

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:06,605

2
00:01:06,605 --> 00:01:07,355
About ten seconds.

3
00:01:07,355 --> 00:01:18,270

4
00:01:18,270 --> 00:01:19,920
OK.

5
00:01:19,920 --> 00:01:24,520
OK, today is December 17, 1993.

6
00:01:24,520 --> 00:01:27,090
We're doing part
2 of the interview

7
00:01:27,090 --> 00:01:31,770
with Jon Steiner about his work
interviewing Nazi perpetrators.

8
00:01:31,770 --> 00:01:35,010
I'm Sandra Bendayan,
and with us too is

9
00:01:35,010 --> 00:01:38,520
Jon's colleague, Carol Hurwitz.

10
00:01:38,520 --> 00:01:42,510
This is for the Oral History
Project, San Francisco.

11
00:01:42,510 --> 00:01:48,120
Well, last time we were
talking specifically

12
00:01:48,120 --> 00:01:52,050
about what you learned
when you were interviewing

13
00:01:52,050 --> 00:01:54,870
the Nazi perpetrators.

14
00:01:54,870 --> 00:01:59,160
And we had been talking
about them reducing cognitive

15
00:01:59,160 --> 00:02:04,120
dissonance in the case of being
able to admit they're doing

16
00:02:04,120 --> 00:02:06,883
atrocities, but doing it in the
name of the ideology that is

17
00:02:06,883 --> 00:02:07,800
[INAUDIBLE] to them. .

18
00:02:07,800 --> 00:02:12,860
That's right-- which is
a very important point,

19
00:02:12,860 --> 00:02:15,890
very important point.

20
00:02:15,890 --> 00:02:17,120
Well --

21
00:02:17,120 --> 00:02:19,760
Well, the idea is
that I don't think

22
00:02:19,760 --> 00:02:23,150
it has been sufficiently
emphasized in literature

23
00:02:23,150 --> 00:02:27,020
and by those people
who have supposedly

24
00:02:27,020 --> 00:02:30,440

studied the perpetrators.

25
00:02:30,440 --> 00:02:34,760
And very frequently, it
is said that these people

26
00:02:34,760 --> 00:02:35,970
didn't have a morality.

27
00:02:35,970 --> 00:02:37,790
Of course, they had a morality.

28
00:02:37,790 --> 00:02:41,990
They had a private morality
and they had a public morality.

29
00:02:41,990 --> 00:02:51,050
And it's just like we
understand the two major types

30
00:02:51,050 --> 00:02:56,930
of roles we play, which is the
communal roles on one hand,

31
00:02:56,930 --> 00:03:01,850
which deal with family, and
friendships, and relatives,

32
00:03:01,850 --> 00:03:07,760
which satisfy the emotional
needs, the affection.

33
00:03:07,760 --> 00:03:12,800
And all that comes into play,
because that's the major reason

34
00:03:12,800 --> 00:03:14,180
for this type of roles.

35
00:03:14,180 --> 00:03:17,390
And then we have
the societal roles,

36

00:03:17,390 --> 00:03:24,350

which satisfy the existential
needs, in which it makes

37

00:03:24,350 --> 00:03:28,440

no difference whether I like
my customer, for example,

38

00:03:28,440 --> 00:03:31,670

when I am a waiter.

39

00:03:31,670 --> 00:03:37,010

I just simply satisfy the
needs in order to get a tip

40

00:03:37,010 --> 00:03:41,390

and whatever salary I may
receive for my services.

41

00:03:41,390 --> 00:03:45,500

So that becomes more
impersonal, and therefore, I

42

00:03:45,500 --> 00:03:47,270

serve anyone who
is going to pay.

43

00:03:47,270 --> 00:03:51,290

So these are the
major two distinctions

44

00:03:51,290 --> 00:03:57,200

which need to be made, and
have different functions

45

00:03:57,200 --> 00:04:01,260

in the roles we play
in everyday life.

46

00:04:01,260 --> 00:04:07,490

So in their relationships
to their families,

47

00:04:07,490 --> 00:04:16,370
they had one set of morals,
which emphasized warmth--

48

00:04:16,370 --> 00:04:25,130
whatever-- family spirit,
mutual support, and affection--

49

00:04:25,130 --> 00:04:30,650
including the dogs,
animals-- house animals.

50

00:04:30,650 --> 00:04:34,180
And on the other
hand, you had people

51

00:04:34,180 --> 00:04:37,770
who were defined as
subhuman or non-human.

52

00:04:37,770 --> 00:04:41,820
They're not actually even
recognized as human beings,

53

00:04:41,820 --> 00:04:43,040
but as vermin.

54

00:04:43,040 --> 00:04:49,970
And those-- you applied total
different moral set of values.

55

00:04:49,970 --> 00:04:52,940
And therefore, you didn't
have any guilt feelings,

56

00:04:52,940 --> 00:05:01,390
or minimal guilt feelings
when you killed them.

57

00:05:01,390 --> 00:05:03,060
And it was not viewed as murder.

58

00:05:03,060 --> 00:05:10,100
It was viewed as cleansing--
what we call to day cleansing--

59
00:05:10,100 --> 00:05:12,335
but in essence,
were the same thing.

60
00:05:12,335 --> 00:05:14,960
Do you think it could have been
equated with the notion of that

61
00:05:14,960 --> 00:05:17,530
it's OK to kill in war, that
there were are categories

62
00:05:17,530 --> 00:05:18,030
in which --

63
00:05:18,030 --> 00:05:18,980
Right, right.

64
00:05:18,980 --> 00:05:22,100
I think it's very similar,
because if he's my enemy

65
00:05:22,100 --> 00:05:30,410
and he endangers the safety,
the well-being of my society,

66
00:05:30,410 --> 00:05:33,800
the state I live in,
then I feel free to kill

67
00:05:33,800 --> 00:05:36,590
that person whom I
view as an enemy, who

68
00:05:36,590 --> 00:05:42,660
is out to destroy my country.

69
00:05:42,660 --> 00:05:47,240
And I think it's very

similar, very similar.

70
00:05:47,240 --> 00:05:52,830
And even we evoke God, and
providence, and whatever--

71
00:05:52,830 --> 00:05:55,580
which Hitler did--

72
00:05:55,580 --> 00:05:58,310
and say, he's on our side.

73
00:05:58,310 --> 00:06:01,160
And the other ones, of
course, do the same.

74
00:06:01,160 --> 00:06:03,530
And on whose side God is?

75
00:06:03,530 --> 00:06:06,140
Then that's a very
important question.

76
00:06:06,140 --> 00:06:15,230
And yet, we are prepared to
kill for the sake of being

77
00:06:15,230 --> 00:06:18,140
in the right, because
obviously, we are right

78
00:06:18,140 --> 00:06:19,640
and the other ones
are always wrong.

79
00:06:19,640 --> 00:06:22,370

80
00:06:22,370 --> 00:06:26,870
Clearly, during the camp
period, that was the case.

81

00:06:26,870 --> 00:06:30,020
When you were interviewing
the perpetrators sometime

82
00:06:30,020 --> 00:06:33,080
after the war, did they
have any different point

83
00:06:33,080 --> 00:06:34,790
of view about committing
the atrocities?

84
00:06:34,790 --> 00:06:36,440
I think that's a
very important thing.

85
00:06:36,440 --> 00:06:39,110
This is a very crucial question.

86
00:06:39,110 --> 00:06:43,220
And I was obviously very
interested in their view

87
00:06:43,220 --> 00:06:44,220
after the fact.

88
00:06:44,220 --> 00:06:47,000
Now, you mustn't forget
that, after the war,

89
00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:50,450
you didn't have a National
Socialist state anymore.

90
00:06:50,450 --> 00:06:56,000
And what took place now
was just a move away

91
00:06:56,000 --> 00:07:00,920
from totalitarianism
into democracy.

92
00:07:00,920 --> 00:07:05,360

And so therefore, the
values had shifted,

93
00:07:05,360 --> 00:07:09,500
and the emphasis of
values has shifted.

94
00:07:09,500 --> 00:07:14,390
So for that very reason, they
felt ambivalent about it,

95
00:07:14,390 --> 00:07:19,610
because now the morals
which were emphasized

96
00:07:19,610 --> 00:07:23,990
in the democracy
after World War II

97
00:07:23,990 --> 00:07:27,410
was very different
from National Socialist

98
00:07:27,410 --> 00:07:31,010
notions of how a
state ought to be run

99
00:07:31,010 --> 00:07:32,720
and who their enemies are.

100
00:07:32,720 --> 00:07:37,550
And so therefore, they were now
in some sort of a twilight zone

101
00:07:37,550 --> 00:07:39,860
and didn't know exactly
where they belong.

102
00:07:39,860 --> 00:07:42,050
But now reality had
changed, and they

103
00:07:42,050 --> 00:07:45,890

had to live in the new reality,
and therefore, they shifted.

104
00:07:45,890 --> 00:07:51,920
Some shifted and said, hey,
under the reality of what

105
00:07:51,920 --> 00:07:57,650
exists today democracy of today,
we did things which cannot be

106
00:07:57,650 --> 00:07:58,670
justified.

107
00:07:58,670 --> 00:08:02,840
And we are talking about
former members of the SS.

108
00:08:02,840 --> 00:08:08,180
And some other ones said, the
values which we emphasized

109
00:08:08,180 --> 00:08:12,770
during National Socialism
transcend the values which we

110
00:08:12,770 --> 00:08:16,550
have today, and therefore, we
don't-- we live in our reality

111
00:08:16,550 --> 00:08:22,610
today, but we don't
acknowledge it as valid,

112
00:08:22,610 --> 00:08:29,180
and still adhere to those values
which were advocated during

113
00:08:29,180 --> 00:08:30,830
National Socialism.

114
00:08:30,830 --> 00:08:32,940
And that, I think, is

a very important thing.

115
00:08:32,940 --> 00:08:36,740
So you had two different
types of groups--

116
00:08:36,740 --> 00:08:40,460
those people who
accepted the new--

117
00:08:40,460 --> 00:08:46,790
if you will, the new
contemporary reality, in

118
00:08:46,790 --> 00:08:49,460
contrast to the previous one.

119
00:08:49,460 --> 00:08:54,830
And the other one still
dwelled on the old ones,

120
00:08:54,830 --> 00:08:58,190
acknowledging that they lived
the new reality, but said,

121
00:08:58,190 --> 00:09:03,180
we don't accept
it as valid to us,

122
00:09:03,180 --> 00:09:05,540
and therefore, we will
adhere to the other one.

123
00:09:05,540 --> 00:09:08,250
Then you have people--
mixture of both, people

124
00:09:08,250 --> 00:09:11,360
who were actually confused.

125
00:09:11,360 --> 00:09:19,250
And in terms of racist
anti-Semitic notions,

126
00:09:19,250 --> 00:09:26,480
they still adhered to the
anti-Semitic racist notions

127
00:09:26,480 --> 00:09:30,920
after World War II, except they
couldn't practice it, you see.

128
00:09:30,920 --> 00:09:33,680
They are not allowed to
practice it because there

129
00:09:33,680 --> 00:09:35,780
was no outlet for it.

130
00:09:35,780 --> 00:09:40,580
Now, that's why, say,
if things will change,

131
00:09:40,580 --> 00:09:43,940
and that's why I call these
people actual sleepers-- that,

132
00:09:43,940 --> 00:09:46,350
in reality--

133
00:09:46,350 --> 00:09:50,810
new realities, is they
then would revert against--

134
00:09:50,810 --> 00:09:57,410
revert again to the values
they supported and adhered to

135
00:09:57,410 --> 00:10:00,680
during National Socialism.

136
00:10:00,680 --> 00:10:03,230
Do you think that the
other group, those

137

00:10:03,230 --> 00:10:05,390
who accepted
contemporary values--

138
00:10:05,390 --> 00:10:08,930
do you think they would revert?

139
00:10:08,930 --> 00:10:13,162
Probably not, probably not--
and I've, in my dealings with

140
00:10:13,162 --> 00:10:15,245
them-- and it's something
which I did not expect--

141
00:10:15,245 --> 00:10:18,740

142
00:10:18,740 --> 00:10:24,110
if one can call it that way,
I converted quite a number

143
00:10:24,110 --> 00:10:28,100
of people to that type of
thinking, which otherwise they

144
00:10:28,100 --> 00:10:33,980
would have not been perhaps
exposed to the extent,

145
00:10:33,980 --> 00:10:37,190
by virtue of the
interviews with them.

146
00:10:37,190 --> 00:10:46,790
And they became very
important catalysts

147
00:10:46,790 --> 00:10:50,870
to change some of
their attitudes

148
00:10:50,870 --> 00:10:54,680

within a segment of
former members of the SS.

149
00:10:54,680 --> 00:11:01,520
And so to begin with, in my
early time of the interviews,

150
00:11:01,520 --> 00:11:06,620
all these sort of things we
are discussing now-- the,

151
00:11:06,620 --> 00:11:10,490
so to speak, consequences
of these interviews I

152
00:11:10,490 --> 00:11:12,590
did not foresee at all.

153
00:11:12,590 --> 00:11:19,130
But they simply evolved
after the interviews,

154
00:11:19,130 --> 00:11:21,380
and were utterly unexpected.

155
00:11:21,380 --> 00:11:24,380
But this was some
sort of a bonus,

156
00:11:24,380 --> 00:11:27,680
as far as I'm
concerned, because I've

157
00:11:27,680 --> 00:11:33,800
been able to influence people in
a way which I think neutralized

158
00:11:33,800 --> 00:11:40,520
some of the viciousness and
some of the dreadfulness

159
00:11:40,520 --> 00:11:47,660
in their thoughts which made

it possible for the Third Reich

160
00:11:47,660 --> 00:11:53,150
to perpetrate all these
crimes against humanity.

161
00:11:53,150 --> 00:11:57,620
Did you feel that, among
any of these groups, the--

162
00:11:57,620 --> 00:12:01,490
during the interviews,
that they were open to you?

163
00:12:01,490 --> 00:12:05,630
Obviously, they were open to
some extent, but that they

164
00:12:05,630 --> 00:12:09,230
could open their hearts, or they
would hold back some, or maybe

165
00:12:09,230 --> 00:12:13,010
vary from person to another?

166
00:12:13,010 --> 00:12:14,990
I don't know whether
I can generalize that,

167
00:12:14,990 --> 00:12:18,740
but I would say
that, once you enter

168
00:12:18,740 --> 00:12:23,780
into a dialogue with
people, even if you have

169
00:12:23,780 --> 00:12:28,370
different views on
things to discuss,

170
00:12:28,370 --> 00:12:33,710
there's an exchange of ideas

which will affect all those

171
00:12:33,710 --> 00:12:35,940
who interact.

172
00:12:35,940 --> 00:12:37,580
And I think that
certainly happened.

173
00:12:37,580 --> 00:12:41,000
And the fact that I got
them involved in a dialogue

174
00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:44,210
by virtue of the
interviews, I think,

175
00:12:44,210 --> 00:12:47,720
somehow opened
avenues in any case

176
00:12:47,720 --> 00:12:50,870
to some sort of
exchange of ideas, which

177
00:12:50,870 --> 00:12:54,117
indeed affected all parties.

178
00:12:54,117 --> 00:12:54,950
There's no question.

179
00:12:54,950 --> 00:12:59,750
And I was affected also by that,
because not all these people

180
00:12:59,750 --> 00:13:01,160
are sadists.

181
00:13:01,160 --> 00:13:03,650
Not all these people
are destructive.

182

00:13:03,650 --> 00:13:08,310
And especially when I looked
at them after the fact,

183
00:13:08,310 --> 00:13:14,730
after National Socialism came
to its end after World War II,

184
00:13:14,730 --> 00:13:22,610
these people didn't come to
the attention of the public

185
00:13:22,610 --> 00:13:26,990
for having committed
crimes in the new society.

186
00:13:26,990 --> 00:13:28,940
And that, to me, was
very interesting.

187
00:13:28,940 --> 00:13:33,687
You will say, hey, if these
people are sadistic people, who

188
00:13:33,687 --> 00:13:39,020
are, so to speak, bent
on criminal activities,

189
00:13:39,020 --> 00:13:42,830
crimes against humanity, and
all that, you would continue--

190
00:13:42,830 --> 00:13:47,750
that they will
continue on their path

191
00:13:47,750 --> 00:13:53,520
and be criminal in the future.

192
00:13:53,520 --> 00:13:56,060
And that was simply
not the case.

193

00:13:56,060 --> 00:13:58,890
And that somehow stopped
me in my tracks and said,

194
00:13:58,890 --> 00:14:02,270
hey, I have to be very
careful in distinguishing

195
00:14:02,270 --> 00:14:06,260
how these things come
about and to what extent

196
00:14:06,260 --> 00:14:10,700
people who, under
certain circumstances,

197
00:14:10,700 --> 00:14:16,130
will behave within the
norms and relatively

198
00:14:16,130 --> 00:14:19,490
humanely under a different
set of circumstances

199
00:14:19,490 --> 00:14:22,520
will become vicious killers.

200
00:14:22,520 --> 00:14:25,610
And that was what
I consider to be

201
00:14:25,610 --> 00:14:30,740
a very important insight,
which then I reflected on

202
00:14:30,740 --> 00:14:34,430
in some of my writings.

203
00:14:34,430 --> 00:14:40,100
Did you feel that, in
general, they expressed

204
00:14:40,100 --> 00:14:44,270

true remorse, internal remorse?

205

00:14:44,270 --> 00:14:53,240

Well, as I mentioned before,
when we've had this roundtable

206

00:14:53,240 --> 00:15:01,100

broadcast with three former
members of the Waffen-SS,

207

00:15:01,100 --> 00:15:04,160

that we've had a very
clear-cut case where they said,

208

00:15:04,160 --> 00:15:14,090

if we had known the consequences
of our activities and what

209

00:15:14,090 --> 00:15:18,730

happened by virtue
of our membership--

210

00:15:18,730 --> 00:15:23,810

an organization which was
tainted with mischief,

211

00:15:23,810 --> 00:15:27,020

we would have not joined the SS.

212

00:15:27,020 --> 00:15:29,570

And they said that
in public, and then

213

00:15:29,570 --> 00:15:31,520

incurred the wrath
of those people

214

00:15:31,520 --> 00:15:35,510

certainly had a different
idea, and were ostracized

215

00:15:35,510 --> 00:15:39,395

by their fellow SS comrades.

216
00:15:39,395 --> 00:15:42,460

217
00:15:42,460 --> 00:15:44,230
And that is very
important to me,

218
00:15:44,230 --> 00:15:46,214
because they said that
in public to people

219
00:15:46,214 --> 00:15:50,950
it was virtually
their business based

220
00:15:50,950 --> 00:16:06,610
on their public declaration of
the insight they reflected on.

221
00:16:06,610 --> 00:16:08,460
So that, I think,
is very important.

222
00:16:08,460 --> 00:16:14,590
And if we enter into dialogue
with people, even if that

223
00:16:14,590 --> 00:16:16,045
was not intended--

224
00:16:16,045 --> 00:16:17,710
that was not my
intention at all,

225
00:16:17,710 --> 00:16:19,810
because I came into
the whole thing

226
00:16:19,810 --> 00:16:23,920
as a sociologist, a
social psychologist,

227

00:16:23,920 --> 00:16:30,280
to research what made them tick.

228

00:16:30,280 --> 00:16:34,990
But I certainly did not
foresee that I would then

229

00:16:34,990 --> 00:16:39,280
get into some sort
of a interaction

230

00:16:39,280 --> 00:16:44,350
with these people which was
totally on a different level.

231

00:16:44,350 --> 00:16:49,180
Did any of them
know that you had

232

00:16:49,180 --> 00:16:51,010
Jewish family in your history?

233

00:16:51,010 --> 00:16:51,550
Oh, yes.

234

00:16:51,550 --> 00:16:52,050
They did?

235

00:16:52,050 --> 00:16:54,970
Yeah, because some--
I told some of them,

236

00:16:54,970 --> 00:16:56,200
and some of them I didn't.

