**United States Holocaust Memorial MuseumPRIVATE**

**Interview with George Reuter**

**March 18, 1991**

**RG-50.028\*0050PREFACE**

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**GEORGE REUTER**

**March 18, 1991**

Q. Today is March 18, 1991. We're inPRIVATE (Ishborn‑phonetic) Germany, just outside of Frankfurt, interviewing one of the Jehovah's Witnesses. Would you please give us your name and your address?

A. My name is George Reuter. We are living in Spain, actually (Allecanter‑phon), but now we are here with our family because I am the husband of Magdalena Reuter, and her sister is Annemarie Coussereau and Waltraud Coussereau. So we are here in vacation time and to see our family and my brother, and he is in (Deltus‑phon), and we call it Bethel, the Watchtower Bible and (inaudible) society in Germany, so this time is a good time to see our family.

Q. Would you please give us your date of birth and where you were born?

A. I'm ‑‑ I'm born in Essen, and the date is 27 of July 1924. So now I have almost 61, oh, what is it? Sixty-six, yes.

Q. Would you tell us the name of your parents, please, your mother and your father?

A. Yes. My father is Anton and my mother Gertrud.

Q. And her maiden name?

A. Is Simat.

Q. And you were born where?

A. Also in these places, but my father is more born in the river Mosel, in West Germany. It's a town of Rhine, the Mosel river, the Mosel goes in the Rhine. And my mother she is born in the East German part, and so now what I told you before, I am born in Essen because my parents they lived like young children from her parents in these places and then they married and so I am born in this place.

Q. What kind type of work did your father do?

A. My father was in construction work, and he is a builder, and later on he made also the same in working with architects, planning, construction. And then I was young, after my school time, I went in the same office of my father.

Q. I see. So your education then was along the lines ‑‑

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Architecture ‑‑

A. In construction and commercializing, construction work doing calculation, working, preparing office for the architects, for the builders, and all the material that we need in construction. We, we also were serving the (inaudible).

Q. In 1933 when Hitler came to power in Germany with the Nazi Party, how old were you at that time?

A. I was nine years old.

Q. Nine years old?

A. Yeah.

Q. Do you recall what your hometown was like at that age? The type ‑‑

A. Yes, with nine years I was already in school I came in school by six years, but I remembered ‑‑ I remember still the problem that the people had at that time. Because there were no work, in Germany. Many, many millions of jobless people. They had no food, and so next to our school was a city hall, and very often as a young boy, I saw the workers outside in the street, marching in the street, protesting; and then the police came and was ‑‑ we were fighting against the police, and so this was really the open door for Hitler to change the situation. He used the very big problem in Germany a bunch the people had: No work, no job and little bit money. And so people were suffering.

Q. In '33 when Hitler came to power with the Nazi party, what did you notice ‑‑ or if you noticed any change ‑‑ in the school curriculum or school activity?

A. No. This Hitler had one minister, he was a minister of propaganda, Goebbels (or Gerbitz?), Joseph Goebbels, and he started immediately the propaganda, and to tell all the people that the solution is with his party. And then it came over to the school. The teacher, they had to teach a new style, a new way of life, and little bit by little bit, from the school we heard then always the movement, what is better. And the people, they got a job. The people, they were not in the street, so everything started under control, and all the people were organized more and more by the Hitler Party.

Q. What was the persuasion of your parents when it came to their, their religious and political background?

A. But, my father, he was ‑‑ they had five ‑‑ my grandparents they had five children, and my father was the oldest. And he was also in the line of the political way, more socialistic, and also my uncle he was in the same way, but later on my father he saw that the socialistic way is not the way out of the problem. And then ‑‑ then the, the National Socialist Party came in power. And my father was not convinced that they would make it because they had only another name for all this problem, what they offered to the people. Then they started marching on the street. The Party put everything, young people, old people in uniform.

