

Transcript of the *Shoah* Interview with Walter Stier  
Translation by Lotti Eichorn - Volunteer – Visitor Services – January thru June 2013

INTERVIEW WITH MR. STIER

St: Then Wroclaw, Oppeln.

La: Oppeln, but Oppeln was State Railways [Reichsbahn] or G.E.D.O.B.?

St: State Railways, State Railways everywhere, yes, only. Yes.

La: What is [blank]? Silesia?

St: Silesia, Silesia, yes. That was everything, we have everything, now.

La: You have said something else, I did not write it down. Berlin, Kaliningrad, Wroclaw...

St: Frankfurt/Oder, ....

La: Frankfurt/Oder, yes.

St: Frankfurt/Oder, then came Wroclaw....

La: yes

St: Wroclaw, Oppeln, what was that....

La: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23. Twenty-three.

St: Twenty-three, there is something missing.

La: Much more?

St: Yes.... I just have to be careful that I don't mix things up, for example... Poznan was State Railways..

La: Poznan?

St: Yes.... this was.... during the war, Poznan.

La: What is Poznan? Posland?

St: Posland, yes, it was formerly Polish, right....

La: This is Polish....

St: was, yes....

La: yes...

St: And see, think again.... Hannover, of Hannover it says here...

La: Oh, yes, naturally, these states were....

St: Kassel, we ..... Kassel

La: Litzmanstadt

St: No, no, not Litzmanstadt, Litzmanstadt was no.... and all if.... but we have... we forgot Kassel.

La: But these ..... these..... these states were parts of the Reich.

St: Yes, yes, Kassel....

La: Wartegau

St: Yes,.... yes, yes, that was Poznan

La: Naturally. Oh, Kassel, yes this is....

St: Kassel.

La: Karlsruhe, possibly.

St: Karlsruhe! Did we not yet talk about it?

La: No, no, no.

St: Karlsruhe, naturally, also Karlsruhe. Then, what else was there?

La: Strasbourg?

St: No.

La: No?

St: No, not Strasbourg.... Kassel, Frankfurt.... Nuremberg, we have that...

La: Yes.

St: Nuremberg, Augsburg, Munich [illegible], we have them too....

La: Yes, and.... well. But this is.... and now Eastern Railways...

St: Yes.

La: This is.... GEDOB means "Generaldirektion der Ostbahn" [Head Office of the Eastern Railways]

St: Head Office of the Eastern Railways, GEDOB, yes

La: And I would like to know [illegible] when was GEDOB

St: When was it founded?

La: founded, yes.

St: after the occupation of Poland, that was.... one moment please, I think that was in December 39.

La: Oh, very, very quickly.

St: Very quickly yes.

La: Very quickly.

St: Yes, yes. In January thirty.... in January forty I came to the [blank] Krakau, January 40, yes.

La: In January.... you....

St: 1940.

La: In Krakau. And Krakau was the head office...

St: Yes. The head office of the Eastern Railways.

La: of the Eastern Railways, yes.

St: yes...

La: And how long did you stay in Krakau?

St: I was in...

La: Krakau, Krakau.

St: Let's say Krakau.

La: Let's say Krakau.

St: Wroclaw area, a beautiful city, Krakau.

La: Yes, beautiful, beautiful.

St: Very beautiful.

La: This is a German city.

St: German, a German city; Austrian-German city.

La: Austrian-German city. Had nothing to do with Poland.

St: No, absolutely nothing.

La: No.

St: So, I was until 1943, middle of 43, I cannot give you the exact date...

La: Middle of, middle of 43.

St: Middle... middle 43, 1943 I was transferred to Warsaw.

La: Oh, in mid-1943 you got to Warsaw.

St: Yes.

La: Yes, why?

St: There I became head of..... head of the scheduling system, not scheduling bureau, there was such a thing as head of the scheduling system.

La: Scheduling system, this is schedule organization?....

St: Scheduling office, scheduling office seems to me to be the best, right.

La: Yes.

St: Yes, scheduling office, right.

La: Yes.

St: That is where I was then....

La: Why.... I think, in 43 a new..... a new organization was formed.

St: That is the case. 19... until 1943, middle of 43, or February to March 43, something like that, around that time, the organization was reformed.

La: Yes.

St: It became..... the individual jurisdictions.... Warsaw, Lublin

La: Yes.

St: Lublin, Warsaw...

La: Lemberg, right?

St: Krakow..... became..... Lemberg, and Lemberg, yes.

La: Yes, and Radom, I believe, possibly.

St: Radom was no section, no.

La: No..... no

St: And these.... at the time when I got there, to Warsaw, individual scheduling offices were formed, that had not been the case so far, up to then the whole scheduling process was with the GEDOB.

La: Yes.

St: and then it was split up into the individual jurisdictions.

La: Yes.

St: Yes?

La: Yes. And.... but your job, your.... work, your activity.

St: Yes.

La: it was the same before 43 and after 43?

[handwritten note: end image STIER 1A]

[without picture]

St: Yes.... this only..... not only changes, to the extent that I was head of the office.

La: Yes.

St: I had not been that in Krakow.

La: You were promoted.

St: Yes, yes.... yes, that is the case.

La: Yes, well And.... this was..... But what was the.... was.... were the .....the special tasks, which..... in the.....

St: Yes, well we had.....

La: supply Reichsbahn through the war?

St: Yes, well.... The work was little different from the work in Germany. Setting up the schedules, planning special trains and.... the so-called travel trains...

La: Special trains and travel trains.

St: Travel trains, we made that.....

La: I believe, special trains and travel trains, there were separate departments, this was department 33.....

St: Yes, it was 33, this was..... 33 for travel trains and special trains.

La: Yes, yes.

La: yes, yes.

St: Yes, and then....

La: Two different sections of department 34.

St: Then.....34, this was... was freight train traffic, department 34.

La: Freight train traffic, this were also special trains....

St: Well, that, what we.....

La: it was also department 33.

St: 33 was.... actually.... special train traffic and travel train traffic.

La: yes.

St: yes?

La: yes.

St: Department 34 was freight train traffic.

La: Oh, yes, but freight train traffic.... yes, but this is quite hard to understand.

St: Freight train, that is.... good, yes.

La: Yes, yes.... but freight train traffic was also in the department of special trains.

St: No, no, they had no special trains.

La: No.

St: No, only freight trains. All this was in department 3..... the special trains were all in department 33....

La: 33, yes and freight trains?

St: Freight trains? In 34.

La: in 34?

St: Yes

La: You?

St: No, I was 33.

La: Yes, yes..... You are always in the ..... special train department...

St: In.... yes, that is so.

La: Yes, yes.

St: Always in the special trains department.

La: Yes. What is a ..... a special train? What is the difference between a special train and a regular train?

St: A regular train can.... be used..... by any traveler, that means anybody who is buying a ticket, say from Krakow to Warsaw, or.... from Krakos to ....., right?

La: Yes.

St: A special train.... has to be.... specially ordered, right?

La: Oh, yes.

St: Right? Only... then the train is put together and the people pay..... groups...

La: Groups.

St: traveling groups.

La: these are group travelers, right.

St: Yes, they are all group travelers.

La: Yes, there are still special trains today.

St: Certainly.

La: Yes.

St: They still exist.

La: Yes.

St: Yes. Just as before.

La: Yes.... A vacation train can be a special train.

St: No. Well, now.... for example, the guest workers, when they go home for holidays...



La: yes.

St: Then..... special trains.... are put together for them.

La: Yes.

St: yes. Otherwise it would be impossible to handle the traffic, this is impossible.

La: But for example a..... You told me that after the war you dealt with a protocol for the kings....

St: After the war.

La: After the war.

St: yes, yes.

La: When a king comes to Germany by train, is that a special train?

St: That is a special train, yes.

La: yes, yes.

St: Yes. Well that is.... the treatment was again.... different.... very much so from the special trains that can be.... ordered, such as group travel, etc.. The state visit travel, they..... were .... through the house for the....

La: Yes, but.... may I ask another question? Why was the activity of special trains during the war greater than.... before the war and after the war?

St: Yes, yes. I know where you are heading, I understand you well. You mean, the, the transports, the so-called re-settlement transports, that is what you mean? Right?

La; yes, yes, yes, yes, Re-settlers, yes, I have...

St: That's what they were called, these trains, they were..... announced by the Reich traffic ministry.... ordered.

La: Yes...

St: Yes, ordered by a decree from the Reich traffic ministry....

La: Reich traffic..

St: Reich traffic ministry.

La: That means Berlin?

St: Yes, Berlin.

La: Yes, yes.

St: And.... the main management office East in Berlin was charged with the operation of these special trains.

La: Yes. I understand that.

St: Did I express myself clearly?

La: yes, very clearly.

St: Yes.

La: And then?

St: And then.... took place..... the general management office East called all those responsible for the respective departments which the train would cross, a scheduling conference somewhere, and there the schedules were agreed upon, accepted...

La: That was rather complicated, right?

St: Very, very. Let's say.... a train would from Paris....

La: Yes,

St: travel to.... Warsaw.

La: Yes,

St: Came the people from Paris, they were already Germans...

La: Yes.

St: After all, the Germans were already sitting in Paris, they have....

La: You mean a military train?