237

00:16:56,200 --> 00:17:00,640
And I waited for the
right moment to tell them,

238

00:17:00,640 --> 00:17:03,730
when it would be productive,
rather than destructive--

239
00:17:03,730 --> 00:17:08,770
because some of the people
I told in the right moment,

240
00:17:08,770 --> 00:17:15,670
and this furthered
their acceptance of me,

241
00:17:15,670 --> 00:17:19,960
because I said, hey,
instead of hating,

242
00:17:19,960 --> 00:17:24,190
he's listening to me and even
supportive to me when I need

243
00:17:24,190 --> 00:17:27,339
to discuss some of the things
which are a burden to me,

244
00:17:27,339 --> 00:17:28,270
or which need to--

245
00:17:28,270 --> 00:17:31,270
I have to get off my chest.

246
00:17:31,270 --> 00:17:40,870
And so as far as their
view of me, their esteem--

247
00:17:40,870 --> 00:17:45,010

248
00:17:45,010 --> 00:17:52,120
my esteem in their eyes
was thereby heightened.

249
00:17:52,120 --> 00:17:59,200
And it certainly
helped me to find out

250

00:17:59,200 --> 00:18:05,080
more interesting things
which I wanted to find out.

251
00:18:05,080 --> 00:18:08,170

252
00:18:08,170 --> 00:18:13,630
In your interviews,
how did they react,

253
00:18:13,630 --> 00:18:18,520
and what was the process in
their ideological changeover

254
00:18:18,520 --> 00:18:19,390
when Hitler fell?

255
00:18:19,390 --> 00:18:21,910

256
00:18:21,910 --> 00:18:23,200
When Hitler--

257
00:18:23,200 --> 00:18:25,090
When the war ended, Hitler fell.

258
00:18:25,090 --> 00:18:28,480
That whole ideology
seemed cracked, I presume.

259
00:18:28,480 --> 00:18:31,240

260
00:18:31,240 --> 00:18:34,570
Well, it just depends
on the attitude.

261
00:18:34,570 --> 00:18:38,620
What was the reason why people
joined, let's say, the SS?

262

00:18:38,620 --> 00:18:40,630

Well, they may
have been attracted

263

00:18:40,630 --> 00:18:43,010

to the ideology, number one.

264

00:18:43,010 --> 00:18:45,730

Number two, they may have
been opportunistic about it

265

00:18:45,730 --> 00:18:49,420

and said, hey, everyone, it's
now a National Socialist state.

266

00:18:49,420 --> 00:18:53,260

I have to see that
I'll make a career

267

00:18:53,260 --> 00:18:57,100

under those present
circumstances and, so to speak,

268

00:18:57,100 --> 00:18:59,410

said, well, I don't care
what, but as long as

269

00:18:59,410 --> 00:19:02,920

it's going to support my cause.

270

00:19:02,920 --> 00:19:06,790

And so I'll simply collaborate.

271

00:19:06,790 --> 00:19:17,530

And some other people joined
because they felt strongly

272

00:19:17,530 --> 00:19:20,950

about not only the ideology,
but also because they

273

00:19:20,950 --> 00:19:23,350

admired Hitler because

they really felt

274

00:19:23,350 --> 00:19:26,110

that Hitler was going to be--

275

00:19:26,110 --> 00:19:31,300

the true ideologists who felt
that Hitler had a good point,

276

00:19:31,300 --> 00:19:37,300

and would indeed do for
Germany what he claimed he

277

00:19:37,300 --> 00:19:38,770

would be doing.

278

00:19:38,770 --> 00:19:40,690

So you had a number
of reasons why

279

00:19:40,690 --> 00:19:44,620

people joined, and
depending on their reasons,

280

00:19:44,620 --> 00:19:51,610

they would have a different
view after the war

281

00:19:51,610 --> 00:19:54,790

and look back with
different feelings

282

00:19:54,790 --> 00:19:58,360

and reach different conclusions.

283

00:19:58,360 --> 00:20:03,250

And say for that group that were
deep believers in the ideology,

284

00:20:03,250 --> 00:20:06,940

who felt that so-called
God was on their side,

285

00:20:06,940 --> 00:20:11,320

how did they go through
this transition?

286

00:20:11,320 --> 00:20:16,390

Well, they applied
what we call reduction

287

00:20:16,390 --> 00:20:22,360

of cognitive dissonance,
and they said, well,

288

00:20:22,360 --> 00:20:23,470

Hitler was betrayed.

289

00:20:23,470 --> 00:20:26,500

290

00:20:26,500 --> 00:20:28,420

Hitler meant well,
and he would have

291

00:20:28,420 --> 00:20:34,000

won if not so many other
people would have prevailed

292

00:20:34,000 --> 00:20:36,010

and not failed him.

293

00:20:36,010 --> 00:20:41,530

And so they said he was OK,
National Socialism was OK,

294

00:20:41,530 --> 00:20:45,310

but the Germans
simply didn't do what

295

00:20:45,310 --> 00:20:50,380

they should have done in
order to see that National

296

00:20:50,380 --> 00:20:52,360

Socialism would prevail--

297

00:20:52,360 --> 00:20:55,480

298

00:20:55,480 --> 00:21:00,595

or, for example, said,
well, technically, we

299

00:21:00,595 --> 00:21:01,660

are not as well-equipped.

300

00:21:01,660 --> 00:21:04,360

The whole world was against
us, and it was too much

301

00:21:04,360 --> 00:21:09,290

for us to defend
ourselves against.

302

00:21:09,290 --> 00:21:12,790

And so there are a
number of justifications

303

00:21:12,790 --> 00:21:16,012

which they apply, but Hitler
and National Socialism

304

00:21:16,012 --> 00:21:16,720

were still right.

305

00:21:16,720 --> 00:21:20,050

And you've got a segment of
particularly older generation,

306

00:21:20,050 --> 00:21:22,900

and now even younger
generation, who

307

00:21:22,900 --> 00:21:27,220

claim that Hitler was right,
National Socialism was right,

308

00:21:27,220 --> 00:21:31,480

but all the other ones who
failed him and conditions

309

00:21:31,480 --> 00:21:38,500

simply made it possible for
him to go to lose the war.

310

00:21:38,500 --> 00:21:41,200

So that group came up with their
ideology more or less still

311

00:21:41,200 --> 00:21:41,710

intact.

312

00:21:41,710 --> 00:21:42,790

Right.

313

00:21:42,790 --> 00:21:47,050

Was that group able to do then
adopt more democratic attitudes

314

00:21:47,050 --> 00:21:49,750

later on?

315

00:21:49,750 --> 00:21:53,230

Well, they adjust
to normal conditions

316

00:21:53,230 --> 00:21:57,040

in order to survive
existentially,

317

00:21:57,040 --> 00:21:59,860

but they wait for the
moment when they really

318

00:21:59,860 --> 00:22:02,200

can activate what
they really feel

319

00:22:02,200 --> 00:22:04,460

and put that into practice.

320
00:22:04,460 --> 00:22:09,580
So they are very unstable--
a very unstable element which

321
00:22:09,580 --> 00:22:15,430
actually undermines any
sort of democratic process,

322
00:22:15,430 --> 00:22:18,130
because whenever they see
some weakness in all that,

323
00:22:18,130 --> 00:22:20,290
they'll come up
and will say, well,

324
00:22:20,290 --> 00:22:22,420
we've told you so, and now we--

325
00:22:22,420 --> 00:22:26,260
it's our turn to
take over, if we can.

326
00:22:26,260 --> 00:22:29,440
And yes, you got
people today in Germany

327
00:22:29,440 --> 00:22:32,860
who are very interested
along these lines.

328
00:22:32,860 --> 00:22:36,380
And what we seen in the Soviet--
the former Soviet Union--

329
00:22:36,380 --> 00:22:39,940
again, you see these
sort of trends.

330
00:22:39,940 --> 00:22:43,250
So the question is, who

is going to prevail?

331

00:22:43,250 --> 00:22:46,240

Which elements in
a given society

332

00:22:46,240 --> 00:22:49,600

will prevail in time and space?

333

00:22:49,600 --> 00:23:01,330

And that, of course, is
posited on the fact that--

334

00:23:01,330 --> 00:23:05,410

what sort of leaders
they are, and how

335

00:23:05,410 --> 00:23:08,530

they will conduct themselves,
and who are the role models,

336

00:23:08,530 --> 00:23:14,260

and how they can
structure the society

337

00:23:14,260 --> 00:23:21,430

and move it away from any sort
of totalitarian situation.

338

00:23:21,430 --> 00:23:24,350

339

00:23:24,350 --> 00:23:29,840

Do you think that-- as a group,
that they felt a nostalgia

340

00:23:29,840 --> 00:23:31,380

for their old days?

341

00:23:31,380 --> 00:23:33,380

They wanted --

342

00:23:33,380 --> 00:23:35,000
Well, yes.

343
00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:36,110
One can hear that.

344
00:23:36,110 --> 00:23:42,230
And then they say things
which we also hear here

345
00:23:42,230 --> 00:23:46,310
in the United States and--

346
00:23:46,310 --> 00:23:49,385
law and order, law and
order you know Turks.

347
00:23:49,385 --> 00:23:58,700
There are no foreigners
who created unemployment,

348
00:23:58,700 --> 00:24:04,190
and everything was uniform, and
there was peace in the streets,

349
00:24:04,190 --> 00:24:07,680
and less crime, and all
these sort of things.

350
00:24:07,680 --> 00:24:09,890
And that's certainly
one thing which

351
00:24:09,890 --> 00:24:16,030
is being advocated
by these people.

352
00:24:16,030 --> 00:24:20,500
And they feel that these
were the good old days,

353
00:24:20,500 --> 00:24:27,790
where everyone could walk the

streets without being afraid.

354

00:24:27,790 --> 00:24:31,630

What about the good old days
aspect of their camaraderie,

355

00:24:31,630 --> 00:24:33,220

their power over people?

356

00:24:33,220 --> 00:24:37,085

Well, that too-- yeah, the
closeness, the closeness--

357

00:24:37,085 --> 00:24:38,080

[INAUDIBLE]

358

00:24:38,080 --> 00:24:40,150

That's a very
frequent thing which

359

00:24:40,150 --> 00:24:41,500

came out in the interview.

360

00:24:41,500 --> 00:24:44,110

Invariably, regardless
how they felt today

361

00:24:44,110 --> 00:24:47,020

about National Socialism,
their closeness,

362

00:24:47,020 --> 00:24:54,250

camaraderie which they felt
was so strong, very sustaining.

363

00:24:54,250 --> 00:24:58,990

And people supported
each other in a way

364

00:24:58,990 --> 00:25:03,297

which does not take place
today, and they miss that.

365

00:25:03,297 --> 00:25:04,630
There is no question about that.

366

00:25:04,630 --> 00:25:11,890
And that was one
of the themes which

367

00:25:11,890 --> 00:25:17,830
was very strongly emphasized,
regardless of their views--

368

00:25:17,830 --> 00:25:19,990
ideological views.

369

00:25:19,990 --> 00:25:21,700
So they were missing that--

370

00:25:21,700 --> 00:25:24,370

371

00:25:24,370 --> 00:25:26,560
particularly within
the SS, which

372

00:25:26,560 --> 00:25:32,590
was much more closely
knit than other groups.

373

00:25:32,590 --> 00:25:35,783
Do then is that sense of
power over others as well?

374

00:25:35,783 --> 00:25:36,700
Do they speak of that?

375

00:25:36,700 --> 00:25:39,370
Well, that is not something
which they would emphasize,

376

00:25:39,370 --> 00:25:44,900
because somehow it
doesn't sound good.

377

00:25:44,900 --> 00:25:49,210

But obviously, it came through
in some cases loud and clear

378

00:25:49,210 --> 00:25:53,590

that some of these
people played roles

379

00:25:53,590 --> 00:25:56,710

which had unbelievable
power over other people.

380

00:25:56,710 --> 00:26:00,040

And that, of course,
caused them to be elated,

381

00:26:00,040 --> 00:26:03,910

and they experienced
some ecstatic joy

382

00:26:03,910 --> 00:26:05,950

playing these roles.

383

00:26:05,950 --> 00:26:11,875

And invariably,
most of these people

384

00:26:11,875 --> 00:26:14,120

who were in these high
positions, or even

385

00:26:14,120 --> 00:26:16,790

not that high
positions, just consider

386

00:26:16,790 --> 00:26:20,050

Eichmann was only a
lieutenant colonel,

387

00:26:20,050 --> 00:26:23,380

but look at the power
he had, you see.

388
00:26:23,380 --> 00:26:25,060
So they miss that.

389
00:26:25,060 --> 00:26:30,160
And I've been told that by a
number of interviewees that--

390
00:26:30,160 --> 00:26:32,980
who are well-off
economically, and said--

391
00:26:32,980 --> 00:26:36,550
and I argued with them
and said, you're well-off,

392
00:26:36,550 --> 00:26:39,640
so what are you really missing?

393
00:26:39,640 --> 00:26:42,190
And these two things came up--

394
00:26:42,190 --> 00:26:45,520
one, that the
closeness-- they miss

395
00:26:45,520 --> 00:26:52,030
the closeness of these groups
they were part of-- the SS,

396
00:26:52,030 --> 00:26:52,750
in this case.

397
00:26:52,750 --> 00:26:57,370
And then they missed
the power, which

398
00:26:57,370 --> 00:27:00,460
was either direct or indirect
by virtue of the fact

399
00:27:00,460 --> 00:27:02,200

that they wore the SS uniform.

400
00:27:02,200 --> 00:27:05,040

401
00:27:05,040 --> 00:27:08,640
They're respected, and
feared, and whatever,

402
00:27:08,640 --> 00:27:11,370
and that was something which, .

403
00:27:11,370 --> 00:27:15,960
Regardless of their
position after World War II,

404
00:27:15,960 --> 00:27:17,820
they couldn't obtain.

405
00:27:17,820 --> 00:27:21,420
And that is something
which they missed,

406
00:27:21,420 --> 00:27:25,290
the type of respect they
received from others--

407
00:27:25,290 --> 00:27:28,140
and the respect not
necessarily based

408
00:27:28,140 --> 00:27:33,060
on the respect of
them as individuals,

409
00:27:33,060 --> 00:27:38,880
but the respect and fear
of the role they played.

410
00:27:38,880 --> 00:27:43,500
And that is a very important
distinction, very important

411

00:27:43,500 --> 00:27:46,140
distinction.

412

00:27:46,140 --> 00:27:49,140
That brings me to,
after the war, were

413

00:27:49,140 --> 00:27:52,350
there-- did they express any
changes in their relationship,

414

00:27:52,350 --> 00:27:56,670
say, to their family,
to their friends?

415

00:27:56,670 --> 00:28:00,030
Well, that I haven't
felt, because you see,

416

00:28:00,030 --> 00:28:02,940
it just so happens
that I was frequently

417

00:28:02,940 --> 00:28:08,280
invited into their homes
and stayed with them

418

00:28:08,280 --> 00:28:14,600
while conducting the interviews
with people who were just

419

00:28:14,600 --> 00:28:19,050
really leading in this
SS younger generation,

420

00:28:19,050 --> 00:28:21,810
but still had very,
very high positions--

421

00:28:21,810 --> 00:28:24,810
and so naturally
observed how they

422

00:28:24,810 --> 00:28:26,610
interacted within their family.

423

00:28:26,610 --> 00:28:32,580
And the interesting thing
is that those people

424

00:28:32,580 --> 00:28:39,270
were more highly positive
that married early in life,

425

00:28:39,270 --> 00:28:45,390
obtained divorces to
marry younger wives,

426

00:28:45,390 --> 00:28:49,620
frequently with some
sort of social standing,

427

00:28:49,620 --> 00:28:52,710
or were more attractive--

428

00:28:52,710 --> 00:28:55,360
not only by virtue of the
fact that they were younger,

429

00:28:55,360 --> 00:28:59,430
but also physically
more appealing.

430

00:28:59,430 --> 00:29:05,040
And that was an interesting sort
of tendency which I noticed,

431

00:29:05,040 --> 00:29:11,730
particularly in those people
who married relatively early,

432

00:29:11,730 --> 00:29:17,280
and then became older, and
their wives also became older,

433

00:29:17,280 --> 00:29:19,290
and they lost their attraction.

434
00:29:19,290 --> 00:29:23,190
Or they married people who
at that particular time

435
00:29:23,190 --> 00:29:28,250
were on their level of
their social position,

436
00:29:28,250 --> 00:29:31,260
but once they had attained
a higher social position,

437
00:29:31,260 --> 00:29:32,850
they left them behind.

438
00:29:32,850 --> 00:29:35,010
And then there you had
people who were not

439
00:29:35,010 --> 00:29:36,480
that fully sophisticated.

440
00:29:36,480 --> 00:29:41,700
Some of the wives were
socially not up to it

441
00:29:41,700 --> 00:29:47,340
to play that new role, so they
just simply left them behind

442
00:29:47,340 --> 00:29:52,380
and took wives who
were more in line

443
00:29:52,380 --> 00:29:58,680
with their new position in life
so that they looked better,

444
00:29:58,680 --> 00:30:01,590
and of course, got also

better satisfaction

445
00:30:01,590 --> 00:30:06,580
out of their marital
relationship.

446
00:30:06,580 --> 00:30:09,540
So did you feel they did
this after the war more often

447
00:30:09,540 --> 00:30:10,640
or then during --

448
00:30:10,640 --> 00:30:12,930
Well, that happened
during the Third Reich

449
00:30:12,930 --> 00:30:21,840
already, because you see, with
this type of power they've had,

450
00:30:21,840 --> 00:30:27,420
either they were not
loyal to their wives

451
00:30:27,420 --> 00:30:34,050
and had side affairs, and when
things didn't go that well,

452
00:30:34,050 --> 00:30:36,630
and they already were
very high elevated--

453
00:30:36,630 --> 00:30:41,340
and so they divorced and
got someone who was more

454
00:30:41,340 --> 00:30:45,930
suited for the
present situation,

455
00:30:45,930 --> 00:30:48,840
and left the other ones behind.

456
00:30:48,840 --> 00:30:55,620
And they did it with very
little feelings, just simply

457
00:30:55,620 --> 00:30:58,590
cold blood and I have
a number of cases

458
00:30:58,590 --> 00:31:00,450
where I've observed that.

459
00:31:00,450 --> 00:31:03,750
But all these people
were in higher positions.

460
00:31:03,750 --> 00:31:05,190
They're in higher positions.

461
00:31:05,190 --> 00:31:11,220
They're not just the
run-of-the-mill type of SS.

462
00:31:11,220 --> 00:31:14,250
Were there any women
in the Third Reich

463
00:31:14,250 --> 00:31:16,340
that held any power at all?

464
00:31:16,340 --> 00:31:22,170
Oh, well, yes, but you see,
it was a very autocratic

465
00:31:22,170 --> 00:31:23,940
patriarchal society.

466
00:31:23,940 --> 00:31:27,510
And women were there
to serve their men

467
00:31:27,510 --> 00:31:29,640

and do what the man told them.

468

00:31:29,640 --> 00:31:32,130

It was very clear-cut.

469

00:31:32,130 --> 00:31:36,540

But yes, you had women who were in charge of other women.

470

00:31:36,540 --> 00:31:41,070

And the National Socialist Women's

471

00:31:41,070 --> 00:31:49,050

Organization and the National Socialist Youth Organization--

472

00:31:49,050 --> 00:31:52,110

they all had women in charge.

473

00:31:52,110 --> 00:31:57,810

But the people who were in charge in reality

474

00:31:57,810 --> 00:32:02,310

were usually males, and not females.

475

00:32:02,310 --> 00:32:04,490

And they accepted that.

476

00:32:04,490 --> 00:32:07,610

I accepted that, and did not rebel against that--

477

00:32:07,610 --> 00:32:12,350

although some of them were academicians-- academics,

478

00:32:12,350 --> 00:32:15,260

and educated people and all that.