Q. The Nazi party?

A. The Nazi party. My father, he was thinking something, maybe, it's not working because he had now his money for each day of his working, but my father was not a man to see here in this propaganda the solution of the problem. And so in school, we had more and more information, and like young people, it was easy to convince us that Hitler is a solution for all the problems in the world. And then we came home like children, and sometimes we say to our parents what Hitler really is, from the school we heard it, you know, and so then we asked our parents to ‑‑ now we have to go in the Hitlerjugend, before it was Jungvolk, the younger one. Then the next step is Hitlerjugend. And all the young people in school, they had really all the information, and the invitation not in the way that you can think say yes or no, but in the way you go, we have to go. And so the classes of the school really ‑‑ the girls were Bundesdeutsche Madchen and the boys were Hitlerjugend or Jungvolk ‑‑ and then also the uniform. So I remember my parents, because they didn't have the money, the first we had to march into the thing and I hadn't uniform, I had only maybe a shirt, but they took everything. You know, later on by little bit by little bit they had the shirt and the trousers, so you can see on the street. And then they took me for the music with the trumpets, you know, this was really the best thing what Hitler did in his days. He used all the music on the street and, you know, if the music is on the street, you can catch the people. It's very easy. All the days, music on the street. And young people, old people and everything with music, and then the slogans. And by all this propaganda people were more and more thinking it was wonderful. And then they offered for the workers to have vacation. They build big boats. And they started to make Volkswagen. The name Volkswagen is the car for every one of the people, Volkswagen. And so all the families, they started already to save some money and for 990 mark you could have a Volkswagen. But Hitler used this money, then prepared really other things ‑‑ what we later on found out.

Q. So the people would order a car, but they didn't receive it?

A. ‑‑ Order the car, but then after the war, no one had a Volkswagen because the factory was working really preparing cars for the war, and in the war we had this Volkswagen already in all the parts of the world. But if the German soldiers were fighting in Africa or in Russia, in France, overall they had already the Volkswagen; so this factory was for that.

Q. Now at this time, of course, you weren't one of the Jehovah Witnesses?

A. No.

Q. Now every day when you started off your classroom, how did they start off when the Nazi party came in?

A. You know the singing was in the school too. Heil Hitler was in the morning, and the teacher stepped in and we had to dress up and say Heil Hitler. So it was in the morning, in the beginning. And then it gave all the information in school, some lesson, what the party means, what is the National Socialistic Party. And then the music again, so we had to sing national songs like (holse veselead‑phon) and people they are all fallen on the street in the fight ‑‑ because Hitler was in the beginning in Munich the fighting. Some people were against him but he won. And so they made songs about this, and then the radio, the Germany then came up with the Volksempfanger. Volks again, like Volkswagen, a radio for every one of the people, Volksempfanger, receiver for the people.

Q. So the people, people all received the radio?

A. This Volksempfanger, this radio sort of like Volkswagen, Volksempfanger. Then another organization, under Hitler organization the National organization was (Kauf de freud cardaeff‑phon). It means power through joy because Hitler was telling the people you like to have joy because if you were working you're working hard, craft, working hard, but you can have this, this power, this craft through joy. So if you have more joy, you have more power. So this was another organization. There was the worker union like we have in the whole world we have the union, but he made his party, worker union party, was all the work group. All the workers were organized. So in all they were in different groups. And then they made small, small groups of houses, and each group of houses they had also Zellwart, was one man in charge. He was maybe over twenty, thirty families. So everything was organized. If one man or one woman they had another idea immediately he could take note and give the information to the men in charge over him. So there was no hole to slip through. Everything, everything was organized.

Q. Now with your father's business was that also organized and under supervision?

A. Yes. All the workers, all the workers they were organized and specially to find out who is going and who is for Hitler. It was first of May, like this date, the day in the whole world up to now they remember always the worker day first of May each year. And he used this day too. So now they could see who was coming and who was not coming. So they found out on these special days what is going on with the individual.

Q. So who was supporting?

A. Sure, sure.

Q. Now 1933 turned to 1934,'35. Did you notice as a young person people beginning to be picked up like the Jews, the gypsies ‑‑

A. No. But it was not known. People they started joking. Joking because something was ‑‑ was already through, some information. Some people they had idea, but the general ‑‑ mainly all the people didn't know that this had happened. But they say for example they made a joke about the (tunvay‑phon), the (tunvay). The (tunvay) is a conductor, and who is not behind the conductor is in the (custom?) (tunvay) it means prison. So who is not behind the Fuhrer, behind the conductor, behind Hitler, he is in prison. So they made already some jokes that if one person is not behind Hitler, behind this conductor, he is sitting in prison like in the (tunvay), you know. So they were joking, and then they came, the word already through the concentration camp, but the name, they were only known the name because they said, konzertlager, the camp for to make music. You know, concert, in a different way. So this was also known, but the people never had an idea what it means because they said we have some camps that we have people in. We will bring people in. They are in corruption against the community. Maybe one person is not working or will not work. Then they said we bring this to this camp, and in the camp we show him to work, we train him. And this was the idea, train him. And this was the idea, not in the way of prison immediately. So in general it was little bit known, but almost up to 1945 after the war was finishing, in all the years the men on the street really had no idea what it means the concentration camp in Germany. But the people, they were surprised when they call it (Christenaught), that was the night where all the stores, the Jewish stores, the windows were broken.

