

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:47,650

2

00:00:47,650 --> 00:00:52,750
Holocaust Oral History Project
of San Francisco, California.

3

00:00:52,750 --> 00:00:56,170
Today, we're talking
with Roger Boas.

4

00:00:56,170 --> 00:00:59,890
Assisting in the interview
today are Richard Kirschman,

5

00:00:59,890 --> 00:01:03,760
Doris Ober, Helga Tannenbaum.

6

00:01:03,760 --> 00:01:05,260
Good morning, Mr. Boas.

7

00:01:05,260 --> 00:01:08,270
Good morning.

8

00:01:08,270 --> 00:01:12,130
Let's start in a
chronological way

9

00:01:12,130 --> 00:01:16,120
of telling where you
were born and the date

10

00:01:16,120 --> 00:01:20,680
of your birth and also your name
and the spelling of your name

11

00:01:20,680 --> 00:01:22,270
if you would.

12

00:01:22,270 --> 00:01:27,920
My full name is John Roger Boas,

B-O-A-S, born in San Francisco,

13

00:01:27,920 --> 00:01:32,380

California, August 21, 1921.

14

00:01:32,380 --> 00:01:34,270

And did you grow up
in San Francisco?

15

00:01:34,270 --> 00:01:35,540

I grew up in San Francisco.

16

00:01:35,540 --> 00:01:38,170

Went to Grant School,
Galileo High School, and then

17

00:01:38,170 --> 00:01:40,720

went to Stanford.

18

00:01:40,720 --> 00:01:45,380

And as a young man, I believe
you told me you're Jewish.

19

00:01:45,380 --> 00:01:45,880

Correct.

20

00:01:45,880 --> 00:01:47,560

Both parents?

21

00:01:47,560 --> 00:01:50,770

And were you actively Jewish?

22

00:01:50,770 --> 00:01:53,240

Were you observant family?

23

00:01:53,240 --> 00:01:53,740

No.

24

00:01:53,740 --> 00:01:59,410

We were actively a nonobservant
family, I'm sorry to say.

25

00:01:59,410 --> 00:02:04,780
My paternal great-grandmother
had been a Christian Science

26

00:02:04,780 --> 00:02:06,940
practitioner in Texas.

27

00:02:06,940 --> 00:02:11,230
And so my grandmother,
mother, practiced it.

28

00:02:11,230 --> 00:02:14,170
My father took it
up, so I was raised

29

00:02:14,170 --> 00:02:16,660
as a Jewish Christian scientist.

30

00:02:16,660 --> 00:02:19,540
However, my mother
was very political

31

00:02:19,540 --> 00:02:22,810
and had a very strong feeling
about what was happening

32

00:02:22,810 --> 00:02:24,730
in Germany and in Europe.

33

00:02:24,730 --> 00:02:26,560
And we were well aware
that we were Jewish

34

00:02:26,560 --> 00:02:29,230
and all our friends, all
my friends, by and large,

35

00:02:29,230 --> 00:02:30,470
were Jewish.

36

00:02:30,470 --> 00:02:32,500
And in those early

days in San Francisco,

37

00:02:32,500 --> 00:02:34,840

there was a pretty strong
line of demarcation

38

00:02:34,840 --> 00:02:37,990

in society between
Jew and non-Jew,

39

00:02:37,990 --> 00:02:41,440

and we were on the Jewish side.

40

00:02:41,440 --> 00:02:44,842

So you were Jewish in society's
eyes, but you didn't really--

41

00:02:44,842 --> 00:02:46,300

weren't really
actively practicing?

42

00:02:46,300 --> 00:02:49,090

Didn't go to temple and didn't
follow the religious services,

43

00:02:49,090 --> 00:02:50,560

correct.

44

00:02:50,560 --> 00:02:52,783

I'm a member of
Temple Emanuel now,

45

00:02:52,783 --> 00:02:53,950

but that's many years later.

46

00:02:53,950 --> 00:02:54,580

I see.

47

00:02:54,580 --> 00:02:58,120

As a young man and you
say you were certainly

48

00:02:58,120 --> 00:03:02,590
alert to what was happening to
Jews in Europe at that time.

49
00:03:02,590 --> 00:03:05,590
Well, my mother had been
very much aware of it.

50
00:03:05,590 --> 00:03:08,830
And she and her mother,
my grandmother, and I

51
00:03:08,830 --> 00:03:13,270
went to Europe in 1935
for sort of a grand tour.

52
00:03:13,270 --> 00:03:15,610
And we went to Austria,
and I saw the Heimwehr,

53
00:03:15,610 --> 00:03:19,030
which was really a sort of
a proto-Nazi group parading

54
00:03:19,030 --> 00:03:20,260
around.

55
00:03:20,260 --> 00:03:23,710
Went to Poland and to the ghetto
there and saw what it was like.

56
00:03:23,710 --> 00:03:25,960
And then we went to the
Soviet Union, which was really

57
00:03:25,960 --> 00:03:29,230
preparing for war,
and deliberately

58
00:03:29,230 --> 00:03:32,630
didn't go to Germany because
of the Jewish situation.

59

00:03:32,630 --> 00:03:35,530

So even in high
school, I was probably

60

00:03:35,530 --> 00:03:38,290

a little more knowledgeable
than my contemporaries.

61

00:03:38,290 --> 00:03:41,800

And then I became a debater both
at high school and at Stanford,

62

00:03:41,800 --> 00:03:46,420

and we debated such things as
should we support Great Britain

63

00:03:46,420 --> 00:03:48,920

and what should be our
relationship with Germany,

64

00:03:48,920 --> 00:03:50,600

et cetera, et cetera.

65

00:03:50,600 --> 00:03:54,520

So and I was a very
anti-America firster.

66

00:03:54,520 --> 00:03:58,930

So I had a better feeling, I
think, about what was at stake

67

00:03:58,930 --> 00:04:02,020

and read the writings, the early
writings, of Heinz [? Pohl, ?]

68

00:04:02,020 --> 00:04:05,930

Shirer and the others, but
I had no idea, for example,

69

00:04:05,930 --> 00:04:09,650

about the Einsatzgruppen or
what was really happening.

70

00:04:09,650 --> 00:04:12,280

I didn't know it until
I saw these places.

71

00:04:12,280 --> 00:04:14,470

When did you enter Stanford?

72

00:04:14,470 --> 00:04:19,540

I went in the fall of '38.

73

00:04:19,540 --> 00:04:21,339

And your main
course of study was?

74

00:04:21,339 --> 00:04:24,040

Political science.

75

00:04:24,040 --> 00:04:29,160

And we had a couple
of German students

76

00:04:29,160 --> 00:04:32,130

there as I recall, exchange.

77

00:04:32,130 --> 00:04:33,720

I remember when the
pocket battleship

78

00:04:33,720 --> 00:04:36,360

Deutschland came here and
how the Jewish community

79

00:04:36,360 --> 00:04:37,060

felt about it.

80

00:04:37,060 --> 00:04:41,040

I went down and looked at it,
scared the hell out of me.

81

00:04:41,040 --> 00:04:45,715

But I really didn't get a
picture, I don't think, of--

82

00:04:45,715 --> 00:04:47,715

I didn't get a full picture
until after the war.

83

00:04:47,715 --> 00:04:50,490

84

00:04:50,490 --> 00:04:53,530

I ended up in an Armored Div--

85

00:04:53,530 --> 00:04:57,960

I was an artilleryman
at Stanford in the ROTC

86

00:04:57,960 --> 00:05:02,970

and was commissioned and
ordered to active duty the day

87

00:05:02,970 --> 00:05:08,580

after I graduated and
was then sent eventually

88

00:05:08,580 --> 00:05:13,230

to an artillery training
school at Fort Sill, Oklahoma,

89

00:05:13,230 --> 00:05:16,530

and from there, after a little
shuffling around to an Armored

90

00:05:16,530 --> 00:05:20,760

Division that I stayed in for
the rest of my army career.

91

00:05:20,760 --> 00:05:24,690

It was a division from
New York, heavily Jewish,

92

00:05:24,690 --> 00:05:28,620

among the enlisted personnel
from the Bronx and Brooklyn.

93

00:05:28,620 --> 00:05:31,610

I think I was the only
Jew in the officer

94

00:05:31,610 --> 00:05:32,790

side in our battalion.

95

00:05:32,790 --> 00:05:36,060

I was in an armored
artillery battalion.

96

00:05:36,060 --> 00:05:38,550

It turned into a sort
of an elite division.

97

00:05:38,550 --> 00:05:40,770

It became the spearhead
of Patton's Third Army,

98

00:05:40,770 --> 00:05:43,290

so it was always
in the vanguard.

99

00:05:43,290 --> 00:05:45,768

He regarded it as
just super great.

100

00:05:45,768 --> 00:05:47,390

What was it?

101

00:05:47,390 --> 00:05:47,890

Pardon me?

102

00:05:47,890 --> 00:05:48,515

Which division?

103

00:05:48,515 --> 00:05:50,190

Was the Fourth Armored Division.

104

00:05:50,190 --> 00:05:51,040

Who said?

105

00:05:51,040 --> 00:05:52,140
I beg your pardon?

106
00:05:52,140 --> 00:06:00,030
And the Jewish enlisted
men, some of them

107
00:06:00,030 --> 00:06:01,710
seemed to have a
pretty good sense

108
00:06:01,710 --> 00:06:04,950
of what was going on in Europe.

109
00:06:04,950 --> 00:06:11,580
And I was reasonably well read,
but I was caught by surprise

110
00:06:11,580 --> 00:06:14,650
after the war at the extent
of what had been taking place.

111
00:06:14,650 --> 00:06:17,970
I had no idea about
the extermination.

112
00:06:17,970 --> 00:06:21,120
And it wasn't until
we hit this first camp

113
00:06:21,120 --> 00:06:23,910
that I had a real graphic
representation of what

114
00:06:23,910 --> 00:06:25,530
it was like.

115
00:06:25,530 --> 00:06:28,200
And I was very, very angry.

116
00:06:28,200 --> 00:06:32,310
And I always felt, for
me, it was a good war.

117
00:06:32,310 --> 00:06:35,130
I knew that the Germans
were after the Jews.

118
00:06:35,130 --> 00:06:36,750
I figured if they
won, beat England,

119
00:06:36,750 --> 00:06:39,780
they'd be after the United
States, and I'd be next,

120
00:06:39,780 --> 00:06:41,890
and that all risks
were worth taking.

121
00:06:41,890 --> 00:06:46,320
So I felt, for me, that it was
a very positive construction

122
00:06:46,320 --> 00:06:50,220
sort of an activity, quite
different from the way they

123
00:06:50,220 --> 00:06:53,520
felt in Vietnam, for
example, or even the way they

124
00:06:53,520 --> 00:06:55,350
felt in the Pacific.

125
00:06:55,350 --> 00:06:58,870
For me, I figured I'm fighting
for myself and my family.

126
00:06:58,870 --> 00:07:00,205
You did feel that?

127
00:07:00,205 --> 00:07:00,705
Absolutely.

128

00:07:00,705 --> 00:07:02,490

If they had won,
they would come over,

129

00:07:02,490 --> 00:07:04,590

and the American Jews would be--

130

00:07:04,590 --> 00:07:05,430

Absolutely.

131

00:07:05,430 --> 00:07:05,930

--at risk?

132

00:07:05,930 --> 00:07:06,690

Uh-huh.

133

00:07:06,690 --> 00:07:10,200

Did you have-- your
family have your relatives

134

00:07:10,200 --> 00:07:13,560

in the war zone in
Europe at the time?

135

00:07:13,560 --> 00:07:15,150

Yes, they did.

136

00:07:15,150 --> 00:07:16,230

Good question.

137

00:07:16,230 --> 00:07:22,530

And several got out from Europe
and came to the United States

138

00:07:22,530 --> 00:07:25,140

and were helped by
my mother and father.

139

00:07:25,140 --> 00:07:28,050

And furthermore, there were
a number of refugees, mostly,

140

00:07:28,050 --> 00:07:31,590
as I recall, professionals,
physicians, especially,

141
00:07:31,590 --> 00:07:34,470
that hit San Francisco prior
to our entering the war,

142
00:07:34,470 --> 00:07:35,290
and we met them.

143
00:07:35,290 --> 00:07:37,440
And I think my
parents were pretty

144
00:07:37,440 --> 00:07:39,420
decent about trying to help.

145
00:07:39,420 --> 00:07:43,980
But I remember one very
Aryan-looking sort of second

146
00:07:43,980 --> 00:07:48,360
cousin coming to San
Francisco, a girl, very nice,

147
00:07:48,360 --> 00:07:51,840
describing how she'd been in
a restaurant and how one of--

148
00:07:51,840 --> 00:07:55,590
in Germany-- and how one
of the Goering's aides

149
00:07:55,590 --> 00:07:59,580
had invited her to dance because
he didn't recognize her looks,

150
00:07:59,580 --> 00:08:01,650
and she wasn't wearing any star.

151
00:08:01,650 --> 00:08:03,700
I guess they weren't required.

152
00:08:03,700 --> 00:08:07,845
So these folks got
out in good time.

153
00:08:07,845 --> 00:08:09,720
Which countries where
they from, if you know?

154
00:08:09,720 --> 00:08:11,880
They were living in Germany.

155
00:08:11,880 --> 00:08:16,650
My mother's father, my mother's
grandmother was born in Texas.

156
00:08:16,650 --> 00:08:18,540
My mother was born
in Cincinnati,

157
00:08:18,540 --> 00:08:22,500
and her father was born in the
Harz mountain area of Germany

158
00:08:22,500 --> 00:08:26,540
and came to Cincinnati as
a young man, Jewish, got

159
00:08:26,540 --> 00:08:27,540
in the whiskey business.

160
00:08:27,540 --> 00:08:30,060
And a little
company he worked in

161
00:08:30,060 --> 00:08:32,700
became the Schenley
Whiskey Company.

162
00:08:32,700 --> 00:08:33,840
He died very young.

163

00:08:33,840 --> 00:08:35,760

He used to go back
to Baden-Baden

164

00:08:35,760 --> 00:08:38,850

every year to have
diabetes worked on.

165

00:08:38,850 --> 00:08:41,760

So on my mother's
side, it was German.

166

00:08:41,760 --> 00:08:48,600

My father's father came from
right out in the Danzig Free

167

00:08:48,600 --> 00:08:51,540

State, right outside of that.

168

00:08:51,540 --> 00:08:53,580

And I think he was--
you could classify him

169

00:08:53,580 --> 00:08:54,840

as Polish or German.

170

00:08:54,840 --> 00:08:57,660

I would say more
Polish than German.

171

00:08:57,660 --> 00:08:58,440

I never knew him.

172

00:08:58,440 --> 00:08:59,820

He died before I was born.

173

00:08:59,820 --> 00:09:03,750

He used Yiddish
expressions a lot.

174

00:09:03,750 --> 00:09:09,000

He came to San Francisco
as a youngster in 1855,

175
00:09:09,000 --> 00:09:14,100
just five years too late to
be classified as a pioneer,

176
00:09:14,100 --> 00:09:16,140
and he went up to the Klondike.

177
00:09:16,140 --> 00:09:18,900
And I think was sort of
like a peddler up there

178
00:09:18,900 --> 00:09:20,490
but made a lot of money.

179
00:09:20,490 --> 00:09:23,850
Came down here,
established a small bank

180
00:09:23,850 --> 00:09:28,000
on Montgomery Street, and,
in effect, ran a lottery.

181
00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:31,420
And his clients were
either Jews or Chinese.

182
00:09:31,420 --> 00:09:35,710
And I have his books,
his financial records.

183
00:09:35,710 --> 00:09:40,930
And he had a lot of kids, of
whom one was my father, who was

184
00:09:40,930 --> 00:09:44,080
born in San Francisco in 1876.

185
00:09:44,080 --> 00:09:46,180
Did the fact that you
had family in Europe

186

00:09:46,180 --> 00:09:50,500
and knew something about the
refugees who have come here

187
00:09:50,500 --> 00:09:55,240
affect you as you went with
your army unit over to Europe?

188
00:09:55,240 --> 00:10:04,000

189
00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:05,800
I chose to go into combat.

190
00:10:05,800 --> 00:10:09,880
I had, in my senior year,
graduated from the business

191
00:10:09,880 --> 00:10:13,720
school at Stanford because the
business school was denuded,

192
00:10:13,720 --> 00:10:18,130
and so they let the
undergraduate seniors go in.

193
00:10:18,130 --> 00:10:20,290
And, as a consequence, I
was offered a commission

194
00:10:20,290 --> 00:10:24,370
in either the Finance Corps
or the Quartermaster Corps,

195
00:10:24,370 --> 00:10:25,930
which my mother
wanted me to take.

196
00:10:25,930 --> 00:10:28,690
And my father said, you ought
to do what you think is right.

197
00:10:28,690 --> 00:10:32,200

And I figured I
ought to fight, so I

198
00:10:32,200 --> 00:10:36,010
went into the regular
field artillery.

199
00:10:36,010 --> 00:10:40,150
But many of my Jewish
friends, many, many of them

200
00:10:40,150 --> 00:10:44,680
chose noncombatant
roles, and I still

201
00:10:44,680 --> 00:10:47,300
see a lot of them
who are living.

202
00:10:47,300 --> 00:10:49,780
But they worked at Fort Mason
in the Quartermaster Corps

203
00:10:49,780 --> 00:10:51,730
and so forth.

204
00:10:51,730 --> 00:10:53,920
And I resented that very much.

205
00:10:53,920 --> 00:10:57,670
And I, in those days
being young and immature,

206
00:10:57,670 --> 00:10:59,320
related it to the
fact that maybe there

207
00:10:59,320 --> 00:11:02,560
was some sort of Jewish
streak of noncombatancy,

208
00:11:02,560 --> 00:11:05,830
and I felt very

badly about that.

209

00:11:05,830 --> 00:11:08,860

And it's kind of a long way
to answer your question,

210

00:11:08,860 --> 00:11:16,570

but I remember we were fighting,
and we got up in the Saar area,

211

00:11:16,570 --> 00:11:18,340

and we got a short break.

212

00:11:18,340 --> 00:11:25,480

And I was given a leave,
and I flew back to Nasse

213

00:11:25,480 --> 00:11:27,318

in a little Piper
Club observation plane

214

00:11:27,318 --> 00:11:29,110

with a pilot who was
a good friend of mine.

215

00:11:29,110 --> 00:11:31,810

And we had two days in Nasse,
and we went to a restaurant

216

00:11:31,810 --> 00:11:32,650

there.

217

00:11:32,650 --> 00:11:36,490

And we ran into two chaps from
San Francisco, both of whom

218

00:11:36,490 --> 00:11:41,470

I had known in grammar school,
high school, and college.

219

00:11:41,470 --> 00:11:44,282

One of them, the son
of a former rabbi,

220
00:11:44,282 --> 00:11:46,240
and he was carrying a
pistol and this and that,

221
00:11:46,240 --> 00:11:49,810
and he hadn't been within
10 miles of a German.

222
00:11:49,810 --> 00:11:53,650
And I was very
resentful of that.

223
00:11:53,650 --> 00:11:55,690
It took me a while
to get over that.

224
00:11:55,690 --> 00:12:01,420
So I really didn't know who the
heck I was in that war other

225
00:12:01,420 --> 00:12:03,790
than I knew I was Jewish,
and I knew that the Germans--

226
00:12:03,790 --> 00:12:04,990
we called them Krauts--

227
00:12:04,990 --> 00:12:08,180
were after us.

228
00:12:08,180 --> 00:12:12,380
Did you feel that, as a Jew,
you had a special obligation

229
00:12:12,380 --> 00:12:14,728
to be in combat,
as it were, instead

230
00:12:14,728 --> 00:12:15,770
of in the Quartermasters?

231

00:12:15,770 --> 00:12:16,910
I did.

232
00:12:16,910 --> 00:12:20,390
And you said you resented those
of your comrades who didn't--

233
00:12:20,390 --> 00:12:21,170
Who didn't do it.

234
00:12:21,170 --> 00:12:23,000
And it's something
that still bothers me.

235
00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:27,470
And I, in recent years, have
had some psychiatric help,

236
00:12:27,470 --> 00:12:30,470
and it's interesting.

237
00:12:30,470 --> 00:12:33,010
I know lots of fellows
now about my age--

238
00:12:33,010 --> 00:12:34,100
I'm a little older--

239
00:12:34,100 --> 00:12:36,530
who've made vast
fortunes and never

240
00:12:36,530 --> 00:12:40,860
fought a day in their life, and
it bothers the hell out of me.

241
00:12:40,860 --> 00:12:43,340
I figure they haven't put
as much in as the rest of us

242
00:12:43,340 --> 00:12:44,510
slobs who fought.

243

00:12:44,510 --> 00:12:47,370

244

00:12:47,370 --> 00:12:51,600

Perhaps later as you tell your
story, when you come back,

245

00:12:51,600 --> 00:12:54,960

you may have some further
observations on it.

246

00:12:54,960 --> 00:12:57,480

I think I've given
you about all I have.

247

00:12:57,480 --> 00:13:01,020

When did your unit
arrive in Europe?

248

00:13:01,020 --> 00:13:05,640

And pick us up there,
where you were and then

249

00:13:05,640 --> 00:13:08,040

what the action was,
the basic scene when

250

00:13:08,040 --> 00:13:10,240

your unit got in there.

251

00:13:10,240 --> 00:13:13,470

First of all, I joined the
unit towards the end of '42.

252

00:13:13,470 --> 00:13:16,350

They were in the Mojave Desert.

253

00:13:16,350 --> 00:13:19,020

Colder than blazes down there.

254

00:13:19,020 --> 00:13:21,540

255

00:13:21,540 --> 00:13:23,730

And we went from the
desert after training there

256

00:13:23,730 --> 00:13:26,820

for a while to Texas.

257

00:13:26,820 --> 00:13:31,230

And then we went from
Texas to England.

258

00:13:31,230 --> 00:13:34,620

Other units had got
to Europe first.

259

00:13:34,620 --> 00:13:37,560

And there used to be a saying,
join the Fourth Armored

260

00:13:37,560 --> 00:13:39,450

Division and save
a WAC for combat.

261

00:13:39,450 --> 00:13:40,410

That was the theory.

262

00:13:40,410 --> 00:13:43,230

We were never going to
get to see any action.

263

00:13:43,230 --> 00:13:48,090

And we trained in England
on the Salisbury plain area.

264

00:13:48,090 --> 00:13:54,540

265

00:13:54,540 --> 00:14:00,330

I was actually at a theater in
London with a young WREN friend

266

00:14:00,330 --> 00:14:01,860
when they stopped the play.

267
00:14:01,860 --> 00:14:04,830
That was a B.B.
Daniel, Ben Lyon play.

268
00:14:04,830 --> 00:14:06,630
And they stopped
the play, and they

269
00:14:06,630 --> 00:14:08,672
said the next voice would
be the King of England.

270
00:14:08,672 --> 00:14:12,390
And he announced over the radio
that the Allies had invaded.

271
00:14:12,390 --> 00:14:16,080
And a week later, my outfit
was alerted and sent down

272
00:14:16,080 --> 00:14:22,890
to the Channel, and we crossed
over and landed in Normandy.

273
00:14:22,890 --> 00:14:26,460
And there was no problem
except that as we got off

274
00:14:26,460 --> 00:14:31,200
these landing ship tanks,
we saw just miles of wounded

275
00:14:31,200 --> 00:14:33,870
on stretchers waiting to go
back, which was scary for us.

276
00:14:33,870 --> 00:14:36,360
We'd not been in combat.

277
00:14:36,360 --> 00:14:41,680

Then we sat around in
Normandy where our troops

278
00:14:41,680 --> 00:14:46,660
were given Calvados, which
is a very strong apple drink

279
00:14:46,660 --> 00:14:48,190
and couldn't handle it.

280
00:14:48,190 --> 00:14:51,070
We had disciplinary
problems, all sorts of stuff.

281
00:14:51,070 --> 00:14:52,360
All we did was run around.

282
00:14:52,360 --> 00:14:56,710
We were ordered to run around
in circles to sort of sober up.

283
00:14:56,710 --> 00:15:00,270
And then all of
a sudden, we were

284
00:15:00,270 --> 00:15:02,020
told there was going
to be a breakthrough,

285
00:15:02,020 --> 00:15:04,090
and we were going to get going.

286
00:15:04,090 --> 00:15:08,140
And we started out,
and I should say

287
00:15:08,140 --> 00:15:12,100
that in Normandy, the only thing
we did was go down and observe.

288
00:15:12,100 --> 00:15:14,620
And at that time, I was
the battalion adjutant,

289
00:15:14,620 --> 00:15:17,050
was not sent out as an observer.

290
00:15:17,050 --> 00:15:18,910
But our observers went
into those hedgerows

291
00:15:18,910 --> 00:15:21,400
and got badly shot up,
almost immediately.

292
00:15:21,400 --> 00:15:22,765
One killed and one captured.

293
00:15:22,765 --> 00:15:26,410

294
00:15:26,410 --> 00:15:29,690
And then about a week
later, we were on our way.

