

Recollections of Liberation

[Narrator] On April 29th, Gen George Patton's 3rd Army entered Moosburg.

[Milt Shalinsky] "When the regular army moved out, a bunch of SS troops moved in. They, for some reason or other, were not going to give up us POWs. I guess we were a valuable commodity to them, probably their only bargaining power they had left. So they decided to fight for the camp. And they did. They had just one hell of a battle there. The tanks came in and they were lobbing shells over our tents and barracks, wherever they were, and machine guns were going off all over the place. They told everybody just to lay flat on the ground and hope nothing hits you. Well, after they fought for quite a while, I guess the Americans finally liberated us. And it was a wonderful day."

[LtGen Clark] "It was a very emotional period, especially for a few of us who had been very old prisoners. We were closely bonded, so some of most wonderful friends I've ever had came out of those camps. We stayed together and helped each other. None of us feel it was a total dead loss, the experience I mean. A lot of us learned a lot about ourselves, about our limits, and we certainly learned how to get along with other people in difficult circumstances, which is a very important lesson. So I am sure that there are many people who don't share that view. But they've disappeared. They don't come to reunions. You never hear from them. I just hope they are happy too. But I doubt whether they're as happy as we are.