1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:18,680

2 00:00:18,680 --> 00:00:22,910 We were talking previously about the food packages

3 00:00:22,910 --> 00:00:28,310 that your family were able to send to you in the camp.

4 00:00:28,310 --> 00:00:31,259 You said that it was through the ability of the Judenrat

5 00:00:31,259 --> 00:00:32,509 that they were able to locate.

6 00:00:32,509 --> 00:00:35,310 They were able to send once in a week.

7 00:00:35,310 --> 00:00:38,330 Sometimes, once in two weeks.

8 00:00:38,330 --> 00:00:40,520 Sometimes, once in three weeks, but they

9 00:00:40,520 --> 00:00:43,070 used to be able to get packages.

10 00:00:43,070 --> 00:00:44,770 They lived not too far.

11 00:00:44,770 --> 00:00:48,990 Like, I was about 40 to 50 kilometers away from the camp.

12 00:00:48,990 --> 00:00:52,280 But there were many people there were 100 kilometers away,

13 00:00:52,280 --> 00:00:53,900 and they didn't get.

14 00:00:53,900 --> 00:00:55,730 But when they did get it, they used

15 00:00:55,730 --> 00:00:58,530 to split with the one that didn't get it.

16 00:00:58,530 --> 00:01:00,540 And so we tried to help ourselves

17 00:01:00,540 --> 00:01:02,720 out whenever as possible.

18 00:01:02,720 --> 00:01:06,890 But unfortunately, this was not going on for a long time

19 00:01:06,890 --> 00:01:11,792 because it took about--

20 00:01:11,792 --> 00:01:16,570 it was about six months in camp.

21 00:01:16,570 --> 00:01:20,110 And they came, and they destroy it, our town.

22 00:01:20,110 --> 00:01:21,630 They liquidate our town.

23 00:01:21,630 --> 00:01:26,980 Our town, Khorostkiv, had history for over 500 years

24 00:01:26,980 --> 00:01:29,800 where Jewish used to live in Khorostkiv.

25 00:01:29,800 --> 00:01:32,440 They liquidated it in one day.

26 00:01:32,440 --> 00:01:39,040 They came around, and this was [NON-ENGLISH] in 1942.

27 00:01:39,040 --> 00:01:42,520 This was in October '42.

28 00:01:42,520 --> 00:01:47,410 And they, as I said before, the town had over 2,000 Jews.

29 00:01:47,410 --> 00:01:52,690 They took away over 1,000 Jews.

30 00:01:52,690 --> 00:01:59,890 They took away to Belzec, and 100, they killed on the spot.

31 00:01:59,890 --> 00:02:01,270 Whoever didn't want to go, didn't

32 00:02:01,270 --> 00:02:05,660 want to listen to the orders was killed on the spot.

33 00:02:05,660 --> 00:02:08,900 And in that state, he made judenfrei,

34 00:02:08,900 --> 00:02:12,620 Khorostkiv came judenfrei, free from Jews.

35 00:02:12,620 --> 00:02:18,020 So the people there still came out from their hidings. 36 00:02:18,020 --> 00:02:20,270 Had one day to leave.

37 00:02:20,270 --> 00:02:23,670 They went to other ghettos.

38 00:02:23,670 --> 00:02:28,410 This is the day when my father and among other--

39 00:02:28,410 --> 00:02:31,880 as I said before, about 1,000 Jews went to Belzec.

40 00:02:31,880 --> 00:02:37,050 I was at a camp, which in Poland where

41 00:02:37,050 --> 00:02:41,550 over 600,000 Jews were killed.

42 00:02:41,550 --> 00:02:43,250 There, they didn't wait.

43 00:02:43,250 --> 00:02:46,230 This was a camp, only a death camp strictly.

44 00:02:46,230 --> 00:02:49,110 People would come in every day, and people

45 00:02:49,110 --> 00:02:51,060 were killed immediately.

46 00:02:51,060 --> 00:02:54,000 Nobody came out alive from this.

47 00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:57,980 If I'm not mistaken, there was the one somehow 48 00:02:57,980 --> 00:03:02,440 who came out a Jew because he worked there as a janitor.

49 00:03:02,440 --> 00:03:05,500 And he had papers as a janitor, but he was a Jew.

50 00:03:05,500 --> 00:03:07,060 And he told exactly the story.

51 00:03:07,060 --> 00:03:09,350 Some other janitors told the story.

52 00:03:09,350 --> 00:03:13,120 However, no Jew-- they didn't make him work there.

53 00:03:13,120 --> 00:03:17,490 When they came in immediately, they were killed.

54 00:03:17,490 --> 00:03:20,920 How did you find out about the liquidation of your town

55 00:03:20,920 --> 00:03:22,870 while you were in the concentration camp?

56 00:03:22,870 --> 00:03:29,290 My brother, Harry [INAUDIBLE],, he still lives in Union.

57 00:03:29,290 --> 00:03:32,020 He has a wife and children.

58 00:03:32,020 --> 00:03:36,670 And he told me the story and many other people, 59 00:03:36,670 --> 00:03:37,570 the were left.

60 00:03:37,570 --> 00:03:40,660 They killed-- they took away to Belzec over 1,000

61 00:03:40,660 --> 00:03:42,370 people, and 100, they killed.

62 00:03:42,370 --> 00:03:51,200 But still over 1,000 people were alive at that time.

63 00:03:51,200 --> 00:03:55,070 And I met several one of them, several of them.

64 00:03:55,070 --> 00:03:57,980 After the war, was only a few alive.

65 00:03:57,980 --> 00:04:00,690 And they told me exactly the story,

66 00:04:00,690 --> 00:04:04,550 which I would like to tell a little bit how it was there.

67 00:04:04,550 --> 00:04:05,240 They came in.

68 00:04:05,240 --> 00:04:06,600 They surrounded the town.

69 00:04:06,600 --> 00:04:09,800 The people, most of them are hidden in such a bunker.

70 00:04:09,800 --> 00:04:15,550 They called them such an underground cellars.

71 00:04:15,550 --> 00:04:20,554 And they came out with the Ukrainian police and the SS.

72 00:04:20,554 --> 00:04:25,090 And they took out the people they were able,

73 00:04:25,090 --> 00:04:26,890 and they took them to the railroad station.

74 00:04:26,890 --> 00:04:28,600 And they took over 1,000.

75 00:04:28,600 --> 00:04:31,330 First of all, they took them to the marketplace,

76 00:04:31,330 --> 00:04:33,010 and they assembled them.

77 00:04:33,010 --> 00:04:37,240 And if anybody didn't want to go, immediately was killed.

78 00:04:37,240 --> 00:04:39,310 And they took them to the railroad station,

79 00:04:39,310 --> 00:04:41,520 and they locked them up.

80 00:04:41,520 --> 00:04:49,380 And the station, on the floors of the rails in the wagons,

81 00:04:49,380 --> 00:04:50,550 they had lime. 00:04:50,550 --> 00:04:53,655 Such a lime, they used for special--

83 00:04:53,655 --> 00:04:55,000 they used this for construction.

84 00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:57,030 They used this for painting.

85 00:04:57,030 --> 00:05:00,060 They had about three or four inches of lime.

86 00:05:00,060 --> 00:05:03,870 But the time the people came ready to build it, most of them

87 00:05:03,870 --> 00:05:08,130 were already anyhow killed, and they kept them

88 00:05:08,130 --> 00:05:09,330 another day or so.

89 00:05:09,330 --> 00:05:11,590 So when they came to build it, they

90 00:05:11,590 --> 00:05:13,100 didn't even have to kill them.

91 00:05:13,100 --> 00:05:16,000 They were already dead.