295
00:15:29,690 --> 00:15:32,110
And we went into this town
of Avranches, which was just

296
00:15:32,110 --> 00:15:36,010
smoking from an air bombardment,
our air bombardment,

297
00:15:36,010 --> 00:15:37,120
and we turned the corner.

298
00:15:37,120 --> 00:15:39,440
It was just rubble in the town.

299
00:15:39,440 --> 00:15:42,040
And there was a
Jeep and standing

300
00:15:42,040 --> 00:15:44,800
on the Jeep saluting

us as we went by,

301

00:15:44,800 --> 00:15:48,370

looking like a million
bucks, was General Patton.

302

00:15:48,370 --> 00:15:51,790

So that was very,
very uplifting for us.

303

00:15:51,790 --> 00:15:56,920

I mean, everybody in my unit
just thought he was fabulous.

304

00:15:56,920 --> 00:15:58,360

We'd met him in England.

305

00:15:58,360 --> 00:16:04,000

He had come to meet all the
officers of my division,

306

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:08,290

and we all were ordered
to a theater to meet him.

307

00:16:08,290 --> 00:16:11,170

And he'd gone to West Point
with our division commander

308

00:16:11,170 --> 00:16:13,030

who introduced him.

309

00:16:13,030 --> 00:16:14,860

And the West Pointer
was a very sort

310

00:16:14,860 --> 00:16:18,220

of distinguished, courtly
guy, a major general.

311

00:16:18,220 --> 00:16:22,270

And he introduced Patton
who looked marvelous.

312
00:16:22,270 --> 00:16:23,980
And they said, be
seated, gentlemen.

313
00:16:23,980 --> 00:16:28,030
He said, be seated, gentlemen,
in this high, squeaky voice.

314
00:16:28,030 --> 00:16:30,970
And then for an
hour, he harangued us

315
00:16:30,970 --> 00:16:34,840
with total profanity,
most of it just--

316
00:16:34,840 --> 00:16:36,850
I mean, just unbelievable.

317
00:16:36,850 --> 00:16:41,590
And our battalion surgeon
who was Jewish, Doc Horowitz,

318
00:16:41,590 --> 00:16:44,020
was standing next to
me, a very small man.

319
00:16:44,020 --> 00:16:47,530
He kept saying, he's a
maniac, the guy's a maniac.

320
00:16:47,530 --> 00:16:56,260
So it was in, I think about this
is getting close to mid-June

321
00:16:56,260 --> 00:16:58,420
or end of June that
we broke through,

322
00:16:58,420 --> 00:17:02,560
and then we were in combat
the rest of the time.

323

00:17:02,560 --> 00:17:06,579

Had you, as a young officer,
impressionable, young officer,

324

00:17:06,579 --> 00:17:10,270

I will say, had you heard
of Patton's famous slapping

325

00:17:10,270 --> 00:17:12,069

incident and--

326

00:17:12,069 --> 00:17:15,640

Very impressionable young
officer and probably not

327

00:17:15,640 --> 00:17:17,530

the most mature.

328

00:17:17,530 --> 00:17:21,869

I got out of Stanford when
I was 21, in when I was 16.

329

00:17:21,869 --> 00:17:25,690

Had heard of it, and we were
all just horrified by this guy.

330

00:17:25,690 --> 00:17:29,830

And the meeting with
Patton, so-called meeting--

331

00:17:29,830 --> 00:17:33,100

there were 500 of us, 500
officers in the division,

332

00:17:33,100 --> 00:17:37,495

I think, in this theater,
English theater, that we used--

333

00:17:37,495 --> 00:17:40,030

334

00:17:40,030 --> 00:17:42,040
solidified our feeling.

335
00:17:42,040 --> 00:17:46,420
As I say, Dr. Horowitz thought
the guy was totally loony.

336
00:17:46,420 --> 00:17:53,860
And he would use the most
terrible similes of all

337
00:17:53,860 --> 00:17:58,480
that I would not want to use
even in this oral history.

338
00:17:58,480 --> 00:18:01,610
One thing he said,
I had a friend.

339
00:18:01,610 --> 00:18:04,420
He says, I told him to
keep his goddamn head down.

340
00:18:04,420 --> 00:18:05,920
He says, he stood up one night.

341
00:18:05,920 --> 00:18:09,310
He says, they
machine-gunned him 32 times.

342
00:18:09,310 --> 00:18:13,000
He said, believe it or not, the
son of a bitch is still living.

343
00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:16,780
This was sort of a more gentle
comment that he made to us,

344
00:18:16,780 --> 00:18:20,590
so we were very, very
spooky about the guy.

345
00:18:20,590 --> 00:18:25,570

But when we went through
Avranches, and saw him there,

346
00:18:25,570 --> 00:18:26,850
it was just the opposite.

347
00:18:26,850 --> 00:18:30,610
It was like a wonderful
tonic and from then on,

348
00:18:30,610 --> 00:18:32,590
all of our dealings
with General Patton

349
00:18:32,590 --> 00:18:35,020
were wonderful, just wonderful.

350
00:18:35,020 --> 00:18:38,485
And I grieved when I heard about
him getting killed in a car

351
00:18:38,485 --> 00:18:39,610
accident at the end of war.

352
00:18:39,610 --> 00:18:40,450
Everyone liked him.

353
00:18:40,450 --> 00:18:43,480

354
00:18:43,480 --> 00:18:49,600
I was modestly hit in
the bridge of my nose

355
00:18:49,600 --> 00:18:51,070
by a piece of shrapnel.

356
00:18:51,070 --> 00:18:53,980
I also had a bad
case of bronchitis.

357
00:18:53,980 --> 00:18:58,000

And Dr. Horowitz said, do
you want to go to a hospital?

358
00:18:58,000 --> 00:18:59,560
I said, well,
whatever you think.

359
00:18:59,560 --> 00:19:01,120
He said, I think
you should, so I

360
00:19:01,120 --> 00:19:05,110
got sent to an
evac unit or a line

361
00:19:05,110 --> 00:19:09,250
at the hospital behind the
lines in Luxembourg city.

362
00:19:09,250 --> 00:19:14,980
And I was in a ward of mostly
second lieutenants, a couple

363
00:19:14,980 --> 00:19:17,260
of whom had been
shelled just a few days

364
00:19:17,260 --> 00:19:22,690
before by a sister
artillery battalion of mine,

365
00:19:22,690 --> 00:19:25,420
not the Germans.

366
00:19:25,420 --> 00:19:26,800
And they were in terrible shape.

367
00:19:26,800 --> 00:19:28,883
And there was one young
fellow across away from me

368
00:19:28,883 --> 00:19:32,560
who just had his leg amputated

and whom I got friendly with

369

00:19:32,560 --> 00:19:34,090
and chatted with and who died.

370

00:19:34,090 --> 00:19:36,920
But at this point, he was alive.

371

00:19:36,920 --> 00:19:41,330
And into the hospital
came General Patton

372

00:19:41,330 --> 00:19:44,330
and into our room,
and he was accompanied

373

00:19:44,330 --> 00:19:46,490
by the head doctor
and the head nurse

374

00:19:46,490 --> 00:19:49,430
and the chaplain and an aide.

375

00:19:49,430 --> 00:19:52,230
And everyone was swathed
in bandages except me.

376

00:19:52,230 --> 00:19:55,790
I had a little thing on my nose.

377

00:19:55,790 --> 00:19:58,520
And he said, what's the
matter with you, lieutenant?

378

00:19:58,520 --> 00:20:01,580
And I said, I've
got bronchitis, sir.

379

00:20:01,580 --> 00:20:03,560
And he looked at
me very angrily,

380

00:20:03,560 --> 00:20:05,780
and he said, what
outfit are you with?

381
00:20:05,780 --> 00:20:08,210
I said, Fourth Armored, sir.

382
00:20:08,210 --> 00:20:10,280
He says, you deserve
a rest, lieutenant.

383
00:20:10,280 --> 00:20:12,310
Hope you enjoy it here.

384
00:20:12,310 --> 00:20:16,790
Then he got over to this
poor guy and talked to him.

385
00:20:16,790 --> 00:20:19,310
And he turned to his aide,
and he says to the lieutenant,

386
00:20:19,310 --> 00:20:22,578
he says, I'm going to
award you a Silver Star.

387
00:20:22,578 --> 00:20:24,620
And he turned to his aide
who was a full colonel,

388
00:20:24,620 --> 00:20:27,140
and he said, give
me a Silver Star.

389
00:20:27,140 --> 00:20:30,440
And this poor guy
reached in his pockets,

390
00:20:30,440 --> 00:20:33,170
and he'd forgotten
the Silver Star.

391
00:20:33,170 --> 00:20:37,100

And Patton cursed him out in
the most unmerciful, unpleasant,

392
00:20:37,100 --> 00:20:40,880
vicious fashion imaginable
for about 10 minutes,

393
00:20:40,880 --> 00:20:43,670
just a diatribe, just
releasing his energy.

394
00:20:43,670 --> 00:20:46,700
The nurses and all
couldn't believe it.

395
00:20:46,700 --> 00:20:48,927
And then turned back to
the lieutenant, he says,

396
00:20:48,927 --> 00:20:50,510
I'm going to get you
that Silver Star.

397
00:20:50,510 --> 00:20:51,843
Is there anything else you want?

398
00:20:51,843 --> 00:20:54,800
And the lieutenant said, I'd
like some ice cream, sir.

399
00:20:54,800 --> 00:20:55,850
You'll get it.

400
00:20:55,850 --> 00:21:00,620
And the next day,
another aide or officer

401
00:21:00,620 --> 00:21:03,080
came in with ice
cream for all of us

402
00:21:03,080 --> 00:21:08,270
and a Silver Star for this poor

guy who died about that night.

403

00:21:08,270 --> 00:21:16,160
And then another time, in
Belgium where it was snowing,

404

00:21:16,160 --> 00:21:21,865
and it was rough combat,
my Jeep was driving along

405

00:21:21,865 --> 00:21:23,240
and all of a
sudden, another Jeep

406

00:21:23,240 --> 00:21:26,840
came our way with three
stars on it and stopped us.

407

00:21:26,840 --> 00:21:30,050
And I jumped out and I
said, Lieutenant Roger Boas,

408

00:21:30,050 --> 00:21:33,230
Ninety-Fourth Armored,
reporting, sir.

409

00:21:33,230 --> 00:21:37,072
He said, where is Twelfth
Corps headquarters, lieutenant?

410

00:21:37,072 --> 00:21:38,780
Well, Twelfth Corps
headquarters was just

411

00:21:38,780 --> 00:21:42,410
about a quarter of a mile from
there, but I didn't know it.

412

00:21:42,410 --> 00:21:45,320
And I said, I don't know, sir.

413

00:21:45,320 --> 00:21:47,150
He said, thank you and drove on.

414
00:21:47,150 --> 00:21:51,920
And my Jeep driver, as soon as
we got back, told somebody else

415
00:21:51,920 --> 00:21:54,282
that Lieutenant Boas had
said, Patton, I don't know.

416
00:21:54,282 --> 00:21:56,240
And for the rest of the
war, they called me the

417
00:21:56,240 --> 00:21:58,880
"I don't know boy."

418
00:21:58,880 --> 00:22:02,510
So my experiences with him
were always pretty upbeat.

419
00:22:02,510 --> 00:22:05,630
At the point where you had
a small piece of plaster

420
00:22:05,630 --> 00:22:08,690
on your nose and a case
of invisible bronchitis--

421
00:22:08,690 --> 00:22:09,200
Right.

422
00:22:09,200 --> 00:22:11,660
--did you anticipate that
he would do something like--

423
00:22:11,660 --> 00:22:13,520
I thought he was
going to go wild.

424
00:22:13,520 --> 00:22:14,560
Right.

425

00:22:14,560 --> 00:22:15,860
But he did not, no.

426
00:22:15,860 --> 00:22:17,990
Just the opposite.

427
00:22:17,990 --> 00:22:21,710
Was he ever antisemitic
in his speech at all?

428
00:22:21,710 --> 00:22:23,210
He might well have been.

429
00:22:23,210 --> 00:22:23,985
No, he was never.

430
00:22:23,985 --> 00:22:24,860
Was he anything else?

431
00:22:24,860 --> 00:22:25,490
Yeah.

432
00:22:25,490 --> 00:22:28,670
He was very macho, aristocratic.

433
00:22:28,670 --> 00:22:32,270

434
00:22:32,270 --> 00:22:35,210
I've heard subsequently
that he was antisemitic,

435
00:22:35,210 --> 00:22:36,950
and it doesn't surprise me.

436
00:22:36,950 --> 00:22:40,090

437
00:22:40,090 --> 00:22:42,070
Start with where
your comment began

438

00:22:42,070 --> 00:22:49,210

and locate it in place and time
and tell which way you went.

439

00:22:49,210 --> 00:22:49,810

OK.

440

00:22:49,810 --> 00:22:53,150

And also, clarify your
own position, which was,

441

00:22:53,150 --> 00:22:55,720

I believe, an artillery
forward observer?

442

00:22:55,720 --> 00:23:00,880

I was the battalion adjutant of
the Ninety-Fourth Armored Field

443

00:23:00,880 --> 00:23:05,380

Artillery Battalion, which
is sort of a nothing job,

444

00:23:05,380 --> 00:23:07,210

you might say.

445

00:23:07,210 --> 00:23:11,860

And I was the sort of
chief administrative type

446

00:23:11,860 --> 00:23:14,380

in the operation.

447

00:23:14,380 --> 00:23:17,950

And when we got an
end of the hour,

448

00:23:17,950 --> 00:23:23,920

our battalion commander was a
very nice man and a West Point

449

00:23:23,920 --> 00:23:27,133

officer, somewhat
inhibited by the fact

450
00:23:27,133 --> 00:23:29,050
that he was married to
a difficult woman whose

451
00:23:29,050 --> 00:23:32,770
father was an army commander,
General Devers, his name was.

452
00:23:32,770 --> 00:23:34,780
He was a four-star general.

453
00:23:34,780 --> 00:23:36,880
So my battalion
commander was always

454
00:23:36,880 --> 00:23:38,380
trying to live up
to what he thought

455
00:23:38,380 --> 00:23:40,210
his father-in-law
expected of him,

456
00:23:40,210 --> 00:23:43,720
which eventually killed him.

457
00:23:43,720 --> 00:23:47,450
Graham was his name, and I liked
him very much, and he liked me.

458
00:23:47,450 --> 00:23:50,180
And so it was a
nice relationship.

459
00:23:50,180 --> 00:23:54,440
And I was good at map
reading, strangely enough.

460
00:23:54,440 --> 00:23:59,290
And when we broke

through at Avranches,

461

00:23:59,290 --> 00:24:04,360

we then started moving
toward the Lorient peninsula.

462

00:24:04,360 --> 00:24:09,580

And it was very scary
stuff from the time

463

00:24:09,580 --> 00:24:14,410

we broke through in June
of 1944 until the war ended

464

00:24:14,410 --> 00:24:16,330

in October of--

465

00:24:16,330 --> 00:24:20,590

or whatever it was,
'45, June of '45.

466

00:24:20,590 --> 00:24:23,530

Except for the time I went to
Paris on leave for three days,

467

00:24:23,530 --> 00:24:29,140

I was never less than a
hundred feet from the Germans.

468

00:24:29,140 --> 00:24:33,730

And in fact, I went
over on a troop ship

469

00:24:33,730 --> 00:24:37,990

that had been the Grace
Line, the Santa Lucia.

470

00:24:37,990 --> 00:24:42,520

And there were, I
think, 15 of us,

471

00:24:42,520 --> 00:24:46,720

15 second lieutenants

in this room,

472

00:24:46,720 --> 00:24:48,760

all Fourth Armored
Division officers.

473

00:24:48,760 --> 00:24:51,380

And only two of us got out
alive, and I'm one of them.

474

00:24:51,380 --> 00:24:55,240

So I was very, very lucky
in this particular room.

475

00:24:55,240 --> 00:24:59,410

476

00:24:59,410 --> 00:25:02,290

And I think my
first big test came

477

00:25:02,290 --> 00:25:10,360

when it was decided to try
and take out the Germans who

478

00:25:10,360 --> 00:25:14,740

were dug in near the
U-Boats on the sea coast

479

00:25:14,740 --> 00:25:17,650

at Lorient, France.

480

00:25:17,650 --> 00:25:21,040

And Patton ordered an attack,
and the Fourth Armored Division

481

00:25:21,040 --> 00:25:24,550

was ordered to be
the spearhead of it.

482

00:25:24,550 --> 00:25:29,470

And the tank battalion,
which was commanded

483
00:25:29,470 --> 00:25:34,000
by Colonel Abrams, who later
commanded the army in Vietnam,

484
00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:37,210
was supported by an infantry
battalion and an artillery

485
00:25:37,210 --> 00:25:37,870
battalion.

486
00:25:37,870 --> 00:25:40,360
We were the artillery battalion.

487
00:25:40,360 --> 00:25:44,170
And I was sent out
to observe the fire.

488
00:25:44,170 --> 00:25:48,010
And General Wood, our
battalion commander,

489
00:25:48,010 --> 00:25:52,630
sent a message to
the German ordering

490
00:25:52,630 --> 00:25:55,390
unconditional
surrender, or we're

491
00:25:55,390 --> 00:25:57,820
going to just cream you, guys.

492
00:25:57,820 --> 00:26:01,150
And the German said he
wasn't going to surrender.

493
00:26:01,150 --> 00:26:08,770
So I went up in a church
steeple and located

494

00:26:08,770 --> 00:26:10,660
what I thought were
the German positions

495
00:26:10,660 --> 00:26:14,260
and the German batteries and
sent back the coordinates

496
00:26:14,260 --> 00:26:16,360
and then fired on them.

497
00:26:16,360 --> 00:26:20,440
They found the steeple,
and I got a radio order

498
00:26:20,440 --> 00:26:25,150
saying I should stay or get out
depending on what I thought.

499
00:26:25,150 --> 00:26:26,758
And there was a--

500
00:26:26,758 --> 00:26:29,050
the sergeant with me was a
fellow named [Personal name]

501
00:26:29,050 --> 00:26:30,400
and I said, what
do you think, Bob?

502
00:26:30,400 --> 00:26:32,483
And he said, I think we
ought to stay, Lieutenant.

503
00:26:32,483 --> 00:26:33,640
I said, so do I.

504
00:26:33,640 --> 00:26:37,300
So we stayed, and they
were shelling the steeple.

505
00:26:37,300 --> 00:26:39,400
And I finally said,

let's get out of here.

506
00:26:39,400 --> 00:26:42,880
And we got out, and
the next shell just

507
00:26:42,880 --> 00:26:44,620
knocked the steeple
to smithereens,

508
00:26:44,620 --> 00:26:47,000
so we were very lucky.

509
00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:48,250
Two things happened from that.

510
00:26:48,250 --> 00:26:51,190
Both [Personal name] and
I got the Bronze Star,

511
00:26:51,190 --> 00:26:53,980
and the Germans didn't surrender
until the war was over.

512
00:26:53,980 --> 00:26:55,173
So we never took glory.

513
00:26:55,173 --> 00:26:57,340
They kept throwing stuff
at them throughout the war.

514
00:26:57,340 --> 00:27:01,190

515
00:27:01,190 --> 00:27:05,750
I had taken French
in high school,

516
00:27:05,750 --> 00:27:12,380
and I knew absolute
smattering, pidgin French.

517

00:27:12,380 --> 00:27:14,210

And except for my
battalion commander

518

00:27:14,210 --> 00:27:15,740

who taught French
at West Point, I

519

00:27:15,740 --> 00:27:17,630

was the only one who
could theoretically

520

00:27:17,630 --> 00:27:19,140

speak the language.

521

00:27:19,140 --> 00:27:23,090

So I was made the battalion
translator, among other things.

522

00:27:23,090 --> 00:27:30,020

And we had French
Patriots attached to us,

523

00:27:30,020 --> 00:27:35,790

and they were called FFI people,
French Forces of the Interior.

524

00:27:35,790 --> 00:27:38,160

And they spoke English about
the way I spoke French,

525

00:27:38,160 --> 00:27:40,550

and the communication
between us was rotten.

526

00:27:40,550 --> 00:27:43,610

And I mention all this because
after Avranches and before

527

00:27:43,610 --> 00:27:47,330

Lorient, we were ordered
to take the town of Rennes,

528

00:27:47,330 --> 00:27:53,240
R-E-N-N-E-S. And these French
Forces of the Interior said

529
00:27:53,240 --> 00:27:56,240
that the guns had been
spiked and were no good.

530
00:27:56,240 --> 00:27:59,560
It was a school for German
88-millimeter, dual-purpose

531
00:27:59,560 --> 00:28:00,060
guns.

532
00:28:00,060 --> 00:28:02,660
They could fire regular
artillery shells

533
00:28:02,660 --> 00:28:05,300
or antiaircraft.

534
00:28:05,300 --> 00:28:07,830
And it was decided
to go in and attack,

535
00:28:07,830 --> 00:28:10,130
and so I passed all that
to my battalion commander

536
00:28:10,130 --> 00:28:11,390
and the others.

537
00:28:11,390 --> 00:28:14,330
So we sent a combat
command into Rennes.

538
00:28:14,330 --> 00:28:16,310
And they waited until
we were just getting

539
00:28:16,310 --> 00:28:17,330
ready to move into town.

540

00:28:17,330 --> 00:28:19,640

We crossed a plain, and
those guns were not spiked.

541

00:28:19,640 --> 00:28:22,880

And they opened fire, and
it raised holy hell with us.

542

00:28:22,880 --> 00:28:25,710

We lost lots and lots of people.

543

00:28:25,710 --> 00:28:28,040

And I remember that very
vividly because I was always

544

00:28:28,040 --> 00:28:29,570

leery of those
French after that.

545

00:28:29,570 --> 00:28:31,280

I figured they must
have damn well known

546

00:28:31,280 --> 00:28:33,190

those guns were operative.

547

00:28:33,190 --> 00:28:38,660

FFI forces are actually French
Underground war fighters.

548

00:28:38,660 --> 00:28:40,292

That was my understanding, yes.

549

00:28:40,292 --> 00:28:41,750

I think that's what
they call them.

550

00:28:41,750 --> 00:28:42,980

Right.

551

00:28:42,980 --> 00:28:48,230

And you lost a lot of
people to the famous 88.

552
00:28:48,230 --> 00:28:49,040
We did.

553
00:28:49,040 --> 00:28:53,510
And as battalion adjutant,
among my other lovely duties

554
00:28:53,510 --> 00:28:56,450
was graves registration officer.

555
00:28:56,450 --> 00:28:59,780
And the sister--

556
00:28:59,780 --> 00:29:01,308
Lieutenant Mumm,
his name was, who

557
00:29:01,308 --> 00:29:03,350
was the adjutant of the
Sixty-Sixth Armored Field

558
00:29:03,350 --> 00:29:06,230
Artillery got
killed by those 88s.

559
00:29:06,230 --> 00:29:08,508
And so I was asked to
come over to his battalion

560
00:29:08,508 --> 00:29:10,925
and make sure that the graves
registration of the guys who

561
00:29:10,925 --> 00:29:13,970
had gotten shot, killed in
that, was properly done.

562
00:29:13,970 --> 00:29:15,860
So I saw the mayhem first hand.

563

00:29:15,860 --> 00:29:17,750

But I saw a lot of
that during the war.

564

00:29:17,750 --> 00:29:19,820

I mean, just a lot of that.

565

00:29:19,820 --> 00:29:24,440

You still are not, at
this point in your job,

566

00:29:24,440 --> 00:29:26,540

is not yet that of
a forward observer.

567

00:29:26,540 --> 00:29:28,640

No, I was being used as
a forward observer a lot.

568

00:29:28,640 --> 00:29:29,090

Oh, so were you?

569

00:29:29,090 --> 00:29:29,590

Yeah.

570

00:29:29,590 --> 00:29:33,530

Would you explain what
a forward observer does

571

00:29:33,530 --> 00:29:37,580

and where you are when
you perform this observing

572

00:29:37,580 --> 00:29:41,810

and what you do to correct
the artillery fire so that we

573

00:29:41,810 --> 00:29:44,000

understand what your job was?

574

00:29:44,000 --> 00:29:47,360

A forward observer's

job is to find

575

00:29:47,360 --> 00:29:53,730

an enemy position that offers
some interest as a target.

576

00:29:53,730 --> 00:29:58,070

In other words, a horse-drawn
vehicle isn't much,

577

00:29:58,070 --> 00:30:01,850

or even a vehicle wouldn't be
much, but a column of vehicles

578

00:30:01,850 --> 00:30:03,620

would be an interesting target.

579

00:30:03,620 --> 00:30:07,670

And a machine gun,
in-place machine guns

580

00:30:07,670 --> 00:30:11,120

or artillery batteries or
tanks on the move, anything

581

00:30:11,120 --> 00:30:15,950

like that, considered
very rewarding targets.

