

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:24,340

2
00:01:24,340 --> 00:01:26,620
I was just asking
if you remembered

3
00:01:26,620 --> 00:01:31,030
why General Wolff was
in a mental hospital

4
00:01:31,030 --> 00:01:35,420
or a mental section of
a hospital at a point.

5
00:01:35,420 --> 00:01:38,230
Well, one of the
major reasons was

6
00:01:38,230 --> 00:01:43,780
that he did not comply and
didn't behave according to what

7
00:01:43,780 --> 00:01:45,490
they were asking me to do.

8
00:01:45,490 --> 00:01:51,580
He somehow rebelled against
the way he was treated.

9
00:01:51,580 --> 00:01:56,380
He didn't want to say
things he felt that one

10
00:01:56,380 --> 00:01:59,200
wanted to get out of him.

11
00:01:59,200 --> 00:02:05,440
And to put him in a mental
place was a kind of punishment

12

00:02:05,440 --> 00:02:09,460
just to render him more
pliable and all that

13
00:02:09,460 --> 00:02:13,180
to just simply make him comply.

14
00:02:13,180 --> 00:02:17,020
And that, I think, was
primarily the major reason.

15
00:02:17,020 --> 00:02:19,960
Also, because he was
just getting out of hand.

16
00:02:19,960 --> 00:02:22,960
There was no question about
that during that time,

17
00:02:22,960 --> 00:02:24,130
he was also disturbed.

18
00:02:24,130 --> 00:02:28,970
I don't question that
as a real possibility.

19
00:02:28,970 --> 00:02:31,240
But I think it was
more of a hysteria.

20
00:02:31,240 --> 00:02:37,540
It was a response from
someone who was very high up

21
00:02:37,540 --> 00:02:39,850
to be treated in a
way which he felt

22
00:02:39,850 --> 00:02:51,250
was not acceptable to a
person of his rank, which

23
00:02:51,250 --> 00:02:53,440

he complained about, insisted.

24

00:02:53,440 --> 00:02:56,570

And he was the only
person, the only person.

25

00:02:56,570 --> 00:02:57,920

Of course, he was not accused.

26

00:02:57,920 --> 00:02:58,628

He was a witness.

27

00:02:58,628 --> 00:03:01,000

28

00:03:01,000 --> 00:03:05,590

And he was the only person
during the Nuremberg trials

29

00:03:05,590 --> 00:03:13,690

as a witness who was permitted
to retain his uniform with rank

30

00:03:13,690 --> 00:03:15,550

and everything.

31

00:03:15,550 --> 00:03:19,990

He was the only person,
period, because he insisted.

32

00:03:19,990 --> 00:03:25,240

And he could insist because
he had a lot of support

33

00:03:25,240 --> 00:03:30,130

because of the special peace
treaty, which he initiated

34

00:03:30,130 --> 00:03:37,430

with the assistance of Allen
Dulles, who, then, was in Bern,

35

00:03:37,430 --> 00:03:51,830
Switzerland and official during
the latter part of the World

36
00:03:51,830 --> 00:03:52,340
War II.

37
00:03:52,340 --> 00:03:55,120

38
00:03:55,120 --> 00:03:57,790
In your conversations
with Steiner,

39
00:03:57,790 --> 00:04:03,820
how did he explain
the apparent paradox

40
00:04:03,820 --> 00:04:11,260
between his attitude of
observing Geneva Convention

41
00:04:11,260 --> 00:04:19,480
regulations and the sort of anti
humanistic values of the SS.

42
00:04:19,480 --> 00:04:24,370
Well, he felt that
this was a outcome

43
00:04:24,370 --> 00:04:27,340
of any type of dictatorship.

44
00:04:27,340 --> 00:04:30,730
I mean, he was very
critical of Hitler

45
00:04:30,730 --> 00:04:37,180
in contrast to Wolff, who was
not at all, on the contrary.

46
00:04:37,180 --> 00:04:39,700
And he had some conflicts.

47
00:04:39,700 --> 00:04:43,870
And Hitler didn't like him
because he talked back.

48
00:04:43,870 --> 00:04:47,440
And also, when he was
receiving the order to defend

49
00:04:47,440 --> 00:04:53,680
Berlin during the last days
and had the Army Corps.

50
00:04:53,680 --> 00:04:55,930
Army Corps Steiner was called.

51
00:04:55,930 --> 00:05:00,580
Army Corps Steiner
was given a very--

52
00:05:00,580 --> 00:05:05,380
to defend Berlin and actually
for all technical purposes

53
00:05:05,380 --> 00:05:07,975
defend Hitler's last outpost.