St: No, no, in Paris, that.... was the German railroad, but I believe, I can.... I cannot say that exactly, I believe... and.... military supervision, if I see this correctly.

La: Yes.

St: Yes, and we (met) at some place.... it was determined by the main management office East....

[handwritten note: telephone is ringing. End picture and sound STIER 1B]

La: You said that the Reich traffic ministry...

St: Yes.

La: .... gives an order ....

St: a decree.

La: A decree to order a special train?

St: Well, publish a decree and in it is stated in short sentences.... "during the time from x to y... so and so many re-settlement transports have to be done, about in this train car was the.... with the execution the general management office East in Berlin has been charged and asks that things to be arranged.

La: Yes, but.... in general, during that time, where.... who were the re-settlers for the most part?

St: Well, we did not know that; we heard that later... when we ourselves were almost fleeing, from Warsaw, then we heard ... well... that they were supposed to be Jews, or.... criminals and such.

La: yes, Jews, criminals?

St: Criminals, everything mixed up, right?

La: Were there special trains for criminals?

St: No, no. But that is how it was spoken of by the people, we could.... nobody could talk about if they were not ready to die.

La: yes.

St: It was best [preceding words are crossed out].... or.... if one was not ready to die, it was best not to say anything. Otherwise it was dangerous, was immediately.... And people in the service were also, I will be able to show it to you later... and that I too was denounced... but it became clear later on, that it was just nothing but slander.

La: yes

St: yes

La But why did you..... this is a scandal!

St: Yes, ..... this was a real scandal, it cost me nerves, I can tell you.

La: yes.

St: But, why.... I had a.....

La: You had a trial?

St: Yes, naturally.

La: Yes?

St: I went through trials, because I – I can simply state – I was accused suddenly, for assistance in murder.

[The following 4 lines are duplicated from above]

La: You had a trial?

St: Yes, naturally.

La: Yes?

St: I went through trials, because I – I can simply state – I was accused suddenly, for assistance in murder.

La: Assistance in murder?

St: colleague.

La: Assistance.

St: Yes, yes, yes, yes. Assistance.

La: What kind of term is that?

St: Well.... there are.... I don't know any more if all this is correct, what has been said. Because so and so many people have been murdered there, as it is said. I never was there and a never heard about it. And because I have processed these transport trains...

La: Yes.

St: Eh....

La: That means, you set up the schedules.

St: The schedules, yes.

La: Only that?

St: only, nothing more, no.

La: Yes.

St: And one of my colleagues .... at that time I was often on official trips ... it has to be from this.... Each transport had to be dealt with separately. And he was jealous of me, and then said...

La: Jealous?

St: Jealous, yes. Mean.... yes. And he also wanted to go on trips which was not the way it was supposed to be, that I was the only one to do so. I said: please. He reported this to my boss. The boss then called me and I told him: Yes, please, this does not matter to me. Yes, he may take a trip right away. And there was one; there was a scheduling conference in Leipzig where there was a lot of work to be done, much work. And when he came back he said: no, this is too much work for me. He would be glad to not do it.

La: Yes.

St: Now, a scheduling arrangement was established after the end of the conference. We traveled back home.....home. And the..... this was ..... this arrangement was signed by my superior. I will.....

La: Signed, naturally.

St: Let's call him Müller or Richter, or whatever his name may be.... and it was then certified by the official in charge.

La: Yes.

St: And this....

La: Official in charge, who.....

St: What?

La: ..... is an aide?

St: No, no, no, no.

La: Expert, yes, yes, yes. That is the opposite.

St: Yes, and this colleague who denounced me in good German at that time.

La: Yes.

St: .... he certified various schedule arrangements. They were signed by the superior and certified by the official in charge.

La: What is his name?

St: Oh, ....., I think he is no longer alive. His name was Glas.

La: Oh, Glas.

St: Alfonso Glas.

La: He was in section 33.

St: Yes, 33. He was from Munich. And.... and from this he was.... one found a schedule.... or several schedule arrangements, and there was the signature by Richter (this was.... was the 33), certified by Glas.

La: Yes, yes, I read his name.

St: Yes, that is him. A ..... chap he was. And when this was found he was dragged into court, he was interrogated, the criminal police...

La: Yes.

St: And he stated there: he only certified it. So he was not guilty. The one who did all this, that was me. This was an absolute lie. That is how I got into this matter, and they wanted to ..... here already. That was in 1965 – I will never forget it. I was just in the process of dealing with the state visit by Queen Elizabeth.

La: Yes.

St: And then my boss called me in, the head of the ministry, Jakob ....., and said: well.... even he himself.... he himself did not have the courage to tell me himself, he had his deputy who called me to his office..... and has.... who treated me like a prisoner. I defended myself vehemently against this. But, as I said, once I was in the system.... And then the..... wanted

to.....

La: In the system?

St: yes, the judicial system.

La: Oh, yes.

St: And then, my department head – I mentioned his name already – wanted to suspend me from my duties, I was to be immediately dismissed. I then said: Now, listen, I think.... I also did not want.... An investigation is not a conviction. You should know that. When an investigative procedure has been initiated, a case is investigated, but the person can..... He might be suspected, but he cannot be immediately convicted. Then, my head of personnel came to my aide and said: Well, this is not possible. You cannot fire him just like that. You first have to give him due process. I said: And besides, I cannot be judged here just like that and say that I am a criminal, or even a murderer, or.....

La: Sure, it is just.... is just technical....

St: Sure, free.... we have.... As I said, in this case all of the people who participated in establishing these schedules would have to be equally suspected, thus would have to be accused of assistance in murder. Not only..... Well, he then said, that is not our problem, you at any rate are a suspect, you.... I cannot be responsible. I did not accept that, right. And then.... in the meantime, during the trials, I was not accused, but only interrogated as witness, always interrogated as witness.

La: Only as witness?

St: Yes, only as witness, yes.

La: This means you have never been arrested?

St: No, no.

La: This is lucky.

St: But.... May I explain this to you. The first interrogation took place here at police headquarters in Frankfurt. I was asked to come to the police headquarters at nine o'clock in the morning and a district attorney, Dr. Von Belo – that was his name....

La: Yes.

St: Unfortunately, he is no longer alive. He was a nice man. He interrogated me and when we started he said to me: Mr. Stier, before we start, – may I have the paper.

La: Yes, yes.

St: .... he opened the dossier cover and showed me a.... do you know what this is? – Well, I was able to; I said it is an arrest warrant.

La: A?

St: Arrest warrant.

La: Arrest warrant, oh yes.

St: Yes.

La: to arrest.

St: And he said: Mr. Stier, you may refuse to testify or if you testify, you may have a lawyer. Yes, I said, Dr. Von Belo, I don't see any reason not to testify, I have not committed a crime, my conscience is clear, my heart is pure. I said, if I.... if I was denounced, I want to fight that. Yes, he said, that is your right. So, he said, let's begin. It was 9:15am – I will never forget that. And then he asked me all these things, similar questions to those you have been asking. And then he told me: Mr. Stier, tell me, what decorations did you get during the war? I said.....

La: Decorations?

St: Decorations, yes, decorations. I said: the War Merit Cross Second Class...

La: War Merit Cross.

St: War Merit Cross, yes, and First Class.

La: Had you been fighting?

St: I got it.

La: Yes, but you were never on the battle field, right?

St: No.

La: No.

St: No, you got that.... everybody got that when he for a certain time...

La: Yes, yes.



- St: One then got..... with good behavior one got this decoration.
- La: Was this difficult service?
- St: Yes, we worked for 14, 15 and more hours.
- La: Yes, yes.
- St: Now.... And, well yes, At least you know what kind of decorations you got. I said: why should I not know this? He says: Mr. Stier, who was your president in Warsaw? Can you remember? I said yes, certainly. My president in Warsaw was Dr. Wiens.
- La: Wiens.
- St: W-I-E-N-S, yes, Dr. Wiens. He said: Can you.... Do you know if Dr. Wiens got a decoration for special merit during the war? I did not want to get him into this. I said: Dr. Von Belo, I really cannot remember this. He said: I am giving you 5 minutes time, think about it again. You are a decent fellow, he said, so far you always told the truth. Why do you now remain silent? Yes, I said,.... Perhaps you will talk when I am telling you the following: that Dr. Wiens has denounced you. I said: Dr. Wiens has.... I was a little scheduling clerk....
- La: He denounced you?
- St: He said: when that one.... Dr. Von Belo also interrogated him. And that one said: if anybody knows this, this can only be Mr. Stier. I said: that cannot be true. He then said: Mr. Stier....
- La: Because you were in section 33.
- St: Yes, Dr. Wiens knew me very well. Yes, he knew me very well. And I said: well, why should he not have said that, the, the... Dr. Wiens, in his capacity as president of the Eastern Railroad Management. See, he had gotten the Knight's Cross with diamonds and swords as earned during the war. I said that this was reported on every army report. He said: see he said, and that Mr. Wiens pretends not to know anymore today. I said: that cannot be true, right?
- La: Dr. Wiens has received diamonds.....
- St: Yes, yes
- La: You did not have any diamonds?
- St: For heaven's sake, this piece of tin. I was a subordinate. Well, and then it all started ..... all these people – I also stated that in my letter to you that all my superiors were academics. I

was not, and still am not. And all these people, Dr. Sorell, they were such cowards, so ....., so mean that they wanted to shove off everything onto me. I.....

