

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:23,370

2  
00:01:23,370 --> 00:01:24,480  
OK.

3  
00:01:24,480 --> 00:01:33,210  
So you were talking about why  
it was that this plot to kill

4  
00:01:33,210 --> 00:01:37,500  
Hitler happened in July of '44.

5  
00:01:37,500 --> 00:01:40,330  
The 20th of July, '44, yeah.

6  
00:01:40,330 --> 00:01:41,100  
OK.

7  
00:01:41,100 --> 00:01:44,970  
Well, the general idea is  
that most of the people

8  
00:01:44,970 --> 00:01:48,840  
felt that they wanted to  
have some sort of peace

9  
00:01:48,840 --> 00:01:53,520  
with honor, because they are  
afraid that they were all clear

10  
00:01:53,520 --> 00:01:56,797  
that the law-- the war was lost.

11  
00:01:56,797 --> 00:01:57,630  
At that early point.

12  
00:01:57,630 --> 00:02:00,900  
At that particular early  
point, 20 of July, '44

13

00:02:00,900 --> 00:02:03,470

it was-- that was not early.

14

00:02:03,470 --> 00:02:05,160

But by this time,  
they must have already

15

00:02:05,160 --> 00:02:06,420

been saying this for a while.

16

00:02:06,420 --> 00:02:08,160

Oh, yes, they have  
seen it for a while.

17

00:02:08,160 --> 00:02:10,949

And I think it was purely  
pragmatic for most.

18

00:02:10,949 --> 00:02:14,670

Some other people also  
responded to all the atrocities

19

00:02:14,670 --> 00:02:20,100

and even mentioned the fact  
that Jews were being killed

20

00:02:20,100 --> 00:02:23,040

and what happened to people  
who were innocent and all that.

21

00:02:23,040 --> 00:02:26,850

But the major concern  
was to get out

22

00:02:26,850 --> 00:02:30,600

of the war with the  
best possible conditions

23

00:02:30,600 --> 00:02:32,260

at that particular point.

24

00:02:32,260 --> 00:02:34,950

So it was self-serving  
and very pragmatic.

25

00:02:34,950 --> 00:02:37,815

And the question is, why  
did they wait so long

26

00:02:37,815 --> 00:02:40,440

and why did they become  
generals and colonels

27

00:02:40,440 --> 00:02:44,430

and high functionaries  
before they started to move?

28

00:02:44,430 --> 00:02:48,400

And, well-- and it  
was five before 12.

29

00:02:48,400 --> 00:02:52,020

So I looked at the  
20th of July movement

30

00:02:52,020 --> 00:02:55,680

with some degree of  
skepticism, and feel

31

00:02:55,680 --> 00:03:00,360

that these people were not  
really that tremendous heroes,

32

00:03:00,360 --> 00:03:03,120

apart from the fact  
that they bungled

33

00:03:03,120 --> 00:03:04,740

the whole thing terribly.

34

00:03:04,740 --> 00:03:06,690

And nothing came of it.

35

00:03:06,690 --> 00:03:10,290

As a matter of fact, it was

just an absolute slaughter.

36

00:03:10,290 --> 00:03:14,520

And innocent people got involved  
and got killed in the process.

37

00:03:14,520 --> 00:03:18,850

So I mean, it was  
very poorly organized

38

00:03:18,850 --> 00:03:23,100

and bungled, badly bungled.

39

00:03:23,100 --> 00:03:26,880

Now, it is, of course, from  
a historical point of view

40

00:03:26,880 --> 00:03:31,830

interesting and in the  
interest of German history

41

00:03:31,830 --> 00:03:35,040

that there was some sort  
of rebellion against it.

42

00:03:35,040 --> 00:03:37,860

So that is being  
played up and made

43

00:03:37,860 --> 00:03:41,730

into something which I don't  
think-- it's inflated, which

44

00:03:41,730 --> 00:03:44,700

I don't think it deserves.

45

00:03:44,700 --> 00:03:46,710

But you were talking  
before about the difference

46

00:03:46,710 --> 00:03:48,085

amongst these  
perpetrator groups.

47  
00:03:48,085 --> 00:03:51,760  
So the Waffen-SS were  
this elite combat groups.

48  
00:03:51,760 --> 00:03:52,450  
Yeah.

49  
00:03:52,450 --> 00:03:55,170  
That was their--  
that was their--

50  
00:03:55,170 --> 00:04:00,360  
so first of all, in  
the beginning 1923

51  
00:04:00,360 --> 00:04:02,790  
was the beginning  
of the SS, which

52  
00:04:02,790 --> 00:04:07,350  
was a integral part of the  
Brownshirts, the stormtroopers,

53  
00:04:07,350 --> 00:04:09,870  
the Brownshirts, the SA.

54  
00:04:09,870 --> 00:04:15,140  
And their major  
function was to protect.

55  
00:04:15,140 --> 00:04:19,649  
And that's what they call the  
protection guard, or protection

56  
00:04:19,649 --> 00:04:20,220  
squad.

57  
00:04:20,220 --> 00:04:26,820  
That's actually the accurate  
translation of the German.

58

00:04:26,820 --> 00:04:29,460  
And why that?

59  
00:04:29,460 --> 00:04:34,920  
Simply because their  
responsibility,

60  
00:04:34,920 --> 00:04:40,140  
their duty was to defend  
and protect the Nazis,

61  
00:04:40,140 --> 00:04:43,760  
because Hitler, Goebbels,  
and all the people,

62  
00:04:43,760 --> 00:04:48,840  
[INAUDIBLE] people were  
addressing the crowds from

63  
00:04:48,840 --> 00:04:50,250  
hostile--

64  
00:04:50,250 --> 00:04:51,750  
from a hostile audience.

65  
00:04:51,750 --> 00:04:53,850  
Was this sort of like the FBI?

66  
00:04:53,850 --> 00:04:56,370  
Well, no, no, no.

67  
00:04:56,370 --> 00:05:01,030  
Because you talk FBI would  
be-- it was just simply,

68  
00:05:01,030 --> 00:05:03,480  
if you go to a bar, you  
have in front of a bar

69  
00:05:03,480 --> 00:05:05,340  
someone who is  
going to see to it

70

00:05:05,340 --> 00:05:07,590

that not the right  
people will come in

71

00:05:07,590 --> 00:05:09,520

and nothing will happen.

72

00:05:09,520 --> 00:05:13,110

So that was to begin on a  
very primitive level and just

73

00:05:13,110 --> 00:05:15,270

a handful of people,  
not that many.

74

00:05:15,270 --> 00:05:16,380

But that's how it started.

75

00:05:16,380 --> 00:05:19,080

That's how the-- and that  
was their original function.

76

00:05:19,080 --> 00:05:20,430

Body guards.

77

00:05:20,430 --> 00:05:21,810

That's right.

78

00:05:21,810 --> 00:05:26,580

Anyway, guards of-- the  
bodyguards of speakers and also

79

00:05:26,580 --> 00:05:30,060

see to it that unruly  
crowds would not

80

00:05:30,060 --> 00:05:31,900

cause any disturbance.

81

00:05:31,900 --> 00:05:34,410

And if they would cause  
it, they would just simply

82  
00:05:34,410 --> 00:05:36,450  
beat them down.

83  
00:05:36,450 --> 00:05:39,270  
And so that was the  
original function

84  
00:05:39,270 --> 00:05:41,580  
to begin with, the  
origin of the SS.

85  
00:05:41,580 --> 00:05:44,100  
And then they had  
more and more people

86  
00:05:44,100 --> 00:05:49,680  
coming in as the number  
of Nazis increased.

87  
00:05:49,680 --> 00:05:56,560  
And then, eventually, they  
became the strong arm and the--

88  
00:05:56,560 --> 00:06:02,520  
the policing, the protecting  
National Socialist

89  
00:06:02,520 --> 00:06:10,560  
functionaries of some sort,  
and being the sort of elite.

90  
00:06:10,560 --> 00:06:12,150  
And they developed  
into an elite.

91  
00:06:12,150 --> 00:06:16,890  
Until 1934, they were under  
the SR, leadership of Rohm,

92  
00:06:16,890 --> 00:06:21,150  
who was the leader  
of the Brownshirts.



93

00:06:21,150 --> 00:06:24,540

And then they-- part of it  
played a very important role

94

00:06:24,540 --> 00:06:28,500

in not only deposing him,  
but also murdering him.

95

00:06:28,500 --> 00:06:30,690

And that was done by  
the members of the SS.

96

00:06:30,690 --> 00:06:32,790

And they played a  
very important role.

97

00:06:32,790 --> 00:06:38,100

And as a reward, they became an  
independent organization in '34

98

00:06:38,100 --> 00:06:42,720

after the Rohm coup,  
so-called Rohm coup.

99

00:06:42,720 --> 00:06:44,360

And that needs to be understood.

100

00:06:44,360 --> 00:06:49,440

And then they also  
had a lot of people

101

00:06:49,440 --> 00:06:52,410

who became members  
because of they

102

00:06:52,410 --> 00:06:56,220

felt that there was a career  
that they had some position.

103

00:06:56,220 --> 00:06:59,730

And so then they incorporated  
the first police.

104  
00:06:59,730 --> 00:07:02,580  
The German police  
president was Himmler.

105  
00:07:02,580 --> 00:07:09,420  
So they incorporated policing  
responsibility into the SS.

106  
00:07:09,420 --> 00:07:14,760  
And the police, the  
order police became--

107  
00:07:14,760 --> 00:07:17,190  
they became members  
of the SS, you know.

108  
00:07:17,190 --> 00:07:20,760  
I mean, they were an  
integral part of the SS,

109  
00:07:20,760 --> 00:07:22,920  
except they may have  
had different uniforms.

110  
00:07:22,920 --> 00:07:25,590  
But they were part  
of that organization.

111  
00:07:25,590 --> 00:07:26,850  
And then you had--

112  
00:07:26,850 --> 00:07:31,500  
early in '33, you  
had Himmler appointed

113  
00:07:31,500 --> 00:07:39,150  
Heydrich to be the person  
to develop the secret state

114  
00:07:39,150 --> 00:07:40,680  
police.

115

00:07:40,680 --> 00:07:43,690

And Heydrich was then  
in charge of that.

116

00:07:43,690 --> 00:07:46,650

And then you had some other  
department and about--

117

00:07:46,650 --> 00:07:50,430

just about, I forget  
exactly how many,

118

00:07:50,430 --> 00:07:53,490

12 or 13 or whatever,  
different departments

119

00:07:53,490 --> 00:07:55,440

with different functions.

120

00:07:55,440 --> 00:07:58,590

Some had to do with race,  
some had to do with--

121

00:07:58,590 --> 00:08:02,760

with political  
ideological things.

122

00:08:02,760 --> 00:08:05,520

Some of them had to do with--

123

00:08:05,520 --> 00:08:14,220

with criminal things, you  
know, and criminal police.

124

00:08:14,220 --> 00:08:18,390

And all these people  
became part of the SS.

125

00:08:18,390 --> 00:08:20,490

Where did the  
group-- the Gestapo--

126

00:08:20,490 --> 00:08:22,890  
And they were, in other  
words, incorporated so

127  
00:08:22,890 --> 00:08:24,150  
that they were not questioned.

128  
00:08:24,150 --> 00:08:27,990  
So some of the people,  
they're not asked,

129  
00:08:27,990 --> 00:08:31,620  
but they were incorporated--  
the whole outfit

130  
00:08:31,620 --> 00:08:34,440  
was incorporated into the SS.

131  
00:08:34,440 --> 00:08:36,695  
So it was not just an  
individual sort of thing.

132  
00:08:36,695 --> 00:08:38,820  
But they incorporated  
whether they liked it or not.

133  
00:08:38,820 --> 00:08:41,070  
They-- if they didn't  
like it, they always

134  
00:08:41,070 --> 00:08:45,420  
could have-- they always  
could design that they could.

135  
00:08:45,420 --> 00:08:51,270  
So they had very, very many  
functions and different tasks.

136  
00:08:51,270 --> 00:08:57,750  
For example, development  
in occupied territories

137  
00:08:57,750 --> 00:09:07,920

and the population of Germans in  
occupied territories and making

138  
00:09:07,920 --> 00:09:11,760  
plans for the future after war--

139  
00:09:11,760 --> 00:09:13,470  
after the War I war.

140  
00:09:13,470 --> 00:09:17,340  
And very, very--  
and then you also

141  
00:09:17,340 --> 00:09:25,200  
had the beginning then was also  
of the so-called volunteers, SS

142  
00:09:25,200 --> 00:09:26,190  
volunteers.

143  
00:09:26,190 --> 00:09:33,330  
And they had very  
special designations of--

144  
00:09:33,330 --> 00:09:38,430  
simply because of ideological  
reasons, they joined the SS

145  
00:09:38,430 --> 00:09:50,040  
and were given what  
I know were just

146  
00:09:50,040 --> 00:09:54,360  
different grades  
of military rank.

147  
00:09:54,360 --> 00:09:59,280  
And semi-- semi-military rank,  
because they're not really

148  
00:09:59,280 --> 00:10:01,290  
counting as military.

149

00:10:01,290 --> 00:10:03,480

With the exception  
of the Waffen-SS.

150

00:10:03,480 --> 00:10:11,010

And the Waffen-SS was called  
[GERMAN] which was directly

151

00:10:11,010 --> 00:10:13,140

under to the--

152

00:10:13,140 --> 00:10:15,420

which meant that  
they were directly

153

00:10:15,420 --> 00:10:22,350

under the orders of  
Hitler, a special

154

00:10:22,350 --> 00:10:30,430

set up for Hitler to be used  
for whatever purposes he

155

00:10:30,430 --> 00:10:31,060

considered.

156

00:10:31,060 --> 00:10:35,590

It was-- that's what the  
meaning of [GERMAN] means.

157

00:10:35,590 --> 00:10:39,030

And then you had  
the normal people

158

00:10:39,030 --> 00:10:42,280

who became members of the  
SS without any function,

159

00:10:42,280 --> 00:10:44,140

just to belong to the SS.

160

00:10:44,140 --> 00:10:47,710

And that was called  
general SS, Allgemeine SS.

161  
00:10:47,710 --> 00:10:50,170  
And they didn't have  
any specific function

162  
00:10:50,170 --> 00:10:52,750  
other than being  
members of the SS.

163  
00:10:52,750 --> 00:10:56,260  
And were then given  
various responsibilities

164  
00:10:56,260 --> 00:10:59,830  
in these various  
departments eventually.

165  
00:10:59,830 --> 00:11:02,380  
So then there was a  
standard military hierarchy.

166  
00:11:02,380 --> 00:11:04,150  
That's right.

167  
00:11:04,150 --> 00:11:08,200  
Did the military brass  
have to be part of the SS?

168  
00:11:08,200 --> 00:11:10,330  
Military brass,  
what do you mean?

169  
00:11:10,330 --> 00:11:15,000  
Say you have your  
inducted into the army.

170  
00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:16,810  
I would say, there  
was no induction.

171  
00:11:16,810 --> 00:11:21,280

Because up to what I've tried  
to make clear is until '43

172  
00:11:21,280 --> 00:11:25,060  
the military branch  
of SS was all

173  
00:11:25,060 --> 00:11:27,010  
made up of voluntary people.

174  
00:11:27,010 --> 00:11:28,150  
After that.

175  
00:11:28,150 --> 00:11:30,040  
After that they were inducted.

176  
00:11:30,040 --> 00:11:30,760  
Inducted.

177  
00:11:30,760 --> 00:11:36,490  
And all the higher ups were  
SS, either voluntary or--

178  
00:11:36,490 --> 00:11:37,060  
That's right.

179  
00:11:37,060 --> 00:11:40,720  
But they always, they  
always subordinated

180  
00:11:40,720 --> 00:11:42,940  
to the military non SS.

181  
00:11:42,940 --> 00:11:46,480  
So that is to say, the  
highest rank in the SS.

182  
00:11:46,480 --> 00:11:54,260  
And there are only two active,  
three active SS colonel

183  
00:11:54,260 --> 00:11:57,745



generals, that was the  
highest rank you could attain.

184  
00:11:57,745 --> 00:12:01,120  
And there were  
only three of them.

185  
00:12:01,120 --> 00:12:03,670  
There was no field marshal.

186  
00:12:03,670 --> 00:12:05,710  
So the highest rank,  
and only three of them

187  
00:12:05,710 --> 00:12:09,820  
were colonel generals.

188  
00:12:09,820 --> 00:12:12,370  
And all the other  
ones, and they were

189  
00:12:12,370 --> 00:12:14,440  
subordinated to field marshals.

190  
00:12:14,440 --> 00:12:16,750  
So they were never in charge.

191  
00:12:16,750 --> 00:12:18,760  
There were division commanders.

192  
00:12:18,760 --> 00:12:23,200  
But then the superiors,  
their superiors,

193  
00:12:23,200 --> 00:12:25,720  
were marshals, field marshals.

194  
00:12:25,720 --> 00:12:26,950  
Non-SS.

195  
00:12:26,950 --> 00:12:28,630  
Non-SS.

196  
00:12:28,630 --> 00:12:30,640  
It was a separate military.

197  
00:12:30,640 --> 00:12:31,570  
Yeah, of course.

198  
00:12:31,570 --> 00:12:33,430  
Yeah, and they  
were the majority.

199  
00:12:33,430 --> 00:12:37,570  
And there were  
almost over 900,000

200  
00:12:37,570 --> 00:12:38,960  
towards the end of the war.

201  
00:12:38,960 --> 00:12:48,190  
You had well over  
900,000, about 910,000 SS.

202  
00:12:48,190 --> 00:12:50,740  
And where did the  
Gestapo fit into this?

203  
00:12:50,740 --> 00:12:58,330  
The Gestapo, as I said,  
originated in 1933,

204  
00:12:58,330 --> 00:13:01,090  
actually started already in '32.

205  
00:13:01,090 --> 00:13:04,240  
Reinhard Heydrich  
who was a Marine

206  
00:13:04,240 --> 00:13:08,680  
officer who was kicked out  
because of sexual misconduct.

207  
00:13:08,680 --> 00:13:18,410

He was also cohabiting with the daughter of a Marine admiral

208  
00:13:18,410 --> 00:13:24,130  
or whatever and behaved in a way which was unseemingly for--

209  
00:13:24,130 --> 00:13:29,110  
unacceptable for a marine officer, Navy officer, actually

210  
00:13:29,110 --> 00:13:30,340  
Navy.