54
00:05:07,975 --> 00:05:10,360
[CLEARS THROAT]

55
00:05:10,360 --> 00:05:16,750
He refused to carry
it out because he

56
00:05:16,750 --> 00:05:20,080
said, I was not going to
risk the life of my man

57
00:05:20,080 --> 00:05:25,030
when it was perfectly clear
that the war was lost,

58

00:05:25,030 --> 00:05:27,670
that the war could
not be possibly won.

59
00:05:27,670 --> 00:05:28,790
But the war was lost.

60
00:05:28,790 --> 00:05:37,900
And I was not going to risk my
man for a hopeless endeavor.

61
00:05:37,900 --> 00:05:44,410
And therefore, he did not
act upon Hitler's orders.

62
00:05:44,410 --> 00:05:50,020
And Hitler as a consequence
shortly before he

63
00:05:50,020 --> 00:05:54,790
committed suicide anyway,
but as a consequence,

64
00:05:54,790 --> 00:06:05,470
he fell into a rage and said
that none of the people, even

65
00:06:05,470 --> 00:06:07,630
the SS, now is disloyal to him.

66
00:06:07,630 --> 00:06:12,600

67
00:06:12,600 --> 00:06:16,080
Now, the coat he
wears, Wolff has,

68
00:06:16,080 --> 00:06:19,860
because he didn't want to be
photographed in just a shirt.

69
00:06:19,860 --> 00:06:23,430
So I let him have my coat.

70

00:06:23,430 --> 00:06:29,820

And so he just hung it over
his shoulders, because it was,

71

00:06:29,820 --> 00:06:33,720

I think, too small for him.

72

00:06:33,720 --> 00:06:36,633

And so that was kind
of funny because he

73

00:06:36,633 --> 00:06:37,925

didn't want to be photographed.

74

00:06:37,925 --> 00:06:41,880

And at that particular
time, I was just

75

00:06:41,880 --> 00:06:44,820

beginning to annoy him that
must have been during one

76

00:06:44,820 --> 00:06:51,090

of the early visits to
his beautiful villa, which

77

00:06:51,090 --> 00:07:00,255

was almost the castle next to
a lake on a lake in Bavaria.

78

00:07:00,255 --> 00:07:14,640

79

00:07:14,640 --> 00:07:24,660

So the gentleman on the
left is Hitler's adjutant,

80

00:07:24,660 --> 00:07:29,100

SS adjutant whom he selected.

81

00:07:29,100 --> 00:07:31,930

And I interviewed him.

82
00:07:31,930 --> 00:07:37,170
I had a long interview with
him and several relationships,

83
00:07:37,170 --> 00:07:39,580
several encounters with him.

84
00:07:39,580 --> 00:07:49,440
And he, of course, was
still very much enamored

85
00:07:49,440 --> 00:07:52,860
with Hitler, and
defender of Hitler.

86
00:07:52,860 --> 00:07:55,665

87
00:07:55,665 --> 00:08:02,910
You can see him in the rank of
a major in the major in the SS,

88
00:08:02,910 --> 00:08:06,600
or was it actually
Lieutenant Colonel?

89
00:08:06,600 --> 00:08:09,000
No, I think it was major then.

90
00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:24,620
And he was one of the younger
generation who were socialized

91
00:08:24,620 --> 00:08:27,920
to be 150% Nazis.

92
00:08:27,920 --> 00:08:36,409
And he's one of the examples
of a young officer who

93

00:08:36,409 --> 00:08:39,890
was in conflict with
the older officers.

94
00:08:39,890 --> 00:08:44,900
He, for example, hated
both and tried everything

95
00:08:44,900 --> 00:08:45,680
to lure him in.

96
00:08:45,680 --> 00:08:49,010
After the war, wrote bad
things about him, badmouthed.

97
00:08:49,010 --> 00:08:51,380
And the interesting
thing is Wolff

98
00:08:51,380 --> 00:08:57,440
asked me to be a liaison between
him, Wolff, and this fellow.

99
00:08:57,440 --> 00:09:01,310
[COUGHS] And I did
it because that way,

100
00:09:01,310 --> 00:09:04,580
I was able to get
to know more people

101
00:09:04,580 --> 00:09:08,510
and the problems within the SS.