La: Everything?

St: Everything. Yes, that..... [only half words]

La: Why? You were the head of section 33?

St: No, because.... No, I was not the head of 33, I was the head of the scheduling office...

La: Yes...

St: The head was an academic. And they also signed the schedule arrangements...

La: But these people are cowards?

St: Cowards. Everything is waved off. And that made me very mad, particularly had I.... was one of them.... a certain.... he was later deputy director, Zabel, I think he is no longer alive. He too.... he also said that he knew nothing and...

La: But, at that time, did you know that these transports went to Treblinka or Auschwitz?

St: Yes, naturally. We certainly knew that. It was my duty.... I had to .... the train. I was the last management. Assuming, the train started in Essen, it went through the district Essen then Wuppertal, through the district Hanover, through the district Magdeburg, through... through the district Berlin, Frankfurt/Oder, Posen, Warsaw, etc. So....

La: Did you know that, for example, Treblinka meant killing or....

St: Oh, no way?

La: You did not know that?

St: For heaven's sake, no. How should we know that. I never was in Treblinka, I was never in such a.... I did not get out of Krakow, I am from Warsaw.... I was always sitting at my desk, right?

La: Yes.

St: That was it.

La: You had no idea of.....

REEL 3

St: ..... stayed.

Corinna: Were any of your superiors indicted?

St: not at all

Corinna: not?

St: Well, they did very much.... I [said] to my supervisor at the time, that.....

La: Yes.

St: Of the ministry... so, yes?

La: Yes, I wanted to say this, this is surprising, but I am personally convinced that this is the pure truth.

St: This is the pure truth.

La: This.... but this is surprising that the people working in the scheduling office had no inkling regarding the final solution.

St: It was war at that time.

La: Because there were.... I believe that there were people on the railroad who... who knew something, for example the train operators, who....

St: Yes, they saw it, they saw it. But what now happened to it, I ..... know

La: What was Treblinka to you?

St: We had several destinations: Treblinka, Balzac, and whatever they all were called. For us this were concentration camps.

La: A destination.

St: A destination, nothing else.

La: But not the end?

St: No, no. And... and the accommodation of the people; it was said.... assuming the train came from Essen, or from Cologne, or from other places. Space had to be created there. The war, the allies kept on advancing and the people, they had to be concentrated in a camp.

La: When... when did you know?

St: Well, when it became talked about, but just in hushed sounds, right?

La: Yes.

St: Not that it was openly discussed, for heaven's sake, not. You would have been taken away immediately. Then there were here and there...

La: Rumors, right?

St: Rumors, yes, that's it.

La: During the war.

St: What?

La: During the war?

St: At the end of the war.

La: At the end of the war.

St: At the end of the war.

La: Not in 42?

St: No, no, no, For heaven's sake.

La: No.

St: Nothing at all.

La: No.

St: It was – I would say – in late 44.

La: Yes.

St: Perhaps....

La: In late 44.

St: Not earlier.

La: And what did you?

St: It was then said that there.... that the people were sent to a concentration camp and that those who were not very healthy would probably not survive.

La: And the extermination was a total surprise to you?

St: Totally, yes, totally.

La: You had no idea?

St: None at all. None at all. Just as... what is the name of the camp.... that belongs to the Opeln district... Auschwitz.... which....

La: Because Auschwitz was in the Opeln district of the Reichsbahn.

St: Yes, Opeln. Auschwitz was not far from Krakow.

La: Yes, naturally.

St: We never heard anything about this.

La: Because it is.... Auschwitz – Krakow is... 60 kilometers.

St: Yes, this is not very far.

La: And you had no....

St: No, not at all, not a trace.

La: not a trace.

St: No, this is...

La: But you had some idea about the... that the Nazis, or Hitler, did not like the Jews?

St: Yes, there is no question, that was known (both speak together) ....openly publicized. Yes certainly.

La: So...

St: That was also.... you could read that everywhere. That was no secret.

La: Yes.

- St: Yes, but that they were exterminated, that was totally new to us, totally new.
- La: Totally new.
- St: That is still today.... they are still fighting against this and say: well, this has to be impossible, it is impossible that there were so many Jews. If this is true, I don't know. It is talked about.
- La: Yes.
- St: Right? But.... it is a scandal what was done there, right?
- La: Wa.....Wa.....
- St: .... the extermination, right? Everybody had condemned that. Any decent person is condemning this. But we did not know.
- La: Yes.
- St: yes.
- La: Do you believe that..... The Poles, for example the Polish population, the Poles knew everything?
- St: Yes, this is no surprise, Dr. Sorell. Some of them live near there, after all. And they heard and said much. They had.... they did not need to keep silent, the Poles.
- La: Yes. They..... they have the Jews [blank space] also.
- St: Yes.
- La: But in Krakow, I believe, I am..... there was a ghetto, right, in Krakow?
- St: In Warsaw.
- La: In Warsaw.
- St: Warsaw.
- La: Krakow, there was....
- St: Warsaw.... in Krakow I have.... I don't know anything about this, if there was a ghetto there.
- La: Yes, yes.

St: A ghetto in Krakow?

La: In Krakow?

St: No, I don't know. Krakow. Just a moment; I want to think.

La: Yes, it is well known. There was a rather large ghetto.

St: Really? Yes.

La: And there was a camp .... a camp near Krakow, a camp by the name of Plaszov.

St: Plaszov, right.

La: Plaszov, yes.

St: Plaszov, yes, we are....

La: The people from Krakow were in Belzec...

St: There, sent to Belzec.

La: Yes.

St: ..... were sent. Yes. You can see that I knew about Plaszov.

La: Yes, but there were.... because I have.... My question was that in the majority, who were these resettles? And you have answered, mainly Jews. But I believe, that these were not only Jews. There were.... because I have a document here, for example...

St: Yes.

La: ... and I wanted to ask you about this document. This is a document from Berlin...

St: Yes.

La: ... and it is January 16, 43. General management East

St: Yes.

La: Good. And that is a document, a schedule...

St: Yes.

La: .... order for resettles.

St: Yes.

La: and I am reading: we are sending a.... this is a....

St: Together....

La: We are sending a summary of the special trains agreed upon on January 15, 43 in Berlin for resettles. So, and I would like to know what means WD – what means O? In my opinion that means.....

St: Ethnic Germans.

La: .... Ethnic Germans.

St: Certainly, yes.

La: What means RM?

St: Oh, no idea.

La: Does it not mean Rumania?

St: It could well be. Romanians, Poles...

La: Poles – P. What means PJ?

St: Polish Jews.

La: And what is DA?

St: DA?

La: Yes, what is this?

St: I cannot tell you, I really don't know.

La: Because you don't know what DA means. I also don't know. I have an idea, but I am not sure. Because here, you know, you have the scheduling order, and you have.... it says January 20, day....

St: Day, yes.

La: .... train number...



St: train number, yes.

La: ... 201..... VD, this means Ethnic Germans. And this is a train from Kalisch to Otterweihe...

St: Ottersweihe.

La: Good, And you have another train which is.... and a train DA 101, Terezin - Auschwitz.

St: Yes.

La: This is clear, this is a transport of Jews.

St: yes.

La: Terezin...

St: Terezin, yes, that was the large Jewish concentration camp.

La: No, no, yes was a ghetto.

St: An enormous ghetto, yes.

La: In Bohemia.

St: In Bohemia, yes.

La: And... so, DA this means.... I don't know, this is a.... this is clear.... it is clear, it is a Jewish train.

St: Yes, but DA, why?

La: OK, and the same train....

St: Auschwitz.

La: ....LP, what means LP?

St: Empty train, empty passenger train.

La: Oh, empty passenger train. This means that this train comes empty....

St: .... empty back from Auschwitz....

La: .... from Auschwitz to....

St: Terezin. Yes.

La: Only with a different number.

St: Yes, yes, yes. Yes, it obviously can.... it is called LP 102. Thus the train numbers in one direction are odd, and in the other direction....

La: yes...

St: .....even.

La: Yes, it was quite simple.

St: Yes, yes.

La: Yes, and here is another one: Terezin-Auschwitz, again with DA.

St: DA.

La: Well, here..... PO, this means...

St: Poland.

La: .... from Zamoszc...

St: Zamoszk.

La: .... come to Berlin.

St: Berlin.

La: Because Zamoszc was.... has a different name.

St: Zaomszc?

La: yes.

St: no.

La: Himmler.... Himmlerstadt.

St: So?

La: Yes.

St: I don't know this. I only know it under Zamosc.

La: Well known.

St: So?

La: yes.

St: You can see; I did not know it at all. I was in Poland and don't know this.

La: Yes, and this is a.... another DA train Terzin-Auschwitz. DA-train Berlin-Auschwitz....

St: They are....

La: DA train Terezin-Auschwitz.

St: Yes, yes.

La: DA train Terzin-Auschwitz. OK PJ - Polish Jews....

St: Polish Jews.

La: ... Bialystok-Auschwitz, Polish Jews, Bialystok-Auschwitz. Polish Jews.  
Bialystok-Auschwitz.

St: Yes.

La: Well, and this is for all of ..... for 2 months, this schedule setup. This is.....

St: yes.