211  
00:13:30,340 --> 00:13:31,780  
And so he was kicked out.

212  
00:13:31,780 --> 00:13:37,570  
And then because of his qualifications,

213  
00:13:37,570 --> 00:13:40,360  
Himmler became interested in him and he then

214  
00:13:40,360 --> 00:13:47,500  
became the person who helped Himmler and was primarily

215  
00:13:47,500 --> 00:13:50,830  
the person who developed the Gestapo, the secret state

216  
00:13:50,830 --> 00:13:52,120  
police.

217  
00:13:52,120 --> 00:13:55,600  
And that was made up of civilians primarily.

218  
00:13:55,600 --> 00:13:57,700  
But that does not mean that some of them

219  
00:13:57,700 --> 00:14:02,320  
did not, at certain occasions,  
wear the uniform, the black,

220  
00:14:02,320 --> 00:14:03,445  
at that time black uniform.

221  
00:14:03,445 --> 00:14:06,490

222  
00:14:06,490 --> 00:14:12,610  
But primarily they were  
actually they were civilian.

223  
00:14:12,610 --> 00:14:15,730  
But they had military,  
they had SS ranks,

224  
00:14:15,730 --> 00:14:20,170  
which were comparable, SS  
ranks which were comparable.

225  
00:14:20,170 --> 00:14:23,890  
So the infamous person  
who was actually

226  
00:14:23,890 --> 00:14:27,250  
in charge of the Gestapo  
subordinated to Heydrich

227  
00:14:27,250 --> 00:14:31,150  
was a man called  
Muller and this Muller

228  
00:14:31,150 --> 00:14:36,010  
had a rank of  
lieutenant general,

229  
00:14:36,010 --> 00:14:38,920  
roughly speaking or equivalent.

230

00:14:38,920 --> 00:14:41,230  
One other explanatory  
thing, typically, what

231  
00:14:41,230 --> 00:14:44,870  
would be a concentration  
camp hierarchy?

232  
00:14:44,870 --> 00:14:47,320  
A concentration  
camp hierarchy was

233  
00:14:47,320 --> 00:14:51,770  
made of the people who were--

234  
00:14:51,770 --> 00:14:53,590  
and that is a very  
important question

235  
00:14:53,590 --> 00:14:57,970  
--was made up of the  
people who were the guards.

236  
00:14:57,970 --> 00:15:02,410  
And these guards  
were not permitted

237  
00:15:02,410 --> 00:15:06,130  
to really have any  
function or permitted

238  
00:15:06,130 --> 00:15:10,360  
to even enter for any length  
of time, the main camp.

239  
00:15:10,360 --> 00:15:13,600  
So all they were  
doing is guarding

240  
00:15:13,600 --> 00:15:15,700  
the premises of the  
concentration camp

241

00:15:15,700 --> 00:15:19,600  
and shooting people or  
whatever, guarding the camp

242  
00:15:19,600 --> 00:15:21,520  
so that no one would  
escape, number one.

243  
00:15:21,520 --> 00:15:24,700  
And then, when the  
people worked out,

244  
00:15:24,700 --> 00:15:27,170  
they would also guard them  
so that they would not

245  
00:15:27,170 --> 00:15:30,140  
escape to outside the camp.

246  
00:15:30,140 --> 00:15:42,890  
And then you had the SS, which  
was the member of the camp, SS

247  
00:15:42,890 --> 00:15:47,440  
and these people were,  
again, members of the--

248  
00:15:47,440 --> 00:15:50,840  
most of them were  
members of the Security

249  
00:15:50,840 --> 00:15:56,470  
Service, which were part,  
under Heydrich also, Security

250  
00:15:56,470 --> 00:15:57,580  
Service.

251  
00:15:57,580 --> 00:16:03,830  
And the Security  
Service was precisely

252  
00:16:03,830 --> 00:16:08,410

to secure the position  
of the Nazi party

253  
00:16:08,410 --> 00:16:12,790  
and see to it that anyone  
who was rocking the boat

254  
00:16:12,790 --> 00:16:16,840  
would be taken out  
of circulation.

255  
00:16:16,840 --> 00:16:20,620  
And then you had the  
another security service

256  
00:16:20,620 --> 00:16:26,350  
which was developed out  
of what belonged to a man

257  
00:16:26,350 --> 00:16:35,080  
called Canaris, who was  
murdered after July 20, 1944.

258  
00:16:35,080 --> 00:16:38,800  
And that was then  
taken over by the SS

259  
00:16:38,800 --> 00:16:44,560  
and they had then a spy system,  
an espionage system, which then

260  
00:16:44,560 --> 00:16:50,170  
was also under SS leadership.

261  
00:16:50,170 --> 00:16:58,050  
And the man in charge  
was an SS Major General

262  
00:16:58,050 --> 00:17:01,890  
called Schellenberg.

263  
00:17:01,890 --> 00:17:05,730  
And who were they spying on?

264  
00:17:05,730 --> 00:17:10,349  
Well, just spying on--

265  
00:17:10,349 --> 00:17:17,490  
just like espionage, just like  
CIA or the OSS during the war.

266  
00:17:17,490 --> 00:17:21,180  
That was just the  
equivalent of the OSS,

267  
00:17:21,180 --> 00:17:23,380  
Office of Strategic Services.

268  
00:17:23,380 --> 00:17:23,880  
So

269  
00:17:23,880 --> 00:17:29,950  
Were they spying externally  
to the country or internally?

270  
00:17:29,950 --> 00:17:32,000  
No, see, the internal was--

271  
00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:34,640

272  
00:17:34,640 --> 00:17:39,030  
it was an internal  
security service

273  
00:17:39,030 --> 00:17:41,910  
and there was an external  
security service.

274  
00:17:41,910 --> 00:17:46,950  
And these people were  
spying outside the country

275  
00:17:46,950 --> 00:17:51,270  
and trying to get whatever



information and intrigues

276

00:17:51,270 --> 00:17:52,416  
and what have you.

277

00:17:52,416 --> 00:17:55,780  
But were they part of  
the concentration camps?

278

00:17:55,780 --> 00:17:58,150  
They had nothing to do with  
the concentration camps.

279

00:17:58,150 --> 00:18:01,440

280

00:18:01,440 --> 00:18:04,870  
The guards that you talked  
about, were they simply--

281

00:18:04,870 --> 00:18:07,380  
Well, many of these  
people originally

282

00:18:07,380 --> 00:18:13,660  
started with the so-called  
death head guards.

283

00:18:13,660 --> 00:18:18,640  
And they started in Dachau  
under the leadership

284

00:18:18,640 --> 00:18:21,220  
of a man called Eicke.

285

00:18:21,220 --> 00:18:24,790  
And this Eicke  
became an SS general

286

00:18:24,790 --> 00:18:30,280  
and had a division of  
these death head people.

287

00:18:30,280 --> 00:18:32,770

But these death head people  
had different functions

288

00:18:32,770 --> 00:18:35,530

and that's where things  
become very difficult.

289

00:18:35,530 --> 00:18:42,040

Because people for example who  
were military part of the thing

290

00:18:42,040 --> 00:18:44,650

became disabled in one  
way or another, wounded

291

00:18:44,650 --> 00:18:46,630

and then they were sent  
to concentration camps

292

00:18:46,630 --> 00:18:49,450

and able-bodied people  
were sent into combat.

293

00:18:49,450 --> 00:18:53,950

So Himmler did it on  
purpose to mix them

294

00:18:53,950 --> 00:18:55,600

around so that  
that would not be,

295

00:18:55,600 --> 00:18:58,450

and he said it very  
clearly and for everything.

296

00:18:58,450 --> 00:19:01,150

He said, well, it's not  
that they should not

297

00:19:01,150 --> 00:19:04,900

consist of people who have  
earned their laurels in combat

298  
00:19:04,900 --> 00:19:08,350  
only and are clean so to  
speak, but also people

299  
00:19:08,350 --> 00:19:10,190  
who do the dirty work.

300  
00:19:10,190 --> 00:19:14,740  
So he wanted to mix them around  
so that everyone would be,

301  
00:19:14,740 --> 00:19:19,870  
so to speak, included in  
some of the dirty work.

302  
00:19:19,870 --> 00:19:21,640  
And that's what  
happened, particularly

303  
00:19:21,640 --> 00:19:24,470  
towards the end, '43.

304  
00:19:24,470 --> 00:19:26,140  
'44, '45.

305  
00:19:26,140 --> 00:19:28,690  
They had some  
exchanges taking place

306  
00:19:28,690 --> 00:19:31,420  
where people who  
were in combat were

307  
00:19:31,420 --> 00:19:35,920  
sent to concentration camps  
because they were disabled.

308  
00:19:35,920 --> 00:19:37,350  
So these would be SS.

309  
00:19:37,350 --> 00:19:38,620

Yeah.

310  
00:19:38,620 --> 00:19:39,370  
Yeah, yeah.

311  
00:19:39,370 --> 00:19:41,770  
And nominally, they  
would be nominally

312  
00:19:41,770 --> 00:19:44,590  
from SS, the military SS.

313  
00:19:44,590 --> 00:19:47,140  
Why were these guards  
not allowed inside?

314  
00:19:47,140 --> 00:19:55,390  
Well, because they wanted to  
have a separation of people

315  
00:19:55,390 --> 00:20:03,370  
so that only those people who  
did a certain part in that type

316  
00:20:03,370 --> 00:20:08,230  
of work would only know  
that much and not more than

317  
00:20:08,230 --> 00:20:09,760  
they needed to know.

318  
00:20:09,760 --> 00:20:11,980  
So the separation  
was on purpose so

319  
00:20:11,980 --> 00:20:15,520  
that no one would know more than  
they needed to do their job.

320  
00:20:15,520 --> 00:20:17,860  
And that was a  
special law and I've

321

00:20:17,860 --> 00:20:23,680

discussed that in great detail  
with Hitler's secretary, who

322

00:20:23,680 --> 00:20:28,060

told me that this was  
utmost in Hitler's mind,

323

00:20:28,060 --> 00:20:30,850

to have this separation so  
that no one would know more

324

00:20:30,850 --> 00:20:34,480

than they needed  
to do their job,

325

00:20:34,480 --> 00:20:38,300

to separate each  
other, divide and rule.

326

00:20:38,300 --> 00:20:42,190

And that was one of these  
principles to which he adhered

327

00:20:42,190 --> 00:20:44,770

and that's why he did not  
sign any documents which

328

00:20:44,770 --> 00:20:46,960

would have been--

329

00:20:46,960 --> 00:20:51,500

could have been used against him  
under different circumstances.

330

00:20:51,500 --> 00:20:52,130

And so forth.

331

00:20:52,130 --> 00:20:53,800

So that's why he  
didn't sign anything,

332

00:20:53,800 --> 00:21:02,020  
but gave any order  
which was especially

333  
00:21:02,020 --> 00:21:07,630  
consequential and  
inhuman, he never

334  
00:21:07,630 --> 00:21:09,910  
would have given that in  
writing because it could

335  
00:21:09,910 --> 00:21:11,650  
have been used against him.

336  
00:21:11,650 --> 00:21:15,310  
So therefore he gave  
all orders to the people

337  
00:21:15,310 --> 00:21:20,560  
whom he wanted to do the job,  
such as the extermination

338  
00:21:20,560 --> 00:21:22,780  
of the Jews.

339  
00:21:22,780 --> 00:21:26,490  
Internally in the camps,  
what was the hierarchy,

340  
00:21:26,490 --> 00:21:28,810  
you know, the kapos were--

341  
00:21:28,810 --> 00:21:31,690  
the prisoner--  
immediate prisoner--

342  
00:21:31,690 --> 00:21:38,170  
The internal hierarchy  
was based on the fact

343  
00:21:38,170 --> 00:21:42,850  
that they wanted to use as

little of the SS as possible

344

00:21:42,850 --> 00:21:46,720  
because they were needed  
in combat, number one.

345

00:21:46,720 --> 00:21:51,850  
So in order to run the  
camps, they used the inmates,

346

00:21:51,850 --> 00:21:54,670  
giving them privileges  
if they would

347

00:21:54,670 --> 00:21:58,060  
support whatever  
the task of the SS

348

00:21:58,060 --> 00:22:03,980  
and work along the  
lines of SS directions.

349

00:22:03,980 --> 00:22:06,850  
So they were directly  
responsible to the SS.

350

00:22:06,850 --> 00:22:10,450  
But because they're small in  
numbers relatively speaking

351

00:22:10,450 --> 00:22:16,990  
and had to run camps  
with 100,000s of people,

352

00:22:16,990 --> 00:22:20,410  
they just simply didn't want  
to use that type of personnel,

353

00:22:20,410 --> 00:22:25,450  
and therefore used the inmates  
to do some of their dirty work.

354

00:22:25,450 --> 00:22:30,110

And they've done so exceedingly  
successfully, very successful.

355

00:22:30,110 --> 00:22:33,910

So for all practical  
purposes, the inmates

356

00:22:33,910 --> 00:22:37,900

were perhaps more responsible  
in running the camps

357

00:22:37,900 --> 00:22:43,480

under the supervision, do the  
bidding of the SS, than the SS

358

00:22:43,480 --> 00:22:44,170

themselves.

359

00:22:44,170 --> 00:22:48,550

Because if you were in a camp,  
you hardly ever saw an SS,

360

00:22:48,550 --> 00:22:50,140

only to supervise.

361

00:22:50,140 --> 00:22:54,070

And all the other work,  
the dirty, the immediate,

362

00:22:54,070 --> 00:22:58,150

body to body contact,  
eye to eye contact,

363

00:22:58,150 --> 00:23:01,810

was with fellow inmates,  
who were functionaries.

364

00:23:01,810 --> 00:23:05,290

And that was of  
course disastrous

365

00:23:05,290 --> 00:23:09,760

because that also produced,



not a unification,

366  
00:23:09,760 --> 00:23:16,830  
but a tremendous conflict  
among the ranks of the inmates

367  
00:23:16,830 --> 00:23:18,900  
simply because  
they're not unified

368  
00:23:18,900 --> 00:23:24,390  
and therefore were  
not unified to resist,

369  
00:23:24,390 --> 00:23:31,710  
as they would have if they would  
have not divided against those

370  
00:23:31,710 --> 00:23:36,280  
who were the overseers and those  
who were the underlings, those

371  
00:23:36,280 --> 00:23:39,040  
who were the common--

372  
00:23:39,040 --> 00:23:42,750  
So you had different ranks.

373  
00:23:42,750 --> 00:23:45,330  
And so you had a  
hierarchy and I wrote

374  
00:23:45,330 --> 00:23:51,780  
a paper, which may or may  
not be published in Austria

375  
00:23:51,780 --> 00:23:54,520  
on that just very question.

376  
00:23:54,520 --> 00:23:55,020  
And--

377

00:23:55,020 --> 00:23:57,630

378

00:23:57,630 --> 00:24:00,810

What were the levels  
of SS commanders?

379

00:24:00,810 --> 00:24:08,370

Well, SS commanders were usually  
not that fully high, probably

380

00:24:08,370 --> 00:24:11,730

the highest rank would be  
an equivalent of a colonel

381

00:24:11,730 --> 00:24:14,310

and that was rare.

382

00:24:14,310 --> 00:24:21,720

Usually the highest  
were for example, Hoss,

383

00:24:21,720 --> 00:24:28,740

commander of Auschwitz  
was a lieutenant colonel.

384

00:24:28,740 --> 00:24:30,930

Even if you just think  
in terms of Eichmann.

385

00:24:30,930 --> 00:24:33,870

Look at Eichmann with  
his tremendous power

386

00:24:33,870 --> 00:24:38,280

and this organizational talent  
to really get all the people

387

00:24:38,280 --> 00:24:41,250

into the various camps  
and all that, he was only

388

00:24:41,250 --> 00:24:42,900

Lieutenant Colonel.

389

00:24:42,900 --> 00:24:46,950

Never got any higher rank,  
which is nothing very much.

390

00:24:46,950 --> 00:24:50,520

But his power was unbelievable.

391

00:24:50,520 --> 00:24:53,040

So there would be one person  
say, at the lieutenant colonel

392

00:24:53,040 --> 00:24:54,480

level.

393

00:24:54,480 --> 00:24:55,550

Well, all over.

394

00:24:55,550 --> 00:24:58,290

For example, when I  
talked about the camp

395

00:24:58,290 --> 00:25:10,080

I was, the synthetic  
fuel industry there,

396

00:25:10,080 --> 00:25:12,840

the man who was in charge,  
and I remember him well, he

397

00:25:12,840 --> 00:25:17,340

was an older fellow,  
person, who was a major.

398

00:25:17,340 --> 00:25:22,270

399

00:25:22,270 --> 00:25:25,300

Would there be other  
SS below that person?

400

00:25:25,300 --> 00:25:26,600  
Yeah, of course.

401  
00:25:26,600 --> 00:25:27,100  
Yeah.

402  
00:25:27,100 --> 00:25:30,540  
And they had different ranks  
and most frequent ranks

403  
00:25:30,540 --> 00:25:44,170  
were the equivalent of  
captain, first lieutenant,

404  
00:25:44,170 --> 00:25:45,220  
and second lieutenant.

405  
00:25:45,220 --> 00:25:51,280  
These were the most frequent  
ranks of SS officers in camps.

406  
00:25:51,280 --> 00:25:52,390  
And they were primarily--

407  
00:25:52,390 --> 00:25:55,890  
And then they had of course  
noncommissioned people there

408  
00:25:55,890 --> 00:25:59,750  
who were of course,  
the most numerous ones.

409  
00:25:59,750 --> 00:26:04,960  
But were the SS the ones who  
were primarily giving orders

410  
00:26:04,960 --> 00:26:05,890  
to kapos?

411  
00:26:05,890 --> 00:26:07,300  
Of course, of course.

412

00:26:07,300 --> 00:26:09,070  
Yeah.

413  
00:26:09,070 --> 00:26:10,030  
Yeah, of course.

414  
00:26:10,030 --> 00:26:13,780  
And the important  
thing is that they

415  
00:26:13,780 --> 00:26:15,190  
didn't have that much leeway.