102
00:09:08,510 --> 00:09:12,440
And without this sort
of thing, I never

103
00:09:12,440 --> 00:09:19,220
would have been able
to find out about some

104
00:09:19,220 --> 00:09:24,410

of the underlying conflicts
which existed already

105
00:09:24,410 --> 00:09:26,960
during the Third Reich
and were carried over

106
00:09:26,960 --> 00:09:30,485
into the [CLEARS THROAT]
postwar Germany.

107
00:09:30,485 --> 00:09:50,900

108
00:09:50,900 --> 00:09:52,640
Yeah, that's just about it.

109
00:09:52,640 --> 00:10:11,520

110
00:10:11,520 --> 00:10:18,570
This is a picture of General
Wolff with his girlfriend, whom

111
00:10:18,570 --> 00:10:19,560
he wanted to marry.

112
00:10:19,560 --> 00:10:24,030
And when they went out and
went to some official places,

113
00:10:24,030 --> 00:10:27,300
he introduced her as his niece.

114
00:10:27,300 --> 00:10:30,330
And people were laughing
because most of the people

115
00:10:30,330 --> 00:10:34,170
knew that they had
a relationship.

116

00:10:34,170 --> 00:10:39,300
And she met him during
the trial in Munich

117
00:10:39,300 --> 00:10:44,370
and somehow fell in love with
him while he was on trial

118
00:10:44,370 --> 00:10:51,360
and started initiating
contact with him.

119
00:10:51,360 --> 00:10:55,680
And that developed into a
relationship very quickly.

120
00:10:55,680 --> 00:10:57,420
And he had quite a
number of ladies,

121
00:10:57,420 --> 00:11:00,940
but she was the most
loyal and most helpful.

122
00:11:00,940 --> 00:11:06,120
The other one,
Nana, who was very

123
00:11:06,120 --> 00:11:10,350
close to him whom he liked
much better than this one

124
00:11:10,350 --> 00:11:16,500
because she was a real
beauty but was married

125
00:11:16,500 --> 00:11:27,490
and a Jehovah's Witness,
too good, died of cancer.

126
00:11:27,490 --> 00:11:30,100
And so he was left with her.

127

00:11:30,100 --> 00:11:33,240
And she really took care of him.

128
00:11:33,240 --> 00:11:35,580
She supported him financially.

129
00:11:35,580 --> 00:11:40,560
She cleaned for
him and all that.

130
00:11:40,560 --> 00:11:43,980
Then, finally, she
was transferred

131
00:11:43,980 --> 00:11:53,520
to Bavaria and with her brother,
built some sort of a house

132
00:11:53,520 --> 00:11:56,610
or refurbished a house,
which they bought.

133
00:11:56,610 --> 00:12:00,450
And he moved in with her.

134
00:12:00,450 --> 00:12:02,852
And he lived with
her until he died.

135
00:12:02,852 --> 00:12:03,810
But they never married.

136
00:12:03,810 --> 00:12:06,450

137
00:12:06,450 --> 00:12:10,950
And so when he told me
that he was just about

138
00:12:10,950 --> 00:12:14,670
to thinking of
getting married to her

139

00:12:14,670 --> 00:12:17,520

because he had divorced
his second wife,

140

00:12:17,520 --> 00:12:19,800

the one I showed you
on the other picture

141

00:12:19,800 --> 00:12:24,600

with whom he lived in this
villa, in this castle,

142

00:12:24,600 --> 00:12:27,840

like a place at the lake.

143

00:12:27,840 --> 00:12:35,100

So I stayed with the two of us
in his apartment in Dusseldorf

144

00:12:35,100 --> 00:12:39,090

and as well as in the
other place where she then

145

00:12:39,090 --> 00:12:43,740

had half of the house and lived
with him back in Dusseldorf.

146

00:12:43,740 --> 00:12:47,010

And he told me that he was
just about to considering

147

00:12:47,010 --> 00:12:51,870

marrying her since he obtained
a divorce from his second wife.

148

00:12:51,870 --> 00:12:58,140

He also offered me that if I
would last for his girlfriend,

149

00:12:58,140 --> 00:13:00,180

I could have her.

150

00:13:00,180 --> 00:13:02,160
And he would move
out of the bed.

151
00:13:02,160 --> 00:13:03,270
And I could move in.

152
00:13:03,270 --> 00:13:06,150
And that it was
part of the Germanic

153
00:13:06,150 --> 00:13:14,310
the Germanic customs to share
this with a special friend.

154
00:13:14,310 --> 00:13:18,870
So that, to me, was a very
interesting sort of experience,

155
00:13:18,870 --> 00:13:20,970
but I didn't take
advantage of this offer.