92 00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:20,360 I visited Belzec already twice after the war,

93 00:05:20,360 --> 00:05:25,080 and there is still, today, a sign in Belzec,

00:05:25,080 --> 00:05:28,725 which is important, which says in Polish [POLISH]..

95

00:05:28,725 --> 00:05:39,000

96

00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:45,030 It's here Hitler killed from 1942 and 1943

97

00:05:45,030 --> 00:05:52,620 600,000 Jews and 1,500 Poles that tried to help Jews.

98

00:05:52,620 --> 00:05:53,940 The sign still says so.

99

00:05:53,940 --> 00:05:57,250 I visit twice, and that is there in Belzec.

100

00:05:57,250 --> 00:06:00,520

101

101 00:06:00,520 --> 00:06:08,520 12 such signs, six round one, six square one.

102

00:06:08,520 --> 00:06:14,840 But two signs tells who was killed here

103

00:06:14,840 --> 00:06:16,360 and how they were killed.

104

00:06:16,360 --> 00:06:19,070 Well, first of all, they were--

105

00:06:19,070 --> 00:06:23,660 whoever wasn't shot was burned, and they buried them.

106 00:06:23,660 --> 00:06:28,880 And as I mentioned, Belzec's a very big camp

107 00:06:28,880 --> 00:06:33,050 because we lost six million Jews,

108 00:06:33,050 --> 00:06:35,780 and in Belzec alone was over 10%.

109 00:06:35,780 --> 00:06:38,990 600,000 Jews were killed in Belzec alone.

110 00:06:38,990 --> 00:06:40,340 People don't talk about it.

111 00:06:40,340 --> 00:06:43,370 People talk about Majdanek and Auschwitz,

112 00:06:43,370 --> 00:06:45,830 but Belzec is one of the very big camp.

113 00:06:45,830 --> 00:06:47,210 It is true it didn't--

114 00:06:47,210 --> 00:06:50,000 in Auschwitz, they killed three million Jews.

115 00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:52,550 However, they killed a lot of Belzec,

116 00:06:52,550 --> 00:06:54,200 which very few people know about it,

00:06:54,200 --> 00:06:57,840 and this is the reason I try to emphasize.

118

00:06:57,840 --> 00:06:59,670 I'm going to go back to my town.

119

00:06:59,670 --> 00:07:07,950 My town was-- that time, my father was in the one cellar.

120

00:07:07,950 --> 00:07:11,520 My mother was in another place, and my older brother, Harry,

121

00:07:11,520 --> 00:07:14,330 was in the third place.

122

00:07:14,330 --> 00:07:16,760 Well, my mother and my brother was--

123

00:07:16,760 --> 00:07:19,460 they didn't uncovered those places.

124

00:07:19,460 --> 00:07:22,940 And where my father went was supposed to be the best place,

125

00:07:22,940 --> 00:07:26,960 and there, they uncovered him and additional--

126

00:07:26,960 --> 00:07:32,060 it was, I think, about 32 to 33 people

127

00:07:32,060 --> 00:07:34,460 where they were taken away together

00:07:34,460 --> 00:07:38,120 with 1,000 other people to the railroads and--

129 00:07:38,120 --> 00:07:39,538 This place where they were hiding,

130 00:07:39,538 --> 00:07:41,330 was that in somebody's house, or was that--

131 00:07:41,330 --> 00:07:46,280 Yes, this was in a friend's house under--

132 00:07:46,280 --> 00:07:49,647 from a cellar, they had another very big hole,

133 00:07:49,647 --> 00:07:51,230 and this is the hole they were hiding.

134 00:07:51,230 --> 00:07:55,730 They were sitting there, but the SS and the Ukranian police

135 00:07:55,730 --> 00:07:56,690 came in.

136 00:07:56,690 --> 00:07:59,840 And anybody, if they didn't want to go out to one of the places,

137 00:07:59,840 --> 00:08:02,780 they didn't want to go out, they put up hand grenades.

138 00:08:02,780 --> 00:08:05,040 They put up fires.

139 00:08:05,040 --> 00:08:08,000 They [INAUDIBLE] point out, and people still

140

00:08:08,000 --> 00:08:10,227 believe maybe if they're going to sit there,

141

00:08:10,227 --> 00:08:11,810 they're definitely going to be killed.

142

00:08:11,810 --> 00:08:12,977 Maybe they'll take them out.

143

00:08:12,977 --> 00:08:15,020 Maybe they'll take them to work.

144

00:08:15,020 --> 00:08:20,370 But people always believed maybe they're going to be saved.

145

00:08:20,370 --> 00:08:26,380 This is the way my father and other 600,000 Jews

146

00:08:26,380 --> 00:08:31,140 were appoint to death in Belzec.

147

00:08:31,140 --> 00:08:33,360 I'm going to go back now to the camp.

148

00:08:33,360 --> 00:08:34,840 I'd like to tell you.

149

00:08:34,840 --> 00:08:36,510 Of course, I may as well--

150

00:08:36,510 --> 00:08:37,530

I want to continue.

151

00:08:37,530 --> 00:08:40,139

My brother left from Khorostkiv.

152 00:08:40,139 --> 00:08:45,390 They left to Terebovlya with my mother.

153 00:08:45,390 --> 00:08:50,790 And he stayed in the ghetto

under very tough conditions

00:08:50,790 --> 00:08:57,420 without any food, the ghetto Terebovlya, till [NON-ENGLISH],

155 00:08:57,420 --> 00:09:02,730 and this was in March '43, about another six--

156 00:09:02,730 --> 00:09:05,050 five to six months.

157 00:09:05,050 --> 00:09:09,300 And this is the time actually came to Terebovlya.

158 00:09:09,300 --> 00:09:11,040 They surrounded entire city.

159 00:09:11,040 --> 00:09:13,760 And my father then got [INAUDIBLE] the last minute

160 00:09:13,760 --> 00:09:19,290 to run away from this place where my mother was them,

161 00:09:19,290 --> 00:09:21,930 but in the last minute, he didn't trust this place.

162 00:09:21,930 --> 00:09:23,070 He ran away. 163 00:09:23,070 --> 00:09:26,010 And my mother and that time about 1,100,

164 00:09:26,010 --> 00:09:30,360 1,200 Jews in Terebovlya, which is 15 kilometer from my town,

165 00:09:30,360 --> 00:09:32,960 from Khorostkiv, they were--

166 00:09:32,960 --> 00:09:35,606

167 00:09:35,606 --> 00:09:38,770 at that time, they didn't even take them already to Belzec.

168 00:09:38,770 --> 00:09:43,710 They took them out, and outside the town,

169 00:09:43,710 --> 00:09:46,950 there was a little village called Plebanivka,

170 00:09:46,950 --> 00:09:50,633 where they made everybody--

171 00:09:50,633 --> 00:09:52,050 they took them to the marketplace,

172 00:09:52,050 --> 00:09:55,260 they assembled them, they told the men, and women,

173 00:09:55,260 --> 00:09:58,200 and children to undress naked, and they marched them

174 00:09:58,200 --> 00:10:02,760 through the town to this little village

175

00:10:02,760 --> 00:10:04,770 outside the town, Plebanivka.

176

00:10:04,770 --> 00:10:09,630 Their ditches was already dug, and everybody

177

00:10:09,630 --> 00:10:11,550 had to go through in a certain [INAUDIBLE]..

178

00:10:11,550 --> 00:10:14,220 And everybody got one bullet.

179

00:10:14,220 --> 00:10:17,220 And whether it was a life or there was death,

180

00:10:17,220 --> 00:10:21,810 it didn't matter, and they fall into this big ditch.

181

00:10:21,810 --> 00:10:26,990 And after this, everybody was buried.

182

00:10:26,990 --> 00:10:35,410 This was in March 1943, six months after my father.

183

00:10:35,410 --> 00:10:39,360

184

00:10:39,360 --> 00:10:42,320 Hopefully, I'll be able to tell you later on.