582

00:30:15,950 --> 00:30:21,350

My battalion had three
batteries, they call them,

583

00:30:21,350 --> 00:30:26,660

of 105-millimeter,
self-propelled howitzers

584

00:30:26,660 --> 00:30:30,650

and a couple of
175-millimeter howitzers.

585

00:30:30,650 --> 00:30:34,190

And I think, all told,

we had about 18 guns,

586

00:30:34,190 --> 00:30:37,400

cannon, in the battalion,
which is a pretty fair amount.

587

00:30:37,400 --> 00:30:40,790

We communicated by radio.

588

00:30:40,790 --> 00:30:46,490

And we had telephone also, but
we use the radio primarily.

589

00:30:46,490 --> 00:30:49,340

And the forward observer's
job was, first of all,

590

00:30:49,340 --> 00:30:55,110

to keep hidden if he could; keep
defoliated, to use the jargon;

591

00:30:55,110 --> 00:30:58,040

and to figure out
where on the map

592

00:30:58,040 --> 00:31:01,310

the enemy target
was located, then

593

00:31:01,310 --> 00:31:05,300

radio that position back
to the gun batteries,

594

00:31:05,300 --> 00:31:07,760

actually, to the battalion
headquarters where

595

00:31:07,760 --> 00:31:10,910

an operations officer would
decide who was going to shoot

596

00:31:10,910 --> 00:31:15,620

at it; and then observe the

shells because they ordinarily

597

00:31:15,620 --> 00:31:17,540
would come nowhere
near the target.

598

00:31:17,540 --> 00:31:20,540
They would be short of it
or over it or to the right

599

00:31:20,540 --> 00:31:21,830
or left.

600

00:31:21,830 --> 00:31:23,600
And then, we would
go through what

601

00:31:23,600 --> 00:31:25,970
they call "adjusting the
gun battery" to bring it

602

00:31:25,970 --> 00:31:27,200
on the target.

603

00:31:27,200 --> 00:31:30,110
So that was my job.

604

00:31:30,110 --> 00:31:35,690
And going back to my
stories of Patton.

605

00:31:35,690 --> 00:31:43,330
I was up in Arracourt, France,
observing, and all of a sudden,

606

00:31:43,330 --> 00:31:45,820
I hear some voices behind me.

607

00:31:45,820 --> 00:31:50,140
And it is my division
commander, General Wood,

608

00:31:50,140 --> 00:31:54,700

who was an All-American football player, and General Patton.

609

00:31:54,700 --> 00:31:58,420

And the general said,
orient us, Lieutenant,

610

00:31:58,420 --> 00:32:00,280

and he gives me a map.

611

00:32:00,280 --> 00:32:03,930

And what he gave me was a map of Europe, not a map of the sector

612

00:32:03,930 --> 00:32:04,930

we were in.

613

00:32:04,930 --> 00:32:06,040

And I said, I can't, sir.

614

00:32:06,040 --> 00:32:07,510

I'll have to show you my map.

615

00:32:07,510 --> 00:32:11,140

This is the whole European theater.

616

00:32:11,140 --> 00:32:12,550

So I showed them where we were.

617

00:32:12,550 --> 00:32:13,750

He thanked me.

618

00:32:13,750 --> 00:32:15,640

He and Patton left.

619

00:32:15,640 --> 00:32:19,880

And all of a sudden, Germans started the machine guns.

620

00:32:19,880 --> 00:32:24,130

And I lay down and
literally felt the grass

621
00:32:24,130 --> 00:32:27,640
being mowed right on top of me.

622
00:32:27,640 --> 00:32:30,280
And it was on top
of a little hill.

623
00:32:30,280 --> 00:32:32,740
And when I thought it
was safe and it was,

624
00:32:32,740 --> 00:32:35,110
I peeked my head up,
and I could see movement

625
00:32:35,110 --> 00:32:36,230
down below and so forth.

626
00:32:36,230 --> 00:32:38,768
I had binoculars, figured
out where the coordinates

627
00:32:38,768 --> 00:32:40,060
were, and brought fire on them.

628
00:32:40,060 --> 00:32:41,518
I forget whether
it was successful.

629
00:32:41,518 --> 00:32:44,050
I don't know whether
we hit them or not.

630
00:32:44,050 --> 00:32:46,100
But that's what I did.

631
00:32:46,100 --> 00:32:50,960
And I had two vehicles
assigned to me.

632

00:32:50,960 --> 00:32:53,080

One was what we
call the Peep, which

633

00:32:53,080 --> 00:32:59,800

was a little Willis Jeep,
small vehicle with a armor

634

00:32:59,800 --> 00:33:04,660

plate on it instead
of a glass windshield

635

00:33:04,660 --> 00:33:07,390

and with a slit in the
armor plate, all of which

636

00:33:07,390 --> 00:33:09,400

we were very leery about.

637

00:33:09,400 --> 00:33:15,340

And that is because there was a
fellow in my outfit named Dent

638

00:33:15,340 --> 00:33:18,760

who came from Colorado and had
been an All-American football

639

00:33:18,760 --> 00:33:20,530

player there.

640

00:33:20,530 --> 00:33:24,400

And we attacked the town
of Troyes, T-R-O-Y-E-S,

641

00:33:24,400 --> 00:33:30,220

or pronounced Troys in
those days, and he said,

642

00:33:30,220 --> 00:33:33,700

I know I'm going to get
killed, as he went out.

643

00:33:33,700 --> 00:33:36,758
And we all said,
no, you're not dude.

644
00:33:36,758 --> 00:33:38,300
And he says, how do
you know I'm not?

645
00:33:38,300 --> 00:33:39,925
And we said, you got
the shield, and he

646
00:33:39,925 --> 00:33:42,100
had this shield on his vehicle.

647
00:33:42,100 --> 00:33:43,690
And he was
machine-gunned and killed

648
00:33:43,690 --> 00:33:47,140
and, in fact, he was killed
while he was broadcasting.

649
00:33:47,140 --> 00:33:48,588
He was a forward observer.

650
00:33:48,588 --> 00:33:50,380
And he was killed while
he was broadcasting

651
00:33:50,380 --> 00:33:51,730
radial coordinates.

652
00:33:51,730 --> 00:33:53,500
And his hand stuck
on the mic, and we

653
00:33:53,500 --> 00:33:57,310
heard him scream as the
bullets entered him.

654
00:33:57,310 --> 00:34:02,780
And so we were very leery of

those vehicles afterwards.

655

00:34:02,780 --> 00:34:05,900

So we also had the
option of a light tank,

656

00:34:05,900 --> 00:34:08,469

which is a tank with
a machine gun on it

657

00:34:08,469 --> 00:34:10,840

and a very small caliber.

658

00:34:10,840 --> 00:34:13,900

They call it a rifle,
a cannon, not a 105.

659

00:34:13,900 --> 00:34:17,429

But you could go out
and observe and--

660

00:34:17,429 --> 00:34:20,020

the machine gun bullets
couldn't hurt you.

661

00:34:20,020 --> 00:34:22,960

I didn't feel
comfortable in a tank.

662

00:34:22,960 --> 00:34:25,690

I forgot that I ever used
one, but in studying up

663

00:34:25,690 --> 00:34:29,510

for this broadcast, I went
through my history books,

664

00:34:29,510 --> 00:34:31,840

and I see my name
mentioned as having been

665

00:34:31,840 --> 00:34:34,000

in a tank in a fight on a town.

666
00:34:34,000 --> 00:34:38,679
But usually, I was in one of
those vehicles with a radio

667
00:34:38,679 --> 00:34:42,040
operator and a driver.

668
00:34:42,040 --> 00:34:46,960
And I had a very nice
driver named Rubenstein,

669
00:34:46,960 --> 00:34:50,560
and in one of these
situations, he was killed.

670
00:34:50,560 --> 00:34:53,780
And my wife and I were in
Europe a couple of years ago.

671
00:34:53,780 --> 00:34:55,179
We were in Paris.

672
00:34:55,179 --> 00:34:58,420
And I thought I might
go and visit his grave.

673
00:34:58,420 --> 00:35:01,480
And so I called the embassy, and
they have a graves registration

674
00:35:01,480 --> 00:35:02,440
officer.

675
00:35:02,440 --> 00:35:06,790
But he'd been buried
where we were fighting up

676
00:35:06,790 --> 00:35:08,830
way outside of France.

677
00:35:08,830 --> 00:35:12,970

He was in a grave in Belgium,
so I didn't get to see him.

678
00:35:12,970 --> 00:35:14,680
Was there attitude
that you could

679
00:35:14,680 --> 00:35:17,860
notice among your
compatriots because you

680
00:35:17,860 --> 00:35:22,450
were in a unit that
was heavily Jewish

681
00:35:22,450 --> 00:35:24,855
or at least the
number of Jews in it?

682
00:35:24,855 --> 00:35:26,480
Was there any kind
of attitude that you

683
00:35:26,480 --> 00:35:32,530
could notice as you went
across Europe that they were--

684
00:35:32,530 --> 00:35:37,330
anything they were feeling
or any perceptible attitude

685
00:35:37,330 --> 00:35:40,870
because it was a
heavily Jewish outfit?

686
00:35:40,870 --> 00:35:47,320
First of all, the attitude
intradivision was wonderful.

687
00:35:47,320 --> 00:35:49,660
The morale was very, very high.

688
00:35:49,660 --> 00:35:56,080

The esprit was fabulous so that
those still living, enlisted

689
00:35:56,080 --> 00:35:59,810
and the commissioned,
are friends to this day.

690
00:35:59,810 --> 00:36:02,800
And I get Christmas cards
every year from these folks.

691
00:36:02,800 --> 00:36:05,560
And whenever I go
to the East Coast,

692
00:36:05,560 --> 00:36:06,832
I try and visit if I can.

693
00:36:06,832 --> 00:36:09,040
And we still feel very much
at home with one another,

694
00:36:09,040 --> 00:36:13,000
don't bore one another,
and like one another.

695
00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:15,010
There was no feeling about--

696
00:36:15,010 --> 00:36:18,940
there was no even mild
sense of antisemitism

697
00:36:18,940 --> 00:36:22,450
in the Fourth Armored Division.

698
00:36:22,450 --> 00:36:25,900
The enlisted men were
really weisenheimer type

699
00:36:25,900 --> 00:36:31,060
of young, New York Jews,
feisty as all get out.

700

00:36:31,060 --> 00:36:34,600

And they had this sense of
what the Germans were doing,

701

00:36:34,600 --> 00:36:38,920

and they hated them,
just hated them.

702

00:36:38,920 --> 00:36:42,600

And would, I think,
have committed

703

00:36:42,600 --> 00:36:44,760

acts that they would have
regretted in later life

704

00:36:44,760 --> 00:36:47,610

if they'd been allowed to do
so once they captured Germans.

705

00:36:47,610 --> 00:36:51,540

But they just hated them.

706

00:36:51,540 --> 00:36:58,470

Insofar as the Gentile members
of the division were concerned,

707

00:36:58,470 --> 00:37:02,190

I think they all thought
it was a pretty good war,

708

00:37:02,190 --> 00:37:04,860

and they figured the
Germans were no good.

709

00:37:04,860 --> 00:37:07,890

The bloody Krauts is the way
they used to refer to them.

710

00:37:07,890 --> 00:37:11,310

But there was a certain
amount of respect.

711
00:37:11,310 --> 00:37:22,160
And the officers were a
college-educated bunch,

712
00:37:22,160 --> 00:37:27,170
a lot of ROTC officers, by
and large fairly erudite,

713
00:37:27,170 --> 00:37:31,550
middle class, who'd come
out of business careers

714
00:37:31,550 --> 00:37:34,800
or were going to go into good
family businesses and so forth,

715
00:37:34,800 --> 00:37:38,240
but surprisingly
naive politically.

716
00:37:38,240 --> 00:37:41,120
Really didn't know much
about the English political

717
00:37:41,120 --> 00:37:45,530
situation; French,
poorly read, and not

718
00:37:45,530 --> 00:37:47,720
at all interested in
that sort of thing.

719
00:37:47,720 --> 00:37:51,440
Very, very odd that they
shouldn't have been more acute,

720
00:37:51,440 --> 00:37:52,850
but they were not.

721
00:37:52,850 --> 00:37:55,850
But the Jewish enlisted people
were a different cup of tea

722
00:37:55,850 --> 00:37:57,170
entirely.

723
00:37:57,170 --> 00:37:59,210
Do you have any
idea why that was?

724
00:37:59,210 --> 00:38:01,940

725
00:38:01,940 --> 00:38:05,510
Either through their religious
leaders or the periodicals

726
00:38:05,510 --> 00:38:09,230
they read or whatever, they
were much more sophisticated

727
00:38:09,230 --> 00:38:10,310
politically.

728
00:38:10,310 --> 00:38:13,820
And I might say that among
the Jewish enlisted personnel,

729
00:38:13,820 --> 00:38:16,160
many of whom proved
to be heroes.

730
00:38:16,160 --> 00:38:18,680
They received
battlefield commissions.

731
00:38:18,680 --> 00:38:21,458
And there was a Sergeant
Steinberg and a Sergeant Levy

732
00:38:21,458 --> 00:38:23,000
and others, all of
whom were promoted

733

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:26,300
to join the officer group.

734
00:38:26,300 --> 00:38:30,067
But I'm speaking of when we
went into England and France

735
00:38:30,067 --> 00:38:31,400
in the early part of the combat.

736
00:38:31,400 --> 00:38:34,310

737
00:38:34,310 --> 00:38:39,710
There was no feeling of anger,
as such, about the Germans

738
00:38:39,710 --> 00:38:43,980
except from Dr. Horowitz and
me and those Jewish enlisted

739
00:38:43,980 --> 00:38:44,480
people.

740
00:38:44,480 --> 00:38:46,522
The Jews were the ones
that packed the animosity,

741
00:38:46,522 --> 00:38:47,730
put it that way.

742
00:38:47,730 --> 00:38:52,100
Were most of these people
draftees or volunteers?

743
00:38:52,100 --> 00:38:55,550
The enlisted were all
draftees, every last one.

744
00:38:55,550 --> 00:38:56,800
There were no volunteers.

745

00:38:56,800 --> 00:38:59,570

746

00:38:59,570 --> 00:39:02,180

As you went across
Europe, clearly

747

00:39:02,180 --> 00:39:08,420

you saw what war amounts
to-- dead people, maimed.

748

00:39:08,420 --> 00:39:09,720

You described some of it.

749

00:39:09,720 --> 00:39:12,440

750

00:39:12,440 --> 00:39:17,150

You were getting an education
of a very deep emotional sort

751

00:39:17,150 --> 00:39:19,670

for a young lieutenant
at that point.

752

00:39:19,670 --> 00:39:20,990

Am I correct in that?

753

00:39:20,990 --> 00:39:22,550

Yes.

754

00:39:22,550 --> 00:39:27,200

Did you notice also the results
of what German occupation

755

00:39:27,200 --> 00:39:28,760

of these territories had done?

756

00:39:28,760 --> 00:39:33,770

Did you ever notice any,
what you could say would be,

757

00:39:33,770 --> 00:39:36,950
not necessarily
atrocities, but just

758
00:39:36,950 --> 00:39:41,630
the effect on the civil populace
of what the German occupation

759
00:39:41,630 --> 00:39:43,550
had been?

760
00:39:43,550 --> 00:39:45,110
Yes.

761
00:39:45,110 --> 00:39:47,480
Starting with the English
who were not occupied,

762
00:39:47,480 --> 00:39:51,530
but who had been embattled,
my general feeling about them

763
00:39:51,530 --> 00:39:55,910
was they were wonderful to us
as the people I met in England

764
00:39:55,910 --> 00:39:58,520
were wonderful, and
they hated the Germans

765
00:39:58,520 --> 00:40:01,760
with a deadly hatred.

766
00:40:01,760 --> 00:40:04,670
The French, we met because
after the breakthrough,

767
00:40:04,670 --> 00:40:09,080
we were sort of horsing around
in the outskirts of Normandy

768
00:40:09,080 --> 00:40:11,820
and Brittany for quite a while.

769

00:40:11,820 --> 00:40:14,450

We were fighting, but I mean,
we would be in farmhouses,

770

00:40:14,450 --> 00:40:17,120

and we would meet a lot
of the French people.

771

00:40:17,120 --> 00:40:20,670

And I got a very odd sense about
the French that still exists.

772

00:40:20,670 --> 00:40:22,320

I didn't like them.

773

00:40:22,320 --> 00:40:24,470

And many of my colleagues
felt the same way

774

00:40:24,470 --> 00:40:26,580

for some reason or another.

775

00:40:26,580 --> 00:40:27,890

They hated the Germans.

776

00:40:27,890 --> 00:40:32,210

They didn't like the Boche,
and that came across very well,

777

00:40:32,210 --> 00:40:34,250

but they weren't pleasant.

778

00:40:34,250 --> 00:40:36,410

Now those FFI people
were very nice.

779

00:40:36,410 --> 00:40:37,765

They really tried.

780

00:40:37,765 --> 00:40:39,140

They may not have

been competent,

781
00:40:39,140 --> 00:40:41,360
but they were really
doing their best.

782
00:40:41,360 --> 00:40:43,940
But the French we
met bothered us,

783
00:40:43,940 --> 00:40:47,630
and that was a
feeling that I think

784
00:40:47,630 --> 00:40:52,190
was pretty universal
in my outfit.

785
00:40:52,190 --> 00:40:55,440
The Belgians we met, on the
contrary, were wonderful.

786
00:40:55,440 --> 00:40:59,060
We fought in Arlon, Belgium,
before going into Bastogne.

787
00:40:59,060 --> 00:41:03,620
We're leaving Bastogne, and all
the Belgians we met were nice.

788
00:41:03,620 --> 00:41:07,100
I would say of those who were
jittery about the Germans

789
00:41:07,100 --> 00:41:10,090
the most, it was the
French and the Czechs.

790
00:41:10,090 --> 00:41:14,540
Both of them really were
plenty scared of them.

791
00:41:14,540 --> 00:41:16,570

As a heavily Jewish
unit, was there

792
00:41:16,570 --> 00:41:20,570
ever anything from
the civil populace

793
00:41:20,570 --> 00:41:24,650
that you can recall that at
least taking note of the fact

794
00:41:24,650 --> 00:41:27,680
that you have a lot of
Jews in your outfit?

795
00:41:27,680 --> 00:41:32,330
Anything at all to show
that they understood?

796
00:41:32,330 --> 00:41:37,960
You know, I think
one sometimes feels

797
00:41:37,960 --> 00:41:40,390
one can sense antisemitism.

798
00:41:40,390 --> 00:41:43,570
I'm not so sure how correct
the sense is, really,

799
00:41:43,570 --> 00:41:46,960
but I felt that
strongly in France then.

800
00:41:46,960 --> 00:41:49,480

801
00:41:49,480 --> 00:41:53,890
And I didn't feel it
in Czechoslovakia.

802
00:41:53,890 --> 00:41:55,540
And I didn't feel

it in Belgium, and I

803
00:41:55,540 --> 00:41:56,915
didn't feel it in England.

804
00:41:56,915 --> 00:41:59,290
So I would say, because those
are the countries I was in.

805
00:41:59,290 --> 00:42:00,750
Luxembourg for a short while.

806
00:42:00,750 --> 00:42:03,550

807
00:42:03,550 --> 00:42:07,420
God knows the antisemitism
was there and is there.

808
00:42:07,420 --> 00:42:11,080
But when they're
hungry and in trouble

809
00:42:11,080 --> 00:42:15,730
and here we are, an army,
strong and high morale

810
00:42:15,730 --> 00:42:19,480
and full of beans,
I don't think we're

811
00:42:19,480 --> 00:42:22,150
going to pick that up unless
we're very clever or very

812
00:42:22,150 --> 00:42:24,610
good at communicating in the
language, and none of us were.

813
00:42:24,610 --> 00:42:27,560
I wasn't, at any rate.

814

00:42:27,560 --> 00:42:29,680

As you progressed
along, where was in

815

00:42:29,680 --> 00:42:35,470

the first place where you
encountered German persons?

816

00:42:35,470 --> 00:42:38,640

817

00:42:38,640 --> 00:42:43,260

There were some in England that
had been captured in Africa.

818

00:42:43,260 --> 00:42:53,060

And we began to take them
shortly after combat,

819

00:42:53,060 --> 00:42:57,980

and in my mind,
they were monsters.

820

00:42:57,980 --> 00:43:03,304

And I remember the first group
we captured were fairly--

821

00:43:03,304 --> 00:43:07,360

822

00:43:07,360 --> 00:43:08,830

I was fairly
sympathetic to them.

823

00:43:08,830 --> 00:43:13,770

They looked, you know, dazed
and bemused and helpless.

824

00:43:13,770 --> 00:43:19,200

One didn't sense a master
race sort of situation.

825

00:43:19,200 --> 00:43:22,388

When we would come
across the Waffen-SS

826
00:43:22,388 --> 00:43:24,930
as we did units of them, they
were very different cup of tea.

827
00:43:24,930 --> 00:43:26,416
They were truculent and tough.

828
00:43:26,416 --> 00:43:37,600

829
00:43:37,600 --> 00:43:41,200
The Americans came in at
the end of it, really.

830
00:43:41,200 --> 00:43:44,890
The Germans were going
down the hill pretty fast.

831
00:43:44,890 --> 00:43:46,930
Still, they fought like
cats, and they really

832
00:43:46,930 --> 00:43:49,630
fought very hard.

833
00:43:49,630 --> 00:43:51,940
Where was the first
place you encountered

834
00:43:51,940 --> 00:43:54,615
persons who had been taken
prisoner by the Germans?

835
00:43:54,615 --> 00:44:09,680

836
00:44:09,680 --> 00:44:16,430
What I saw initially
along this line

837

00:44:16,430 --> 00:44:24,770

were piles of either American
or German dead bodies,

838

00:44:24,770 --> 00:44:27,020

just stacked up in uniform.

839

00:44:27,020 --> 00:44:29,640

840

00:44:29,640 --> 00:44:33,090

And whether we had committed
atrocities and gunned

841

00:44:33,090 --> 00:44:37,200

these Germans down or vice
versa, I was never sure.

842

00:44:37,200 --> 00:44:38,970

As we would drive
by, the rumor would

843

00:44:38,970 --> 00:44:41,040

be that the Germans
murdered our guys,

844

00:44:41,040 --> 00:44:46,380

but the Germans we saw
lined up had always

845

00:44:46,380 --> 00:44:48,660

been shot fairly
honorably, so to speak.

846

00:44:48,660 --> 00:44:51,800

But I saw piles of bodies,
especially in Belgium

847

00:44:51,800 --> 00:44:54,300

and in the Saar where it was
cold on the ground you couldn't

848

00:44:54,300 --> 00:44:56,820
bury them so easily.

849
00:44:56,820 --> 00:44:58,890
Common sight.

850
00:44:58,890 --> 00:45:00,920
Incidentally, I had
a wonderful camera,

851
00:45:00,920 --> 00:45:02,700
the kind that folded
in and out, and it

852
00:45:02,700 --> 00:45:05,250
was stolen from my
Jeep in England,

853
00:45:05,250 --> 00:45:06,250
and I never replaced it.

854
00:45:06,250 --> 00:45:08,585
So I never did
much photographing.

855
00:45:08,585 --> 00:45:12,680

856
00:45:12,680 --> 00:45:19,580
I think my recollection
of the first time I really

857
00:45:19,580 --> 00:45:23,240
saw German prisoners
was in Ohrdruf.

858
00:45:23,240 --> 00:45:28,310

859
00:45:28,310 --> 00:45:34,580
And what happened there is we
were going toward East Germany.

860

00:45:34,580 --> 00:45:37,300

We had crossed the Rhine
at the town of Oppenheim.

861

00:45:37,300 --> 00:45:40,880

862

00:45:40,880 --> 00:45:44,480

My division commander found
a bridge over the damn thing,

863

00:45:44,480 --> 00:45:47,790

so we crossed over.

864

00:45:47,790 --> 00:45:55,530

And we crossed another river,
and we were near East Germany.

865

00:45:55,530 --> 00:45:59,430

We actually ended up the war
in a town called Chemnitz.

866

00:45:59,430 --> 00:46:01,887

And this was in April.

867

00:46:01,887 --> 00:46:04,220

I mean, we went as far as we
could go in that direction,

868

00:46:04,220 --> 00:46:06,060

that Chemnitz.

869

00:46:06,060 --> 00:46:07,920

And we got to
Ohrdruf where we had

870

00:46:07,920 --> 00:46:11,700

to stay for a couple of
days, and I forget why.

871

00:46:11,700 --> 00:46:16,170

And there was a great

big castle there.

872

00:46:16,170 --> 00:46:19,140

And I'd say the
castle would have

873

00:46:19,140 --> 00:46:22,250

been built within
the last 10 years,

874

00:46:22,250 --> 00:46:26,520

so sometime between '35 and 45.

875

00:46:26,520 --> 00:46:30,990

Great, big, huge thing with
a drawbridge and a moat.