La: .... until February 16. Treblinka. O Polish Jews. Bialystok-Treblinka....

St: yes.

La: Polish Jews, Bialystok-Treblinka. And what is the meaning of this DA?

St: Well, if I knew that I would be happy to tell you, but, right now, I have no idea. This here is General Management East, Dr. Jacobi. Oh, these are the train cars, this is the train car circulation.

La: Yes, yes, yes, yes. But there is something very interesting in this too. Very interesting. It is. But this is not that.... no, that is another document. But Da.... What does that mean.

St: If I knew that....Da....

La: I have.... I have already asked this in Nuremberg, a man in the traffic museum.... what was his name?

Corinna: Illenseer.

La: Oh, Illenseer, yes. Yes I did (ask) him... and he told me, I cannot be sure, but he thinks that it means David trains. David trains.

St: David.

La: David, yes. And David is a Jewish....

St: You know, I cannot imagine. This could be, but I just cannot [illegible]. Here, see, if they said here Romanians, they may be German Emigres. [= Deutsche Aussiedler = DA]

La: No, German émigrés are ethnic Germans, that is clear, right?

St: Well, yes, there were German émigrés... May I see.... Da, where is the train?

La: This is Therein - Auschwitz.

St: Da

La: Perhaps this is German émigrés.

St: Well, I really don't know.

La: But German émigrés.... there was only on category of German émigrés - German Jews.

St: Yes, yes, right. We know that now. But at that time nobody knew this. Because ..... Da ... it might be David, it is also possible.

La: No. The...

St: I don't know.

La: This is....

St: Da-train.

La: And here, I wanted to ask. German Reichsbahn General Management East. PW, this means [Personenwagen] passenger car.

St: Passenger car, yes PW.

- La: And this is railroad station [Bahnhof] ...
- St: No, no, no. Operating schedule [Betriebsfahrplan]....
- La: Operating schedule.
- St: Yes special train, right? BFSV. [Betriebsfahrplan Sonderzug....V...] operational schedule special train ....V.... where is the V now?
- La: Yes, operational special train for re-settlers during the time from January 20 to....
- St: BFSV ..... BFSV .... V is administration [Verwaltung], this means administrative train.
- La: yes.
- St: Yes? It had been ordered by the administration, not operational.....
- La: But it was...
- St: .....special train...
- La: But this special train department, this section, this Jacobi, it was Gedob or not Gedob?
- St: What do you mean?
- La: These....
- St: BFSV? No, here it is... issued by the General Operational Management.
- La: Yes.
- St: There were... So, all these transports were ordered by the General Operational Management East in Berlin, based on a decree by the Reich Traffic Ministry.
- La: Yes. But... And who gave the orders in the Reich Traffic Ministry?
- St: That... Well, what's his name? They are both no longer alive, they have been dead for a long time. Right?
- La: But which organization?
- St: Special trains department . in the Reich Traffic Ministry. There was a special trains department which ordered all the special trains.

La: Yes?

St: Don't you have a....a....

La: Oh, I have found the organizational diagram...

St: ..... of a decree.

La: Reich Traffic Ministry.... Operational department

#### STIER 4

There was a department for special trains

St: Yes, this was a....

La: section in the Reich Railroad.

St: What?

La: There was a special section in...

St: Yes

La: .... Gedob.

St: In the.... in the... in the Reich Traffic Ministry.... it was – as far as I know – under the department E. [End STIER 3B]

La: Yes, E.

St: Operational department. Yes.

La: E.

St: Yes.

La: It was Dr. Dilli.

St: Yes, Dilli. He was a well-known man.

La: And group transport...

St: group transports.....

La: 21

St: Yes, Ministry Conductor Schnell. He was the one; he issued also these decrees. And his... what was the name of his clerk? Well....

La: Yes, and there was Güter..... Well, there were two sub-divisions.... Güterzüge [good trains]...

St: Well, I cannot remember that.

La: .... and special trains, Stange.

St: Stange? Yes, it was the Council Stange. Now I remember Council Stange worked together with Mr. Schnell. Schnell was his boss.

La: Did you know Stange?

St: Yes, I knew him. Yes, I saw him once after..... after the end of the whole thing. And there he said..... , he was where did I .... know? Where was that? In..... in Bielefeld, Bielefeld...

La: Yes But the are.... you are often in Berlin.

REEL 4

STIER 5

no picture

La: Did you actually.... did you never see a train?

St: No, never. Never. I had so much work that I did not get away from my desk.

La: Yes.

St: We were working day and night.

La: Yes, yes.

St: Yes.

La: And you were a desk....

St: Yes I was a desk man, yes, just a desk man.

(Image starts)

La: Naturally. And why did you say that.... why all these names. You have said he was covered, right?

St: Camouflaged.

La: No, covered.

St: Yes, yes. Well, I am seeing it in such a way. Nobody was supposed to.... We call that camouflaged, you call it covered, good. So, nobody was supposed to see from the train designations where the settlers came from. That was the reason.

La: Yes.

St: Right? That was the reason.

La: Yes. But you... in the office, when you were all together...

St: Yes, the....

La: But... what?

St: Nobody said anything. You may laugh. Nobody trusted anybody. Everybody was insecure. Nobody spoke about these trains.

La: Nobody?

St: No. You can see that my colleague Glas.... and he said: only I would have known this. Right? Nobody. Nobody spoke about this.

La: Do you mean after the war, or during?

St: During. During this time... during this time.



La: Yes, but the schedule instructions...

St: Yes.

La: .... the people who wrote the schedule instructions, they knew what....

St: for us they were re-settlers.

La: For example, here is a schedule instruction. Yes, this is a schedule instruction...

St: The number.

La: ....587, 15.... 15 September 42.

St: 42, yes.

La: And this is General Management of the Eastern Railroad, 33, this is your section.

St: Yes.

La: H.... what does H mean?

Corinna: H.

St: H. 33 H, this is the number of... of the section, [Hilfsreferent], deputy manager.

La: Deputy manager.

St: Deputy manager, yes.

La: And what does deputy manager mean?

St: This is a.... a very junior academic, who was practically learning there.

La: Oh, yes.

St: There was a manager 33, that, that was the .... manager, then there was 33H, this was a deputy manager.

La: Oh, deputy manager.

St: He was Reich railroad councilor, and later became.... what do I know.... higher.....

La: Yes.

St: That was it.

La: Yes.

St: And this is....

La: and he was not....

St: This may also have been Richter? Right?

La: It was not necessary that he has.... He was [illegible] member of 33?

St: Yes.

La: Oh, he was.

St: Yes, certainly. He belonged. He was only assigned to section 33 as laborer.

La: Oh, yes.

St: and for this reason called himself 33H.

La: this means that he was not the real official.

St: yes.

La: Yes.

St: Yes, as laborer he was involved in dealing – how should I say this – with these special trains. He signed for them, declared them as correct. And then came the official who then certified the matter. And the official...

La: Oh, yes.

St: That is how it was.

La: Yes. Yes.

St: So, 33H, the official 33H was the boss of the person dealing with the matter.

La: Oh, yes, yes. I understand. The boss.

St: Yes.

La: OK, what means BFP....

St: Operational schedule for the administration of special trains  
[Betriebsfahrplansonderzugverwaltung].

La: Operational schedule.....

St: Special.... S.... BF.... is schedule [Fahrplan]...

La: Operational schedule for the administration of special trains  
[Betriebsfahrplansonderzugverwaltung].

St: ....administration [Verwaltung]. So.... there is the V. The administration has executed this special train.

La: Yes, and why these....

St: Only for official use.

La: Official use.

St: Externally, it should....

La: this means it was secret?

St: No, otherwise it would have been called secret. Only... one should only know about it for official use...

La: Yes, only for the people who...

St: Only within the office. It was not supposed to go outside. Otherwise it would have been called secret or strictly secret.

La: and what means.... this is another question. [Illegible] train.... LPKR. What means KR?

St: Krakow.

La: KR means Krakow?

St: Krakow, yes, LPKR Krakow.

La: According to scheduling regulations is....

St: Scheduling regulation 542 is from Treblinka not....

La: PKR, it is.... But there is PKR.... PKR....

St: Yes, this is an empty train. Lp is an empty train.

La: and KR?

St: PKR is a filled train. Lp this is an empty train.

La: and KR?

St: PKR is a filled train. Passenger train Krakow.... a filled train.

La: Yes.

St: While this is an empty train, right?

La: and KR means Krakow?

St: Yes, anyway...

La: But why Krakow? Because there is no Krakow...

St: Treblinka.... what? At that time there was no separate directorate in..... no separate scheduling office in Warsaw. Treblinka is located there after all, up there near Warsaw, right?

La: Yes, it is not far.

St: So, the work was done centrally in Krakow. Only later, when Warsaw got its own scheduling office...

La: So, what exactly is meant by here? Because there are various things. There is LPKR...

St: Yes.

La: and there is PKR.

St: Yes.

La: And there is PKR.

St: Yes, this is a filled train. The PK and an empty train. LP means empty passenger train.

La: Empty....

St: ..... passenger train, yes.

La: And KR means Krakow.

St: Is the designation of the station.

La: Oh, yes, oh, yes. This is the directorate Krakow.