479

00:32:15,260 --> 00:32:24,060
But they willingly subordinated
themselves to the males.

480

00:32:24,060 --> 00:32:27,470
The feminists had already
been deposed by that time.

481

00:32:27,470 --> 00:32:30,320
Feminists of the Weimar
Republic [INAUDIBLE]..

482

00:32:30,320 --> 00:32:32,800
They were the traditional
[INAUDIBLE] for the most part.

483

00:32:32,800 --> 00:32:35,840
Mm hm, Thank you.

484

00:32:35,840 --> 00:32:39,620
Were you ever able to interview
any of the women who were

485

00:32:39,620 --> 00:32:41,720
in any positions during the --

486

00:32:41,720 --> 00:32:42,230
Yes.

487

00:32:42,230 --> 00:32:45,530
But this was very
sporadic, piecemeal.

488

00:32:45,530 --> 00:32:49,640
And there were not very--

489

00:32:49,640 --> 00:32:55,610
not that they were not
prepared to be interviewed or--

490

00:32:55,610 --> 00:32:57,890
there are not very

many people around who

491

00:32:57,890 --> 00:32:59,870

played an important
role and would

492

00:32:59,870 --> 00:33:02,720

have insisted that they did.

493

00:33:02,720 --> 00:33:10,670

Some of them have written books
or articles about the time,

494

00:33:10,670 --> 00:33:15,680

and those, in a
number of instances,

495

00:33:15,680 --> 00:33:17,660

I received from them--

496

00:33:17,660 --> 00:33:23,240

so that this took
the place, if you

497

00:33:23,240 --> 00:33:25,040

will, of more
in-depth interviews,

498

00:33:25,040 --> 00:33:27,740

because they already pretty
much declared all the things

499

00:33:27,740 --> 00:33:30,120

I was interested in.

500

00:33:30,120 --> 00:33:31,790

So it was pretty limited.

501

00:33:31,790 --> 00:33:39,110

And the man I think was perhaps
the most impressive interview

502

00:33:39,110 --> 00:33:43,460
was with some of Hitler's
secretaries-- two of them.

503
00:33:43,460 --> 00:33:46,640
And that, I think,
was very interesting.

504
00:33:46,640 --> 00:33:52,760
And in one case, one of the
senior secretaries, and perhaps

505
00:33:52,760 --> 00:33:56,250
the most intelligent and
efficient of them all--

506
00:33:56,250 --> 00:33:59,270
and he had about four--

507
00:33:59,270 --> 00:34:02,690
she was very outspoken.

508
00:34:02,690 --> 00:34:10,940
And I developed a very ongoing
and in-depth relationship,

509
00:34:10,940 --> 00:34:15,980
as far as our discussions
were concerned,

510
00:34:15,980 --> 00:34:20,179
and also got her to write--

511
00:34:20,179 --> 00:34:26,510
make contributions to the book
which came out posthumously

512
00:34:26,510 --> 00:34:28,100
on her experiences.

513
00:34:28,100 --> 00:34:31,159
And so many years,
I just simply was

514
00:34:31,159 --> 00:34:36,139
pushing her to continue
her writing, which

515
00:34:36,139 --> 00:34:39,350
she did until she
became very ill

516
00:34:39,350 --> 00:34:43,130
and no longer could
use the typewriter.

517
00:34:43,130 --> 00:34:46,760
But she was one who
I considered to have

518
00:34:46,760 --> 00:34:51,500
made one of the most
interesting contributions,

519
00:34:51,500 --> 00:34:54,170
in terms of the view of females.

520
00:34:54,170 --> 00:34:57,050
Christa Schroeder was her name.

521
00:34:57,050 --> 00:35:01,820
And she was very
intelligent and very vocal,

522
00:35:01,820 --> 00:35:05,600
and went through
many changes, and I

523
00:35:05,600 --> 00:35:09,380
think assessed the situation
relatively objectively

524
00:35:09,380 --> 00:35:10,830
after the fact.

525

00:35:10,830 --> 00:35:13,220
And I think she made a
tremendous contribution.

526
00:35:13,220 --> 00:35:15,520
And she yet needs
to be recognized,

527
00:35:15,520 --> 00:35:18,020
the book which she wrote--

528
00:35:18,020 --> 00:35:19,820
in German, of course.

529
00:35:19,820 --> 00:35:23,640
And I tried to have it
published here and translated,

530
00:35:23,640 --> 00:35:26,270
and I have not succeeded so far.

531
00:35:26,270 --> 00:35:28,970
In the content of
this book, are there

532
00:35:28,970 --> 00:35:32,630
other things that came out
other than that she was

533
00:35:32,630 --> 00:35:36,320
trained as a patriarchal woman?

534
00:35:36,320 --> 00:35:43,100
Well, you see, Hitler
depended on his secretaries,

535
00:35:43,100 --> 00:35:47,600
because he did not do any
writing on his own, other

536
00:35:47,600 --> 00:35:52,970
than very short writings--

537

00:35:52,970 --> 00:35:56,750

letters, whatever,
but nothing lengthy.

538

00:35:56,750 --> 00:35:59,480

So he was in the
habit to dictate,

539

00:35:59,480 --> 00:36:02,330

and because of the dependency--

540

00:36:02,330 --> 00:36:04,850

Hitler's dependency
on them, he told them

541

00:36:04,850 --> 00:36:07,370

things he wouldn't
have told other people.

542

00:36:07,370 --> 00:36:13,430

And that came out, so that
very many of her observations

543

00:36:13,430 --> 00:36:21,050

are invaluable, simply
because of his dependency

544

00:36:21,050 --> 00:36:26,090

on his secretaries
and his relationship.

545

00:36:26,090 --> 00:36:28,020

And it's just really amazing.

546

00:36:28,020 --> 00:36:29,900

One of the things,
which I consider

547

00:36:29,900 --> 00:36:37,460

to be of significance in this
relationship, in this regard,

548

00:36:37,460 --> 00:36:39,290
is that, whenever he started--

549
00:36:39,290 --> 00:36:43,850
when he came to dictate
to her or some other ones,

550
00:36:43,850 --> 00:36:47,180
he came and greeted them,
and kissed their hand

551
00:36:47,180 --> 00:36:49,700
before he started to dictate.

552
00:36:49,700 --> 00:36:53,840
Now, this in itself
symbolically means something,

553
00:36:53,840 --> 00:36:56,810
because he certainly didn't
kiss the hand of everyone.

554
00:36:56,810 --> 00:36:59,330
But simply, those
people he considered

555
00:36:59,330 --> 00:37:02,010
to be important to him--

556
00:37:02,010 --> 00:37:04,520
in a very selfish
way, to be sure--

557
00:37:04,520 --> 00:37:08,690
apart from the fact that
it is an Austrian custom--

558
00:37:08,690 --> 00:37:10,940
and he's an Austrian,
of course, and--

559
00:37:10,940 --> 00:37:13,730
to kiss hands.

560
00:37:13,730 --> 00:37:17,190
But not every male
kisses the hand

561
00:37:17,190 --> 00:37:20,010
of a female who
comes into contact.

562
00:37:20,010 --> 00:37:23,030
But in this case--

563
00:37:23,030 --> 00:37:25,460
and I've watched that
in documentaries,

564
00:37:25,460 --> 00:37:28,430
and also what she said
and what she wrote--

565
00:37:28,430 --> 00:37:31,850
is that he was very selective
in terms of whom he kissed,

566
00:37:31,850 --> 00:37:33,560
whose hand, you see.

567
00:37:33,560 --> 00:37:36,330
And he kissed the
secretary's hand.

568
00:37:36,330 --> 00:37:40,580
So that means there was a
relationship, a certain degree

569
00:37:40,580 --> 00:37:44,550
of gratitude and dependency
which was reflected in that.

570
00:37:44,550 --> 00:37:46,500
Course, when he had
no need for them--

571

00:37:46,500 --> 00:37:51,290
so he was very cold-blooded--
just anyone, female or male,

572

00:37:51,290 --> 00:37:56,600
he discarded, and
that was it, you see.

573

00:37:56,600 --> 00:37:59,630

574

00:37:59,630 --> 00:38:01,670
Are any other things
that you think of-- would

575

00:38:01,670 --> 00:38:03,880
like to add from her book?

576

00:38:03,880 --> 00:38:06,830
From her book, it's a
wealth of information

577

00:38:06,830 --> 00:38:10,970
in terms of the relationships
between the various Nazi

578

00:38:10,970 --> 00:38:12,290
leaders.

579

00:38:12,290 --> 00:38:16,550
And when we look
at it from outside,

580

00:38:16,550 --> 00:38:20,360
as people who really are not
insiders and understanding

581

00:38:20,360 --> 00:38:25,740
of the type of interaction
which took place,

582

00:38:25,740 --> 00:38:36,830

we have frequently the notion
that they're very unified

583
00:38:36,830 --> 00:38:41,480
and in harmony with
each other, but that

584
00:38:41,480 --> 00:38:43,470
was not the case at all.

585
00:38:43,470 --> 00:38:47,840
And the tremendous
rivalries, tremendous feuds--

586
00:38:47,840 --> 00:38:52,010
and also some of
the responses, which

587
00:38:52,010 --> 00:38:58,490
were very private, come out
in her writing, which I think

588
00:38:58,490 --> 00:39:02,120
is just absolute
goldmine in finding out

589
00:39:02,120 --> 00:39:07,850
that some character of some
of these people, which did not

590
00:39:07,850 --> 00:39:10,850
come out in public, because
it was very private and was

591
00:39:10,850 --> 00:39:11,810
kept private.

592
00:39:11,810 --> 00:39:14,630
So how they responded
to a certain situation,

593
00:39:14,630 --> 00:39:23,540
or towards each other, or

towards mass destruction,

594

00:39:23,540 --> 00:39:27,320

and what have you is something
which was not publicized.

595

00:39:27,320 --> 00:39:28,550

But it comes out.

596

00:39:28,550 --> 00:39:31,220

For example, Hitler's
response when

597

00:39:31,220 --> 00:39:38,690

he occupied Czechoslovakia--

598

00:39:38,690 --> 00:39:42,740

his elation and-- it's just
like a little boy's, that

599

00:39:42,740 --> 00:39:50,370

it's the greatest day of my
life, and just jumping around,

600

00:39:50,370 --> 00:39:57,140

and was beside himself
with joy and elation--

601

00:39:57,140 --> 00:39:57,810

whatever.

602

00:39:57,810 --> 00:40:01,640

And so some of these
sort of things come out--

603

00:40:01,640 --> 00:40:04,280

details which she had
a very good memory for.

604

00:40:04,280 --> 00:40:08,690

605

00:40:08,690 --> 00:40:10,980
She discussed it
with me and said,

606
00:40:10,980 --> 00:40:13,250
well, some of these things
are trivial and all that,

607
00:40:13,250 --> 00:40:15,740
but I said, but it
may look trivial,

608
00:40:15,740 --> 00:40:18,380
but it is a very
important message.

609
00:40:18,380 --> 00:40:20,960
It really communicates something
which otherwise would not

610
00:40:20,960 --> 00:40:22,190
be known.

611
00:40:22,190 --> 00:40:25,340
So she was very uncertain in
terms of what was important

612
00:40:25,340 --> 00:40:27,530
and was not, and we had
frequent discussions

613
00:40:27,530 --> 00:40:29,960
on what she should write about.

614
00:40:29,960 --> 00:40:34,370
And I said, just write what
you remember-- and said, well,

615
00:40:34,370 --> 00:40:39,830
but that was insignificant,
for example, the fact that she

616
00:40:39,830 --> 00:40:46,130

pleaded that the soldiers should
be getting cigarette rations.

617
00:40:46,130 --> 00:40:51,600
And Hitler was very
much against smoking,

618
00:40:51,600 --> 00:40:54,140
and simply wanted
to discontinue that.

619
00:40:54,140 --> 00:40:56,510
And they got into
conflict with each other,

620
00:40:56,510 --> 00:40:59,090
and she fell for a
time in disfavor,

621
00:40:59,090 --> 00:41:03,560
because she talked back
to him in a way which

622
00:41:03,560 --> 00:41:08,360
was not expected to be done by
someone who is his secretary--

623
00:41:08,360 --> 00:41:13,640
in public, in a small
circle of his confidants.

624
00:41:13,640 --> 00:41:20,570
And so these things
came out in order

625
00:41:20,570 --> 00:41:25,580
to really find out how Hitler
behaved in the inner circle

626
00:41:25,580 --> 00:41:29,390
or how some of the
other high Nazi leaders

627

00:41:29,390 --> 00:41:37,010
behaved when they were
among themselves and feuding

628
00:41:37,010 --> 00:41:40,400
with each other, or just
backbiting and all that,

629
00:41:40,400 --> 00:41:45,860
and trying to be the
first among the first,

630
00:41:45,860 --> 00:41:49,580
and what sort of
means they employed.

631
00:41:49,580 --> 00:41:52,640

632
00:41:52,640 --> 00:41:58,160
In the post-war SS group
that you interviewed,

633
00:41:58,160 --> 00:42:01,865
those that still
had strong pro-Nazi

634
00:42:01,865 --> 00:42:06,830
leanings, were they openly so,
or was it a sub rosa group,

635
00:42:06,830 --> 00:42:10,340
or did they organize?

636
00:42:10,340 --> 00:42:13,640
Well, first of all,
they have their rallies,

637
00:42:13,640 --> 00:42:16,370
and they still have them and
they have their meetings.

638
00:42:16,370 --> 00:42:19,970

And the people who
received their Iron Cross

639
00:42:19,970 --> 00:42:24,770
they have annual meetings
and are proud of the fact

640
00:42:24,770 --> 00:42:27,350
that they've excelled
and were recognized.

641
00:42:27,350 --> 00:42:30,530
And the question is,
they're recognized for what?

642
00:42:30,530 --> 00:42:33,830
And that is not something
which they would ask.

643
00:42:33,830 --> 00:42:36,935
They said, well, we fought for
our country and very frequently

644
00:42:36,935 --> 00:42:37,520
--

645
00:42:37,520 --> 00:42:39,770
I said, for whom did
you really fight?

646
00:42:39,770 --> 00:42:45,430
Did you fight for Germany or did
you fight for Hitler's Germany?

647
00:42:45,430 --> 00:42:47,780
There's distinction
between these two.

648
00:42:47,780 --> 00:42:49,675
And then they get
into conflict and they

649
00:42:49,675 --> 00:42:51,050

don't want to hear
that, you see,

650
00:42:51,050 --> 00:42:54,800
because they want to
be viewed as heroes

651
00:42:54,800 --> 00:42:58,340
who did the right thing--

652
00:42:58,340 --> 00:43:02,370
namely, to defend and
fight for their country.

653
00:43:02,370 --> 00:43:06,280
And so during these rallies,
this is being reemphasized

654
00:43:06,280 --> 00:43:08,480
and said, hey, we have
nothing to be ashamed of.

655
00:43:08,480 --> 00:43:12,260
We've done the right thing,
and that is being justified--

656
00:43:12,260 --> 00:43:18,020
justified whether it's the SS or
other groups of people who had

657
00:43:18,020 --> 00:43:20,990
a vested interest
and were certainly --

658
00:43:20,990 --> 00:43:24,260
and that is something which
some of them deny nowadays,

659
00:43:24,260 --> 00:43:27,800
who are certainly very
sympathetic towards National

660
00:43:27,800 --> 00:43:29,990

Socialism and its cause.

661
00:43:29,990 --> 00:43:33,380
And that, to me,
was very obvious

662
00:43:33,380 --> 00:43:39,740
that, if you continue to
celebrate what you did, even

663
00:43:39,740 --> 00:43:44,540
after the dire end, then
you must have had some very

664
00:43:44,540 --> 00:43:47,990
strong affiliation in terms of
an identification with the role

665
00:43:47,990 --> 00:43:50,990
you played during
the Third Reich.

666
00:43:50,990 --> 00:43:54,590
And that comes out
during these rallies

667
00:43:54,590 --> 00:43:57,110
and during their speeches.

668
00:43:57,110 --> 00:44:05,210
And I was privy to that,
because I was a guest of honor--

669
00:44:05,210 --> 00:44:07,130
one of those rallies,
which we discussed,

670
00:44:07,130 --> 00:44:13,490
I think, in one of the things
before, in one of our talks.

671
00:44:13,490 --> 00:44:19,930
So the fact that they

still harp on that,

672
00:44:19,930 --> 00:44:24,700
and they still
meet and celebrate,

673
00:44:24,700 --> 00:44:27,010
and they are reminiscent and--

674
00:44:27,010 --> 00:44:30,160

675
00:44:30,160 --> 00:44:32,950
is a sign that they
identified with what

676
00:44:32,950 --> 00:44:36,680
they did, and are proud of it,
and were also highly decorated

677
00:44:36,680 --> 00:44:37,180
for it.

678
00:44:37,180 --> 00:44:46,900
And this is being reified by
these annual meetings there.

679
00:44:46,900 --> 00:44:50,930
Did any of these
people post-war claim

680
00:44:50,930 --> 00:44:52,930
that they did not know
the whole extent, that it

681
00:44:52,930 --> 00:44:55,450
was a policy on genocide?

682
00:44:55,450 --> 00:44:57,500
Oh, yes-- number of them.

683
00:44:57,500 --> 00:45:02,230

But if you really
probe more deeply,

684
00:45:02,230 --> 00:45:05,500
they just simply looked the
other way, because people

685
00:45:05,500 --> 00:45:10,510
in high positions, and even
in combat in, let's say,

686
00:45:10,510 --> 00:45:13,240
the Eastern Front--

687
00:45:13,240 --> 00:45:17,110
very many people saw
what was happening,

688
00:45:17,110 --> 00:45:22,120
and also were very
much aware of the fact

689
00:45:22,120 --> 00:45:28,060
that you had the
Einsatzgruppen and mass murder

690
00:45:28,060 --> 00:45:29,290
behind the lines.

691
00:45:29,290 --> 00:45:32,830
And I remember,
for example, when

692
00:45:32,830 --> 00:45:35,620
we were retreating when
we were on the death

693
00:45:35,620 --> 00:45:41,710
march, and the retreating
troops of the Germans talking

694
00:45:41,710 --> 00:45:44,350
thousands of people--

695
00:45:44,350 --> 00:45:48,520
military retreating
and watching us.

696
00:45:48,520 --> 00:45:51,490
And so we saw each other.

697
00:45:51,490 --> 00:45:55,510
We encountered each other.

698
00:45:55,510 --> 00:46:02,650
And the interesting thing
is that they called us

699
00:46:02,650 --> 00:46:04,455
names and all sorts of things.

700
00:46:04,455 --> 00:46:05,830
And if they would
have permitted,

701
00:46:05,830 --> 00:46:07,450
they would have wiped us out.

702
00:46:07,450 --> 00:46:10,010
And these were not SS people.

703
00:46:10,010 --> 00:46:13,460
This was just the
retreating military.

704
00:46:13,460 --> 00:46:16,990
And so they could see
us in striped pajamas

705
00:46:16,990 --> 00:46:18,490
under the conditions we were.

706
00:46:18,490 --> 00:46:24,430
And then, instead of having some
compassion, very frequently--

707
00:46:24,430 --> 00:46:27,670
there were some who did,
but they didn't show it--

708
00:46:27,670 --> 00:46:30,670
certainly not the
military, I don't remember.

709
00:46:30,670 --> 00:46:34,180
But they simply were cussing
us, and calling us names,

710
00:46:34,180 --> 00:46:37,330
and behaving in a way where
they just, if they would ever

711
00:46:37,330 --> 00:46:42,670
let loose, would have done
us in, instead of feeling

712
00:46:42,670 --> 00:46:45,550
some sort of compassion for us.

713
00:46:45,550 --> 00:46:48,460
It was very different
when we walked

714
00:46:48,460 --> 00:46:54,820
through some little
villages and townships.