156
00:13:20,970 --> 00:13:24,430

157
00:13:24,430 --> 00:13:29,410
Now, she's still around and
whenever I'm in Germany,

158
00:13:29,410 --> 00:13:31,450
I visit her or at
least talk to her.

159
00:13:31,450 --> 00:13:35,500
So I always go to that place,
stay there for several days,

160
00:13:35,500 --> 00:13:40,300
and we discuss old days.

161
00:13:40,300 --> 00:13:43,360
And she introduces

me to other people

162
00:13:43,360 --> 00:13:47,890
who are still very
much infatuated

163
00:13:47,890 --> 00:13:49,900
with national socialism.

164
00:13:49,900 --> 00:13:52,780
And that gives me an
opportunity to meet new people

165
00:13:52,780 --> 00:13:55,090
and talk to them and see
what makes them tick.

166
00:13:55,090 --> 00:13:58,569
[COUGHS]

167
00:13:58,569 --> 00:14:02,875

168
00:14:02,875 --> 00:14:05,620
I forgot to say the
name of the person

169
00:14:05,620 --> 00:14:07,360
with Hitler, the other officer.

170
00:14:07,360 --> 00:14:10,980
His name was Richard
Schulze-Kossens.

171
00:14:10,980 --> 00:14:16,000

172
00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:17,740
There may be another
picture of him.

173
00:14:17,740 --> 00:14:20,050

Does this woman
know you're Jewish?

174
00:14:20,050 --> 00:14:20,560
Jewish?

175
00:14:20,560 --> 00:14:21,530
Yeah.

176
00:14:21,530 --> 00:14:22,030
No.

177
00:14:22,030 --> 00:14:24,790

178
00:14:24,790 --> 00:14:26,605
Even now, after the radio show?

179
00:14:26,605 --> 00:14:29,410

180
00:14:29,410 --> 00:14:31,780
She may found out
eventually, and I

181
00:14:31,780 --> 00:14:36,010
was going to tell him
at an opportune time,

182
00:14:36,010 --> 00:14:39,610
and he would have
accepted it, and he would

183
00:14:39,610 --> 00:14:45,430
have probably respected it.

184
00:14:45,430 --> 00:14:50,800
But he died on me before
the time was ready for me

185
00:14:50,800 --> 00:14:53,740
to tell him that.

186
00:14:53,740 --> 00:15:02,200
She is very openly anti-Semitic
to the present day.

187
00:15:02,200 --> 00:15:08,230
She comes out with very
clear-cut anti-Semitic notions.

188
00:15:08,230 --> 00:15:11,260
And we discussed them,
and I challenged them,

189
00:15:11,260 --> 00:15:15,250
but she's very
outspoken about that

190
00:15:15,250 --> 00:15:21,250
and in touch with the Himmler's
daughter [CLEARS THROAT]

191
00:15:21,250 --> 00:15:23,620
and the other former Nazis.

192
00:15:23,620 --> 00:15:32,680

193
00:15:32,680 --> 00:15:35,410
I've heard about that as in
both Native American and Eskimo

194
00:15:35,410 --> 00:15:37,440
culture.

195
00:15:37,440 --> 00:15:40,900
It really is the main place
that that's been talking.

196
00:15:40,900 --> 00:15:48,280
Yeah, well, when I was
visiting the ex-general Wolff,

197

00:15:48,280 --> 00:15:52,810
SS General Wolff in
prison in Bavaria,

198
00:15:52,810 --> 00:16:00,430
I went there once with
one Swedish lady who

199
00:16:00,430 --> 00:16:02,050
was particularly interested.

200
00:16:02,050 --> 00:16:07,210
She was a relative by
marriage of Hermann Goring.

201
00:16:07,210 --> 00:16:13,600
And after the war, she
remarried, and then, I think,

202
00:16:13,600 --> 00:16:14,540
was widowed.

203
00:16:14,540 --> 00:16:15,850
He died, her husband.

204
00:16:15,850 --> 00:16:23,710
And she was known as the
angel of political prisoners

205
00:16:23,710 --> 00:16:26,140
because she went there
and aided the people who

206
00:16:26,140 --> 00:16:29,920
were incarcerated
because there were Nazis

207
00:16:29,920 --> 00:16:32,480
or whatever, SS, whatever.

208
00:16:32,480 --> 00:16:36,820
So she specialized to
aid these prisoners.

209
00:16:36,820 --> 00:16:43,180
And I got to know her
because of my association

210
00:16:43,180 --> 00:16:48,070
with the German criminological
association, member

211
00:16:48,070 --> 00:16:53,500
of the German
criminological association.