St: and the PKR, this means it went empty from.... to.... from Treblinka to.... to.... and must have gone fully occupied, occupied from..... to Treblinka.

La: And this is always the same train?

St: This is always the same train, yes.

La: With only one...

St: And this is the train composition: 2P and 50G - freight cars.

La: Yes. And.... It was difficult ..... these special train in the midst of the normal traffic...

St: Sure, it became more and more difficult.... military traffic had preference.

La: Yes.

St: So, everything that came from...

La: priority.

St: Priority. Everything that went from West to East had priority. And for this reason, it could easily happen – as I have heard, I did not experience it – that these trains....

La: Did you sometimes have difficulties to provide these cars, in order to compose these trains?

St: No, no.

La: ..... in the middle of air.....

St: .... we have these....

La: .... attack or military....

St: Naturally, this happened, but we, after all, did not provide these cars ourselves in Krakow.

La: Yes.

- St: They came.... this was ordered by the General Management East. They may have come from Bratislava, or from somewhere. They were specially supplied to us.
- La: Yes.
- St: That is the way it was, right? In most cases they arrived full, and then the empty trains in our district were used again.
- La: To establish these schedules, you worked 14 to 15 hours per day?
- St: Well, this was not easy, right?
- La: This was not easy?
- St: Yes, yes, we had the....
- La: What was the main problem?
- St: Well, the ..... the schedules themselves were already put together during the so-called scheduling conference, on a special sheet that was the... the ..... sheet. Assuming, the train started in Essen and was supposed to go to Treblinka. The colleague in Essen started this. The departure time was given by the General Management East. And then the colleague in Essen started.... The train number, all that was given by the General Management, and then..... assuming the train was supposed to leave Essen at 11pm. Then he started and established [the schedule] for his district... When he had made the schedule for his district, the docket was passed on to the colleague in Wuppertal who then continued to the district of the Reich Train Management Hanover, and so on.
- La: Yes.
- St: That is how we did it.
- La: This means that, e.g., for a train, a re-settler train that runs, e.g., from Salonika...
- St: Yes.
- La: .... from Salonika to Treblinka, or from Paris to Auschwitz, this is a very complicated task.
- St: Certainly. This requires a great deal of work. It has to be correct. Because the train engineer will travel according to this schedule.
- La: Yes.
- St: Etc.

- La: Yes. And it could only be done by real specialists....
- St: They were all specialists, yes.
- La: They were all specialist, yes, yes.
- St: It was not possible to just put somebody at a desk and tell him: now make a schedule. Right? He would not have known where to begin.
- La: Yes.
- St: We had.... Naturally we had schedule tables. Travel times for individuals where you could read it off, but there were also single-track sections. And there the schedules had to be arranged in such a way that the trains could get through. For example, on single-track sections, crossing with a train in the other direction had to be taken into account.
- La: Yes. This means, the people who worked there were specialists. There were no ideologues.
- St: No, certainly not. No, we only constructed schedules.
- La: Only schedules?
- St: We did nothing else, right?
- La: Were there people in this section, for example, who were members of the NSDAP?
- St: Sure, certainly, certainly.
- La: Yes.
- St: Yes, there were. You could not fight it Dr. Sorell. Those who were not members of the party were forced to become.
- La: Oh, yes.
- St: One was forced. It was said (the boss or whoever) said: If you don't join the NSDAP...
- La: You can work.
- St: Yes. We cannot use you, and there is no chance at all for advancement or something. That was the threat.
- La: It was impossible to get to a higher position...
- St: That was impossible if you did not belong to the party.

La: And you yourself...

St: I was....

La: .....in the party. Since when?

St: I have to think. Late. I joined late. I think.... shortly before I was 39.... 1939, 38, 39....

La: Yes?

St: ....it has to be something like that.

La: And how.... You.... you had a conviction for...

St: No, not at all.

La: No. It was only....

St: Really, everybody thought about their future, Dr. Sorell. Everybody said to themselves: I have to howl with the wolves, otherwise I might regret it, they might pick me up....

La: Howl with the wolves, yes.

St: .... howl with the wolves. It would be best if you joined and then kept very quiet. For example, I was often away on official trips, and constructed schedules, just like many of my colleagues who were working for the Reich. This was my full occupation, that was all I did.

La: Yes, yes.

St: The problem came much later. I already explained it to you, with my superior who.... The investigation against me was based on this denunciation by Mr. Glas. And against this I had to.....

La: Mr. Glas himself was a member of the NSAP?

St: Naturally. He even was.... he was... This also explains a lot, he was in some cavalry group... he was SS, or something.

La: Oh, cavalry.

St: Cavalry group SS. And...

La: Not SA.



St: No, SS, yes, a cavalry group SS. That was found out later. Yes? And he was a fanatic, the man, right?

La: He was a fanatic?

St: Yes. We were unable to.... within the office. There were three of us in one office, we were unable to speak openly with him. Everyone was quiet, and did not dare to say anything.

La: And he had these plans....

St: Yes, yes.

La: .... to create scheduling arrangements with fanaticism, or such?

St: Yes, I don't know this. I can.... It is never possible to see inside a person. But, the fact that he wanted to push away any guilt from himself could be seen by his denouncing me. He said: I am sorry, I only have schedules.... everything else on Stier knows.

La: Yes.

St: In spite of the fact that I.....

La: But someone only had the scheduling arrangements....

St: All.... each Reich train directorate had their own scheduling official.

La: Yes.

St: That was it. But nobody know what was happening. You can also see it from this, we have here.... Dr. Sorell... Mr. Glas wrote himself...

La: Yes, but do you know...

St: Resettles....

La: Yes, resettles. But this is very interesting. E.g., this train from Jarzezov.... I don't know Polish....

St: Yes, difficult...

La: .... to Treblinka. Good. But the same train comes empty...

St: It is empty?

La: .....from Treblinka....

St: From Treblinka to....

La: .....Siedlowice. And Siedlowice is another small town.

St: Yes. Certainly.

La: OK. And the same train runs from Siedlowice to Treblinka. And...

St: Is it again empty. Runs empty from Treblinka to....

La: Yes, it comes empty and runs to a.... to all these places: Siedlowice, Zebchendorf....

St: This was a real shuttle service.

La: .....were Jewish ghettos, do you know?

St: Yes.

La: And.... it was the real final solution....

St: Nobody knew that. See those tables....

La: These ghettos were suddenly empty.

St: Yes, yes. We were never in such a ghetto, and...

La: You never saw a ghetto?

St: Oh, for heaven's sake, no, no. there was no way to get there, right? All this was kept from us, for tactical reasons already. Nobody was supposed to know that. This was not supposed to be made known. This was the tactic.

La: But between you, all the people in the section, somebody knew this plan, this plan...

## REEL 5

St: And I said: Mr. Pfalz, surely, I would like to take [you] along. And I fought for it. And I said: If you will be able to stay alive there, that means to remain living, [illegible] it is so difficult to live in Warsaw, too expensive. We got our food allotted to us. I have this Mr. Pfalz... It is a pity, I don't know if he is still alive. But if you are doing research, I would be happy to talk to him. He has.... Mr. Pfalz....

La: Yes.

St: .... we got rationing cards in Krakow.... but every German.... had a special [illegible]

La: yes.

St: .... and we did not really need the food...

La: yes.

St: ..... everything we wanted, which was needed for living. [empty space], Vodka...

La: Vodka?

St: A white Vodka and a .... the label... one was a good one, and the red label was not as good. And I was always sorry for Mr. Pfalz, a very educated man. He had earlier worked for the Polish State Railroad, expert....

La: Yes.

St: And one day.... my boss came to me and said: Mr. Stier, can you use another person? I said yes. Mr. Pfalz stood next to him. And he looked at me...as if he wanted to say: take me, please. So I said, Ok. I will take him. And the man later for me..... He had nothing to eat. I gave him food. I said: Mr. Pfalz, would you be willing to get groceries for me. I am giving you the card. And then go to a certain place and shop for me; here is the money. He said, certainly. He went there, but came back after a short time and said: Mr. Stier, I need certification... This way I get.... I said, fine...

La: You had a certificate...

St: I wrote a certificate, put a stamp on it, that he was authorized to shop for me. He happily went there again. An hour later he came back with a full load, right? He said: Mr. Stier, here are your goods. He then looked at them longingly. I said: Mr. Pfalz, this is not for me, this is for you. Take it. And if you have some colleague, a Polish colleague, share it. Dr. Sorell, the people would have gone through fire for me.

La: Through fire.

St: They were so grateful.

La: You liked to have....

St: Yes, and Mr. Pfalz.... and Mr. Pfalz. I heard that later, [illegible]

La: His first name was Stanislaus.

St: His name was Stanislaus Pfalz. A large....

La: Yes.

St: Yes, elegant, right?

La: Yes.

St: An educated man.

La: The Poles, the Poles are elegant.

St: Yes. And he was sent – that is what I heard – to Stettin.

La: Yes?

St: If that.... I heard that from someone.

La: Now?

St: No, after the war.

La: After the war.

St: A pity, I would have loved to.... if you....speak to him, reach him somehow, you have to...

La: Yes, perhaps, I will [go] to Poland.....

St: He will be able to.... he will be able to..... give him my regards.

La: I will congratulate.

St: Yes, yes, really. I am sorry that I cannot.... He really was a great guy.