Q. That was'38 right?

A. '38, yes.

Q. How old were you then when that happened?

A. I was 14 already. So I saw this with my eyes. And the morning I went to work because when I was 14 I started to work in the office where my father was. And I had my bicycle and all the money about passing the Jewish synagogue. This very, very famous and big synagogue of the Jewish people in Essen. And I saw fire came out, and the firemen they were waiting. They had the big cars, the red cars, and they had ready the water, but didn't use it. They were only protecting, waiting until the fire was not going over to another place. They left it and the flames. And I saw Jewish people, responsible men of the synagogue, taking some material out in the smoke, running around. Then our office was in the center of Essen, and Essen is a big, big city like, like (Cope?) Cope is well-known in the world. And this, all the streets, all the streets, we had many Jews, Jewish businessmen and stores and all the windows were open, broken. So the police were watching that no one stepped in and were stealing, especially Jewish people had stores clothing stores, and very good stores you could buy really good from the stores. But they made a big, very big fight against the Jewish people. So then ‑‑ before it starts they made really the propaganda to in school, school and all the places how bad are the Jewish people. Because then they prepared the people. And then finally they did it. They burned down the (Christenaut‑phon), and they burned down all the Jewish synagogues they burned down everything that they had. And this was now the, the biggest problem at the moment that the German people were prepared that had something is coming up. And then they saw the ‑‑ what is going on and then they said finally, the propaganda said it's all right because if they take our energy, the Jewish people, they take our money, they take our blood, they say the propaganda, then they have to do something against these people. And then SS, this formation of Hitler, they were ‑‑ they did it and they made it in one night, whole Germany, the same hour they started this big, big fight against the Jewish people.

Q. Did you have any friend information school who were Jewish? Did you deal with them about it?

A. Not in our class we didn't have it. But I remember a few of these people by greeting in the neighborhood and like that. But the Jewish people were really suffering. And then it started, came a new law that all the Jewish people they had to take the star ‑‑ they call it David star. Nothing to do with David ‑‑ but they had to wear this and soon there came the winter, and then the Jewish people they took all these people all the day to clean the streets, to take the snow away. They started already to punish these people with hard work. And in all the stores was a sign now, with: Don't buy in Jewish stores, you know, like that because they couldn't close all the stores at the moment, but they made a propaganda that one man is really a good man for Hitler if he never buy from Jewish people so the Jewish people they could not sell. So everybody had to close like that too.

Q. How did people like your father who was in business and other business associates ‑‑

A. Yeah.

Q. ‑‑feel about that?

A. Yeah. But it start already I say to you. It started already that people they were quiet, you know, because telling something against or make comments not in favor, you could think,, yes that they will take you. Because the people in the neighborhood they had already information that some people were missing, they didn't return. So by this there was already something under way. And then this name, because people came to the concentration camp they could hide maybe one small note, but the name was officially, but they didn't know what it means. So the people were quiet, and then it was not possible because it could ‑‑ you, the police could come immediately if you would try to listen to BBC, to London, to news. Because BBC, German calling, BBC was all non power and gave all the information and telling the people what is going on in Germany. So secretly many people are listening to BBC, but if they found out, they could hear that you are listening the BBC station, the radio station, then they would tell this Zellwart, this man in charge over the 30 families, they would tell him, look there is something wrong with this man. Listen to ‑‑ and then they had two witness or three and then they took him away. And this was already a crime in Germany, listening to a radio station, BBC.