185

00:10:42,320 --> 00:10:44,010

I even visited.

00:10:44,010 --> 00:10:46,560 The last three months ago, I visited this place.

187

00:10:46,560 --> 00:10:49,440 But now we're going to continue talking about--

188

00:10:49,440 --> 00:10:52,770 my brother ran away from this [? act ?]

189

00:10:52,770 --> 00:10:57,760 here and voluntarily came to the concentration camp

190

00:10:57,760 --> 00:11:01,560 where I was, which this was about 50 kilometers away

191

00:11:01,560 --> 00:11:06,750 from our town.

192

00:11:06,750 --> 00:11:10,650 He came voluntarily because my father was no more alive,

193

00:11:10,650 --> 00:11:15,420 my mother was no more alive, and my older brother,

194

00:11:15,420 --> 00:11:20,670 [PERSONAL NAME],, was that time in a camp which we didn't even

195

00:11:20,670 --> 00:11:21,750 know where he is.

196

00:11:21,750 --> 00:11:27,750 So he wanted to be together with me, so he came to me.

00:11:27,750 --> 00:11:33,960 And we were together till my camp was liquidated.

198

00:11:33,960 --> 00:11:37,230 I want to mentioned something about my older

199

00:11:37,230 --> 00:11:38,910 brother [PERSONAL NAME].

200

00:11:38,910 --> 00:11:44,810 He was killed in a town called Helm.

201

00:11:44,810 --> 00:11:49,955 While there, the-- in 1941, it was mobilized to the army.

202

00:11:49,955 --> 00:11:52,520

203

00:11:52,520 --> 00:11:58,500 And the Germans caught him, and they caught him

204

00:11:58,500 --> 00:12:01,200 with many thousands of other people.

205

00:12:01,200 --> 00:12:06,412 And this was in [INAUDIBLE].

206

00:12:06,412 --> 00:12:07,370 10 days in [INAUDIBLE].

207

00:12:07,370 --> 00:12:14,340 This is about in 1943.

208

00:12:14,340 --> 00:12:15,920 And they killed them all.

209

00:12:15,920 --> 00:12:22,220 [INAUDIBLE] must be some time in December in 1943.

210

00:12:22,220 --> 00:12:25,470 They killed thousands and thousands of Jewish boys

211

00:12:25,470 --> 00:12:29,450 there, and among them, was my older brother, [PERSONAL NAME]..

212

00:12:29,450 --> 00:12:35,780 My brother, Harry, came to me to camp and must be in the end

213

00:12:35,780 --> 00:12:38,660 March '43.

214

00:12:38,660 --> 00:12:48,167 And we were together in camp till July the 10th 1943.

215

00:12:48,167 --> 00:12:50,250 What were your feelings when you saw your brother?

216

00:12:50,250 --> 00:12:53,110 How long had it been since you had seen him when he came?

217

00:12:53,110 --> 00:12:57,520 Well, I didn't see my brother at that time for 12 months.

218

00:12:57,520 --> 00:12:59,050 12 months.

219

00:12:59,050 --> 00:13:03,050 For 12 months because I left in '42, and he came for 12 months

220

00:13:03,050 --> 00:13:04,950

I didn't see him.

221

00:13:04,950 --> 00:13:09,930 And of course, we are very happy to be united.

222

00:13:09,930 --> 00:13:13,230 When I left, my father still was alive, my mother was alive,

223

00:13:13,230 --> 00:13:14,370 and my older brother.

224

00:13:14,370 --> 00:13:17,946 And now we already it's only the two of us.

225

00:13:17,946 --> 00:13:20,760 We were together working very hard in camp

226

00:13:20,760 --> 00:13:25,960 and trying the best to survive.

227

00:13:25,960 --> 00:13:30,290 And we always planned how can we run away?

228

00:13:30,290 --> 00:13:33,400 We had a plan to run away.

229

00:13:33,400 --> 00:13:36,810 But one day when we planned about the next few days

230

00:13:36,810 --> 00:13:43,200 already to go away, and one day, a friend of mine ran away.

231

00:13:43,200 --> 00:13:47,610 And the next day the SS [GERMAN] came in,

00:13:47,610 --> 00:13:50,730 and he took out four young boys.

233

00:13:50,730 --> 00:13:52,890 And he shot them on the spot.

234

00:13:52,890 --> 00:13:55,260 In front of everybody.

235

00:13:55,260 --> 00:13:56,760 In front of everybody should see it.

236

00:13:56,760 --> 00:13:57,480 Right.

237

00:13:57,480 --> 00:14:03,180 So when we saw this, we decided we will not run away

238

00:14:03,180 --> 00:14:05,200 because there's a question whether we're

239

00:14:05,200 --> 00:14:08,340 going to be alive is a maybe, but in meantime, other people

240

00:14:08,340 --> 00:14:11,070 are going to be killed for definitely.

241

00:14:11,070 --> 00:14:15,080 So we decided we will not run away only if we really feel

242

00:14:15,080 --> 00:14:16,680 like they want to shoot us.

243

00:14:16,680 --> 00:14:20,100 Was there discussion among individuals who were there

00:14:20,100 --> 00:14:21,443 about the consequences?

245

00:14:21,443 --> 00:14:23,610 For example, as you were just saying if, in fact, we

246

00:14:23,610 --> 00:14:25,277 do run away, we know that somebody

247

00:14:25,277 --> 00:14:26,235 is going to get killed.

248

00:14:26,235 --> 00:14:29,560 Most responsible people stopped to run away at that time,

249

00:14:29,560 --> 00:14:31,320 but we saw.

250

00:14:31,320 --> 00:14:38,670 And we worked till March the 9th on a Friday.

251

00:14:38,670 --> 00:14:39,400 No, not March.

ivo, not iviaic

252 00:14:39,400 --> 00:14:43,480 This was till July the 9th, 1943.

253

00:14:43,480 --> 00:14:47,280 We saw the big concentration of SS

254

00:14:47,280 --> 00:14:55,490 and a big concentration of Ukrainian police

255

00:14:55,490 --> 00:14:56,960

concentrating themselves, and they

256

00:14:56,960 --> 00:15:01,520 start to bring into our camp Jewish people from other camps.

257

00:15:01,520 --> 00:15:06,340 So we decided and we had some older people, doctor,

258

00:15:06,340 --> 00:15:11,510 engineers, our friends of ours, and they told us

259

00:15:11,510 --> 00:15:13,940 that they most probably is going to come.

260

00:15:13,940 --> 00:15:16,130 They're going to kill us right here.

261

00:15:16,130 --> 00:15:20,130

262

00:15:20,130 --> 00:15:22,430 But there was no place to run because there was never

263

00:15:22,430 --> 00:15:23,700 a place.

264

00:15:23,700 --> 00:15:25,820 We're already judenfrei.

265

00:15:25,820 --> 00:15:27,830 There were no Jews in no place.

266

00:15:27,830 --> 00:15:30,710 At least we didn't

think about it.

00:15:30,710 --> 00:15:32,900 We did know about it.

268

00:15:32,900 --> 00:15:37,940 Later on, after the war, we find out about certain small places.

269

00:15:37,940 --> 00:15:44,360 We tried to go to the partisans, but there were no place to go.

270

00:15:44,360 --> 00:15:47,780 There were no forest, and there are no partisan groups.

271

00:15:47,780 --> 00:15:50,240 There wouldn't want to talk to us.

272

00:15:50,240 --> 00:15:53,900 But in order to assure them self-- ourself,

273

00:15:53,900 --> 00:15:58,880 so we decided we're going to go on the field

274

00:15:58,880 --> 00:16:01,760 this Friday night, the 9th of July.