876

00:46:30,990 --> 00:46:35,400

And we drove-- when I say
"we," a couple of officers,

877

00:46:35,400 --> 00:46:38,130

of which I was one,
and some enlisted men

878

00:46:38,130 --> 00:46:41,130

with machine guns, et
cetera, got on the moat,

879

00:46:41,130 --> 00:46:43,920

crossed the bridge
with our vehicles,

880

00:46:43,920 --> 00:46:47,070

and drove into the
castle courtyard.

881

00:46:47,070 --> 00:46:48,720

And I believe
there were a couple

882

00:46:48,720 --> 00:46:50,790

of German retainers

in the castle,

883

00:46:50,790 --> 00:46:53,610

but I'm not sure of that.

884

00:46:53,610 --> 00:46:55,650

And the castle was

furnished in what

885

00:46:55,650 --> 00:47:01,830

I would call Bauhaus furniture--

blond, light woods and this

886

00:47:01,830 --> 00:47:08,700

and that and furnished very

expensively, I would say.

887

00:47:08,700 --> 00:47:14,910

And we found that it belonged to

the head of the IG Farben Works

888

00:47:14,910 --> 00:47:17,910

in the area.

889

00:47:17,910 --> 00:47:21,120

And my memory is that, looking

out of a living room window,

890

00:47:21,120 --> 00:47:25,080

we saw a concentration

camp across the street.

891

00:47:25,080 --> 00:47:28,980

And my battalion commander, whom

I once chatted with about this,

892

00:47:28,980 --> 00:47:33,520

remembers it from the

children's window.

893

00:47:33,520 --> 00:47:35,130

But we could look

through the window

894

00:47:35,130 --> 00:47:40,650
and right across the street
from this darn place was a camp.

895

00:47:40,650 --> 00:47:43,530
So as soon as we saw the
camp, we left the castle

896

00:47:43,530 --> 00:47:47,470
and drove over to the camp.

897

00:47:47,470 --> 00:47:53,970
And I don't remember
any living people.

898

00:47:53,970 --> 00:48:01,560
What we found were a group of
inmates in the camp town square

899

00:48:01,560 --> 00:48:06,030
in a pile, bleeding,
dead, all of them

900

00:48:06,030 --> 00:48:10,800
shot within the last 24 hours
with a bullet in the head

901

00:48:10,800 --> 00:48:13,710
is my recollection.

902

00:48:13,710 --> 00:48:19,450
And then I remember going
into one of the barracks

903

00:48:19,450 --> 00:48:23,010
and seeing some bodies
hanging from the ceiling

904

00:48:23,010 --> 00:48:27,045
on hooks, dead, and lots
of bodies in the barracks.

905

00:48:27,045 --> 00:48:29,760

906

00:48:29,760 --> 00:48:37,190

And the only other
direct recollection--

907

00:48:37,190 --> 00:48:40,100

we stayed in Ohrdruf
for a couple of days,

908

00:48:40,100 --> 00:48:45,650

and we had a combat commander
named Sears and either he

909

00:48:45,650 --> 00:48:46,820

or General Patton--

910

00:48:46,820 --> 00:48:50,270

I don't remember whom -- ordered
some of the leading townspeople

911

00:48:50,270 --> 00:48:54,050

and the burgermeister, the
mayor, to come view the camp,

912

00:48:54,050 --> 00:48:55,440

which they did.

913

00:48:55,440 --> 00:48:59,750

Then the mayor killed
himself either from remorse

914

00:48:59,750 --> 00:49:02,290

or maybe from fear that he
was going to be tried anyway.

915

00:49:02,290 --> 00:49:05,100

916

00:49:05,100 --> 00:49:14,980

So that was my first experience

of prisoners of the Germans.

917

00:49:14,980 --> 00:49:19,070

What were these people
wearing, these bodies you saw?

918

00:49:19,070 --> 00:49:22,400

They were all pretty emaciated.

919

00:49:22,400 --> 00:49:25,280

They were wearing striped--

920

00:49:25,280 --> 00:49:26,460

looked like striped pajamas.

921

00:49:26,460 --> 00:49:29,462

922

00:49:29,462 --> 00:49:30,920

They had little
caps, some of them.

923

00:49:30,920 --> 00:49:34,810

924

00:49:34,810 --> 00:49:38,770

Had a very bad stench
about the camp, very bad.

925

00:49:38,770 --> 00:49:42,980

926

00:49:42,980 --> 00:49:48,950

And we hesitated about--

927

00:49:48,950 --> 00:49:53,820

we looked to see if any of
those people were still alive.

928

00:49:53,820 --> 00:49:57,900

And as far as we could
tell, they were not.

929
00:49:57,900 --> 00:50:00,660
We hesitated actually putting
our hands on the bodies,

930
00:50:00,660 --> 00:50:04,080
and I can't tell you why.

931
00:50:04,080 --> 00:50:08,010
But I do know that
that evening, I

932
00:50:08,010 --> 00:50:11,190
was told that one
of the prisoners

933
00:50:11,190 --> 00:50:13,590
had been an American
from the university,

934
00:50:13,590 --> 00:50:14,970
and they found out--

935
00:50:14,970 --> 00:50:17,280
it could all be
totally spurious,

936
00:50:17,280 --> 00:50:21,870
but we all believed it as gospel
that he came from UC Berkeley

937
00:50:21,870 --> 00:50:23,505
and had been a teacher there.

938
00:50:23,505 --> 00:50:27,000
Now how the hell they found that
out, whether it's so or not,

939
00:50:27,000 --> 00:50:29,597
and how he got to a camp
like this, I don't know.

940

00:50:29,597 --> 00:50:32,579

941

00:50:32,579 --> 00:50:35,005

Was there any evidence, were
you concerned about disease?

942

00:50:35,005 --> 00:50:39,000

943

00:50:39,000 --> 00:50:40,920

Well, for those of
us, I don't think

944

00:50:40,920 --> 00:50:43,890

a disease entered our minds.

945

00:50:43,890 --> 00:50:46,770

But for those who saw
the camp, especially

946

00:50:46,770 --> 00:50:55,210

the Gentile officers, this
was an absolute shock.

947

00:50:55,210 --> 00:50:58,195

I've never seen anything
like Ohrdruf before or since.

948

00:50:58,195 --> 00:51:01,840

Now I'm sure, as your other
participants have told you,

949

00:51:01,840 --> 00:51:07,020

that Auschwitz and all were much
worse, but I've never seen it.

950

00:51:07,020 --> 00:51:10,790

I've never seen anything
quite like that.

951

00:51:10,790 --> 00:51:12,760

And every time I read

about something--

952

00:51:12,760 --> 00:51:16,900

I read in the paper yesterday,
Lebanon, it seems to me,

953

00:51:16,900 --> 00:51:17,830

has ceased to exist.

954

00:51:17,830 --> 00:51:19,540

The Syrians now just moved in.

955

00:51:19,540 --> 00:51:24,010

And I read where the Syrians
executed 30 Christian Lebanese

956

00:51:24,010 --> 00:51:25,540

just out of hand.

957

00:51:25,540 --> 00:51:27,400

And when I read that,
my mind went back

958

00:51:27,400 --> 00:51:30,280

to this Ohrdruf situation.

959

00:51:30,280 --> 00:51:32,470

It always seems to do that.

960

00:51:32,470 --> 00:51:35,270

It's just indelible.

961

00:51:35,270 --> 00:51:39,310

Why we would Ohrdruf have
so impressed Gentiles

962

00:51:39,310 --> 00:51:41,770

and more so than Jews?

963

00:51:41,770 --> 00:51:45,280

Because I don't think they
realized what the Germans

964
00:51:45,280 --> 00:51:47,980
were up to until they saw this.

965
00:51:47,980 --> 00:51:50,270
They figured that they
were shooting at--

966
00:51:50,270 --> 00:51:53,200
that we're battling over
land and political hegemony,

967
00:51:53,200 --> 00:51:57,400
balance of power, so to
speak, rather than we're

968
00:51:57,400 --> 00:51:59,260
battling real evil.

969
00:51:59,260 --> 00:52:02,450

970
00:52:02,450 --> 00:52:06,485
These people who you
found there were all dead,

971
00:52:06,485 --> 00:52:08,030
you thought, of gunshot wounds?

972
00:52:08,030 --> 00:52:09,890
Yes.

973
00:52:09,890 --> 00:52:11,950
Apparently, the
guard-- pardon me?

974
00:52:11,950 --> 00:52:13,160
What did they tell you?

975
00:52:13,160 --> 00:52:17,540
The guards got out in a hurry.

976

00:52:17,540 --> 00:52:19,700

And they didn't know what
to do with these folks,

977

00:52:19,700 --> 00:52:20,840

so they just murdered them.

978

00:52:20,840 --> 00:52:23,880

979

00:52:23,880 --> 00:52:26,040

And the ones hanging from hooks?

980

00:52:26,040 --> 00:52:30,510

I have no idea what the
devil was going on with them.

981

00:52:30,510 --> 00:52:33,540

They were in terrible shape.

982

00:52:33,540 --> 00:52:34,110

Naked.

983

00:52:34,110 --> 00:52:36,240

They were all-- they had
no uniform on all of them.

984

00:52:36,240 --> 00:52:38,430

They were naked.

985

00:52:38,430 --> 00:52:40,530

Now I've read
since that they had

986

00:52:40,530 --> 00:52:46,800

killed around 4,000 in
the last days of that camp

987

00:52:46,800 --> 00:52:50,280

and buried them or
burned them or something.

988

00:52:50,280 --> 00:52:53,580

If that's so, my
own duties didn't

989

00:52:53,580 --> 00:52:55,920

provide for me to go spend
much more time in that camp,

990

00:52:55,920 --> 00:52:58,950

and I was busy.

991

00:52:58,950 --> 00:53:01,470

All I know is that it
was a brutal situation.

992

00:53:01,470 --> 00:53:04,260

I mean, here are people who are
totally helpless, and I guess--

993

00:53:04,260 --> 00:53:06,730

How many bodies do you roughly--

994

00:53:06,730 --> 00:53:13,650

Well, I think in the square
there, the camp, my memory's

995

00:53:13,650 --> 00:53:16,800

always been 35 to 50,
something like that.

996

00:53:16,800 --> 00:53:22,170

And then that barracks, I would
have thought about 30 or 40.

997

00:53:22,170 --> 00:53:25,380

Were any of them
wearing the Jewish star?

998

00:53:25,380 --> 00:53:27,630

Well, I've been wondering
about that now that I'm here

999

00:53:27,630 --> 00:53:28,860
at the Holocaust Center.

1000
00:53:28,860 --> 00:53:31,400

1001
00:53:31,400 --> 00:53:33,770
And I don't remember.

1002
00:53:33,770 --> 00:53:37,940
I assumed they were Jews,
but I'm not at all sure

1003
00:53:37,940 --> 00:53:40,830
that that's the case.

1004
00:53:40,830 --> 00:53:43,250
You have no memory
of anything that

1005
00:53:43,250 --> 00:53:49,240
would give you that impression
that they were Jews?

1006
00:53:49,240 --> 00:53:54,250
I find it very hard to go
back unless it's humorous.

1007
00:53:54,250 --> 00:53:57,760
I can remember some of the
humorous things in the war

1008
00:53:57,760 --> 00:54:00,280
very clearly.

1009
00:54:00,280 --> 00:54:03,850
But the dreadful things,
I was afraid almost

1010
00:54:03,850 --> 00:54:07,690
constantly the entire
time I was over there.

1011

00:54:07,690 --> 00:54:09,670

And I used to say to
myself, if I can only

1012

00:54:09,670 --> 00:54:12,170

get out of this mess, I'm going
to go back to San Francisco,

1013

00:54:12,170 --> 00:54:14,128

and I'm going to go to
the Royal Theater, which

1014

00:54:14,128 --> 00:54:17,500

is a little movie
theater on Polk Street.

1015

00:54:17,500 --> 00:54:20,890

That, to me, was security.

1016

00:54:20,890 --> 00:54:26,090

And I wasn't sure I was going
to get out of it at all.

1017

00:54:26,090 --> 00:54:31,870

And when you're scared, I think
the impressions are recorded

1018

00:54:31,870 --> 00:54:33,860

in a different fashion.

1019

00:54:33,860 --> 00:54:45,800

So that my feeling
about the Germans

1020

00:54:45,800 --> 00:54:50,990

didn't when the war ended, I
was set to occupation duty in

1021

00:54:50,990 --> 00:54:54,020

and, among other things,
we were the jailers

1022

00:54:54,020 --> 00:54:58,370
for the lower-ranking generals.

1023
00:54:58,370 --> 00:55:00,860
We had about 200
German generals,

1024
00:55:00,860 --> 00:55:02,720
major general on
down one lieutenant

1025
00:55:02,720 --> 00:55:05,970
general who were not at that
time considered war criminals.

1026
00:55:05,970 --> 00:55:07,760
So I was feeling
the war was over.

1027
00:55:07,760 --> 00:55:09,080
No one was shooting at us.

1028
00:55:09,080 --> 00:55:12,380
I could examine them in
a nice, cool fashion.

1029
00:55:12,380 --> 00:55:19,420
When we were fighting, it
was always so miserable.

1030
00:55:19,420 --> 00:55:23,640
We never had the right shoes
in the mud up on the Saar,

1031
00:55:23,640 --> 00:55:27,240
and we suffered from
terrible foot problems

1032
00:55:27,240 --> 00:55:31,290
until foot packs
arrived rather late.

1033
00:55:31,290 --> 00:55:33,670

Something was happening
ghastly to us every day.

1034
00:55:33,670 --> 00:55:39,238
They lobbed a grenade through
the tank of one of my friends

1035
00:55:39,238 --> 00:55:41,280
and cleaned everybody out,
and that sort of thing

1036
00:55:41,280 --> 00:55:43,950
would just happen continuously.

1037
00:55:43,950 --> 00:55:46,560
We got caught up on a hill.

1038
00:55:46,560 --> 00:55:49,260
We'd gone to see a movie
of Bing Crosby called

1039
00:55:49,260 --> 00:55:51,390
Going My Way at night.

1040
00:55:51,390 --> 00:55:57,480
And the next day I was
up again observing fire

1041
00:55:57,480 --> 00:56:01,170
and I saw, that is, telling
my gun battery where

1042
00:56:01,170 --> 00:56:03,490
gun batteries were to shoot.

1043
00:56:03,490 --> 00:56:05,850
And we thought the German Air
Force was almost finished,

1044
00:56:05,850 --> 00:56:08,670
and all of a sudden,
the sky is filled

1045

00:56:08,670 --> 00:56:11,460
with these FWs, Focke-Wulfes.

1046

00:56:11,460 --> 00:56:13,080
And they dive bomb us.

1047

00:56:13,080 --> 00:56:16,650
My battalion was
nicely screened,

1048

00:56:16,650 --> 00:56:20,790
but the artillery battalion
next to us was with not,

1049

00:56:20,790 --> 00:56:22,860
and they just slaughtered them.

1050

00:56:22,860 --> 00:56:24,990
Again, I got called in
to make sure the graves

1051

00:56:24,990 --> 00:56:27,420
registration was done right.

1052

00:56:27,420 --> 00:56:30,570
And so, for me, I
was just running

1053

00:56:30,570 --> 00:56:32,550
scared the whole damn war.

1054

00:56:32,550 --> 00:56:34,800
And it wasn't until--

1055

00:56:34,800 --> 00:56:40,770
and when I try and go back
in memory, it's very tough.

1056

00:56:40,770 --> 00:56:44,520
And I've been back sort
of trying to look twice.

1057

00:56:44,520 --> 00:56:49,770

Once in 1955, tried to go back
to the French battlefields.

1058

00:56:49,770 --> 00:56:51,210

Couldn't even find them.

1059

00:56:51,210 --> 00:56:53,270

And then more
recently, this year, I

1060

00:56:53,270 --> 00:56:56,940

went back to Czechoslovakia,
and the same experience.

1061

00:56:56,940 --> 00:57:02,820

So somehow or another, I'm not
the greatest in dredging it up.

1062

00:57:02,820 --> 00:57:05,090

Did your enlisted
personnel from your unit,

1063

00:57:05,090 --> 00:57:11,640

did many of the Bronx guys, also
see what you saw in Ohrdruf?

1064

00:57:11,640 --> 00:57:13,260

Yes.

1065

00:57:13,260 --> 00:57:20,850

And now you remind me, we
had captured some Germans

1066

00:57:20,850 --> 00:57:23,550

around there.

1067

00:57:23,550 --> 00:57:27,830

And they were being
guarded by our--

1068

00:57:27,830 --> 00:57:30,240

our battalion, the
Ninety-Fourth had captured them.

1069
00:57:30,240 --> 00:57:33,630
They were under
Ninety-Fourth guard,

1070
00:57:33,630 --> 00:57:38,520
and a couple of the
guards were Jewish.

1071
00:57:38,520 --> 00:57:42,360
And they wanted to
kill those prisoners.

1072
00:57:42,360 --> 00:57:47,460
They had asked permission to
have all those German prisoners

1073
00:57:47,460 --> 00:57:49,140
turned over to them.

1074
00:57:49,140 --> 00:57:52,110
And the battalion
commander wouldn't do it.

1075
00:57:52,110 --> 00:57:54,020
Lucky he didn't.

1076
00:57:54,020 --> 00:57:56,790
Was this because of what
those men, enlisted men,

1077
00:57:56,790 --> 00:57:57,660
had seen in Ohrdruf?

1078
00:57:57,660 --> 00:57:58,860
Right.

1079
00:57:58,860 --> 00:58:01,750
They were under the impression
the dead people were Jewish

1080

00:58:01,750 --> 00:58:02,580

also?

1081

00:58:02,580 --> 00:58:03,270

I think so.

1082

00:58:03,270 --> 00:58:19,520

1083

00:58:19,520 --> 00:58:25,010

We were approaching
the town of Bayreuth,

1084

00:58:25,010 --> 00:58:31,730

and another fellow and I were
sitting by the wayside having

1085

00:58:31,730 --> 00:58:34,520

breakfast in front of his tank.

1086

00:58:34,520 --> 00:58:39,410

We were on the highway
leading into Bayreuth.

1087

00:58:39,410 --> 00:58:42,590

And we were a line of tanks.

1088

00:58:42,590 --> 00:58:48,560

My vehicle again was this Jeep
with the leaded windshield.

1089

00:58:48,560 --> 00:58:51,230

I had gone over to have
breakfast with Davis

1090

00:58:51,230 --> 00:58:53,750

was his name, Les Davis.

1091

00:58:53,750 --> 00:58:56,810

And we were having
coffee, which we had made,

1092

00:58:56,810 --> 00:59:00,590

and we had a little
Coleman stove.

1093

00:59:00,590 --> 00:59:07,160

And we saw some children
approaching the tank in front

1094

00:59:07,160 --> 00:59:11,660

of us and speaking
German and I think

1095

00:59:11,660 --> 00:59:14,610

saying cigarette or
something like that.

1096

00:59:14,610 --> 00:59:17,990

And the fellows in the tank in
front of us said, come on over.

1097

00:59:17,990 --> 00:59:23,300

And these kids who, I would
say, were about 10 or 11,

1098

00:59:23,300 --> 00:59:31,870

got up to within 10
feet from the tank

1099

00:59:31,870 --> 00:59:34,390

where these fellows were
having their breakfast, too.

1100

00:59:34,390 --> 00:59:37,720

And out from behind
them they brought

1101

00:59:37,720 --> 00:59:44,170

what they call Panzerfaust,
which is like our bazookas.

1102

00:59:44,170 --> 00:59:47,110

And they let fly with
these Panzerfaust,

1103
00:59:47,110 --> 00:59:50,510
and they slaughtered
all these guys.

1104
00:59:50,510 --> 00:59:52,570
And so then they
tried to run off,

1105
00:59:52,570 --> 00:59:55,810
and they were machine-gunned,
the kids were.

1106
00:59:55,810 --> 01:00:00,760
And shortly after that, we
drove into the town of Bayreuth

1107
01:00:00,760 --> 01:00:05,787
feeling very, very angry
as you do, you know,

1108
01:00:05,787 --> 01:00:07,120
when you see this sort of thing.

1109
01:00:07,120 --> 01:00:10,030
I think I would often
go by a vehicle that

1110
01:00:10,030 --> 01:00:12,640
had been hit by a shell and
burned with its occupants

1111
01:00:12,640 --> 01:00:15,370
in it, and you'd see them
there, just totally burned up,

1112
01:00:15,370 --> 01:00:18,160
just a smelly shell.

1113
01:00:18,160 --> 01:00:22,390
And you just get so outraged,
but, really, either who

1114

01:00:22,390 --> 01:00:23,350

or why, I don't know.

1115

01:00:23,350 --> 01:00:26,710

You know, it's just
part of the game.

1116

01:00:26,710 --> 01:00:30,610

But we got into Bayreuth and
how we got there, I don't know

1117

01:00:30,610 --> 01:00:34,840

but we ended up
in Wagner's house,

1118

01:00:34,840 --> 01:00:38,800

which was in real
Bauhaus-y sort of design.

1119

01:00:38,800 --> 01:00:45,100

And it was filled with
Polish slave women.

1120

01:00:45,100 --> 01:00:49,840

I'd seen these slaves,
both Polish and gypsy,

1121

01:00:49,840 --> 01:00:52,450

as we'd gone along,
but never long enough

1122

01:00:52,450 --> 01:00:54,340

to really try and communicate.

1123

01:00:54,340 --> 01:00:56,860

And here we were,
two young lieutenants

1124

01:00:56,860 --> 01:01:00,520

plus our enlisted guys, and a
whole bunch of young, fairly

1125

01:01:00,520 --> 01:01:03,400
attractive Polish women.

1126
01:01:03,400 --> 01:01:05,740
And they took a shine
to Davis because he

1127
01:01:05,740 --> 01:01:06,640
could play the piano.

1128
01:01:06,640 --> 01:01:08,470
There were a lot of
pianos in this house,

1129
01:01:08,470 --> 01:01:11,380
and he started playing, and
they crowded around him.

1130
01:01:11,380 --> 01:01:13,810
And they really
hated the Germans.

1131
01:01:13,810 --> 01:01:15,280
And I forget how
they communicated,

1132
01:01:15,280 --> 01:01:17,830
but they were telling
us what it was like.

1133
01:01:17,830 --> 01:01:20,500
And they'd been slaves
there in Wagner's house

1134
01:01:20,500 --> 01:01:22,670
for a couple of
years, as I recall.

1135
01:01:22,670 --> 01:01:24,500
They had tattoos
and the whole bit.

1136
01:01:24,500 --> 01:01:26,530

So we saw them at a very close.

1137

01:01:26,530 --> 01:01:29,970

1138

01:01:29,970 --> 01:01:32,270

And I got the impression
now as I think about it,

1139

01:01:32,270 --> 01:01:36,360

we would see a lot of
the enslaved peoples.

1140

01:01:36,360 --> 01:01:42,770

But the Jews were in
more isolated instances.

1141

01:01:42,770 --> 01:01:44,570

Did you ever see any Jew?

1142

01:01:44,570 --> 01:01:46,370

Well, I saw--

1143

01:01:46,370 --> 01:01:52,050

I came across a whole
mass of Jewish women.

1144

01:01:52,050 --> 01:01:57,950

And when I say "mass,"
I would say hundreds.

1145

01:01:57,950 --> 01:02:00,860

Hundreds and hundreds.

1146

01:02:00,860 --> 01:02:02,960

And I thought it was
in Theresienstadt,

1147

01:02:02,960 --> 01:02:05,600

but as you and I were
chatting before, I may not

1148

01:02:05,600 --> 01:02:07,140
have gotten there.

1149
01:02:07,140 --> 01:02:10,970
And they may have been
just out of Theresienstadt,

1150
01:02:10,970 --> 01:02:12,680
and we may have come--

1151
01:02:12,680 --> 01:02:15,530
they were under
guard, so to speak.

1152
01:02:15,530 --> 01:02:18,470
They were there were
in an enclosure,

1153
01:02:18,470 --> 01:02:20,300
and I'm not sure where
the devil it was.

1154
01:02:20,300 --> 01:02:24,540

1155
01:02:24,540 --> 01:02:30,540
They immediately
recognized me as a Jew,

1156
01:02:30,540 --> 01:02:32,110
and they all had stars on.

1157
01:02:32,110 --> 01:02:34,710
They had shaved heads.

1158
01:02:34,710 --> 01:02:39,780
They had the striped pajamas.

1159
01:02:39,780 --> 01:02:42,090
They looked awful.

1160
01:02:42,090 --> 01:02:43,740

They were very animated.

1161

01:02:43,740 --> 01:02:45,690

They weren't walking dead.

1162

01:02:45,690 --> 01:02:48,700

They were very
animated, very excited.

1163

01:02:48,700 --> 01:02:52,800

They crowded around me and
the GIs with me and so forth.

1164

01:02:52,800 --> 01:02:58,755

And they said to me either
Judisch or Jude, Jude, Judisch?

1165

01:02:58,755 --> 01:03:01,920

I knew they were asking
me, was I Jewish or not?