416  
00:26:15,190 --> 00:26:17,750  
They had some, because  
they were assigned

417  
00:26:17,750 --> 00:26:24,550  
[INAUDIBLE] in situations  
of extreme stress

418  
00:26:24,550 --> 00:26:32,530  
and totally totalitarian setup.

419  
00:26:32,530 --> 00:26:35,290  
You always have a  
margin in your role.

420  
00:26:35,290 --> 00:26:38,860  
That is to say, discretion.

421  
00:26:38,860 --> 00:26:41,380  
And the question is  
and that is something

422  
00:26:41,380 --> 00:26:43,030  
which I've developed  
just recently,

423  
00:26:43,030 --> 00:26:47,200  
the fact that was totally  
overlooked, that in every role

424

00:26:47,200 --> 00:26:50,650

we play in life, we have  
a degree of discretion

425

00:26:50,650 --> 00:26:55,960

which we can use to some purpose  
either to help other people

426

00:26:55,960 --> 00:26:58,840

and be more lenient and  
tolerant or in a way which

427

00:26:58,840 --> 00:27:00,760

would hurt other people.

428

00:27:00,760 --> 00:27:02,690

And that was a very  
interesting thing,

429

00:27:02,690 --> 00:27:04,060

which was totally ignored.

430

00:27:04,060 --> 00:27:07,670

Because you had SS people  
and everyone there,

431

00:27:07,670 --> 00:27:11,650

including kapos, and that is to  
say inmate functionaries, who

432

00:27:11,650 --> 00:27:15,130

always had a certain  
degree of discretion.

433

00:27:15,130 --> 00:27:18,910

Of course in a dictatorship,  
in a totalitarian system,

434

00:27:18,910 --> 00:27:20,830

you have less  
discretion than we have

435

00:27:20,830 --> 00:27:23,680  
in normal civilian  
democratic life.

436  
00:27:23,680 --> 00:27:26,080  
But even there you  
had discretion.

437  
00:27:26,080 --> 00:27:30,700  
So even when I was, for  
example, in the open box car,

438  
00:27:30,700 --> 00:27:38,620  
I had discretion to save my own  
life at the expense of someone

439  
00:27:38,620 --> 00:27:40,240  
else's.

440  
00:27:40,240 --> 00:27:46,030  
There was my degree  
of discretion.

441  
00:27:46,030 --> 00:27:49,720  
But I could say, I'd rather  
die and let you live.

442  
00:27:49,720 --> 00:27:52,040  
And most people of  
course behave in a way

443  
00:27:52,040 --> 00:27:56,150  
which they'd rather  
live than die and cause

444  
00:27:56,150 --> 00:27:59,110  
the deaths of other people.

445  
00:27:59,110 --> 00:28:01,390  
But again, even at  
Auschwitz-Birkenau,

446  
00:28:01,390 --> 00:28:05,380

there was a SS man whom  
I didn't know at all.

447  
00:28:05,380 --> 00:28:07,900  
And I was just passing  
by and he called me.

448  
00:28:07,900 --> 00:28:14,110  
And I was expecting the  
worst, because obviously

449  
00:28:14,110 --> 00:28:20,950  
according to the experience,  
that usually meant bad news.

450  
00:28:20,950 --> 00:28:25,270  
And this fellow asked  
me are you starving?

451  
00:28:25,270 --> 00:28:26,180  
You hungry?

452  
00:28:26,180 --> 00:28:27,850  
And I said, yes, of course.

453  
00:28:27,850 --> 00:28:30,440

454  
00:28:30,440 --> 00:28:36,110  
And so he asked me some  
questions and was very nice.

455  
00:28:36,110 --> 00:28:42,820  
So he used his discretion  
he had to get me more food.

456  
00:28:42,820 --> 00:28:45,610  
Very naive, because he said,  
OK, let's go to the kitchen.

457  
00:28:45,610 --> 00:28:48,140  
And order them to  
give me some food.



458  
00:28:48,140 --> 00:28:50,403  
And he said, any  
time he comes here,

459  
00:28:50,403 --> 00:28:52,570  
he ought to get more food,  
for no reason whatsoever.

460  
00:28:52,570 --> 00:28:56,330  
The man didn't  
know me from Adam.

461  
00:28:56,330 --> 00:28:59,858  
Which was very naive, because  
without him supervising never

462  
00:28:59,858 --> 00:29:01,400  
would have happened  
anymore, unless I

463  
00:29:01,400 --> 00:29:05,350  
would have had some friends  
there, which I did not.

464  
00:29:05,350 --> 00:29:07,770  
But that was-- or  
that other fellow

465  
00:29:07,770 --> 00:29:12,750  
back in the synthetic  
fuel slave labor market.

466  
00:29:12,750 --> 00:29:16,650  
There was another one and he  
caught me red handed, you know.

467  
00:29:16,650 --> 00:29:20,010  
I just had come from  
a contact I've had,

468  
00:29:20,010 --> 00:29:21,750  
who brought me a

lot of contraband,

469

00:29:21,750 --> 00:29:27,540

which means medicine and money,  
and, well, not so much money,

470

00:29:27,540 --> 00:29:32,250

but food stuff and all sorts  
of important stuff, which

471

00:29:32,250 --> 00:29:33,670

was vital.

472

00:29:33,670 --> 00:29:35,650

And I was able to make  
the sort of money.

473

00:29:35,650 --> 00:29:38,040

So this fellow was known as--

474

00:29:38,040 --> 00:29:44,380

was called-- this SS  
person had a nickname

475

00:29:44,380 --> 00:29:50,250

and he was called Tom Mix.

476

00:29:50,250 --> 00:29:52,080

Can you imagine?

477

00:29:52,080 --> 00:29:55,620

In this camp, Tom Mix, you know?

478

00:29:55,620 --> 00:29:58,380

And I always said,  
Tommix because I

479

00:29:58,380 --> 00:29:59,790

didn't know the cartoon at all.

480

00:29:59,790 --> 00:30:02,170

But people there

apparently knew that.

481  
00:30:02,170 --> 00:30:04,140  
And so they called  
in Tom Mix because he

482  
00:30:04,140 --> 00:30:06,420  
behaved like Tom Mix.

483  
00:30:06,420 --> 00:30:07,440  
Right.

484  
00:30:07,440 --> 00:30:10,410  
And he called me and I said,  
that's the end, you know.

485  
00:30:10,410 --> 00:30:15,330  
And I thought, you know, I  
just put my knapsack, you know,

486  
00:30:15,330 --> 00:30:17,220  
behind so that he didn't see.

487  
00:30:17,220 --> 00:30:18,750  
But that didn't mean anything.

488  
00:30:18,750 --> 00:30:21,690  
He would search you,  
strip you naked.

489  
00:30:21,690 --> 00:30:26,940  
But because I responded in that  
style to which he could relate,

490  
00:30:26,940 --> 00:30:30,360  
perfect German, immaculate  
posture, and all

491  
00:30:30,360 --> 00:30:34,630  
that, he just lightly  
slapped my face, and said,

492

00:30:34,630 --> 00:30:41,185  
I don't want to catch you  
again or you'll be a goner.

493  
00:30:41,185 --> 00:30:42,880  
Absolute [INAUDIBLE].

494  
00:30:42,880 --> 00:30:44,200  
That's right.

495  
00:30:44,200 --> 00:30:46,520  
So therefore again,  
he used the margin.

496  
00:30:46,520 --> 00:30:49,390  
He could have shot me on the  
spot without any problems

497  
00:30:49,390 --> 00:30:51,970  
to him, which he did.

498  
00:30:51,970 --> 00:30:53,830  
Which he did in other cases.

499  
00:30:53,830 --> 00:30:56,740  
But in my case he didn't do it.

500  
00:30:56,740 --> 00:31:03,100  
So that's the margin of  
discretion which everyone has.

501  
00:31:03,100 --> 00:31:05,200  
And that has not been  
researched at all.

502  
00:31:05,200 --> 00:31:08,020  
And I'm very glad that I  
came up with these things

503  
00:31:08,020 --> 00:31:10,090  
because that was  
totally ignored.

504

00:31:10,090 --> 00:31:15,520

And that's going to be  
part of my future, part

505

00:31:15,520 --> 00:31:17,890

of what I'm writing.

506

00:31:17,890 --> 00:31:22,480

Yes, I'd like to talk about  
that more [INAUDIBLE]..

507

00:31:22,480 --> 00:31:25,150

Why do you think these  
SS people allowed

508

00:31:25,150 --> 00:31:28,970

themselves to be interviewed?

509

00:31:28,970 --> 00:31:33,230

Obviously, the thing is,  
after that time, they also

510

00:31:33,230 --> 00:31:38,900

had a need to reveal themselves,  
to find an outlet, to get

511

00:31:38,900 --> 00:31:41,750

things out of the system.

512

00:31:41,750 --> 00:31:47,780

And I was, in my  
interview techniques,

513

00:31:47,780 --> 00:31:53,960

I was able to somehow play  
the role of the catalyst,

514

00:31:53,960 --> 00:32:00,110

to get things which they had  
to repress out of their system.

515

00:32:00,110 --> 00:32:05,600

So for them it was a relief in many cases.

516  
00:32:05,600 --> 00:32:08,030  
They had a need to talk to someone

517  
00:32:08,030 --> 00:32:11,030  
who had enough knowledge who would respond in a way which

518  
00:32:11,030 --> 00:32:15,140  
would not be threatening, but would somehow be encouraging

519  
00:32:15,140 --> 00:32:17,820  
for them to talk more about whatever they wanted to

520  
00:32:17,820 --> 00:32:20,990  
and play around with that and ask questions

521  
00:32:20,990 --> 00:32:23,960  
which were meaningful and respond

522  
00:32:23,960 --> 00:32:25,590  
to it in a meaningful way.

523  
00:32:25,590 --> 00:32:26,780  
So very appreciative.

524  
00:32:26,780 --> 00:32:28,340  
And I didn't know that to begin with,

525  
00:32:28,340 --> 00:32:32,270  
because I said, for example with Steiner or with most

526  
00:32:32,270 --> 00:32:35,030  
of the other ones, 90%

of all the other ones.

527

00:32:35,030 --> 00:32:37,730

There was only one  
person who refused

528

00:32:37,730 --> 00:32:41,000

or two persons who  
refused interviews.

529

00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:42,350

And that was very interesting.

530

00:32:42,350 --> 00:32:48,050

One I missed because he  
was the highest of them all

531

00:32:48,050 --> 00:32:52,250

responsible for the  
slaughter in most

532

00:32:52,250 --> 00:32:54,170

of the Polish  
concentration camps

533

00:32:54,170 --> 00:32:58,700

and in the so-called  
Einsatzgruppen, a man called

534

00:32:58,700 --> 00:33:04,580

[Personal name] And I wanted  
to interview him in prison back

535

00:33:04,580 --> 00:33:07,790

in Bavaria, a place  
called [? Stadelheim. ?]

536

00:33:07,790 --> 00:33:10,490

And he came out and the  
director was with me

537

00:33:10,490 --> 00:33:12,470

and said there is

Professor Stein.

538

00:33:12,470 --> 00:33:16,190  
He would like to interview, and  
would you have some problem.

539

00:33:16,190 --> 00:33:18,020  
So we were actually  
face to face.

540

00:33:18,020 --> 00:33:20,930  
And he was one of the  
really most responsible,

541

00:33:20,930 --> 00:33:23,210  
I mean he was the  
highest, who really

542

00:33:23,210 --> 00:33:24,710  
could cause mass killings.

543

00:33:24,710 --> 00:33:28,370  
He was just really above most  
of the other ones, full general,

544

00:33:28,370 --> 00:33:29,180  
police general.

545

00:33:29,180 --> 00:33:35,680

546

00:33:35,680 --> 00:33:38,380  
And he looked at me and  
kind of thought about

547

00:33:38,380 --> 00:33:41,290  
and said, verbatim, I remember.

548

00:33:41,290 --> 00:33:42,610  
"Rather not."

549

00:33:42,610 --> 00:33:46,030



And this director was a  
tremendously fair, person

550  
00:33:46,030 --> 00:33:51,160  
exceedingly liberal and  
thoughtful and insightful.

551  
00:33:51,160 --> 00:33:53,140  
Very impressed with him,  
had lots of dealings

552  
00:33:53,140 --> 00:33:55,870  
with a number of people I  
interviewed at his prison

553  
00:33:55,870 --> 00:33:57,520  
where he was a director.

554  
00:33:57,520 --> 00:34:01,240  
And said, well, Dr.  
Steiner, what he said,

555  
00:34:01,240 --> 00:34:05,830  
Professor, Dr. Steiner, I don't  
think we should force him.

556  
00:34:05,830 --> 00:34:07,510  
And I said I agree.

557  
00:34:07,510 --> 00:34:10,030  
Because you don't  
have anything anyway.

558  
00:34:10,030 --> 00:34:11,710  
You can't force them.

559  
00:34:11,710 --> 00:34:14,960  
And he only said, he  
didn't say, I won't do it.

560  
00:34:14,960 --> 00:34:17,679  
But he said, rather not.

561

00:34:17,679 --> 00:34:19,320

Rather not.

562

00:34:19,320 --> 00:34:24,610

And so it didn't happen because  
the man knew more about--

563

00:34:24,610 --> 00:34:30,280

besides the mass killings than  
anyone else I've interviewed.

564

00:34:30,280 --> 00:34:32,380

He would have known more  
than Eichmann himself

565

00:34:32,380 --> 00:34:35,620

because he was, I mean, he  
was towering over Eichmann

566

00:34:35,620 --> 00:34:39,370

in terms of rank and power.

567

00:34:39,370 --> 00:34:43,940

One of the most destructive  
people in the entire situation.

568

00:34:43,940 --> 00:34:45,790

Why do you think he--

569

00:34:45,790 --> 00:34:46,969

I have no idea.

570

00:34:46,969 --> 00:34:47,989

I have no idea.

571

00:34:47,989 --> 00:34:49,480

I have no idea.

572

00:34:49,480 --> 00:34:53,120

I didn't come on  
threatening at all.

573

00:34:53,120 --> 00:34:56,440

And then I was somehow  
looking to be sure

574

00:34:56,440 --> 00:35:01,840

because I was very much aware  
of what he did and who he was.

575

00:35:01,840 --> 00:35:09,870

And he may not have been  
in the mood or whatever.

576

00:35:09,870 --> 00:35:11,310

You know, he may  
have been afraid

577

00:35:11,310 --> 00:35:14,400

that I would threaten him  
or that I would give him

578

00:35:14,400 --> 00:35:17,980

a bad time and all that.

579

00:35:17,980 --> 00:35:19,270

I don't know

580

00:35:19,270 --> 00:35:24,790

Do you think that this need  
that many of the perpetrators

581

00:35:24,790 --> 00:35:29,680

had to speak their  
feelings, did that reflect

582

00:35:29,680 --> 00:35:32,770

some kind of remorse or guilt?

583

00:35:32,770 --> 00:35:38,830

Well, I gave them-- you know,  
I distributed about 1,000

584

00:35:38,830 --> 00:35:41,920

questionnaires with  
questions of that precisely,

585  
00:35:41,920 --> 00:35:44,080  
with that particular question.

586  
00:35:44,080 --> 00:35:49,030  
Whether they were-- how they  
looked back at the activity,

587  
00:35:49,030 --> 00:35:52,030  
giving them a lot of choices.

588  
00:35:52,030 --> 00:35:56,380  
And remorse on one  
extreme and satisfaction

589  
00:35:56,380 --> 00:36:00,970  
on the other extreme, some  
other ones in between.

590  
00:36:00,970 --> 00:36:04,367  
And most of them say they  
look back with satisfaction,

591  
00:36:04,367 --> 00:36:05,950  
with the exception  
of those people who

592  
00:36:05,950 --> 00:36:11,320  
were doing the dirty work in  
concentration camps, which

593  
00:36:11,320 --> 00:36:15,220  
doesn't mean that  
they were remorseful.

594  
00:36:15,220 --> 00:36:19,360  
But that they didn't look  
at it with satisfaction.

595  
00:36:19,360 --> 00:36:23,800  
With regret, that was

another thing, with regret.

596  
00:36:23,800 --> 00:36:36,870  
And so in my interviews,  
personal interviews,

597  
00:36:36,870 --> 00:36:44,530  
I found that very many of  
these people, and most of them

598  
00:36:44,530 --> 00:36:47,810  
actually, said it was  
their responsibility.

599  
00:36:47,810 --> 00:36:50,710  
It was their duty.

600  
00:36:50,710 --> 00:36:56,400  
And depending on  
what type of work

601  
00:36:56,400 --> 00:37:00,960  
they were in, function they had,  
if they were in the Waffen-SS,

602  
00:37:00,960 --> 00:37:04,350  
most of them said they  
looked with satisfaction.

603  
00:37:04,350 --> 00:37:06,390  
If they were in  
something else, then

604  
00:37:06,390 --> 00:37:09,540  
they said with regret and  
not with satisfaction.

605  
00:37:09,540 --> 00:37:12,870  
Or if they said not regret,  
they said something in between.

606  
00:37:12,870 --> 00:37:15,150  
Because I shaded these things.

607  
00:37:15,150 --> 00:37:18,100

608  
00:37:18,100 --> 00:37:27,560  
Well so, remorse, some had  
remorse, and some people who

609  
00:37:27,560 --> 00:37:33,650  
were Auschwitz perpetrator,  
whom I interviewed in a prison,

610  
00:37:33,650 --> 00:37:39,680  
a place called [Place  
name] broke out in tears.

611  
00:37:39,680 --> 00:37:41,060  
But I never was threatening.

612  
00:37:41,060 --> 00:37:46,010  
I asked questions in some sort  
of an understanding manner

613  
00:37:46,010 --> 00:37:49,410  
and not in some sort of a  
threatening manner whatsoever.

614  
00:37:49,410 --> 00:37:50,900  
And some broke into tears.

615  
00:37:50,900 --> 00:37:54,410  
And when I came back and  
said, Professor Stein,

616  
00:37:54,410 --> 00:37:57,650  
you caused me not to sleep  
last night or whatever.

617  
00:37:57,650 --> 00:37:59,390  
You know because I  
stayed there and saw

618

00:37:59,390 --> 00:38:02,010  
them a number of occasions  
and kept in touch.

619  
00:38:02,010 --> 00:38:04,640  
And so I had people  
broke down on me.