715
00:46:54,820 --> 00:46:59,230
Then we had a
civilian population

716
00:46:59,230 --> 00:47:02,938
who rendered support not
necessarily materially,

717
00:47:02,938 --> 00:47:04,480
because some of them
couldn't do it--

718
00:47:04,480 --> 00:47:09,220
although some did it also in
some sort of piecemeal fashion.

719
00:47:09,220 --> 00:47:20,200
But they shouted encouragement
to us, and to the annoyance

720
00:47:20,200 --> 00:47:24,130
of the SS guarding us.

721
00:47:24,130 --> 00:47:25,960
So that I remember also.

722
00:47:25,960 --> 00:47:29,170
But in terms of the military,
defeating the military was very

723
00:47:29,170 --> 00:47:32,170
clear-cut, because they--

724
00:47:32,170 --> 00:47:37,810
as I said before, if they
would have been able,

725
00:47:37,810 --> 00:47:43,370
they would have certainly
attacked us and--

726
00:47:43,370 --> 00:47:46,690
because they blamed us,
because they identified us

727
00:47:46,690 --> 00:47:51,730
with the enemy from
whom they retreated.

728
00:47:51,730 --> 00:47:54,640
And that also happened,
then I no longer

729

00:47:54,640 --> 00:48:02,710
could walk in one of the last
phase of the death march.

730
00:48:02,710 --> 00:48:09,100
So there was a military
police soldier--

731
00:48:09,100 --> 00:48:12,010
actually, I shouldn't say
soldier-- he was a major.

732
00:48:12,010 --> 00:48:14,590
And he drew a pistol
and we crawled.

733
00:48:14,590 --> 00:48:15,790
We crawled.

734
00:48:15,790 --> 00:48:17,710
We couldn't walk
anymore, so we were

735
00:48:17,710 --> 00:48:26,030
crawling into a horse and
buggy type of situation.

736
00:48:26,030 --> 00:48:30,400
And so he drew the pistol
and said, we'll show you,

737
00:48:30,400 --> 00:48:38,530
you swine what--

738
00:48:38,530 --> 00:48:47,290
me show you, swine, pay you
back that we have to retreat

739
00:48:47,290 --> 00:48:49,810
from the Soviets and all that.

740
00:48:49,810 --> 00:48:52,810
We show you what it

means to retreat,

741

00:48:52,810 --> 00:48:55,640
or something of that nature.

742

00:48:55,640 --> 00:49:04,180
So he just simply was
ready to shoot us,

743

00:49:04,180 --> 00:49:06,680
but didn't, for whatever reason.

744

00:49:06,680 --> 00:49:12,850
And so we were then put
into this horse and buggy

745

00:49:12,850 --> 00:49:17,500
and driven to the close
concentration camps-- slave

746

00:49:17,500 --> 00:49:19,540
labor camp, what
it was, actually.

747

00:49:19,540 --> 00:49:25,800
And so they blamed us
because they felt that we

748

00:49:25,800 --> 00:49:30,850
were in cahoots with the enemy.

749

00:49:30,850 --> 00:49:33,870
And you can make this
connection, of course,

750

00:49:33,870 --> 00:49:36,910
under the circumstances.

751

00:49:36,910 --> 00:49:39,450
So I still remember
you swine, we'll

752

00:49:39,450 --> 00:49:42,780
show you what it means to
retreat from the Russians.

753
00:49:42,780 --> 00:49:44,190
We'll show you.

754
00:49:44,190 --> 00:49:49,770
Anyway, so that was just
one of the incidents.

755
00:49:49,770 --> 00:49:52,650
It would be nice now if you
talked about the process

756
00:49:52,650 --> 00:49:56,220
of making an SS person.

757
00:49:56,220 --> 00:50:01,620
The person joins-- are
there some specific rituals

758
00:50:01,620 --> 00:50:06,570
over and above, say,
combat training?

759
00:50:06,570 --> 00:50:09,420
Well, again, what
we said last time

760
00:50:09,420 --> 00:50:14,130
is that the SS was made
out of very many functions

761
00:50:14,130 --> 00:50:17,470
and segments with
different functions.

762
00:50:17,470 --> 00:50:21,990
And so the first thing
which we need to remember

763
00:50:21,990 --> 00:50:25,770

is that it was a voluntary organization until 1943.

764
00:50:25,770 --> 00:50:28,170
So people who volunteered obviously

765
00:50:28,170 --> 00:50:32,190
could have not been opposed to the National Socialist cause.

766
00:50:32,190 --> 00:50:36,120
But the SS was kind of viewed by the population

767
00:50:36,120 --> 00:50:45,000
as the representative, the strong arm representative

768
00:50:45,000 --> 00:50:47,040
of National Socialism and the protector

769
00:50:47,040 --> 00:50:49,770
of National Socialism--

770
00:50:49,770 --> 00:50:53,070
so that if people say, we're not National Socialist, well,

771
00:50:53,070 --> 00:50:55,110
they may not have been National Socialists,

772
00:50:55,110 --> 00:50:59,280
but if they join that means that they had to, to some extent,

773
00:50:59,280 --> 00:51:02,340
identify with the cause of the SS,

774
00:51:02,340 --> 00:51:11,350

which was the protection of
the National Socialist Party.

775

00:51:11,350 --> 00:51:15,480

It meant that they were
also at the disposal--

776

00:51:15,480 --> 00:51:19,140

direct disposal of
Hitler, that he could--

777

00:51:19,140 --> 00:51:24,790

he was the one who
could dispose of them

778

00:51:24,790 --> 00:51:41,100

and put them to whatever use he
felt was best in his interest.

779

00:51:41,100 --> 00:51:43,980

And that's exactly what he did.

780

00:51:43,980 --> 00:51:46,170

And so this was known.

781

00:51:46,170 --> 00:51:49,020

And also, of course, they
had some social status.

782

00:51:49,020 --> 00:51:56,310

So very many people who were
not well-prepared to assume

783

00:51:56,310 --> 00:52:01,380

other occupations, or
were not that fully

784

00:52:01,380 --> 00:52:07,650

skilled in other things,
or were without a job

785

00:52:07,650 --> 00:52:11,700

felt that, on that

basis, joining the SS,

786

00:52:11,700 --> 00:52:16,710
they could embark upon a career
which would be substantive

787

00:52:16,710 --> 00:52:21,480
and would give them
security, prestige, esteem,

788

00:52:21,480 --> 00:52:25,230
and a role which
they could identify

789

00:52:25,230 --> 00:52:27,570
with, they could be proud of.

790

00:52:27,570 --> 00:52:29,280
And so that was one thing.

791

00:52:29,280 --> 00:52:31,320
So therefore, what
you really had

792

00:52:31,320 --> 00:52:35,070
is the situation where
you had a change--

793

00:52:35,070 --> 00:52:40,860
well, change in society
towards Hitlerism,

794

00:52:40,860 --> 00:52:43,590
where people could
see that there

795

00:52:43,590 --> 00:52:46,980
was a chance for them to
become something, and also,

796

00:52:46,980 --> 00:52:50,850
of course, an ideological
identification

797
00:52:50,850 --> 00:52:54,090
with National Socialism.

798
00:52:54,090 --> 00:52:57,660
So that was the basis.

799
00:52:57,660 --> 00:53:00,900
Now, some of them,
of course, were

800
00:53:00,900 --> 00:53:05,430
willing to do the things
which was typically done

801
00:53:05,430 --> 00:53:14,250
by the Gestapo, by the death
head guards in concentration

802
00:53:14,250 --> 00:53:21,280
camps who had very early
functions, which were very,

803
00:53:21,280 --> 00:53:24,630
very brutal and violent.

804
00:53:24,630 --> 00:53:28,170
And some of them were aware of
it and some of them were not,

805
00:53:28,170 --> 00:53:31,200
in terms of what they
had to do, because that

806
00:53:31,200 --> 00:53:32,940
was not that-- some
of these people

807
00:53:32,940 --> 00:53:34,770
were very unclear about it.

808
00:53:34,770 --> 00:53:36,390

They were very
young, and they had

809
00:53:36,390 --> 00:53:39,090
no idea in terms of what was
expected of them once they

810
00:53:39,090 --> 00:53:42,030
would become
members, particularly

811
00:53:42,030 --> 00:53:48,870
in the early concentration
camps in the Einsatzgruppen.

812
00:53:48,870 --> 00:53:52,990
They had no idea specifically
what would be asked of them.

813
00:53:52,990 --> 00:53:56,220
So very frequent, they're
very ignorant in terms

814
00:53:56,220 --> 00:54:00,540
of the tasks they would be--

815
00:54:00,540 --> 00:54:04,110
that would be assigned.

816
00:54:04,110 --> 00:54:09,360
And once they were in, it was
very difficult to get out.

817
00:54:09,360 --> 00:54:13,500
And very many people who
could see that they had to do

818
00:54:13,500 --> 00:54:15,240
something-- they
couldn't identify,

819
00:54:15,240 --> 00:54:18,540
did not have the intelligence,

or the foresight,

820
00:54:18,540 --> 00:54:20,280
or the ability to
get out of it--

821
00:54:20,280 --> 00:54:24,750
although I've met some
people who, for example,

822
00:54:24,750 --> 00:54:28,710
were members of the
Waffen-SS and said, well,

823
00:54:28,710 --> 00:54:31,410
I was getting an assignment--
and I remember one--

824
00:54:31,410 --> 00:54:34,050
this person is--

825
00:54:34,050 --> 00:54:37,940
I've talked to many times, and
he was very clear-cut about it

826
00:54:37,940 --> 00:54:40,860
and really talked about it--

827
00:54:40,860 --> 00:54:44,910
who married a very
well-to-do lady

828
00:54:44,910 --> 00:54:48,810
and was very successful in
what he did after the war.

829
00:54:48,810 --> 00:54:55,320
Namely, he was an owner of
two resort hotels in a very

830
00:54:55,320 --> 00:55:02,100
well-known resort place in
the northern part of Germany--

831
00:55:02,100 --> 00:55:03,690
southern part of
Germany, actually.

832
00:55:03,690 --> 00:55:07,700

833
00:55:07,700 --> 00:55:10,560
And he said that he
wants to be assigned

834
00:55:10,560 --> 00:55:13,440
to be a commandant in a camp.

835
00:55:13,440 --> 00:55:18,840
And because he understood
what it involved,

836
00:55:18,840 --> 00:55:23,550
he appealed to people
who were his superiors

837
00:55:23,550 --> 00:55:27,150
and manipulated the
situation so that, instead

838
00:55:27,150 --> 00:55:31,680
of being sent to be a commandant
in a concentration camp,

839
00:55:31,680 --> 00:55:40,950
he was sent to the front
and a combat situation.

840
00:55:40,950 --> 00:55:46,200
And he survived it very well,
and I talked to him, as I said,

841
00:55:46,200 --> 00:55:47,100
many times.

842

00:55:47,100 --> 00:55:50,880
And he was very glad and very
happy and proud of the fact

843
00:55:50,880 --> 00:55:54,800
that he manipulated the
situation, because he said,

844
00:55:54,800 --> 00:55:55,800
I couldn't have done it.

845
00:55:55,800 --> 00:55:57,490
I couldn't have
lived with myself.

846
00:55:57,490 --> 00:56:00,760
So these situations were
also -- but of course,

847
00:56:00,760 --> 00:56:04,020
he was an officer, as you see.

848
00:56:04,020 --> 00:56:13,650
The small peons, the
people without any contacts

849
00:56:13,650 --> 00:56:17,820
with high posited
members of the SS

850
00:56:17,820 --> 00:56:20,970
were, of course, in a
much weaker position

851
00:56:20,970 --> 00:56:23,310
to manipulate the situation.

852
00:56:23,310 --> 00:56:26,130
And even Auschwitz-Birkenau--
some people

853
00:56:26,130 --> 00:56:31,770
I've interviewed who were

Auschwitz perpetrators tried

854

00:56:31,770 --> 00:56:36,990
to get out of it, and
became very frequently drunk

855

00:56:36,990 --> 00:56:38,580
and all that,
because they simply

856

00:56:38,580 --> 00:56:40,740
couldn't stomach
what they had to do,

857

00:56:40,740 --> 00:56:43,680
and tried to be transferred.

858

00:56:43,680 --> 00:56:47,040
But that was exceedingly
difficult. And one of them

859

00:56:47,040 --> 00:56:49,830
told me that he directly
appealed to Himmler when

860

00:56:49,830 --> 00:56:56,460
he visited
Auschwitz-Birkenau and said,

861

00:56:56,460 --> 00:57:00,600
reichsfuhrer, I'd like to
be transferred-- and said,

862

00:57:00,600 --> 00:57:01,890
you will serve.

863

00:57:01,890 --> 00:57:04,050
We order you to serve.

864

00:57:04,050 --> 00:57:04,920
You stay.

865

00:57:04,920 --> 00:57:07,680
And he stayed.

866
00:57:07,680 --> 00:57:09,600
Certainly, being
transferred to the front

867
00:57:09,600 --> 00:57:11,700
was a much more
dangerous situation--

868
00:57:11,700 --> 00:57:13,380
Oh, absolutely-- no question--

869
00:57:13,380 --> 00:57:14,310
--than to be in camp.

870
00:57:14,310 --> 00:57:15,268
Yeah-- well, of course.

871
00:57:15,268 --> 00:57:18,870
And also, as far as
their job was concerned,

872
00:57:18,870 --> 00:57:22,650
in terms of their own
personal safety and hardship,

873
00:57:22,650 --> 00:57:28,590
it was a terrific job
than to fight someplace

874
00:57:28,590 --> 00:57:32,070
in freezing winter
in the Russian front.

875
00:57:32,070 --> 00:57:35,250
My God-- there was a
tremendous difference.

876
00:57:35,250 --> 00:57:37,920
And they knew it,
so some of them

877
00:57:37,920 --> 00:57:40,180
were glad to be where they were.

878
00:57:40,180 --> 00:57:42,870
But later on, towards
the end of the war,

879
00:57:42,870 --> 00:57:45,550
they replaced anyway,
those able-bodied people

880
00:57:45,550 --> 00:57:50,190
they replaced and the old
people who were wounded

881
00:57:50,190 --> 00:57:52,180
and all that took their place.

882
00:57:52,180 --> 00:57:56,010
I remember that particularly
in one of the camps,

883
00:57:56,010 --> 00:57:59,580
in a slave labor
camp of Blechhammer.

884
00:57:59,580 --> 00:58:02,730
So that was very
obvious that older

885
00:58:02,730 --> 00:58:05,528
the people came all the time,
and they didn't know exactly

886
00:58:05,528 --> 00:58:07,320
and they were quite
sympathetic [? time, ?]

887
00:58:07,320 --> 00:58:09,690
certainly not very
harsh and all that

888

00:58:09,690 --> 00:58:11,160
not just like the young people.

889

00:58:11,160 --> 00:58:14,370
And the young people were
sent into combat, you see.

890

00:58:14,370 --> 00:58:17,590
So there was quite
a bit of rotation.

891

00:58:17,590 --> 00:58:22,020
And that's very important,
because very frequently you

892

00:58:22,020 --> 00:58:25,980
hear that people who were
members of the Waffen-SS say,

893

00:58:25,980 --> 00:58:27,660
well, we were purely combat.

894

00:58:27,660 --> 00:58:30,900
Well, it's not so, because
very many people were just

895

00:58:30,900 --> 00:58:32,700
circulating, you see.

896

00:58:32,700 --> 00:58:34,488
And they don't
want to hear that,

897

00:58:34,488 --> 00:58:36,030
because they don't
want to be tainted

898

00:58:36,030 --> 00:58:39,015
with this dreadful thing-- for
reasons which I can appreciate.

899

00:58:39,015 --> 00:58:45,150

And some were not, but many were
because they were circulated.

900
00:58:45,150 --> 00:58:48,270
Do you know of any instances
where people requested transfer

901
00:58:48,270 --> 00:58:54,030
out of the camp and were sent
other than to combat situation?

902
00:58:54,030 --> 00:58:57,760
Well, I don't know that
many cases, number one.

903
00:58:57,760 --> 00:59:02,230
And those cases I know
of that, yes some people

904
00:59:02,230 --> 00:59:07,990
were sent to the front and
some people were simply

905
00:59:07,990 --> 00:59:13,630
told that they had to remain
where they were period.

906
00:59:13,630 --> 00:59:16,000
had no recourse.

907
00:59:16,000 --> 00:59:17,890
Once you were in
that situation, it

908
00:59:17,890 --> 00:59:19,390
was very difficult to get out.

909
00:59:19,390 --> 00:59:22,480
But yes, so many
people said that they'd

910
00:59:22,480 --> 00:59:27,820
like to volunteer in

combat, rather than do

911
00:59:27,820 --> 00:59:32,210
some of the things which
they couldn't identify with.

912
00:59:32,210 --> 00:59:36,280
So the difficulty of,
once you volunteered,

913
00:59:36,280 --> 00:59:38,470
you couldn't get out-- is
this the normal difficulty

914
00:59:38,470 --> 00:59:40,165
of getting out of
an armed service,

915
00:59:40,165 --> 00:59:43,510
that you have to about
go AWOL in order to--

916
00:59:43,510 --> 00:59:46,600

917
00:59:46,600 --> 00:59:50,650
I don't know AWOL, not very
many AWOL, because that

918
00:59:50,650 --> 00:59:56,200
was very difficult. First of
all, you couldn't get very far,

919
00:59:56,200 --> 00:59:57,870
and once they caught,
you were finished.

920
00:59:57,870 --> 01:00:02,200

921
01:00:02,200 --> 01:00:06,040
One incident comes to mind.

922

01:00:06,040 --> 01:00:08,570

One of my mentors--

923

01:00:08,570 --> 01:00:11,875

very well-known sociology
professor and one of his --

924

01:00:11,875 --> 01:00:19,300

when we had, after our
relationship which acquaintance

925

01:00:19,300 --> 01:00:22,570

kind of friendship, which
lasted for very many years,

926

01:00:22,570 --> 01:00:25,990

he told me that he had
something to confess to me.

927

01:00:25,990 --> 01:00:33,450

He was a major in
the German army.

928

01:00:33,450 --> 01:00:36,190

And he said, I really
have to tell you something

929

01:00:36,190 --> 01:00:37,480

which has been on my mind.

930

01:00:37,480 --> 01:00:45,250

I signed a death warrant for one
of those people who went AWOL.

931

01:00:45,250 --> 01:00:48,090

And I never could
come to terms with it.

932

01:00:48,090 --> 01:00:50,000

I signed it.

933

01:00:50,000 --> 01:00:52,990

And so I said you know it's --

934
01:00:52,990 --> 01:00:57,010
I can appreciate why
you feel the way you do.

935
01:00:57,010 --> 01:00:58,950
And he talked about that.

936
01:00:58,950 --> 01:01:02,110

937
01:01:02,110 --> 01:01:04,540
So you had no chance.

938
01:01:04,540 --> 01:01:09,820
Unless you got out of
Germany or went over

939
01:01:09,820 --> 01:01:16,940
to the Soviets or the Western
Allies, you had no chance.

940
01:01:16,940 --> 01:01:19,280
Sooner or later [INAUDIBLE]
and that was it.

941
01:01:19,280 --> 01:01:21,070
Then you were shot, finished.

942
01:01:21,070 --> 01:01:22,840
Automatically--
no court martial?

943
01:01:22,840 --> 01:01:24,740
Oh yeah, sure.

944
01:01:24,740 --> 01:01:26,590
Oh, yeah.

945
01:01:26,590 --> 01:01:27,980
But that was very fast.

946
01:01:27,980 --> 01:01:31,228
And he signed one of these.

947
01:01:31,228 --> 01:01:34,180
[INAUDIBLE] SS
training, were there

948
01:01:34,180 --> 01:01:37,570
any situations, as in certain
other kinds of brotherhoods,

949
01:01:37,570 --> 01:01:40,780
like blood brotherhoods,
or other kinds of rituals

950
01:01:40,780 --> 01:01:43,210
or knowledge that [INAUDIBLE]?

951
01:01:43,210 --> 01:01:44,530
Well, no.