1166

01:03:01,920 --> 01:03:07,170

So my German was even worse than
my French, meaning nonexistent,

1167

01:03:07,170 --> 01:03:08,580

but I said ja.

1168

01:03:08,580 --> 01:03:09,330

Jewish?

1169

01:03:09,330 --> 01:03:10,260

Jude?

1170

01:03:10,260 --> 01:03:13,440

And they smiled back
and this and that.

1171

01:03:13,440 --> 01:03:19,410

And they looked very
badly, I thought.

1172

01:03:19,410 --> 01:03:23,190

1173

01:03:23,190 --> 01:03:28,020

Just a huge number
of women in these

1174

01:03:28,020 --> 01:03:34,116

garbs all shaven, almost
like animals, you know?

1175

01:03:34,116 --> 01:03:39,210

Had they been freed before
this and simply were still

1176

01:03:39,210 --> 01:03:40,482

there at this place?

1177

01:03:40,482 --> 01:03:42,690

Well, there couldn't have
been much before because we

1178

01:03:42,690 --> 01:03:44,130

were very much in combat.

1179

01:03:44,130 --> 01:03:45,150

We were moving along.

1180

01:03:45,150 --> 01:03:46,030

We were fighting.

1181

01:03:46,030 --> 01:03:49,820

And all of a sudden, we
came across this group.

1182

01:03:49,820 --> 01:03:54,050

So I'm just guessing
that probably it

1183

01:03:54,050 --> 01:03:57,140

would have been in the last
24, 48, 36 hours, something

1184

01:03:57,140 --> 01:03:59,500
like that.

1185

01:03:59,500 --> 01:04:02,470
They didn't appear to
be starved or emaciated

1186

01:04:02,470 --> 01:04:03,280
over a long period?

1187

01:04:03,280 --> 01:04:06,250
Well, they were not well.

1188

01:04:06,250 --> 01:04:09,220
They were emaciated.

1189

01:04:09,220 --> 01:04:12,790
But they weren't lying there.

1190

01:04:12,790 --> 01:04:15,190
They were very excited
about the presence

1191

01:04:15,190 --> 01:04:17,680
of this unit of soldiers.

1192

01:04:17,680 --> 01:04:18,723
They were very animated.

1193

01:04:18,723 --> 01:04:19,390
That's the word.

1194

01:04:19,390 --> 01:04:21,730
They were very animated.

1195

01:04:21,730 --> 01:04:24,040
And they felt us.

1196

01:04:24,040 --> 01:04:30,520
They ran their hands over me,
all over me just like this.

1197
01:04:30,520 --> 01:04:32,590
And we had all kinds
of stuff, you know.

1198
01:04:32,590 --> 01:04:36,430
Cigarettes and
chocolates, and we existed

1199
01:04:36,430 --> 01:04:38,445
on K-rations and C-rations.

1200
01:04:38,445 --> 01:04:39,820
And I was a kind
of a chocoholic,

1201
01:04:39,820 --> 01:04:41,560
so I always that a
lot of chocolate.

1202
01:04:41,560 --> 01:04:44,030
Passed all that out,
and they liked that.

1203
01:04:44,030 --> 01:04:46,030
They would have liked to
have had us stay there.

1204
01:04:46,030 --> 01:04:47,260
No question about it.

1205
01:04:47,260 --> 01:04:49,870
They wanted the companionship
and the friendship.

1206
01:04:49,870 --> 01:04:53,110
And we were not able to do that.

1207
01:04:53,110 --> 01:04:55,840
What were they wearing?

1208
01:04:55,840 --> 01:04:57,400

I have always
remembered them as sort

1209
01:04:57,400 --> 01:05:01,540
of a pajama, striped,
horrible-looking, damned,

1210
01:05:01,540 --> 01:05:05,320
striped thing, the worst.

1211
01:05:05,320 --> 01:05:07,880
The same stripe
we saw in Ohrdruf.

1212
01:05:07,880 --> 01:05:09,530
But with the star this time?

1213
01:05:09,530 --> 01:05:10,540
Yup.

1214
01:05:10,540 --> 01:05:11,350
All had stars.

1215
01:05:11,350 --> 01:05:12,310
They were all Jewish.

1216
01:05:12,310 --> 01:05:14,018
Every last one of
those women was Jewish.

1217
01:05:14,018 --> 01:05:18,370
Of various ages or just
all young, all old?

1218
01:05:18,370 --> 01:05:20,980
They were various.

1219
01:05:20,980 --> 01:05:30,440
The ones that were touching us
were I would have been 21 then.

1220
01:05:30,440 --> 01:05:32,980

And I thought they were
a little older than me,

1221
01:05:32,980 --> 01:05:35,530
so they must have been in their
mid-20s, late 20s or maybe

1222
01:05:35,530 --> 01:05:37,788
early 30s.

1223
01:05:37,788 --> 01:05:40,330
Did you ever have any sense of
what they were all doing there

1224
01:05:40,330 --> 01:05:40,950
in this place?

1225
01:05:40,950 --> 01:05:44,090

1226
01:05:44,090 --> 01:05:45,570
I didn't.

1227
01:05:45,570 --> 01:05:49,460
I figured they were
concentration camp survivors.

1228
01:05:49,460 --> 01:05:52,930

1229
01:05:52,930 --> 01:05:56,350
You saw no stack of bodies or
anything such as you had seen?

1230
01:05:56,350 --> 01:05:58,540
Correct.

1231
01:05:58,540 --> 01:06:00,530
No men?

1232
01:06:00,530 --> 01:06:01,680
No men in the camp?

1233
01:06:01,680 --> 01:06:02,180
No.

1234
01:06:02,180 --> 01:06:03,040
Saw no men.

1235
01:06:03,040 --> 01:06:04,570
All women.

1236
01:06:04,570 --> 01:06:07,140
As far as we could look
or see, they were women.

1237
01:06:07,140 --> 01:06:13,890

1238
01:06:13,890 --> 01:06:15,520
Who seemed to be
caring for them?

1239
01:06:15,520 --> 01:06:20,710

1240
01:06:20,710 --> 01:06:22,180
We were moving.

1241
01:06:22,180 --> 01:06:23,890
Our division was moving.

1242
01:06:23,890 --> 01:06:28,630
And we stopped and
looked at these women

1243
01:06:28,630 --> 01:06:31,420
and talked to these women.

1244
01:06:31,420 --> 01:06:32,950
None of them spoke English.

1245
01:06:32,950 --> 01:06:38,390

I remember now Richard trying
to speak French to them.

1246
01:06:38,390 --> 01:06:41,560
None of them spoke
French, so they either

1247
01:06:41,560 --> 01:06:43,240
spoke German or
Polish or a language

1248
01:06:43,240 --> 01:06:45,220
that I couldn't handle.

1249
01:06:45,220 --> 01:06:48,940
They would have been
most willing to talk,

1250
01:06:48,940 --> 01:06:50,830
but there was no
way to communicate.

1251
01:06:50,830 --> 01:06:53,090
We had no translator with
us, and we had to get out.

1252
01:06:53,090 --> 01:06:54,883
We had to get going.

1253
01:06:54,883 --> 01:06:56,800
So I don't know how they
were being cared for.

1254
01:06:56,800 --> 01:06:59,590

1255
01:06:59,590 --> 01:07:02,180
Would you have understood if
they were speaking Yiddish?

1256
01:07:02,180 --> 01:07:02,680
No.

1257

01:07:02,680 --> 01:07:06,240

1258

01:07:06,240 --> 01:07:09,182

You couldn't identify
what they were speaking?

1259

01:07:09,182 --> 01:07:09,765

Good question.

1260

01:07:09,765 --> 01:07:15,510

1261

01:07:15,510 --> 01:07:18,480

You know you're asking
me to go back 45 years.

1262

01:07:18,480 --> 01:07:21,120

I seem to remember some
Yiddish being spoken.

1263

01:07:21,120 --> 01:07:26,070

1264

01:07:26,070 --> 01:07:30,990

How long did you stay there with
them before you had to move on?

1265

01:07:30,990 --> 01:07:36,040

I'd say about a half an hour, 45
minutes, maybe a little longer.

1266

01:07:36,040 --> 01:07:37,650

It was very, very--

1267

01:07:37,650 --> 01:07:40,970

1268

01:07:40,970 --> 01:07:45,230

it almost like an electric
shock to see the situation.

1269

01:07:45,230 --> 01:07:48,890

We've been used to
seeing combatants.

1270

01:07:48,890 --> 01:07:52,910

The people we saw
in Ohrdruf were men.

1271

01:07:52,910 --> 01:07:54,930

To see these women
in this situation

1272

01:07:54,930 --> 01:07:57,200

was just extraordinary.

1273

01:07:57,200 --> 01:07:58,880

You saw no women at Ohrdruf.

1274

01:07:58,880 --> 01:07:59,630

Not that I recall.

1275

01:07:59,630 --> 01:08:05,590

1276

01:08:05,590 --> 01:08:10,330

And as soon as you
left there, just seeing

1277

01:08:10,330 --> 01:08:15,610

hundreds of women
wearing shaved heads,

1278

01:08:15,610 --> 01:08:18,250

obviously degraded in
a prisoner situation,

1279

01:08:18,250 --> 01:08:21,550

do you recall what your
reaction was to that

1280

01:08:21,550 --> 01:08:24,189

and clearly all wearing

the Jewish star?

1281

01:08:24,189 --> 01:08:26,208

1282

01:08:26,208 --> 01:08:28,500

That the one thing they would
like to have done with us

1283

01:08:28,500 --> 01:08:29,700

is gone with us.

1284

01:08:29,700 --> 01:08:33,600

I felt, gee, they wanted to
get out of there very badly was

1285

01:08:33,600 --> 01:08:35,490

my feeling.

1286

01:08:35,490 --> 01:08:39,210

They felt very badly
was my feeling.

1287

01:08:39,210 --> 01:08:40,930

They were very
excited to see us.

1288

01:08:40,930 --> 01:08:43,649

We absolutely represented
liberation to them

1289

01:08:43,649 --> 01:08:46,200

was my feeling then.

1290

01:08:46,200 --> 01:08:48,045

They would have done anything.

1291

01:08:48,045 --> 01:08:51,270

If we had said, look, would you
shine our shoes or something,

1292

01:08:51,270 --> 01:08:54,960

they would have done
it with great pleasure.

1293
01:08:54,960 --> 01:08:58,180
Just their manner was
saying, you know, welcome,

1294
01:08:58,180 --> 01:08:59,819
we're so excited to see you.

1295
01:08:59,819 --> 01:09:02,069
And here is a Jew,
for god's sakes,

1296
01:09:02,069 --> 01:09:06,149
a live Jew in an
American army uniform.

1297
01:09:06,149 --> 01:09:07,290
They couldn't get over it.

1298
01:09:07,290 --> 01:09:10,300

1299
01:09:10,300 --> 01:09:11,437
How did it make you feel?

1300
01:09:11,437 --> 01:09:17,649

1301
01:09:17,649 --> 01:09:19,569
Well, as you properly
pointed out earlier,

1302
01:09:19,569 --> 01:09:24,250
I was very impressionable
in those days.

1303
01:09:24,250 --> 01:09:27,910
I don't know whether I was able
to put myself in their position

1304

01:09:27,910 --> 01:09:28,859
properly or not.

1305
01:09:28,859 --> 01:09:31,529

1306
01:09:31,529 --> 01:09:35,850
I'm afraid I felt, by god,
I am a tough conqueror.

1307
01:09:35,850 --> 01:09:38,580
Damn lucky to have a guy
like me around, that's

1308
01:09:38,580 --> 01:09:41,550
my guess as to how
I felt. Couldn't

1309
01:09:41,550 --> 01:09:44,250
have been farther off base, but
we had that sort of arrogance,

1310
01:09:44,250 --> 01:09:46,890
I think.

1311
01:09:46,890 --> 01:09:50,279
Do you have any
recollection at all

1312
01:09:50,279 --> 01:09:57,840
whether or not your military
unit took any measures to care

1313
01:09:57,840 --> 01:09:59,430
for those people after you--

1314
01:09:59,430 --> 01:10:02,250
as the combat people
went on through?

1315
01:10:02,250 --> 01:10:06,550

1316

01:10:06,550 --> 01:10:08,830

I don't think we ever did that.

1317

01:10:08,830 --> 01:10:10,810

We never played
that role that I'm

1318

01:10:10,810 --> 01:10:15,040

aware of until after
the war was over.

1319

01:10:15,040 --> 01:10:22,050

During the war, right from
the time we hit France,

1320

01:10:22,050 --> 01:10:24,300

they used to say a good
German is a dead German.

1321

01:10:24,300 --> 01:10:27,930

I mean, that was just
repeated all the time.

1322

01:10:27,930 --> 01:10:33,210

And all we did was
try and kill Germans.

1323

01:10:33,210 --> 01:10:38,370

I got the Silver Star for
killing Germans, literally.

1324

01:10:38,370 --> 01:10:44,040

And that was the only
lingua franca in my outfit.

1325

01:10:44,040 --> 01:10:46,500

And, in fact, when I came
home from the war, the people

1326

01:10:46,500 --> 01:10:48,667

that I used to know and my
parents and all were just

1327

01:10:48,667 --> 01:10:51,080

horrified at my
attitude, which is,

1328

01:10:51,080 --> 01:10:52,830

I suppose very much
like some of the folks

1329

01:10:52,830 --> 01:10:55,920

we got out of Vietnam who
have not ever gotten over it.

1330

01:10:55,920 --> 01:11:00,090

In other words, you shoot first
and ask questions afterwards.

1331

01:11:00,090 --> 01:11:03,480

That was another one we
used to hear all the time.

1332

01:11:03,480 --> 01:11:05,210

I had a Luger.

1333

01:11:05,210 --> 01:11:09,950

I had a P38, rather,
and a carbine.

1334

01:11:09,950 --> 01:11:14,220

Carbine assigned to me and a
P38 picked up as contraband.

1335

01:11:14,220 --> 01:11:18,060

And, like everyone else,
I killed a lot of Germans.

1336

01:11:18,060 --> 01:11:20,730

1337

01:11:20,730 --> 01:11:23,160

Actually saw them--

1338

01:11:23,160 --> 01:11:26,130

I remember the
Germans [LOUD GROAN]

1339
01:11:26,130 --> 01:11:30,030
when the bullet hit, so
that was our thought.

1340
01:11:30,030 --> 01:11:33,600
That was the whole
raison d'etre.

1341
01:11:33,600 --> 01:11:35,190
We were very fast.

1342
01:11:35,190 --> 01:11:37,590
The division moved very
fast in those days.

1343
01:11:37,590 --> 01:11:40,890

1344
01:11:40,890 --> 01:11:43,920
We had nicknames of "lightning"
this and "hell on wheels"

1345
01:11:43,920 --> 01:11:46,710
before, but it was
always move fast.

1346
01:11:46,710 --> 01:11:50,190
Abrams was considered the
greatest tank commander

1347
01:11:50,190 --> 01:11:53,130
the army produced
in World War II,

1348
01:11:53,130 --> 01:11:56,520
and he was always moving fast.

1349
01:11:56,520 --> 01:11:58,860
And he would train his
men to shoot immediately.

1350
01:11:58,860 --> 01:12:00,210
See anything, shoot.

1351
01:12:00,210 --> 01:12:03,425
He used to say--

1352
01:12:03,425 --> 01:12:04,800
the gist of what
he would say is,

1353
01:12:04,800 --> 01:12:06,675
you're not going to kill
anybody if you don't

1354
01:12:06,675 --> 01:12:08,630
fire the gun, so to speak.

1355
01:12:08,630 --> 01:12:17,270
And so other than getting
in written instructions

1356
01:12:17,270 --> 01:12:22,700
about not disturbing
the civilian populace

1357
01:12:22,700 --> 01:12:26,030
or not fiddling
around with the women

1358
01:12:26,030 --> 01:12:29,210
or trying to avoid alcoholism,
which we would occasionally

1359
01:12:29,210 --> 01:12:32,870
get written instruction,
and as the adjutant,

1360
01:12:32,870 --> 01:12:36,420
I had to make sure those
got out to everybody.

1361

01:12:36,420 --> 01:12:41,720
The entire philosophy
was very combative,

1362
01:12:41,720 --> 01:12:45,890
so that the thought would
never have entered our mind,

1363
01:12:45,890 --> 01:12:46,655
I don't think.

1364
01:12:46,655 --> 01:12:49,230

1365
01:12:49,230 --> 01:12:57,864
Only time I ever saw any
sense of humanity ever

1366
01:12:57,864 --> 01:13:06,470
in that Fourth Armored
Division was in Brittany.

1367
01:13:06,470 --> 01:13:10,760
We saw some Germans
approaching an intersection,

1368
01:13:10,760 --> 01:13:15,920
and we fired at them
and killed them.

1369
01:13:15,920 --> 01:13:17,090
I think about eight or nine.

1370
01:13:17,090 --> 01:13:18,882
I was part of the group
that fired at them.

1371
01:13:18,882 --> 01:13:19,700
They didn't see us.

1372
01:13:19,700 --> 01:13:21,200
They were walking
down the street,

1373
01:13:21,200 --> 01:13:23,580
and we just gunned them down.

1374
01:13:23,580 --> 01:13:26,000
They were about two
blocks away from us.

1375
01:13:26,000 --> 01:13:29,300
No one gave a damn.

1376
01:13:29,300 --> 01:13:34,460
The Germans apparently
had a cart and a horse.

1377
01:13:34,460 --> 01:13:37,700
And the cart and
horse spooked at this,

1378
01:13:37,700 --> 01:13:43,940
and the horse came racing
down the road, a macadam road,

1379
01:13:43,940 --> 01:13:44,960
and got pretty close.

1380
01:13:44,960 --> 01:13:49,490
And one of our guys opened up
like a damn fool with a machine

1381
01:13:49,490 --> 01:13:51,770
gun and machine-gunned
the horse.

1382
01:13:51,770 --> 01:13:54,920
And the horse was laying
there dying in the street.

1383
01:13:54,920 --> 01:13:58,100
And our battalion
commander, Colonel Graham,

1384

01:13:58,100 --> 01:14:02,000
came up, saw this, went out,
shot the horse in the head.

1385
01:14:02,000 --> 01:14:04,700
And then he came
over, and he dressed

1386
01:14:04,700 --> 01:14:10,880
that sergeant whose name was
[? Plaz, ?] dressed him down,

1387
01:14:10,880 --> 01:14:13,850
said, I ought to bust you, I
ought to court martial you.

1388
01:14:13,850 --> 01:14:19,070
You're just a bloody, ruthless,
goddamn killer sort of stuff.

1389
01:14:19,070 --> 01:14:22,670
As far as the Germans were
concerned, that was just--

1390
01:14:22,670 --> 01:14:24,410
that's what we got paid for.

1391
01:14:24,410 --> 01:14:26,390
But the horse was different.

1392
01:14:26,390 --> 01:14:30,180
Now that was the attitude.

1393
01:14:30,180 --> 01:14:37,110
As a young man, a young
Jew from San Francisco

1394
01:14:37,110 --> 01:14:42,690
who wanted to be in
combat specifically,

1395
01:14:42,690 --> 01:14:44,640
were you ever

inclined to, after you

1396
01:14:44,640 --> 01:14:50,070
had seen Ohrdruf and
those women, to want to--

1397
01:14:50,070 --> 01:14:52,740
what was your feeling
for the German population

1398
01:14:52,740 --> 01:14:54,240
that you came in contact with?

1399
01:14:54,240 --> 01:14:58,890
I didn't like them at all.

1400
01:14:58,890 --> 01:15:02,190
And I remember having
a difficult time

1401
01:15:02,190 --> 01:15:05,610
with a couple of German nurses.

1402
01:15:05,610 --> 01:15:09,450
We uncovered some
sort of institution,

1403
01:15:09,450 --> 01:15:15,120
and there were nurses in
army uniform, army nurses.

1404
01:15:15,120 --> 01:15:17,730
And we wanted to get a key, and
they wouldn't give us a key.

1405
01:15:17,730 --> 01:15:19,820
And I remember cursing
them and saying,

1406
01:15:19,820 --> 01:15:23,160
look, Fraulein, I want
the goddamn key fast.

1407

01:15:23,160 --> 01:15:25,530

And I don't know if I said
it in French or English.

1408

01:15:25,530 --> 01:15:27,822

And she understood and she
was very angry at my talking

1409

01:15:27,822 --> 01:15:30,760

to her in that fashion.

1410

01:15:30,760 --> 01:15:35,920

And I didn't like them
at all, hated them.

1411

01:15:35,920 --> 01:15:45,490

And in 1966 or '67, that's
20-some years after,

1412

01:15:45,490 --> 01:15:48,220

I was invited by the
German government

1413

01:15:48,220 --> 01:15:52,360

to make an official visit
to Germany at their expense.

1414

01:15:52,360 --> 01:15:55,930

And I thought about
it for a long time.

1415

01:15:55,930 --> 01:15:57,790

I turned them down.

1416

01:15:57,790 --> 01:16:03,190

And then the invitation
was reissued, and I went.

1417

01:16:03,190 --> 01:16:09,070

And I mostly met Social
Democrats, but the ones I met

1418

01:16:09,070 --> 01:16:11,570
were very nice and some
of the younger people,

1419
01:16:11,570 --> 01:16:14,710
including my guides, didn't
have no idea what was going on.

1420
01:16:14,710 --> 01:16:17,690
Never heard of an
Einsatzgruppen and so forth.

1421
01:16:17,690 --> 01:16:21,580
So I found that there were a
lot of very nice Germans indeed.

1422
01:16:21,580 --> 01:16:23,770
And it took that
trip going back there

1423
01:16:23,770 --> 01:16:25,900
to get me to change my mind.

1424
01:16:25,900 --> 01:16:33,100
Were you ever tempted to do unto
those Germans as you had seen

1425
01:16:33,100 --> 01:16:35,830
they had done unto the people?

1426
01:16:35,830 --> 01:16:37,405
I certainly would have.

1427
01:16:37,405 --> 01:16:41,500
I wouldn't have
hesitated to have--

1428
01:16:41,500 --> 01:16:43,810
we killed a lot of Germans.

1429
01:16:43,810 --> 01:16:46,810
We never, that I can recall,
killed German civilians.

1430
01:16:46,810 --> 01:16:50,160

1431
01:16:50,160 --> 01:16:56,730
And we took up occupation
in Germany and, again,

1432
01:16:56,730 --> 01:16:58,200
as the adjutant
of the battalion,

1433
01:16:58,200 --> 01:17:00,158
I had to deal with the
inhabitants of the town.

1434
01:17:00,158 --> 01:17:05,260
It was a very small town, and
it was on an arm's length basis.

1435
01:17:05,260 --> 01:17:07,560
I was very leery of them.

1436
01:17:07,560 --> 01:17:12,100
I avoided ever having a German
girlfriend, didn't want that.

1437
01:17:12,100 --> 01:17:13,290
What town was it?

1438
01:17:13,290 --> 01:17:19,315
Riedenburg, which was south
of Regensburg in Bavaria.

1439
01:17:19,315 --> 01:17:20,940
And we were in
Riedenburg because there

1440
01:17:20,940 --> 01:17:22,440
was a castle there,
and that's where

1441

01:17:22,440 --> 01:17:23,778
we put the German generals.

1442
01:17:23,778 --> 01:17:24,570
We imprisoned them.

1443
01:17:24,570 --> 01:17:28,090

1444
01:17:28,090 --> 01:17:34,800
But no, I was certainly very
anti-German for at least

1445
01:17:34,800 --> 01:17:37,500
20-some odd years after the war.

1446
01:17:37,500 --> 01:17:43,050
As an artilleryman, you must
have realized you probably

1447
01:17:43,050 --> 01:17:46,340
killed some civilians.

1448
01:17:46,340 --> 01:17:47,840
Yes.

1449
01:17:47,840 --> 01:17:50,390
The artillery is a very
hit-and-miss proposition.

1450
01:17:50,390 --> 01:17:52,850
As I say, we shot up
some of our own guys

1451
01:17:52,850 --> 01:17:55,910
who were in that
hospital in Luxembourg.

1452
01:17:55,910 --> 01:18:01,640
So we weren't very technically
correct all the time,

1453

01:18:01,640 --> 01:18:03,890
and I'm sure we hit civilians.

1454
01:18:03,890 --> 01:18:07,790
That aspect of it didn't
trouble you necessarily?

1455
01:18:07,790 --> 01:18:10,100
No.

1456
01:18:10,100 --> 01:18:12,050
Either correctly
or incorrectly, I

1457
01:18:12,050 --> 01:18:14,390
felt the whole activity
was very constructive

1458
01:18:14,390 --> 01:18:16,430
and the right thing
to do, that Germany

1459
01:18:16,430 --> 01:18:22,260
was just a miserable, horrible
entity and had to be stopped.

1460
01:18:22,260 --> 01:18:26,420
I felt that strongly
right from the word go.