212
00:16:53,500 --> 00:16:55,630
And I was introduced to her.

213
00:16:55,630 --> 00:17:01,150
And we then, for a while,
had lots of common interests

214
00:17:01,150 --> 00:17:02,030
in discussing them.

215
00:17:02,030 --> 00:17:05,140
So she was not a
Nazi, but she felt

216
00:17:05,140 --> 00:17:07,450
that these people
were neglected and had

217
00:17:07,450 --> 00:17:11,380
no one who would render
any support to them.

218
00:17:11,380 --> 00:17:13,750
And that's why she
did what she did.

219
00:17:13,750 --> 00:17:20,619
So during one of the visits, I
met this person who was there,

220

00:17:20,619 --> 00:17:25,450

had several lifetime sentences for what

221

00:17:25,450 --> 00:17:34,060

he did at the concentration camp at Buchenwald.

222

00:17:34,060 --> 00:17:38,470

And he was known as the Hangman of Buchenwald

223

00:17:38,470 --> 00:17:43,150

and was a young, very cruel person

224

00:17:43,150 --> 00:17:44,920

according to people who knew him.

225

00:17:44,920 --> 00:17:51,490

And also, [Personal name] and many writers on Buchenwald

226

00:17:51,490 --> 00:17:56,740

invariably cite him as one of the most cruel persons.

227

00:17:56,740 --> 00:17:59,620

Now, I was particularly interested in that.

228

00:17:59,620 --> 00:18:02,800

And he wrote me for very many years.

229

00:18:02,800 --> 00:18:05,080

I have about 100 letters or more.

230

00:18:05,080 --> 00:18:07,480

Hundreds of letters, actually, he wrote to me.

231
00:18:07,480 --> 00:18:10,900

232
00:18:10,900 --> 00:18:13,480
He adopted me
somehow as a family

233
00:18:13,480 --> 00:18:18,130
and some sort of a combination
of family and father confessor.

234
00:18:18,130 --> 00:18:22,330
So the letters by themselves
written by these persons

235
00:18:22,330 --> 00:18:25,150
are actually of
tremendous interest

236
00:18:25,150 --> 00:18:32,020
and would be very
useful to be applied

237
00:18:32,020 --> 00:18:35,720
to some sort of
research project.

238
00:18:35,720 --> 00:18:37,880
What was his actual name?

239
00:18:37,880 --> 00:18:38,380
Huh?

240
00:18:38,380 --> 00:18:50,940
His name was
Sommer, S-O-M-M-E-R.

241
00:18:50,940 --> 00:18:58,890
So this is again
Gerhard Martin Sommer,

242

00:18:58,890 --> 00:19:02,160
known as the infamous
Hangman of Buchenwald.

243
00:19:02,160 --> 00:19:04,110
And I took many
of the photographs

244
00:19:04,110 --> 00:19:09,540
because he was totally
invalid because what happened,

245
00:19:09,540 --> 00:19:12,420
he's commandant to
Koch, was a Colonel

246
00:19:12,420 --> 00:19:16,830
in the SS,
misappropriated funds,

247
00:19:16,830 --> 00:19:24,330
and did things which were
against the type of sense

248
00:19:24,330 --> 00:19:27,960
of propriety of
Himmler and the ISS.

249
00:19:27,960 --> 00:19:29,580
And he was shot.

250
00:19:29,580 --> 00:19:34,560
They sentenced him to death,
and because some of us

251
00:19:34,560 --> 00:19:37,260
working very closely with Koch.

252
00:19:37,260 --> 00:19:40,500
He was also
incarcerated for a while

253
00:19:40,500 --> 00:19:43,210

and then they sent
him to the front.

254
00:19:43,210 --> 00:19:45,150
He was taken out of
the concentration camp

255
00:19:45,150 --> 00:19:46,620
and sent to the front.

256
00:19:46,620 --> 00:19:50,650
And then he was wounded on
several occasions or just

257
00:19:50,650 --> 00:19:51,150
once--

258
00:19:51,150 --> 00:19:55,950
I forget now-- and was
absolutely totally crippled.

259
00:19:55,950 --> 00:19:57,780
But that, of course,
didn't prevent him

260
00:19:57,780 --> 00:20:05,610
from being then accused because
he was an entity in Buchenwald

261
00:20:05,610 --> 00:20:11,370
and did untold damage and killed
an untold number of people,

262
00:20:11,370 --> 00:20:13,290
murdered them anyway.