620  
00:38:04,640 --> 00:38:08,310  
And yes, had regret.

621  
00:38:08,310 --> 00:38:11,880  
And some people I had contact  
with for very, very many years.

622  
00:38:11,880 --> 00:38:14,010  
I have stacks of papers.

623  
00:38:14,010 --> 00:38:15,960  
And that is one thing  
which I want to say,

624  
00:38:15,960 --> 00:38:19,350  
that this is something  
I did not anticipate.

625  
00:38:19,350 --> 00:38:21,910  
I felt that that was  
would be an interview,

626  
00:38:21,910 --> 00:38:23,620  
and that would be it.

627  
00:38:23,620 --> 00:38:28,260  
But because they had a need  
to stay in contact with me.

628  
00:38:28,260 --> 00:38:29,730  
They kept in touch with me.

629  
00:38:29,730 --> 00:38:31,110  
They wrote to me.

630

00:38:31,110 --> 00:38:35,220  
They interacted with me and were  
looking forward for me to come.

631

00:38:35,220 --> 00:38:37,710  
So that we developed  
a relationship,

632

00:38:37,710 --> 00:38:41,580  
which I never anticipated, which  
included Steiner and all the SS

633

00:38:41,580 --> 00:38:44,540  
generals, all of them.

634

00:38:44,540 --> 00:38:45,970  
And also a lot of  
people, I would

635

00:38:45,970 --> 00:38:48,610  
say to 80% of the  
people I interviewed,

636

00:38:48,610 --> 00:38:51,610  
we developed a relationship  
rather than just an interview

637

00:38:51,610 --> 00:38:56,410  
type of situation, which  
takes place once or twice

638

00:38:56,410 --> 00:38:57,640  
and that's it.

639

00:38:57,640 --> 00:39:00,160  
And you never hear from  
these people again.

640

00:39:00,160 --> 00:39:02,270  
This is not something  
what happened,

641



00:39:02,270 --> 00:39:04,270  
which is a very  
interesting and certainly

642  
00:39:04,270 --> 00:39:05,950  
did not anticipate it.

643  
00:39:05,950 --> 00:39:09,940  
Did these people at any point,  
realize you are a survivor?

644  
00:39:09,940 --> 00:39:11,380  
Some did and some did not.

645  
00:39:11,380 --> 00:39:14,980  
And in some cases, I volunteered  
that, not because I had to.

646  
00:39:14,980 --> 00:39:16,000  
I volunteered it.

647  
00:39:16,000 --> 00:39:21,730  
I wanted them to know, which  
includes Hitler's secretary.

648  
00:39:21,730 --> 00:39:25,480  
Which includes a number of  
other SS officers and men.

649  
00:39:25,480 --> 00:39:28,420  
And they appreciated me  
even more because they said,

650  
00:39:28,420 --> 00:39:32,630  
my god, this person  
is not doing it,

651  
00:39:32,630 --> 00:39:38,470  
but he has a human interest  
in me, which I always showed.

652  
00:39:38,470 --> 00:39:41,530  
And they appreciated that, so

they're looking forward to me.

653

00:39:41,530 --> 00:39:44,530

And wrote me letters,  
which were very loving.

654

00:39:44,530 --> 00:39:45,920

And one of these people--

655

00:39:45,920 --> 00:39:49,390

and that's exactly what is the  
positive of the whole thing,

656

00:39:49,390 --> 00:39:56,230

was the Hangman of Buchenwald,  
one of the most brutal people

657

00:39:56,230 --> 00:39:58,490

one can possibly imagine.

658

00:39:58,490 --> 00:40:05,710

And he then was sent into combat  
because he did some things

659

00:40:05,710 --> 00:40:14,140

along with the command of  
that camp of Buchenwald,

660

00:40:14,140 --> 00:40:16,600

who was shot.

661

00:40:16,600 --> 00:40:19,943

Because he was  
appropriating things

662

00:40:19,943 --> 00:40:21,610

which didn't belong  
to him and all that.

663

00:40:21,610 --> 00:40:22,840

So he was shot.

664

00:40:22,840 --> 00:40:25,060  
And this fellow was sent--

665  
00:40:25,060 --> 00:40:27,280  
was also sent-- as  
a matter of fact,

666  
00:40:27,280 --> 00:40:28,460  
was in a camp for a while.

667  
00:40:28,460 --> 00:40:32,650  
And then they sent  
him into combat.

668  
00:40:32,650 --> 00:40:37,970  
And he was totally so injured  
that he was a total invalid.

669  
00:40:37,970 --> 00:40:42,380  
He couldn't walk and he had  
to be only in a wheelchair.

670  
00:40:42,380 --> 00:40:50,360  
And, so I interviewed him  
at this particular prison

671  
00:40:50,360 --> 00:40:53,935  
I mentioned in Bavaria, with  
the help of this director,

672  
00:40:53,935 --> 00:40:56,060  
and also because there are  
some other people there,

673  
00:40:56,060 --> 00:40:58,940  
one is this gentleman  
I saw periodically.

674  
00:40:58,940 --> 00:41:01,932

675  
00:41:01,932 --> 00:41:03,890  
So I got to know him

there and interviewed him.

676

00:41:03,890 --> 00:41:06,050

Because this SS general  
told me about him.

677

00:41:06,050 --> 00:41:08,050

Well, you should really  
interview this person.

678

00:41:08,050 --> 00:41:11,290

He's there and all that and some  
other lady was the so-called

679

00:41:11,290 --> 00:41:15,950

the Angel of the Inmates,  
with whom I became--

680

00:41:15,950 --> 00:41:17,780

a Swedish lady who was--

681

00:41:17,780 --> 00:41:20,180

kind of a story by itself.

682

00:41:20,180 --> 00:41:27,290

And-- related to  
Goering via marriage, so

683

00:41:27,290 --> 00:41:31,010

his first marriage, so she was  
related to Goering because she

684

00:41:31,010 --> 00:41:32,810

was related to his first wife.

685

00:41:32,810 --> 00:41:37,400

So she had a very important  
position in Nazi Germany

686

00:41:37,400 --> 00:41:38,330

by virtue of that.

687

00:41:38,330 --> 00:41:45,350

Anyway, so her job  
was later on to aid

688

00:41:45,350 --> 00:41:48,230

political, so-called  
political prisoners,

689

00:41:48,230 --> 00:41:49,640

and that was her specialty.

690

00:41:49,640 --> 00:41:52,070

And she went there  
and talked to them

691

00:41:52,070 --> 00:41:54,470

and supported  
them, and whatever.

692

00:41:54,470 --> 00:41:57,920

Anyway, so she came with  
me and she took me there

693

00:41:57,920 --> 00:41:59,600

to this for the first time.

694

00:41:59,600 --> 00:42:02,480

And I was there the first time  
to this prison in Bavaria.

695

00:42:02,480 --> 00:42:08,480

Anyway, so there is a person  
called Sommer was his name.

696

00:42:08,480 --> 00:42:11,120

697

00:42:11,120 --> 00:42:14,210

Was in a wheelchair,  
and I interviewed him.

698

00:42:14,210 --> 00:42:21,410

And then he became so enamored

with this type of relief

699  
00:42:21,410 --> 00:42:23,240  
he apparently  
experienced that he

700  
00:42:23,240 --> 00:42:24,840  
started to write me regularly.

701  
00:42:24,840 --> 00:42:29,870  
If I didn't respond to  
him, if he got very upset.

702  
00:42:29,870 --> 00:42:32,390  
And I became so  
to speak not only

703  
00:42:32,390 --> 00:42:35,750  
his father confessor so  
to speak, but someone

704  
00:42:35,750 --> 00:42:38,960  
he looked for was  
some sort of support

705  
00:42:38,960 --> 00:42:43,560  
and the man had a prison  
sentence, which was many,

706  
00:42:43,560 --> 00:42:46,910  
many life sentences, many life--

707  
00:42:46,910 --> 00:42:50,070  
absolutely no chance for  
him to get out, ever.

708  
00:42:50,070 --> 00:42:50,590  
He didn't.

709  
00:42:50,590 --> 00:42:55,940  
He died in this sort of semi--

710

00:42:55,940 --> 00:42:59,480  
some sort of a home aid,  
a special place, but as

711  
00:42:59,480 --> 00:43:00,260  
a prisoner.

712  
00:43:00,260 --> 00:43:03,830  
Because he could not stay  
in a prison because he

713  
00:43:03,830 --> 00:43:07,410  
needed medical  
attention all the time.

714  
00:43:07,410 --> 00:43:12,920  
So they put him into some  
nursing home type of situation.

715  
00:43:12,920 --> 00:43:16,730  
In these cases, where as you  
say the people [INAUDIBLE]

716  
00:43:16,730 --> 00:43:19,870  
that their relationship in  
need of this, [INAUDIBLE] did

717  
00:43:19,870 --> 00:43:23,428  
you deduce remorse  
and regret from that,

718  
00:43:23,428 --> 00:43:25,220  
even if they didn't  
say so on the question?

719  
00:43:25,220 --> 00:43:29,220

720  
00:43:29,220 --> 00:43:31,990  
Well, see you had the different  
levels of sophistication

721  
00:43:31,990 --> 00:43:34,245

in these people and also  
different emotional states.

722  
00:43:34,245 --> 00:43:37,230

723  
00:43:37,230 --> 00:43:40,920  
But even when I did  
sort of broadcast

724  
00:43:40,920 --> 00:43:43,560  
where we had three  
former SS officers

725  
00:43:43,560 --> 00:43:46,820  
and myself just  
recently two years ago,

726  
00:43:46,820 --> 00:43:53,190  
two years, no, was  
'92, when was it?

727  
00:43:53,190 --> 00:43:54,255  
I think it was '92.

728  
00:43:54,255 --> 00:43:58,450

729  
00:43:58,450 --> 00:43:59,655  
It's '93, no, '91.

730  
00:43:59,655 --> 00:44:04,320

731  
00:44:04,320 --> 00:44:06,420  
They officially and  
on broadcast, you

732  
00:44:06,420 --> 00:44:12,810  
know tabletop broadcasting,  
which I initiated,

733



00:44:12,810 --> 00:44:14,190  
they regret it.

734  
00:44:14,190 --> 00:44:19,878  
They said, we regret, if we had  
known, the consequences and all

735  
00:44:19,878 --> 00:44:21,420  
that, and what  
happened and all that,

736  
00:44:21,420 --> 00:44:24,780  
we certainly would have  
not become members of SS.

737  
00:44:24,780 --> 00:44:26,940  
And that was the public  
sort of disclosure,

738  
00:44:26,940 --> 00:44:30,060  
and for which other members  
of the SS, still alive will

739  
00:44:30,060 --> 00:44:32,710  
never-- that's why I've  
finished my situation.

740  
00:44:32,710 --> 00:44:38,070  
Because I blew my cover so  
to speak and went public.

741  
00:44:38,070 --> 00:44:39,630  
And so the people  
who didn't know

742  
00:44:39,630 --> 00:44:42,420  
that I was in camps and  
all that know by now.

743  
00:44:42,420 --> 00:44:47,070  
And it's just went through  
like through the grapevine

744

00:44:47,070 --> 00:44:49,980  
situation, just like lightning.

745  
00:44:49,980 --> 00:44:51,420  
So they won't talk.

746  
00:44:51,420 --> 00:44:53,670  
Well, so they still  
talk, you know.

747  
00:44:53,670 --> 00:44:57,360  
But that people who want to  
talk and some other, their wives

748  
00:44:57,360 --> 00:44:59,400  
don't want me to talk  
to them or something,

749  
00:44:59,400 --> 00:45:02,070  
you know, and very  
opposed because they

750  
00:45:02,070 --> 00:45:04,590  
feel that I betrayed  
their confidence

751  
00:45:04,590 --> 00:45:05,580  
or whatever, you know.

752  
00:45:05,580 --> 00:45:08,400  
And betrayed their  
confidence in as much

753  
00:45:08,400 --> 00:45:12,570  
as I didn't tell them  
that I was an ex-inmate.

754  
00:45:12,570 --> 00:45:15,330

755  
00:45:15,330 --> 00:45:20,190  
But I knew that something  
needed to be done

756  
00:45:20,190 --> 00:45:22,815  
and since my work is pretty  
much in terms of interviews

757  
00:45:22,815 --> 00:45:25,530  
pretty much done,  
I felt the time

758  
00:45:25,530 --> 00:45:27,060  
was, the timing was all right.

759  
00:45:27,060 --> 00:45:29,580

760  
00:45:29,580 --> 00:45:32,265  
I don't know whether it  
was worth it all, depends,

761  
00:45:32,265 --> 00:45:34,090  
you know, that I went public.

762  
00:45:34,090 --> 00:45:37,200

763  
00:45:37,200 --> 00:45:38,850  
I don't necessarily  
have any regrets

764  
00:45:38,850 --> 00:45:40,620  
because the people  
who want to talk to me

765  
00:45:40,620 --> 00:45:42,030  
will still talk to me.

766  
00:45:42,030 --> 00:45:44,820  
And most of the people I'm  
talking about now are dead.

767  
00:45:44,820 --> 00:45:49,320  
They all had died of

old age or some other.

768  
00:45:49,320 --> 00:45:51,510  
Maybe you could describe  
at this point what

769  
00:45:51,510 --> 00:45:54,930  
your conscious idea of your  
interviewing technique was,

770  
00:45:54,930 --> 00:45:56,190  
what you thought about--

771  
00:45:56,190 --> 00:46:02,670  
Well, yeah, well,  
well, I've done

772  
00:46:02,670 --> 00:46:06,090  
a lot of graduate  
work in group dynamics

773  
00:46:06,090 --> 00:46:09,270  
back at Berkeley when I  
was working my doctorate.

774  
00:46:09,270 --> 00:46:13,380  
And I had tremendous  
teachers, some of whom

775  
00:46:13,380 --> 00:46:18,730  
were psychologists, some  
of whom were psychiatrists.

776  
00:46:18,730 --> 00:46:22,050  
One lady psychiatrist  
who was just a terrific,

777  
00:46:22,050 --> 00:46:25,260  
it was a postgraduate course.

778  
00:46:25,260 --> 00:46:30,660  
And another person was a  
social worker, a professor

779  
00:46:30,660 --> 00:46:37,440  
of social work, social welfare.

780  
00:46:37,440 --> 00:46:42,020  
And so I was exposed to a  
number of different techniques

781  
00:46:42,020 --> 00:46:44,040  
and schools of thought.

782  
00:46:44,040 --> 00:46:49,860  
And the one which I used pretty  
much exclusively, almost,

783  
00:46:49,860 --> 00:46:53,640  
not quite, was the  
client-centered, [INAUDIBLE]

784  
00:46:53,640 --> 00:46:54,600  
method.

785  
00:46:54,600 --> 00:46:58,230  
And in which I  
simply ask questions

786  
00:46:58,230 --> 00:47:02,470  
without really being, and  
using myself as a mirror.

787  
00:47:02,470 --> 00:47:04,590  
So that's what you  
mean, and they said--

788  
00:47:04,590 --> 00:47:08,340  
and so it was non-threatening.

789  
00:47:08,340 --> 00:47:10,080  
And that was the best thing.

790  
00:47:10,080 --> 00:47:13,530  
It was just, when I was in

the summer in Luxembourg,

791

00:47:13,530 --> 00:47:17,700

I visit my very close friend,  
a professor retired emeritus,

792

00:47:17,700 --> 00:47:22,980

professor of criminology  
and also a psychiatrist.

793

00:47:22,980 --> 00:47:28,620

Was professor at the University  
of Mines and Luxembourg

794

00:47:28,620 --> 00:47:33,960

and was also in the  
Resistance and all that.

795

00:47:33,960 --> 00:47:38,370

Anyway so he took  
me to one bistro

796

00:47:38,370 --> 00:47:40,710

where he usually spends  
a great deal of time

797

00:47:40,710 --> 00:47:42,150

and met new people.

798

00:47:42,150 --> 00:47:46,800

And introduced me to some  
people, and I was interested.

799

00:47:46,800 --> 00:47:48,510

And I use this  
sort of technique.

800

00:47:48,510 --> 00:47:51,240

And he went home  
and said, my god,

801

00:47:51,240 --> 00:47:52,980

I've never heard

anything like that.

802

00:47:52,980 --> 00:47:54,600

You're just really  
fabulous, the way

803

00:47:54,600 --> 00:47:58,470

you just get information out  
of people, without threatening

804

00:47:58,470 --> 00:48:01,950

and things which  
are just masterful.

805

00:48:01,950 --> 00:48:05,130

And to come from him, who's a  
real expert one of the leading

806

00:48:05,130 --> 00:48:08,190

people in the field, was  
just about the highest praise

807

00:48:08,190 --> 00:48:10,690

I could possibly get.

808

00:48:10,690 --> 00:48:14,430

And with the years,  
you know and all that,

809

00:48:14,430 --> 00:48:17,400

trying to put yourself in the  
shoes of other people and all

810

00:48:17,400 --> 00:48:19,770

that, you can  
develop the skills.

811

00:48:19,770 --> 00:48:21,630

And I don't think I'm  
particularly talented.

812

00:48:21,630 --> 00:48:25,350

But I've just

developed a skill which

813  
00:48:25,350 --> 00:48:27,030  
has been exceedingly useful.

814  
00:48:27,030 --> 00:48:30,420  
And if I would  
pinpoint it in a way,

815  
00:48:30,420 --> 00:48:33,440  
it's primarily [? rotarian ?]  
type of client centered.

816  
00:48:33,440 --> 00:48:36,150

817  
00:48:36,150 --> 00:48:38,940  
Roughly, what were  
the kinds of questions

818  
00:48:38,940 --> 00:48:41,430  
that you were  
interested in when you--

819  
00:48:41,430 --> 00:48:44,940  
Well, I was interested why  
they joined and to what extent

820  
00:48:44,940 --> 00:48:47,050  
why they did what they did.

821  
00:48:47,050 --> 00:48:50,040  
And if they understood the  
consequences and how they felt

822  
00:48:50,040 --> 00:48:53,790  
about it when they were doing  
it, how they felt afterwards, ,

823  
00:48:53,790 --> 00:48:56,820  
and how they came to become  
what they did, you know.



824

00:48:56,820 --> 00:49:00,450

And that was precisely  
the radius pretty much.