275

00:16:01,760 --> 00:16:09,160 We're going to-- we cut off the wires from the fence,

276

00:16:09,160 --> 00:16:10,460 a big group of us.

277

00:16:10,460 --> 00:16:11,530 How many?

278

00:16:11,530 --> 00:16:15,320

Maybe several hundred people at night time and--

279

00:16:15,320 --> 00:16:18,140 Somebody planned and coordinated this whole effort?

280

00:16:18,140 --> 00:16:25,020 No, some people-- the Ukrainian police was on one side.

281

00:16:25,020 --> 00:16:26,390 We cut off from the back.

282

00:16:26,390 --> 00:16:27,350 There were no lights.

283

00:16:27,350 --> 00:16:29,930 Luckily, we were able to cut off the wires.

284

00:16:29,930 --> 00:16:34,800 But all of those individuals who were turning the wires

285

00:16:34,800 --> 00:16:36,130 had discussed this before?

286

00:16:36,130 --> 00:16:36,680 Oh, sure.

287

00:16:36,680 --> 00:16:38,690 We had discussions to cut up the wires,

288

00:16:38,690 --> 00:16:43,370 and we ran out on the field in July.

289

00:16:43,370 --> 00:16:46,910 Especially in Poland, you've got very high big corns,

00:16:46,910 --> 00:16:50,480 big wheat, grain.

291

00:16:50,480 --> 00:16:52,760 And I fell in a--

292

00:16:52,760 --> 00:16:58,520 not too far from the camp in a spot that was corn.

293

00:16:58,520 --> 00:17:00,820 My brother ran a little further.

294

00:17:00,820 --> 00:17:04,099 He run in the spot where was wheat,

295

00:17:04,099 --> 00:17:07,859 and we didn't go too far because we thought maybe

296

00:17:07,859 --> 00:17:09,349 it was just a rumor.

297

00:17:09,349 --> 00:17:11,000 In the case, it was a rumor, we want

298

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:14,722 to come back in the morning to find out

299

00:17:14,722 --> 00:17:16,430 we should have a place where to come back

300

00:17:16,430 --> 00:17:17,569 because where should we go?

301

00:17:17,569 --> 00:17:21,380

Wherever you go, they're killing Jews.

302 00:17:21,380 --> 00:17:27,349 And I fell asleep, so did my brother, so many other.

303

00:17:27,349 --> 00:17:29,900 I fell asleep at night time.

304

00:17:29,900 --> 00:17:32,540 About 4 o'clock Saturday morning, I

305

00:17:32,540 --> 00:17:35,150 was woke up with already shooting.

306

00:17:35,150 --> 00:17:39,260 They were shooting at us right on the field

307 00:17:39,260 --> 00:17:42,140 several hundred foot away from the camp

308

00:17:42,140 --> 00:17:44,930 because they knew that some people ran away.

309

00:17:44,930 --> 00:17:49,920 And I already heard people would holler, oh, help.

310

00:17:49,920 --> 00:17:53,090 And I said to myself, I'm going to go.

311

00:17:53,090 --> 00:17:54,860 They shooting in every place.

312

00:17:54,860 --> 00:17:57,350 So may as well, I'm going to stay.

00:17:57,350 --> 00:18:01,370 I just dug myself under a little bit deeper, and I said.

314

00:18:01,370 --> 00:18:03,300 [NON-ENGLISH].

315

00:18:03,300 --> 00:18:05,930 And I said whatever would be the best places

316

00:18:05,930 --> 00:18:08,840 to sit because if I would lift my head, immediately

317

00:18:08,840 --> 00:18:10,760 I would be killed.

318

00:18:10,760 --> 00:18:13,100 And I prayed all day long.

319

00:18:13,100 --> 00:18:16,880 This day was 1,000 years long.

320

00:18:16,880 --> 00:18:21,080 While they were cold, they took them out from the barracks,

321

00:18:21,080 --> 00:18:23,030 and the assembled them.

322

00:18:23,030 --> 00:18:25,280 And they took them out on the--

323

00:18:25,280 --> 00:18:27,800 behind the barracks, and they were shot.

324

00:18:27,800 --> 00:18:30,800 And I heard people crying, people begging,

00:18:30,800 --> 00:18:34,130 people doing all kinds things.

326

00:18:34,130 --> 00:18:38,450 They didn't listen to nobody, and everybody was shot.

327

00:18:38,450 --> 00:18:41,745 Everybody, after they were shot, they made a fire,

328

00:18:41,745 --> 00:18:42,620 and they burned them.

329

00:18:42,620 --> 00:18:45,150

330

00:18:45,150 --> 00:18:49,710 Late at night, it must have been around 11:00, 12 o'clock at

331

00:18:49,710 --> 00:18:52,440 night, it was quiet.

332

00:18:52,440 --> 00:18:54,800 I got up.

333

00:18:54,800 --> 00:19:00,140 I just pinched myself if I'm still alive, and I felt--

334

00:19:00,140 --> 00:19:01,280 I saw what happened.

335

00:19:01,280 --> 00:19:05,480 There's no place where to go, but if you have--

336

00:19:05,480 --> 00:19:10,890 I decided I'll go back to the town where I was born.

00:19:10,890 --> 00:19:12,530 At this time your brother--

338

00:19:12,530 --> 00:19:16,550 I didn't know about my brother at all,

339

00:19:16,550 --> 00:19:19,370 whether he's alive, whether he's not alive.

340

00:19:19,370 --> 00:19:22,850 I did hope that he's alive.

341

00:19:22,850 --> 00:19:24,830 And this was-- I was already--

342

00:19:24,830 --> 00:19:27,930 16 months I was in camp.

343

00:19:27,930 --> 00:19:31,130 I was in ghetto about six months.

344

00:19:31,130 --> 00:19:41,830 I didn't see the Polish families for probably more than two

345

00:19:41,830 --> 00:19:47,730 years, but I know many Polish families

346

00:19:47,730 --> 00:19:51,360 because we were doing business with the Polish and Ukrainian

347

00:19:51,360 --> 00:19:53,750 people.

348

00:19:53,750 --> 00:19:56,610 There was one family, Gornac.

00:19:56,610 --> 00:19:59,240 How were you able to get back to your town?

350

00:19:59,240 --> 00:20:00,410 Just walking.

351

00:20:00,410 --> 00:20:01,860 Walking by night time.

352

00:20:01,860 --> 00:20:02,360 By yourself.

353

00:20:02,360 --> 00:20:03,410 By myself.

354

00:20:03,410 --> 00:20:08,780 At day time, mostly, I sat in the wheat

355

00:20:08,780 --> 00:20:12,850 laying because I was afraid people would recognize me.

356

00:20:12,850 --> 00:20:18,650 I walked in down the route to several times to people

357

00:20:18,650 --> 00:20:21,830 and asked they should sell me bread.

358

00:20:21,830 --> 00:20:23,967 Some of them took money.

359

00:20:23,967 --> 00:20:25,550 Some of them gave me a piece of bread.

360

00:20:25,550 --> 00:20:28,490 They didn't even want money. 361 00:20:28,490 --> 00:20:34,460 And until I came, this was a village eight kilometers

362 00:20:34,460 --> 00:20:36,590 near my town.

363 00:20:36,590 --> 00:20:39,690 The village's called Ivanivka.

364 00:20:39,690 --> 00:20:47,230 I came in, and I had a Polish farmer, very fine family.

365 00:20:47,230 --> 00:20:55,730 When I walked in Tuesday night, and this was the 13th of July,

366 00:20:55,730 --> 00:20:58,321 1943.

367 00:20:58,321 --> 00:21:02,870 Must be about 10:00, 11 o'clock at night.

368 00:21:02,870 --> 00:21:10,490 I walked in, and the man, Ian Gornac, should rest in peace--

369 00:21:10,490 --> 00:21:11,750 he was killed later on--

370 00:21:11,750 --> 00:21:14,800

371 00:21:14,800 --> 00:21:16,330 just didn't talk to me.