952
01:01:44,530 --> 01:01:50,995
What Himmler had in mind is
to develop a Germanic creed--

953
01:01:50,995 --> 01:01:53,765

954
01:01:53,765 --> 01:01:56,370
one perhaps can say
some sort of religion--

955
01:01:56,370 --> 01:01:57,370
and I wrote about that--

956
01:01:57,370 --> 01:02:00,430
I was actually the
first to write about--

957
01:02:00,430 --> 01:02:05,870
not much has been written

about it since, anyway--

958

01:02:05,870 --> 01:02:10,840
which would replace the
Judeo Christian religions.

959

01:02:10,840 --> 01:02:16,720
And so that got stuck because
of the war and other problems,

960

01:02:16,720 --> 01:02:21,250
and also that some people, in
spite of the fact that they--

961

01:02:21,250 --> 01:02:26,050
the National Socialists
and joined the SS still

962

01:02:26,050 --> 01:02:30,580
remained active in their
respective faiths, which was

963

01:02:30,580 --> 01:02:33,700
either Protestant or Catholic.

964

01:02:33,700 --> 01:02:35,570
But then there
was a third group,

965

01:02:35,570 --> 01:02:38,620
which was just about one
third of all the SS people--

966

01:02:38,620 --> 01:02:41,590
and became more
and more popular--

967

01:02:41,590 --> 01:02:49,750
who then assumed this
to be new creed of the--

968

01:02:49,750 --> 01:02:54,520
what they call-- just a

literary translation--

969

01:02:54,520 --> 01:02:58,600

God believers, of
believers in God.

970

01:02:58,600 --> 01:03:07,450

And so they left their religion
and declared themselves

971

01:03:07,450 --> 01:03:09,640

to be believers in God.

972

01:03:09,640 --> 01:03:12,680

Now, the interesting thing is--
and that is something which

973

01:03:12,680 --> 01:03:20,740

relatively recently I found
out, going through some books--

974

01:03:20,740 --> 01:03:24,850

legal Nazi books
during that period.

975

01:03:24,850 --> 01:03:30,430

And I found out that,
if people were Jewish,

976

01:03:30,430 --> 01:03:33,700

they could become Christians--
not that it would help them

977

01:03:33,700 --> 01:03:42,910

any, but they could switch from
the Jewish belief, religion

978

01:03:42,910 --> 01:03:44,650

to any of the Christian ones.

979

01:03:44,650 --> 01:03:46,780

But one thing they're not
permitted to do-- they

980
01:03:46,780 --> 01:03:48,820
could not become--
declare themselves

981
01:03:48,820 --> 01:03:51,970
to be believers in God,
which is very interesting.

982
01:03:51,970 --> 01:03:54,630
That was only they
open to Aryans.

983
01:03:54,630 --> 01:03:57,520

984
01:03:57,520 --> 01:03:59,320
And that is something
no one knows.

985
01:03:59,320 --> 01:04:01,720
Nothing has been
written about that,

986
01:04:01,720 --> 01:04:06,190
and I just simply accidentally
stumble across that.

987
01:04:06,190 --> 01:04:07,960
And that, to me,
was very important,

988
01:04:07,960 --> 01:04:13,210
because that was to be the
creed of the new Aryan Germanic

989
01:04:13,210 --> 01:04:15,380
people.

990
01:04:15,380 --> 01:04:15,880
Yes.

991

01:04:15,880 --> 01:04:18,190
And they, for example, could--

992
01:04:18,190 --> 01:04:21,250

993
01:04:21,250 --> 01:04:26,620
an SS superior officer could,
for example, marry people,

994
01:04:26,620 --> 01:04:31,538
or he could say whatever to
be said when people had died

995
01:04:31,538 --> 01:04:32,080
and all that.

996
01:04:32,080 --> 01:04:36,130
So he more and more
assumed the position

997
01:04:36,130 --> 01:04:39,820
of what was done by the
ministers or, priests

998
01:04:39,820 --> 01:04:48,220
and that was to replace the
Judeo Christian creed, which

999
01:04:48,220 --> 01:04:52,870
they, for practical
purposes, rejected.

1000
01:04:52,870 --> 01:04:57,040
And all the Nazi leaders--

1001
01:04:57,040 --> 01:05:01,870
the high-ranking Nazi leaders,
whether it was Himmler

1002
01:05:01,870 --> 01:05:06,700
or whether it was if Bormann--

1003

01:05:06,700 --> 01:05:10,360

they all left their religion,
except Hitler did not.

1004

01:05:10,360 --> 01:05:13,960

He still paid his dues
to the Catholic Church,

1005

01:05:13,960 --> 01:05:15,140

which is very interesting.

1006

01:05:15,140 --> 01:05:16,780

He never left the church.

1007

01:05:16,780 --> 01:05:22,690

But they did, and they
became believers in God--

1008

01:05:22,690 --> 01:05:25,000

and practiced, supported that.

1009

01:05:25,000 --> 01:05:27,970

And that is a very
interesting thing.

1010

01:05:27,970 --> 01:05:31,000

And virtually nothing
has been done with that,

1011

01:05:31,000 --> 01:05:32,470

very little has been written.

1012

01:05:32,470 --> 01:05:38,140

the occasional oblique
references to ideas of going

1013

01:05:38,140 --> 01:05:40,380

back to pre-Christian
pagan religion--

1014

01:05:40,380 --> 01:05:42,040

Yep.

1015
01:05:42,040 --> 01:05:43,910
--that the solstice
was to be the most--

1016
01:05:43,910 --> 01:05:44,410
Right.

1017
01:05:44,410 --> 01:05:44,920
--important holiday.

1018
01:05:44,920 --> 01:05:45,462
That's right.

1019
01:05:45,462 --> 01:05:47,960

1020
01:05:47,960 --> 01:05:49,900
Can you talk about that
aspect [INAUDIBLE]??

1021
01:05:49,900 --> 01:05:53,000
Well, that aspect is
rather interesting,

1022
01:05:53,000 --> 01:06:00,050
because when I was
interviewing, and then developed

1023
01:06:00,050 --> 01:06:06,340
a very good relationship
with my namesake, Steiner,

1024
01:06:06,340 --> 01:06:10,150
he took me to this--

1025
01:06:10,150 --> 01:06:17,680
in Munich in this well-known,
infamous [INAUDIBLE],,

1026
01:06:17,680 --> 01:06:21,940
where the early Nazi

situations took place--

1027

01:06:21,940 --> 01:06:24,640

meetings and what
have you, and all

1028

01:06:24,640 --> 01:06:28,090

the various strategic
things were discussed

1029

01:06:28,090 --> 01:06:29,140

during the early period.

1030

01:06:29,140 --> 01:06:32,800

1031

01:06:32,800 --> 01:06:37,610

Former members of the SS
had a celebration there,

1032

01:06:37,610 --> 01:06:40,750

which was a combination
of Christmas and solstice,

1033

01:06:40,750 --> 01:06:41,860

and Germanic thing.

1034

01:06:41,860 --> 01:06:43,930

And that was the
first time I really

1035

01:06:43,930 --> 01:06:46,950

heard about it, because
one of the SS people

1036

01:06:46,950 --> 01:06:48,760

present-- and we came in.

1037

01:06:48,760 --> 01:06:52,360

Steiner and I came
just about 10 minutes

1038

01:06:52,360 --> 01:06:54,940
after all the other
ones have assembled--

1039
01:06:54,940 --> 01:06:59,260
lots of people-- at
least 150, no 250.

1040
01:06:59,260 --> 01:07:02,680
I don't remember offhand
how many there were--

1041
01:07:02,680 --> 01:07:03,940
lots of people.

1042
01:07:03,940 --> 01:07:06,010
So they all stood up
with, some exception

1043
01:07:06,010 --> 01:07:11,950
of some of the
wives and children.

1044
01:07:11,950 --> 01:07:14,710
But all the men stood
up, and there we march,

1045
01:07:14,710 --> 01:07:15,760
and I and Steiner.

1046
01:07:15,760 --> 01:07:18,040
So it was just an
unbelievable sort

1047
01:07:18,040 --> 01:07:21,160
of feeling for me
to just really--

1048
01:07:21,160 --> 01:07:24,100

1049
01:07:24,100 --> 01:07:32,050
very, very unusual

and strange for me

1050

01:07:32,050 --> 01:07:33,500
to just walk in with him.

1051

01:07:33,500 --> 01:07:37,960
And then you got all
the SS high-ranking

1052

01:07:37,960 --> 01:07:40,300
some former high-ranking
SS people there and all

1053

01:07:40,300 --> 01:07:48,170
that congregated
and standing up.

1054

01:07:48,170 --> 01:07:52,160
And I'm marching with him.

1055

01:07:52,160 --> 01:07:55,700
So then they settled
down, and then they

1056

01:07:55,700 --> 01:07:59,000
celebrated the young
ones, the kids.

1057

01:07:59,000 --> 01:08:03,620
They had the tree and
all that, and there

1058

01:08:03,620 --> 01:08:07,955
were supposed to be a minister
coming in to somehow--

1059

01:08:07,955 --> 01:08:13,040

1060

01:08:13,040 --> 01:08:17,583
celebrating the Christmas
for these children,

1061

01:08:17,583 --> 01:08:18,500
because they're split.

1062

01:08:18,500 --> 01:08:26,180
The old ones were very much
into this new creed, and--

1063

01:08:26,180 --> 01:08:29,450
but lived in a period
where this no longer

1064

01:08:29,450 --> 01:08:36,779
had any chance in a new
society, post-war society.

1065

01:08:36,779 --> 01:08:42,080
And so he declined to come--

1066

01:08:42,080 --> 01:08:45,050
found an excuse not to come.

1067

01:08:45,050 --> 01:08:49,970
So then all these people were
there without a minister.

1068

01:08:49,970 --> 01:08:53,390
There was to be a Protestant
minister, not a Catholic.

1069

01:08:53,390 --> 01:08:58,520
And so they simply continued,
and instead of Christmas,

1070

01:08:58,520 --> 01:09:04,130
it was very heavily emphasized--
the ritual which they had

1071

01:09:04,130 --> 01:09:05,899
introduced already--

1072

01:09:05,899 --> 01:09:10,220
as the basis for

their future creed.

1073

01:09:10,220 --> 01:09:15,590

And to me, that was
quite an experience.

1074

01:09:15,590 --> 01:09:18,590

And of course, I had no
idea what it was all about,

1075

01:09:18,590 --> 01:09:20,060

because I was not informed.

1076

01:09:20,060 --> 01:09:21,560

I didn't have that
understanding,

1077

01:09:21,560 --> 01:09:23,569

because I had not
written about--

1078

01:09:23,569 --> 01:09:27,410

I had not read about it very
much at all, if anything.

1079

01:09:27,410 --> 01:09:34,220

And so there was one person who
was a non-commissioned officer

1080

01:09:34,220 --> 01:09:36,350

in the SS--

1081

01:09:36,350 --> 01:09:46,100

saw me, so he came and
explained to me the creed.

1082

01:09:46,100 --> 01:09:48,500

And I was putting
down things on paper

1083

01:09:48,500 --> 01:09:50,460

so that I wouldn't
forget it-- made notes.

1084
01:09:50,460 --> 01:09:56,840
And Steiner saw it and
say, don't take any notes

1085
01:09:56,840 --> 01:10:02,060
and don't listen to this
fellow, this criminal who's

1086
01:10:02,060 --> 01:10:06,620
just talking Himmler
nonsense and all that.

1087
01:10:06,620 --> 01:10:10,250
So they tried to discourage me,
because they're very well aware

1088
01:10:10,250 --> 01:10:12,510
of the fact what was going on.

1089
01:10:12,510 --> 01:10:16,830
But they didn't want me to
really catch on to it, you see.

1090
01:10:16,830 --> 01:10:20,090
It was very obvious, because
the man was very helpful,

1091
01:10:20,090 --> 01:10:22,250
tried to explain
to me, this is not

1092
01:10:22,250 --> 01:10:25,340
really Christmas what
are we doing here, and--

1093
01:10:25,340 --> 01:10:28,940
because that goes back into the
German solstice and all this,

1094
01:10:28,940 --> 01:10:30,450
and that's what we
really celebrate

1095
01:10:30,450 --> 01:10:34,820
this all these other things is
nonsense Jewish stuff and all

1096
01:10:34,820 --> 01:10:39,410
this, and Christian It's all
this Jewish [? infested. ?]

1097
01:10:39,410 --> 01:10:42,590
Anyway, so that
was an eye-opener,

1098
01:10:42,590 --> 01:10:44,970
because I had absolutely no
idea that this sort of thing

1099
01:10:44,970 --> 01:10:45,470
existed.

1100
01:10:45,470 --> 01:10:48,480

1101
01:10:48,480 --> 01:10:52,440
And that started my
interest, and I pursued it,

1102
01:10:52,440 --> 01:10:55,500
and with the help of some
other people, inadvertently--

1103
01:10:55,500 --> 01:10:57,540
inadvertent help of some--

1104
01:10:57,540 --> 01:11:00,120
because now it's no
longer very functional.

1105
01:11:00,120 --> 01:11:02,020
They still adhere to it.

1106
01:11:02,020 --> 01:11:12,120

They even have candle holders,
and they have pieces of ritual

1107
01:11:12,120 --> 01:11:16,620
which is being used in
these sort of celebrations--

1108
01:11:16,620 --> 01:11:17,670
actual things.

1109
01:11:17,670 --> 01:11:20,790
And I have one made out
of ceramic so that--

1110
01:11:20,790 --> 01:11:23,470

1111
01:11:23,470 --> 01:11:28,150
these candle holders
were distributed

1112
01:11:28,150 --> 01:11:31,090
to every SS person
and every friend

1113
01:11:31,090 --> 01:11:33,670
of the SS supporter
of the SS, so

1114
01:11:33,670 --> 01:11:35,860
that they became a household--

1115
01:11:35,860 --> 01:11:38,590

1116
01:11:38,590 --> 01:11:41,500
part of the household
which was being used.

1117
01:11:41,500 --> 01:11:46,090
And all these things I
found out afterwards, and so

1118

01:11:46,090 --> 01:11:49,030

that you really could see
that many of these things

1119

01:11:49,030 --> 01:11:55,460

were being introduced
by primarily Hitler--

1120

01:11:55,460 --> 01:11:59,080

I'm sorry-- Himmler,
because Hitler was not--

1121

01:11:59,080 --> 01:12:01,240

was very much in the
background-- all that.

1122

01:12:01,240 --> 01:12:04,730

1123

01:12:04,730 --> 01:12:11,230

Hitler's notion of these things
was sympathetic, but he--

1124

01:12:11,230 --> 01:12:12,910

particularly towards
the end of the war,

1125

01:12:12,910 --> 01:12:19,870

he just was just letting
them do what they wanted to.

1126

01:12:19,870 --> 01:12:22,060

He didn't interfere.

1127

01:12:22,060 --> 01:12:30,130

But most of all, that was
done on Himmler's initiative.

1128

01:12:30,130 --> 01:12:35,410

So the impetus to consolidate
this new religion was not

1129

01:12:35,410 --> 01:12:36,790
Hitler's?

1130
01:12:36,790 --> 01:12:46,140
Well, it had his support, but
he was very much standing back,

1131
01:12:46,140 --> 01:12:50,770
I think, and didn't come, I
think, for political reason--

1132
01:12:50,770 --> 01:12:55,200
not that he did not
empathize, because it

1133
01:12:55,200 --> 01:12:57,600
was very much in line
with his thinking,

1134
01:12:57,600 --> 01:13:00,010
and Himmler knew that.

1135
01:13:00,010 --> 01:13:02,280
But I think, for
political reasons,

1136
01:13:02,280 --> 01:13:07,420
and because it is a Protestant
nation with very large number

1137
01:13:07,420 --> 01:13:12,950
of Catholic majority, he
didn't want to rock the boat.

1138
01:13:12,950 --> 01:13:15,270
I think it was just
merely strategic

1139
01:13:15,270 --> 01:13:20,370
thinking why he was not
more actively involved,

1140
01:13:20,370 --> 01:13:22,747

and let Himmler do
all this, you see--

1141
01:13:22,747 --> 01:13:25,830

1142
01:13:25,830 --> 01:13:29,650
but not because he
was not sympathetic.

1143
01:13:29,650 --> 01:13:32,500
Could you describe
this holiday ritual,

1144
01:13:32,500 --> 01:13:34,770
the non-Christian part of it?

1145
01:13:34,770 --> 01:13:41,370
Well, it's singing
of specific songs

1146
01:13:41,370 --> 01:13:45,240
and thinking of and
talking about going

1147
01:13:45,240 --> 01:13:51,490
through specific ritual verses
of people who died in combat.

1148
01:13:51,490 --> 01:13:56,940
And this candle is for the dead.

1149
01:13:56,940 --> 01:14:00,720
This candle is
for their mother--

1150
01:14:00,720 --> 01:14:03,330
for our mothers.

1151
01:14:03,330 --> 01:14:07,230
This candle is for
the children to come,

1152

01:14:07,230 --> 01:14:13,710
and all that-- and singing
of specific songs, which

1153

01:14:13,710 --> 01:14:18,240
were non-Christian
songs, not songs

1154

01:14:18,240 --> 01:14:21,690
you sing during Christmas.

1155

01:14:21,690 --> 01:14:25,050
So this was perhaps something.

1156

01:14:25,050 --> 01:14:30,360
And of course, you had no
chance to attend these things

1157

01:14:30,360 --> 01:14:32,790
after-- other than
what I witnessed there.

1158

01:14:32,790 --> 01:14:36,290

1159

01:14:36,290 --> 01:14:47,390
So you had a tree there, and
they just put candles on it,

1160

01:14:47,390 --> 01:14:52,040
saying certain things,
as I've indicated,

1161

01:14:52,040 --> 01:14:55,820
and singing particular songs
which had absolutely nothing

1162

01:14:55,820 --> 01:14:58,850
to do with Christianity.

1163

01:14:58,850 --> 01:15:04,920
And there are no speeches,

as far as I can remember.

1164
01:15:04,920 --> 01:15:06,080
I put it all down.

1165
01:15:06,080 --> 01:15:09,860
It's all part in my book,
because I made notes

1166
01:15:09,860 --> 01:15:11,690
when I was there, and then--

1167
01:15:11,690 --> 01:15:16,760
immediately after I went home
so that I wouldn't forget.

1168
01:15:16,760 --> 01:15:22,940
And I described these things as
accurately as I possibly could.

1169
01:15:22,940 --> 01:15:27,860
But I was discouraged to
make notes, as I said before.

1170
01:15:27,860 --> 01:15:32,390
And it was very
bewildering for me,

1171
01:15:32,390 --> 01:15:38,480
because I didn't have any
sort of background which

1172
01:15:38,480 --> 01:15:42,810
would enable me to relate
to what was going on.

1173
01:15:42,810 --> 01:15:47,840
So I just simply relied on
more the descriptive part

1174
01:15:47,840 --> 01:15:50,900
of what I could see and witness.

1175

01:15:50,900 --> 01:15:53,150

Do you have any sense of how
those candle holders were

1176

01:15:53,150 --> 01:15:54,240

used in the household?

1177

01:15:54,240 --> 01:15:54,740

Oh, yeah.

1178

01:15:54,740 --> 01:15:55,340

Sure.

1179

01:15:55,340 --> 01:15:58,490

I've got one.

1180

01:15:58,490 --> 01:16:02,780

So it's a candle holder

which is made out of ceramic

1181

01:16:02,780 --> 01:16:06,350

with particular symbols in it--

1182

01:16:06,350 --> 01:16:10,820

not a swastika,

but the light wheel

1183

01:16:10,820 --> 01:16:20,250

and some other symbols which
connote, relate to solstice.

1184

01:16:20,250 --> 01:16:22,460

And then, on top

of it, it's just

1185

01:16:22,460 --> 01:16:25,250

a little bit like a pyramid.

