these boxcars

1300

01:06:39,360 --> 01:06:43,527

with all these dead bodies
piled two or three deep.

1301

01:06:43,527 --> 01:06:45,360

We understood that they

had been transported

1302

01:06:45,360 --> 01:06:49,440
from another concentration
camp for miles and miles,

1303

01:06:49,440 --> 01:06:52,890
and without food or water.

1304

01:06:52,890 --> 01:06:57,690
And that's when we
finally realized we

1305

01:06:57,690 --> 01:06:59,538
were in a concentration camp.

1306

01:06:59,538 --> 01:07:01,080
But right at that
particular instant,

1307

01:07:01,080 --> 01:07:04,150
I wasn't sure at the time
whether it was Dachau

1308

01:07:04,150 --> 01:07:07,567
or what till later.

1309

01:07:07,567 --> 01:07:09,150
Can you describe--
we're at the train.

1310

01:07:09,150 --> 01:07:11,217
Did you look into the train?

1311

01:07:11,217 --> 01:07:12,300
Did I look in the boxcars?

1312

01:07:12,300 --> 01:07:13,080
Oh, yes.

1313

01:07:13,080 --> 01:07:14,700
Yes.

1314
01:07:14,700 --> 01:07:18,330
A buddy and I were walking
along, peering into each one

1315
01:07:18,330 --> 01:07:20,940
and just shaking
our heads at what

1316
01:07:20,940 --> 01:07:23,130
we had witnessed personally.

1317
01:07:23,130 --> 01:07:29,540
And as we were walking along,
we peering into one boxcar,

1318
01:07:29,540 --> 01:07:32,310
and amongst all those dead
bodies in that one boxcar,

1319
01:07:32,310 --> 01:07:39,140
we saw this hand weakly
waving back and forth.

1320
01:07:39,140 --> 01:07:42,980
The poor guy evidently
heard voices, our voices,

1321
01:07:42,980 --> 01:07:44,620
and tried to attract attention.

1322
01:07:44,620 --> 01:07:48,080
So I don't know, I could
have climbed in the boxcar

1323
01:07:48,080 --> 01:07:51,050
myself, but the Colonel was just
a few feet ahead of me, Colonel

1324
01:07:51,050 --> 01:07:53,300
Downard, who I'll show you here.

1325

01:07:53,300 --> 01:07:53,870
I called him.

1326
01:07:53,870 --> 01:07:55,760
I said, hey Colonel,
we got a live one here.

1327
01:07:55,760 --> 01:07:59,510
So he ran back with
another officer.

1328
01:07:59,510 --> 01:08:02,210
They climbed in, stepping
all over those dead bodies,

1329
01:08:02,210 --> 01:08:04,910
and picked up that
poor soul there.

1330
01:08:04,910 --> 01:08:09,860
And I was just standing--

1331
01:08:09,860 --> 01:08:12,630
say here's the boxcar, and
the opening is right here

1332
01:08:12,630 --> 01:08:15,410
and I'm standing down here with
my head just above the opening

1333
01:08:15,410 --> 01:08:17,340
here like that.

1334
01:08:17,340 --> 01:08:22,380
And they came across and
handed this poor soul to me.

1335
01:08:22,380 --> 01:08:28,010
And he looked at me in
wide-eyed bewilderment.

1336
01:08:28,010 --> 01:08:30,095
He looked at me,

and he says, "frei?"

1337
01:08:30,095 --> 01:08:30,986
frei?"

1338
01:08:30,986 --> 01:08:32,194
Which in German means "free."

1339
01:08:32,194 --> 01:08:34,640
He was asking me if he was free.

1340
01:08:34,640 --> 01:08:37,229
And I showed him that
he was in American hands

1341
01:08:37,229 --> 01:08:40,229
and that he was free at last.

1342
01:08:40,229 --> 01:08:41,069
I turned around.

1343
01:08:41,069 --> 01:08:45,388
Another soldier took him from
me and put him in the Jeep.

1344
01:08:45,388 --> 01:08:46,430
I haven't seen him since.

1345
01:08:46,430 --> 01:08:48,920
I'd love to meet
that guy one day.

1346
01:08:48,920 --> 01:08:51,257
Haven't been able to locate him.

1347
01:08:51,257 --> 01:08:52,340
It was an emotional thing.

1348
01:08:52,340 --> 01:08:53,240
Did you try?

1349

01:08:53,240 --> 01:08:58,580

I didn't try personally,
but after many, many years

1350

01:08:58,580 --> 01:09:01,790

I contacted Colonel Downard,
who was in the boxcar, that

1351

01:09:01,790 --> 01:09:02,450

picked him up.

1352

01:09:02,450 --> 01:09:07,490

1353

01:09:07,490 --> 01:09:11,479

On our way back to our
CP after leaving Dachau,

1354

01:09:11,479 --> 01:09:13,950

and other troops took over
from there to clean up,

1355

01:09:13,950 --> 01:09:21,109

we found some commotion
at a crossroads

1356

01:09:21,109 --> 01:09:24,020

there, at a country street.

1357

01:09:24,020 --> 01:09:26,390

So the Colonel told our
Jeep driver to stop.

1358

01:09:26,390 --> 01:09:30,740

Well, what had happened, we saw
Colonel Downard, who picked up

1359

01:09:30,740 --> 01:09:35,090

that poor soul, was
lying in a shallow ditch

1360

01:09:35,090 --> 01:09:38,000

and moaning because he was hurt.

1361
01:09:38,000 --> 01:09:43,069
And Colonel Downard, the
fellow who had picked that

1362
01:09:43,069 --> 01:09:44,687
live soldier out of the boxcar--

1363
01:09:44,687 --> 01:09:45,770
He was lying in the ditch.

1364
01:09:45,770 --> 01:09:48,470
Yes.

1365
01:09:48,470 --> 01:09:53,060
And my Colonel, the
Colonel Bulldog,

1366
01:09:53,060 --> 01:09:57,560
who I was a radio operator
for, got off the Jeep

1367
01:09:57,560 --> 01:10:00,590
and went down to talk
to Colonel Downard,

1368
01:10:00,590 --> 01:10:02,840
and I couldn't leave
my Jeep because I

1369
01:10:02,840 --> 01:10:06,920
had to stay there with my
radio and my earphones on.

1370
01:10:06,920 --> 01:10:10,610
And I looked over to my right,
and there was this poor soul

1371
01:10:10,610 --> 01:10:12,980
that we had picked up
out of that boxcar loaded

1372

01:10:12,980 --> 01:10:14,655
with dead bodies.

1373
01:10:14,655 --> 01:10:16,280
He was sitting in
the Jeep with an Army

1374
01:10:16,280 --> 01:10:18,770
blanket over his head
with just wide eyes

1375
01:10:18,770 --> 01:10:23,690
and a little trickle of blood
coming down his forehead.

1376
01:10:23,690 --> 01:10:29,570
Now, 45 years later, I
hadn't known all these years

1377
01:10:29,570 --> 01:10:31,940
that our 42nd
Rainbow Division had

1378
01:10:31,940 --> 01:10:35,810
formed an association
of Rainbow veterans

1379
01:10:35,810 --> 01:10:37,520
who got together once a year.

1380
01:10:37,520 --> 01:10:39,170
I had no idea about it.

1381
01:10:39,170 --> 01:10:42,290
I wanted to get home forget
the Army, this and that.

1382
01:10:42,290 --> 01:10:45,120
But eventually, about
three or four years ago,

1383
01:10:45,120 --> 01:10:47,690
a friend of mine, an

old buddy of mine,

1384

01:10:47,690 --> 01:10:50,930
a radio operator, Jack Summers,
who lives in Los Altos,

1385

01:10:50,930 --> 01:10:55,130
just not too far from
here, he eventually

1386

01:10:55,130 --> 01:10:59,180
contacted me after 45 years.

1387

01:10:59,180 --> 01:11:02,210
And I just couldn't believe it.

1388

01:11:02,210 --> 01:11:04,520
At any rate, he was
instrumental in having

1389

01:11:04,520 --> 01:11:05,840
me join the association.

1390

01:11:05,840 --> 01:11:08,600

1391

01:11:08,600 --> 01:11:12,800
And he invited me
to go over and have

1392

01:11:12,800 --> 01:11:14,020
dinner with he and his wife.

1393

01:11:14,020 --> 01:11:16,700
It was a wonderful,
wonderful meeting.

1394

01:11:16,700 --> 01:11:26,030
And our 22nd Regiment publishes
a little newspaper thing,

1395

01:11:26,030 --> 01:11:28,490

a little magazine
thing called The Badge.

1396
01:11:28,490 --> 01:11:30,290
So he gave me a whole
bunch of copies of it

1397
01:11:30,290 --> 01:11:32,780
because a lot of guys write
whatever they're doing,

1398
01:11:32,780 --> 01:11:37,230
and they have a roster of
names for each company.

1399
01:11:37,230 --> 01:11:39,530
So I found Colonel
Downard's name on it.

1400
01:11:39,530 --> 01:11:42,860
He was from Boerne, Texas.