Q. So they had total control?

A. Sure, sure. Then, you know, in the program of the radio, the entertainment, everything was in favor of the Party. You know, they made the music and the theater, and they use famous men too they're known people you know, sometimes they love this man in the theater or this musician, and then they took ‑‑ and then they started to cut like Mendelssohn, all the composer, like Jews with Jewish names the music they cut everything. So they didn't like to listen. Like Wagner was fine. Wagner was for Hitler the best man because he was in his (Vallehalla‑phon) he did not have the religion in the way of Catholics or (inaudible) he had this Germanic (Vallehalla‑phon) or Roudin the German gods. And this was Wagner. And Hitler was a man, he was happy with this music of Wagner, and so he took this kind of music and all the days and all the nights, all the programs they were on. So they were watching you step by step. Everything was under control.

Q. Now did you know any of Jehovah's Witnesses at that time?

A. No. No. But I know what I know like a young fellow that my parents, they received sometimes visitors, especially my mother, she had like she was, she went sometimes to vacation because she was always sick. And one of Jehovah's Witnesses in the vacation time was speaking to my mother, and by this Jehovah's Witnesses had the direction of my mother and my father and then they received sometimes a little bit of literature, but they couldn't come through. Then after the war was over, this group of Jehovah's Witnesses they remembered we had some readers of the Watchtower like you have today, subscription, and it's very contented and immediately my father and my mother. And so they gave a study, they started to study with them and after few months they were ready for baptism because they know something already but they didn't know exactly what is a procedure and what is to do. And then they explained, they came out of the camp Jehovah's Witnesses and they said now we have to preach and what should we do. They started then with the people they had in mind. They were already contacted before the war or in the war time.

Q. But at the time, of course, they just came in contact with them occasionally?

A. Yes. By then they started, and then my father, my mother, and my brother came after one year home from like a prisoner of war. He was in (Shaborg‑phon) in France, and then he became a Jehovah's Witnesses too. And I came home then after one year from like a prisoner of war. I escaped ‑‑ it was because I was without information about my parents. It was because I was wounded in the Russia front. I was in Russia then we came to hold back.

Q. Okay. Maybe we should go back a little bit. Let's go back to the timeframe then when you first ‑‑ let's go back to the time exactly when Germany attacked Poland?

A. Um‑hmm.

Q. What was your reaction? By then you were 16, 17?

A. Yes.

Q. What happened in your home? How did they feel about it?

A. It started with music ‑‑ with music. Then it was special news, they made announcement on the radio, before, one hour before any music, music, music. And you could sometimes hear the voice of Hitler, special occasion Hitler talked. And if it was something from Hitler, all of people had to gather. In the school, the workers, to listen to the loud speaker. And also before then they had to come together. And then they announced that the [inaudible], the German troops were attacking Poland because they prepared it days before it was already some problem. They produced problems. They produce it, you could see it. You know, people were fighting and they were not nice and they took people away and captured people something like that. And so Hitler was finally he said we are tired, we have enough, and we need to our right, our German right because in these places like Poland, all these cities belong now to Poland but they're under Germany. All these big towns up to Duncy what Poland is today, Duncy, where Walesa is. All these were German, but if you had to trouble from the German side to the east side to…we called it…corridor the train ‑‑ but hit her says this was taken away this is non…we have to take all this because the germ…the German…nation and then he started and said we have to clean up so it was then the Polish people were not prepared really for that it was a matter of attacking and then but later on the people found out in the Spanish Civil War from…could, Germany was helping…could he but what they did, this was a night field for Hitler to try all his new bombs, all this…arrest, this…young…came was come…then it came down from the top came…like bombs the whole airplane came down with a sound terrible sound and this he was, he was trying, then Italy…

Q. Did he do this, this Poland?

A. Yes but he was trying before this, this Spain.

Q. So he was trying out his weapon…?

A. Sure pain span was really for Hitler a good field for testing the weapon. But so German soldiers take him to Spain and owl one of the Jehovah’s Witnesses in, in Hamburg is in Hamburg he was in Spain too and he was a soldier at that time he wasn't a Witness but he was already here in Spain and so he had already ‑‑ this ‑‑ he had experienced this for that. This you see it sometimes you knows it's not the first time but some nation do the same before they start a war they do it to another nation to find out how it worked…so Hitler did this and he was very organized with his army and it was hard at all. We go in and to take it away.

