

Transcript of Video Clip with Spencer Netherstreet

But from then on we went into Germany itself, lovely, lovely countryside. A bit like Kent, really, with all the apple trees around that area and fruit trees. And then my pal decided we shall have a look at Belsen, he pinched the company – the unit's motorcycle on pretext of having a little spin round and took me into – took me to – took us to Belsen and I rather wished I hadn't. That was the most awful experience. First of all the building of it, the buildings that were left, were surrounded by an eighteen foot high barbed wire fence with the control towers on either side of the entrance, you know, and 'Arbeiten –' what is it? 'Macht Frei' – or something like that. 'Work means freedom' and we drove in and it was deserted. Nobody questioned our right to be there and we could see the places were all these sheds had been which had housed the poor inmates and they'd all been burnt. Derris dust was fresh in the air, derris dust incidentally is highly carcinogenous as Jack will tell us, but they – you could smell it. As we went down we passed kasten, a big red built – redbrick German built block, and women were – there were lot of women inside there and they were surrounded by this barbed wire fence and they were yelling at us all sorts of obscenities in German, French and any other language I think cos they thought we were Germans cos we were in blue uniform with the white eagle on our shoulders and forage caps. We must have looked a little bit like Germans, of course we were not armed and when we went through little bit further on we saw the ovens. That was a dreadful experience, the ashes and that. Ovens [pause] and beyond that there was a big notice with lumps in the fields beyond saying, 'Twenty-three thousand unburied dead were found here'. Our blokes had had to bury them, with bulldozers cos there was no other way of doing it. So – and we got back to the unit and were promptly told off so my mate who drove the motorcycle said, 'Oh, gosh, you can't tell us off. We got lost' [laughs]. It was a lost that I rather not have had.