263
00:20:13,290 --> 00:20:16,800
And so, therefore,
he was sentenced

264
00:20:16,800 --> 00:20:26,270
and received a I don't know
how many times life sentence.

265

00:20:26,270 --> 00:20:28,370

And he never was
going to get out.

266

00:20:28,370 --> 00:20:32,740

But because they could
not take care of him

267

00:20:32,740 --> 00:20:38,180

in the Bavarian prison, they
sent him to a nursing home.

268

00:20:38,180 --> 00:20:42,410

And he was there under guard and
under strict sort of situation,

269

00:20:42,410 --> 00:20:44,360

but, of course, a
tremendous improvement

270

00:20:44,360 --> 00:20:46,940

because he was just
like in a hospital,

271

00:20:46,940 --> 00:20:51,530

in a nursing home,
very nice facility.

272

00:20:51,530 --> 00:20:55,790

I went to visit him there
on numerous occasions.

273

00:20:55,790 --> 00:21:01,010

Also had, before he died,
taped interview with him,

274

00:21:01,010 --> 00:21:02,360

which I had neglected to do.

275

00:21:02,360 --> 00:21:05,520

He wrote me an
autobiographical account,

276
00:21:05,520 --> 00:21:07,280
which is exceedingly
interesting,

277
00:21:07,280 --> 00:21:11,990
part of which I've
published in my book.

278
00:21:11,990 --> 00:21:17,730
And so that is
Gerhard Martin Sommer.

279
00:21:17,730 --> 00:21:21,530
And I took all these pictures
of him when I visited him.

280
00:21:21,530 --> 00:21:30,860
And then he was just
had undergone surgery.

281
00:21:30,860 --> 00:21:34,670
And I took the photo of him.

282
00:21:34,670 --> 00:21:36,710
Surgery in several
places, it looks like.

283
00:21:36,710 --> 00:21:39,950
Yeah, it was all infected.

284
00:21:39,950 --> 00:21:43,700

285
00:21:43,700 --> 00:21:44,450
He was a wreck.

286
00:21:44,450 --> 00:21:45,950
There is no question about that.

287
00:21:45,950 --> 00:21:49,878
So because he was a

wreck, I was able to have

288

00:21:49,878 --> 00:21:51,920
a little bit of a different
relationship with him

289

00:21:51,920 --> 00:21:55,290
because in a way, I
felt sorry for him.

290

00:21:55,290 --> 00:22:01,730
I sent him money and bought
him things occasionally and all

291

00:22:01,730 --> 00:22:02,780
that, sent him things.

292

00:22:02,780 --> 00:22:08,070
And he was very, very
grateful because he

293

00:22:08,070 --> 00:22:09,350
was totally isolated.

294

00:22:09,350 --> 00:22:12,080
In a way, in spite
of what he did,

295

00:22:12,080 --> 00:22:15,350
I had some sort of
compassion for him

296

00:22:15,350 --> 00:22:18,380
because he was
left totally alone.

297

00:22:18,380 --> 00:22:19,550
His wife divorced him.

298

00:22:19,550 --> 00:22:25,040
Everyone just simply left
him because he was bad news.

299

00:22:25,040 --> 00:22:25,670

I don't know.

300

00:22:25,670 --> 00:22:29,225

It was kind of strange.

301

00:22:29,225 --> 00:22:32,600

I had some feeling
of compassion.

302

00:22:32,600 --> 00:22:35,180

On the other hand, I
told him, hey, you know.

303

00:22:35,180 --> 00:22:41,142

But he was a person who denied
many of the things and said,

304

00:22:41,142 --> 00:22:43,100

you know, you have to
understand this and that.

305

00:22:43,100 --> 00:22:45,530

And what [Personal
name] writes, he

306

00:22:45,530 --> 00:22:48,860

doesn't really know because
he didn't see what was behind.

307

00:22:48,860 --> 00:22:51,740

But there is absolutely no
question that what the man did

308

00:22:51,740 --> 00:22:52,770

was terrible.

309

00:22:52,770 --> 00:22:55,310

And then he justified and said,
well, you should have asked.

310

00:22:55,310 --> 00:22:56,780

Oh, yeah, and that's one thing.

311
00:22:56,780 --> 00:23:01,990
He also aided one
doctor in Buchenwald

312
00:23:01,990 --> 00:23:06,500
in his killing people
with injections.

313
00:23:06,500 --> 00:23:11,398
So he aided him.

314
00:23:11,398 --> 00:23:13,190
And he said, well, what
should I have done?