1186

01:16:25,250 --> 01:16:31,190

And on top of it you've

got indented part,

1187

01:16:31,190 --> 01:16:35,090
and there you put the candle.

1188

01:16:35,090 --> 01:16:37,470
And you also can put
the candle inside,

1189

01:16:37,470 --> 01:16:41,720
but the idea is to
put it on top of it.

1190

01:16:41,720 --> 01:16:49,040
And when I bought this in
some sort of antique shop--

1191

01:16:49,040 --> 01:16:53,153
for virtually nothing, because
although the lady who sold it

1192

01:16:53,153 --> 01:16:55,070
to me-- she knew exactly,
because she happened

1193

01:16:55,070 --> 01:16:57,890
to be a National Socialist
and she was very familiar

1194

01:16:57,890 --> 01:16:58,520
with that.

1195

01:16:58,520 --> 01:17:01,400
But it was-- she didn't
see any value in it.

1196

01:17:01,400 --> 01:17:05,900
It's actually very valuable,
because most of these things

1197

01:17:05,900 --> 01:17:08,820
no longer exist, or have
been destroyed, or whatever.

1198

01:17:08,820 --> 01:17:10,870
So it was covered--

1199
01:17:10,870 --> 01:17:14,510
the candle, this
pyramidal type of ceramic

1200
01:17:14,510 --> 01:17:20,750
was absolutely covered
with wax, which

1201
01:17:20,750 --> 01:17:24,950
means that they put the
candle on top of it,

1202
01:17:24,950 --> 01:17:27,170
rather than beneath it.

1203
01:17:27,170 --> 01:17:29,150
And there are
perforations so that it

1204
01:17:29,150 --> 01:17:32,000
could be done, because there
are these sort of things which

1205
01:17:32,000 --> 01:17:38,480
are cut, and let out light
if you put in the candle

1206
01:17:38,480 --> 01:17:39,230
underneath.

1207
01:17:39,230 --> 01:17:44,030

1208
01:17:44,030 --> 01:17:46,670
And I haven't seen it,
of course, practiced,

1209
01:17:46,670 --> 01:17:50,870
but when I show it or talk to
them, all these SS people said,

1210
01:17:50,870 --> 01:17:52,400
my God, you've got
really something.

1211
01:17:52,400 --> 01:17:55,430
Why don't you give it
to me, or this and that?

1212
01:17:55,430 --> 01:17:58,580
And some of the
things I had do--

1213
01:17:58,580 --> 01:18:02,870
I gave to some people,
particularly some people --

1214
01:18:02,870 --> 01:18:06,230
and then I got it back after
their death of the people said,

1215
01:18:06,230 --> 01:18:07,220
can I keep it?

1216
01:18:07,220 --> 01:18:10,580
And I'll see to it
that you get it back.

1217
01:18:10,580 --> 01:18:14,090
And do you know in what
the candle was used?

1218
01:18:14,090 --> 01:18:18,170
Yeah-- particularly when they
celebrated these sort of things

1219
01:18:18,170 --> 01:18:19,820
which were related
to the creed--

1220
01:18:19,820 --> 01:18:20,990
this new creed.

1221

01:18:20,990 --> 01:18:22,580

Weekly, daily, monthly?

1222

01:18:22,580 --> 01:18:24,260

That I have no--

1223

01:18:24,260 --> 01:18:28,870

only certain, certain
festivities which are not--

1224

01:18:28,870 --> 01:18:31,820

they probably could use it
every day for what I know,

1225

01:18:31,820 --> 01:18:37,400

but I think the
purpose was to use them

1226

01:18:37,400 --> 01:18:42,290

during specific festivities
which had meaning

1227

01:18:42,290 --> 01:18:45,115

in that particular to be creed.

1228

01:18:45,115 --> 01:18:46,490

Do you have any
sense of how they

1229

01:18:46,490 --> 01:18:49,880

were going to relate this
creed to the religions

1230

01:18:49,880 --> 01:18:52,220

of the German
populace as a whole?

1231

01:18:52,220 --> 01:18:56,630

Well, they just simply tried
to replace it, and that's.

1232

01:18:56,630 --> 01:18:59,780

It was to be discontinued,
because they're

1233
01:18:59,780 --> 01:19:03,110
after the Catholic priests.

1234
01:19:03,110 --> 01:19:09,000
In their speeches and in their
writings, they talked about it

1235
01:19:09,000 --> 01:19:14,210
and condemned them-- and whether
it's Protestant and all that.

1236
01:19:14,210 --> 01:19:19,480
So step by step, they were going
to discontinue that and replace

1237
01:19:19,480 --> 01:19:19,980
it.

1238
01:19:19,980 --> 01:19:22,147
And that's something which
cannot be done overnight,

1239
01:19:22,147 --> 01:19:26,790
because too many people were
entrenched in their faith.

1240
01:19:26,790 --> 01:19:29,930
So they had to do it step
by step, and that was--

1241
01:19:29,930 --> 01:19:32,340
these were the first
steps which they took.

1242
01:19:32,340 --> 01:19:34,460
So it never got to
move on [INAUDIBLE]??

1243
01:19:34,460 --> 01:19:37,800
Established-- no,

never got established.

1244

01:19:37,800 --> 01:19:39,230

It was limited to very small--

1245

01:19:39,230 --> 01:19:41,910

1246

01:19:41,910 --> 01:19:46,830

And clearly, this notion
of the military person

1247

01:19:46,830 --> 01:19:48,930

having the power of
the religionist, that's

1248

01:19:48,930 --> 01:19:51,660

quite a powerful combination--

1249

01:19:51,660 --> 01:19:56,760

the SS person who can take over
the functions of the minister,

1250

01:19:56,760 --> 01:19:59,670

as in marrying, death rituals.

1251

01:19:59,670 --> 01:20:01,590

Well, the question
is how it would

1252

01:20:01,590 --> 01:20:04,410

have been developed, how it
would have developed later on.

1253

01:20:04,410 --> 01:20:07,998

1254

01:20:07,998 --> 01:20:12,420

Within the SS, that
was already clear-cut.

1255

01:20:12,420 --> 01:20:15,090

And it's not clear to
what extent the SS--

1256
01:20:15,090 --> 01:20:16,890
they would have
taken, but I don't

1257
01:20:16,890 --> 01:20:21,810
think that the SS
would have celebrated

1258
01:20:21,810 --> 01:20:23,970
all these sort of
things for other people

1259
01:20:23,970 --> 01:20:25,440
who were not members of the SS.

1260
01:20:25,440 --> 01:20:27,330
I doubt that.

1261
01:20:27,330 --> 01:20:28,743
But that's too early to--

1262
01:20:28,743 --> 01:20:29,910
we don't know what sort of--

1263
01:20:29,910 --> 01:20:32,490

1264
01:20:32,490 --> 01:20:33,390
we don't know.

1265
01:20:33,390 --> 01:20:35,700
These are all
speculations, and we

1266
01:20:35,700 --> 01:20:38,360
have no idea in terms of
what would have developed.

1267
01:20:38,360 --> 01:20:42,450

But within-- primarily
within the Nazi circles,

1268
01:20:42,450 --> 01:20:46,470
high Nazi circles,
National Socialist circles,

1269
01:20:46,470 --> 01:20:48,990
that was accepted--

1270
01:20:48,990 --> 01:20:55,670
and especially also within
the SS in particular.

1271
01:20:55,670 --> 01:20:59,360
I've heard tell that
Hitler was vegetarian.

1272
01:20:59,360 --> 01:20:59,860
Yeah.

1273
01:20:59,860 --> 01:21:02,955
And do you think that practice
had any religious connotation

1274
01:21:02,955 --> 01:21:04,080
or a practical [INAUDIBLE]?

1275
01:21:04,080 --> 01:21:07,650
Well, see, that it's
something which I discussed

1276
01:21:07,650 --> 01:21:09,600
with the secretary and--

1277
01:21:09,600 --> 01:21:15,930
Hitler's secretary and all that
but the idea was that he was--

1278
01:21:15,930 --> 01:21:20,760
in his early days, he
was not at all against--

1279

01:21:20,760 --> 01:21:23,970

just so developed because
he was putting on weight.

1280

01:21:23,970 --> 01:21:26,640

1281

01:21:26,640 --> 01:21:30,990

And then he combined the
fear of putting on weight--

1282

01:21:30,990 --> 01:21:39,750

because as a leader of this
magnitude, this influence,

1283

01:21:39,750 --> 01:21:42,060

I can't stand in
front of the people

1284

01:21:42,060 --> 01:21:50,280

with a heavy set stomach,
whatever paunch or you know.

1285

01:21:50,280 --> 01:21:53,640

And so that was one of the
major reasons why he stopped.

1286

01:21:53,640 --> 01:21:58,200

He used to drink
and he used to eat

1287

01:21:58,200 --> 01:22:02,130

meat and all this sort of
thing, but he discontinued it

1288

01:22:02,130 --> 01:22:06,780

primarily because he didn't
want to put on more weight.

1289

01:22:06,780 --> 01:22:09,030

And then he combined it with--

1290

01:22:09,030 --> 01:22:11,340
somehow made an
ideology out of it

1291
01:22:11,340 --> 01:22:21,720
and say, well, I can't eat
decaying flesh and murder

1292
01:22:21,720 --> 01:22:27,840
all these animals, which is
kind of inconsistent with all

1293
01:22:27,840 --> 01:22:30,060
the other things he's done--

1294
01:22:30,060 --> 01:22:34,110
well, not necessarily
inconsistent, because to him,

1295
01:22:34,110 --> 01:22:36,030
Jews were not human
beings, you see.

1296
01:22:36,030 --> 01:22:39,310
And they're even below animals,
and that is an important thing

1297
01:22:39,310 --> 01:22:39,810
too.

1298
01:22:39,810 --> 01:22:42,810
So they all could
rationalize, justify that.

1299
01:22:42,810 --> 01:22:44,280
And so did he, of course.

1300
01:22:44,280 --> 01:22:48,990
And he was the
arch rationalisor.

1301
01:22:48,990 --> 01:22:52,150
But he was very

clear-cut and said,

1302

01:22:52,150 --> 01:22:57,000

well, I can't eat animals,
and decayed, and all that.

1303

01:22:57,000 --> 01:23:00,780

I need to eat things which
are not being killed.

1304

01:23:00,780 --> 01:23:03,490

1305

01:23:03,490 --> 01:23:08,460

Also, I was told that he had
a personal astrologer, who

1306

01:23:08,460 --> 01:23:09,840

I believe has written a book.

1307

01:23:09,840 --> 01:23:11,298

Do you have any
sense [INAUDIBLE]??

1308

01:23:11,298 --> 01:23:14,610

I don't think there's
anything to it.

1309

01:23:14,610 --> 01:23:16,230

I don't think there's
anything to it.

1310

01:23:16,230 --> 01:23:17,960

And I've looked into
some of the things.

1311

01:23:17,960 --> 01:23:20,580

Himmler yes, but not Hitler--

1312

01:23:20,580 --> 01:23:23,790

Himmler had the people whom
he consulted and all that,

1313

01:23:23,790 --> 01:23:27,360

and he was very much into
the mythical aspects,

1314

01:23:27,360 --> 01:23:31,060

and astrology, and all
this sort of thing.

1315

01:23:31,060 --> 01:23:39,740

But from what I could
find out in all that,

1316

01:23:39,740 --> 01:23:43,220

I don't think there's
anything to it.

1317

01:23:43,220 --> 01:23:45,050

What was their
notion in choosing

1318

01:23:45,050 --> 01:23:47,630

the broken cross, the swastika?

1319

01:23:47,630 --> 01:23:52,910

Well, it's the sun wheel,
and Hitler chose it

1320

01:23:52,910 --> 01:23:55,580

because not only the symbolic--

1321

01:23:55,580 --> 01:24:00,200

because he liked the
form of it, and also

1322

01:24:00,200 --> 01:24:04,580

because it's a sign of
the Nordic Aryan race--

1323

01:24:04,580 --> 01:24:08,390

which, by the way, is
the Indo-German type

1324

01:24:08,390 --> 01:24:10,850
of thing, which includes--
when I was in Bombay

1325
01:24:10,850 --> 01:24:14,010
and in India, you see
swastikas all over the place.

1326
01:24:14,010 --> 01:24:15,770
You see it with
American Indians.

1327
01:24:15,770 --> 01:24:18,630
You see it all over the place.

1328
01:24:18,630 --> 01:24:24,410
So it is not really that
unique, but he symbolically

1329
01:24:24,410 --> 01:24:36,750
felt that the symbol was
to connote Germanic Aryan

1330
01:24:36,750 --> 01:24:40,470
types of people.

1331
01:24:40,470 --> 01:24:52,290
And the swastika was his choice
to use in the flags, colors,

1332
01:24:52,290 --> 01:24:56,620
whatever, as the symbol
of National Socialism.

1333
01:24:56,620 --> 01:24:59,730
Did it have some
kind of connection

1334
01:24:59,730 --> 01:25:01,440
with the notion of
this ancient religion?

1335
01:25:01,440 --> 01:25:03,170

Was it a symbol in
that ancient religion?

1336
01:25:03,170 --> 01:25:06,600
I don't think that
this connection was

1337
01:25:06,600 --> 01:25:10,200
made to that extent at
all, other than that it

1338
01:25:10,200 --> 01:25:18,780
was his understanding
of the Aryan purity.

1339
01:25:18,780 --> 01:25:23,460
That's my understanding of the
sun wheel, apart from the fact

1340
01:25:23,460 --> 01:25:37,010
that it is used by those who
are defined as Indo-Germanic.

1341
01:25:37,010 --> 01:25:40,250

1342
01:25:40,250 --> 01:25:43,220
And that's why, for example,
he did not view the Indians

1343
01:25:43,220 --> 01:25:45,500
as an inferior race.

1344
01:25:45,500 --> 01:25:52,340
There was even a
battalion of Mohammedans,

1345
01:25:52,340 --> 01:25:56,300
and Indians, and all that
in the-- within the SS.

1346
01:25:56,300 --> 01:26:02,480
And I talked to an Indian

and his German wife,

1347
01:26:02,480 --> 01:26:07,820
and he had a very
important position

1348
01:26:07,820 --> 01:26:11,180
during the Third Reich.

1349
01:26:11,180 --> 01:26:14,510
How is that compatible with
the notion of a light-skinned,

1350
01:26:14,510 --> 01:26:15,680
blond--

1351
01:26:15,680 --> 01:26:19,820
Well, that's precisely
some of the inconsistency.

1352
01:26:19,820 --> 01:26:21,680
Same thing with the Japanese--

1353
01:26:21,680 --> 01:26:24,380
Japanese where
very close allies,

1354
01:26:24,380 --> 01:26:27,680
and he had very high
regard for the Japanese,

1355
01:26:27,680 --> 01:26:30,800
but also talking at
times about the fact

1356
01:26:30,800 --> 01:26:33,380
that they are a different
ways and all that.

1357
01:26:33,380 --> 01:26:37,700
But his interest, and his
admiration, if you will,

1358

01:26:37,700 --> 01:26:44,120
and his opportunistic
interests transcended that.

1359

01:26:44,120 --> 01:26:46,810
And the people whom he really--

1360

01:26:46,810 --> 01:26:51,230
the real target, where he
never could have somehow

1361

01:26:51,230 --> 01:26:59,060
accepted any justification
for accepting them as a race,

1362

01:26:59,060 --> 01:27:05,580
or interacting, or using
them as allies were the Jews.

1363

01:27:05,580 --> 01:27:12,560
But all the other ones, whether
they were Arabs, or Indian,

1364

01:27:12,560 --> 01:27:16,370
or Japanese, he could deal
with, and somehow could

1365

01:27:16,370 --> 01:27:19,580
justify, but not the Jews--

1366

01:27:19,580 --> 01:27:22,130

1367

01:27:22,130 --> 01:27:23,990
or the Gypsies.

1368

01:27:23,990 --> 01:27:33,010
And the chances are that, if
you rank who was perhaps--

1369

01:27:33,010 --> 01:27:38,110
ranking order, the Jews

probably below the Gypsies,

1370
01:27:38,110 --> 01:27:41,930
the chances are, because
Gypsies, during the war,

1371
01:27:41,930 --> 01:27:44,530
even served until they took
them out of circulation.

1372
01:27:44,530 --> 01:27:48,820
They even served as
soldiers in the Nazi army.

1373
01:27:48,820 --> 01:27:51,940
And after they took them
out relatively late,

1374
01:27:51,940 --> 01:27:54,640
out of circulation.

1375
01:27:54,640 --> 01:27:56,830
It's interesting that
neither of those peoples

1376
01:27:56,830 --> 01:28:01,270
have a nation that could
potentially [INAUDIBLE] assets.

1377
01:28:01,270 --> 01:28:03,690
That's right.

1378
01:28:03,690 --> 01:28:06,160
Well, of course, the
interesting thing

1379
01:28:06,160 --> 01:28:09,160
is the inner circles
of the SS to begin

1380
01:28:09,160 --> 01:28:14,410
with, until before
World War II, were

1381
01:28:14,410 --> 01:28:15,640
very supportive of Zionism.

1382
01:28:15,640 --> 01:28:22,060

1383
01:28:22,060 --> 01:28:28,540
In the process of the
making of the SS person,

1384
01:28:28,540 --> 01:28:31,720
were all the SS tattooed, with--

1385
01:28:31,720 --> 01:28:33,010
I guess [INAUDIBLE]?

1386
01:28:33,010 --> 01:28:33,870
Yes.

1387
01:28:33,870 --> 01:28:34,370
[INAUDIBLE]

1388
01:28:34,370 --> 01:28:34,870
Yeah.

1389
01:28:34,870 --> 01:28:41,740

1390
01:28:41,740 --> 01:28:44,110
So to speak, all of
them had to do that,

1391
01:28:44,110 --> 01:28:45,910
whether they were
in combat or not.

1392
01:28:45,910 --> 01:28:49,990
All members of the
SS were tattooed.

1393

01:28:49,990 --> 01:28:53,110
And there were some exceptions,
but not because Himmler

1394
01:28:53,110 --> 01:28:56,170
made them, but because
they somehow weaseled out

1395
01:28:56,170 --> 01:28:57,760
in one way or another.

1396
01:28:57,760 --> 01:29:03,040
And that I have also seen
in one of the SS generals,

1397
01:29:03,040 --> 01:29:10,450
who was very much proud of his
body, and his sexual prowess,

1398
01:29:10,450 --> 01:29:12,340
and all that.

1399
01:29:12,340 --> 01:29:15,170
And he didn't want
to be marked at all,

1400
01:29:15,170 --> 01:29:18,730
so he tried to avoid it.

1401
01:29:18,730 --> 01:29:23,860
And Himmler insisted and kept on
asking, well, finally show me.

1402
01:29:23,860 --> 01:29:25,690
Have you done it now finally?

1403
01:29:25,690 --> 01:29:28,540
So then he found some
sort of a method where

1404
01:29:28,540 --> 01:29:32,860
he was tattooed with some
sort of a material which

1405
01:29:32,860 --> 01:29:38,290
would be absorbed and
would disappear in time.

1406
01:29:38,290 --> 01:29:41,165
And then he showed me.

1407
01:29:41,165 --> 01:29:43,040
And then I asked him--
say, so what happened?

1408
01:29:43,040 --> 01:29:44,680
He said, well, I
don't have it anymore.

1409
01:29:44,680 --> 01:29:46,630
It just simply disappeared.

1410
01:29:46,630 --> 01:29:50,890
Once I showed him and
once I had it done,

1411
01:29:50,890 --> 01:29:54,190
he no longer bugged
me about it--

1412
01:29:54,190 --> 01:29:55,240
Himmler.

1413
01:29:55,240 --> 01:29:59,490
And then it disappeared--

1414
01:29:59,490 --> 01:30:03,040
the tattoo disappeared, and
he didn't have it renewed,

1415
01:30:03,040 --> 01:30:04,660
and Himmler didn't ask him.

1416
01:30:04,660 --> 01:30:05,890
So I said, show me.