1401
01:11:42,860 --> 01:11:43,580
He's from Texas.

1402
01:11:43,580 --> 01:11:45,295
So they have their
addresses in it.

1403
01:11:45,295 --> 01:11:46,670
So I wrote to him
and I told him.

1404
01:11:46,670 --> 01:11:49,670
I says, I'm the guy who
called you and says, here's

1405
01:11:49,670 --> 01:11:50,600
a live one.

1406
01:11:50,600 --> 01:11:53,870
And I explained to him, asked
him what had happened at that

1407
01:11:53,870 --> 01:11:58,220
crossroads 45 years ago when
he was laying in a Jeep.

1408
01:11:58,220 --> 01:12:00,200
He'd already had
a cast on one arm

1409
01:12:00,200 --> 01:12:02,570
because he'd been
wounded before.

1410
01:12:02,570 --> 01:12:04,550
And I said, you already
had a cast on your arm.

1411
01:12:04,550 --> 01:12:07,610
I said, what were you trying
to do, break the other one?

1412
01:12:07,610 --> 01:12:08,480
He wrote back.

1413
01:12:08,480 --> 01:12:13,460
He says, Tony, god, he
says, it's been so long.

1414
01:12:13,460 --> 01:12:16,070
He says-- he related
what happened that day.

1415
01:12:16,070 --> 01:12:21,110
As they were driving
along, going to their CP,

1416
01:12:21,110 --> 01:12:26,480
they encountered some
light sniper fire.

1417
01:12:26,480 --> 01:12:29,930
And his Jeep was
hit, and his driver

1418
01:12:29,930 --> 01:12:31,610
lost control and
turned over and ran

1419
01:12:31,610 --> 01:12:33,020
into an ambulance of some kind.

1420
01:12:33,020 --> 01:12:34,670
And he wound up--

1421
01:12:34,670 --> 01:12:35,397
he says.

1422
01:12:35,397 --> 01:12:36,980
And I asked him, I
says, have you ever

1423
01:12:36,980 --> 01:12:40,850
tried to communicate or
get a hold of that fellow

1424
01:12:40,850 --> 01:12:43,460
that you picked
up in that boxcar?

1425
01:12:43,460 --> 01:12:47,090
So when he wrote back,
he related, he says,

1426
01:12:47,090 --> 01:12:48,080
we had sniper fire.

1427
01:12:48,080 --> 01:12:50,300
My Jeep driver lost
control of the Jeep.

1428
01:12:50,300 --> 01:12:52,880
And he says, the
last I remember is

1429
01:12:52,880 --> 01:12:57,740

laying on a stretcher alongside
this poor guy at a first aid

1430
01:12:57,740 --> 01:12:59,838
station.

1431
01:12:59,838 --> 01:13:01,880
He says, and that's the
last that I ever saw him.

1432
01:13:01,880 --> 01:13:03,380
And he said, through
the years, I've

1433
01:13:03,380 --> 01:13:06,050
tried to get information as
to how he could be contacted.

1434
01:13:06,050 --> 01:13:09,680
He says, but it just
hasn't been successful.

1435
01:13:09,680 --> 01:13:11,150
That would be a
wonderful reunion

1436
01:13:11,150 --> 01:13:12,860
if we could ever find that man.

1437
01:13:12,860 --> 01:13:13,794
Oh, my god.

1438
01:13:13,794 --> 01:13:16,370

1439
01:13:16,370 --> 01:13:19,160
It was an emotional thing.

1440
01:13:19,160 --> 01:13:22,910
So that's the story of
the live one we found.

1441

01:13:22,910 --> 01:13:25,280

Before I go on with
entering the camp,

1442

01:13:25,280 --> 01:13:27,500

I want to know if Ruth
has any questions, up

1443

01:13:27,500 --> 01:13:28,760

to liberating the camp.

1444

01:13:28,760 --> 01:13:33,430

1445

01:13:33,430 --> 01:13:37,720

I would like to go
back a little bit, when

1446

01:13:37,720 --> 01:13:40,580

you were talking about your
father being pro-Mussolini.

1447

01:13:40,580 --> 01:13:41,080

Yes.

1448

01:13:41,080 --> 01:13:46,720

And I'd like to ask you
to describe in more detail

1449

01:13:46,720 --> 01:13:49,300

the pro-Mussolini feelings
in the country among

1450

01:13:49,300 --> 01:13:53,720

Italian-Americans before he
joined and how it changed

1451

01:13:53,720 --> 01:13:54,380

as you--

1452

01:13:54,380 --> 01:13:56,780

Well, dad was
pro-Mussolini mainly

1453
01:13:56,780 --> 01:14:03,050
because he had, so to speak,
put Italy back on his feet,

1454
01:14:03,050 --> 01:14:06,950
economically, which was great.

1455
01:14:06,950 --> 01:14:17,060
But he eventually overthrew
the King, King Emmanuel,

1456
01:14:17,060 --> 01:14:19,670
King Emmanuel at the time.

1457
01:14:19,670 --> 01:14:22,130
He and his fascist
group of aristo--

1458
01:14:22,130 --> 01:14:27,080
eventually overthrew the King.

1459
01:14:27,080 --> 01:14:31,460
And then when he
joined Hitler, my dad

1460
01:14:31,460 --> 01:14:33,650
had nothing to do with
Mussolini anymore.

1461
01:14:33,650 --> 01:14:36,530
So it's being Italian
bred, from Italy,

1462
01:14:36,530 --> 01:14:41,060
and he felt that
Mussolini was doing well,

1463
01:14:41,060 --> 01:14:45,830
until that point where he
joined Hitler's forces.

1464

01:14:45,830 --> 01:14:49,760
What about other
Italian-Americans?

1465
01:14:49,760 --> 01:14:53,330
Did they continue supporting
him after he joined Hitler?

1466
01:14:53,330 --> 01:14:57,830
I doubt it, but I don't know
of any isolated incidents

1467
01:14:57,830 --> 01:15:01,112
where any particular
person that I knew

1468
01:15:01,112 --> 01:15:04,610
had continued to
support Mussolini.

1469
01:15:04,610 --> 01:15:07,730
Never heard of it.

1470
01:15:07,730 --> 01:15:11,480
Was there, in your
family, a strong sense

1471
01:15:11,480 --> 01:15:15,400
of Italian identity and pride?

1472
01:15:15,400 --> 01:15:17,920
Oh, definitely, yes.

1473
01:15:17,920 --> 01:15:24,940
But we were hurt with the fact
that Mussolini had turned coat,

1474
01:15:24,940 --> 01:15:27,310
shall we say.

1475
01:15:27,310 --> 01:15:29,320
And how would you--
did you ever have

1476
01:15:29,320 --> 01:15:32,710
any anxieties about the
possibility of fighting

1477
01:15:32,710 --> 01:15:33,970
in Italy?

1478
01:15:33,970 --> 01:15:35,590
Yes.

1479
01:15:35,590 --> 01:15:37,030
Yes, I did.

1480
01:15:37,030 --> 01:15:39,370
And how would you
have dealt with that?

1481
01:15:39,370 --> 01:15:41,290
I would have felt very bad.

1482
01:15:41,290 --> 01:15:42,890
I would have felt very bad.

1483
01:15:42,890 --> 01:15:44,500
It would probably
be the same feeling

1484
01:15:44,500 --> 01:15:53,230
that Japanese unit, the
442nd Infantry Division,

1485
01:15:53,230 --> 01:15:57,190
might have had if they were
called upon to go to Japan.

1486
01:15:57,190 --> 01:16:00,280
It's that emotional
thing, God, killing--

1487
01:16:00,280 --> 01:16:00,947
[SNEEZE]

1488
01:16:00,947 --> 01:16:01,780
God bless you, dear.

1489
01:16:01,780 --> 01:16:03,520
Excuse me.

1490
01:16:03,520 --> 01:16:05,710
It would be an
emotional thing, knowing

1491
01:16:05,710 --> 01:16:12,430
that you had to fight your
ancestral cousins or whatever.

1492
01:16:12,430 --> 01:16:14,428
For the right term, I can't--

1493
01:16:14,428 --> 01:16:15,970
yeah, it would be
an emotional thing.

1494
01:16:15,970 --> 01:16:17,350
And I had thought about it.

1495
01:16:17,350 --> 01:16:20,050
I never got to Italy
during the war.

1496
01:16:20,050 --> 01:16:25,090
As close as we got
was in Innsbruck,

1497
01:16:25,090 --> 01:16:30,190
Austria, which is a few
miles from the Brenner

1498
01:16:30,190 --> 01:16:33,610
Pass up in northern
Italy from Austria,

1499
01:16:33,610 --> 01:16:36,010

through the Brenner Pass
into northern Italy.

1500
01:16:36,010 --> 01:16:39,010
That's as close as we got.

1501
01:16:39,010 --> 01:16:43,220
I wanted to, but
I never made it.

1502
01:16:43,220 --> 01:16:47,050
And then I also
wanted to ask if you

1503
01:16:47,050 --> 01:16:51,020
had lost any friends in battle.