1461
01:18:26,420 --> 01:18:33,080
As you were in Germany in
an occupational capacity,

1462
01:18:33,080 --> 01:18:36,560
did you come to have knowledge
more and more knowledge,

1463
01:18:36,560 --> 01:18:42,950
as the camps were discovered
and the atrocities unveiled

1464
01:18:42,950 --> 01:18:45,470

by other forces elsewhere?

1465

01:18:45,470 --> 01:18:47,660

Did you come to
have more knowledge

1466

01:18:47,660 --> 01:18:51,560

of what had happened in Germany
to Jews and to other persons?

1467

01:18:51,560 --> 01:18:55,610

1468

01:18:55,610 --> 01:18:59,490

The army used a point system
on rotating out of the service.

1469

01:18:59,490 --> 01:19:02,990

And because I had the Silver
and Bronze Star and had been

1470

01:19:02,990 --> 01:19:07,730

in five combats with each
one of the battle star--

1471

01:19:07,730 --> 01:19:10,010

you know that was how
they added up the points--

1472

01:19:10,010 --> 01:19:12,170

I had enough points to get out.

1473

01:19:12,170 --> 01:19:15,060

And for me, I think I made
a great career mistake.

1474

01:19:15,060 --> 01:19:17,060

I should have stayed,
gone to school over there,

1475

01:19:17,060 --> 01:19:20,180

and seen more.

1476

01:19:20,180 --> 01:19:22,730

But for some reason, I
was anxious to come home.

1477

01:19:22,730 --> 01:19:24,650

I was very disappointed
once I got home,

1478

01:19:24,650 --> 01:19:26,720

so I realized it was an error.

1479

01:19:26,720 --> 01:19:29,600

The long and the short of it is
I was only on occupation duty

1480

01:19:29,600 --> 01:19:31,340

for, I'd say, three
or four months before

1481

01:19:31,340 --> 01:19:35,240

I was one of the
early rotated out.

1482

01:19:35,240 --> 01:19:38,420

And, no, I didn't get
any sense of those camps

1483

01:19:38,420 --> 01:19:42,205

nor were we told about them
while I was over there.

1484

01:19:42,205 --> 01:19:43,580

The only thing I
learned was what

1485

01:19:43,580 --> 01:19:48,560

those German generals
were like and what

1486

01:19:48,560 --> 01:19:52,380

the townspeople were like.

1487

01:19:52,380 --> 01:19:53,970
And I didn't like
the townspeople.

1488
01:19:53,970 --> 01:19:59,910
We were in a gasthaus I think
it's called, sort of a bar

1489
01:19:59,910 --> 01:20:02,010
and lodge.

1490
01:20:02,010 --> 01:20:04,500
And that's where the
headquarters was.

1491
01:20:04,500 --> 01:20:09,180
And the owner of the
gasthaus we took it over--

1492
01:20:09,180 --> 01:20:12,510
and the owner didn't like us,
didn't like us being there,

1493
01:20:12,510 --> 01:20:15,480
was not a pleasant man.

1494
01:20:15,480 --> 01:20:21,180
And the townspeople looked at
us very askance and we at them.

1495
01:20:21,180 --> 01:20:26,020

1496
01:20:26,020 --> 01:20:30,100
By the time the war was over
and we were on occupation duty,

1497
01:20:30,100 --> 01:20:34,210
we didn't like the Germans,
none of the people,

1498
01:20:34,210 --> 01:20:38,050
except that sexual relationships

were formed by many

1499

01:20:38,050 --> 01:20:41,950
of both the officers and GIs.

1500

01:20:41,950 --> 01:20:45,520
I was leery of any sort of
relationship with a German.

1501

01:20:45,520 --> 01:20:48,830

1502

01:20:48,830 --> 01:20:49,730
And then I came home.

1503

01:20:49,730 --> 01:20:53,600

1504

01:20:53,600 --> 01:21:02,210
And you had a 20-year period
in which you were certainly

1505

01:21:02,210 --> 01:21:05,270
not pro-German, I gather.

1506

01:21:05,270 --> 01:21:11,210
And how has it affected how
you view events in Germany now?

1507

01:21:11,210 --> 01:21:13,010
Do you have any
fears about a united

1508

01:21:13,010 --> 01:21:16,430
Germany, which is a fact now?

1509

01:21:16,430 --> 01:21:25,280
Well, in those 20 years,
from about '58 to well,

1510

01:21:25,280 --> 01:21:30,020
for many years thereafter, I

did a weekly television show

1511

01:21:30,020 --> 01:21:34,670
on the public system that
examined what was going on

1512

01:21:34,670 --> 01:21:37,880
in the world and in Germany.

1513

01:21:37,880 --> 01:21:40,040
So I was up to
date, and I remember

1514

01:21:40,040 --> 01:21:41,990
asking always our
German correspondent

1515

01:21:41,990 --> 01:21:43,460
antagonistic questions.

1516

01:21:43,460 --> 01:21:47,280
What are the former SS
up to now sort of stuff.

1517

01:21:47,280 --> 01:21:52,520
It wasn't until I went over
there and spent a month

1518

01:21:52,520 --> 01:21:59,600
in Germany that I came away
very impressed with the fact

1519

01:21:59,600 --> 01:22:03,200
that there were some
damn nice Germans.

1520

01:22:03,200 --> 01:22:05,120
I often wondered where
they were and what

1521

01:22:05,120 --> 01:22:08,810
they were doing from 1933 on.

1522

01:22:08,810 --> 01:22:13,160

Some of them too young,
but many of them not.

1523

01:22:13,160 --> 01:22:14,900

Most of them the
Social Democrats

1524

01:22:14,900 --> 01:22:18,200

from the Willy Brandt stripe.

1525

01:22:18,200 --> 01:22:20,640

And they were very direct,
very straightforward,

1526

01:22:20,640 --> 01:22:22,550

and, I thought,
very first class.

1527

01:22:22,550 --> 01:22:23,720

And I saw a lot of them.

1528

01:22:23,720 --> 01:22:25,220

As a guest of the
German government,

1529

01:22:25,220 --> 01:22:27,110

you could literally
see anyone you want.

1530

01:22:27,110 --> 01:22:30,380

1531

01:22:30,380 --> 01:22:34,282

So I did a did a big
about-face about generalizing

1532

01:22:34,282 --> 01:22:34,865

about Germany.

1533

01:22:34,865 --> 01:22:37,460

1534
01:22:37,460 --> 01:22:41,000
And I was in East
Berlin recently.

1535
01:22:41,000 --> 01:22:44,020

1536
01:22:44,020 --> 01:22:48,690
And the Germans I saw in Berlin
and East Berlin some nice,

1537
01:22:48,690 --> 01:22:52,940
some not so good.

1538
01:22:52,940 --> 01:22:59,110
I think it's an inevitable
move, this reunification.

1539
01:22:59,110 --> 01:23:01,952
And considering the shambles
of the Communist countries,

1540
01:23:01,952 --> 01:23:03,910
at least East Germany is
going to be pulled out

1541
01:23:03,910 --> 01:23:08,690
from that mess, which
I think is a big plus.

1542
01:23:08,690 --> 01:23:15,790
And I also feel that the Germans
have been very, very correct

1543
01:23:15,790 --> 01:23:21,310
over the last 40 years in their,
at least, reparations policy

1544
01:23:21,310 --> 01:23:26,170
to the Jewish families that
could establish identity there.

1545

01:23:26,170 --> 01:23:27,370

You mean the West Germans?

1546

01:23:27,370 --> 01:23:29,890

The West Germans, yes.

1547

01:23:29,890 --> 01:23:33,340

And I think von Weizsacker,
the president of Germany,

1548

01:23:33,340 --> 01:23:36,340

is just wonderful.

1549

01:23:36,340 --> 01:23:41,040

Having said all that, like
everyone else who fought them,

1550

01:23:41,040 --> 01:23:43,000

I have concerns
that they're going

1551

01:23:43,000 --> 01:23:47,290

to get too big and too
powerful and eventually may

1552

01:23:47,290 --> 01:23:50,200

decide to flex their muscles.

1553

01:23:50,200 --> 01:23:54,220

But no sense
worrying about that.

1554

01:23:54,220 --> 01:23:57,100

Are your concerns
because you're a person

1555

01:23:57,100 --> 01:24:01,390

of international interests or
partly because you're a Jew?

1556

01:24:01,390 --> 01:24:04,160

1557

01:24:04,160 --> 01:24:09,740

Well, I have lots of concerns
these days about antisemitism,

1558

01:24:09,740 --> 01:24:12,530

and it always seems to
follow economic decline,

1559

01:24:12,530 --> 01:24:16,490

and the economic decline
in the Communist countries

1560

01:24:16,490 --> 01:24:20,880

is going much faster than
anyone thought it would.

1561

01:24:20,880 --> 01:24:23,120

And the economic decline
in the United States

1562

01:24:23,120 --> 01:24:27,590

is starting, in my view.

1563

01:24:27,590 --> 01:24:30,110

And I'm concerned
about antisemitism,

1564

01:24:30,110 --> 01:24:33,080

and my guess is it's wholly
subjective because I'm Jewish,

1565

01:24:33,080 --> 01:24:35,450

my family is Jewish, and I
know that they're at risk.

1566

01:24:35,450 --> 01:24:38,030

1567

01:24:38,030 --> 01:24:41,660

Strangely enough, I don't
put Germany in that category.

1568

01:24:41,660 --> 01:24:45,830

That is, they have
antisemites there,

1569

01:24:45,830 --> 01:24:50,180

and they have a strong,
not-too-big but strong

1570

01:24:50,180 --> 01:24:53,790

right-wing party over there.

1571

01:24:53,790 --> 01:24:57,500

But I think they
have so many devices

1572

01:24:57,500 --> 01:24:59,750

to stamp out
antisemitism as part

1573

01:24:59,750 --> 01:25:02,960

of their official
government structure

1574

01:25:02,960 --> 01:25:07,860

that they'll do it whereas
in the Russian government,

1575

01:25:07,860 --> 01:25:09,620

they don't have the devices.

1576

01:25:09,620 --> 01:25:12,530

And in Pamyat and elsewhere,
there's no way to stamp it out,

1577

01:25:12,530 --> 01:25:18,140

and it's growing like weeds
over there, very fast.

1578

01:25:18,140 --> 01:25:21,620

But I think insofar as
government-supported or

1579

01:25:21,620 --> 01:25:24,980
government-tolerated
antisemitism is concerned,

1580
01:25:24,980 --> 01:25:28,370
Germany may turn out to
be a bastion of strength

1581
01:25:28,370 --> 01:25:30,260
even though my guess
is there's plenty

1582
01:25:30,260 --> 01:25:34,470
of antisemitism in East Germany
that's going to come out.

1583
01:25:34,470 --> 01:25:36,380
But I have nothing to go on.

1584
01:25:36,380 --> 01:25:38,220
I'm not a scholar in this area.

1585
01:25:38,220 --> 01:25:43,370
Where were you and when was
it that the full enormity

1586
01:25:43,370 --> 01:25:49,550
of Auschwitz and Mauthausen
and the full enormity of what

1587
01:25:49,550 --> 01:25:55,460
had occurred to basically
the Jews in Poland and Europe

1588
01:25:55,460 --> 01:25:56,780
was brought home to you?

1589
01:25:56,780 --> 01:25:58,130
When did you finally realize?

1590
01:25:58,130 --> 01:25:59,720
Do you recall?

1591

01:25:59,720 --> 01:26:01,910

I was back in the United States.

1592

01:26:01,910 --> 01:26:05,600

And I think the two
bits of information

1593

01:26:05,600 --> 01:26:11,470

that I came across,
quite separate.

1594

01:26:11,470 --> 01:26:15,640

One was the history
of the Einsatzgruppen,

1595

01:26:15,640 --> 01:26:19,180

and I had not been
aware of them at all.

1596

01:26:19,180 --> 01:26:24,780

And that was so particularly
bad and outrageous.

1597

01:26:24,780 --> 01:26:28,350

And it was such a strong
part of Wannsee decision.

1598

01:26:28,350 --> 01:26:31,020

1599

01:26:31,020 --> 01:26:35,005

And that came out, you know,
when I think about '46 or '47,

1600

01:26:35,005 --> 01:26:35,880

and I picked that up.

1601

01:26:35,880 --> 01:26:38,070

And I went, in those
days in San Francisco,

1602

01:26:38,070 --> 01:26:43,620

with a very intellectual group,
including several refugees

1603
01:26:43,620 --> 01:26:47,130
from Germany and Vienna
who were at Berkeley,

1604
01:26:47,130 --> 01:26:51,100
and we were all
very close friends.

1605
01:26:51,100 --> 01:26:53,220
So we would pick anything
like that up very fast

1606
01:26:53,220 --> 01:26:55,150
and talk about it.

1607
01:26:55,150 --> 01:27:00,540
And then the other,
which came later,

1608
01:27:00,540 --> 01:27:04,350
was the fact that pleas had been
made to our State Department

1609
01:27:04,350 --> 01:27:06,150
to step in, and to
Roosevelt himself

1610
01:27:06,150 --> 01:27:08,550
said that those pleas
had been ignored.

1611
01:27:08,550 --> 01:27:14,180
And that really has
bothered me and scared me.

1612
01:27:14,180 --> 01:27:18,508
I figure that can happen
again and probably will.

1613
01:27:18,508 --> 01:27:22,270

Do you have a sense of why
Roosevelt may or may not

1614
01:27:22,270 --> 01:27:27,550
have been able to move or chose
not to move during the war

1615
01:27:27,550 --> 01:27:30,800
years themselves?

1616
01:27:30,800 --> 01:27:34,700
I think probably the same sort
of a syndrome of why wasn't I

1617
01:27:34,700 --> 01:27:36,710
and my colleagues more
concerned about who was

1618
01:27:36,710 --> 01:27:39,000
going to care for those women.

1619
01:27:39,000 --> 01:27:40,760
In other words, we
felt we had a task,

1620
01:27:40,760 --> 01:27:43,730
and the task didn't
embody that so

1621
01:27:43,730 --> 01:27:48,470
let someone else who's got that
responsibility worry about it.

1622
01:27:48,470 --> 01:27:54,710
I think Roosevelt was
one of these people who,

1623
01:27:54,710 --> 01:27:57,470
in order to get something
done, didn't scattershot.

1624
01:27:57,470 --> 01:27:59,330
He had a couple of

major goals, and he

1625
01:27:59,330 --> 01:28:01,430
stayed with those
instead of having a lot.

1626
01:28:01,430 --> 01:28:03,140
I don't think being
a humanitarian

1627
01:28:03,140 --> 01:28:05,930
was particularly
a Roosevelt goal.

1628
01:28:05,930 --> 01:28:12,080
His goal was to whip the
Germans and the Japanese

1629
01:28:12,080 --> 01:28:16,440
and not to allow anything
to get in the way of that.

1630
01:28:16,440 --> 01:28:21,620
And it must have
appeared diversionary

1631
01:28:21,620 --> 01:28:27,140
of effort or time or
money or whatever,

1632
01:28:27,140 --> 01:28:31,460
and he did the wrong thing.

1633
01:28:31,460 --> 01:28:34,820
There's a, as you well
know, an ongoing controversy

1634
01:28:34,820 --> 01:28:37,640
about how much our
government knew

1635
01:28:37,640 --> 01:28:40,040
of what was happening

in Germany, particularly

1636

01:28:40,040 --> 01:28:42,200
with respect to the camps.

1637

01:28:42,200 --> 01:28:45,950
What's your view
of how much we knew

1638

01:28:45,950 --> 01:28:51,320
about places like
Buchenwald and Bergen-Belsen

1639

01:28:51,320 --> 01:28:55,400
and Dachau and even
Auschwitz and essentially

1640

01:28:55,400 --> 01:28:58,220
the Russian sector of the world.

1641

01:28:58,220 --> 01:29:00,950
How much did we know?

1642

01:29:00,950 --> 01:29:02,940
I'm afraid I can't
answer that question.

1643

01:29:02,940 --> 01:29:04,340
I was very simplistic.

1644

01:29:04,340 --> 01:29:08,720
I always figured that Roosevelt
had a damn good Jew in Henry

1645

01:29:08,720 --> 01:29:12,590
Morgenthau out there and that
Morgenthau was his neighbor

1646

01:29:12,590 --> 01:29:15,320
and buddy and that
he trusted him.

1647

01:29:15,320 --> 01:29:17,600
And I always felt and, I
think probably correctly,

1648
01:29:17,600 --> 01:29:23,600
that Morgenthau was nobody's
fool and would have spoken up.

1649
01:29:23,600 --> 01:29:25,910
He was not about
to hide something.

1650
01:29:25,910 --> 01:29:27,710
And I still don't
quite understand

1651
01:29:27,710 --> 01:29:30,020
how this whole business
got by Morgenthau.

1652
01:29:30,020 --> 01:29:33,040

1653
01:29:33,040 --> 01:29:35,860
But as to how much we knew,
we must have known plenty.

1654
01:29:35,860 --> 01:29:38,890
I mean, hell, we had agents all
over there and intelligence,

1655
01:29:38,890 --> 01:29:45,790
and I just don't think
anyone gave a damn.

1656
01:29:45,790 --> 01:29:47,410
Refugees coming
over here were kind

1657
01:29:47,410 --> 01:29:50,170
of a pain in the
neck to the people.

1658

01:29:50,170 --> 01:29:52,600
And the refugees that
came to the United States

1659
01:29:52,600 --> 01:29:55,420
in the early days
were very Germanic.

1660
01:29:55,420 --> 01:29:58,780
They were more Germanic
than Jewish, as I recall.

1661
01:29:58,780 --> 01:30:03,700
And so we kind of doused
them with the same feeling

1662
01:30:03,700 --> 01:30:08,830
of distaste as we
would for Germans who

1663
01:30:08,830 --> 01:30:12,160
were very Germanic, stiff
and a little bit haughty.

1664
01:30:12,160 --> 01:30:15,250

1665
01:30:15,250 --> 01:30:18,370
Refugees, somehow or another,
were not at all the priority

1666
01:30:18,370 --> 01:30:22,180
then any more than the
Vietnamese refugees are

1667
01:30:22,180 --> 01:30:23,900
a priority in Hong
Kong, you know.

1668
01:30:23,900 --> 01:30:26,020
We weren't quite
that bad like that,

1669

01:30:26,020 --> 01:30:28,670
but something like
that a little bit.

1670
01:30:28,670 --> 01:30:30,640
Do you recall
having any animosity

1671
01:30:30,640 --> 01:30:34,180
or recall any of
the Jewish community

1672
01:30:34,180 --> 01:30:38,080
in San Francisco having
animosity about the fact

1673
01:30:38,080 --> 01:30:40,030
that we didn't
take more refugees?

1674
01:30:40,030 --> 01:30:41,800
That is, I think in
those days, we even

1675
01:30:41,800 --> 01:30:47,320
had a quota system
which precluded us

1676
01:30:47,320 --> 01:30:51,880
from taking German Jewish
refugees from Germany.

1677
01:30:51,880 --> 01:30:53,350
Or in San Francisco, I think.

1678
01:30:53,350 --> 01:30:55,438
During the prewar days.

1679
01:30:55,438 --> 01:30:56,980
I don't know about
the Jewish leaders

1680
01:30:56,980 --> 01:30:59,560

because I was too young to
be doing business with them.

1681
01:30:59,560 --> 01:31:03,160
But there was a real feeling
of fear in the Jewish community

1682
01:31:03,160 --> 01:31:04,300
in San Francisco prewar.

1683
01:31:04,300 --> 01:31:07,450

1684
01:31:07,450 --> 01:31:11,320
I think assimilation
was not very good.

1685
01:31:11,320 --> 01:31:16,210
Even the most aristocratic
of the Jewish families here,

1686
01:31:16,210 --> 01:31:20,202
I think assimilated rather badly
in those days with Gentiles.

1687
01:31:20,202 --> 01:31:21,910
I mean, they gave
money to this and that,

1688
01:31:21,910 --> 01:31:24,700
but they weren't in their clubs
as they are now, for example.

1689
01:31:24,700 --> 01:31:27,280

1690
01:31:27,280 --> 01:31:31,330
Antisemitism was very popular.

1691
01:31:31,330 --> 01:31:35,020
Hitler's adjutant from World War
II was the consul general here,

1692

01:31:35,020 --> 01:31:38,320
was a member of the Burlingame
Country Club, et cetera.

1693

01:31:38,320 --> 01:31:40,330
Either Fritz Weidemann
or von Killinger, or, I

1694

01:31:40,330 --> 01:31:43,780
forget which one of
those two fellows.

1695

01:31:43,780 --> 01:31:46,990
And some of these
refugees began to arrive,

1696

01:31:46,990 --> 01:31:52,600
and I think it scared a lot
of the San Francisco Jewry.

1697

01:31:52,600 --> 01:31:55,930
They had an unpleasant,
often had, not all of them

1698

01:31:55,930 --> 01:31:59,020
by a long shot, but some of
them had a rather unpleasant

1699

01:31:59,020 --> 01:32:02,350
Germanic manner, so
it was felt. And I

1700

01:32:02,350 --> 01:32:04,420
think a lot of the
San Francisco Jews

1701

01:32:04,420 --> 01:32:07,570
felt it was going to
cause more antisemitism,

1702

01:32:07,570 --> 01:32:10,328
that they were more at risk.

1703

01:32:10,328 --> 01:32:12,370

So I don't think they were
particularly worrying,

1704

01:32:12,370 --> 01:32:13,180

are we getting enough out?

1705

01:32:13,180 --> 01:32:14,680

Now that some of
them were for sure,

1706

01:32:14,680 --> 01:32:20,110

but I wasn't aware that was
in the policy positions.

1707

01:32:20,110 --> 01:32:23,740

When you came back, pick
up the narrative of what

1708

01:32:23,740 --> 01:32:26,380

happened to you when you
came back to San Francisco,

1709

01:32:26,380 --> 01:32:27,070

I gather.

1710

01:32:27,070 --> 01:32:29,020

And you've been in public life.

1711

01:32:29,020 --> 01:32:33,070

Why don't you trace that for us?

1712

01:32:33,070 --> 01:32:34,540

Well, when I came
back, I got hit

1713

01:32:34,540 --> 01:32:36,980

by this problem of
who'd been in combat

1714

01:32:36,980 --> 01:32:39,640

and who hadn't emotionally.

1715
01:32:39,640 --> 01:32:43,150
And I felt drawn to those
who'd shared the experience,

1716
01:32:43,150 --> 01:32:45,610
didn't want anything to
do with those who hadn't.

1717
01:32:45,610 --> 01:32:49,090
Most of those I knew, strangely
enough, had not been in combat.

1718
01:32:49,090 --> 01:32:51,040
How they missed
it, I don't know,

1719
01:32:51,040 --> 01:32:53,530
but it caused a
big problem for me.

1720
01:32:53,530 --> 01:33:01,200

1721
01:33:01,200 --> 01:33:05,310
And I found myself drawn to,
although I went into business,

1722
01:33:05,310 --> 01:33:11,580
I found myself drawn to a
rather broad group of refugees

1723
01:33:11,580 --> 01:33:13,830
associated with
the universities.

1724
01:33:13,830 --> 01:33:16,380

1725
01:33:16,380 --> 01:33:23,220
One was a professor of
economics from UC Berkeley who

1726

01:33:23,220 --> 01:33:26,100

was a Viennese whom I
always thought was Jewish

1727

01:33:26,100 --> 01:33:30,030

and learned when he died that he
was not, a fellow named Breyer.

1728

01:33:30,030 --> 01:33:35,280

And another who was a
professor of German History

1729

01:33:35,280 --> 01:33:38,220

named [? Zummerfeld, ?]
also not Jewish,

1730

01:33:38,220 --> 01:33:42,810

I don't think, but very
liberal, wonderful types

1731

01:33:42,810 --> 01:33:47,580

who knew absolutely
what was going on.

1732

01:33:47,580 --> 01:33:50,940

So I began to read The Economist
and the right periodicals

1733

01:33:50,940 --> 01:33:52,420

to find out what was going on.

1734

01:33:52,420 --> 01:33:56,790

And I found myself in a
fairly interesting group

1735

01:33:56,790 --> 01:33:59,490

of intellectuals, mostly
Jewish, here in San Francisco

1736

01:33:59,490 --> 01:34:02,310

after the war.

1737

01:34:02,310 --> 01:34:08,030
But as America had been so
distant from the war physically

1738
01:34:08,030 --> 01:34:11,460
and my parents' generation
having no idea about it,

1739
01:34:11,460 --> 01:34:13,700
many others, no idea.

1740
01:34:13,700 --> 01:34:16,620

1741
01:34:16,620 --> 01:34:21,080
I felt very alone
at times and would

1742
01:34:21,080 --> 01:34:23,660
welcome when some member of
the Fourth Armored Division

1743
01:34:23,660 --> 01:34:24,950
would come to town.

1744
01:34:24,950 --> 01:34:28,190
And many of my Fourth
Armored Division friends

1745
01:34:28,190 --> 01:34:29,690
apparently had the
same experience

1746
01:34:29,690 --> 01:34:31,370
when they returned home.