La: Yes, but you have said that between you in the section, you ... all these schedule arrangements.

St: yes.

La: ..... made, constructed. But you never...

St: No, never.

La: oh...

St: We did not know. I know....

La: No, you never talked ..... about the....

St: No.

La: And why?

St: Because we were afraid, very afraid.

La: But why were you afraid, you did not know, why were you afraid?

St: No, one knew a lot.... some details...We told ourselves that something has to be there. What.... why are all these people brought there? Right?

La: Oh, you had the little...

St: Everyone had their ideas, but nobody knew what it was.

La: yes. this means you did not know, but you had an idea?

St: One imagined that...

La: You knew that something.....

St: Yes, this ..... me sometimes, a.....a.... It was a trial, where I was a witness. It was in Kiel. The District Attorney asked: What? You had to know this? – I am sorry....

La: Yes, but what means “to know”?

St: To know....

La: That is a big question.

St: This are two different things, I might say, right? And then he said: Yes, Mr. Witness, you are lying. And I said: I am not lying, I assure you. I was not tired of life. I said, because we were spied on.

La: Yes.

St: There were representatives of the party who..... I don't know what they were called....

La: But was it really dangerous?

St: Yes.

La: Yes?

St: Certainly. I had.... One of them did at one time..... I was traveling very much. And suddenly I was called to my superior. One of my colleagues in the office of the train police accused me that I was shirking.... Every train employee had to participate in a shooting course with the train police. And I was never there.

La: Shooting course?

St: Shooting course. And he accused me stating that I shirked my attendance and I should be asked to give an explanation. If necessary they would involve the party.

La: Oh, yes?

St: Oh.

La: It was serious.

St: This was very dangerous.

La: Yes.

St: But the.... I then refuted that. I was able to prove that I really was....

La: Yes, but.... but I believe that you were absolutely right...

St: If....

La: ..... everyone had an idea.

St: Everyone had an idea. But he does not know if it is true.

La: Yes.

St: The....

La: I have.... I have already reports from eye witnesses who worked for the Reichbahn, and also the Ostabahn. And some of them said that they knew...

St: Dr. Sorell how many knew that? It is impossible to say who knew this is..... this is exaggerated, that you are saying this. Did you also ask these people when, from what time on, they knew this? This may only have been after.....

La: No, but, for example, the station.... the main station near Treblinka...

St: Yes?

La: Malkinia...

St: Malkinia.

La: Malkinia was a big...

St: Yes.

La: ....a big station. And the people, all the people in Malkinia knew, because there was,... it was impossible not to know.

St: Yes.

La: Because there was....

St: Yes, they were immediately...

La: There was the..... what?

St: They were right at the place.

La: Yes, naturally. You were not at the place, you were in the office. And you have....

St: I was 300 km away from....

La: Yes, naturally, naturally.

St: In the.... in the...

La: Yes, and Auschwitz – Krakow 60 km. And this is rather far away.

St: Yes, yes, yes. No, no. I would openly admit it, because if I had... Even if I had known it, I would not have said a word.

La: It... it was totally....

St: They would have been picked up immediately, right? They would have said: how could you say such a thing.

La: If you knew.....

St: Can you prove it?

La: If you had known, it was....

St: Could.....

La: ..... say the same thing....

St: We could not prove anything, and everybody took care to not breathe a word, right?

La: Yes.

St: This was dangerous.

La: But in the beginning...

St: Yes?

La: ..... conversation, when I asked where were these re-settlers... Who were... You answered, mostly Jews and criminals. What...

St: Yes, we got that later.... the question... You must not misunderstand the response. In the beginning nobody knew what this meant. Later, when the matter became too hot, it was said that apparently there were Jews inside. There were criminals inside. Thus, people who had been arrested here in Germany, for example. They [illegible] their attitude towards National Socialism.... There was enough of that.

La: Yes, naturally.

St: There was enough of that.

La: And there were also many Jews who were criminals.

St: There was that too.

La: Oh, yes.

St: There was that too.

La: There were many.

St: Yes, so.... See, later, I ..... to my home town. I returned in 1945, in May, and I was...

La: Where?



St: To Luebeck.

La: Oh, to Luebeck.

St: That is where I lived.

La: Your place of birth.

St: My place of birth and place of residency were at that time still [illegible]. And then I was hired by the British Station Officer as interpreter because of my knowledge of English. He was a Major.

La: Because you speak....

St: Yes.

La: .....fluent English, English.

St: well, fluent may be exaggerated, but....

La: Yes.

St: ... it was possible to communicate. And then we repeatedly executed transports [missing word], those who came back from the concentration camps. And among them were – that is why I know it – criminals. We did.... The captain said to me – not major – : Mr. Stier, here comes a train, let's have a look at it, right? And as I was his aide, I was always with him. And we made the effort. The people were then brought to Neustadt/Holstein, up there, for recovery.

La: Yes, to recover.

St: Yes. And among them.... We had there..... the train had a stop-over of one hour in Luebeck. And they came out, and some were taken out on stretchers. Those stayed in Luebeck and were taken to the hospital, those on stretchers, they were unable to walk. And we had a circle around us and talked to these people from the concentration camp. And they were very happy. And I asked them: how long have you been in the concentration camp? You should really already be dead. Well, he said, you know, I was in the concentration camp for three years I said: and why? – Well, I was a resistance fighter. I was against the party. Yes, I said, and? – Yes, he said, and I always did what they wanted. This way, nothing happened to me. But those who [word missing], they were beaten, right?

La: Was this a Jew?

St: No, no. this was [both speak simultaneously]

La: Yes, yes.

St: No, he was no Jew.

La: Did you have in this.... Did the people who worked for the Reichsbahn a uniform?

St: yes

La: Yes?

St: Yes.

La: What kind....

St: Train uniform.

La: Yes. Train.

St: Yes, yes, an ordinary train worker's uniform.

La: Yes.

St: And everybody knew....

La: I thought that the uniform was only for the people who worked in the stations...

St: No, everybody.... everybody...

La: All the officials.

St: Every official.... had to wear the uniform.

La: Yes.

STIER 7 picture starting

St: This was regulation. No..... there were no civilians.

La: Yes. And another question. These re-settler trains, e.g. a train going from Paris to Auschwitz.

St: Yes.

La: Where were the conductors?

St: The trains mostly had one or two passenger cars with them. In the beginning it was all

passenger cars, after all. Later, when the car supply became sparse, as a consequence of the bombardment from the air, the conductor [was given] a special compartment.

La: No, sorry, not the conductor... the locomotive engineer.

[trouble with the picture]

St: The locomotive engineer?

La: Yes.

St: In the locomotive.

La: Yes. Where..... who where these people? Were they French?

St: No. Within Germany only.... only Germans.

La: Only Germans. But in France..... Paris....

St: Yes, naturally these were Frenchmen.

La: Yes, and in Poland? In Poland?

[no more picture]

St: In Poland we had.... Poles and also Germans.

La: Yes.

St: Yes.

La: And for..... for these transports, was the Reichsbahn paid?

St: I don't know. This is another story. I have been asked this repeatedly. I cannot say that. One version that I have heard is, that the Reichsbahn was paid for these transports. But by whom is not known. At least I don't know.

La: I believe by the Main Reich Security Office.

St: Probably. I don't know.

La: Yes.

St: This is beyond....

La: But the Reichsbahn is actually a separate organization....

St: Yes....

La: ..... the Reichsbahn had to be paid.

St: But this was not.... That was with the Reich.... certainly only with the Ministry for Reich traffic.....

La: Yes.

St: ..... settled.

La: Yes.

St: Nobody outside was informed about this. Right? That it was paid....

La: Yes.

St: ..... that was known by everybody. At least that is what we were told.

La: You had nothing to do with the train car.....

St: No.

La: ..... only with.....

St: For this we were ..... only..... for.... the train cars from the "Rebel", from the Main Operations Management....

La: Because I think that I have heard that these train cars were.... when these train cars were filled with Jews, they were very dirty.

St: I don't know about this. I only knew, this is also contained in.... apparently this is also contained in... I can remember that we....

La: Yes.

St: ..... that the train cars had to be cleaned....

La: Yes, I have read this. Yes. One moment.

Corinna: (whispering)

St: Yes, somehow it is.... I once .... something..... This is Konigsberg, right?

La: And this is this....

St: May I see? This is a telegram, train operations telegram.

La: Yes.

St: From Bulgaria and Greece....

La: ..... and Greece. Yes, this a transport of Jews from Bulgaria and Greece. It was a very long journey.

St: Yes, yes, yes.

La: But these..... these transports of Jews were rapid or..... how do you say?

St: They were..... speedy?

La: Yes, speed.

St: That was prescribed. This..... wait a moment, I want to see.

[End of sound STIER 7 and end of material 16mm of STIER]

#### REEL 6

La: Yes, everything was..... [French] how do you say this?

Corinna: Predicted.

La: Everything was predicted.

St: Yes.

La: Speed.

St: .... Speed, all prescribed, yes.

La: 45 km.

St: Yes.

La: And were there accidents?

St: I have no memory.... of derailments or such. I only know that German hospital trains which

also came from the East to the West, that they ran over mines and were then attacked by.....

La: Yes, but not traffic accidents.