1504
01:16:51,020 --> 01:16:54,400
Yes, a couple of close friends.

1505
01:16:54,400 --> 01:16:57,130

1506
01:16:57,130 --> 01:16:58,810
Williams was his last name.

1507
01:16:58,810 --> 01:17:00,220
John, John Williams, yeah.

1508
01:17:00,220 --> 01:17:02,770

1509
01:17:02,770 --> 01:17:07,150
He was with one of our units
called the INR Platoon,

1510
01:17:07,150 --> 01:17:11,710
which is abbreviation for
Intelligence and Reconnaissance

1511
01:17:11,710 --> 01:17:13,060
Platoon.

1512
01:17:13,060 --> 01:17:16,660
And they were
usually to the front,

1513
01:17:16,660 --> 01:17:20,710
reconnaissance up front
to make a breakthrough.

1514
01:17:20,710 --> 01:17:21,470
And he was--

1515
01:17:21,470 --> 01:17:24,250
I didn't see it, but I
understand that he was killed.

1516
01:17:24,250 --> 01:17:27,250

1517
01:17:27,250 --> 01:17:32,912
I can't remember the name of
another one that I knew well.

1518
01:17:32,912 --> 01:17:34,870
It's strange that I should
say I know him well,

1519
01:17:34,870 --> 01:17:36,795
but I can't remember his name.

1520
01:17:36,795 --> 01:17:38,170
And there were
others in our unit

1521
01:17:38,170 --> 01:17:39,940
that I wasn't very
well acquainted with.

1522
01:17:39,940 --> 01:17:42,430
We got reports that a
so-and-so was killed.

1523

01:17:42,430 --> 01:17:47,860

It's-- it's a real
heavy feeling.

1524

01:17:47,860 --> 01:17:52,360

One day, as we were going
along, I crawled along,

1525

01:17:52,360 --> 01:18:00,620

crawled over a00 I'm sorry.

1526

01:18:00,620 --> 01:18:03,155

I crawled over the dead
body of an American soldier.

1527

01:18:03,155 --> 01:18:06,110

1528

01:18:06,110 --> 01:18:10,740

It just threw me for a
loop, and I just went on.

1529

01:18:10,740 --> 01:18:11,680

We had a job to do.

1530

01:18:11,680 --> 01:18:19,570

1531

01:18:19,570 --> 01:18:20,960

You didn't know this man?

1532

01:18:20,960 --> 01:18:21,460

No.

1533

01:18:21,460 --> 01:18:23,310

No, I didn't.

1534

01:18:23,310 --> 01:18:24,630

I didn't.

1535

01:18:24,630 --> 01:18:26,790

We couldn't stop

because we had what

1536

01:18:26,790 --> 01:18:34,500

they call a grave and burial
unit would come along behind us

1537

01:18:34,500 --> 01:18:36,090

and take care of
those situations.

1538

01:18:36,090 --> 01:18:37,860

But we weren't allowed to stop.

1539

01:18:37,860 --> 01:18:40,770

If a guy maybe was wounded,
you might stop to--

1540

01:18:40,770 --> 01:18:41,400

I don't know.

1541

01:18:41,400 --> 01:18:43,500

He was gone.

1542

01:18:43,500 --> 01:18:48,630

He was so mutilated
with the wounds and--

1543

01:18:48,630 --> 01:18:52,350

and so I had to keep on.

1544

01:18:52,350 --> 01:18:55,240

Being a radio
operator, we had radios

1545

01:18:55,240 --> 01:18:57,510

strapped onto our backs,
the walkie-talkies.

1546

01:18:57,510 --> 01:19:02,220

And I had to continue on
to keep communications.

1547

01:19:02,220 --> 01:19:05,460
And John Williams, was he
your friend before the war?

1548
01:19:05,460 --> 01:19:06,210
No.

1549
01:19:06,210 --> 01:19:10,780
No, we all became buddies
because we lived together

1550
01:19:10,780 --> 01:19:11,620
and fought together.

1551
01:19:11,620 --> 01:19:14,820
And it's great getting
together with him once a year,

1552
01:19:14,820 --> 01:19:19,740
in our reunions, and just
hashing over all the old times.

1553
01:19:19,740 --> 01:19:22,470
And what one guy can't
remember another guy

1554
01:19:22,470 --> 01:19:23,910
can, and it brings
back a memory.

1555
01:19:23,910 --> 01:19:25,780
And oh, yeah, I
forgot about that.

1556
01:19:25,780 --> 01:19:26,400
And it's nice.

1557
01:19:26,400 --> 01:19:29,940
It's real fun, real nice,
laughing and joking.

1558
01:19:29,940 --> 01:19:38,660

1559
01:19:38,660 --> 01:19:39,830
Any more?

1560
01:19:39,830 --> 01:19:41,210
I don't have any more right now.

1561
01:19:41,210 --> 01:19:41,710
OK.

1562
01:19:41,710 --> 01:19:44,960

1563
01:19:44,960 --> 01:19:46,686
Did you want to get
his coffee ready?

1564
01:19:46,686 --> 01:19:50,420

1565
01:19:50,420 --> 01:19:51,920
Such service, my goodness.

1566
01:19:51,920 --> 01:19:55,190

1567
01:19:55,190 --> 01:19:58,080
We aim to please.

1568
01:19:58,080 --> 01:19:58,580
OK.

1569
01:19:58,580 --> 01:20:01,870

1570
01:20:01,870 --> 01:20:03,670
So the train was
your first indication

1571
01:20:03,670 --> 01:20:05,320
that you were

approaching a camp?

1572
01:20:05,320 --> 01:20:05,830
Right.

1573
01:20:05,830 --> 01:20:08,330
Was it still quite a
distance from the camp?

1574
01:20:08,330 --> 01:20:10,330
Yeah, it was quite a
distance from the main car.

1575
01:20:10,330 --> 01:20:12,272
We could hear as we
were going along.

1576
01:20:12,272 --> 01:20:14,230
Of course, our forward
troops were ahead of us.

1577
01:20:14,230 --> 01:20:16,990
They'd already entered
from the main camp,

1578
01:20:16,990 --> 01:20:21,220
you see, our forward troops
of the 222nd Regiment.

1579
01:20:21,220 --> 01:20:24,383
We were-- oh, thank you, ma'am.

1580
01:20:24,383 --> 01:20:27,490

1581
01:20:27,490 --> 01:20:34,120
And I could hear automatic
firing in the distance.

1582
01:20:34,120 --> 01:20:38,920
From that position, just barely
see up the top of a watchtower,

1583

01:20:38,920 --> 01:20:43,300

German Nazi

watchtower overlooking

1584

01:20:43,300 --> 01:20:46,180

the fenced-in compound.

1585

01:20:46,180 --> 01:20:49,870

And I guess, does that
answer your question?

1586

01:20:49,870 --> 01:20:51,378

Sometimes I keep
going and going,

1587

01:20:51,378 --> 01:20:53,670

and it gets away from the
question that you just asked.

1588

01:20:53,670 --> 01:20:54,790

That's not a problem.

1589

01:20:54,790 --> 01:20:55,450

OK.

1590

01:20:55,450 --> 01:20:57,970

So anyhow, we heard rifle fire.

1591

01:20:57,970 --> 01:21:03,190

And then after we picked up this
poor prisoner in the boxcar,

1592

01:21:03,190 --> 01:21:04,840

we continued on forward.

1593

01:21:04,840 --> 01:21:07,840

We could hear automatic firing.

1594

01:21:07,840 --> 01:21:13,420

And when we entered
the main camp,

1595

01:21:13,420 --> 01:21:17,960

that's when I witnessed this
great big fenced-in compound.

1596

01:21:17,960 --> 01:21:19,870

And all the people
just shouting,

1597

01:21:19,870 --> 01:21:23,710

Americaner, Americaner,
Americaner, Americaner, waving.

1598

01:21:23,710 --> 01:21:26,110

I mean it was a really
emotional thing.

1599

01:21:26,110 --> 01:21:29,260

I heard later-- I
didn't witness it,

1600

01:21:29,260 --> 01:21:33,940

but I heard that one
of the inmates there

1601

01:21:33,940 --> 01:21:38,210

in the fenced-in compound
had forgotten himself,

1602

01:21:38,210 --> 01:21:42,850

and in his joy, the
Americans entering the camp

1603

01:21:42,850 --> 01:21:46,182

had ran up to the fence.

1604

01:21:46,182 --> 01:21:47,890

And we got fried right
there because they

1605

01:21:47,890 --> 01:21:51,543

had electricity still
running through the thing.

1606

01:21:51,543 --> 01:21:52,210

I didn't see it.

1607

01:21:52,210 --> 01:21:53,050

I'm glad I didn't.

1608

01:21:53,050 --> 01:21:56,000

I wouldn't want to witness
anything like that.

1609

01:21:56,000 --> 01:22:05,560

So the firing had ceased,
and a couple of our boys

1610

01:22:05,560 --> 01:22:09,970

had rounded up a number of
German soldiers, a lot of them

1611

01:22:09,970 --> 01:22:12,393

SS, you could tell.