825

00:49:00,450 --> 00:49:03,270

We also at times ran  
into some other things

826

00:49:03,270 --> 00:49:07,920

which were related, but not  
directly centered on that.

827

00:49:07,920 --> 00:49:11,550

But in order to get  
back to the center,

828

00:49:11,550 --> 00:49:14,210

I know what the  
situation in a way

829

00:49:14,210 --> 00:49:17,660

that and they will be more  
open and say, hey, yeah.

830

00:49:17,660 --> 00:49:18,530

So what did you do?

831

00:49:18,530 --> 00:49:19,495

And why did you do it?

832

00:49:19,495 --> 00:49:20,370

And how did you feel?

833

00:49:20,370 --> 00:49:26,780

And what did you feel  
when these people died?

834

00:49:26,780 --> 00:49:30,080

And I'm talking about  
Auschwitz perpetrators,

835

00:49:30,080 --> 00:49:35,120

and I'm one of the very few who,  
well, the only victim to be--

836  
00:49:35,120 --> 00:49:37,880  
victim if you will,  
survivor victim,

837  
00:49:37,880 --> 00:49:40,910  
who has interviewed  
Auschwitz perpetrators and SS

838  
00:49:40,910 --> 00:49:44,540  
people, period, as far  
as I can tell for sure.

839  
00:49:44,540 --> 00:49:49,800  
And so, so they  
came out and said,

840  
00:49:49,800 --> 00:49:50,930  
yeah, well how do you feel?

841  
00:49:50,930 --> 00:49:56,570  
You know what, I could complain,  
and if I wouldn't have done it,

842  
00:49:56,570 --> 00:49:58,220  
this would have been  
the consequence.

843  
00:49:58,220 --> 00:50:01,520  
So we talk about, can you--

844  
00:50:01,520 --> 00:50:04,970  
do you feel comfortable or  
whatever the number of things

845  
00:50:04,970 --> 00:50:10,580  
which deal with their role,  
why they assume the role,

846  
00:50:10,580 --> 00:50:12,920  
and what the consequences

of their role was,

847

00:50:12,920 --> 00:50:16,830

and how they look  
at it in retrospect.

848

00:50:16,830 --> 00:50:19,100

So generally  
speaking what do you

849

00:50:19,100 --> 00:50:20,900

feel like you found as a group?

850

00:50:20,900 --> 00:50:24,890

851

00:50:24,890 --> 00:50:27,200

Well first of all,  
I found, and that

852

00:50:27,200 --> 00:50:32,840

is something which because of  
my questionnaires and the more

853

00:50:32,840 --> 00:50:36,800

scientific aspect which  
preceded the interviews,

854

00:50:36,800 --> 00:50:38,570

or if not preceded,  
was generally

855

00:50:38,570 --> 00:50:43,880

the basis, that these  
people were very strong

856

00:50:43,880 --> 00:50:47,720

on the authoritarian F  
scale, fascist scale.

857

00:50:47,720 --> 00:50:53,060

So that is greater, and higher  
than the equivalent were

858  
00:50:53,060 --> 00:50:54,740  
in the German armed forces.

859  
00:50:54,740 --> 00:50:55,820  
So I've had two groups.

860  
00:50:55,820 --> 00:50:59,660  
I've had the SS, members of  
the SS, German armed forces,

861  
00:50:59,660 --> 00:51:01,460  
and there was a  
significant difference

862  
00:51:01,460 --> 00:51:04,110  
in some of the aspects  
of authoritarianism.

863  
00:51:04,110 --> 00:51:04,610  
OK.

864  
00:51:04,610 --> 00:51:07,760  
So you used the F scale  
from your research

865  
00:51:07,760 --> 00:51:09,360  
with a [INAUDIBLE] personality.

866  
00:51:09,360 --> 00:51:10,200  
[INAUDIBLE]

867  
00:51:10,200 --> 00:51:13,215

868  
00:51:13,215 --> 00:51:15,800  
And then I read some few  
things which were not

869  
00:51:15,800 --> 00:51:19,310  
part of the F scale and I went  
to people who were actually

870  
00:51:19,310 --> 00:51:21,590  
the originators, he  
died on me, and he

871  
00:51:21,590 --> 00:51:22,980  
was very interested in that.

872  
00:51:22,980 --> 00:51:24,230  
But nothing came of it.

873  
00:51:24,230 --> 00:51:26,060  
Gave him a copy of  
my questionnaire

874  
00:51:26,060 --> 00:51:27,540  
and was very interested.

875  
00:51:27,540 --> 00:51:30,680  
A man called Theodor Adorno.

876  
00:51:30,680 --> 00:51:34,860  
And he didn't-- he died  
very soon afterwards.

877  
00:51:34,860 --> 00:51:37,700  
So we had no chance  
to discuss it further.

878  
00:51:37,700 --> 00:51:40,940  
And then it was published,  
the whole thing which

879  
00:51:40,940 --> 00:51:43,940  
is the only publication of  
that nature, ever will be,

880  
00:51:43,940 --> 00:51:46,430  
because most of the  
people are dead now

881  
00:51:46,430 --> 00:51:49,380

and who could be interviewed.

882  
00:51:49,380 --> 00:52:00,405  
And so, the basis of my  
findings was yes, some

883  
00:52:00,405 --> 00:52:03,920  
are authoritarian.

884  
00:52:03,920 --> 00:52:08,090  
Which is an important  
understanding,

885  
00:52:08,090 --> 00:52:10,970  
because their obedience.

886  
00:52:10,970 --> 00:52:15,170  
And if you have  
obedience linked with

887  
00:52:15,170 --> 00:52:18,170  
ideological  
identification, which

888  
00:52:18,170 --> 00:52:20,780  
is part of national socialism  
that is in this case

889  
00:52:20,780 --> 00:52:26,120  
national socialism, then  
you have an instrument

890  
00:52:26,120 --> 00:52:28,580  
who is going to do the  
bidding of those people who

891  
00:52:28,580 --> 00:52:32,340  
are their superiors even  
if they don't like it.

892  
00:52:32,340 --> 00:52:34,700  
Now, the interesting  
thing is that I

893  
00:52:34,700 --> 00:52:38,780  
would say 80% of those people  
who are perpetrators would have

894  
00:52:38,780 --> 00:52:43,610  
not initiated what they did.

895  
00:52:43,610 --> 00:52:47,630  
They would have  
not initiated it.

896  
00:52:47,630 --> 00:52:51,200  
They only did it because  
they were ordered to do it.

897  
00:52:51,200 --> 00:52:52,700  
And that was an  
interesting thing.

898  
00:52:52,700 --> 00:52:56,330  
Because I went back into files  
and interviewed them and also

899  
00:52:56,330 --> 00:53:00,370  
found out that the  
level of criminality

900  
00:53:00,370 --> 00:53:02,140  
among former members  
of their cells

901  
00:53:02,140 --> 00:53:06,310  
is lower than the  
average of other people,

902  
00:53:06,310 --> 00:53:09,070  
other segments of Germans.

903  
00:53:09,070 --> 00:53:11,080  
So that it would have  
taken even initiative

904

00:53:11,080 --> 00:53:13,810

to be the individual  
criminal, but

905

00:53:13,810 --> 00:53:17,200

obedience in the personality--

906

00:53:17,200 --> 00:53:20,710

That's threatening thing and  
that's where Zimbardo comes in

907

00:53:20,710 --> 00:53:25,300

and I come in with  
my then notions

908

00:53:25,300 --> 00:53:30,520

about the power of the  
situation, which brings out

909

00:53:30,520 --> 00:53:31,270

certain things.

910

00:53:31,270 --> 00:53:34,820

And my notion which  
I've developed

911

00:53:34,820 --> 00:53:42,010

the notion of the sleeper, that  
we all are sleepers in as much

912

00:53:42,010 --> 00:53:45,460

as we can do things  
in certain novel

913

00:53:45,460 --> 00:53:48,860

situations, capable  
of doing things,

914

00:53:48,860 --> 00:53:51,520

which we had not done  
before and we don't know we

915



00:53:51,520 --> 00:53:54,520  
are capable of doing.

916  
00:53:54,520 --> 00:54:00,450  
And that I think is a very  
valid sort general notion.

917  
00:54:00,450 --> 00:54:03,630  
And these are some of the  
outcomes, apart from the fact

918  
00:54:03,630 --> 00:54:05,730  
now the thing which  
the latest thing which

919  
00:54:05,730 --> 00:54:08,850  
I'm trying to develop and  
I have already written down

920  
00:54:08,850 --> 00:54:13,440  
in some sort of rough  
draft, is the so-called what

921  
00:54:13,440 --> 00:54:17,640  
I call a role margin,  
that we really

922  
00:54:17,640 --> 00:54:20,700  
have to look at the role margin  
as to how we use the role

923  
00:54:20,700 --> 00:54:21,900  
margin to what purpose.

924  
00:54:21,900 --> 00:54:24,530

925  
00:54:24,530 --> 00:54:28,040  
Because that's our  
discretion, that's us,

926  
00:54:28,040 --> 00:54:33,065  
and not the authority, the

way we use the role margin.

927  
00:54:33,065 --> 00:54:34,940  
And that is something  
which has not been done

928  
00:54:34,940 --> 00:54:37,160  
and I'm very proud of  
having come to that.

929  
00:54:37,160 --> 00:54:42,490  
It's just serendipity.

930  
00:54:42,490 --> 00:54:44,050  
Serendipity.

931  
00:54:44,050 --> 00:54:45,700  
Serendipity.

932  
00:54:45,700 --> 00:54:47,770  
Because just reflecting  
on these things just

933  
00:54:47,770 --> 00:54:52,750  
recently, just a few weeks  
ago, suddenly serendipity,

934  
00:54:52,750 --> 00:54:55,190  
that's exactly and I just  
came to that, and that to me

935  
00:54:55,190 --> 00:54:57,190  
is a very important thing  
because I haven't read

936  
00:54:57,190 --> 00:54:58,900  
anything about it anyplace.

937  
00:54:58,900 --> 00:55:02,120  
It's my recognition.

938  
00:55:02,120 --> 00:55:04,510

So a role margin, as  
we're defining it,

939  
00:55:04,510 --> 00:55:09,100  
is where this obedient  
person does take initiative--

940  
00:55:09,100 --> 00:55:13,060  
That's right, because  
it's up to his discretion,

941  
00:55:13,060 --> 00:55:19,510  
to do what he does without  
really having to do it.

942  
00:55:19,510 --> 00:55:23,130  
And that I think is a  
proof of the pudding.

943  
00:55:23,130 --> 00:55:25,770  
That's the proof of the pudding.

944  
00:55:25,770 --> 00:55:29,190  
In terms of what sort of  
person that person is.

945  
00:55:29,190 --> 00:55:31,380  
And Fromm would be overjoyed.

946  
00:55:31,380 --> 00:55:33,670  
Erich Fromm, and  
I worked with him.

947  
00:55:33,670 --> 00:55:37,320  
And he was very impressed  
with what I've tried to do,

948  
00:55:37,320 --> 00:55:40,170  
very impressed and  
unfortunately he died on me.

949  
00:55:40,170 --> 00:55:41,742  
But, you know, I

mean, died on me.

950

00:55:41,742 --> 00:55:42,450

I mean, you know.

951

00:55:42,450 --> 00:55:45,510

952

00:55:45,510 --> 00:55:47,620

Because he really  
understood what I was--

953

00:55:47,620 --> 00:55:49,660

he was one of the few  
people appreciated,

954

00:55:49,660 --> 00:55:52,180

understood what I  
was trying to do.

955

00:55:52,180 --> 00:55:54,140

And appreciated me--  
more than he even

956

00:55:54,140 --> 00:56:00,930

appreciated Zimbardo wasn't  
he was not at all in agreement

957

00:56:00,930 --> 00:56:03,870

with-- in terms of his  
methods and what he did.

958

00:56:03,870 --> 00:56:07,200

Well, actually,  
following this out,

959

00:56:07,200 --> 00:56:12,780

it seems to imply that even the  
authoritarian totally obedient

960

00:56:12,780 --> 00:56:15,600

seeming person is  
an individual too.

961  
00:56:15,600 --> 00:56:16,510  
Yeah.

962  
00:56:16,510 --> 00:56:17,010  
Yeah.

963  
00:56:17,010 --> 00:56:19,050  
Because regardless  
of what role you are,

964  
00:56:19,050 --> 00:56:20,850  
I mean, we have to  
understand that we

965  
00:56:20,850 --> 00:56:26,080  
have to scale that, the more  
totalitarian the situation is,

966  
00:56:26,080 --> 00:56:32,690  
the more totalitarian, the more  
encompassing the role will be,

967  
00:56:32,690 --> 00:56:39,390  
so that the momentum of  
discretion will be smaller.

968  
00:56:39,390 --> 00:56:43,660  
Then for example, we have here,  
you know, for example, John

969  
00:56:43,660 --> 00:56:47,110  
is supposed to be in  
charge of the camera here.

970  
00:56:47,110 --> 00:56:51,060  
But he's playing the role.

971  
00:56:51,060 --> 00:56:53,290  
He's got a discretion  
whether we like it or not.

972

00:56:53,290 --> 00:56:57,540  
He just absents himself  
and does something else.

973  
00:56:57,540 --> 00:56:59,830  
Although his role  
would include that.

974  
00:56:59,830 --> 00:57:01,710  
But I mean that's the  
discretion that is not

975  
00:57:01,710 --> 00:57:04,390  
very much we can do  
about it and say, hey,

976  
00:57:04,390 --> 00:57:06,920  
I don't like what you do.

977  
00:57:06,920 --> 00:57:09,710  
That you absent yourself.

978  
00:57:09,710 --> 00:57:12,590  
But it's still part of  
the discretion he has,

979  
00:57:12,590 --> 00:57:15,860  
without really  
interfering too much

980  
00:57:15,860 --> 00:57:17,760  
with what is happening here.

981  
00:57:17,760 --> 00:57:18,260  
See.

982  
00:57:18,260 --> 00:57:21,380

983  
00:57:21,380 --> 00:57:23,310  
And same thing the  
police is very good.

984

00:57:23,310 --> 00:57:27,632

Now, I'm working with the  
police very frequently.

985

00:57:27,632 --> 00:57:29,090

And they don't know  
what I'm doing,

986

00:57:29,090 --> 00:57:31,940

except I'm riding with them  
and I'm observing them.

987

00:57:31,940 --> 00:57:34,450

And that also helps  
me somehow to come

988

00:57:34,450 --> 00:57:38,360

to some seeds which come to  
fruition in a way, recognition

989

00:57:38,360 --> 00:57:39,170

and all.

990

00:57:39,170 --> 00:57:43,400

And now I can see some  
people are real SOBs.

991

00:57:43,400 --> 00:57:46,370

They could be much more,  
because it does not

992

00:57:46,370 --> 00:57:48,200

serve the role at all.

993

00:57:48,200 --> 00:57:50,300

But there is a  
discretion to be humane.

994

00:57:50,300 --> 00:57:52,310

But they refuse to be  
humane because they

995

00:57:52,310 --> 00:57:54,650  
enjoy not to be humane.

996  
00:57:54,650 --> 00:57:56,525  
And that's the moment  
of this [INAUDIBLE]..

997  
00:57:56,525 --> 00:57:57,900  
Because they don't  
have to do it.

998  
00:57:57,900 --> 00:57:59,730  
It's not part of  
the role which will

999  
00:57:59,730 --> 00:58:02,260  
be functional in that  
particular situation.

1000  
00:58:02,260 --> 00:58:07,450

1001  
00:58:07,450 --> 00:58:14,880  
In the case of SS,  
assuming that often they

1002  
00:58:14,880 --> 00:58:17,100  
may not have known  
the brutality that

1003  
00:58:17,100 --> 00:58:20,490  
was going on that they would  
be expected to act out,

1004  
00:58:20,490 --> 00:58:29,250  
how do they comprehend the  
terrible killing and brutality

1005  
00:58:29,250 --> 00:58:30,930  
that was taking place?

1006  
00:58:30,930 --> 00:58:36,730  
Well, ideologically,



because you see again,

1007  
00:58:36,730 --> 00:58:39,670  
what we have to understand,  
most of these people

1008  
00:58:39,670 --> 00:58:41,350  
are not very  
sophisticated people,

1009  
00:58:41,350 --> 00:58:43,430  
certainly were  
not very educated,

1010  
00:58:43,430 --> 00:58:46,690  
with the exception of the  
people like Mengele and all

1011  
00:58:46,690 --> 00:58:49,390  
that, these people  
were highly trained,

1012  
00:58:49,390 --> 00:58:54,910  
the people, if they would have  
been left to do what they did,

1013  
00:58:54,910 --> 00:58:59,620  
would have become  
professors and whatever

1014  
00:58:59,620 --> 00:59:02,500  
in their various  
fields, including

1015  
00:59:02,500 --> 00:59:08,840  
anthropology, ethnology,  
and medicine and whatever.

1016  
00:59:08,840 --> 00:59:14,800  
And so these people are  
much more, I would say,

1017  
00:59:14,800 --> 00:59:19,180

they are more accountable for--  
but many of the other people

1018  
00:59:19,180 --> 00:59:23,290  
who were their subordinates,  
they're very uneducated

1019  
00:59:23,290 --> 00:59:28,337  
and unsophisticated people, and  
therefore more impressionable

1020  
00:59:28,337 --> 00:59:29,420  
because they didn't know--

1021  
00:59:29,420 --> 00:59:32,980  
I mean they needed to be led  
because they didn't know right

1022  
00:59:32,980 --> 00:59:34,790  
from wrong to that extent.

1023  
00:59:34,790 --> 00:59:37,150  
But they knew emotionally  
that what they were doing

1024  
00:59:37,150 --> 00:59:38,720  
was terrible.

1025  
00:59:38,720 --> 00:59:42,760  
But because they had this  
ideological conviction

1026  
00:59:42,760 --> 00:59:48,130  
and accepted the indoctrination,  
integrated the indoctrination,

1027  
00:59:48,130 --> 00:59:53,510  
they could justify what  
they did to themselves.

1028  
00:59:53,510 --> 00:59:55,180  
And that's what  
we call reduction

1029  
00:59:55,180 --> 00:59:57,940  
of cognitive dissonance.