372 00:21:16,330 --> 00:21:20,470 Was afraid anybody should hear because the dogs start to bark. 373 00:21:20,470 --> 00:21:22,300 And he just pointed out with his finger,

374 00:21:22,300 --> 00:21:25,810 I should go to the barn, and I should go upstairs

375 00:21:25,810 --> 00:21:28,150 to the attic of the barn.

376 00:21:28,150 --> 00:21:33,780 Of course, I went up, and I hope maybe he'll

377 00:21:33,780 --> 00:21:37,800 keep me for a day or two, or possibly, maybe he

378 00:21:37,800 --> 00:21:38,740 wants to kill me.

379 00:21:38,740 --> 00:21:39,970 Maybe he thinks I have money.

380 00:21:39,970 --> 00:21:42,960 He wants to kill me because you heard stories like this.

381 00:21:42,960 --> 00:21:44,940 The Jewish people came up to certain people,

382 00:21:44,940 --> 00:21:46,840 and they took away if they had some money,

383 00:21:46,840 --> 00:21:48,090 and they killed them.

384 00:21:48,090 --> 00:21:50,400 But I didn't have anything more to lose.

385 00:21:50,400 --> 00:21:53,400 My life was, that time, very cheap.

386 00:21:53,400 --> 00:21:57,990 It didn't matter, so I did have some confidence to him.

387 00:21:57,990 --> 00:22:00,440 And when he told me to go up, I went up.

388 00:22:00,440 --> 00:22:04,710 I went up, and there was fresh straw and fresh hay.

389 00:22:04,710 --> 00:22:08,940 And I was so tired, and hungry, and wet after raining

390 00:22:08,940 --> 00:22:10,890 and slept outside.

391 00:22:10,890 --> 00:22:13,860 When I laid down, I felt so comfortable.

392 00:22:13,860 --> 00:22:15,540 All of a sudden, I heard somebody

393 00:22:15,540 --> 00:22:19,260 is on top on the barn on the attic,

394 00:22:19,260 --> 00:22:21,970 and somebody is asking me, who is this?

395 00:22:21,970 --> 00:22:23,740 And I start to ask, who is this? 396 00:22:23,740 --> 00:22:27,480 And they recognize, and this was my brother.

397

00:22:27,480 --> 00:22:33,180 We did not discuss we should run away, where to we should go,

398

00:22:33,180 --> 00:22:34,230 how we should go.

399

00:22:34,230 --> 00:22:35,610 He came early in the morning.

400

00:22:35,610 --> 00:22:37,480 I came Tuesday late at night.

401

00:22:37,480 --> 00:22:41,040 He came Tuesday early in the morning, about 4 o'clock

402

00:22:41,040 --> 00:22:42,910 in the morning.

403

00:22:42,910 --> 00:22:45,060 And that time, we asked our self--

404

00:22:45,060 --> 00:22:47,580 just we said to each other if we lived

405

00:22:47,580 --> 00:22:52,780 through such a terrible acts, we met 50 kilometers away.

406

00:22:52,780 --> 00:22:56,220 And although we have many Polish and Ukrainian people,

407

00:22:56,220 --> 00:22:59,490

friends, and we came to them, so we did-- we do

408

00:22:59,490 --> 00:23:02,140

hope we're going to live through the war.

409

00:23:02,140 --> 00:23:06,360 And of course, about 15 minutes later, Mrs. Gornac,

410

00:23:06,360 --> 00:23:08,760 Tatiana Gornac, should rest in peace-- she was an angel,

411

00:23:08,760 --> 00:23:10,200 not a human being--

412

00:23:10,200 --> 00:23:15,900 she came up with yam potatoes, and sour cream,

413

00:23:15,900 --> 00:23:20,310 and some borscht, a wonderful, fine, good meal

414

00:23:20,310 --> 00:23:23,100 that the Polish farmers had, which I didn't

415

00:23:23,100 --> 00:23:25,350 have this camp for a long time.

416

00:23:25,350 --> 00:23:27,232 And I felt what's going on?

417

00:23:27,232 --> 00:23:29,190 There are still some human being in this world.

418

00:23:29,190 --> 00:23:33,120 I thought that everybody wants to kill Jews,

419 00:23:33,120 --> 00:23:37,620 yet there is still some fine people here available.

420 00:23:37,620 --> 00:23:39,780 [INAUDIBLE]

421 00:23:39,780 --> 00:23:40,485 Go ahead.

422 00:23:40,485 --> 00:23:41,160 No, go ahead.

423 00:23:41,160 --> 00:23:41,770 I'm sorry.

424 00:23:41,770 --> 00:23:46,680 And I-- she even told me something,

425 00:23:46,680 --> 00:23:48,670 which you maybe going to be surprised,

426 00:23:48,670 --> 00:23:51,000 but I want-- you should know this.

427 00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:55,110 She told me she's glad we came.

428 00:23:55,110 --> 00:23:57,960 So I tell her, why are you glad we came?

429 00:23:57,960 --> 00:24:03,000 She told me she did hope she'll come because my mother--

430 00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:05,100 she had a dream a night before. 431 00:24:05,100 --> 00:24:09,190 My mother and Mrs. Gornac were going to school together.

432 00:24:09,190 --> 00:24:12,630 So she dreamed as my mother asked

433 00:24:12,630 --> 00:24:15,150 if the two sons would come there and she

434 00:24:15,150 --> 00:24:17,340 should help them to survive.

435 00:24:17,340 --> 00:24:20,500 And of course, we start to cry, and she cried.

436 00:24:20,500 --> 00:24:22,720 And we hugged, and we kissed her.

437 00:24:22,720 --> 00:24:26,800 And this lady kept us for eight and a half months

438 00:24:26,800 --> 00:24:39,730 till March the 22nd, 1944 when the Russian army came up

439 00:24:39,730 --> 00:24:43,410 to our town and they liberate us.

440 00:24:43,410 --> 00:24:47,143 At the time, they endangered their life tremendous.

441 00:24:47,143 --> 00:24:48,810 During that eight months, did you ever--

442

00:24:48,810 --> 00:24:49,590 Eight and a half months.

443

00:24:49,590 --> 00:24:51,720 Eight and a half, did you ever get into the town,

444

00:24:51,720 --> 00:24:53,380 or did you remain in the farm?

445

00:24:53,380 --> 00:24:56,190 I remained on the farm only at night time.

446

00:24:56,190 --> 00:25:00,060 I didn't even go out from the attic.

447

00:25:00,060 --> 00:25:02,070 I stood there the whole day.

448

00:25:02,070 --> 00:25:04,020 At nighttime, I used to go down just

449

00:25:04,020 --> 00:25:06,690 to make some physical movement.

450

00:25:06,690 --> 00:25:08,520 They had some special--

451

00:25:08,520 --> 00:25:10,770 they horses and cows, and that was

452

00:25:10,770 --> 00:25:13,740 a special hard work on the farm to prepare

453

00:25:13,740 --> 00:25:15,540 the food for the cows.

454 00:25:15,540 --> 00:25:18,690 So we wanted to do certain physical work, my brother

455 00:25:18,690 --> 00:25:22,230 and I, in order to survive because we were sitting kind

456 00:25:22,230 --> 00:25:25,110 of in a tight spot with straw.

457 00:25:25,110 --> 00:25:28,330 So this, at the time, [INAUDIBLE]

458 00:25:28,330 --> 00:25:31,620 they give us food, the same food what they ate

459 00:25:31,620 --> 00:25:33,660 and maybe even better food.

460 00:25:33,660 --> 00:25:37,712 And clothing, we didn't need it because we didn't go no place.