1612

01:22:12,393 --> 01:22:13,810

I can't remember--
I used to know,

1613

01:22:13,810 --> 01:22:18,070

but I can't remember what
the term SS met in German.

1614

01:22:18,070 --> 01:22:26,710

But they had an insignia that
looked like a disoriented Z,

1615

01:22:26,710 --> 01:22:29,560

instead of a straight Z.
But it looked like an SS,

1616

01:22:29,560 --> 01:22:30,830

and it meant they're elite.

1617

01:22:30,830 --> 01:22:31,970

They're the elite troops.

1618
01:22:31,970 --> 01:22:35,200
They were staunch Nazis.

1619
01:22:35,200 --> 01:22:37,330
And anyhow, some of
our boys had rounded up

1620
01:22:37,330 --> 01:22:39,640
some of those German soldiers.

1621
01:22:39,640 --> 01:22:43,570
And one guy called out to
me to help march them back

1622
01:22:43,570 --> 01:22:45,310
to the front gate, which I did.

1623
01:22:45,310 --> 01:22:49,180

1624
01:22:49,180 --> 01:22:51,400
You said there was firing.

1625
01:22:51,400 --> 01:22:54,160
At this point, I
guess, maybe I'm wrong,

1626
01:22:54,160 --> 01:22:57,820
but I had understood that the
Germans were just giving up.

1627
01:22:57,820 --> 01:22:59,120
So they weren't?

1628
01:22:59,120 --> 01:23:00,700
I mean, you were having to fire?

1629
01:23:00,700 --> 01:23:01,300
Oh, yes.

1630

01:23:01,300 --> 01:23:01,900

Yes.

1631

01:23:01,900 --> 01:23:05,590

Not me personally because, like
I said, I was a radio operator,

1632

01:23:05,590 --> 01:23:09,730

and I just went along
with the Colonel.

1633

01:23:09,730 --> 01:23:12,310

Yeah, there was
firing, definitely.

1634

01:23:12,310 --> 01:23:14,425

They probably
eventually gave up.

1635

01:23:14,425 --> 01:23:17,200

Are the Germans firing at
you as you approached Dachau?

1636

01:23:17,200 --> 01:23:22,568

Right, at our troops,
not at me directly.

1637

01:23:22,568 --> 01:23:23,860

You understand what I'm saying?

1638

01:23:23,860 --> 01:23:25,810

But up ahead, there
were-- oh, yeah.

1639

01:23:25,810 --> 01:23:30,745

And I could see firing coming
from one of the towers.

1640

01:23:30,745 --> 01:23:34,240

1641

01:23:34,240 --> 01:23:38,805

So then we marched these German

soldiers to the front gate.

1642

01:23:38,805 --> 01:23:40,180

One of them was
severely wounded.

1643

01:23:40,180 --> 01:23:43,420

He had practically his
whole arm all torn off.

1644

01:23:43,420 --> 01:23:51,140

And we told him to dismantle all
the equipment, their firearms

1645

01:23:51,140 --> 01:23:55,640

and everything like that, gas
masks and everything else.

1646

01:23:55,640 --> 01:23:58,450

And then I was called
upon by the Colonel to go.

1647

01:23:58,450 --> 01:24:03,460

And what occurred after that
is just what I've heard,

1648

01:24:03,460 --> 01:24:04,000

what I read.

1649

01:24:04,000 --> 01:24:06,100

I don't know after that.

1650

01:24:06,100 --> 01:24:08,390

That's all I remember
about Dachau.

1651

01:24:08,390 --> 01:24:08,890

OK.

1652

01:24:08,890 --> 01:24:10,598

Well, let me ask a
couple more questions.

1653

01:24:10,598 --> 01:24:13,360

All right.

1654

01:24:13,360 --> 01:24:15,610

When did you first smell
the odor of the camp,

1655

01:24:15,610 --> 01:24:17,740

and what did you think it was?

1656

01:24:17,740 --> 01:24:22,120

You know, Peggy, I have
to really, truthfully say

1657

01:24:22,120 --> 01:24:30,460

that the odor wasn't
all that bad, really.

1658

01:24:30,460 --> 01:24:37,870

I mean, it was annoying,
but not really, really bad.

1659

01:24:37,870 --> 01:24:41,177

know

1660

01:24:41,177 --> 01:24:42,760

Could you smell it
before you realized

1661

01:24:42,760 --> 01:24:44,530

you were approaching a camp?

1662

01:24:44,530 --> 01:24:45,490

Somewhat, yeah.

1663

01:24:45,490 --> 01:24:46,130

Somewhat.

1664

01:24:46,130 --> 01:24:46,630

No.

1665

01:24:46,630 --> 01:24:47,300
No, not really.

1666
01:24:47,300 --> 01:24:49,900
No, I think it only
detected it myself

1667
01:24:49,900 --> 01:24:52,330
as we were walking along.

1668
01:24:52,330 --> 01:24:57,340
And I don't recall any
real obnoxious odor,

1669
01:24:57,340 --> 01:24:59,050
which should have
been the case with all

1670
01:24:59,050 --> 01:25:01,840
those dead bodies and all that.

1671
01:25:01,840 --> 01:25:06,370
But I don't recall anything
nauseating, shall we say,

1672
01:25:06,370 --> 01:25:08,940
that strong, really.

1673
01:25:08,940 --> 01:25:11,440
OK.

1674
01:25:11,440 --> 01:25:14,470
What sounds did you
hear as you approached?

1675
01:25:14,470 --> 01:25:18,490
You said you heard the prisoners
shouting, "Amerikaner."

1676
01:25:18,490 --> 01:25:20,150
Yeah.

1677

01:25:20,150 --> 01:25:21,290
What else did you hear?

1678
01:25:21,290 --> 01:25:25,090
What did it sound like
as you approached?

1679
01:25:25,090 --> 01:25:30,730
Well, it started-- how
should I describe it, Peggy?

1680
01:25:30,730 --> 01:25:32,740
Like when the 49ers
make a touchdown

1681
01:25:32,740 --> 01:25:35,650
with 50,000 people
at the stadium,

1682
01:25:35,650 --> 01:25:40,873
just a huge, loud din of voices.

1683
01:25:40,873 --> 01:25:42,540
That's about the best
I can describe it.

1684
01:25:42,540 --> 01:25:45,160

1685
01:25:45,160 --> 01:25:47,240
Did you actually
enter the camp at all

1686
01:25:47,240 --> 01:25:51,670
except to take the
German soldiers out?

1687
01:25:51,670 --> 01:25:52,630
Did I enter the--

1688
01:25:52,630 --> 01:25:55,840
well, yeah, I had entered
the main camp, right

1689
01:25:55,840 --> 01:26:01,420
where they were confined
into this fenced-in compound.

1690
01:26:01,420 --> 01:26:03,720
That was part of the main camp.

1691
01:26:03,720 --> 01:26:05,860
What did you see as you entered?

1692
01:26:05,860 --> 01:26:08,380
These people shouting and
screaming and hollering.

1693
01:26:08,380 --> 01:26:10,135
The firing had stopped.

1694
01:26:10,135 --> 01:26:15,580
The firing had stopped, so I
assume that the German soldiers

1695
01:26:15,580 --> 01:26:17,380
had surrendered.

1696
01:26:17,380 --> 01:26:21,850
Do you recall any particular
vignettes or people or anything

1697
01:26:21,850 --> 01:26:22,660
in particular?

1698
01:26:22,660 --> 01:26:25,585

1699
01:26:25,585 --> 01:26:26,085
No.

1700
01:26:26,085 --> 01:26:29,130

1701

01:26:29,130 --> 01:26:35,250
I didn't hear this personally,
but a couple of my buddies

1702
01:26:35,250 --> 01:26:41,490
who had talked to-- who were
rather fluent in German,

1703
01:26:41,490 --> 01:26:43,710
had talked to a couple
of the women inmates

1704
01:26:43,710 --> 01:26:47,700
in the Dachau prison
camp, and they

1705
01:26:47,700 --> 01:26:50,100
were told that
the tortures there

1706
01:26:50,100 --> 01:26:59,190
were just inhumane, like
prisoners being taken

1707
01:26:59,190 --> 01:27:03,000
and dunked into
scalding hot water

1708
01:27:03,000 --> 01:27:04,710
and then into cold
water, hot water,

1709
01:27:04,710 --> 01:27:08,160
while these German medical
scientists would make reports

1710
01:27:08,160 --> 01:27:13,140
on how much the human
body could stand.

1711
01:27:13,140 --> 01:27:17,820
And another awful thing was
one friend, one buddy of mine

1712

01:27:17,820 --> 01:27:22,140
told me that this lady explained
to him that the German soldiers

1713

01:27:22,140 --> 01:27:26,940
there would take a woman who
was ready to give birth and tie

1714

01:27:26,940 --> 01:27:31,410
her legs together
and watch her squirm.

1715

01:27:31,410 --> 01:27:33,150
Horrible.