315
00:23:13,190 --> 00:23:14,840
These people are
sentenced to death.

316
00:23:14,840 --> 00:23:17,780
The order came from Berlin.

317
00:23:17,780 --> 00:23:24,500
And should I have said I would
like to see the sentence.

318
00:23:24,500 --> 00:23:26,840
I would like to have
proof of it and all that.

319
00:23:26,840 --> 00:23:30,780
And it couldn't be done.

320
00:23:30,780 --> 00:23:34,670
And so he went along
and did these things.

321
00:23:34,670 --> 00:23:38,870
And some people say that he did
all these things with relish,

322

00:23:38,870 --> 00:23:42,630

that he was actually sadistic
and enjoyed doing that.

323

00:23:42,630 --> 00:23:45,950

He was then in his
early 20s and had

324

00:23:45,950 --> 00:23:49,670

fairly high non commissioned
rank in the senate

325

00:23:49,670 --> 00:23:50,975

as a non-commissioned officer.

326

00:23:50,975 --> 00:23:54,410

327

00:23:54,410 --> 00:23:56,620

You say he denied
doing these things?

328

00:23:56,620 --> 00:24:00,560

No, he denied some of it
and said, well, you know,

329

00:24:00,560 --> 00:24:02,270

there are certain
things I had to do.

330

00:24:02,270 --> 00:24:03,320

I couldn't help it.

331

00:24:03,320 --> 00:24:05,060

But I didn't enjoy doing it.

332

00:24:05,060 --> 00:24:07,040

And when I could, I
helped these people

333

00:24:07,040 --> 00:24:10,770

and make it a bit

easier for them.

334
00:24:10,770 --> 00:24:13,490
And when I was supposed
to, for example,

335
00:24:13,490 --> 00:24:17,990
beat them up officially
in front of other inmates.

336
00:24:17,990 --> 00:24:20,690
I just hit them in such
a way that it would not

337
00:24:20,690 --> 00:24:21,530
be that painful.

338
00:24:21,530 --> 00:24:23,430
So these sort of
things he told me.

339
00:24:23,430 --> 00:24:27,260
But I could write a book
just on that person's story

340
00:24:27,260 --> 00:24:29,520
because I've got
so much material.

341
00:24:29,520 --> 00:24:32,460
And as I said, probably
hundreds of letters,

342
00:24:32,460 --> 00:24:36,395
which he wrote to me
very, very consistently.

343
00:24:36,395 --> 00:24:43,850
He wrote to me just like
periodically, just like him.

344
00:24:43,850 --> 00:24:47,000
So what is redeeming

about the man then?

345

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:49,040

Well, redeeming is--

346

00:24:49,040 --> 00:24:50,360

Too far.

347

00:24:50,360 --> 00:24:53,360

--not very much, actually.

348

00:24:53,360 --> 00:24:58,700

Redeeming is the thing that
the man was a total wreck.

349

00:24:58,700 --> 00:25:01,580

And that he tried
to come to terms,

350

00:25:01,580 --> 00:25:06,920

it was a very
unsophisticated and, I

351

00:25:06,920 --> 00:25:13,910

would say, primitive
person and who

352

00:25:13,910 --> 00:25:16,730

was not stupid but not
very intelligent, totally

353

00:25:16,730 --> 00:25:19,220

uneducated.

354

00:25:19,220 --> 00:25:26,150

And so in his way, because
I pushed and pressed him,

355

00:25:26,150 --> 00:25:32,030

he was trying to come to
terms with what he had done.

356

00:25:32,030 --> 00:25:35,480
But he tried and, to
some extent, succeeded.

357
00:25:35,480 --> 00:25:39,090
Some things he admitted
and some things he said,

358
00:25:39,090 --> 00:25:41,180
well, I wrote about things.

359
00:25:41,180 --> 00:25:44,030
I had to do certain things.

360
00:25:44,030 --> 00:25:47,480
And I very frequently
thought when

361
00:25:47,480 --> 00:25:51,140
these people were sent to
Buchenwald and were punished

362
00:25:51,140 --> 00:25:55,970
and all that, this person
could have been my father.

363
00:25:55,970 --> 00:25:59,000
And so that was quite an
admission I got in that fine.

364
00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:00,230
And we discussed this thing.

365
00:26:00,230 --> 00:26:07,610
And unfortunately, I don't know
what happened to my letters

366
00:26:07,610 --> 00:26:08,660
to him.