1417
01:30:05,890 --> 01:30:07,580
I'd ask some of these
people, show me.

1418
01:30:07,580 --> 01:30:09,160
I was interested.

1419
01:30:09,160 --> 01:30:10,270
And he showed me.

1420
01:30:10,270 --> 01:30:12,410
There was nothing.

1421
01:30:12,410 --> 01:30:14,980
Did this tattoo have any meaning
beyond simply [INAUDIBLE]

1422
01:30:14,980 --> 01:30:15,255
information?

1423
01:30:15,255 --> 01:30:15,755
No.

1424
01:30:15,755 --> 01:30:17,290
No, no.

1425
01:30:17,290 --> 01:30:20,380
That tattoo was just
a very clever device,

1426
01:30:20,380 --> 01:30:23,650
which is terrific-- that,
if these people were wounded

1427
01:30:23,650 --> 01:30:27,190
in combat or for whatever other
reason, that immediately they

1428
01:30:27,190 --> 01:30:28,780
would know what
sort of blood group

1429
01:30:28,780 --> 01:30:33,580
they would give it for
transfusion purposes.

1430
01:30:33,580 --> 01:30:37,790
And that was the major
reason, none other.

1431
01:30:37,790 --> 01:30:41,970
I understood it was a
tattoo in the armpit.

1432
01:30:41,970 --> 01:30:49,720
Yeah, left armpit-- the
armpit-- yeah, yeah--

1433
01:30:49,720 --> 01:30:51,940
on the inside of there-- yeah--

1434
01:30:51,940 --> 01:30:53,740
so that actually,
you wouldn't see it.

1435
01:30:53,740 --> 01:30:57,500
Only if people just simply move
their arms up and all that,

1436
01:30:57,500 --> 01:30:59,210
then it was visible.

1437
01:30:59,210 --> 01:31:01,540
So it was in a
relatively hidden spot.

1438
01:31:01,540 --> 01:31:04,400
Absolutely-- but
people knew that.

1439
01:31:04,400 --> 01:31:08,950
And after the war, for
example, one of my interviewees

1440

01:31:08,950 --> 01:31:13,300

wanted to somehow hide his
SS membership for reasons

1441

01:31:13,300 --> 01:31:15,400

which don't escape me.

1442

01:31:15,400 --> 01:31:26,290

And so what he -- a sympathetic
surgeon shortly after the war

1443

01:31:26,290 --> 01:31:42,070

performed a minor surgery,
and a surgery which simulated

1444

01:31:42,070 --> 01:31:49,960

a shrapnel wound or something
else so that it looked like he

1445

01:31:49,960 --> 01:31:54,230

would have-- that
he was injured,

1446

01:31:54,230 --> 01:31:59,000

shot at by bullets or whatever.

1447

01:31:59,000 --> 01:32:01,060

And so he performed
that surgery,

1448

01:32:01,060 --> 01:32:03,670

and he showed it to me, because
I ask these people-- say, show

1449

01:32:03,670 --> 01:32:04,170

me.

1450

01:32:04,170 --> 01:32:06,860

And they are willing to do that.

1451

01:32:06,860 --> 01:32:09,790

And so he's got scars here--

1452
01:32:09,790 --> 01:32:12,820
nothing there anymore.

1453
01:32:12,820 --> 01:32:15,600
This tattoo would also
function in the opposite way,

1454
01:32:15,600 --> 01:32:20,140
that it would be a
brotherhood symbol too?

1455
01:32:20,140 --> 01:32:22,360
Well, yeah.

1456
01:32:22,360 --> 01:32:25,330
It's a sign of
recognition, but I

1457
01:32:25,330 --> 01:32:27,280
don't know whether
they used it that much,

1458
01:32:27,280 --> 01:32:34,330
because at that particular point
in time, it was of no use other

1459
01:32:34,330 --> 01:32:38,980
than for the purposes
I've indicated.

1460
01:32:38,980 --> 01:32:42,220
And so I don't think--

1461
01:32:42,220 --> 01:32:44,740

1462
01:32:44,740 --> 01:32:48,430
only perhaps after the war
and all that-- and say,

1463
01:32:48,430 --> 01:32:50,526

I was in the SS
or something Well,

1464
01:32:50,526 --> 01:32:58,180
it used some sort of a purpose,
let's say, in South America,

1465
01:32:58,180 --> 01:32:59,830
whatever.

1466
01:32:59,830 --> 01:33:02,830
So yeah, that was an
identification mark.

1467
01:33:02,830 --> 01:33:04,810
Of course, you can
always fake it,

1468
01:33:04,810 --> 01:33:06,610
if you know how they look like.

1469
01:33:06,610 --> 01:33:09,160
And not that many people do.

1470
01:33:09,160 --> 01:33:10,840
How do they look?

1471
01:33:10,840 --> 01:33:17,260
Oh, it's just a very
simple type of that data,

1472
01:33:17,260 --> 01:33:24,880
not unlike that type of
tattoo we got as inmates.

1473
01:33:24,880 --> 01:33:27,760
And it is just a number
that's just the blood group.

1474
01:33:27,760 --> 01:33:32,860
That's it, and nothing else.

1475

01:33:32,860 --> 01:33:35,920
Did anyone ever speak of any
kind of special process used

1476
01:33:35,920 --> 01:33:39,010
to desensitize these
people in order

1477
01:33:39,010 --> 01:33:43,860
that they could do some of
these terribly brutal things?

1478
01:33:43,860 --> 01:33:51,390
Well, the desensitization
took place primarily

1479
01:33:51,390 --> 01:33:58,710
by way of indoctrination, and to
render the people, the targets,

1480
01:33:58,710 --> 01:34:00,480
the victims, so to speak--

1481
01:34:00,480 --> 01:34:02,700
make victims-- not
victims out of them,

1482
01:34:02,700 --> 01:34:05,020
but make vermin out of them.

1483
01:34:05,020 --> 01:34:09,900
So you've got-- remove them from
the ingroup into an outgroup.

1484
01:34:09,900 --> 01:34:14,370
Create a social distance which
would be so great that you

1485
01:34:14,370 --> 01:34:22,530
would not feel any
concern or compassion what

1486
01:34:22,530 --> 01:34:26,070

you do to these people, because they are not people, period.

1487
01:34:26,070 --> 01:34:29,010
And that was done very systematically

1488
01:34:29,010 --> 01:34:33,000
by way of propaganda, indoctrination, ideology.

1489
01:34:33,000 --> 01:34:36,360
And again, this is something which we need to understand,

1490
01:34:36,360 --> 01:34:41,610
because there was no other reason for it where they simply

1491
01:34:41,610 --> 01:34:47,490
could distantiate themselves from their victims--

1492
01:34:47,490 --> 01:34:53,220
other than justify the fact of dealing with them

1493
01:34:53,220 --> 01:35:02,470
the way they did by removing them from their midst

1494
01:35:02,470 --> 01:35:08,920
and dissociating themselves from their kind.

1495
01:35:08,920 --> 01:35:10,510
And they've done it very successfully

1496
01:35:10,510 --> 01:35:15,880
in very many cases-- not in all, but in very many cases.

1497

01:35:15,880 --> 01:35:18,490
Now, the interesting
thing is-- and to me, it's

1498
01:35:18,490 --> 01:35:22,600
very interesting talking
about interaction

1499
01:35:22,600 --> 01:35:24,460
in concentration camps.

1500
01:35:24,460 --> 01:35:33,740
The more people behave like
"Germans," quote, unquote,

1501
01:35:33,740 --> 01:35:41,130
the greater was their
chance of survival.

1502
01:35:41,130 --> 01:35:43,070
The more they
behave differently--

1503
01:35:43,070 --> 01:35:47,990
and that was very interesting in
Shtricker's Sturmer paper which

1504
01:35:47,990 --> 01:35:49,310
was a weekly--

1505
01:35:49,310 --> 01:35:51,560
anti-Semitic weekly.

1506
01:35:51,560 --> 01:35:55,880
And there, all the
Jews were depicted

1507
01:35:55,880 --> 01:36:02,750
looking very different,
very oriental, very Jewish--

1508
01:36:02,750 --> 01:36:05,390
whatever they

symbolized this Jewish--

1509

01:36:05,390 --> 01:36:14,360
typical nose, eyes, bad figures,
unathletic, and all that.

1510

01:36:14,360 --> 01:36:16,880
And the interesting
things-- the less they

1511

01:36:16,880 --> 01:36:22,160
looked like that stereotype
which was being propagated,

1512

01:36:22,160 --> 01:36:30,770
the more they felt inhibited
to mistreat these people.

1513

01:36:30,770 --> 01:36:34,880
And that is something which I
personally experienced myself,

1514

01:36:34,880 --> 01:36:37,790
because I didn't look
like the stereotype.

1515

01:36:37,790 --> 01:36:41,060
I didn't behave
like the stereotype.

1516

01:36:41,060 --> 01:36:44,390
I spoke the language perfectly.

1517

01:36:44,390 --> 01:36:47,300
And therefore, the
SS responded to me

1518

01:36:47,300 --> 01:36:51,350
very differently than if
they would have then they

1519

01:36:51,350 --> 01:36:58,880
would have responded

to a shtetler Jew who

1520
01:36:58,880 --> 01:37:01,850
more looked like
that stereotype,

1521
01:37:01,850 --> 01:37:05,615
behaved like that stereotype.

1522
01:37:05,615 --> 01:37:10,820
That's a very important
very important situation,

1523
01:37:10,820 --> 01:37:13,040
because the chances are--

1524
01:37:13,040 --> 01:37:20,480
and I really can say that
with some degree of accuracy--

1525
01:37:20,480 --> 01:37:28,730
that, if I had not look
the way I do, or did--

1526
01:37:28,730 --> 01:37:31,740
of course, now I
look different--

1527
01:37:31,740 --> 01:37:36,140
I'm older-- put it mildly--

1528
01:37:36,140 --> 01:37:43,640
and if I had not looked
and behaved and spoke

1529
01:37:43,640 --> 01:37:46,310
the way I did at that
time, the chances

1530
01:37:46,310 --> 01:37:51,620
are I wouldn't have survived,
because I was in situations

1531

01:37:51,620 --> 01:38:00,680
where SS would have not
hesitated to kill someone else,

1532

01:38:00,680 --> 01:38:04,070
but they somehow were
deterred to kill me,

1533

01:38:04,070 --> 01:38:10,460
because I reminded them
too much of someone

1534

01:38:10,460 --> 01:38:14,090
who could be their
relative or someone they

1535

01:38:14,090 --> 01:38:15,890
could be related to.

1536

01:38:15,890 --> 01:38:26,650
That is my reflected assumption,
because I got into situations

1537

01:38:26,650 --> 01:38:30,850
where other people would
have been shot on the spot,

1538

01:38:30,850 --> 01:38:31,780
and I was not.

1539

01:38:31,780 --> 01:38:37,020

1540

01:38:37,020 --> 01:38:43,530
Do you think, say, someone
who joined the SS in 1943--

1541

01:38:43,530 --> 01:38:45,420
would that person have been--

1542

01:38:45,420 --> 01:38:46,280
They wouldn't join.

1543
01:38:46,280 --> 01:38:47,770
They were drafted.

1544
01:38:47,770 --> 01:38:48,300
OK.

1545
01:38:48,300 --> 01:38:49,980
Well, before '43
then [INAUDIBLE]..

1546
01:38:49,980 --> 01:38:50,620
OK.

1547
01:38:50,620 --> 01:38:52,080
Yeah.

1548
01:38:52,080 --> 01:38:55,860
Would that person be sent to
one of the concentration camps

1549
01:38:55,860 --> 01:38:57,990
fairly quickly without
some sort of [INAUDIBLE]??

1550
01:38:57,990 --> 01:38:58,800
No, no, no.

1551
01:38:58,800 --> 01:39:01,425
It just depends well, no --
because when you talk about

1552
01:39:01,425 --> 01:39:06,270
war, most of the concentration
camps were already headed

1553
01:39:06,270 --> 01:39:12,420
by people who had some
connection to concentration

1554
01:39:12,420 --> 01:39:14,830
camps before the war.

1555
01:39:14,830 --> 01:39:20,100
So they were occupied
by special outfits which

1556
01:39:20,100 --> 01:39:26,200
were assigned that role
in concentration camps

1557
01:39:26,200 --> 01:39:29,410
before World War II--

1558
01:39:29,410 --> 01:39:31,090
prior to it.

1559
01:39:31,090 --> 01:39:40,520
So the chances that there would
be assigned there after '43

1560
01:39:40,520 --> 01:39:44,780
are remote, other than
that they were wounded,

1561
01:39:44,780 --> 01:39:50,360
crippled so that they no longer
somehow could serve in combat.

1562
01:39:50,360 --> 01:39:54,680
Then yes, there was a chance,
as I've indicated before,

1563
01:39:54,680 --> 01:39:59,750
that they would be sent to
concentration camps as guards--

1564
01:39:59,750 --> 01:40:05,290
as guards only, but not
in any other function,

1565
01:40:05,290 --> 01:40:09,550
because those people
in other functions

1566

01:40:09,550 --> 01:40:13,480
were members of the
security service,

1567

01:40:13,480 --> 01:40:17,380
were members of
the death squads,

1568

01:40:17,380 --> 01:40:18,830
and members of the Gestapo.

1569

01:40:18,830 --> 01:40:22,390

1570

01:40:22,390 --> 01:40:28,240
And so these people
were specialists.

1571

01:40:28,240 --> 01:40:30,820
Amongst the people
that you interviewed,

1572

01:40:30,820 --> 01:40:34,130
were there any people who served
in the concentration camps?

1573

01:40:34,130 --> 01:40:35,230
Yeah.

1574

01:40:35,230 --> 01:40:42,130
And did they ever express
any astounded reactions

1575

01:40:42,130 --> 01:40:43,840
that they saw when
they arrived there?

1576

01:40:43,840 --> 01:40:46,570

1577

01:40:46,570 --> 01:40:49,900
Or were they prepared, do you

think for what they would find?

1578

01:40:49,900 --> 01:40:51,590

I don't think they
were prepared at all.

1579

01:40:51,590 --> 01:40:53,560

No.

1580

01:40:53,560 --> 01:40:56,350

I don't think they were
prepared, and just grew

1581

01:40:56,350 --> 01:41:00,820

into it, and somehow
got adjusted,

1582

01:41:00,820 --> 01:41:04,000

because they didn't see
any chance to get out,

1583

01:41:04,000 --> 01:41:06,490

and so they did what they
were supposed to in order

1584

01:41:06,490 --> 01:41:08,210

to be rewarded.

1585

01:41:08,210 --> 01:41:13,210

So they did that, and were very
eager to buy into the ideology,

1586

01:41:13,210 --> 01:41:17,090

because that would enable
them to sleep at night.

1587

01:41:17,090 --> 01:41:18,880

But very many
people had problems,

1588

01:41:18,880 --> 01:41:23,620

and therefore, drinking,
being drunk in these places

1589
01:41:23,620 --> 01:41:25,960
was very frequent--

1590
01:41:25,960 --> 01:41:33,580
and among all different ranks.

1591
01:41:33,580 --> 01:41:42,970
But it was very frequent, simply
because they needed to get out

1592
01:41:42,970 --> 01:41:45,850
of the situation, which
otherwise, they couldn't.

1593
01:41:45,850 --> 01:41:49,480
And alcohol was one
of the very few means,

1594
01:41:49,480 --> 01:41:54,210
because other drugs were
not available to begin with.

1595
01:41:54,210 --> 01:41:56,870
So they drank very heavily.

1596
01:41:56,870 --> 01:41:59,560
So even with the whole
process of dehumanization

1597
01:41:59,560 --> 01:42:02,170
and everything
that went with it,

1598
01:42:02,170 --> 01:42:05,350
it was not enough to
totally eradicate?

1599
01:42:05,350 --> 01:42:07,610
For quite a few,
yeah-- for quite a few.

1600

01:42:07,610 --> 01:42:09,970

And that is precisely
the interesting thing,

1601

01:42:09,970 --> 01:42:16,510

which-- we will not be able to
establish how many people were

1602

01:42:16,510 --> 01:42:23,380

really suffering or feeling
about what they were doing,

1603

01:42:23,380 --> 01:42:25,160

and how many people were not.

1604

01:42:25,160 --> 01:42:31,240

And there is one book which we
are using in our lecture series

1605

01:42:31,240 --> 01:42:32,080

next time--

1606

01:42:32,080 --> 01:42:34,750

1607

01:42:34,750 --> 01:42:42,490

is where one of the historians
has done very interesting

1608

01:42:42,490 --> 01:42:45,100

and, I think,
important research,

1609

01:42:45,100 --> 01:42:47,800

in going back to
the court documents

1610

01:42:47,800 --> 01:42:53,560

when a battalion of people
who were in the Einsatz--

1611

01:42:53,560 --> 01:43:03,640

part of the Einsatz group

were brought to justice

1612
01:43:03,640 --> 01:43:11,860
by the Germans after
World War II in Hamburg.

1613
01:43:11,860 --> 01:43:15,370
And he looked at
the court records

1614
01:43:15,370 --> 01:43:20,830
and find out how these people
responded to important leading

1615
01:43:20,830 --> 01:43:25,300
questions of that
nature, and came out

1616
01:43:25,300 --> 01:43:30,280
with some sort of
ideas that many--

1617
01:43:30,280 --> 01:43:33,250
probably the majority
adjusted and did

1618
01:43:33,250 --> 01:43:37,060
what they were supposed
to do, and other people

1619
01:43:37,060 --> 01:43:45,970
tried to find excuses to avoid
the mass killings in which they

1620
01:43:45,970 --> 01:43:48,130
were to participate--

1621
01:43:48,130 --> 01:43:51,940
found excuses or just were
able to somehow avoid it

1622
01:43:51,940 --> 01:43:53,080
in one way or another.

1623
01:43:53,080 --> 01:43:55,720
But they were in the minority.

1624
01:43:55,720 --> 01:43:59,770
And some of these people then
also adjusted, and then did it.

1625
01:43:59,770 --> 01:44:05,580

1626
01:44:05,580 --> 01:44:08,245
See, once you've found yourself
in this sort of situation,

1627
01:44:08,245 --> 01:44:12,770
it was very difficult
to get out of it.

1628
01:44:12,770 --> 01:44:16,370
It was not impossible,
but it was difficult.

1629
01:44:16,370 --> 01:44:21,310
And I think that needs to be
recognized, because just look

1630
01:44:21,310 --> 01:44:25,510
at people in our
time, when they would

1631
01:44:25,510 --> 01:44:27,680
be placed in this situation.

1632
01:44:27,680 --> 01:44:29,890
And we've got experiments--

1633
01:44:29,890 --> 01:44:34,220
Milgram, Zimbardo, and
some number of other ones--

1634
01:44:34,220 --> 01:44:39,280

how people behaved under
some degree of stress,

1635
01:44:39,280 --> 01:44:46,010
and how they respond to
authority telling them

1636
01:44:46,010 --> 01:44:50,770
you do that because I tell you
so, because I'm the authority.

1637
01:44:50,770 --> 01:44:55,750
I know best-- and people who
are educated, intelligent.

1638
01:44:55,750 --> 01:45:00,490
So it's something which
should not be underestimated.

1639
01:45:00,490 --> 01:45:03,100

1640
01:45:03,100 --> 01:45:05,950
Do you think that
the SS hierarchy

1641
01:45:05,950 --> 01:45:07,870
tended to choose
people who might be

1642
01:45:07,870 --> 01:45:10,190
more sadistic for in-camp jobs?

1643
01:45:10,190 --> 01:45:21,830

1644
01:45:21,830 --> 01:45:23,910
In some cases, they went--

1645
01:45:23,910 --> 01:45:25,770
had some
psychological-- whatever

1646

01:45:25,770 --> 01:45:28,440

they had at that
particular time in terms

1647

01:45:28,440 --> 01:45:31,260

of psychological
tests, inventories.