St: No. Hospital trains...

La: Yes.

St: Oh, God, yes....

La: Everything was..... was in order.

St: Everything was in order, yes.

La: Yes, and you were responsible for ....

St: Yes.

La: .....for this?

St: Yes, certainly. That has to be correct, that we have peace, right?

La: Yes.

St: This is a type of document, the schedule.

La: Yes, this is a document.

St: Document, yes.

La: But you are quite proud of....

St: Yes... well, dear God, if we had suspected what was going on, this would have troubled us. There is nobody, as I said, Glas, I cannot forget him, right?

La: Yes.

St: He was a fanatic, right?

La: Yes, but troubled.... only..... you conscience.

St: Yes. Exactly. Certainly, everybody has a conscience, but he did not know what was going on.

La: Yes.

St: Or if I.... To get back to Stanislaus Peitz, Dr. Sorell.

La: Yes.

St: One day he said to me.... you can see how much he trusted me. We were alone in the office as the third man was not there. He said to me: "Mr. Stier can I say something?" I said certainly. "You have lost the war." I said: "For heaven's sake, Mr. Peitz, be quiet." He said then: "I can say this to you." "Yes, for heaven's sake", I said, "don't let anybody hear this." He said: "I know that you are an honorable man, you will not rat on me." I said: "No, certainly not. You are also nice and trusting and.... but I am warning you to be quiet."

La: But did you know that.... did you have any idea that the war....

St: That was at that time....

La: ..... was lost?

St: we never believed that.

La: Never believed that?

St: Absolutely not, no, But when...

La: When did you believe?

St: When it..... there down in Russia, what's the name?

Corinna: Stalingrad.

St: Stalingrad, right. You see, I could not remember the name..... when Stalingrad fell, then we had.....

La: You had a..... despair.

St: Now is....

La: ..... doubts after Stalingrad. But with hope, right?

St: Oh, that came no longer, no.

La: Yes.

St: No. Now it is finished. I saw injured German soldiers, you know, who.... You cannot

believe this. They were..... There were also no more hospitals; they were also transported in freight cars. And I saw one train, we were already in retreat; it was in Kutno. That was the border between Poland ..... the border at that time during the war, in Kutno.

La: Kutno, yes.

St: Kutno, yes.

La: Kutno, this is in the Warthe area.

St: Warthegau....

La: Warthegau, yes.

St: There..... there was a so-called hospital train. The dead – it was during winter– they were just thrown out by two men into a ditch and then....

La: Yes.

St: This was terrible.

La: Yes, terrible.

St: Yes. Never something like this again.

La: I believe you.

St: Yes. But as I said, Dr. .... the..... we did not know it.

La: Yes that is the....

St: Yes.

La: Yes, I believe it.

St: We did not know this.

La: Yes, well. I am very grateful for your...

St: Please, if I can help you... But now may I show you my documents again. For assistance in murder, otherwise you will think ....

La: Yes, you are flying.... you are flying to...

St: Beirut, to my daughter.



La: Your daughter is living there?

St: She is living there since 1966, yes.

La: Yes? Is she married?

St: Yes. I will show you the picture.

La: Whom....

St: With....

St: so.... oh, I am falling.... This is my daughter.

La: Oh, a beauty.

St: Yes....

La: My God...

St: and this is my son-in-law.

La: Yes.

St: He is Jordanian.

La: Oh, he is Jordanian.

St: Yes, yes, from Jordan, yes, from Amman.

La: From Amman?

St: A nice guy.

La: and what is he doing?

St: He is an architect.

La: Architect, Amman.

St: Right.... but they are no in Beirut, yes.

La: Yes.

St: And....

La: He was born in Amman?

St: He was born in Amman, yes. And this is my daughter; she is a goldsmith by trade.

La: Yes?

St: Yes. A pretty girl.

Corinna: Very pretty, yes.

La: Yes, but the Arabs are nice people.

St: Wonderful.

La: Wonderful.

St: Well, I always like to be there. I have to say. And also, this is her second husband. Her first husband died. He died while they were on a world-wide journey, he died in New York....

La: Yes..

St: And.... he was a friend of the family. At the time they had 4 children from her first husband. In the meantime there are 6; and he was so excited about them that he married her in spite of the 4 children.

Corinna: Marvelous.

La: The children also live in...

St: Yes.

La: in Beirut?

St: Yes, they are living in Beirut.

La: Yes.

St: That is giving them a little insight.....

La: and you.... you are going.... you are going frequently into the Near East?

St: I am going every year...

La: every year.

St: .....there.

La: Yes.

St: there I have all of them, all 6.

La: Do you have a picture of you in uniform?

St: No.

La: No?

St: Wait, may be

La: Oh, dear God....

St: There they are.

La: Denise, George, Vivian, Mike, Nancy, Liliane. One, two, three, four, five.

St: Six.

La: Oh, six.

St: Six.

La: You have six grand children?

St: 6. Yes I am six times grandfather. Yes.

La: I congratulate.

St: Yes.

La: But this is a.... I have never been there. But I think that it is a very beautiful....

St: Beirut was a very beautiful.... a modern city. The.... the Paris of the Near East. Beautiful. But, unfortunately it is very [illegible]

La: Yes, there is always war, and Israel....

St: Terrible, terrible, yes. Yes, and with the Christians and Muslims they fight each other, and then there is Syria in between.

La: Yes.

St: .... the so-called peace keepers. But.... the Christians are the ones who always fight again.

La: Yes, yes.

St: They live in an area in the West, directly on the ocean, and nothing has happened there so far.

La: Yes.

St: The fanatics have gotten in there once, or the rockets, but not....

La: Yes, but this is not....

St: ..... not.....

La: Yes, there are quiet....

St: Yes.

La: ..... quiet places.

St: Yes.

La: And you know.... Jordan?

St: Yes, I also know Amman.

La: And Syria?

St: I also know Syria. I was in Damascus. Yes, I know all that.

La: Yes.

St: We traveled a lot around there, but now it is not advisable to travel around. It is better to stay in place.

La: Yes, and there is always a war...

St: Just.

La: A war zone.

St: Oh, I also wanted to show you the documents.

[Claude and Corinna whisper in the background, while Stier is looking for documents]

St: See here, these are all the trial papers, some more here.

La: Yes, here is a photo with uniform.

St: Yes. That were.... Oh, yes, yes, here. But this was not good what you can see in it. This was our office boss. I have there.... This was some evening, in our Kas.....

La: Where are you?

St: There.

La: There. When is that?

St: What?

La: When?

St: When that was? .....41.

La: Oh, this Gedob?

St: Yes.

La: Yes.

St: And this was.... the Main office. And here I can also show you Mr. Glas.

La: Oh, this is Glas?

St: I framed him here.

La: One moment. May I?

St: He is supposed to have died in the meantime, so I heard. This one there.

La: This is...

St: Glas.

La: Oh, this is Glas.

St: Yes.

La: And who is this?

St: This is a colleague from the.... from the train car office. He was the head secretary. And this was our office manager, Mr. Brinkmann.

La: Brinkmann?

St: Brinkmann, yes. And this was someone from Dresden, this was...

La: Where is Richter? Who is...

St: He is not in this picture. These are all non-academics.

La: Oh, yes.

St: They were too good, they did not want to be in it. You cannot do anything about it.

La: Yes.

St: But I wanted to show you this...

La: Why is Stangl here?

St: What?

La: Wa.....

St: Stengel?

La: Yes.

St: Yes, Franz Stangl. This is.... an accused. .... man, I think.

La: He was commandant in Treblinka.

St: See here? There I was called as witness. Ladeung August 7, 1970... Court with a jury. Here I raised my fingers. Then.... oh yes, here I was a witness in Vienna. (Reads the summons of the court, unclear)

La: Oh, Franz Novak.

St: He was an train engineer, if my memory serves me right.

La: Franz Novak. Er.... I think – if my memory is not too bad – he was the expert for transport from the Reich Security Main Office...

St: Oh...

La: ....IV B 4 from..... from Eichmann, I believe.

St: So?

La: Novak, yes.

St: I was summoned on 10..... 72 as witness. [illegible] please hand me the required statements.

La: But did you know Novak?

St: No.

La: No.

St: Not at all.

La: No.... no. Novak was the man... was the man from the Reich Security Main Office, he ordered the special trains.

St: Oh, that was him?

La: Yes, certainly. To the Reich Traffic Ministry.

St: Oh, I don't know any of this.

La: He ordered.

St: You can see by this how unknowing I was.

La: Yes, yes.

St: But here, this is the preliminary proceedings against Heinrich Theodor Walther Stier, Federal Railroad.... (mumbles)..... born on October 25, 1906....

La: Yes?

St: .... living in Frankfurt, Cronstatter 60. There was another one, Wilhelm Fehling, whom I don't know at all. Train operations director..... Rettlinghausen.

La: You don't know Fehling? You don't know.

St: I don't know him, no.

La: No.

St: For assistance in murder according to paragraph [illegible] section 2 of the penal code, is suspended.

La: Assistance in murder.

St: Yes.

La: ..... [illegible]

St: My own..... I keep on having to stress this... my own superiors, have always conducted themselves in a sorry manner. Later, after difficult years, when this superior..... yes, Director of Ministry...

La: Oh, Dr. Ganzenmueller, right.