Q. Do you remember what your father said when Hitler went to Poland?

A. No my father didn't make many comments because it was also a problem in the families. Because the young people the children, they were really supporting mostly hundred percent Hitler. So we had…wed cases that the father said something and his own son was telling to the Nazi party my father is…so this was splitting also some families and there's not one family in…families it's the same problem by this, so all the apparent it's didn't talk to their own…because it is not only one case there are many, many cases and ‑‑

Q. So the children being at school eight hours a day ‑‑ sure the children they were already…in favor of his letter this is for sure and…peace of music you can get easy you can change and hit letter had his minister of propaganda ‑‑

Q. He was like a Pied Piper?

A. Yes…said once it's with very good propaganda you can make Mr. The hell fire paradise and you can make from the paper…a hell fire it…only on the propaganda how you make the propaganda. So he had this style and then he send all those into school the speakers of the army especially if they started with the SS because SS was before the party but later on he formed also the mitt tear SS, in black, and then by this SS, you could see really that they came to the school and they taught, taught us in school already that how nice it is later on to be a…sole injury and then they made everything they said we are different this is higher than the other soldiers there are spiritual higher their blood is better, the…is better.

Q. You're saying now that the SS were higher spiritual…?

A. Yes…?

A. And he show already some pictures in the school and how nice it is and the companion ship. You can trust was one special thing I remember still they didn't lock the war up, they didn't lock the doors, everything was open. So stealing was not known in this…of SS. Then looking for people really you could trust they made is very high standard so interesting is everything was open not locked. There was a difference already because like the general soldiers they could lock they close the things but here was different. So by that only they show differences young people they were happy. And so many to sign already like young people they are thinking a few years then ready for the SS.

Q. So they were going to sign up?

A. Yes they made list already in the school.

Q. Examine how did you feel about it?

A. In this case I was thinking I like to ask my father. What he…

A. In case I was thinking I like to ask my father. What he thinks. And then I talked to…and he said be careful that you make step too early watch everything body's coming up like that he said to me and he said if you later on you'll be a sole injury or something like that it's still all right to not go in this higher class you know.

Q. But you were saying also that parents were a little concerned about saying too much…tow their…because children had to report ‑‑

A. Yes because in the school and in the hit letter young, we had wed meetings, not only…on the street there were special meetings information, talks, and then in that meeting which we had wed there was also information that we should help the parent it's because they made reports about parents not supporting hit letter.

Q. So children would tall tee make a little…hair another or father?

A. Sure but before he gave talk…he said if something is wrong the hit letter…the people more in charge the higher ones they should listen to you and they can help you so they like already that the family is united. The family should believe in the same sort of spirit not the parents should have another idea and so the young people they had the assignment to help their own parents so then they started also the sports, everything was made up to be the winner to make a better and then in this festival of the sport they invited their parents and again the music and the parents they were happy to see their own children how they can…how they can spring how they can dance how they can sing everything, so more and more, the fathers when…say oh, it's not too bad that's all right. It took a little bit of time but not too much this was very, very quick in few years they had control over everything. And always we have to remember if we like today, I have the Bible truth I know what Jehovah is asking to his people what is his law, but at that time, we didn't have any information. God they spoke about God, but mat way of hit letter. Hit letter ‑‑ he also said always he talked always the…nation or predestination. Predestination. He was always talking about his life is protected by God. So then by this way, also religious people they said oh, this is a man he is not against God. He started some sometime things again to churches so the churches the…they split it. They made…Protestant for his letter. They called them doubt much Christian…much Christian…German Christian it was…church…very strong it was heart of hit letter and one…from…supported his letter and one…from…from immune sister…hat letter once he said his letter is a gift from heaven. So if the…is tells this to his people then the people they say oh, look our religious leaders also support hit letter and show they got if from the young people they got it from the church and supports all, all things and only few people maybe they were different later on you ask for these people the people said we don't know but he is not lives here and feign leap later on we found out about what happened.

Q. Were your parents going to church at the time?

A. No, no…father my father I told you will in the beginning, he had the idea social…way is the best thing because…father, the parents…lick people, they were and the grandparents very strong in the Catholic church but they had no knowledge they only were performing the morning and maybe twice they were always asking go to church but only the care moan and Christmas time and…this but without basis without knowledge. I remember as a young boy I observed very often…in the door calling out you have a small deck…and a small vessel, then northerly there should be water in and then you go out from our house and you take your finger and take the water but as a young boy I always looked in it was always dry I did it but there was no water in it so I saw also the…the grandparents my father he was observing the parents they were happy to have my father like a priest because my father was studying Latin and he later on as a boy I found many…of middle father in his preparation to be a priest but he didn't like it. He went to the political side but later on in the political way he found all these problem that is people have and he said that is not the way. That made my father easier for him very easy after the war to under the Bible truth.