1716

01:27:33,150 --> 01:27:35,610
That I didn't witness
myself, but it was hearsay

1717

01:27:35,610 --> 01:27:39,280
from a buddy of mine to talked
to a couple of these women

1718

01:27:39,280 --> 01:27:39,780
inmates.

1719

01:27:39,780 --> 01:27:48,140

1720

01:27:48,140 --> 01:27:50,210
Were the guards-- did
they have to be found?

1721

01:27:50,210 --> 01:27:52,070
Or did they surrender?

1722

01:27:52,070 --> 01:27:53,210
Or how did that happen?

1723

01:27:53,210 --> 01:27:54,500
I really don't know.

1724

01:27:54,500 --> 01:27:55,370

I can't say that.

1725

01:27:55,370 --> 01:28:00,350

I didn't witness them personally
surrendering, coming out

1726

01:28:00,350 --> 01:28:02,090

with their hands up.

1727

01:28:02,090 --> 01:28:05,780

I just remember this particular
group of German soldiers

1728

01:28:05,780 --> 01:28:11,180

that had already been interned,
shall we say, by our troops.

1729

01:28:11,180 --> 01:28:14,198

And one of the guys
called me over,

1730

01:28:14,198 --> 01:28:15,740

and he says, hey,
Tony, he says, help

1731

01:28:15,740 --> 01:28:20,240

me help me march these
so-and-sos to the front gate.

1732

01:28:20,240 --> 01:28:23,180

So I took up the rear,
and this guy, Red O'Hare,

1733

01:28:23,180 --> 01:28:24,050

was in the front.

1734

01:28:24,050 --> 01:28:25,430

Must have been maybe--

1735

01:28:25,430 --> 01:28:27,560

I don't know whether that

was the whole complement

1736
01:28:27,560 --> 01:28:28,977
of German soldiers,
but there must

1737
01:28:28,977 --> 01:28:31,880
have been probably
25 or 30 of them

1738
01:28:31,880 --> 01:28:35,390
that we marched double
time up to the front gate.

1739
01:28:35,390 --> 01:28:43,760
And we had them dismantle
all the equipment and all.

1740
01:28:43,760 --> 01:28:49,850
And then I had to
go back to my radio

1741
01:28:49,850 --> 01:28:51,810
to see if anybody was
trying to contact us,

1742
01:28:51,810 --> 01:29:02,500
and we had an interrogator.

1743
01:29:02,500 --> 01:29:05,100
He wasn't directly
with our unit.

1744
01:29:05,100 --> 01:29:07,590
I guess he was with the
Intelligence Interrogation

1745
01:29:07,590 --> 01:29:08,910
Department.

1746
01:29:08,910 --> 01:29:12,750
Real rough guy, spoke
German fluently.

1747
01:29:12,750 --> 01:29:14,820
He started interrogating
some of these guys,

1748
01:29:14,820 --> 01:29:19,920
and, boy, I tell you,
he was rough on them.

1749
01:29:19,920 --> 01:29:21,610
So then I left.

1750
01:29:21,610 --> 01:29:23,670
Then we went on back
to our CP, and that's

1751
01:29:23,670 --> 01:29:26,430
when I encountered
that roadside accident

1752
01:29:26,430 --> 01:29:29,518
that I related earlier.

1753
01:29:29,518 --> 01:29:31,060
How long were you
actually in Dachau?

1754
01:29:31,060 --> 01:29:34,910

1755
01:29:34,910 --> 01:29:36,200
I never thought about--

1756
01:29:36,200 --> 01:29:40,510

1757
01:29:40,510 --> 01:29:42,040
I don't know.

1758
01:29:42,040 --> 01:29:48,220
I would be guessing, probably
an hour and a half or so,

1759

01:29:48,220 --> 01:29:52,810
an hour to an hour and a
half, before the Colonel and I

1760

01:29:52,810 --> 01:29:55,210
and his Jeep driver
departed to go back

1761

01:29:55,210 --> 01:29:57,670
to our CP, our Command Post.

1762

01:29:57,670 --> 01:30:00,470
Do they have to go after those
German soldiers after you--

1763

01:30:00,470 --> 01:30:00,970
No.

1764

01:30:00,970 --> 01:30:02,470
--after they left.

1765

01:30:02,470 --> 01:30:02,980
Have no--

1766

01:30:02,980 --> 01:30:05,230
What about that guy
whose arm was shot up?

1767

01:30:05,230 --> 01:30:08,140
Was he treated with more
mercy than the other guys?

1768

01:30:08,140 --> 01:30:14,360
Well, the fellow who I helped
march to the front gate,

1769

01:30:14,360 --> 01:30:17,590
helped him march these prisoners
to the front gate, I told him,

1770

01:30:17,590 --> 01:30:20,770

I says, hey, Red,
this guy is wounded.

1771
01:30:20,770 --> 01:30:27,890
And he says, to hell with him,
or something to that effect.

1772
01:30:27,890 --> 01:30:28,635
So I just left.

1773
01:30:28,635 --> 01:30:30,760
There wasn't anything I
could do medically for him,

1774
01:30:30,760 --> 01:30:33,070
but I'm sure he
was taken care of.

1775
01:30:33,070 --> 01:30:35,603
He was taken care of by the
other troops over there,

1776
01:30:35,603 --> 01:30:36,520
the medics were there.

1777
01:30:36,520 --> 01:30:39,910
I didn't see him being
given first aid of any kind,

1778
01:30:39,910 --> 01:30:41,860
but I'm sure he received it.

1779
01:30:41,860 --> 01:30:44,560
Now, I've heard
that in some camps

1780
01:30:44,560 --> 01:30:51,340
the Americans, or British or
French or Russian, whoever,

1781
01:30:51,340 --> 01:30:56,380
gave the prisoners sort
of a chance at the guards.

1782
01:30:56,380 --> 01:31:00,910
Did the Dachau prisoners get
any chance at the guards?

1783
01:31:00,910 --> 01:31:02,020
Not that I know of.

1784
01:31:02,020 --> 01:31:04,450
What I know is hearsay.

1785
01:31:04,450 --> 01:31:07,075
Well, that's OK.

1786
01:31:07,075 --> 01:31:08,200
What you heard at the time.

1787
01:31:08,200 --> 01:31:10,740
I mean, what's written
later we don't need to know.

1788
01:31:10,740 --> 01:31:15,280
But you may have heard from your
buddies at the time is fine.

1789
01:31:15,280 --> 01:31:18,820
What I heard and
I didn't witness

1790
01:31:18,820 --> 01:31:27,040
was that a few of our boys had
taken a couple of, two or three

1791
01:31:27,040 --> 01:31:32,560
or whatever, of the
SS German troopers,

1792
01:31:32,560 --> 01:31:34,150
shoved them into
one of the furnaces

1793
01:31:34,150 --> 01:31:36,490

that they used to use to burn
the bodies after they were

1794
01:31:36,490 --> 01:31:40,317
gassed, threw me
into the furnace,

1795
01:31:40,317 --> 01:31:42,400
pulled a pin on a hand
grenade, threw it in there,

1796
01:31:42,400 --> 01:31:44,340
and slammed the door shut.

1797
01:31:44,340 --> 01:31:47,680
Now, I think that was wrong,
if such a thing as true.

1798
01:31:47,680 --> 01:31:51,190
It was wrong for them to
do that because we're just

1799
01:31:51,190 --> 01:31:54,040
doing the same atrocities
that they were doing.

1800
01:31:54,040 --> 01:31:55,413
And that was just hearsay.

1801
01:31:55,413 --> 01:31:57,080
I don't know whether
it was true or not,

1802
01:31:57,080 --> 01:31:58,790
but that's what I heard.

1803
01:31:58,790 --> 01:32:00,640
What was your
reaction when you saw

1804
01:32:00,640 --> 01:32:03,040
what these prisoners'
conditions were, and then you

1805
01:32:03,040 --> 01:32:04,510
saw these German guards?

1806
01:32:04,510 --> 01:32:10,330
What was your immediate
reaction to the guards?

1807
01:32:10,330 --> 01:32:16,805
Hate, just plain
hate and wonderment

1808
01:32:16,805 --> 01:32:21,430
at how any human can treat
another human the way they had.

1809
01:32:21,430 --> 01:32:26,410
That was my first
emotional feeling of it.

1810
01:32:26,410 --> 01:32:29,830
And what's happened over
the years, immediately

1811
01:32:29,830 --> 01:32:33,940
after and over the
years, to that feeling?

1812
01:32:33,940 --> 01:32:35,930
Oh, it's still-- I
still bear that feeling.

1813
01:32:35,930 --> 01:32:44,200
I still bear that feeling of it
was just unthinkable for humans

1814
01:32:44,200 --> 01:32:48,820
to be treated that way by
so-called super humans,

1815
01:32:48,820 --> 01:32:52,150
super race, because that's
what Hitler was all about,

1816
01:32:52,150 --> 01:32:53,620
the Super Aryan race.

1817
01:32:53,620 --> 01:32:57,150

1818
01:32:57,150 --> 01:32:59,760
I still bear that
feeling once on occasion,

1819
01:32:59,760 --> 01:33:03,553
when I think about
my past experiences.