1747
01:34:31,370 --> 01:34:34,520
And then I at least had
a lot of opportunities.

1748
01:34:34,520 --> 01:34:36,830
My family had some dough,
and I could pretty well

1749
01:34:36,830 --> 01:34:39,227
take my choice.

1750
01:34:39,227 --> 01:34:41,060
In fact, I'm sure I
made the wrong decision,

1751
01:34:41,060 --> 01:34:43,220
but at any rate, I
had some options open.

1752
01:34:43,220 --> 01:34:45,500
A lot of these folks
did not, and they

1753
01:34:45,500 --> 01:34:49,400
went back into the army,
became regular army officers,

1754
01:34:49,400 --> 01:34:54,880
and stayed in until
retirement because they

1755
01:34:54,880 --> 01:34:58,270
felt they were not part
of the mainstream which

1756
01:34:58,270 --> 01:35:02,050
was noncombatant then.

1757
01:35:02,050 --> 01:35:04,510
I've often empathized
with the Vietnam veteran

1758
01:35:04,510 --> 01:35:07,750
because I'm sure it was a
much more difficult situation.

1759
01:35:07,750 --> 01:35:10,585
There they didn't know what
they were fighting for.

1760

01:35:10,585 --> 01:35:12,460

Still don't know what
they were fighting for,

1761

01:35:12,460 --> 01:35:15,075

and they went through
some terrible misery.

1762

01:35:15,075 --> 01:35:18,610

At least we had a
constructive war.

1763

01:35:18,610 --> 01:35:23,050

What did you-- you said
you went into business?

1764

01:35:23,050 --> 01:35:25,870

What business was that and
what did you do in public life

1765

01:35:25,870 --> 01:35:31,420

and tell us about basically
what your activities have been.

1766

01:35:31,420 --> 01:35:34,240

1767

01:35:34,240 --> 01:35:35,920

I was in the
automobile business,

1768

01:35:35,920 --> 01:35:37,690

which my father
had started, still

1769

01:35:37,690 --> 01:35:41,050

have an automobile dealership.

1770

01:35:41,050 --> 01:35:45,070

I spent some time on
public television.

1771

01:35:45,070 --> 01:35:48,250

First, doing a show on
really environmental

1772

01:35:48,250 --> 01:35:52,810

and local political problems
called Profile Bay Area,

1773

01:35:52,810 --> 01:35:57,640

which I then left but stayed
on the air for many years.

1774

01:35:57,640 --> 01:36:01,060

Went and moderated
and produced a show

1775

01:36:01,060 --> 01:36:03,640

called World Press also
for public television.

1776

01:36:03,640 --> 01:36:08,530

Did that for about
15 or 20 years.

1777

01:36:08,530 --> 01:36:14,380

And I was elected to the San
Francisco Board of Supervisors.

1778

01:36:14,380 --> 01:36:17,680

I was elected state
chairman at one point

1779

01:36:17,680 --> 01:36:21,980

of the Democratic
Party in California.

1780

01:36:21,980 --> 01:36:26,170

And I had some unsuccessful
campaigns for this and that.

1781

01:36:26,170 --> 01:36:29,770

And I was the city's chief
administrative officer

1782
01:36:29,770 --> 01:36:32,740
for 10 years,

1783
01:36:32,740 --> 01:36:35,070
Which is a full-time job?

1784
01:36:35,070 --> 01:36:36,440
That's a full-time job.

1785
01:36:36,440 --> 01:36:39,210
I left the automobile
business and went

1786
01:36:39,210 --> 01:36:41,260
to work as a city employee.

1787
01:36:41,260 --> 01:36:43,920
And you're in the automobile
business now again?

1788
01:36:43,920 --> 01:36:47,000
I'm back in it now.

1789
01:36:47,000 --> 01:36:51,000
You said, I think earlier, that
you belonged to a synagogue.

1790
01:36:51,000 --> 01:36:52,980
Yes.

1791
01:36:52,980 --> 01:36:55,350
Discuss when that happened
and what motivated you.

1792
01:36:55,350 --> 01:37:00,000

1793
01:37:00,000 --> 01:37:02,550
My wife and I joined
Temple Emanuel

1794

01:37:02,550 --> 01:37:06,480
about 15 or 20 years ago.

1795
01:37:06,480 --> 01:37:10,440
We felt a strong need
for identity, a better

1796
01:37:10,440 --> 01:37:14,130
understanding of
what Jews were about,

1797
01:37:14,130 --> 01:37:18,390
and I felt a strong need
for a political anchor.

1798
01:37:18,390 --> 01:37:20,040
I felt I was a Jew.

1799
01:37:20,040 --> 01:37:21,720
I better damn well
run the flag up,

1800
01:37:21,720 --> 01:37:23,640
and I ought to join a temple.

1801
01:37:23,640 --> 01:37:26,820
Whether I joined the right
temple for me and my family,

1802
01:37:26,820 --> 01:37:29,790
I've never been quite sure.

1803
01:37:29,790 --> 01:37:30,990
What were your options?

1804
01:37:30,990 --> 01:37:32,700
I could have joined
another temple.

1805
01:37:32,700 --> 01:37:41,700
My father had belonged to the
one on California and Webster,

1806

01:37:41,700 --> 01:37:44,460

Shearith Israel.

1807

01:37:44,460 --> 01:37:50,100

And subsequently, because of my
government or political roles,

1808

01:37:50,100 --> 01:37:53,190

I've met many of the
rabbis and the Orthodox

1809

01:37:53,190 --> 01:37:57,960

and conservative groups that
I like very much indeed.

1810

01:37:57,960 --> 01:37:59,190

So I feel very--

1811

01:37:59,190 --> 01:38:02,730

I wish I knew more
about Judaism.

1812

01:38:02,730 --> 01:38:06,820

I enjoy going to
the temple services.

1813

01:38:06,820 --> 01:38:10,080

I wish I'd given my
children more of a chance

1814

01:38:10,080 --> 01:38:14,450

at a Jewish education.

1815

01:38:14,450 --> 01:38:16,700

I've gotten to know a
little bit the rabbi

1816

01:38:16,700 --> 01:38:24,610

at this place, Rabbi Lipner,
I think his name is, Pinchas.

1817

01:38:24,610 --> 01:38:29,740

Well, the chap in this
building, very interesting man.

1818
01:38:29,740 --> 01:38:31,130
So I feel very Jewish.

1819
01:38:31,130 --> 01:38:36,130
But I am not very good at
Jewish history or something

1820
01:38:36,130 --> 01:38:37,990
of that sort.

1821
01:38:37,990 --> 01:38:43,450
How many children and who are
they and did you give them

1822
01:38:43,450 --> 01:38:47,420
any Jewish rearing at all?

1823
01:38:47,420 --> 01:38:49,480
Well, I told them from
the day they were born

1824
01:38:49,480 --> 01:38:52,370
and continue to tell
them literally every time

1825
01:38:52,370 --> 01:38:52,870
I see them.

1826
01:38:52,870 --> 01:38:58,030
Don't forget you're Jewish,
and find out more, if you can,

1827
01:38:58,030 --> 01:39:00,790
about your background just
out of self-protection,

1828
01:39:00,790 --> 01:39:04,480
if nothing else as well
as for the fun of it.

1829

01:39:04,480 --> 01:39:06,265

I think they're
very aware of it.

1830

01:39:06,265 --> 01:39:08,140

None are married, but
it wouldn't surprise me

1831

01:39:08,140 --> 01:39:10,930

if they married Jews.

1832

01:39:10,930 --> 01:39:13,030

And they didn't go to temple.

1833

01:39:13,030 --> 01:39:15,490

They went to athletic
events and this and that.

1834

01:39:15,490 --> 01:39:16,960

Our oldest is 30.

1835

01:39:16,960 --> 01:39:20,620

His name is John, lives
in Mill Valley, graduate

1836

01:39:20,620 --> 01:39:23,590

of a liberal arts college.

1837

01:39:23,590 --> 01:39:28,180

Our second son, Christopher,
lives in New Mexico.

1838

01:39:28,180 --> 01:39:29,020

He went to Stanford.

1839

01:39:29,020 --> 01:39:30,230

He was an engineer.

1840

01:39:30,230 --> 01:39:32,340

He's going into medicine.

1841

01:39:32,340 --> 01:39:35,650
My third son, Anthony,
is trying to make

1842
01:39:35,650 --> 01:39:38,410
his way in the movie business
in Southern California.

1843
01:39:38,410 --> 01:39:40,540
And we have a
20-year-old, Lucy, who's

1844
01:39:40,540 --> 01:39:45,340
a student at Hampshire
College in Massachusetts.

1845
01:39:45,340 --> 01:39:48,950
And they are now starting to
be more interested in Judaism.

1846
01:39:48,950 --> 01:39:52,822
My Christopher and
Lucy especially.

1847
01:39:52,822 --> 01:39:54,670
Why is that?

1848
01:39:54,670 --> 01:39:55,170
Beats me.

1849
01:39:55,170 --> 01:39:57,503
Because you didn't give it
to them when they were small.

1850
01:39:57,503 --> 01:39:58,400
Oh, I think so.

1851
01:39:58,400 --> 01:40:02,290
I think there's an awful
lot I didn't give them.

1852
01:40:02,290 --> 01:40:05,710
But you make a point of

mentioning it to them now.

1853

01:40:05,710 --> 01:40:08,830

Yes, I think we're in for a
bad time in the United States.

1854

01:40:08,830 --> 01:40:10,150

We being?

1855

01:40:10,150 --> 01:40:13,880

We, those of us who are Jewish.

1856

01:40:13,880 --> 01:40:15,550

And I think it's
going to come fast.

1857

01:40:15,550 --> 01:40:19,750

1858

01:40:19,750 --> 01:40:22,900

I mean, everyone is just
kind of coasting along,

1859

01:40:22,900 --> 01:40:24,530

but I think things are going--

1860

01:40:24,530 --> 01:40:26,530

I'm a pessimist, obviously.

1861

01:40:26,530 --> 01:40:28,990

But I think things are
not going well for us.

1862

01:40:28,990 --> 01:40:31,870

And the fact that we
can't balance a budget

1863

01:40:31,870 --> 01:40:34,300

is especially scary.

1864

01:40:34,300 --> 01:40:37,030

And the economy is turning down.

1865
01:40:37,030 --> 01:40:38,890
And I think it's going
to get very wretched,

1866
01:40:38,890 --> 01:40:43,970
and when it does, and the
Jews are in the headlines,

1867
01:40:43,970 --> 01:40:45,980
especially the financial
headlines these days,

1868
01:40:45,980 --> 01:40:52,100
I think we're just going to
get hit before we know it.

1869
01:40:52,100 --> 01:40:54,460
And I think that,
especially young people,

1870
01:40:54,460 --> 01:40:56,350
need to know how to
respond if they can

1871
01:40:56,350 --> 01:40:58,660
and how to figure out how
to protect themselves.

1872
01:40:58,660 --> 01:41:00,970
What will happen
to Jews in America?

1873
01:41:00,970 --> 01:41:03,070
I have no idea, but
I think it's going

1874
01:41:03,070 --> 01:41:04,570
to be some unpleasantness.

1875
01:41:04,570 --> 01:41:07,030
And you think Jews
will be singled out?

1876
01:41:07,030 --> 01:41:08,500
I do.

1877
01:41:08,500 --> 01:41:09,772
Because perhaps of some

1878
01:41:09,772 --> 01:41:10,855
Well, it's just tradition.

1879
01:41:10,855 --> 01:41:13,750
--financial adventures?

1880
01:41:13,750 --> 01:41:15,143
They're being singled out.

1881
01:41:15,143 --> 01:41:16,810
They're being singled
out in Poland now.

1882
01:41:16,810 --> 01:41:17,950
There's hardly a Jew left.

1883
01:41:17,950 --> 01:41:19,660
They're being singled
out Romania now.

1884
01:41:19,660 --> 01:41:21,040
There's hardly a Jew left.

1885
01:41:21,040 --> 01:41:23,800
What they've got over there
is extremely difficult

1886
01:41:23,800 --> 01:41:26,290
economic situations.

1887
01:41:26,290 --> 01:41:28,060
They're being singled
out in Russia.

1888

01:41:28,060 --> 01:41:30,090
There are some Jews left.

1889
01:41:30,090 --> 01:41:34,060
The same situation
prevails, a rotten economy.

1890
01:41:34,060 --> 01:41:39,190
And the similarity between those
countries and us is our economy

1891
01:41:39,190 --> 01:41:40,690
is turning way down.

1892
01:41:40,690 --> 01:41:42,670
You can buy it for
\$0.10 on the dollar.

1893
01:41:42,670 --> 01:41:44,670
All you have to do is
read what the Japanese are

1894
01:41:44,670 --> 01:41:46,960
doing every day of the week.

1895
01:41:46,960 --> 01:41:49,840
And so it's going to make the
standards of living turn down,

1896
01:41:49,840 --> 01:41:53,158
unemployment rates
go up, et cetera.

1897
01:41:53,158 --> 01:41:55,200
I don't think they're
going to say to themselves,

1898
01:41:55,200 --> 01:41:57,010
we've got a party system
that doesn't work,

1899
01:41:57,010 --> 01:42:00,310
or a nonparliamentary

system that doesn't work,

1900
01:42:00,310 --> 01:42:05,003
or Congress is not becoming
effective, or not--

1901
01:42:05,003 --> 01:42:06,420
they're not going
to say anything.

1902
01:42:06,420 --> 01:42:11,155
They're going to say
some no-good caused this.

1903
01:42:11,155 --> 01:42:14,350
Maybe they'll pick
out the Lithuanians.

1904
01:42:14,350 --> 01:42:16,420
I doubt it.

1905
01:42:16,420 --> 01:42:17,920
You think they'll
pick out the Jews.

1906
01:42:17,920 --> 01:42:18,640
I do.

1907
01:42:18,640 --> 01:42:20,740
Like Germany did in the '30s.

1908
01:42:20,740 --> 01:42:22,720
Like they've done for
one heck of a long time.

1909
01:42:22,720 --> 01:42:24,550
Yes, yes.

1910
01:42:24,550 --> 01:42:27,550
Whereas in Germany
with a strong economy

1911

01:42:27,550 --> 01:42:29,885
may put their Jews on
a pedestal, the few

1912
01:42:29,885 --> 01:42:30,510
they have left.

1913
01:42:30,510 --> 01:42:33,400
I think Germany
and Europe, which

1914
01:42:33,400 --> 01:42:38,350
is perhaps a break in all this,
are going to be super strong.

1915
01:42:38,350 --> 01:42:39,950
And we're still in 1990.

1916
01:42:39,950 --> 01:42:45,268
In 1992, when that European
Community opens up, I mean,

1917
01:42:45,268 --> 01:42:46,810
they're going to be
so powerful, they

1918
01:42:46,810 --> 01:42:48,010
won't care about anyone else.

1919
01:42:48,010 --> 01:42:50,093
They won't even have to
look outside of themselves

1920
01:42:50,093 --> 01:42:51,560
is the problem.

1921
01:42:51,560 --> 01:42:53,380
So between them
and the Japanese,

1922
01:42:53,380 --> 01:42:56,041
that's where all the
money is going to be.

1923
01:42:56,041 --> 01:42:58,660
You think this
country's institutions

1924
01:42:58,660 --> 01:43:02,650
will be able to
resist what you might

1925
01:43:02,650 --> 01:43:06,490
see is an encroaching
form of Nazism

1926
01:43:06,490 --> 01:43:07,930
if our economy goes down?

1927
01:43:07,930 --> 01:43:11,220
Well, I'm not saying we're
going to have a Nazism.

1928
01:43:11,220 --> 01:43:13,990
Let's just say there were
no Jews left in this country

1929
01:43:13,990 --> 01:43:18,520
and ask the question, do I think
our institutions can handle it?

1930
01:43:18,520 --> 01:43:19,630
I would say no.

1931
01:43:19,630 --> 01:43:23,560
I'd say we're going to go
through a major revision.

1932
01:43:23,560 --> 01:43:26,410
They can't handle it now.

1933
01:43:26,410 --> 01:43:29,980
We're not functioning.

1934
01:43:29,980 --> 01:43:32,630

I mean, we don't have a budget.

1935

01:43:32,630 --> 01:43:35,410

We can't even get one through
our Congress and the executive.

1936

01:43:35,410 --> 01:43:39,340

It's extraordinary situation.

1937

01:43:39,340 --> 01:43:44,230

The Japanese feel that
we're in total decline.

1938

01:43:44,230 --> 01:43:46,480

And whether we're quite that
bad or not, I don't know,

1939

01:43:46,480 --> 01:43:50,160

but we're not doing anything
about our educational system,

1940

01:43:50,160 --> 01:43:53,980

our infrastructure, our
research and development,

1941

01:43:53,980 --> 01:43:55,750

our balancing the budget.

1942

01:43:55,750 --> 01:43:58,240

All we're doing is
borrowing from abroad.

1943

01:43:58,240 --> 01:44:00,580

And once they stop lending
to us and it's about right

1944

01:44:00,580 --> 01:44:02,350

now they're going to
stop lending to us,

1945

01:44:02,350 --> 01:44:05,230

going to get very rough here.

1946

01:44:05,230 --> 01:44:07,990

So something is going
to have to give.

1947

01:44:07,990 --> 01:44:10,480

What, I haven't
the foggiest idea.

1948

01:44:10,480 --> 01:44:13,480

But I gather you're
saying you foresee

1949

01:44:13,480 --> 01:44:19,120

bleak times in this
country for Americans Jews.

1950

01:44:19,120 --> 01:44:22,130

Well, those are your
words, not mine.

1951

01:44:22,130 --> 01:44:25,930

I think that American Jews
have had a wonderful time

1952

01:44:25,930 --> 01:44:28,630

in this country right up
until the present time

1953

01:44:28,630 --> 01:44:32,080

since the end of World War II.

1954

01:44:32,080 --> 01:44:37,090

They've had complete mobility.

1955

01:44:37,090 --> 01:44:39,170

They could be in the
government or out.

1956

01:44:39,170 --> 01:44:42,100

They could have any position.

1957

01:44:42,100 --> 01:44:45,480

They could be considered for
president or vice president

1958
01:44:45,480 --> 01:44:48,020
as Diane Feinstein
was four years ago.

1959
01:44:48,020 --> 01:44:49,285
No one would bat an eyelash.

1960
01:44:49,285 --> 01:44:52,810

1961
01:44:52,810 --> 01:44:57,320
And I think they've been valued
as very helpful, important

1962
01:44:57,320 --> 01:44:59,140
citizens.

1963
01:44:59,140 --> 01:45:03,335
Now the question is, is
that sort of a situation

1964
01:45:03,335 --> 01:45:04,085
going to continue?

1965
01:45:04,085 --> 01:45:07,270

1966
01:45:07,270 --> 01:45:10,180
And I'm inclined to
think it will change.

1967
01:45:10,180 --> 01:45:14,560
Bleak means it will
change very drastically.

1968
01:45:14,560 --> 01:45:16,680
I'm not sure how drastically
it's going to change.

1969

01:45:16,680 --> 01:45:20,570

1970

01:45:20,570 --> 01:45:23,930

What would be your overall
assessment in looking back

1971

01:45:23,930 --> 01:45:28,550

as you've done in the last
day or two 45 years, 46

1972

01:45:28,550 --> 01:45:33,170

years, to what you saw when
you were in the Fourth Armored

1973

01:45:33,170 --> 01:45:33,670

Division?

1974

01:45:33,670 --> 01:45:36,350

1975

01:45:36,350 --> 01:45:39,800

What effect has that had
on you in subsequent years?

1976

01:45:39,800 --> 01:45:41,870

Emotionally, do they
have any effect on you?

1977

01:45:41,870 --> 01:45:46,190

Has it changed your point
of view, your perceptions,

1978

01:45:46,190 --> 01:45:46,760

in any way?

1979

01:45:46,760 --> 01:45:49,840

1980

01:45:49,840 --> 01:45:53,220

Well, I think I've taken
three or four things out

1981

01:45:53,220 --> 01:45:57,340
of the whole business,
not necessarily

1982

01:45:57,340 --> 01:45:59,440
in order of importance.

1983

01:45:59,440 --> 01:46:01,810
But we used to have
a phrase in the war

1984

01:46:01,810 --> 01:46:05,620
that sort of typified America in
those days, "beaucoup materiel"

1985

01:46:05,620 --> 01:46:08,560
is what the French
used to say about it.

1986

01:46:08,560 --> 01:46:09,520
And we really had it.

1987

01:46:09,520 --> 01:46:12,070
We were so rich.

1988

01:46:12,070 --> 01:46:16,330
And my division was sort
of the epitome of that.

1989

01:46:16,330 --> 01:46:18,430
We literally had anything.

1990

01:46:18,430 --> 01:46:21,220
We had the latest shell, the
latest this, latest that.

1991

01:46:21,220 --> 01:46:23,560
We didn't have the right
clothes, unfortunately,

1992

01:46:23,560 --> 01:46:26,480
but we had almost

everything else.

1993

01:46:26,480 --> 01:46:31,240

And so we were a very
cocky bunch representing

1994

01:46:31,240 --> 01:46:35,280

a very rich country then.

1995

01:46:35,280 --> 01:46:39,690

And so one thing I took out
was we used to be very rich.

1996

01:46:39,690 --> 01:46:44,370

Another thing I took out is the
therapeutic aspects of combat.

1997

01:46:44,370 --> 01:46:48,840

Under certain conditions,
no matter how bad it is,

1998

01:46:48,840 --> 01:46:53,130

people can feel very good about
themselves and their comrades,

1999

01:46:53,130 --> 01:46:55,170

and that's how we
felt in my division.

2000

01:46:55,170 --> 01:46:59,140

I think that was a wonderful
feeling for those of us

2001

01:46:59,140 --> 01:46:59,640

that had it.

2002

01:46:59,640 --> 01:47:02,190

2003

01:47:02,190 --> 01:47:06,480

Third is that Germany would
have been an absolute monster

2004

01:47:06,480 --> 01:47:09,270
if the British
hadn't stopped them.

2005

01:47:09,270 --> 01:47:13,320
And if they had taken England,
we would have paid in blood,

2006

01:47:13,320 --> 01:47:19,200
and the Jews would have been
terribly oppressed here, if not

2007

01:47:19,200 --> 01:47:21,390
exterminated, if they
had taken England.

2008

01:47:21,390 --> 01:47:23,095
So that Germany
had to be stopped.

2009

01:47:23,095 --> 01:47:32,858

2010

01:47:32,858 --> 01:47:34,400
And I think the
fourth thing at least

2011

01:47:34,400 --> 01:47:38,000
I felt in those days was that
the military is very apolitical

2012

01:47:38,000 --> 01:47:40,635
and should be kept
apolitical, and that we've

2013

01:47:40,635 --> 01:47:42,260
been lucky in the
United States to keep

2014

01:47:42,260 --> 01:47:45,590
the military out of
politics and better

2015

01:47:45,590 --> 01:47:47,020

be sure we continue to do so.

2016

01:47:47,020 --> 01:47:49,960

2017

01:47:49,960 --> 01:47:52,080

You said something
earlier, and I

2018

01:47:52,080 --> 01:47:56,430

wonder if you still feel
the same way 45 years later,

2019

01:47:56,430 --> 01:47:59,850

you wanted to be in
combat, and some of these

2020

01:47:59,850 --> 01:48:02,040

tough, New York
Bronx kids wanted

2021

01:48:02,040 --> 01:48:03,960

to be in combat
because there was

2022

01:48:03,960 --> 01:48:09,930

a feeling, true or otherwise,
the perception lingering

2023

01:48:09,930 --> 01:48:15,060

maybe that Jews wouldn't
fight for their own rights.

2024

01:48:15,060 --> 01:48:18,630

Did I misstate that, or is that
approximately what you said?

2025

01:48:18,630 --> 01:48:22,020

It's approximately in that I
saw many of my Jewish friends

2026

01:48:22,020 --> 01:48:24,820
at school and elsewhere
not go into combat, yes.

2027
01:48:24,820 --> 01:48:28,620
Do you do you think what
you've learned since about what

2028
01:48:28,620 --> 01:48:35,810
Germany did to Jews and how what
you know now of how Jews behave

2029
01:48:35,810 --> 01:48:40,860
and Israelis behave, do you
still think that perception

2030
01:48:40,860 --> 01:48:42,840
exists in the world?

2031
01:48:42,840 --> 01:48:43,340
No.

2032
01:48:43,340 --> 01:48:44,257
That Jews won't fight?

2033
01:48:44,257 --> 01:48:44,863
No.

2034
01:48:44,863 --> 01:48:46,530
And I think Israel
has done a great deal

2035
01:48:46,530 --> 01:48:48,820
to eradicate that perception.

2036
01:48:48,820 --> 01:48:51,330
And I think learning
about the people in Warsaw

2037
01:48:51,330 --> 01:48:54,420
who did fight has
helped to eradicate it.