367
00:26:08,660 --> 00:26:11,300
And that would be interesting
because I didn't-- after he

368
00:26:11,300 --> 00:26:13,490
died, I don't know what
happened to his positions.

369
00:26:13,490 --> 00:26:14,300
The state took it.

370
00:26:14,300 --> 00:26:16,320
Whatever they did destroyed it.

371
00:26:16,320 --> 00:26:18,380
But of course, I
have all his letters,

372
00:26:18,380 --> 00:26:22,010
and they all were going
through the censure.

373
00:26:22,010 --> 00:26:26,810
You know, they all were read
by the prison authorities

374
00:26:26,810 --> 00:26:30,170
or whatever before I got them.

375
00:26:30,170 --> 00:26:33,980
But some of them are
really very moving,

376
00:26:33,980 --> 00:26:39,590
and also, some of the
autobiographic accounts.

377
00:26:39,590 --> 00:26:43,010
And he has written about
two or three for me.

378
00:26:43,010 --> 00:26:45,950
And I always pushed him
to go further and deeper.

379

00:26:45,950 --> 00:26:54,200
And so that was very helpful
for him psychologically

380
00:26:54,200 --> 00:26:56,180
to have someone who was
sufficiently industry

381
00:26:56,180 --> 00:26:57,020
in pushing him.

382
00:26:57,020 --> 00:27:00,800
And he was not towards me.

383
00:27:00,800 --> 00:27:04,970
He somehow adored me.

384
00:27:04,970 --> 00:27:07,340
He thought I was
the greatest, simply

385
00:27:07,340 --> 00:27:13,640
because I put up with
him and showed concern.

386
00:27:13,640 --> 00:27:15,020
Did he know you were a survivor?

387
00:27:15,020 --> 00:27:17,000
Oh, yes, of course.

388
00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:20,070
Did he know you were Jewish?

389
00:27:20,070 --> 00:27:21,560
Well, yes.

390
00:27:21,560 --> 00:27:24,230
In this sort of way,
he absolutely knew.

391
00:27:24,230 --> 00:27:26,990

But he also
understood that people

392
00:27:26,990 --> 00:27:29,678
who were considered to be
Jewish under the Nuremberg law

393
00:27:29,678 --> 00:27:30,845
were not necessarily Jewish.

394
00:27:30,845 --> 00:27:34,340

395
00:27:34,340 --> 00:27:35,930
But, yeah.

396
00:27:35,930 --> 00:27:38,160
Yes, absolutely so.

397
00:27:38,160 --> 00:27:40,340
So he admits to doing
many of these acts,

398
00:27:40,340 --> 00:27:43,140
but he does deny
his enjoyment of it?

399
00:27:43,140 --> 00:27:44,342
Oh, absolutely.

400
00:27:44,342 --> 00:27:47,790

401
00:27:47,790 --> 00:27:53,250
Duress and all that, yeah,
absolutely denied it.

402
00:27:53,250 --> 00:27:56,400
But very interesting
correspondence,

403
00:27:56,400 --> 00:27:59,580

very interesting
autobiographic account.

404
00:27:59,580 --> 00:28:02,460
As I said, the most
important things

405
00:28:02,460 --> 00:28:07,450
were published in the book.

406
00:28:07,450 --> 00:28:13,980
And then the interview, the
last interview I had with him,

407
00:28:13,980 --> 00:28:14,670
I taped.

408
00:28:14,670 --> 00:28:19,950
Unfortunately, I
used a tape recorder

409
00:28:19,950 --> 00:28:21,680
which was on its way out.

410
00:28:21,680 --> 00:28:24,480

411
00:28:24,480 --> 00:28:27,120
The quality is not
good, unfortunately.

412
00:28:27,120 --> 00:28:33,060
But it can be understood.

413
00:28:33,060 --> 00:28:34,950
OK, Gerhard Martin Sommer.

414
00:28:34,950 --> 00:28:39,710

415
00:28:39,710 --> 00:28:42,800
Since we're not allowed to say.

416

00:28:42,800 --> 00:28:49,760

So this is after I've departed
from a visit to Wolff.

417

00:28:49,760 --> 00:28:54,230

And you can see in the
mirror there, in the glass,

418

00:28:54,230 --> 00:29:03,350

mirrored is Wolff who actually
took the photograph during one

419

00:29:03,350 --> 00:29:05,360

of my visits.

420

00:29:05,360 --> 00:29:07,760

There ought to be some more
of that, but maybe not.

421

00:29:07,760 --> 00:29:10,330

Maybe it's in the other batch.

422

00:29:10,330 --> 00:31:10,000