St: Yes, I was also a witness there.

La: Did you know Ganzenmueller?

St: No.

La: No? He was too high up.

St: He was too high up for me.

La: Yes, you were a very small.....

St: .... small fish, I had once been told.

La: You were very insignificant.

St: Yes. But I was still summoned everywhere.

La: Yes. But Ganzenmueller had ..... I believe, ordered trains....

St: Yes?

La: In 1942.... from Warsaw to....to Treblinka.



St: Oh, to me..... Well, he was – as you have already stated correctly – too high for me.

La: Yes, yes.

St: And Baeckerle and von Hahn, this was also a [illegible]. Jury trial in Frankfurt. I also don't know them. Baeckerle?

La: Baeckerle and von Hahn.... for murder..... for murder.

St: For murder.

La: Qua? [sic] Oh, for murder.

St: For murder, right?

La: Yes, this is.... But I believe it has been concluded, all these.....

St: Yes,....

La: this matter...

St: I hope, right? That I don't have to go there again. It is gruesome, you know. Yes, this is the granting of permission to testify in the case against Baeckerle and von Hahn before the Attorney General in Frankfurt.

La: Yes, you can only say the same thing.

St: I cannot say anything else, right?

La: Naturally.

St: Oh, here I have noted all the places I had been. The trains to Frankfurt.... Fritz Gebhardt, I don't know who..... and von Hahn...

La: Hahn, yes.

St: In Frankfurt. Here, the interrogation in Frankfurt, April 13, 1965, Mr. von Belo, Dr. von Belo. He wanted.... already had the warrant. But then he released me honorably. Here Schnell, Stangl..... He.....

La: Ganzenmueller.

St: Ganzenmueller, he is..... Ganzenmueller, he was ..... he was the highest. And then came Schnell, was .....of the ministry.

La: an official, secretary of state.

St: He was secretary of state, yes, right.

La: Stangl was at the Treblinka camp... But he died.

St: Ganzenmueller?

La: No, Stangl.

St: Oh, Stangl, Yes, Stangl died. Yes, I know that.

La: I think in prison.

St: Yes, I know, yes...

La: Ganzenmueller was never indicted here.

St: Yes, he was.

La: He was?

St: I am going to show you.

La: Yes?

St: Here I have a big name list. The director general....

La: Yes, yes.

St: See, the judges. He was....

La: There were many judges.

St: Yes, several judges. Yes, yes. But at that time he was in section 34. He later changed to section 33.

La: Oh, yes.

St: Judges.

## REEL 7

St: I knew nothing.

La: Yes. Railroad operations manager....

St: Oh, yes. (Both speak simultaneously). Yes. Dr. Grossmann, District Attorney. This was worth a million or more to me.

La: And did you know – what was his name?– Prof. Dr. Dornmueller?

St: No, no. Dornmueller was the Reich Minister of Transportation... I may have seen him once, but that is all. Yes. Yes. That is all.... I can.... Here I have the ..... play, where I participated in recently. What was that? Let's see. But you can see that I kept everything carefully in order to be able to defend myself. Well, whatever a man such as Glass could do!

La: Yes.

St: Right?

St: In this manner I rushed for years from one trial to the next as witness.

La: Yes, yes. This is.....

St: This is awful. But.....

La: It appears.... it appears to be finished.

St: I hope so.

La: Yes.

St: It is also possible...

La: There is also..... [in French] how do you say that?

Corinna: statute of limitation

La: Statute of limitation, yes.

St: Yes, yes, they want.... where murder is concerned, there should be – in my opinion – no statute of limitation. If I have killed people, I should.....

La: Yes, yes.

St: ... should pay for it, in my opinion. Until now this is....

- La: Oh, Treblinka, modern warfare. Well, yes. I have seen that. In the court room... You also were in the Treblinka.... in the Treblinka trial?
- St: Yes, this was dealt with in Düsseldorf. I was often there.
- La: Oh, yes. I think the state attorney was Mr. Spiess, right?
- St: I really cannot remember this. But here. This is also.... See here, in this trial. All [word missing] and officials affirmed unanimously to have known nothing definitive about the killings in Treblinka. Federal Railroad Inspector Dietsch – I don't know who that is – “so much stupid stuff was talked about, one did not know what was going on.” Oh, Pietsch was, I think, the station manager.
- La: In Bialystok.
- St: It is written here: “Pietsch, during those years, was station manager in Bialystok, saw trains full of people roll through his station.” and more. Witness Zabel, vice president in the Federal Railroad Management. This is in Kassel.... he was later. “In the war he was in charge of travel and goods trains of the German Eastern Railroads” – he was my superior, I had him. “Officially the talk was about resettlement transports.
- La: Officially, naturally.
- St: So, please, here you have it, right? And the.... Zabel also was a decent man, who....
- La: This is your opinion.
- St: Yes, certainly.
- La: Yes, the same.
- St: Yes, this.... it was bad. Yes, these are the things that I kept in order to....
- La: Yes.
- St: Unfortunately, there was Dr. Ganzenmueller. I also..... as a witness. But I was not able to say anything. I have no idea.... 19 [word missing] and 73. Yes.... The bad thing is the press, sir, I can tell you that.
- La: The press is always bad.
- St: The.....the....
- La: The press is ..... (both together).

St: .... Ganzenmueller.... Ganzenmueller.

La: Oh, that is.... that is Ganzenmueller

St: Yes, yes.

La: Yes.

St: Yes, this is bad. Well, what they .... Here Dr.von Belo, the District Attorney.

La: Oh, yes. A very decent man.

St: Decent. I owe him a great deal.

La: Yes.

St: He is also no longer alive. Well, almost all of them..... all of them have died.

La: Yes.

St: Almost all of them.

La: This is the reason that I am very grateful for your assistance.

St: Well, I was happy to do this, but, as I said, the disappointment is possibly for you, because I was not able to say much concrete, except scheduling etc., how they have been made. Right?

La: No, no, this is very concrete. I now have a clear....

St: understanding.

La: .... understanding. Yes. And I am very [illegible]

St: Yes.

La: ..... for your work.

St: Yes. Well..... Should you.... should you (meet) Mr. Pfeitz.... really, if you travel to Poland, Dr. Sorell, and if he is still alive, please give him my sincere greetings.

La: If I travel to Poland...

St: Yes.

La: I am not yet sure, and.... if he is still alive.

St: Still alive, yes.

La: How old was he?

St: He was older than I. You see, I will be 73, thus he must be at least 75-76, if not close to 80.

La: Yes, yes, yes.

St: I would really be interested. And he can confirm what I told you. Yes.

La: Yes.

St: And..... I think, if a Pole of...

La: Did you like the Poles?

St: Yes.

La: Yes.

St: We were good friends. Nobody was supposed to be aware of this. Dr. Sorell, when I gave them my food....

La: Yes.

St: .. Can you think what would have happened, they would have.....

La: No, no. I mean the Poles in general.

St: Oh, naturally, yes.

La: And what did you like best, which city did you like best, Krakau or Warsaw?

St: I preferred Krakau. Krakau was a beautiful city. Yes, it is still beautiful.

La: Yes, very beautiful.

St: Warsaw.... when I got to Warsaw, it was during the war, 43, a lot had already been destroyed...

La: Yes, yes. And then there was this resistance.

St: Yes, and I went through it, right? I was.... We were then taken out of Warsaw by tanks.

La: Oh, yes?

St: We were unable to get out. Otherwise they would have killed all of us. That is the way it was then...

La: You came to Warsaw in July 43.

St: July 43, yes. I can....

La: Yes.

St: It is very well, that I have kept all this. So [words missing] and [word missing] after 39 years.

La: But you have fantastic .....

St: Yes. No. They only did the trials, Dr. Sorell, ... after all, I was (called to) all these trials for years...

La: .....memories...

St: .... after this, it is still alive. Yes, yes. Yes. That's the way it is. Now I will go to the other story, right?

La: Please?

St: Now I am entering another history.

Corinna: (is translating)

La: Oh, yes, yes.

St: I hope that you have a good impression of me.

La: Oh, yes, very, very good.

St: Yes.

La: Very, very good and in particular.... this is very.... very important. But....

St: It is a pity that I don't have a picture, otherwise I would have (given) you one....

La: Yes, a pity.

St: Regrettable.

La: It is impossible to (get) a photocopy of....

St: Photocopy.

La: ... of this picture of district 33....

St: Perhaps....

La: You could have two.... And I will send it back.

St: Yes. (Talks in the background – Claude talks to Corinna and crew).

St: Yes, yes. This is difficult.

(Interruption on the tape).

La: Tomorrow.... tomorrow, we...

St: Yes, there is no hurry. I am happy to let you take it.

La: Yes, this is very, very....

St: I would hate to get rid of it, because it is always a good memento, right?

Corinna: I will send it tomorrow... I will put it into the mailbox tomorrow with a registered letter; this will be best, right?

St: Yes, that would be nice, because it would be a pity if it.... Many of them are no longer alive. But there is also Mr. Gals, I have him here. Did you see him?

Corinna: No, I did not see it.

St: Yes, This is the uniform of the Gorsse [word missing], in the size of a post card.

La: Yes, yes.

St: .... this is the way we all cling to it, right?

La: Yes, yes.