Q. Now in connection with your family how many brothers and sisters did you have?

A. I had one brother east three years younger.

Q. Younger?

A. Hum-hum.

Q. So what was the year that you…the military and what was the year that he entered the military?

A. It was 1942, 1942. They called me. First they called me to obvious…it was a service the young people before they enter the mail tear it was organization also to work they had like a mini ‑‑ the training was the same like we have it in the military. It's only preparation for the military. And.

Q. And that was called what now?

A. Obvious he is…The service to work…and everything was organized. The uniforms…and you had no not ‑‑ you wear…in the same system because to step over from the…it was automatically…military. I remember they took us already to Russia from the…but if you finish these month it's maybe…six months or eight months…it took us immediately over to the military there was no change you only changed uniform. So from the…and, and the military, hit letter was already in rush ewe and so I went up to the cocaine…we had…wed ‑‑ I was first in the transportation which was by trucks to send all the material ‑‑ so you were a driver?

A. Drive. I was first then later on in the mill…I receive training for anti-aircraft. I was trained by that. Everything. With two-centimeters we three. Seven-centimeters with eight. Eight-centimeters I received training for all this anti-aircraft and then they took us for that too you know, so the war was worse and worse each day and then I was once in Denmark because in Denmark they had the airports for the German fighters the bottom-bomber, and they went to England. And were…land I came home in the night and then behind were always English speed fire the air…called speed fire for…name they had tune…bulb and…came and then if they came down the German air…then…behind because they need some light on the ground and then they bump them and so our position was over there to protect the airplane comes down and shooting against this English airplane it was one…and hen later on in Russia again and they moved you around all the time and then so I saw many, many, many things but I always thought it was my feeling ‑‑ I had a very, very bad feeling in the war. Because I remember I was sitting in my canon and the English pilot he came down to me. I saw him coming against me, I saw already I saw him already coming very close and…he was start and I will, will start then I follow my sit on the canon I fall out I don't know how I fall out and he was have there was a who will to protect us mostly against the bombs and he did nothing and I did the same I did nothing too -- or many, many owe…but one day we came back from Russia…in Germany in east part of Germany today, and the rub an were there and here and they bombed us down and then I was wounded from one bottom-bomb of the rush an airplane…took me…hospital later on. There were everything over…and I came on the train with thousand soldiers wounded and…tree…and then they cured me and then almost the war came to the end. And then the French soldiers came and took us in…hospital like prisoners.

Q. How did they treat you?

A. The French were with all bread. The people can don't have bread so what can you expect? So we were really suffering. And then I was working little bit outside for some French soldiers ‑‑

Q. You mean from there?

A. In the camp in the…they took us out from the camp ‑‑

Q. So you were a prisoner of war?

A. Prisoner of war camp. So then they took us out after in January ‘46 it was in ought tree…we had wed some people with me and some others also prisoner…we said what should we do. We have to idea with our parents our family. We are leaving or not they are dead or what is going on so one day we said we have to escape so we prepared our escape were the camp and we did it one evening we are outside working they took us to work…and then six o'clock that evening, we made a…We go and escape we jump out of window and next to the house was a forest and so we started our way home but it was terrible because it was wintertime to…high snow, the whole night we were walking…we didn't know what was going on we were think I we are going the right way. We are walks around in a circle. And the next morning the light we saw in the border from Switzerland we are complete plea in another direction so then we cross-walked day…up to we came…ordered food and then we heard there was an American camp and they camp they will take us. And then they made some paper…came home four months. In four month it's time my parents gave me the information about the truth. This was…basically my good step.

Q. Okay maybe we'll finish this later?

A. Okay now and then after that four months later, the British one British captain came and he said you are George…you escaped prisoner of war from the French side I said yes. We have to come and then they took me again…principal…prison they give me back to the French and so I was suffering two years more and I went back to France.

Q. So you were a prisoner of war?

A. Two years more.

Q. …

A. That two engineers but I had already the whole truth.

Q. And so you became acquainted with…?

A. And then I already contact in France the lit…from Paris from Switzerland and by this I could prepare I could read the whole Bible in like a prisoner of war because before I was working already but now I had time I didn't like to but I should work so by that time I could prepare myself and then I came home and made immediately my baptism.