1648

01:45:31,260 --> 01:45:35,760

But I don't think they have
much use one way or another.

1649

01:45:35,760 --> 01:45:37,930

No, I think the--

1650

01:45:37,930 --> 01:45:40,050

if there was a
negative selection,

1651

01:45:40,050 --> 01:45:47,100

it was the appeal National
Socialists that is --

1652

01:45:47,100 --> 01:45:51,090

National Socialism
had for these people.

1653

01:45:51,090 --> 01:45:53,670

That, I think, was already
a negative selection,

1654

01:45:53,670 --> 01:45:58,440

because if that appeals
to you, the chances

1655

01:45:58,440 --> 01:46:03,780

are that you probably will
rank higher-- as I have tested,

1656

01:46:03,780 --> 01:46:09,420

rank higher on the so-called
fascist authoritarian scale.

1657

01:46:09,420 --> 01:46:12,610

And that, I think, is the case.

1658

01:46:12,610 --> 01:46:16,830

So therefore, you're more
susceptible to do things

1659

01:46:16,830 --> 01:46:21,300

and listen to
authority uncritically.

1660

01:46:21,300 --> 01:46:23,370

That much I can say.

1661

01:46:23,370 --> 01:46:25,560

But I don't think
they've selected people

1662

01:46:25,560 --> 01:46:32,200

who were a priori sadistic.

1663

01:46:32,200 --> 01:46:36,410

You talked before about the
notion of potentially violence

1664

01:46:36,410 --> 01:46:37,380

person--

1665

01:46:37,380 --> 01:46:37,990

Yeah.

1666

01:46:37,990 --> 01:46:43,290

--and having the
violence-prone atmosphere

1667

01:46:43,290 --> 01:46:44,630

meet up with it [INAUDIBLE].

1668

01:46:44,630 --> 01:46:46,300

Right.

1669

01:46:46,300 --> 01:46:49,740
And in the continuum say
that, in a cultural ethos

1670
01:46:49,740 --> 01:46:53,610
that might be in there
too, how do you think--

1671
01:46:53,610 --> 01:46:55,570
what's the entry point?

1672
01:46:55,570 --> 01:46:57,690
How does it start
and keep going?

1673
01:46:57,690 --> 01:46:58,830
Or where does it stop?

1674
01:46:58,830 --> 01:47:01,980

1675
01:47:01,980 --> 01:47:07,050
Well, and that is
precisely where I respond

1676
01:47:07,050 --> 01:47:10,410
with this notion of
a sleeper. we all,

1677
01:47:10,410 --> 01:47:17,310
to some degree or another,
have violence potential,

1678
01:47:17,310 --> 01:47:20,400
and this violence
potential comes forth

1679
01:47:20,400 --> 01:47:22,410
in certain situations--
for example,

1680
01:47:22,410 --> 01:47:26,700
where you lose your temper, or

where you just become physical,

1681
01:47:26,700 --> 01:47:29,130
or you cuss someone
out and behave

1682
01:47:29,130 --> 01:47:32,910
in a way which is not socially,
under "normal circumstances,"

1683
01:47:32,910 --> 01:47:34,920
quote, unquote, acceptable.

1684
01:47:34,920 --> 01:47:38,880

1685
01:47:38,880 --> 01:47:47,710
So when you get into
situations which

1686
01:47:47,710 --> 01:47:51,520
exert a great deal of
pressure on the individual,

1687
01:47:51,520 --> 01:47:56,710
then certain characteristics
which heretofore have not

1688
01:47:56,710 --> 01:48:02,530
come forth, were not
overtly expressed,

1689
01:48:02,530 --> 01:48:06,070
will be enacted upon.

1690
01:48:06,070 --> 01:48:07,180
They'll come out.

1691
01:48:07,180 --> 01:48:10,180

1692
01:48:10,180 --> 01:48:14,800

I think that is
only possible if--

1693
01:48:14,800 --> 01:48:19,330
as a person in power
structures situations which

1694
01:48:19,330 --> 01:48:23,720
will stimulate that in people.

1695
01:48:23,720 --> 01:48:27,880
And that's why it's so important
that the social structure has

1696
01:48:27,880 --> 01:48:32,830
to be structured
in a way in which

1697
01:48:32,830 --> 01:48:36,410
this sort of violent
potential we all have--

1698
01:48:36,410 --> 01:48:41,920
whether it's the family, or
the occupation, or whatever--

1699
01:48:41,920 --> 01:48:48,620
will not be furthered, will
simply not be stimulated.

1700
01:48:48,620 --> 01:48:52,510
And most of the people
who are in power

1701
01:48:52,510 --> 01:48:54,430
are very ignorant
of all the things

1702
01:48:54,430 --> 01:48:58,480
which we are discussing here,
and therefore, not mindful

1703
01:48:58,480 --> 01:49:01,840

that what they structure
is powerful individuals,

1704
01:49:01,840 --> 01:49:07,480
because they want to
structure society most.

1705
01:49:07,480 --> 01:49:10,300
They are not the only ones
to, be sure because, they also

1706
01:49:10,300 --> 01:49:15,280
have to be supported by people
who will go along with that,

1707
01:49:15,280 --> 01:49:16,960
but still--

1708
01:49:16,960 --> 01:49:20,110
so once you produce a
social structure which

1709
01:49:20,110 --> 01:49:26,230
will be violent-prone or will
permit outlets for violence,

1710
01:49:26,230 --> 01:49:28,270
you'll have it.

1711
01:49:28,270 --> 01:49:31,720
And the people who already
are repressed and somehow wait

1712
01:49:31,720 --> 01:49:36,610
for that moment to
behave violently

1713
01:49:36,610 --> 01:49:38,615
will jump to the occasion.

1714
01:49:38,615 --> 01:49:42,100

1715

01:49:42,100 --> 01:49:47,460

So do you think that, therefore,
this violence-prone atmosphere

1716

01:49:47,460 --> 01:49:51,060

serves the purpose
of people in power?

1717

01:49:51,060 --> 01:49:53,820

Well, if they are interested
in violence, yes--

1718

01:49:53,820 --> 01:49:58,050

particularly when they are
interested in violence the way

1719

01:49:58,050 --> 01:50:06,810

Saddam, or Hitler, or whoever
the people in Cambodia,

1720

01:50:06,810 --> 01:50:10,230

whatever-- in some other
places are interested in.

1721

01:50:10,230 --> 01:50:13,170

And then, of course,
they will structure it

1722

01:50:13,170 --> 01:50:20,730

so that they will
have roles to play

1723

01:50:20,730 --> 01:50:24,600

which will be officially
acceptable, socially

1724

01:50:24,600 --> 01:50:26,040

acceptable--

1725

01:50:26,040 --> 01:50:28,830

not only that, but will
be rewarded so that people

1726
01:50:28,830 --> 01:50:32,970
will do it and
become mass killers,

1727
01:50:32,970 --> 01:50:36,570
because this is rewarded,
and it's desirable,

1728
01:50:36,570 --> 01:50:40,530
and there are social
outlets for that

1729
01:50:40,530 --> 01:50:44,970
by way of creating roles
these people can play,

1730
01:50:44,970 --> 01:50:46,350
who are violence-prone.

1731
01:50:46,350 --> 01:50:49,380

1732
01:50:49,380 --> 01:50:52,380
In the question of the
person who is a sleeper,

1733
01:50:52,380 --> 01:50:55,030
is this person the
same in that respect,

1734
01:50:55,030 --> 01:50:59,190
or do you think different from
every person who has some anger

1735
01:50:59,190 --> 01:51:00,270
and violence-prone--

1736
01:51:00,270 --> 01:51:04,530
Well, no, we all are
sleepers, except some are--

1737
01:51:04,530 --> 01:51:09,060

1738

01:51:09,060 --> 01:51:11,970

takes more for us
to become aggressive

1739

01:51:11,970 --> 01:51:17,160

before we become aggressive, and
for some people of a very small

1740

01:51:17,160 --> 01:51:22,200

provocation suffices to
become aggressive and fly off

1741

01:51:22,200 --> 01:51:23,350

the handle.

1742

01:51:23,350 --> 01:51:26,940

And so we all are sleepers,
more or less and I've seen,

1743

01:51:26,940 --> 01:51:29,160

and that's why I developed
this sort of idea,

1744

01:51:29,160 --> 01:51:33,660

because what I could observe
in concentration camps--

1745

01:51:33,660 --> 01:51:38,520

how much does it take
until any one of us

1746

01:51:38,520 --> 01:51:42,840

will kill in order to live?

1747

01:51:42,840 --> 01:51:45,750

And this cattle wagon
situation, which

1748

01:51:45,750 --> 01:51:50,040

I've described in
some of my writings--

1749
01:51:50,040 --> 01:51:54,360
not published
writings-- is precisely

1750
01:51:54,360 --> 01:52:02,790
a situation where we all, with
the exception of perhaps 1%,

1751
01:52:02,790 --> 01:52:06,420
defended ourselves
against people

1752
01:52:06,420 --> 01:52:10,620
who might have killed us,
in terms of what they did,

1753
01:52:10,620 --> 01:52:14,500
in a way that we caused
the death of them.

1754
01:52:14,500 --> 01:52:18,990
And that is something which
needs to be acknowledged.

1755
01:52:18,990 --> 01:52:23,130
Now, for some people it
takes longer and more,

1756
01:52:23,130 --> 01:52:25,440
and for other people
it takes less.

1757
01:52:25,440 --> 01:52:30,660
So for example, the
inmate functionaries

1758
01:52:30,660 --> 01:52:34,830
who assumed functions that
were assigned by the SS

1759
01:52:34,830 --> 01:52:37,300
in concentration camps.

1760
01:52:37,300 --> 01:52:41,490
did it without any
sort of hesitation,

1761
01:52:41,490 --> 01:52:45,060
because it furthered
their life and made

1762
01:52:45,060 --> 01:52:47,850
their life more bearable
in concentration camps.

1763
01:52:47,850 --> 01:52:50,040
So that was the major
reason-- not because they

1764
01:52:50,040 --> 01:52:51,300
necessary were evil.

1765
01:52:51,300 --> 01:52:53,940
Some people were
sadists, and they

1766
01:52:53,940 --> 01:52:55,200
enjoyed what they were doing.

1767
01:52:55,200 --> 01:52:57,120
Yes, they existed also.

1768
01:52:57,120 --> 01:52:59,190
And we don't know
the exact percentage,

1769
01:52:59,190 --> 01:53:01,650
but in terms of
inmate functionaries,

1770
01:53:01,650 --> 01:53:05,100
I think it was exceedingly high.

1771
01:53:05,100 --> 01:53:07,950

And that is one of the
reasons why I never

1772
01:53:07,950 --> 01:53:13,530
would have assumed a function
myself, because the very moment

1773
01:53:13,530 --> 01:53:15,480
I had a function,
the chances are

1774
01:53:15,480 --> 01:53:23,940
that I would be guilty or
responsible for the loss

1775
01:53:23,940 --> 01:53:26,820
of life of fellow inmates.

1776
01:53:26,820 --> 01:53:30,120
And to me, I couldn't
have done it.

1777
01:53:30,120 --> 01:53:34,860
Under those circumstances, I
would have been pressed more,

1778
01:53:34,860 --> 01:53:37,740
as I was pressed in
this sort of cattle

1779
01:53:37,740 --> 01:53:43,110
open boxcar situation, where
I was suffocating and--

1780
01:53:43,110 --> 01:53:49,110
so I knew that the
person was suffocating me

1781
01:53:49,110 --> 01:53:51,480
so that I couldn't breathe--

1782
01:53:51,480 --> 01:53:53,970
that, if I pushed him away,

if I had enough strength

1783
01:53:53,970 --> 01:53:57,030
and I had enough strength
to ask him, please move--

1784
01:53:57,030 --> 01:54:00,480
which I did-- and when he
couldn't, I didn't move.

1785
01:54:00,480 --> 01:54:02,110
I said, I have to push you.

1786
01:54:02,110 --> 01:54:04,020
I don't want to push
you, because I, knew

1787
01:54:04,020 --> 01:54:06,900
when I pushed him, that
would be the end of him.

1788
01:54:06,900 --> 01:54:08,410
I knew that.

1789
01:54:08,410 --> 01:54:10,650
I knew that.

1790
01:54:10,650 --> 01:54:13,740
But I did, because if
I had not pushed him,

1791
01:54:13,740 --> 01:54:16,380
I would have died myself.

1792
01:54:16,380 --> 01:54:19,600
And that was the extreme
of the situations.

1793
01:54:19,600 --> 01:54:23,280
So yes, I'm also capable.

1794
01:54:23,280 --> 01:54:24,840

See?

1795

01:54:24,840 --> 01:54:26,640

So that was the
sleeper was awakened.

1796

01:54:26,640 --> 01:54:29,100

And there was only one
person among about 110,

1797

01:54:29,100 --> 01:54:35,940

120 people in that open
boxcar who chose to die.

1798

01:54:35,940 --> 01:54:40,750

And he was able-bodied,
strong, relatively well-fed,

1799

01:54:40,750 --> 01:54:44,080

and was a functionary before--
was an inmate functionary

1800

01:54:44,080 --> 01:54:45,370

before.

1801

01:54:45,370 --> 01:54:48,470

And I held his hand while
he was dying and all that,

1802

01:54:48,470 --> 01:54:50,710

and I could have helped
him and done what I could,

1803

01:54:50,710 --> 01:54:56,290

but he preferred to die
rather than defend himself--

1804

01:54:56,290 --> 01:55:01,390

one person, one person
in that group of people.

1805

01:55:01,390 --> 01:55:04,140

1806
01:55:04,140 --> 01:55:07,050
So I'm very much aware of it,
because in one way or another,

1807
01:55:07,050 --> 01:55:10,760
I'm guilty also, that
the sleeper was--

1808
01:55:10,760 --> 01:55:12,800
that my drive for
self-preservation

1809
01:55:12,800 --> 01:55:25,910
was strong than my feeling,
my concept of morality.

1810
01:55:25,910 --> 01:55:34,850
And I knew that I didn't want
to be the cause of anyone else's

1811
01:55:34,850 --> 01:55:40,520
death, even if it
was indirectly,

1812
01:55:40,520 --> 01:55:43,190
because I didn't kill anyone.

1813
01:55:43,190 --> 01:55:51,710
But I helped the
situation, in as far

1814
01:55:51,710 --> 01:55:58,560
as that I pushed that person,
and other people killed him.

1815
01:55:58,560 --> 01:56:00,450
Were you able to forgive
yourself for that?

1816
01:56:00,450 --> 01:56:07,560

1817
01:56:07,560 --> 01:56:09,420
I don't think forgive
is the right word.

1818
01:56:09,420 --> 01:56:16,080

1819
01:56:16,080 --> 01:56:18,120
I still question it.

1820
01:56:18,120 --> 01:56:19,260
I still question it.

1821
01:56:19,260 --> 01:56:22,380

1822
01:56:22,380 --> 01:56:24,540
It's not a question
of forgiveness,

1823
01:56:24,540 --> 01:56:31,860
but I still question
to what extent

1824
01:56:31,860 --> 01:56:37,740
this was acceptable
behavior for me.

1825
01:56:37,740 --> 01:56:39,330
And I still question it.

1826
01:56:39,330 --> 01:56:40,470
It's very important to me.

1827
01:56:40,470 --> 01:56:47,100
And I'll probably question
that until the end of my life,

1828
01:56:47,100 --> 01:56:58,675
because I disagree with
that but on the other hand,

1829

01:56:58,675 --> 01:57:01,340

I don't have-- still,
what would I do--

1830

01:57:01,340 --> 01:57:03,670

the question is, what
would I do today?

1831

01:57:03,670 --> 01:57:06,730

Because then I was
young, and I'm older,

1832

01:57:06,730 --> 01:57:12,040

so the chances are that I would
consider that in this decision.

1833

01:57:12,040 --> 01:57:14,600

1834

01:57:14,600 --> 01:57:20,230

And today I have less to
live for than I had then,

1835

01:57:20,230 --> 01:57:21,950

I guess-- although
I didn't believe

1836

01:57:21,950 --> 01:57:24,830

that I had a prayer to survive.

1837

01:57:24,830 --> 01:57:27,800

I didn't at that
particular point.

1838

01:57:27,800 --> 01:57:30,710

But that's the nature of the
drive for self-preservation.

1839

01:57:30,710 --> 01:57:36,230

Even if you intellectually
and otherwise

1840

01:57:36,230 --> 01:57:38,000
think that you
don't have a chance,

1841
01:57:38,000 --> 01:57:42,000
you still will act
as if you would.

1842
01:57:42,000 --> 01:57:43,220
Your body takes over.

1843
01:57:43,220 --> 01:57:45,660
That's right.

1844
01:57:45,660 --> 01:57:49,410
So I was attacked, and
people wanted to kill me,

1845
01:57:49,410 --> 01:57:53,100
and all this and that
out of self-preservation,

1846
01:57:53,100 --> 01:57:54,510
and I defended myself.

1847
01:57:54,510 --> 01:57:55,620
I used my teeth.

1848
01:57:55,620 --> 01:57:56,790
I used my feet.

1849
01:57:56,790 --> 01:58:00,480
I used anything I've had.

1850
01:58:00,480 --> 01:58:03,870
And obviously, I was successful.

1851
01:58:03,870 --> 01:58:15,660

1852
01:58:15,660 --> 01:58:19,290
Now, this is one

important point where

1853
01:58:19,290 --> 01:58:21,390
I think we all
have to-- those who

1854
01:58:21,390 --> 01:58:32,400
are survivors have to ask, at
whose expense have I survived?

1855
01:58:32,400 --> 01:58:35,970
What did I do which may
have caused the death

1856
01:58:35,970 --> 01:58:40,860
or injury to fellow inmates?

1857
01:58:40,860 --> 01:58:44,970
And that is something which
has not been done to my mind

1858
01:58:44,970 --> 01:58:50,280
in any sort of systematic
way, which is really

1859
01:58:50,280 --> 01:58:52,350
very bad, because there
is a great deal we

1860
01:58:52,350 --> 01:58:54,250
can learn from it.

1861
01:58:54,250 --> 01:58:56,760
But because it's a very
threatening situation

1862
01:58:56,760 --> 01:58:59,130
and because many of
the survivors-- and I

1863
01:58:59,130 --> 01:59:04,650
would say many survived at
the expense of someone else.

1864
01:59:04,650 --> 01:59:07,510
And today the morals
are very different.

1865
01:59:07,510 --> 01:59:09,460
The situation is very different.

1866
01:59:09,460 --> 01:59:12,210
It's a very frightening
thing for many people

1867
01:59:12,210 --> 01:59:16,980
to admit that they've
done something

1868
01:59:16,980 --> 01:59:21,090
which was, in
terms of our values

1869
01:59:21,090 --> 01:59:25,600
today, immoral or destructive.

1870
01:59:25,600 --> 01:59:29,550
And therefore, they just will
sweep it under the carpet

1871
01:59:29,550 --> 01:59:34,900
or shove it into
their subconscious

1872
01:59:34,900 --> 01:59:38,280
and not talk about it--

1873
01:59:38,280 --> 01:59:42,540
and if they talk about
these things, not admit it.

1874
01:59:42,540 --> 01:59:49,590
So there were the acts
that one did that aided

1875

01:59:49,590 --> 01:59:51,610
the death of someone else.

1876
01:59:51,610 --> 01:59:52,530
Well, yes.

1877
01:59:52,530 --> 01:59:57,750
Let me just give you
a very, so to speak,

1878
01:59:57,750 --> 02:00:03,900
innocent example,
when you queued up

1879
02:00:03,900 --> 02:00:07,650
to get your daily
soup, water soup,

1880
02:00:07,650 --> 02:00:13,890
you'd make quite a difference
if you queued up in a way

1881
02:00:13,890 --> 02:00:19,950
so that you got something when
the water was already removed--

1882
02:00:19,950 --> 02:00:23,360
the first people got their
water, particularly when--

1883
02:00:23,360 --> 02:02:24,000