1030  
00:59:57,940 --> 01:00:00,715  
They reduced the cognitive  
dissonance, that's murder.

1031  
01:00:00,715 --> 01:00:03,300

1032  
01:00:03,300 --> 01:00:07,350  
But murder is in the  
interest of the state.

1033  
01:00:07,350 --> 01:00:12,330  
I'm doing a favor  
by being brutal.

1034  
01:00:12,330 --> 01:00:15,420  
I'm doing that in the interest  
of the national socialist

1035  
01:00:15,420 --> 01:00:16,560  
state.

1036  
01:00:16,560 --> 01:00:19,380  
I'm doing that in the  
interest of Germany.

1037  
01:00:19,380 --> 01:00:25,920  
Therefore I can accept it.

1038  
01:00:25,920 --> 01:00:26,600  
Justified.

1039  
01:00:26,600 --> 01:00:29,400  
Partly it stemmed from  
thinking of murder

1040  
01:00:29,400 --> 01:00:32,760  
as in war in the

interest of the state.

1041  
01:00:32,760 --> 01:00:35,730  
Well, yeah, but you mustn't  
forget that was all war.

1042  
01:00:35,730 --> 01:00:36,870  
That was war.

1043  
01:00:36,870 --> 01:00:39,930  
See, because all these sort of  
things did not happen before.

1044  
01:00:39,930 --> 01:00:42,780  
Yet concentration camps,  
terrible concentration camps,

1045  
01:00:42,780 --> 01:00:45,090  
people got killed,  
shot whatever.

1046  
01:00:45,090 --> 01:00:47,250  
But you didn't have mass murder.

1047  
01:00:47,250 --> 01:00:48,960  
You didn't have genocide.

1048  
01:00:48,960 --> 01:00:53,200  
Genocide only happened  
during the time of war.

1049  
01:00:53,200 --> 01:00:55,880  
That's when it happened.

1050  
01:00:55,880 --> 01:00:59,590  
Were there precedents  
for Hitler's policies?

1051  
01:00:59,590 --> 01:01:00,810  
For what?

1052  
01:01:00,810 --> 01:01:03,310

Precedents, as in  
he was not the one

1053  
01:01:03,310 --> 01:01:09,460  
to invent the whole system and  
its perpetration and its plan.

1054  
01:01:09,460 --> 01:01:13,300  
Well, I mean Hitler  
is charismatic leader

1055  
01:01:13,300 --> 01:01:17,650  
with this sort of as, father  
of this type of ideology.

1056  
01:01:17,650 --> 01:01:20,980  
I mean, which was a eclectic  
he took it from other places

1057  
01:01:20,980 --> 01:01:22,800  
and put some of his own in it.

1058  
01:01:22,800 --> 01:01:25,660  
It was not that [INAUDIBLE]  
because so many things existed

1059  
01:01:25,660 --> 01:01:28,960  
before him already,  
except he was the one

1060  
01:01:28,960 --> 01:01:32,230  
to put it into practice,  
actually, act upon it.

1061  
01:01:32,230 --> 01:01:35,420  
Put it together and act upon it.

1062  
01:01:35,420 --> 01:01:40,420  
Well they looked to  
him as their leader.

1063  
01:01:40,420 --> 01:01:45,390  
Von Reich, [INAUDIBLE]

one leader,

1064  
01:01:45,390 --> 01:01:48,630  
And the identification  
of Germany

1065  
01:01:48,630 --> 01:01:55,940  
with Hitler and Hitler's  
notions and that

1066  
01:01:55,940 --> 01:01:58,490  
is something they accepted  
because they looked at him,

1067  
01:01:58,490 --> 01:02:00,695  
you know, he was a prophet.

1068  
01:02:00,695 --> 01:02:04,340

1069  
01:02:04,340 --> 01:02:05,650  
He was a charismatic leader.

1070  
01:02:05,650 --> 01:02:07,060  
I mean there is  
no way around it.

1071  
01:02:07,060 --> 01:02:10,000  
I mean he was absolutely,  
no question about it,

1072  
01:02:10,000 --> 01:02:14,880  
the real sense of the word,  
whether we like it or not.

1073  
01:02:14,880 --> 01:02:17,310  
At that time it was  
perceived as charismatic.

1074  
01:02:17,310 --> 01:02:19,210  
Today, we have different things.

1075

01:02:19,210 --> 01:02:21,030  
To Today we have  
the prince, we have

1076  
01:02:21,030 --> 01:02:25,620  
all sorts of all the various  
people, I Hollywood types

1077  
01:02:25,620 --> 01:02:26,490  
and all that.

1078  
01:02:26,490 --> 01:02:27,920  
We have Ronnie Reagan.

1079  
01:02:27,920 --> 01:02:30,270  
And Ronald Reagan had  
some type of charisma,

1080  
01:02:30,270 --> 01:02:34,245  
for reasons which, if you look  
at it, you have to be ashamed.

1081  
01:02:34,245 --> 01:02:38,880

1082  
01:02:38,880 --> 01:02:43,350  
When you were  
interviewing the SS,

1083  
01:02:43,350 --> 01:02:47,550  
did you find that they  
expressed anti-Semitism,

1084  
01:02:47,550 --> 01:02:49,290  
active Jew hatred--

1085  
01:02:49,290 --> 01:02:53,070  
You see, I had a scale  
in my questionnaire

1086  
01:02:53,070 --> 01:02:57,043  
in which I did the  
following thing,

1087  
01:02:57,043 --> 01:02:59,460  
which I think was a pretty  
good idea, as a matter of fact,

1088  
01:02:59,460 --> 01:03:01,240  
I thought it was pretty cool.

1089  
01:03:01,240 --> 01:03:04,400

1090  
01:03:04,400 --> 01:03:19,190  
I gave them a set of 99% names  
of major cities in the world,

1091  
01:03:19,190 --> 01:03:23,180  
distribution of all countries  
pretty much with one fictional.

1092  
01:03:23,180 --> 01:03:26,760

1093  
01:03:26,760 --> 01:03:29,640  
There was Jerusalem  
and Moscow there.

1094  
01:03:29,640 --> 01:03:31,200  
And what do you think happened?

1095  
01:03:31,200 --> 01:03:33,870  
They would have preferred to  
live in Jerusalem rather than

1096  
01:03:33,870 --> 01:03:34,420  
in Moscow.

1097  
01:03:34,420 --> 01:03:37,070

1098  
01:03:37,070 --> 01:03:43,450  
And that was a  
significant difference.



1099  
01:03:43,450 --> 01:03:44,960  
How did you interpret that?

1100  
01:03:44,960 --> 01:03:49,960  
Well, I interpreted that the  
communism is worse for them

1101  
01:03:49,960 --> 01:03:51,370  
than--

1102  
01:03:51,370 --> 01:03:53,350  
than Israel.

1103  
01:03:53,350 --> 01:03:55,570  
That's what.

1104  
01:03:55,570 --> 01:03:57,600  
And Israel is a Jewish  
state, isn't it?

1105  
01:03:57,600 --> 01:03:58,100  
Mm-hmm.

1106  
01:03:58,100 --> 01:03:59,670  
Right.

1107  
01:03:59,670 --> 01:04:02,920  
Still, they were  
murdering the Jews.

1108  
01:04:02,920 --> 01:04:04,550  
That was after the fact.

1109  
01:04:04,550 --> 01:04:05,050  
Oh.

1110  
01:04:05,050 --> 01:04:07,760

1111  
01:04:07,760 --> 01:04:10,940

Yes, I'm asking, when  
you interviewed them.

1112  
01:04:10,940 --> 01:04:15,410  
I can see, relatively, they  
prefer Jews to Russians.

1113  
01:04:15,410 --> 01:04:17,240  
But was there any way--

1114  
01:04:17,240 --> 01:04:17,870  
The Soviets.

1115  
01:04:17,870 --> 01:04:19,190  
The Soviets.

1116  
01:04:19,190 --> 01:04:22,340  
Was there any way to  
discern whether they had

1117  
01:04:22,340 --> 01:04:24,080  
any kind of act [INAUDIBLE]?

1118  
01:04:24,080 --> 01:04:25,280  
Oh, yeah, well, yeah, sure.

1119  
01:04:25,280 --> 01:04:28,010  
Because there, there  
are some other questions

1120  
01:04:28,010 --> 01:04:32,610  
which were indicative of  
how they felt about it.

1121  
01:04:32,610 --> 01:04:37,290  
And I couldn't ask, because,  
you see, the thing is,

1122  
01:04:37,290 --> 01:04:41,480  
what was very  
helpful, the person

1123

01:04:41,480 --> 01:04:45,110  
with whom I did my pilot  
study was General Steiner.

1124  
01:04:45,110 --> 01:04:47,060  
And I had very  
specific questions

1125  
01:04:47,060 --> 01:04:52,750  
about Jewishness and  
their feelings about Jews.

1126  
01:04:52,750 --> 01:04:53,710  
And he looked at it.

1127  
01:04:53,710 --> 01:04:56,890  
I have still the  
original sort of things.

1128  
01:04:56,890 --> 01:04:58,930  
Because I used him  
as a testing ground,

1129  
01:04:58,930 --> 01:05:00,910  
and he was exceedingly helpful.

1130  
01:05:00,910 --> 01:05:04,210  
It's just the man  
opened the doors for me.

1131  
01:05:04,210 --> 01:05:06,460  
Without him, I never would  
have-- just absolutely

1132  
01:05:06,460 --> 01:05:09,080  
would have even  
come base-- wouldn't

1133  
01:05:09,080 --> 01:05:12,850  
made any contacts whatsoever.

1134  
01:05:12,850 --> 01:05:19,080  
Because he wrote an accompanying

letter, which I always

1135

01:05:19,080 --> 01:05:20,398  
placed with my questionnaire.

1136

01:05:20,398 --> 01:05:22,190  
Without that, they  
would have thrown it in,

1137

01:05:22,190 --> 01:05:24,700  
because he was a  
commanding general.

1138

01:05:24,700 --> 01:05:27,540  
He was one of the senior  
SS general-- period, boom.

1139

01:05:27,540 --> 01:05:30,150

1140

01:05:30,150 --> 01:05:31,740  
So many things, which--

1141

01:05:31,740 --> 01:05:33,460  
I couldn't have done it today.

1142

01:05:33,460 --> 01:05:36,490  
Today, without him, it would  
have been virtually impossible.

1143

01:05:36,490 --> 01:05:41,190  
I don't think I could have ever  
succeeded without this letter.

1144

01:05:41,190 --> 01:05:44,130  
All right, so I showed  
him the original thing,

1145

01:05:44,130 --> 01:05:46,630  
which had a lot of  
questions real hidden,

1146

01:05:46,630 --> 01:05:50,550  
or some were clear-cut about  
their feelings of Jews.

1147  
01:05:50,550 --> 01:05:53,700  
And said, John, if you put  
that in, I want you to throw it

1148  
01:05:53,700 --> 01:05:57,180  
into the basket, paper basket.

1149  
01:05:57,180 --> 01:05:59,430  
So if you have  
questions, you have

1150  
01:05:59,430 --> 01:06:01,230  
to give the question  
in such a way

1151  
01:06:01,230 --> 01:06:04,530  
that they are not going  
to be threatened by it.

1152  
01:06:04,530 --> 01:06:07,160  
Because if you ask them, they're  
not going to tell the truth.

1153  
01:06:07,160 --> 01:06:08,535  
They're not even  
going to bother.

1154  
01:06:08,535 --> 01:06:10,180  
They'll just throw it out.

1155  
01:06:10,180 --> 01:06:13,650  
So therefore, many of these  
questions which were directly

1156  
01:06:13,650 --> 01:06:15,960  
testing antisemitism--

1157  
01:06:15,960 --> 01:06:18,090  
directly, not indirectly--

1158  
01:06:18,090 --> 01:06:21,750  
I had to throw out,  
because of his advice.

1159  
01:06:21,750 --> 01:06:23,100  
And I trust him.

1160  
01:06:23,100 --> 01:06:24,685  
I trust his judgment.

1161  
01:06:24,685 --> 01:06:26,310  
Did you come away  
with any impressions?

1162  
01:06:26,310 --> 01:06:29,140  
Or did they ever  
volunteer any feelings--

1163  
01:06:29,140 --> 01:06:29,820  
Oh, yeah, sure.

1164  
01:06:29,820 --> 01:06:30,360  
--about--

1165  
01:06:30,360 --> 01:06:31,530  
Oh, yeah, sure.

1166  
01:06:31,530 --> 01:06:33,060  
Sure, sure.

1167  
01:06:33,060 --> 01:06:37,230  
But you see, the funny thing  
is that many of these people

1168  
01:06:37,230 --> 01:06:41,880  
were very ambivalent about it.

1169  
01:06:41,880 --> 01:06:45,960  
And I really can say, in terms  
of also the documentary which I

1170

01:06:45,960 --> 01:06:52,230  
did with people-- the  
documentary, Hitler, Myth and--

1171

01:06:52,230 --> 01:06:56,610  
Man and Myth--

1172

01:06:56,610 --> 01:06:58,890  
I interviewed one  
person who turned out

1173

01:06:58,890 --> 01:07:00,780  
to be much higher  
than I thought,

1174

01:07:00,780 --> 01:07:03,270  
because many things came  
out which I didn't know

1175

01:07:03,270 --> 01:07:06,270  
at that time of the interview.

1176

01:07:06,270 --> 01:07:12,330  
And who actually was  
present, or in the vicinity,

1177

01:07:12,330 --> 01:07:14,550  
was at the Wannsee Conference.

1178

01:07:14,550 --> 01:07:15,720  
I didn't know that.

1179

01:07:15,720 --> 01:07:16,900  
I didn't know that.

1180

01:07:16,900 --> 01:07:19,740  
So he knew about the Wannsee  
Conference and a very clever

1181

01:07:19,740 --> 01:07:20,950  
person and all that.

1182

01:07:20,950 --> 01:07:24,810

And so I have to catch up with  
him next time when I'm there.

1183

01:07:24,810 --> 01:07:26,970

And I got it from  
another SS officer.

1184

01:07:26,970 --> 01:07:28,560

And said, hey, did you know?

1185

01:07:28,560 --> 01:07:29,580

And, of course I didn't.

1186

01:07:29,580 --> 01:07:32,310

And I have-- one  
of my best research

1187

01:07:32,310 --> 01:07:33,975

assistants is an SS officer.

1188

01:07:33,975 --> 01:07:37,240

1189

01:07:37,240 --> 01:07:40,440

He gives me information I  
never could even come close to.

1190

01:07:40,440 --> 01:07:42,390

Sounds wonderful.

1191

01:07:42,390 --> 01:07:43,475

But where was I?

1192

01:07:43,475 --> 01:07:44,760

I was--

1193

01:07:44,760 --> 01:07:48,480

Just talking about whether,  
even inadvertently,

1194



01:07:48,480 --> 01:07:53,850  
you learned what the level  
of Jew hatred was post-war.

1195  
01:07:53,850 --> 01:07:57,550  
Yeah, and all I say,  
it's just very--

1196  
01:07:57,550 --> 01:07:58,470  
very ambivalent.

1197  
01:07:58,470 --> 01:08:06,150  
Because then for examine that,  
I tested in the following way.

1198  
01:08:06,150 --> 01:08:15,380  
When I invited American  
Nazis to one of my lectures,

1199  
01:08:15,380 --> 01:08:19,680  
to several of my  
lectures, I told them

1200  
01:08:19,680 --> 01:08:21,810  
about my [? issues ?]  
of the SS, and they

1201  
01:08:21,810 --> 01:08:24,569  
didn't see me as a Jew,  
necessarily, and all

1202  
01:08:24,569 --> 01:08:25,439  
that or something.

1203  
01:08:25,439 --> 01:08:26,920  
They don't--

1204  
01:08:26,920 --> 01:08:35,910  
And so they asked me if I would  
assist them as a liaison person

1205  
01:08:35,910 --> 01:08:39,240  
to make contact with

former members of the SS.

1206  
01:08:39,240 --> 01:08:40,580  
And I said, sure.

1207  
01:08:40,580 --> 01:08:44,649

1208  
01:08:44,649 --> 01:08:47,260  
And this is where-- they're  
leading people here.

1209  
01:08:47,260 --> 01:08:49,479  
They're leading Nazis  
here in the Bay Area.

1210  
01:08:49,479 --> 01:08:53,470  
I haven't heard from them  
for quite a while, I think.

1211  
01:08:53,470 --> 01:08:56,680  
So the leader of the  
group and his lieutenants.

1212  
01:08:56,680 --> 01:08:58,390  
And so we talked.

1213  
01:08:58,390 --> 01:09:00,550  
And I said, fine, I'll do that.

1214  
01:09:00,550 --> 01:09:05,050  
Because I said, hey, it's  
a tremendous opportunity.

1215  
01:09:05,050 --> 01:09:09,850  
So I took that message,  
whatever the message was,

1216  
01:09:09,850 --> 01:09:12,609  
whether they would  
cooperate and all that,

1217

01:09:12,609 --> 01:09:14,770  
and went to some of  
the leading people

1218  
01:09:14,770 --> 01:09:17,380  
now in the SS organization.

1219  
01:09:17,380 --> 01:09:19,420  
Which exists, because  
that's legitimate,

1220  
01:09:19,420 --> 01:09:23,350  
and they have an SS  
organization in Germany.

1221  
01:09:23,350 --> 01:09:26,050  
And it's kind of hidden.

1222  
01:09:26,050 --> 01:09:29,649  
But, I mean, they're  
very active and--

1223  
01:09:29,649 --> 01:09:34,930  
exceedingly active and  
very well-organized.

1224  
01:09:34,930 --> 01:09:37,540  
And anyway, so I went to  
the leading people and say,

1225  
01:09:37,540 --> 01:09:41,250  
here, this is something  
which is a message.

1226  
01:09:41,250 --> 01:09:44,890  
They said, my God,  
I wouldn't even

1227  
01:09:44,890 --> 01:09:47,453  
touch them with a 10-foot pole.

1228  
01:09:47,453 --> 01:09:49,120  
We have nothing to

do with these people.

1229

01:09:49,120 --> 01:09:51,910

They are just behind.