Q. How did the treat you in the prisoner of war camp in France?

A. It was because we escaped as I mentioned in the camp they made another camp because they called us very dangerous people because we escaped that was the point.

Q. So yours was a little…harsh treatment?

A. Harsh treatment, yes.

Q. Perhaps we can go back to this question how did they treat you in the prisoner of war camp now that they caught you after the war?

A. Yes you know, I escaped and then after four months, they took us back as a prisoner of war to France and they put us in the camp but in the camp there was another camp so because they said we are dangerous people, they must protect us more and each day…we had…we’d only maybe eight or nine business kits, a little bit of food and super. You could not see the food only water sometimes you would see auto little vegetable inside. That was all so after almost one year again, on the second war of my imprisonment. We’d only all the…we were only bones. We had no weight. Suffering…food, we didn't have food. So by this suffering, sometimes I was thinking why…all? And then by my Bible understanding what he had already, I could answer easier this yes because some prisoners they were trying to go…escape again, but they didn't have access…it's French from the high tower they got them easy or they shooted them so I saw this was a terrible time. So I was thinking “I will, will stay.” “I will, will not escape again.” After time is coming to give us it's paper to be free. And this was not easy then I came home.

Q. Now what was the date of your release?

A. 1948, three years after its war.

Q. Okay now what was the name of the camp that were in where was it located?

A. I was in different camps I was in Strasbourg, you know that famous city now, the European…Strasbourg this was a town. Then I was in…then I was in…written…down in the Mediterranean in France so they took us to different places. And the last year…the last year there was one prisoner, he was…our home town and he took me a little bit out to work and by that I got a little bit more food so I could build up my body, so I didn't die because many, many died. Thousands, thousands of prisoners died after the war. Because the French nation the French people they didn't have food and most of what we received came from the states and all the clothing everything what we need, it came from the states. As you remember Germany was over France and the time of vessel war Germany took everything from France away and by this the French people…not polite any way they had…but they were really after the war the…knees and so the suffering was also.

Q. So in…sense they are try to get even?

A. Yes, yes. So we always were thinking if it is possible and never come into captain…under the rush an or under the French people because he heard already some prisoners they were in the catch from the states or…land they were not suffering because they had a nicer treatment…France the French people they had the First World War in the mind and the…World War in the…and the nation was suffers because of what hit letter did then French had all the mean use people and many came…camp and were dying and all this was well known after the war. They showed immediately the pictures from the troops American the British traps came in the camp…Germany and really they show the people the whole word show all this papers, and the pictures and then they showed how the people suffered so there was only one word always against us. But I was thinking the Bible showed this that the time of the end is the time of problems and I found a solution always looking in the Bible again by God's kingdom because I learned from the Bible that in the time of the end, we have difficult time, difficult time and the people they will not show enough love they will treat not heart flee, they will be…knees and all this I studied from the Bible…so we are really hurting in the time of the, the end and I could under the situation better without knowledge because the people without knowledge they were suffering more. They know the way out is easier if you were like a prisoner you know, to see it's…to see it was nice and I was in France in the camp and from one on one occasion I go to the book from brother route forth in Germany, we call it the…fry it's…ford he wrote these different books the president of the watch tower society and this book was taught was…so I saw this book, book and I was a prisoner and now I think with you…later on I under more and more…is something different not only…from machine or materialism…really from more things…human kind.

Q. I'd like to go back a little bit to the time you were a young man just before you went into the military or maybe even after when you first went into…group…preceded the actual military did you ever…he wills speak or hit letter speak himself to encourage national…there was one leader, it was balance do…cheer…it was the leader for the young people and he came and we had all to go to, to place and all the young people, the young girls, the young boys all in uniforms had to sing and the music and then he gave his talk. And all the young people we had is slow began this was all the something that they put why our mind blood and honor, blood and honor…it was one…blood and honor, blood and honor. There was one…And then they put in our mind the…is mere as…the flag is more than the death. So they filled our mind already what it means nationalism. To be this later on superior. They put in our mind like the Jew itch people this the contrast between races and so by this to make our feeling superior, later on by doing by speaking all the time and like they make is big assembly with this ball…or they gathered us to…hit letter from…each week the new…

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