461 00:25:37,712 --> 00:25:41,735 And we stood on the farm for eight and a half months there.

462 00:25:41,735 --> 00:25:47,790 The farmers, they save us life.

463 00:25:47,790 --> 00:25:49,060 There weren't too many.

464 00:25:49,060 --> 00:25:49,600 I'm sorry.

465 00:25:49,600 --> 00:25:50,770 There weren't too many. 466 00:25:50,770 --> 00:25:53,680 I wish would be more, but here, there

467 00:25:53,680 --> 00:25:58,320 were a few people that wanted to help Jews.

468 00:25:58,320 --> 00:26:00,990 Not too many, but were a few.

469 00:26:00,990 --> 00:26:04,480 One of them were the Gornac family.

470 00:26:04,480 --> 00:26:08,310 I'm pleased to tell you I was--

471 00:26:08,310 --> 00:26:11,070 I visit several times already there.

472 00:26:11,070 --> 00:26:15,885 I had Mr. Gornac in my house already five years ago.

473 00:26:15,885 --> 00:26:19,910 Now the son of law of John Gornac,

474 00:26:19,910 --> 00:26:22,790 which he was the older brother is no more alive,

475 00:26:22,790 --> 00:26:27,440 comes this next week, which is going to be October the 5th.

476 00:26:27,440 --> 00:26:29,060 He is coming to visit us. 00:26:29,060 --> 00:26:32,750 He's going to stay with us for three months,

478 00:26:32,750 --> 00:26:36,870 and we feel like they are a part of our family.

479 00:26:36,870 --> 00:26:40,130

480 00:26:40,130 --> 00:26:41,910 Just going back for one second, what

481 00:26:41,910 --> 00:26:46,630 happened when the Russians liberated?

482 00:26:46,630 --> 00:26:54,150 The Russians liberated-- they wanted to demobilize everybody,

483 00:26:54,150 --> 00:26:59,040 but my brother and I started to work in the same places

484 00:26:59,040 --> 00:27:01,680 where we worked before for the first time under Russian power

485 00:27:01,680 --> 00:27:04,050 from '39 to '41.

486 00:27:04,050 --> 00:27:08,670 So I had-- the manager from the factory

487 00:27:08,670 --> 00:27:14,280 was killed by the Germans, so I became a manager

488 00:27:14,280 --> 00:27:15,000 from the factory.

489

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:17,430

And my brother

became an accountant

490

00:27:17,430 --> 00:27:19,410

from the fact that [INAUDIBLE].

491

00:27:19,410 --> 00:27:24,060

And we stood there

till the war end, '45.

492

 $00:27:24,060 \longrightarrow 00:27:26,590$

When the war end,

a law came out.

493

00:27:26,590 --> 00:27:29,400

Those people that

were born in Poland

494

 $00:27:29,400 \longrightarrow 00:27:32,490$

have a right to leave

Russia, so at the moment,

495

 $00:27:32,490 \longrightarrow 00:27:36,120$

we got this new law.

496

00:27:36,120 --> 00:27:37,800

We immediately left Russia.

497

 $00:27:37,800 \longrightarrow 00:27:39,240$

We went to Poland.

498

 $00:27:39,240 \longrightarrow 00:27:41,025$

At that point, we

went to Germany,

499

00:27:41,025 --> 00:27:44,890

and from Germany, we came

to America the moment

500

00:27:44,890 --> 00:27:46,480 we had the permission.

501 00:27:46,480 --> 00:27:51,050 It took several years because the war end in '45.

502 00:27:51,050 --> 00:27:52,645 End of '45, we came to Germany.

503 00:27:52,645 --> 00:27:55,990 We stood in Germany till '49 because it was

504 00:27:55,990 --> 00:27:57,280 very tough to get permission.

505 00:27:57,280 --> 00:28:00,540 At the moment, we got the permission in '49.

506 00:28:00,540 --> 00:28:04,570 In meantime, of course, I married my lovely wife, Gladys,

507 00:28:04,570 --> 00:28:11,120 and God blessed us and got four children, four sons.

508 00:28:11,120 --> 00:28:15,560 Two are now married and with me in business, and two still

509 00:28:15,560 --> 00:28:17,500 in school.

510 00:28:17,500 --> 00:28:21,070 What happened during the years 1945 through '49

511 00:28:21,070 --> 00:28:23,780 when you were in Germany? 512

00:28:23,780 --> 00:28:25,430 I am a businessman.

I will a casii

513

00:28:25,430 --> 00:28:28,360 Some of the people who were sitting in a camp waiting,

514

00:28:28,360 --> 00:28:31,420 they should get from the owner certain help.

515

00:28:31,420 --> 00:28:33,040 I didn't like this.

516

00:28:33,040 --> 00:28:35,908 I opened up a business.

517

00:28:35,908 --> 00:28:39,606 And right even in Poland in 1945,

518

00:28:39,606 --> 00:28:46,720 I opened up a business of grocery, wheat, flour.

519

00:28:46,720 --> 00:28:49,230

520

00:28:49,230 --> 00:28:53,760 And when I came to Germany in 1946,

521

00:28:53,760 --> 00:28:58,320 I opened up a textile business, and I have my textile business

522

00:28:58,320 --> 00:29:00,930 till 1949.

523

00:29:00,930 --> 00:29:06,180 We had a private house and a business, car, 524 00:29:06,180 --> 00:29:09,960 and we lived quite comfortable after the war in Germany.

525 00:29:09,960 --> 00:29:11,910 But I didn't like their comfort.

526 00:29:11,910 --> 00:29:15,150 I didn't want their business because I

527 00:29:15,150 --> 00:29:18,900 felt they did so much to me, to my family.

528 00:29:18,900 --> 00:29:20,160 I want to get out of there.

529 00:29:20,160 --> 00:29:21,835 I want to live in a free country.

530 00:29:21,835 --> 00:29:23,620 Then I came to America.

531 00:29:23,620 --> 00:29:25,630 And I start to work very hard, but yet I

532 00:29:25,630 --> 00:29:28,390 was very pleased I'm in America.

533 00:29:28,390 --> 00:29:30,840 And after a year and a half being in this country,

534 00:29:30,840 --> 00:29:32,840 my brother and I opened up a business.

535 00:29:32,840 --> 00:29:34,940 We started a business together.

536

00:29:34,940 --> 00:29:37,600 You met your wife in what year?

537

00:29:37,600 --> 00:29:38,750 1945 in Poland.

538

00:29:38,750 --> 00:29:43,520 Right after the war, I met my wife, and I said [NON-ENGLISH]..

539

00:29:43,520 --> 00:29:52,120 And we got married in 1946, June 30, 1946.

540

00:29:52,120 --> 00:29:57,590 We married in Germany in a city called [PLACE NAME]..

541

00:29:57,590 --> 00:30:01,440 And then my other son, Freddy, was born in Germany.

542

00:30:01,440 --> 00:30:06,590 1949, we came to the United States,

543

00:30:06,590 --> 00:30:10,710 and my son, David, was born.

544

00:30:10,710 --> 00:30:14,554 End of '49, David was born.

545

00:30:14,554 --> 00:30:20,110 And David and Freddy then got [INAUDIBLE] two daughters.

546

00:30:20,110 --> 00:30:20,980

David is married.

547

00:30:20,980 --> 00:30:23,420

He has a son and a daughter.

548 00:30:23,420 --> 00:30:26,470 And now I have one son, Jackie.

549 00:30:26,470 --> 00:30:34,144 He is going now to NY State, a city in Western New York.

550 00:30:34,144 --> 00:30:37,720 And Maurice still goes to Yeshiva, right here,

551 00:30:37,720 --> 00:30:39,790 Jewish Educational Center.