1230

01:09:51,910 --> 01:09:54,430

Today is a different time, and  
we have absolutely nothing--

1231

01:09:54,430 --> 01:09:56,830

we would not dream--

1232

01:09:56,830 --> 01:09:59,650

I mean, just totally  
rejected the idea.

1233

01:09:59,650 --> 01:10:02,050

Absolutely rejected the idea.

1234

01:10:02,050 --> 01:10:03,670

And that, to me, was  
very interesting,

1235

01:10:03,670 --> 01:10:05,320

because that's what  
they stand for.

1236

01:10:05,320 --> 01:10:08,110

Because they are  
into antisemitism.

1237

01:10:08,110 --> 01:10:10,780

They are into  
racism, in general--

1238

01:10:10,780 --> 01:10:17,500

anti-Black, anti-Catholic,  
you name it.

1239

01:10:17,500 --> 01:10:19,870

And they wouldn't have--  
they wouldn't even bother.

1240

01:10:19,870 --> 01:10:25,540

They said, my God, just leave us alone with these crazies.

1241

01:10:25,540 --> 01:10:28,155

Well, they make themselves sound like a liberal organization.

1242

01:10:28,155 --> 01:10:30,130

Well, but they are not, you see?

1243

01:10:30,130 --> 01:10:32,760

They are not at all.

1244

01:10:32,760 --> 01:10:35,720

But they've changed.

1245

01:10:35,720 --> 01:10:37,850

They've changed to a very large extent.

1246

01:10:37,850 --> 01:10:40,910

They've changed their tune now.

1247

01:10:40,910 --> 01:10:44,810

And that is, again, what I say with my notion of the sleeper.

1248

01:10:44,810 --> 01:10:49,020

If, for example, what is called the Fascist Party of today

1249

01:10:49,020 --> 01:10:50,780

in Germany, the Republicans-- and they

1250

01:10:50,780 --> 01:10:55,850

are increasing in numbers, they were called Republicans.

1251

01:10:55,850 --> 01:11:01,100

If these Republicans would

gain ground, now then

1252

01:11:01,100 --> 01:11:03,350

it would be very interesting  
to see to what extent

1253

01:11:03,350 --> 01:11:04,940

the former members  
of the SS would

1254

01:11:04,940 --> 01:11:07,580

flock to that organization.

1255

01:11:07,580 --> 01:11:10,460

Most of them are pretty  
old and decrepit now,

1256

01:11:10,460 --> 01:11:12,430

even the youngsters.

1257

01:11:12,430 --> 01:11:15,470

1258

01:11:15,470 --> 01:11:23,510

Because the people-- the  
youngest people will be one

1259

01:11:23,510 --> 01:11:27,170

year younger than I who would  
have been admitted during

1260

01:11:27,170 --> 01:11:27,830

the war--

1261

01:11:27,830 --> 01:11:31,610

would have been recruited.

1262

01:11:31,610 --> 01:11:32,450

That is to say--

1263

01:11:32,450 --> 01:11:36,845

1264  
01:11:36,845 --> 01:11:37,540  
Drafted.

1265  
01:11:37,540 --> 01:11:38,040  
Drafted.

1266  
01:11:38,040 --> 01:11:42,880

1267  
01:11:42,880 --> 01:11:45,488  
Well, actually, we  
have a lot more to go.

1268  
01:11:45,488 --> 01:11:47,530  
I'd like to stop here and  
let Carol have a chance

1269  
01:11:47,530 --> 01:11:49,150  
to ask questions on  
what's been happening,

1270  
01:11:49,150 --> 01:11:50,025  
if you have anything.

1271  
01:11:50,025 --> 01:11:53,680  
Or if you want to  
continue with yours.

1272  
01:11:53,680 --> 01:11:54,615  
I can continue.

1273  
01:11:54,615 --> 01:11:55,990  
But if you have  
anything you want

1274  
01:11:55,990 --> 01:11:58,290  
to say up to-- with what  
happened up to this point,

1275  
01:11:58,290 --> 01:11:59,686  
or related, you're welcome.

1276  
01:11:59,686 --> 01:12:00,593  
Feel free.

1277  
01:12:00,593 --> 01:12:01,510  
Otherwise, I'll go on.

1278  
01:12:01,510 --> 01:12:02,720  
OK, maybe just a couple, and  
then we'll go back to you.

1279  
01:12:02,720 --> 01:12:03,700  
Sure.

1280  
01:12:03,700 --> 01:12:08,905  
One was, you're planning another  
Nazi tabletop, or roundtable,

1281  
01:12:08,905 --> 01:12:10,400  
if you can, right?

1282  
01:12:10,400 --> 01:12:13,750  
If you can find enough of  
the older SS to participate?

1283  
01:12:13,750 --> 01:12:16,780  
No, no, it's not a question  
of finding the people.

1284  
01:12:16,780 --> 01:12:21,160  
It's a question of finding  
people in the radio business

1285  
01:12:21,160 --> 01:12:24,580  
or TV business who would  
be interested in doing it.

1286  
01:12:24,580 --> 01:12:26,650  
And that's what I was  
doing last summer.

1287  
01:12:26,650 --> 01:12:28,545



And I could see that  
people who have done it,

1288  
01:12:28,545 --> 01:12:29,920  
the one person  
I've done it with,

1289  
01:12:29,920 --> 01:12:31,420  
said there is no  
interest for it.

1290  
01:12:31,420 --> 01:12:34,030  
They've got other interests now.

1291  
01:12:34,030 --> 01:12:40,510  
To what do you attribute that  
change in German media culture?

1292  
01:12:40,510 --> 01:12:41,530  
I really don't know.

1293  
01:12:41,530 --> 01:12:43,600  
I mean, I would be guessing.

1294  
01:12:43,600 --> 01:12:47,140  
I mean, that's all in my head.

1295  
01:12:47,140 --> 01:12:49,870  
What I would say is that  
they are preoccupied

1296  
01:12:49,870 --> 01:12:56,350  
with the first time after the--  
after the so-called economic

1297  
01:12:56,350 --> 01:13:01,540  
miracle, the demise of the  
economic strength of Germany,

1298  
01:13:01,540 --> 01:13:04,060  
where they really have  
unemployment and really serious

1299

01:13:04,060 --> 01:13:08,590

problems, primarily due to  
the unification of Eastern

1300

01:13:08,590 --> 01:13:10,150

and West.

1301

01:13:10,150 --> 01:13:12,970

Which I could foresee,  
which I also--

1302

01:13:12,970 --> 01:13:14,930

in one of the  
interviews, I told them.

1303

01:13:14,930 --> 01:13:17,540

And I was the only  
one who said, hey,

1304

01:13:17,540 --> 01:13:19,090

you have a serious problem.

1305

01:13:19,090 --> 01:13:23,260

And all the other people thought  
that I was off of the wall.

1306

01:13:23,260 --> 01:13:25,780

1307

01:13:25,780 --> 01:13:33,595

So anyway, so what I'm  
saying is that I would--

1308

01:13:33,595 --> 01:13:36,360

1309

01:13:36,360 --> 01:13:47,470

yeah, I would think that this  
is perhaps due to the fact

1310

01:13:47,470 --> 01:13:52,330

that no longer they're

interested in National

1311  
01:13:52,330 --> 01:13:56,680  
Socialism, but whatever  
patterns are emerging now,

1312  
01:13:56,680 --> 01:14:01,840  
which they seem to focus on  
more than the other stuff.

1313  
01:14:01,840 --> 01:14:05,510

1314  
01:14:05,510 --> 01:14:07,730  
So far, I haven't  
had any response.

1315  
01:14:07,730 --> 01:14:09,710  
I have to call again  
and find out if there

1316  
01:14:09,710 --> 01:14:11,060  
is anything one can set up.

1317  
01:14:11,060 --> 01:14:15,260  
But I thought it  
was a sensation,

1318  
01:14:15,260 --> 01:14:17,150  
but the timing was bad.

1319  
01:14:17,150 --> 01:14:21,440  
And they broadcast the  
thing during the summer,

1320  
01:14:21,440 --> 01:14:23,960  
when everyone was gone.

1321  
01:14:23,960 --> 01:14:26,670  
So what would you be  
hoping to find out

1322

01:14:26,670 --> 01:14:29,220  
in one more last conversation?

1323  
01:14:29,220 --> 01:14:33,410  
Well, I don't know whether  
it should be the last.

1324  
01:14:33,410 --> 01:14:36,410  
I'd say that just I  
would be interested in--

1325  
01:14:36,410 --> 01:14:39,380

1326  
01:14:39,380 --> 01:14:41,100  
in, where do we go from here?

1327  
01:14:41,100 --> 01:14:45,540  
So see the errors of  
their way and say, well,

1328  
01:14:45,540 --> 01:14:46,910  
what can they do to remedy?

1329  
01:14:46,910 --> 01:14:51,200  
What can be done in order  
to make some restitution

1330  
01:14:51,200 --> 01:14:54,777  
and prevent future  
occurrences of this nature?

1331  
01:14:54,777 --> 01:14:55,610  
That's what I'd say.

1332  
01:14:55,610 --> 01:14:59,390  
Well, you had the experience,  
you were part of it, so what--

1333  
01:14:59,390 --> 01:15:01,680  
that's what I would  
be interested in.

1334

01:15:01,680 --> 01:15:03,050

So go one step further.

1335

01:15:03,050 --> 01:15:06,710

Now, they've said they  
regret and all that.

1336

01:15:06,710 --> 01:15:09,260

But so now what would we do?

1337

01:15:09,260 --> 01:15:12,332

But you see, you don't have many  
sophisticated people in Germany

1338

01:15:12,332 --> 01:15:14,040

who are interested in  
this sort of thing.

1339

01:15:14,040 --> 01:15:16,100

To them, it's very threatening.

1340

01:15:16,100 --> 01:15:17,870

And I've said  
before, that when I

1341

01:15:17,870 --> 01:15:23,840

try to get people to work with  
me on research, none of them

1342

01:15:23,840 --> 01:15:24,440

want it.

1343

01:15:24,440 --> 01:15:26,300

And you're talking young people.

1344

01:15:26,300 --> 01:15:27,860

You're talking young people.

1345

01:15:27,860 --> 01:15:29,210

You're talking old people.

1346

01:15:29,210 --> 01:15:32,720  
None of them were interested  
in working on that thing,

1347  
01:15:32,720 --> 01:15:34,580  
because it's too threatening.

1348  
01:15:34,580 --> 01:15:38,930  
I just had a friend, a fellow  
doctorate from Stanford,

1349  
01:15:38,930 --> 01:15:42,965  
professor at a relatively  
new university in Germany,

1350  
01:15:42,965 --> 01:15:47,390  
he's a psychologist,  
whom I got interested in.

1351  
01:15:47,390 --> 01:15:51,080  
Some of the interviews,  
I took him with me

1352  
01:15:51,080 --> 01:15:57,560  
to interview the Auschwitz  
perpetrators once and so

1353  
01:15:57,560 --> 01:16:00,080  
that he just developed  
some taste for it.

1354  
01:16:00,080 --> 01:16:06,450  
And when he came here to  
visit, he said, I can't--

1355  
01:16:06,450 --> 01:16:08,250  
I can't do it.

1356  
01:16:08,250 --> 01:16:09,740  
It's too threatening to me.

1357  
01:16:09,740 --> 01:16:10,560  
I can't do it.

1358  
01:16:10,560 --> 01:16:11,490  
I just can't stand it.

1359  
01:16:11,490 --> 01:16:14,470  
I can't do it.

1360  
01:16:14,470 --> 01:16:17,185  
I'm very interested, and I think  
what you do is very important

1361  
01:16:17,185 --> 01:16:17,830  
and all this.

1362  
01:16:17,830 --> 01:16:19,250  
But I can't be part of it.

1363  
01:16:19,250 --> 01:16:20,550  
I just can't do it.

1364  
01:16:20,550 --> 01:16:23,120  
Isn't that a bad sign that  
Germany is unwilling to explore

1365  
01:16:23,120 --> 01:16:23,620  
--

1366  
01:16:23,620 --> 01:16:25,405  
Well, I think it's  
a very bad sign.

1367  
01:16:25,405 --> 01:16:26,440  
--in depth again?

1368  
01:16:26,440 --> 01:16:28,990  
Yeah, well, I think  
it's a very bad sign.

1369  
01:16:28,990 --> 01:16:31,330  
And I have not found one person.

1370

01:16:31,330 --> 01:16:33,650  
The only people who work  
with me, believe it or not,

1371  
01:16:33,650 --> 01:16:37,900  
are former members of the SS  
in giving me some-- helping me

1372  
01:16:37,900 --> 01:16:39,250  
with my research.

1373  
01:16:39,250 --> 01:16:43,740  
And that, I think,  
is a catastrophe.

1374  
01:16:43,740 --> 01:16:47,690  
Well, it is of use to  
me, very useful to me,

1375  
01:16:47,690 --> 01:16:49,570  
because these people  
have insight--

1376  
01:16:49,570 --> 01:16:53,480  
much insight I don't have  
because of that part of it.

1377  
01:16:53,480 --> 01:16:57,790  
The same thing, if you have some  
rabbi, young kid, Greenhorn,

1378  
01:16:57,790 --> 01:17:00,010  
telling me now,  
as a survivor, how

1379  
01:17:00,010 --> 01:17:04,210  
it was in concentration camps,  
which upsets me a great deal.

1380  
01:17:04,210 --> 01:17:05,410  
So the same thing.

1381  
01:17:05,410 --> 01:17:08,815



I'm going to tell the SS  
person how it was to be--

1382  
01:17:08,815 --> 01:17:11,200  
how it was to be a  
member of the SS.

1383  
01:17:11,200 --> 01:17:15,100  
So I recognize the value  
of the information.

1384  
01:17:15,100 --> 01:17:17,170  
And regardless whether  
I like it or not,

1385  
01:17:17,170 --> 01:17:20,680  
I'm going to use it  
in order to develop

1386  
01:17:20,680 --> 01:17:23,710  
the insight I need in order  
to do something with it.

1387  
01:17:23,710 --> 01:17:26,320

1388  
01:17:26,320 --> 01:17:28,270  
But in terms of  
social scientists,

1389  
01:17:28,270 --> 01:17:31,210  
the only people you have  
there who have not shied away

1390  
01:17:31,210 --> 01:17:33,100  
are historians, German  
historians, who've

1391  
01:17:33,100 --> 01:17:35,560  
made a major contribution.

1392  
01:17:35,560 --> 01:17:36,700  
No question.

1393  
01:17:36,700 --> 01:17:39,400  
And some political scientists.

1394  
01:17:39,400 --> 01:17:40,600  
Period.

1395  
01:17:40,600 --> 01:17:43,280  
Not a single sociologist,  
as far as I know.

1396  
01:17:43,280 --> 01:17:46,051  
Not a single psychologist.

1397  
01:17:46,051 --> 01:17:49,000  
You should tell what  
happened to [INAUDIBLE] when

1398  
01:17:49,000 --> 01:17:53,360  
he was on the roundtable, what  
had happened to his magazine

1399  
01:17:53,360 --> 01:17:53,950  
and so forth.

1400  
01:17:53,950 --> 01:17:54,640  
Who?

1401  
01:17:54,640 --> 01:17:57,340  
Your editor.

1402  
01:17:57,340 --> 01:17:58,870  
What happened to my editor?

1403  
01:17:58,870 --> 01:18:00,975  
Well, how his  
subscriptions went down,

1404  
01:18:00,975 --> 01:18:02,600  
and he was practically  
ruined because--

1405

01:18:02,600 --> 01:18:03,340

Oh, well, yeah.

1406

01:18:03,340 --> 01:18:08,680

Well, there was this person who was an SS.

1407

01:18:08,680 --> 01:18:11,090

Actually, he was a guard to begin with.

1408

01:18:11,090 --> 01:18:13,180

He was a guard at Dachau, SS guard.

1409

01:18:13,180 --> 01:18:17,680

And I got to know him, did other things.

1410

01:18:17,680 --> 01:18:21,370

He wrote me an autobiography, and part of it

1411

01:18:21,370 --> 01:18:23,950

was the eyewitness to the destruction of the Warsaw

1412

01:18:23,950 --> 01:18:24,450

Ghetto.

1413

01:18:24,450 --> 01:18:27,250

I've mentioned that in some of my lectures

1414

01:18:27,250 --> 01:18:29,750

when you were there.

1415

01:18:29,750 --> 01:18:32,750

So he was part of that roundtable discussion.

1416

01:18:32,750 --> 01:18:37,150

And instead of-- that  
was during the summer, so

1417  
01:18:37,150 --> 01:18:39,070  
there was not much  
of an audience.

1418  
01:18:39,070 --> 01:18:42,790  
Because as I said before,  
most of the middle-class,

1419  
01:18:42,790 --> 01:18:46,150  
intelligent Germans were  
someplace on a vacation.

1420  
01:18:46,150 --> 01:18:48,790

1421  
01:18:48,790 --> 01:18:52,630  
But those people who  
apparently listened to it

1422  
01:18:52,630 --> 01:18:56,840  
and immediately told  
it to some other people

1423  
01:18:56,840 --> 01:19:00,070  
were fellow members of the SS.

1424  
01:19:00,070 --> 01:19:02,170  
And they clobbered him.

1425  
01:19:02,170 --> 01:19:06,106  
And they clobbered him to  
such an extent that the--

1426  
01:19:06,106 --> 01:19:08,920

1427  
01:19:08,920 --> 01:19:15,850  
he's got-- he had a small,  
but fairly influential type

1428  
01:19:15,850 --> 01:19:26,750  
of publication firm,  
whatever you would call it--

1429  
01:19:26,750 --> 01:19:29,020  
a--

1430  
01:19:29,020 --> 01:19:29,620  
Newsletter?

1431  
01:19:29,620 --> 01:19:30,170  
Huh?

1432  
01:19:30,170 --> 01:19:30,670  
Newsletter?

1433  
01:19:30,670 --> 01:19:34,840  
No, no, books and all that.

1434  
01:19:34,840 --> 01:19:36,130  
Publishing.

1435  
01:19:36,130 --> 01:19:38,080  
Publisher.

1436  
01:19:38,080 --> 01:19:41,050  
Yeah, a publication firm.

1437  
01:19:41,050 --> 01:19:44,710  
And so he had to fold,  
because people stopped--

1438  
01:19:44,710 --> 01:19:47,380  
stopped buying things.

