

Henry Soderberg on Stalag Luft III

[Narrator] Among the records are some from Henry Soderberg, the Swedish national and neutral observer of Allied POW camps in Nazi Germany for the international YMCA. He is shown here with the senior American officer of South Camp, Col Charles Goodrich, and interrogating a prisoner. Mr Soderberg's observation of the American performance: "I saw many camps while in Germany during the war and one of the very best camps was Stalag Luft III. There was [sic] various reasons for this. I think it was in the first place, the leadership. Also, the homogenous nationality. There was a very strong feeling of true and good Americanism. There was a will to overcome the difficulties and to survive. It was always there together with the ingenuity of the men. There was also a high degree of comradeship and of friendship between the prisoners, even if crowded conditions and the monotonous life sometimes created strains in personal relationships."