552 00:30:39,790 --> 00:30:43,310 They all-- my boys went to Yeshiva,

553 00:30:43,310 --> 00:30:46,830 and hopefuly next year is going to go to college.

554 00:30:46,830 --> 00:30:49,290 Were there any organizations that

555 00:30:49,290 --> 00:30:53,380 helped you at all during this period while you're in Germany?

556 00:30:53,380 --> 00:30:54,240 No, when I--

557 00:30:54,240 --> 00:30:56,040 You didn't want to go to the UNRRA.

558 00:30:56,040 --> 00:30:58,870 No, when I was free, only God helped us. 559

00:30:58,870 --> 00:31:00,005 We didn't need no help.

560

00:31:00,005 --> 00:31:00,672 Now we're free.

561

00:31:00,672 --> 00:31:01,630 We are business people.

562

00:31:01,630 --> 00:31:02,672 We're on top of business.

563

00:31:02,672 --> 00:31:03,650

We started a business.

564

00:31:03,650 --> 00:31:05,850 We started to make

enough of living

565

00:31:05,850 --> 00:31:08,543 where we were able to not only to make for ourselves.

566

00:31:08,543 --> 00:31:09,960

We were able to help other people.

567

00:31:09,960 --> 00:31:13,500

568

00:31:13,500 --> 00:31:15,570 You came directly to New York.

569

00:31:15,570 --> 00:31:18,060

Yes, I came to New York.

570

 $00:31:18,060 \longrightarrow 00:31:20,850$

How did you come to New Jersey?

571

 $00:31:20,850 \longrightarrow 00:31:23,970$

We were-- my brother and

I, we opened up a New York

572

00:31:23,970 --> 00:31:29,280 a supermarket business, 1951, a year and a half after we came,

00:31:29,280 --> 00:31:33,910 and by the way, when I came to New York,

574

00:31:33,910 --> 00:31:39,180 I took a job in a supermarket just to learn a little bit

575

 $00:31:39,180 \longrightarrow 00:31:43,150$ English and to learn a little bit about business.

576

00:31:43,150 --> 00:31:47,010 And after a year and a half, we bought our first supermarket

577

00:31:47,010 --> 00:31:48,600 on Broadway.

578

00:31:48,600 --> 00:31:50,580 And after four years, we had four supermarkets.

579

 $00:31:50,580 \longrightarrow 00:31:53,910$ We were hardworking people, and God was good to us.

580

00:31:53,910 --> 00:31:56,846 And we were all right well.

581

00:31:56,846 --> 00:32:02,700 And in 1957, when we made some money already, the supermarket,

582

00:32:02,700 --> 00:32:07,970 we decided we want to go in building business.

583 00:32:07,970 --> 00:32:16,110 And we went in '57 or '58, we moved to New Jersey.

584

00:32:16,110 --> 00:32:18,790 And since, then we are-we live here in New Jersey.

585

00:32:18,790 --> 00:32:21,746 We were builders, developers.

586

00:32:21,746 --> 00:32:22,540 And thank God.

587

00:32:22,540 --> 00:32:26,920 We were pleased to live here in a fine free country like United

588

00:32:26,920 --> 00:32:29,050 States and--

589

00:32:29,050 --> 00:32:31,648 Was Israel a consideration at the time

590

00:32:31,648 --> 00:32:33,190 when you were going to leave Germany?

591

00:32:33,190 --> 00:32:37,510 Yes, Israel was very much a consideration, but original,

592

00:32:37,510 --> 00:32:38,380 we couldn't write.

593

00:32:38,380 --> 00:32:41,330 In '45, '46, you couldn't go.

594

00:32:41,330 --> 00:32:47,680 And in 1948 when the state of Israel was already created,

595

00:32:47,680 --> 00:32:53,885 we were asked from my family here in America,

596

00:32:53,885 --> 00:32:55,820 we should come here.

597

00:32:55,820 --> 00:33:00,970 And my uncle, God bless him, Paul [PERSONAL NAME],

598

00:33:00,970 --> 00:33:02,110 wrote me a letter.

599

00:33:02,110 --> 00:33:05,320 You can always go from America to Israel.

600

00:33:05,320 --> 00:33:07,260 But Israel to America is sometimes tough.

601

00:33:07,260 --> 00:33:11,320 Why don't you come and look up how you like America,

602

00:33:11,320 --> 00:33:12,840 and we came to America.

603

00:33:12,840 --> 00:33:14,430 We established ourself in business,

604

00:33:14,430 --> 00:33:17,310 and we go to Israel very often.

605

00:33:17,310 --> 00:33:21,107 We work for Israel, and tried to help Israel

606

00:33:21,107 --> 00:33:21,940 as much as possible.

607 00:33:21,940 --> 00:33:25,430

608 00:33:25,430 --> 00:33:26,960 Right now we live in this country.

609 00:33:26,960 --> 00:33:28,990 We are very pleased.

610 00:33:28,990 --> 00:33:31,100 Thank God.

611 00:33:31,100 --> 00:33:34,355 You were telling me before during a private conversation

612 00:33:34,355 --> 00:33:35,230 that we were having--

613 00:33:35,230 --> 00:33:39,180

614 00:33:39,180 --> 00:33:41,190 did you feel-- you were never sure

615 00:33:41,190 --> 00:33:44,230 that people were walking to their death,

616 00:33:44,230 --> 00:33:48,360 and they said to you something about retelling

617 00:33:48,360 --> 00:33:51,280 the story of what happened during the holocaust.

618

00:33:51,280 --> 00:33:56,100 Yes, I am very happy that I lived

619 00:33:56,100 --> 00:34:01,080 to see this day which we had today in 1983

620 00:34:01,080 --> 00:34:02,550 as I can tell the story.

621 00:34:02,550 --> 00:34:04,020 Hopefully, some other people will

622 00:34:04,020 --> 00:34:07,950 be able to listen to this story and watch the story on tape

623 00:34:07,950 --> 00:34:11,130 because I remember the days in camp and in ghetto

624 00:34:11,130 --> 00:34:13,969 when people were going to the death.

625 00:34:13,969 --> 00:34:19,820 They told us if you are alive, please tell the story,

626 00:34:19,820 --> 00:34:25,909 and I personally had many times when it was very dark when

627 00:34:25,909 --> 00:34:29,120 everybody was being killed.

628 00:34:29,120 --> 00:34:31,820 I thought who knows if somebody would

629 00:34:31,820 --> 00:34:35,030 be alive to tell the story, and I'm

630

00:34:35,030 --> 00:34:39,389 happy as I am among the one return to tell the story.

631

 $00:34:39,389 \longrightarrow 00:34:41,469$ I wish there would be more.

632

00:34:41,469 --> 00:34:43,690 And I think anybody is alive should

633

00:34:43,690 --> 00:34:46,840 tell the story because we owe it to them, the ones who

634

00:34:46,840 --> 00:34:51,469 didn't have this [INAUDIBLE] to be here to tell this story.

635

00:34:51,469 --> 00:34:54,832

636

 $00:34:54,832 \longrightarrow 00:34:56,290$ When you came to the United States,

637

00:34:56,290 --> 00:35:00,740 did you have any feelings about the American Jewish community,

638

00:35:00,740 --> 00:35:03,640 the silence of the American Jewish community

639

00:35:03,640 --> 00:35:04,360 during the war?

640

00:35:04,360 --> 00:35:06,460

Did you--

641 00:35:06,460 --> 00:35:17,640 I think I'm a little bitter because I feel as maybe

642 00:35:17,640 --> 00:35:21,230 something more could be done.

643 00:35:21,230 --> 00:35:24,050 I am sure that the state of Israel

644 00:35:24,050 --> 00:35:25,820 would be created 10 years before.