1439  
01:19:47,380 --> 01:19:51,250  
Right wing, right wing-types,  
which included the SS--

1440  
01:19:51,250 --> 01:19:52,450  
some members of the SS.

1441  
01:19:52,450 --> 01:19:56,770  
It included right-wing  
Germans, who were not the SS,

1442  
01:19:56,770 --> 01:20:00,490  
but right-wing.

1443  
01:20:00,490 --> 01:20:07,330  
So I got a letter now from  
him, whatever, recently.

1444  
01:20:07,330 --> 01:20:10,210  
So he just sold it  
to someone else who

1445  
01:20:10,210 --> 01:20:14,020  
was going to take over, who  
was much more on the right

1446  
01:20:14,020 --> 01:20:15,370  
than he was--

1447  
01:20:15,370 --> 01:20:16,600  
much more on the right.

1448  
01:20:16,600 --> 01:20:24,430  
Actually, he's a-- he is a  
follower of General Ludendorff.

1449  
01:20:24,430 --> 01:20:30,970  
And he was a rabid antisemite  
and just totally off

1450  
01:20:30,970 --> 01:20:32,410  
the wall, this fellow--

1451  
01:20:32,410 --> 01:20:33,520  
unbelievable.

1452  
01:20:33,520 --> 01:20:35,350  
General Ludendorff.

1453  
01:20:35,350 --> 01:20:44,110  
And he was the person who  
participated, in 1923,

1454  
01:20:44,110 --> 01:20:47,950  
trying to start a revolution  
in Bavaria and Munich.

1455  
01:20:47,950 --> 01:20:49,570  
And he was marching with Hitler.

1456  
01:20:49,570 --> 01:20:52,960  
And Hitler used him as  
some sort of a front.

1457  
01:20:52,960 --> 01:20:56,380  
Because Hitler was  
unknown, but Ludendorff

1458  
01:20:56,380 --> 01:20:59,530  
was a World War I  
German, World War I

1459  
01:20:59,530 --> 01:21:03,490  
hero, along with Hindenburg.

1460  
01:21:03,490 --> 01:21:04,570  
But he was totally--

1461  
01:21:04,570 --> 01:21:10,180  
just totally-- I mean, he's got  
very strange religious notions,

1462  
01:21:10,180 --> 01:21:17,330  
which go back to Germanic  
myths type and anti-Christian,

1463  
01:21:17,330 --> 01:21:21,110  
anti-Jewish extreme.

1464  
01:21:21,110 --> 01:21:26,120

And so this fellow bought  
that publishing firm.

1465  
01:21:26,120 --> 01:21:30,152  
He's a fellow of  
this Ludendorff.

1466  
01:21:30,152 --> 01:21:31,850  
Kind of scary.

1467  
01:21:31,850 --> 01:21:33,530  
Well, I will have--

1468  
01:21:33,530 --> 01:21:38,150  
if I get to Germany,  
financially and all that, so I'm

1469  
01:21:38,150 --> 01:21:39,380  
going to discuss it with him.

1470  
01:21:39,380 --> 01:21:42,170  
Because I think it was a  
possible-- worst possible

1471  
01:21:42,170 --> 01:21:44,932  
choice he could have made.

1472  
01:21:44,932 --> 01:21:46,746  
Do you have some [INAUDIBLE]?

1473  
01:21:46,746 --> 01:21:48,990  
Go ahead.

1474  
01:21:48,990 --> 01:21:52,620  
You had said already  
that, very often, people

1475  
01:21:52,620 --> 01:21:57,360  
would rationalize or lower  
their cognitive dissonance

1476  
01:21:57,360 --> 01:22:03,090



by somehow making it OK,  
what they were doing.

1477  
01:22:03,090 --> 01:22:06,180  
Did any of these people  
admit to the fact

1478  
01:22:06,180 --> 01:22:08,700  
that atrocities were happening?

1479  
01:22:08,700 --> 01:22:09,570  
Oh, yes.

1480  
01:22:09,570 --> 01:22:10,080  
They did.

1481  
01:22:10,080 --> 01:22:11,710  
Oh, yeah.

1482  
01:22:11,710 --> 01:22:14,780  
The difference, for  
example, one SS general

1483  
01:22:14,780 --> 01:22:20,820  
who was a liaison between  
Himmler and Hitler

1484  
01:22:20,820 --> 01:22:24,370  
was one of the senior  
SS generals, period,

1485  
01:22:24,370 --> 01:22:26,505  
but in the-- more  
the political sphere.

1486  
01:22:26,505 --> 01:22:30,710

1487  
01:22:30,710 --> 01:22:33,815  
He didn't have any--

1488  
01:22:33,815 --> 01:22:36,710

1489  
01:22:36,710 --> 01:22:42,290  
he didn't deny that  
people were gassed.

1490  
01:22:42,290 --> 01:22:44,870  
He didn't deny that  
people were murdered.

1491  
01:22:44,870 --> 01:22:49,370  
But what he denied, and what  
I couldn't get him to accept--

1492  
01:22:49,370 --> 01:22:51,860  
and that is something  
I'm still working on--

1493  
01:22:51,860 --> 01:22:54,860  
is that Hitler gave the order.

1494  
01:22:54,860 --> 01:22:57,320  
And so you have a  
lot of people who

1495  
01:22:57,320 --> 01:22:59,540  
said it was Himmler  
who was responsible.

1496  
01:22:59,540 --> 01:23:05,720  
Hitler was still the person,  
the pure person, the ideal type.

1497  
01:23:05,720 --> 01:23:08,540  
And that happens for a  
number of different reasons.

1498  
01:23:08,540 --> 01:23:11,390  
In his case, there may be a  
different reason than some

1499  
01:23:11,390 --> 01:23:13,220  
other person's.

1500  
01:23:13,220 --> 01:23:15,200  
Denial is another reason.

1501  
01:23:15,200 --> 01:23:20,840  
So many people with a vested  
interest in the whole National

1502  
01:23:20,840 --> 01:23:28,010  
Socialist business want  
Hitler to have a white shirt,

1503  
01:23:28,010 --> 01:23:30,620  
clean type of thing.

1504  
01:23:30,620 --> 01:23:31,760  
And he was one of them.

1505  
01:23:31,760 --> 01:23:35,450  
But in his case, there was  
some other complication also,

1506  
01:23:35,450 --> 01:23:38,600  
because he denied  
that he knew anything

1507  
01:23:38,600 --> 01:23:40,790  
about the whole thing,  
which is absolutely

1508  
01:23:40,790 --> 01:23:45,650  
unacceptable because he  
was so close to the center.

1509  
01:23:45,650 --> 01:23:50,150  
And that he links--

1510  
01:23:50,150 --> 01:23:53,098  
I didn't know, because  
Hitler didn't know.

1511  
01:23:53,098 --> 01:23:54,890

So if Hitler didn't  
know, how could I know?

1512  
01:23:54,890 --> 01:23:57,950  
And if he would--

1513  
01:23:57,950 --> 01:24:03,320  
and he also insisted,  
although he broke his--

1514  
01:24:03,320 --> 01:24:06,830  
I broke that in some of his--

1515  
01:24:06,830 --> 01:24:09,620  
and I got very, very  
rough with him, actually.

1516  
01:24:09,620 --> 01:24:12,380  
And that was  
shortly before the--

1517  
01:24:12,380 --> 01:24:14,410  
one of my last  
conversations with him.

1518  
01:24:14,410 --> 01:24:15,950  
It was a telephone conversation.

1519  
01:24:15,950 --> 01:24:21,518  
I said, the documents,  
which are clear-cut,

1520  
01:24:21,518 --> 01:24:23,060  
have you looked at  
them and all that?

1521  
01:24:23,060 --> 01:24:25,400  
And I cited some  
specifics and all that.

1522  
01:24:25,400 --> 01:24:27,000  
And I said, how come they--

1523

01:24:27,000 --> 01:24:28,580

well, I'm sorry,  
I don't want to--

1524

01:24:28,580 --> 01:24:30,770

so I have to think about it.

1525

01:24:30,770 --> 01:24:35,930

But he thought about it, but  
didn't reach a conclusion,

1526

01:24:35,930 --> 01:24:40,730

because he died before  
he could give me

1527

01:24:40,730 --> 01:24:44,300

his concluding thoughts.

1528

01:24:44,300 --> 01:24:47,728

And said, of course, if you say  
that it is so, and if you give

1529

01:24:47,728 --> 01:24:49,270

me the facts which  
you have given me,

1530

01:24:49,270 --> 01:24:51,700

of course I cannot deny it,  
but I have to think about.

1531

01:24:51,700 --> 01:24:55,430

1532

01:24:55,430 --> 01:24:59,210

And he knew the SS  
apparatus from A

1533

01:24:59,210 --> 01:25:00,710

to Z. I mean, absolutely.

1534

01:25:00,710 --> 01:25:02,157

So it was a denial.

1535  
01:25:02,157 --> 01:25:02,990  
It's not a question.

1536  
01:25:02,990 --> 01:25:05,720  
It was absolute repression.

1537  
01:25:05,720 --> 01:25:06,797  
No question about it.

1538  
01:25:06,797 --> 01:25:08,630  
Because I've talked to  
some other people who

1539  
01:25:08,630 --> 01:25:12,230  
were also imprisoned with him,  
and they laughed and said--

1540  
01:25:12,230 --> 01:25:14,880  
I mean, all the  
other people knew it,

1541  
01:25:14,880 --> 01:25:19,340  
but he is one of the senior  
SS generals, left-hand,

1542  
01:25:19,340 --> 01:25:22,118  
right-hand of Himmler, and  
friend of Heydrich and all

1543  
01:25:22,118 --> 01:25:23,910  
that, he didn't know  
anything it's laugh --

1544  
01:25:23,910 --> 01:25:26,570  
It's just impossible of it.

1545  
01:25:26,570 --> 01:25:29,480  
Was this a general attitude?

1546  
01:25:29,480 --> 01:25:31,250  
Or just specific to this person?

1547

01:25:31,250 --> 01:25:32,750

No, it was a specific  
sort of thing.

1548

01:25:32,750 --> 01:25:35,150

Because other people, of  
course, also tried to tell me.

1549

01:25:35,150 --> 01:25:41,000

Because self-justification, if  
I'm implicated and am to assume

1550

01:25:41,000 --> 01:25:43,500

the sort of unbelievable  
responsibility,

1551

01:25:43,500 --> 01:25:48,050

we also have to understand that  
so many revisionists cannot

1552

01:25:48,050 --> 01:25:51,440

accept this, because  
this horrendous truth is

1553

01:25:51,440 --> 01:25:53,120

a tremendous burden.

1554

01:25:53,120 --> 01:25:57,080

And we see that when we work  
with Holocaust-related staff

1555

01:25:57,080 --> 01:25:58,500

at the university and all that.

1556

01:25:58,500 --> 01:26:02,720

Now, it's not a healthy thing  
to be in for any length of time.

1557

01:26:02,720 --> 01:26:04,830

Because it'll do  
something to you.

1558

01:26:04,830 --> 01:26:06,620

And that is part  
of my recognition.

1559

01:26:06,620 --> 01:26:08,750

I just probably will have  
to get out of that, too,

1560

01:26:08,750 --> 01:26:11,240

because it does  
something to people.

1561

01:26:11,240 --> 01:26:15,890

And it is a terrible  
burden to deal

1562

01:26:15,890 --> 01:26:20,090

with all this blood and tears.

1563

01:26:20,090 --> 01:26:23,150

It's terrible to do that  
years and years and years.

1564

01:26:23,150 --> 01:26:25,040

And particularly  
when you then find

1565

01:26:25,040 --> 01:26:28,760

some idiotic administrators--

1566

01:26:28,760 --> 01:26:31,130

and I say idiotic  
administrators,

1567

01:26:31,130 --> 01:26:33,800

who don't see the validity of  
what we are doing and simply

1568

01:26:33,800 --> 01:26:38,390

more interested in paper-pushing  
and administrative concerns

1569



01:26:38,390 --> 01:26:40,658  
rather than what we have to--

1570  
01:26:40,658 --> 01:26:44,240  
what we have to contribute.

1571  
01:26:44,240 --> 01:26:48,950  
And to work with this without  
getting any sort of support

1572  
01:26:48,950 --> 01:26:52,670  
and minimum of recognition.

1573  
01:26:52,670 --> 01:26:54,770  
All right, so these people--

1574  
01:26:54,770 --> 01:27:00,020  
these people, the SS people,  
were privy-- not only privy,

1575  
01:27:00,020 --> 01:27:03,110  
but they were where  
the people actually

1576  
01:27:03,110 --> 01:27:10,020  
enacted all these orders.

1577  
01:27:10,020 --> 01:27:12,590  
Now, what does it do to  
your self-image if you say,

1578  
01:27:12,590 --> 01:27:16,290  
hey, I'm a murderer,  
in a time when

1579  
01:27:16,290 --> 01:27:17,910  
there is no call for murderers?

1580  
01:27:17,910 --> 01:27:23,980

1581  
01:27:23,980 --> 01:27:26,110

So, I mean, you will  
become defensive,

1582  
01:27:26,110 --> 01:27:28,060  
because you have to  
live with yourself.

1583  
01:27:28,060 --> 01:27:31,540  
So that's why-- and I am trying  
to make it very clear-- that's

1584  
01:27:31,540 --> 01:27:35,560  
why people prefer  
to justify, reduce

1585  
01:27:35,560 --> 01:27:37,930  
cognitive dissonance  
to a minimum,

1586  
01:27:37,930 --> 01:27:40,670  
so that they can  
live with themselves.

1587  
01:27:40,670 --> 01:27:42,580  
So for example,  
this one general--

1588  
01:27:42,580 --> 01:27:45,220  
and there is an important  
recognition, which to me is--

1589  
01:27:45,220 --> 01:27:48,250  
and the one who denied  
that Hitler knew anything,

1590  
01:27:48,250 --> 01:27:51,460  
and also denied that  
he knew anything,

1591  
01:27:51,460 --> 01:27:55,090  
which is absolutely ridiculous--

1592  
01:27:55,090 --> 01:27:59,410

because he abetted--  
and aided and abetted

1593  
01:27:59,410 --> 01:28:05,080  
the transport to Treblinka  
of 300,000 Jews, intervening,

1594  
01:28:05,080 --> 01:28:08,770  
so that the railway people  
would make that possible so

1595  
01:28:08,770 --> 01:28:11,320  
that they could be moved there.

1596  
01:28:11,320 --> 01:28:15,940  
And so when he was  
dying of cancer,

1597  
01:28:15,940 --> 01:28:23,310  
during the last periods of his  
life, and his lady friend told

1598  
01:28:23,310 --> 01:28:23,810  
me that--

1599  
01:28:23,810 --> 01:28:27,120  
I was not privy, but his lady  
friend is pretty accurate,

1600  
01:28:27,120 --> 01:28:29,570  
and now she's trying  
to soft-pedal it.

1601  
01:28:29,570 --> 01:28:34,190  
But she told me that he  
was howling during night

1602  
01:28:34,190 --> 01:28:36,680  
because he had dreadful  
nightmares and said--

1603  
01:28:36,680 --> 01:28:40,940  
and about the devil is getting

him, the devil is after him.

1604  
01:28:40,940 --> 01:28:44,660  
That, to me, is psychologically  
exceedingly important.

1605  
01:28:44,660 --> 01:28:46,490  
And he was howling really--

1606  
01:28:46,490 --> 01:28:50,420  
howling is the right--  
exact word she used--

1607  
01:28:50,420 --> 01:28:51,480  
during the night.

1608  
01:28:51,480 --> 01:28:54,200  
So people got scared and  
woke up and because he

1609  
01:28:54,200 --> 01:28:59,620  
was howling, because  
the devil was after him.

1610  
01:28:59,620 --> 01:29:05,110  
He comes from a very strict,  
upper-middle class family.

1611  
01:29:05,110 --> 01:29:07,270  
Very Christian, very Protestant.

1612  
01:29:07,270 --> 01:29:12,430

1613  
01:29:12,430 --> 01:29:14,770  
So you think it had worn--

1614  
01:29:14,770 --> 01:29:16,480  
worn him to that point?

1615  
01:29:16,480 --> 01:29:19,180

1616  
01:29:19,180 --> 01:29:22,330  
His behavior had caught  
up with him [INAUDIBLE]..

1617  
01:29:22,330 --> 01:29:23,590  
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

1618  
01:29:23,590 --> 01:29:27,790  
But I think you're also  
saying, people can say things

1619  
01:29:27,790 --> 01:29:30,850  
like, I committed  
atrocities, but it was

1620  
01:29:30,850 --> 01:29:32,360  
in the interest of the state.

1621  
01:29:32,360 --> 01:29:33,780  
Yeah.

1622  
01:29:33,780 --> 01:29:36,423  
See, for that, you  
need to use ideology.

1623  
01:29:36,423 --> 01:29:37,840  
You have to have  
an ideology which

1624  
01:29:37,840 --> 01:29:40,660  
will help you to justify that.

1625  
01:29:40,660 --> 01:29:44,740  
And that's why the ideology  
was absolutely essential,

1626  
01:29:44,740 --> 01:29:47,410  
because without the  
ideology, people

1627  
01:29:47,410 --> 01:29:50,380

would have not initiated it.

1628  
01:29:50,380 --> 01:29:54,220  
German people would  
have not initiated it

1629  
01:29:54,220 --> 01:29:59,530  
without the orders, without the  
indoctrination, the ideology

1630  
01:29:59,530 --> 01:30:01,720  
supplied by the leadership.

1631  
01:30:01,720 --> 01:30:02,590  
No question.

1632  
01:30:02,590 --> 01:30:04,660  
No question.

1633  
01:30:04,660 --> 01:30:08,080  
OK, I think this is a good  
point to stop and begin again

1634  
01:30:08,080 --> 01:30:08,710  
next time.

1635  
01:30:08,710 --> 01:30:10,760  
OK.

1636  
01:30:10,760 --> 01:30:12,640  
It's 7:00 almost, my God.

1637  
01:30:12,640 --> 01:30:16,590

1638  
01:30:16,590 --> 01:30:17,090  
John?

1639  
01:30:17,090 --> 01:30:31,820

1640

01:30:31,820 --> 01:30:34,080

So I brought some--

1641

01:30:34,080 --> 01:32:34,000