1820
01:33:03,553 --> 01:33:05,220
And it's the same
thing that's happening

1821
01:33:05,220 --> 01:33:09,030
now and in Yugoslavia.

1822
01:33:09,030 --> 01:33:13,680
I mean, there's so much
atrocities going on there.

1823
01:33:13,680 --> 01:33:14,970
And there's the civil wars.

1824
01:33:14,970 --> 01:33:18,910

1825
01:33:18,910 --> 01:33:26,140
Did you ever hate the Germans
because of this, in general?

1826
01:33:26,140 --> 01:33:27,640
Hate is sort of--

1827
01:33:27,640 --> 01:33:32,740
I didn't hate the
Germans, per se.

1828
01:33:32,740 --> 01:33:34,990
What I disliked about
them is to learn

1829
01:33:34,990 --> 01:33:45,550
that many of the citizens
of the little town of Dachau

1830
01:33:45,550 --> 01:33:48,760
say that they never
knew this was happening

1831
01:33:48,760 --> 01:33:51,760
in their own little town.

1832
01:33:51,760 --> 01:33:53,560
And it's hard for
me to believe that.

1833
01:33:53,560 --> 01:33:57,010

1834
01:33:57,010 --> 01:34:00,640
But I try not to carry any hate
against anybody, but I mean--

1835
01:34:00,640 --> 01:34:03,127

1836
01:34:03,127 --> 01:34:04,960
they say they didn't
know what was going on.

1837
01:34:04,960 --> 01:34:08,620
Well, maybe they knew, but they
were afraid to say anything.

1838
01:34:08,620 --> 01:34:13,990
And in their particular
circumstances,

1839

01:34:13,990 --> 01:34:15,880
if they spoke against
it, they would probably

1840
01:34:15,880 --> 01:34:20,710
fear that they would be
thrown in the same camp.

1841
01:34:20,710 --> 01:34:22,630
What convinces you
that they did know?

1842
01:34:22,630 --> 01:34:26,060

1843
01:34:26,060 --> 01:34:28,760
What convinces me
that they did know?

1844
01:34:28,760 --> 01:34:30,904
You said you believe
they did know.

1845
01:34:30,904 --> 01:34:33,870

1846
01:34:33,870 --> 01:34:36,340
I don't know, some of the
citizens there in the town

1847
01:34:36,340 --> 01:34:43,320
must have in their daily lives
noticed this concentration

1848
01:34:43,320 --> 01:34:44,580
camp there.

1849
01:34:44,580 --> 01:34:47,010
I'm sure.

1850
01:34:47,010 --> 01:34:49,843
Could you see into the--

1851

01:34:49,843 --> 01:34:50,760

there was barbed wire.

1852

01:34:50,760 --> 01:34:53,718

So could you pretty much see
into the camp from a distance?

1853

01:34:53,718 --> 01:34:56,010

Oh, yeah, I have a picture
of that right here, I think.

1854

01:34:56,010 --> 01:34:59,615

In fact, I think you have
one of them there, too.

1855

01:34:59,615 --> 01:35:00,990

We'll do the
pictures at the end.

1856

01:35:00,990 --> 01:35:02,280

Fine, OK.

1857

01:35:02,280 --> 01:35:04,485

Yeah, that's what I saw,
that the main camp was just

1858

01:35:04,485 --> 01:35:10,380

an enclosure, and everybody
just screaming like mad.

1859

01:35:10,380 --> 01:35:14,250

Did you actually talk to
German citizens at any point?

1860

01:35:14,250 --> 01:35:16,210

Not at Dachau.

1861

01:35:16,210 --> 01:35:16,710

OK.

1862

01:35:16,710 --> 01:35:20,250

But there were camps located

all over Germany, sub camps

1863
01:35:20,250 --> 01:35:20,750
and camps.

1864
01:35:20,750 --> 01:35:21,090
Right.

1865
01:35:21,090 --> 01:35:21,798
Yeah, there were.

1866
01:35:21,798 --> 01:35:26,010
So did you ever talk to
citizens about other camps

1867
01:35:26,010 --> 01:35:27,820
that had been in
their neighborhoods,

1868
01:35:27,820 --> 01:35:29,790
and that they ought to
have been able to see?

1869
01:35:29,790 --> 01:35:31,740
No, I never did
personally, myself.

1870
01:35:31,740 --> 01:35:35,370
I never had occasion to--

1871
01:35:35,370 --> 01:35:41,340
and of course, my German at
that time was very limited.

1872
01:35:41,340 --> 01:35:42,510
I knew a few words.

1873
01:35:42,510 --> 01:35:44,190
I was able to be
understood to a point.

1874
01:35:44,190 --> 01:35:49,630

But I never had the occasion
to confront any German citizen

1875
01:35:49,630 --> 01:35:52,720
to ask him.

1876
01:35:52,720 --> 01:35:54,550
Have you gone to
Germany since the war?

1877
01:35:54,550 --> 01:35:55,050
No.

1878
01:35:55,050 --> 01:35:56,070
No, I never have.

1879
01:35:56,070 --> 01:35:59,550
I've only been
overseas one more time,

1880
01:35:59,550 --> 01:36:03,000
and that was to Italy
and Sicily to visit

1881
01:36:03,000 --> 01:36:07,950
my ancestral
birthplace, so to speak.

1882
01:36:07,950 --> 01:36:12,758
That was probably about
eight or nine years ago.

1883
01:36:12,758 --> 01:36:15,300
Do you think you might have gone
to visit Germany had you not

1884
01:36:15,300 --> 01:36:16,350
had this experience?

1885
01:36:16,350 --> 01:36:20,040
I would-- there's been
opportunities for me.

1886

01:36:20,040 --> 01:36:28,080

Our association has had tours to
go through a lot of the country

1887

01:36:28,080 --> 01:36:33,870

that we went through during
combat, one of which is Dachau.

1888

01:36:33,870 --> 01:36:37,860

But my financial condition
just prohibits it.

1889

01:36:37,860 --> 01:36:41,700

it's pretty expensive for
a two-week thing, hotels

1890

01:36:41,700 --> 01:36:42,200

and stuff.

1891

01:36:42,200 --> 01:36:44,280

I would love to go.

1892

01:36:44,280 --> 01:36:48,700

But I've heard from
a buddy of mine,

1893

01:36:48,700 --> 01:36:50,910

my buddy Jack Summers
from Los Altos,

1894

01:36:50,910 --> 01:36:54,630

who originally contacted
me, had been there.

1895

01:36:54,630 --> 01:36:59,340

He says, Tony, he says,
there's nothing there

1896

01:36:59,340 --> 01:37:02,760

that a first-time
visitor would really

1897

01:37:02,760 --> 01:37:05,220
know about the conditions
that were there originally

1898
01:37:05,220 --> 01:37:07,530
because they've cleaned it up.

1899
01:37:07,530 --> 01:37:11,280
He says, there might be a little
smattering of this and that,

1900
01:37:11,280 --> 01:37:13,080
he said, but it's
nothing like what it was.

1901
01:37:13,080 --> 01:37:15,905
It's just sort of like a museum.

1902
01:37:15,905 --> 01:37:17,530
There's nothing like
it was originally.

1903
01:37:17,530 --> 01:37:21,122
So they wiped out a lot of the--

1904
01:37:21,122 --> 01:37:23,580
they should have left it as it
was, cleaned it up somewhat,

1905
01:37:23,580 --> 01:37:25,650
but left.

1906
01:37:25,650 --> 01:37:28,430
He says it was really not
that interesting to go

1907
01:37:28,430 --> 01:37:30,180
through there again
the way it looks nice,

1908
01:37:30,180 --> 01:37:31,347
he says it's all cleaned up.

1909

01:37:31,347 --> 01:37:35,529

1910

01:37:35,529 --> 01:37:38,810

Has what you saw at Dachau
affected your attitudes

1911

01:37:38,810 --> 01:37:41,900

towards the Germans throughout
the years, and Germany?

1912

01:37:41,900 --> 01:37:44,840

1913

01:37:44,840 --> 01:37:47,960

Not Germany, German
citizens, per se.

1914

01:37:47,960 --> 01:37:52,580

I still have that deep
emotional thing about the Nazis

1915

01:37:52,580 --> 01:37:58,460

and their atrocities,
Hitler especially,

1916

01:37:58,460 --> 01:38:03,290

and Himmler and
Goebbels and Eichmann

1917

01:38:03,290 --> 01:38:07,340

and all the guys that were
in the Nuremberg trial

1918

01:38:07,340 --> 01:38:09,410

and eventually found guilty.

1919

01:38:09,410 --> 01:38:12,560

I still have that
animosity against them,

1920

01:38:12,560 --> 01:38:17,180

like I've said before,
the wholesale slaughter

1921
01:38:17,180 --> 01:38:24,680
of human life just to create
a super race, that was just

1922
01:38:24,680 --> 01:38:26,990
his thing.

1923
01:38:26,990 --> 01:38:29,570
When you entered Dachau, what
were the inmates wearing?

