

MARTIN WASSERMAN: KEY QUOTES

“And I couldn’t even go back to say, you know, goodbye to my family. I hadn’t seen them ‘til now.”

“And I just told him, ‘Man, the war will not go on forever, and as soon as it’s over, we will be looking for you.’” “And he hit me right here, and I still have the marks.”

“Because you were so bitter and thinking what people doing to somebody who didn’t do nothing, and fourteen. I didn’t do nothing to nobody. Why should I suffer?”

“But one time it didn’t work out too good. So we went with that food, we came back, and they were waiting for us, the SS, and we put back our head underneath, he came out and put the foot on my head.”
“And he told me, ‘We caught you this time. We been waiting for you a long time, and we knew that you been getting in here. Now you gonna suffer.’” “They gave us another twenty-five lashes, and then they told us to go back in the barracks. And in the barracks, we couldn’t even stand up.”

“I’ve been in one place, they gave me twenty-five lashes and I walked off like nothing happened. They called me back and they told me that I didn’t feel nothing, you know, that they gonna give me ten more.”

“And he hit me over the head, and I had a split right in here. This is when I seen the stars.”

“Now when something happens to me, I went to the doctor. And

before, “I didn’t worry about it and nothing happened. I never got sick one day.”

“He gave me strength, I gave him strength. We both said, ‘We gonna go through.’”

“They couldn’t help me too much. They gave me a little courage, I know.”

“When they [German civilians] gave you food, then it felt like somebody wants to help you. If they don’t give you no food, I feel like nobody even worrying about you. But if they come out and give you something, I felt like they really worry about me.”

“But plenty people been eating too much. Everybody was pushing, and trying to get in, and they put their head in it. You couldn’t eat, we found out afterwards, you couldn’t go and eat too much at first. But they been eating and plenty of people died.”

“We did all kinds of things, trying to get revenge. For three days, anything we could do. And we felt better.”

“The Germans were scared, you know, when we had power. They were scared. When they were in power, we were scared. They were so scared, they even asked us, ‘Please, I have a mother and father and children.’ They didn’t ask me that.”

“Not only us, because we had from all different countries, the survivors. Anybody who can catch one, they used to beat them. Even on crutches, he said, ‘Let me hit him one time.’”

“Nobody. I had uncles, father, mother, from mother’s side, from father’s side. Nobody.”

“That’s the reason why I joined the service [U.S. Army]: to do my share. And I did train troops for a year and a half, and I did everything else I could.”

“Hamburgers. Naturally. Yeah. And then when I went to order the hamburger, then he came and he told me, ‘Oh yeah! You want a hamburger.’ I said, ‘No, I don’t want a hamburger. I want a hot dog.’”

“I had to struggle for a while. And I didn’t want nobody to give me nothing.”

“Well, nothing comes easy. I had to work for everything that I have. And nobody helped me. I didn’t ask for nobody and I’m doing pretty good on my own.”

“I didn’t want them [his children] to know how I suffered. Because they would feel sorry. I didn’t want them to feel sorry for me.”

“I didn’t want to hear nothing about Poland. And my wife says, ‘Why don’t we go back and see the place?’ and I say, ‘I don’t want to go back because I don’t want to see the place. To memorize what I lost, my family, and all that.’”

“Sometimes I think I would like to speak to David Duke. I wish he would come and tell me why he hates.”