2038

01:48:54,420 --> 01:48:58,320

And I think mine was a
coincidental thing, not

2039

01:48:58,320 --> 01:48:59,280

a true statistic.

2040

01:48:59,280 --> 01:49:02,240

2041

01:49:02,240 --> 01:49:04,810

So I think my feeling
was totally incorrect,

2042

01:49:04,810 --> 01:49:07,060

and my perception was totally
incorrect in those days.

2043

01:49:07,060 --> 01:49:09,550

And I no longer hold that.

2044

01:49:09,550 --> 01:49:12,250

I think going back to your
question of antisemitism

2045

01:49:12,250 --> 01:49:15,160

that to a certain extent,
the weather vane will

2046

01:49:15,160 --> 01:49:21,820

be if the Congress changes
toward Israel and if it does,

2047

01:49:21,820 --> 01:49:24,010

I think it will represent
what they're hearing

2048

01:49:24,010 --> 01:49:25,310

from their constituents.

2049

01:49:25,310 --> 01:49:28,270

And I think that will

send a certain message

2050

01:49:28,270 --> 01:49:32,650

as to how people here in this
country are feeling about Jews.

2051

01:49:32,650 --> 01:49:36,970

Do you think Israel is handling
its current problems properly?

2052

01:49:36,970 --> 01:49:42,040

I felt Israel got off base
in the days of Mr. Begin,

2053

01:49:42,040 --> 01:49:44,170

and I still feel her off base.

2054

01:49:44,170 --> 01:49:46,200

But they're in an
untenable situation.

2055

01:49:46,200 --> 01:49:49,100

2056

01:49:49,100 --> 01:49:52,310

Any other overall views
that you have distilled

2057

01:49:52,310 --> 01:49:54,626

from 45 years of reflection?

2058

01:49:54,626 --> 01:49:58,600

2059

01:49:58,600 --> 01:49:59,530

No.

2060

01:49:59,530 --> 01:50:01,784

I feel very emotional.

2061

01:50:01,784 --> 01:50:02,284

Explain.

2062
01:50:02,284 --> 01:50:05,630

2063
01:50:05,630 --> 01:50:08,120
I don't think about
the war or the things

2064
01:50:08,120 --> 01:50:14,910
you brought up very
much, and I think

2065
01:50:14,910 --> 01:50:17,370
I didn't allow myself to
think of it too much in combat

2066
01:50:17,370 --> 01:50:22,225
because I figured that some
of my colleagues got scared.

2067
01:50:22,225 --> 01:50:23,100
Let me rephrase that.

2068
01:50:23,100 --> 01:50:26,580
Some of them couldn't
handle their fear.

2069
01:50:26,580 --> 01:50:30,360
Some of the most
surprising deserted

2070
01:50:30,360 --> 01:50:36,810
or had to be relieved because
they couldn't handle the fear.

2071
01:50:36,810 --> 01:50:38,910
We had an executive
officer who just

2072
01:50:38,910 --> 01:50:42,493
died, a hell of a
nice man from Chicago.

2073

01:50:42,493 --> 01:50:44,160

He was made battalion
commander, and all

2074

01:50:44,160 --> 01:50:46,077

he did was sit in the
vehicle and drink brandy

2075

01:50:46,077 --> 01:50:47,550

until relieved.

2076

01:50:47,550 --> 01:50:51,000

They gave an MP
battalion instead.

2077

01:50:51,000 --> 01:50:53,400

We had a survey
officer named Webber

2078

01:50:53,400 --> 01:50:57,550

who became a basket case,
couldn't take the fear.

2079

01:50:57,550 --> 01:50:58,480

Had to be relieved.

2080

01:50:58,480 --> 01:51:00,240

We had that a lot.

2081

01:51:00,240 --> 01:51:03,420

I mean, there were enough
instances to show me

2082

01:51:03,420 --> 01:51:06,690

that if you thought
about it too carefully,

2083

01:51:06,690 --> 01:51:09,150

you couldn't handle it too
well, so I kept it out.

2084

01:51:09,150 --> 01:51:11,100

And I've been trying
to drain up as you

2085
01:51:11,100 --> 01:51:14,833
ask these good questions about
what did these women look like

2086
01:51:14,833 --> 01:51:16,500
and who was taking
care of them and all.

2087
01:51:16,500 --> 01:51:17,490
I just feel like crying.

2088
01:51:17,490 --> 01:51:18,615
I can't tell you why, but--

2089
01:51:18,615 --> 01:51:22,920

2090
01:51:22,920 --> 01:51:26,010
Anything else at all?

2091
01:51:26,010 --> 01:51:27,580
I have one question, Roger.

2092
01:51:27,580 --> 01:51:35,590
When you mentioned that when
you took some German soldiers,

2093
01:51:35,590 --> 01:51:37,840
the enlisted men,
the young men, they

2094
01:51:37,840 --> 01:51:40,840
didn't strike you
as master race,

2095
01:51:40,840 --> 01:51:46,150
or they didn't look big and the
way you had thought of them,

2096

01:51:46,150 --> 01:51:48,430
but that you had a different--

2097
01:51:48,430 --> 01:51:51,790
when you captured the
generals, and they

2098
01:51:51,790 --> 01:51:53,800
were being housed
in that castle,

2099
01:51:53,800 --> 01:51:56,410
you had some time
to look at them.

2100
01:51:56,410 --> 01:51:59,380

2101
01:51:59,380 --> 01:52:06,100
How did they strike you,
the generals, the leaders?

2102
01:52:06,100 --> 01:52:13,300
The initial prisoners we took,
which happened in Normandy,

2103
01:52:13,300 --> 01:52:18,790
a couple of officers and
their equivalent of GIs

2104
01:52:18,790 --> 01:52:21,220
were not very
impressive as I recall.

2105
01:52:21,220 --> 01:52:24,070
And they'd been pounded,
and they were scared,

2106
01:52:24,070 --> 01:52:27,370
and they were meek.

2107
01:52:27,370 --> 01:52:30,040
Later, we took

some SS prisoners,

2108
01:52:30,040 --> 01:52:31,750
and they'd been
pounded too, but they

2109
01:52:31,750 --> 01:52:38,230
were very tough-looking,
unpleasant types.

2110
01:52:38,230 --> 01:52:42,970
The generals were
extraordinarily disciplined

2111
01:52:42,970 --> 01:52:45,700
and arrogant, really.

2112
01:52:45,700 --> 01:52:49,150
And when you'd come
into the castle,

2113
01:52:49,150 --> 01:52:53,472
you would be met by the senior
general, the one lieutenant

2114
01:52:53,472 --> 01:52:55,930
general of the whole bunch,
and then you'd go into the room

2115
01:52:55,930 --> 01:52:58,555
where there are all these major
generals and brigadier general,

2116
01:52:58,555 --> 01:53:01,540
and they'd stamp to attention.

2117
01:53:01,540 --> 01:53:04,645
They were a very
different kind of cloth.

2118
01:53:04,645 --> 01:53:06,520
You didn't feel at all
comfortable with them.

2119
01:53:06,520 --> 01:53:09,140
They were professional,
military types, but very,

2120
01:53:09,140 --> 01:53:21,750
very, very tough and, I think,
smart and dramatic and more--

2121
01:53:21,750 --> 01:53:24,300
they fitted more
the prototype that I

2122
01:53:24,300 --> 01:53:32,090
had in mind of a customer
you don't want to cross.

2123
01:53:32,090 --> 01:53:35,220
Had some of them or most of
them been combat leaders, do you

2124
01:53:35,220 --> 01:53:35,720
think?

2125
01:53:35,720 --> 01:53:40,820
They'd all been all been combat
leaders or staff in the war.

2126
01:53:40,820 --> 01:53:44,150
And they were there to
be checked and screened

2127
01:53:44,150 --> 01:53:47,690
to see if any of them should be
sent to the war crimes trial.

2128
01:53:47,690 --> 01:53:49,520
Do you recall whether
any of them were?

2129
01:53:49,520 --> 01:53:53,040
I have heard and
I don't remember,

2130
01:53:53,040 --> 01:53:53,990
to tell you the truth.

2131
01:53:53,990 --> 01:53:55,010
I left, as I say.

2132
01:53:55,010 --> 01:53:55,580
I came home.

2133
01:53:55,580 --> 01:53:58,740

2134
01:53:58,740 --> 01:54:02,140
The revelations of Nuremberg,
what did that do to you?

2135
01:54:02,140 --> 01:54:04,675
Do you recall?

2136
01:54:04,675 --> 01:54:07,440
The Nuremberg Trials?

2137
01:54:07,440 --> 01:54:07,940
No.

2138
01:54:07,940 --> 01:54:09,023
I understand the question.

2139
01:54:09,023 --> 01:54:16,540

2140
01:54:16,540 --> 01:54:22,780
Strangely enough, I
always had some question.

2141
01:54:22,780 --> 01:54:26,200
In my mind, I thought,
you know, we get Hitler

2142
01:54:26,200 --> 01:54:29,110

and all, you want
to execute them all.

2143
01:54:29,110 --> 01:54:33,880
Finally, we had them, and
we had Tojo in the Pacific.

2144
01:54:33,880 --> 01:54:36,340
And as time went on and
before they were executed,

2145
01:54:36,340 --> 01:54:39,460
I wondered just what--

2146
01:54:39,460 --> 01:54:41,950
Are we executing them
because they're villains,

2147
01:54:41,950 --> 01:54:46,060
or are we executing
them because they lost?

2148
01:54:46,060 --> 01:54:53,650
And they executed Julius,
Julius Streicher, for example.

2149
01:54:53,650 --> 01:54:58,810
And I remember he used to
make the Jews eat grass.

2150
01:54:58,810 --> 01:55:03,040
And I'd read that
before going over there.

2151
01:55:03,040 --> 01:55:07,450
And I could see no
reason to show any mercy

2152
01:55:07,450 --> 01:55:13,240
to a fellow like Streicher,
but I did wonder about Keitel

2153
01:55:13,240 --> 01:55:16,780

and whoever those
other generals were

2154
01:55:16,780 --> 01:55:20,858
that they had as I wondered
a little bit about Tojo.

2155
01:55:20,858 --> 01:55:22,900
I've never been quite sure
in my mind to this day

2156
01:55:22,900 --> 01:55:25,090
whether we did the right thing.

2157
01:55:25,090 --> 01:55:28,240
And I had the same reaction
in watching the Civil War

2158
01:55:28,240 --> 01:55:33,640
on television recently
when they imprisoned

2159
01:55:33,640 --> 01:55:35,890
Jeff Davis, the president
of the Confederacy,

2160
01:55:35,890 --> 01:55:39,650
and I think didn't treat
Robert E. Lee too well, either.

2161
01:55:39,650 --> 01:55:41,710
He had to get out
of the country.

2162
01:55:41,710 --> 01:55:45,025
There's a tendency if you
lose, you're in deep yogurt.

2163
01:55:45,025 --> 01:55:47,710

2164
01:55:47,710 --> 01:55:52,480
So but I did learn--

2165
01:55:52,480 --> 01:55:55,780
that's where I think I heard
about the Einsatzgruppen,

2166
01:55:55,780 --> 01:55:59,080
now that you remind me, was
in the Nuremberg trials.

2167
01:55:59,080 --> 01:56:01,780
I never heard of
that stuff before.

2168
01:56:01,780 --> 01:56:03,610
And Auschwitz and--

2169
01:56:03,610 --> 01:56:04,450
Yes.

2170
01:56:04,450 --> 01:56:05,242
The Killing Fields.

2171
01:56:05,242 --> 01:56:06,768
Right.

2172
01:56:06,768 --> 01:56:07,810
That's where it came out.

2173
01:56:07,810 --> 01:56:12,850

2174
01:56:12,850 --> 01:56:14,620
This is a rather
involved question,

2175
01:56:14,620 --> 01:56:16,930
but I'd like to pose
it to you anyway.

2176
01:56:16,930 --> 01:56:21,610
If you would be willing to
execute Julius Streicher,

2177
01:56:21,610 --> 01:56:24,010
the Jew Baiter as
everyone knew him,

2178
01:56:24,010 --> 01:56:29,090
who probably never exercised
any real authority in Germany

2179
01:56:29,090 --> 01:56:36,890
as Gauleiter but you have doubts
about people like high staff

2180
01:56:36,890 --> 01:56:39,260
officers Keitel, Goering, and--

2181
01:56:39,260 --> 01:56:41,840

2182
01:56:41,840 --> 01:56:46,795
who actually set the plan of
annihilation in motion, but who

2183
01:56:46,795 --> 01:56:50,370
were army officers or
high government officials,

2184
01:56:50,370 --> 01:56:53,390
does that strike you as--

2185
01:56:53,390 --> 01:56:57,020
I think I felt that
if we had lost,

2186
01:56:57,020 --> 01:56:59,690
that Eisenhower and
Patton and the rest

2187
01:56:59,690 --> 01:57:02,750
would have gone to the gallows.

2188
01:57:02,750 --> 01:57:05,690

And I've never considered
them as bad men.

2189
01:57:05,690 --> 01:57:08,250

2190
01:57:08,250 --> 01:57:09,832
Now the Germans were
beyond the pale.

2191
01:57:09,832 --> 01:57:11,040
There's no question about it.

2192
01:57:11,040 --> 01:57:13,510
I don't think I gave it too
much thought, but you asked me,

2193
01:57:13,510 --> 01:57:16,500
so it crossed my mind at
the time of Nuremberg,

2194
01:57:16,500 --> 01:57:20,880
are we doing the right
thing with these guys?

2195
01:57:20,880 --> 01:57:23,520
I think Himmler committed
suicide, too, if I recall.

2196
01:57:23,520 --> 01:57:27,570
Well, I surely-- and
Heydrich was assassinated.

2197
01:57:27,570 --> 01:57:29,820
I surely would have given
them very short shrift

2198
01:57:29,820 --> 01:57:32,520
if I had had the
authority myself.

2199
01:57:32,520 --> 01:57:36,180
And Goering, I would have

given very short shrift, too.

2200

01:57:36,180 --> 01:57:39,555
I suppose all of them, including
Ribbentrop and all the rest,

2201

01:57:39,555 --> 01:57:41,430
I would have wouldn't
have been too merciful.

2202

01:57:41,430 --> 01:57:44,210

2203

01:57:44,210 --> 01:57:47,723
And the trial did bring it out,
but it was a one-way street.

2204

01:57:47,723 --> 01:57:49,640
I mean, I think about
the only one who got off

2205

01:57:49,640 --> 01:57:51,830
was Schacht or
someone like that.

2206

01:57:51,830 --> 01:57:54,650
And yeah, one or two others.

2207

01:57:54,650 --> 01:57:59,110

2208

01:57:59,110 --> 01:58:01,430
All I know is you better
not lose even if you're

2209

01:58:01,430 --> 01:58:03,280
on the so-called side of right.

2210

01:58:03,280 --> 01:58:07,630

2211

01:58:07,630 --> 01:58:10,050

Anything else at all?

2212

01:58:10,050 --> 01:58:13,608

Any insight at all from
any angle on what we've

2213

01:58:13,608 --> 01:58:14,400

been talking about?

2214

01:58:14,400 --> 01:58:18,450

Well, I'm glad that this
Holocaust Center is trying

2215

01:58:18,450 --> 01:58:20,430

to find everybody
that was involved

2216

01:58:20,430 --> 01:58:26,500

because one hears continuously
that it never existed.

2217

01:58:26,500 --> 01:58:28,410

It's all ersatz.

2218

01:58:28,410 --> 01:58:30,950

2219

01:58:30,950 --> 01:58:36,590

And if people keep saying that
enough, you start to wonder,

2220

01:58:36,590 --> 01:58:39,770

did it exist or didn't it?

2221

01:58:39,770 --> 01:58:45,020

And unless you get people who've
been in the camps, that is,

2222

01:58:45,020 --> 01:58:51,267

were inmates or photographs
or both, these folks who

2223

01:58:51,267 --> 01:58:52,850
say it's a myth, I
think they're going

2224
01:58:52,850 --> 01:58:56,000
to get louder and
louder as time goes on.

2225
01:58:56,000 --> 01:58:58,220
So I'm very glad that
the Holocaust Center

2226
01:58:58,220 --> 01:59:00,021
is going through this activity.

2227
01:59:00,021 --> 01:59:02,910

2228
01:59:02,910 --> 01:59:08,760
People have short memories
is a problem, I think.

2229
01:59:08,760 --> 01:59:14,820
And I'm not so sure how
many good guys there

2230
01:59:14,820 --> 01:59:18,420
are in public leadership
throughout the world.

2231
01:59:18,420 --> 01:59:20,940
I think a fellow like von
Weizsacker, the president

2232
01:59:20,940 --> 01:59:24,855
of Germany is definitely a good
guy, but he's sort of a rarity.

2233
01:59:24,855 --> 01:59:28,080

2234
01:59:28,080 --> 01:59:31,220
I looked upon Gorbachev

very fondly myself,

2235

01:59:31,220 --> 01:59:33,650

but I'm not so sure how
effective he is at stamping--

2236

01:59:33,650 --> 01:59:36,080

of course, I think now the
poor fellow's going to be--

2237

01:59:36,080 --> 01:59:37,037

he's finished.

2238

01:59:37,037 --> 01:59:39,620

But I'm not sure he's been very
effectual about doing anything

2239

01:59:39,620 --> 01:59:43,250

about antisemitism or
whether he and his friends

2240

01:59:43,250 --> 01:59:46,640

have even cared about
the rise of antisemitism

2241

01:59:46,640 --> 01:59:49,340

in the Soviet Union.

2242

01:59:49,340 --> 01:59:56,060

So that given a dearth
of really gutsy leaders

2243

01:59:56,060 --> 02:00:02,750

and given extremely
tricky conditions, when

2244

02:00:02,750 --> 02:00:06,530

you see Mrs. Bhutto, the elected
prime minister of Pakistan

2245

02:00:06,530 --> 02:00:09,740

literally plucked out of
office by the military there,

2246
02:00:09,740 --> 02:00:12,710
for example, given
the Japanese who

2247
02:00:12,710 --> 02:00:14,090
have all the money
who don't give

2248
02:00:14,090 --> 02:00:19,720
a damn about any of
this stuff, we're

2249
02:00:19,720 --> 02:00:22,540
in for a tricky
time, that's all.

2250
02:00:22,540 --> 02:00:29,350
Do you think Russian
letting Jews emigrate simply

2251
02:00:29,350 --> 02:00:33,760
feels that they're exporting
their problem now as Germany

2252
02:00:33,760 --> 02:00:34,400
did at one--

2253
02:00:34,400 --> 02:00:34,900
Yes.

2254
02:00:34,900 --> 02:00:35,875
No, I understand the question.

2255
02:00:35,875 --> 02:00:36,583
--period of time?

2256
02:00:36,583 --> 02:00:41,920

2257
02:00:41,920 --> 02:00:45,040
I have simply assumed,

perhaps incorrectly,

2258
02:00:45,040 --> 02:00:48,040
that they felt it
would be a policy which

2259
02:00:48,040 --> 02:00:52,930
would be appreciated by the
Americans whose friendship they

2260
02:00:52,930 --> 02:00:54,190
are obviously seeking.

2261
02:00:54,190 --> 02:00:56,720

2262
02:00:56,720 --> 02:01:01,760
Whether it's to reduce friction
or lessen an internal problem

2263
02:01:01,760 --> 02:01:04,670
or not, I have no idea.

2264
02:01:04,670 --> 02:01:07,530
I'm very glad they're doing it.

2265
02:01:07,530 --> 02:01:09,110
I think for the
Russian Jews it's

2266
02:01:09,110 --> 02:01:12,290
becoming increasingly untenable.

2267
02:01:12,290 --> 02:01:16,025
And I think they all have a
healthy role to play in Israel,

2268
02:01:16,025 --> 02:01:17,525
and I hope they'll
be used properly.

2269
02:01:17,525 --> 02:01:20,370

2270

02:01:20,370 --> 02:01:24,380

Do you think Jews in Russia are
going through what you foretell

2271

02:01:24,380 --> 02:01:27,590

might occur here because
their system is crumbling?

2272

02:01:27,590 --> 02:01:28,370

Yes, I do.

2273

02:01:28,370 --> 02:01:29,660

Pointing at somebody?

2274

02:01:29,660 --> 02:01:30,760

Absolutely.

2275

02:01:30,760 --> 02:01:34,990

2276

02:01:34,990 --> 02:01:39,400

Do you have some documents
or pictures or something

2277

02:01:39,400 --> 02:01:42,340

you want to show us?

2278

02:01:42,340 --> 02:01:43,957

I do have a couple
of things I might--

2279

02:01:43,957 --> 02:01:45,040

I don't know if I got it--

2280

02:01:45,040 --> 02:01:46,090

Well, let's have a look.

2281

02:01:46,090 --> 02:01:48,970

--if they're worth looking at.

2282
02:01:48,970 --> 02:01:50,030
Sure.

2283
02:01:50,030 --> 02:01:52,630
Any further questions?

2284
02:01:52,630 --> 02:01:55,210
Does Helga have any questions
before we get to it?

2285
02:01:55,210 --> 02:01:58,610
I'm a survivor myself, I'm
most interested to know,

2286
02:01:58,610 --> 02:02:02,130
since part of my family was
killed in Theresienstadt where

2287
02:02:02,130 --> 02:02:06,310
you have been, if you have
seen men in the other part.

2288
02:02:06,310 --> 02:02:08,830
As I understand,
women were in one part

2289
02:02:08,830 --> 02:02:10,810
and men in the other part.

2290
02:02:10,810 --> 02:02:14,170
You only spoke of
women whom you saw.

2291
02:02:14,170 --> 02:02:16,120
Yes, I didn't see any men.

2292
02:02:16,120 --> 02:02:17,150
Not that I remember.

2293
02:02:17,150 --> 02:02:19,805
Maybe they were
all killed already.

2294
02:02:19,805 --> 02:02:20,680
Might well have been.

2295
02:02:20,680 --> 02:02:24,200

2296
02:02:24,200 --> 02:02:26,150
In that place
where you saw them,

2297
02:02:26,150 --> 02:02:29,150
you're unable to pinpoint
the precise location,

2298
02:02:29,150 --> 02:02:34,390
but you would gather it
would be east of Ohrdruf?

2299
02:02:34,390 --> 02:02:35,330
Yes.

2300
02:02:35,330 --> 02:02:37,530
More toward the
Czechoslovakian border?

2301
02:02:37,530 --> 02:02:38,030
Yes.

2302
02:02:38,030 --> 02:02:41,143

2303
02:02:41,143 --> 02:02:42,310
We went into Czechoslovakia.

2304
02:02:42,310 --> 02:02:43,460
You did go into Czechoslovakia?

2305
02:02:43,460 --> 02:02:44,017
Yes.

2306

02:02:44,017 --> 02:02:45,100
You know how far you went?

2307
02:02:45,100 --> 02:02:47,610

2308
02:02:47,610 --> 02:02:49,360
We went pretty close to Prague.

2309
02:02:49,360 --> 02:02:52,920
We went to the end of the
Bohemian border, as I recall.

2310
02:02:52,920 --> 02:02:56,370
Krkavec or something like that.

2311
02:02:56,370 --> 02:02:58,800
I have a lot of pictures
in my album of me

2312
02:02:58,800 --> 02:03:00,725
in Czechoslovakia with
horses and whatnot.

2313
02:03:00,725 --> 02:03:02,850
So it's possible where you
saw the women could have

2314
02:03:02,850 --> 02:03:03,975
been inside Czechoslovakia?

2315
02:03:03,975 --> 02:03:06,060
It could well have been.

2316
02:03:06,060 --> 02:03:10,050
I'm pretty vague on
that, I'm sorry to say.

2317
02:03:10,050 --> 02:03:12,330
I know they were women,
I know they were Jewish,

2318

02:03:12,330 --> 02:03:13,770
and I know they were prisoners.

2319
02:03:13,770 --> 02:03:16,420
I don't know what nationality
they were or where it was,

2320
02:03:16,420 --> 02:03:16,920
really.

2321
02:03:16,920 --> 02:03:19,920
I thought it was Theresienstadt.

2322
02:03:19,920 --> 02:03:23,940
I know that some of my
relatives were liberated

2323
02:03:23,940 --> 02:03:26,352
from Theresienstadt even
though they said that everybody

2324
02:03:26,352 --> 02:03:27,060
was killed there.

2325
02:03:27,060 --> 02:03:27,930
It's not so.

2326
02:03:27,930 --> 02:03:30,510
But they died shortly
after because they

2327
02:03:30,510 --> 02:03:33,720
couldn't take the food
and the good treatment.

2328
02:03:33,720 --> 02:03:34,410
Is that so?

2329
02:03:34,410 --> 02:03:36,510
Uh-huh.

2330
02:03:36,510 --> 02:03:39,330

Now, I think that's all on this.

2331

02:03:39,330 --> 02:03:40,020

OK.

2332

02:03:40,020 --> 02:03:42,946

Did Richard have any
questions before?

2333

02:03:42,946 --> 02:03:43,446