1924
01:38:29,570 --> 01:38:33,670

1925
01:38:33,670 --> 01:38:37,912
Mostly prison garb
with the striped--

1926
01:38:37,912 --> 01:38:40,120
but as I recall, I think
there was a lot of them that

1927
01:38:40,120 --> 01:38:45,160
were just everyday clothing.

1928
01:38:45,160 --> 01:38:51,640
But I saw a lot of those with
the black and white striped

1929
01:38:51,640 --> 01:38:55,900
uniforms or garments.

1930
01:38:55,900 --> 01:38:59,680
Did you see the prisoners greet
anybody by holding them up

1931
01:38:59,680 --> 01:39:03,370
in the air or kind of--

1932

01:39:03,370 --> 01:39:06,070

I've read some accounts of
when an officer couldn't

1933

01:39:06,070 --> 01:39:07,300

get put down.

1934

01:39:07,300 --> 01:39:09,190

They just held
them up in the air.

1935

01:39:09,190 --> 01:39:12,640

No, I didn't I didn't
witness anything of that.

1936

01:39:12,640 --> 01:39:15,370

Were you greeted
personally by any inmates?

1937

01:39:15,370 --> 01:39:16,360

No.

1938

01:39:16,360 --> 01:39:17,930

No.

1939

01:39:17,930 --> 01:39:20,410

If I had remained there
longer, but like I say,

1940

01:39:20,410 --> 01:39:23,290

since I was a radio
operator for the Colonel,

1941

01:39:23,290 --> 01:39:26,380

he motioned me to go on because
there were other troops there

1942

01:39:26,380 --> 01:39:31,900

to take care of those
German prisoners and taking

1943

01:39:31,900 --> 01:39:34,758

care of the inmates

and all that.

1944
01:39:34,758 --> 01:39:35,800
Did you see any barracks?

1945
01:39:35,800 --> 01:39:39,430

1946
01:39:39,430 --> 01:39:42,520
I didn't enter any
of the barracks.

1947
01:39:42,520 --> 01:39:45,760
So did your buddies make
you aware of the barracks

1948
01:39:45,760 --> 01:39:48,190
or the food conditions?

1949
01:39:48,190 --> 01:39:49,030
No.

1950
01:39:49,030 --> 01:39:51,940
Or how much disease?

1951
01:39:51,940 --> 01:39:52,690
No.

1952
01:39:52,690 --> 01:39:54,190
They just didn't
make you aware of--

1953
01:39:54,190 --> 01:39:55,360
That's right, yeah.

1954
01:39:55,360 --> 01:39:55,520
--daily things.

1955
01:39:55,520 --> 01:39:56,020
OK.

1956

01:39:56,020 --> 01:39:59,300

1957

01:39:59,300 --> 01:39:59,800

OK.

1958

01:39:59,800 --> 01:40:03,670

Now, what did you see or learn
about, maybe from your buddies

1959

01:40:03,670 --> 01:40:08,590

later, after you'd left
Dachau, about the gas

1960

01:40:08,590 --> 01:40:10,800

chambers and crematoria?

1961

01:40:10,800 --> 01:40:15,010

1962

01:40:15,010 --> 01:40:18,970

I didn't hear anything
from my buddies.

1963

01:40:18,970 --> 01:40:24,880

By my buddies, I'm talking about
our immediate radio section.

1964

01:40:24,880 --> 01:40:28,060

But probably the other
troopers, the rifleman,

1965

01:40:28,060 --> 01:40:31,432

the front troopers and all, I
never talked to any of them.

1966

01:40:31,432 --> 01:40:32,890

I didn't know them
that personally,

1967

01:40:32,890 --> 01:40:35,590

and we were in different
segments of the infantry

1968
01:40:35,590 --> 01:40:37,810
of our regiment.

1969
01:40:37,810 --> 01:40:43,330
But just from hearsay and
from reading and from photos

1970
01:40:43,330 --> 01:40:47,260
that our own photographers
have taken of these dead bodies

1971
01:40:47,260 --> 01:40:48,552
with their tags on their toes--

1972
01:40:48,552 --> 01:40:50,218
I don't even know why
they even bothered

1973
01:40:50,218 --> 01:40:51,350
to put tags on their toes.

1974
01:40:51,350 --> 01:40:53,590
I don't understand that.

1975
01:40:53,590 --> 01:40:56,080
They were eventually
they were gassed and then

1976
01:40:56,080 --> 01:40:59,980
eventually put in the furnaces.

1977
01:40:59,980 --> 01:41:01,350
Well, let me-- I'm sorry.

1978
01:41:01,350 --> 01:41:01,850
Go ahead.

1979
01:41:01,850 --> 01:41:02,558
That's all right.

1980

01:41:02,558 --> 01:41:03,940
I'm finished.

1981
01:41:03,940 --> 01:41:06,520
Let me just list a
couple more things,

1982
01:41:06,520 --> 01:41:08,950
and just tell me if anybody
who saw these things

1983
01:41:08,950 --> 01:41:13,820
told you about them,
you or your buddies.

1984
01:41:13,820 --> 01:41:16,520
The site quarters and medical
facilities and supplies?

1985
01:41:16,520 --> 01:41:19,177

1986
01:41:19,177 --> 01:41:21,260
If you didn't hear anything
about it from anybody,

1987
01:41:21,260 --> 01:41:22,040
just say no.

1988
01:41:22,040 --> 01:41:24,980
No.

1989
01:41:24,980 --> 01:41:27,140
Any camp brothels?

1990
01:41:27,140 --> 01:41:28,850
No.

1991
01:41:28,850 --> 01:41:31,370
The inmate kitchens
versus the guard kitchens?

1992

01:41:31,370 --> 01:41:34,100
No.

1993
01:41:34,100 --> 01:41:38,120
The guard barracks and/or
family quarters for guards?

1994
01:41:38,120 --> 01:41:39,890
No.

1995
01:41:39,890 --> 01:41:41,570
The SS torture chambers?

1996
01:41:41,570 --> 01:41:42,320
No.

1997
01:41:42,320 --> 01:41:44,445
You already talked about
what you heard about that.

1998
01:41:44,445 --> 01:41:45,530
Yeah, I just heard--

1999
01:41:45,530 --> 01:41:49,110
Any employer sites, such as IG
Farben, or Krupps, or Siemens,

2000
01:41:49,110 --> 01:41:51,880
or just employer sites?

2001
01:41:51,880 --> 01:41:54,560
Employer sites?

2002
01:41:54,560 --> 01:41:57,770
The companies that employed the
inmates from the concentration

2003
01:41:57,770 --> 01:41:58,940
camps?

2004
01:41:58,940 --> 01:42:01,040
Oh, no.

2005
01:42:01,040 --> 01:42:01,550
OK.

2006
01:42:01,550 --> 01:42:04,643
And did you speak to
anybody at the camp at all

2007
01:42:04,643 --> 01:42:05,810
during that hour and a half?

2008
01:42:05,810 --> 01:42:11,960
No, not to any of the Germans
or the German soldiers

2009
01:42:11,960 --> 01:42:17,570
or after they were
captured, nor the prisoners.

2010
01:42:17,570 --> 01:42:20,420
I talked to-- the only
one I can remember

2011
01:42:20,420 --> 01:42:24,530
talking to is the fellow
that was with me when

2012
01:42:24,530 --> 01:42:26,390
we found this one
live guy in the boxcar

2013
01:42:26,390 --> 01:42:27,390
when we were walking by.

2014
01:42:27,390 --> 01:42:30,320
I was talking to him
just about the situation.

2015
01:42:30,320 --> 01:42:35,210
And then with this fellow
who asked me to help him

2016

01:42:35,210 --> 01:42:40,670
march the SS troopers to
the front gate of the camp.

2017
01:42:40,670 --> 01:42:43,675
But talking to others,
I don't recall.

2018
01:42:43,675 --> 01:42:45,050
I don't think I
ever did, really.

2019
01:42:45,050 --> 01:42:46,513
Didn't have the opportunity.

2020
01:42:46,513 --> 01:42:47,930
So did you say you
actually talked

2021
01:42:47,930 --> 01:42:50,750
to the prisoner who
was put in your arms?

2022
01:42:50,750 --> 01:42:55,070
Yeah, as I mentioned before,
when Colonel Downard handed him

2023
01:42:55,070 --> 01:42:57,320
to me from the boxcar,
I took him in my arms,

2024
01:42:57,320 --> 01:42:59,210
his clothes darn near
just slipped off of him

2025
01:42:59,210 --> 01:43:02,092
because he was just
skin and bones.

2026
01:43:02,092 --> 01:43:03,050
And he looked up at me.

2027
01:43:03,050 --> 01:43:04,758

I had him like this,
and he looked at me.

2028
01:43:04,758 --> 01:43:07,490
And he looked at me and
asked me "frei? frei?"

2029
01:43:07,490 --> 01:43:08,930
which means "free" in German.

2030
01:43:08,930 --> 01:43:11,270
And I told him,
yeah, he was free

2031
01:43:11,270 --> 01:43:13,290
and that he was
in good hands now.

2032
01:43:13,290 --> 01:43:14,360
In that place there.

2033
01:43:14,360 --> 01:43:16,670
That's the extent
of our conversation.

2034
01:43:16,670 --> 01:43:23,480

2035
01:43:23,480 --> 01:43:25,220
Did you see anybody
at Dachau who

2036
01:43:25,220 --> 01:43:29,615
became your most memorable
person, prisoner or guard?

2037
01:43:29,615 --> 01:43:31,828

2038
01:43:31,828 --> 01:43:33,620
You were only there
for an hour and a half,

2039

01:43:33,620 --> 01:43:36,950

so it's quite
possible you didn't.

2040

01:43:36,950 --> 01:43:40,220

Any memorable German guard,
you're talking about?

2041

01:43:40,220 --> 01:43:40,970

Or prisoner.

2042

01:43:40,970 --> 01:43:42,100

Or prisoner?

2043

01:43:42,100 --> 01:43:42,600

No.

2044

01:43:42,600 --> 01:43:46,320

2045

01:43:46,320 --> 01:43:46,830

OK.

2046

01:43:46,830 --> 01:43:50,520

Many soldiers reported losing
their ability to feel anything

2047

01:43:50,520 --> 01:43:51,990

after entering the camps.

2048

01:43:51,990 --> 01:43:54,840

What happened to you?

2049

01:43:54,840 --> 01:43:56,050

I was dumbfounded.

2050

01:43:56,050 --> 01:43:59,550

2051

01:43:59,550 --> 01:44:02,760

In earlier reading, reading

about those news articles

2052

01:44:02,760 --> 01:44:07,800
in our Army newspapers about
the atrocities and all, it hurt.

2053

01:44:07,800 --> 01:44:12,900
But then it just left my mind.

2054

01:44:12,900 --> 01:44:17,190
But the feeling I got when
I first witnessed what I did

2055

01:44:17,190 --> 01:44:17,825
was that--

2056

01:44:17,825 --> 01:44:20,880

2057

01:44:20,880 --> 01:44:22,320
it's hard to explain.

2058

01:44:22,320 --> 01:44:24,480
I was just sick.

2059

01:44:24,480 --> 01:44:27,120
It was a very emotional
feeling, especially when we

2060

01:44:27,120 --> 01:44:30,120
found this live one in there.

2061

01:44:30,120 --> 01:44:32,070
And I still had that
feeling within me.

2062

01:44:32,070 --> 01:44:37,740

2063

01:44:37,740 --> 01:44:44,250
It was really strong for
sickening feeling, very strong

2064
01:44:44,250 --> 01:44:46,950
for probably four or five,
six months after I saw,

2065
01:44:46,950 --> 01:44:49,710
but then it slowly ebbed.

2066
01:44:49,710 --> 01:44:55,890
But now I think about it, the
immense emotion and madness

2067
01:44:55,890 --> 01:45:00,690
about the thing has slowly
decreased as the years go on.

2068
01:45:00,690 --> 01:45:04,940

2069
01:45:04,940 --> 01:45:06,900
Do you recall soldiers
vomiting or having

2070
01:45:06,900 --> 01:45:08,580
other physical reactions?

2071
01:45:08,580 --> 01:45:12,330
No, I didn't witness
any of that personally.

2072
01:45:12,330 --> 01:45:15,810
Or breaking emotionally?

2073
01:45:15,810 --> 01:45:18,530
No.

2074
01:45:18,530 --> 01:45:22,130
I came close to it,
but I didn't want to.

2075
01:45:22,130 --> 01:45:23,980
I held myself against it.

2076

01:45:23,980 --> 01:45:25,490

You didn't what?

2077

01:45:25,490 --> 01:45:28,865

I held myself against being
emotional and breaking up.

2078

01:45:28,865 --> 01:45:31,730

And how'd you do that?

2079

01:45:31,730 --> 01:45:35,360

I just didn't want my buddy
to see me teary and crying,

2080

01:45:35,360 --> 01:45:35,900

I guess.

2081

01:45:35,900 --> 01:45:39,770

I don't know, but it came close.

2082

01:45:39,770 --> 01:45:42,470

And I just shook my head
and just kept on walking.

2083

01:45:42,470 --> 01:45:46,370

2084

01:45:46,370 --> 01:45:49,070

So at some point
in time since then,

2085

01:45:49,070 --> 01:45:50,830

have you ever allowed
those feelings--

2086

01:45:50,830 --> 01:45:51,330

Yes.

2087

01:45:51,330 --> 01:45:51,872

--to surface?

2088

01:45:51,872 --> 01:45:52,430

Yes.

2089

01:45:52,430 --> 01:45:53,820

When and how?

2090

01:45:53,820 --> 01:45:55,830

At lowly moments.

2091

01:45:55,830 --> 01:46:02,450

For probably a number of
times after I got home,

2092

01:46:02,450 --> 01:46:04,640

when I was discharged,
I'd lay in bed

2093

01:46:04,640 --> 01:46:05,990

and my thoughts would go back.

2094

01:46:05,990 --> 01:46:12,420

And I'd sob within
myself, in bed by myself,

2095

01:46:12,420 --> 01:46:16,170

and think about what I'd seen,
and just praying and hoping

2096

01:46:16,170 --> 01:46:19,980

that poor fellow
made it and hoping

2097

01:46:19,980 --> 01:46:22,590

to reunite with him sometime.

2098

01:46:22,590 --> 01:46:28,020

But I think the
possibility is so distant.

2099

01:46:28,020 --> 01:46:31,020

It's just a wishful
thinking, I guess.

2100
01:46:31,020 --> 01:46:35,780

2101
01:46:35,780 --> 01:46:37,160
Did you ever block,
do you think,

2102
01:46:37,160 --> 01:46:40,550
any memories of the camp?

2103
01:46:40,550 --> 01:46:47,720
I might have
unknowingly because I

2104
01:46:47,720 --> 01:46:50,120
feel that sometimes the
questions you have asked

2105
01:46:50,120 --> 01:46:52,700
so far, Peggy, I should know.

2106
01:46:52,700 --> 01:46:53,870
I guess there's certain--

2107
01:46:53,870 --> 01:46:57,888
after that one
emotional scene, I

2108
01:46:57,888 --> 01:46:59,930
think I've had a mental
block of everything else,

2109
01:46:59,930 --> 01:47:02,920
like what happened
at the front gate.

2110
01:47:02,920 --> 01:47:04,700
Did you see any German guards?

2111
01:47:04,700 --> 01:47:05,600
Did you talk--

2112
01:47:05,600 --> 01:47:07,835
I might have, but I
just don't recall.

2113
01:47:07,835 --> 01:47:09,460
I just don't recall.

2114
01:47:09,460 --> 01:47:10,460
There's no right answer.

2115
01:47:10,460 --> 01:47:12,127
Don't worry about how
you should answer.

2116
01:47:12,127 --> 01:47:13,610
OK.

2117
01:47:13,610 --> 01:47:14,490
All right.

2118
01:47:14,490 --> 01:47:15,410
There's no right and wrong here.

2119
01:47:15,410 --> 01:47:16,260
It's just your experience.

2120
01:47:16,260 --> 01:47:16,760
OK.

2121
01:47:16,760 --> 01:47:20,210

2122
01:47:20,210 --> 01:47:22,400
So aside from what
you've already told us,

2123
01:47:22,400 --> 01:47:26,930
were you aware of anything
else about medical experiments

2124

01:47:26,930 --> 01:47:27,960
of any kind?

2125
01:47:27,960 --> 01:47:28,460
No.

2126
01:47:28,460 --> 01:47:33,110
No, that's what
I had just heard.

2127
01:47:33,110 --> 01:47:36,710
So you don't know if anything
was done to preserve evidence

2128
01:47:36,710 --> 01:47:37,860
of the medical experiments?

2129
01:47:37,860 --> 01:47:38,360
No.

2130
01:47:38,360 --> 01:47:42,932

2131
01:47:42,932 --> 01:47:44,140
How long were you in Germany?

2132
01:47:44,140 --> 01:47:49,760

2133
01:47:49,760 --> 01:47:51,330
Well, I don't know.

2134
01:47:51,330 --> 01:47:52,780
I've got to think about that.

2135
01:47:52,780 --> 01:48:04,480
We landed in Marseilles, France
in probably early December.

2136
01:48:04,480 --> 01:48:07,420
Took up positions near
Strasbourg, the old Maginot

2137
01:48:07,420 --> 01:48:17,850
Line, on Christmas
Day of 1944, and kept

2138
01:48:17,850 --> 01:48:25,000
going to Alsace-Lorraine,
then into Germany and then

2139
01:48:25,000 --> 01:48:25,570
into Austria.

2140
01:48:25,570 --> 01:48:28,960
So it's hard to really
pinpoint the length of time

2141
01:48:28,960 --> 01:48:32,470
that we were in Germany.

2142
01:48:32,470 --> 01:48:35,960
Could we get John to
take a break again?

2143
01:48:35,960 --> 01:50:23,147