645 00:35:25,820 --> 00:35:30,220

646 00:35:30,220 --> 00:35:32,230 Hitler would've kill Jews, but he

647 00:35:32,230 --> 00:35:34,690 wouldn't kill six million because we

648 00:35:34,690 --> 00:35:36,670 saw what happened in Entebbe.

649 00:35:36,670 --> 00:35:39,610 Probably millions of people could be saved.

650 00:35:39,610 --> 00:35:43,240 I feel Mr. Roosevelt, and Mr. Churchill,

651 00:35:43,240 --> 00:35:48,070 and Stalin, if they wanted, they could have saved more Jews.

652 00:35:48,070 --> 00:35:51,690 653 00:35:51,690 --> 00:35:52,320 Why?

654 00:35:52,320 --> 00:35:54,900 I realized they had to fight a war,

655 00:35:54,900 --> 00:36:01,460 but there were no time during the war where

656 00:36:01,460 --> 00:36:04,930 we wanted so much help.

657 00:36:04,930 --> 00:36:07,680 We should get help.

658 00:36:07,680 --> 00:36:11,880 People in Auschwitz were begging them,

659 00:36:11,880 --> 00:36:18,450 please, they should bomb the rails at least, bomb Auschwitz.

660 00:36:18,450 --> 00:36:22,380 People shouldn't be able to be killed,

661 00:36:22,380 --> 00:36:25,260 and the mass production just to slow down

662 00:36:25,260 --> 00:36:28,080 because the way they were doing lately,

663 00:36:28,080 --> 00:36:30,220 they were killing in Auschwitz thousands 664

00:36:30,220 --> 00:36:33,690 and thousands of people daily because of the gas chambers.

665

00:36:33,690 --> 00:36:37,710 If they would bomb Auschwitz, they

666

00:36:37,710 --> 00:36:40,470 would kill but maybe with a slower pace

667

00:36:40,470 --> 00:36:43,200 in retail, not in wholesale.

668

00:36:43,200 --> 00:36:45,930 I feel it wasn't done.

669

00:36:45,930 --> 00:36:48,810 You asked me the question about the Jewish community.

670

00:36:48,810 --> 00:36:54,060 The Jewish community maybe could go

671

00:36:54,060 --> 00:36:56,250 maybe in the hundreds of thousands, maybe

672

00:36:56,250 --> 00:37:00,270 a half a million Jews should go to the president,

673

00:37:00,270 --> 00:37:02,970 and sit in the front of the White House,

674

00:37:02,970 --> 00:37:04,770 and explain the situation.

675

00:37:04,770 --> 00:37:07,650

Maybe the president would recognize.

676 00:37:07,650 --> 00:37:08,460 This a question.

677 00:37:08,460 --> 00:37:09,360 Maybe.

678 00:37:09,360 --> 00:37:16,050 But please understand as we are older, a little bit bitter

679 00:37:16,050 --> 00:37:18,420 why people didn't help us.

680 00:37:18,420 --> 00:37:21,240 I don't know if the Jewish community could help us,

681 00:37:21,240 --> 00:37:23,760 but I think the leaders of the great countries

682 00:37:23,760 --> 00:37:26,766 could do a little bit more than they did.

683 00:37:26,766 --> 00:37:33,520

684 00:37:33,520 --> 00:37:36,660 What do you feel are some of the lessons

685 00:37:36,660 --> 00:37:42,540 to be learned from the experience of the Holocaust?

686 00:37:42,540 --> 00:37:44,640 I am glad you asked me this question. 687 00:37:44,640 --> 00:37:52,540 I feel as Jewish people must be alert no matter wherever

688 00:37:52,540 --> 00:37:53,170 they are.

689 00:37:53,170 --> 00:37:57,415 Even in a good country like in America, you must be alert.

690 00:37:57,415 --> 00:38:00,370

691 00:38:00,370 --> 00:38:04,460 And the only way is to fight back.

692 00:38:04,460 --> 00:38:07,720 If, God forbid, something happened,

693 00:38:07,720 --> 00:38:11,650 right in the beginning is to fight back.

694 00:38:11,650 --> 00:38:16,540 I know I was in certain places, wherever Jews were fighting

695 00:38:16,540 --> 00:38:19,090 back, they killed Jews.

696 00:38:19,090 --> 00:38:22,360 But they didn't kill them all.

697 00:38:22,360 --> 00:38:28,390 They killed maybe 20%, 30%, but not 99%.

698 00:38:28,390 --> 00:38:34,000 Like, from my city, we had over 2,000.

699 00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:39,320 26 people were alive after we were liberated.

700

00:38:39,320 --> 00:38:45,430 My wife comes from a city where there were about 5,000 Jews.

701 00:38:45,430 --> 00:38:50,770 And when they were liberated, I think about 56 Jews,

702 00:38:50,770 --> 00:38:54,310 so you can see a little bit more than 1%.

703 00:38:54,310 --> 00:38:57,400 Almost 99% of Jews were killed.

704 00:38:57,400 --> 00:39:00,070 I am sure in certain places, which

705 00:39:00,070 --> 00:39:04,780 I know they were fighting back, the percentages

706 00:39:04,780 --> 00:39:06,980 came out much better.

707 00:39:06,980 --> 00:39:10,450 They are alive.

708 00:39:10,450 --> 00:39:15,910 And I want-- my advice is for future generations always

709 00:39:15,910 --> 00:39:17,620 to be alert.

710

00:39:17,620 --> 00:39:21,250 In order to be alert, it's important Jewish children

711 00:39:21,250 --> 00:39:23,080 should get Jewish education.

712 00:39:23,080 --> 00:39:24,800 It's very important.

713 00:39:24,800 --> 00:39:28,990 You should know about Jew because otherwise, they

714 00:39:28,990 --> 00:39:30,910 drift away completely.

715 00:39:30,910 --> 00:39:32,450 If they drift away, they wouldn't

716 00:39:32,450 --> 00:39:35,980 know how to be proud as a Jew.

717 00:39:35,980 --> 00:39:38,290 They will be ashamed to be a Jew.

718 00:39:38,290 --> 00:39:40,350 If they're going to have Jewish education,

719 00:39:40,350 --> 00:39:42,520 they're going to be proud that they're Jews.

720 00:39:42,520 --> 00:39:45,430 I think it is very important to have a strong Israel

721 00:39:45,430 --> 00:39:50,020 because Israel gives every Jew in the world, 722 00:39:50,020 --> 00:39:53,740 no matter wherever he is, it gives them a certain strength,

723

00:39:53,740 --> 00:39:57,010 gives them certain power, and gives them pride.

724 00:39:57,010 --> 00:40:02,470 And we Jews in the diaspora must seek

725 00:40:02,470 --> 00:40:06,671 to do everything possible to help the Jews in Israel.

726 00:40:06,671 --> 00:40:10,695

727 00:40:10,695 --> 00:40:13,100 I'm sure you were actually the one with the candles,

728 00:40:13,100 --> 00:40:16,940 did you not, at the gathering of Holocaust

729 00:40:16,940 --> 00:40:19,290 survivors in Washington?

730 00:40:19,290 --> 00:40:22,460 Yes, I am in the committee, and I was--

731 00:40:22,460 --> 00:40:28,220 I did help to organize the first gathering in Israel, which

732 00:40:28,220 --> 00:40:32,870 was two years ago, and the second gathering, which 733

00:40:32,870 --> 00:40:36,830 was in April '83 in Washington.

734 00:40:36,830 --> 00:40:40,040 And I was also on the committee, another one,

735

00:40:40,040 --> 00:40:44,120 which we just came back several weeks ago from Israel.

736 00:40:44,120 --> 00:40:47,060 There's another one on people there

737 00:40:47,060 --> 00:40:53,640 about put up some uprisings, and I was on this committee too.

738 00:40:53,640 --> 00:40:58,140 I just came back from Israel, and there was another--

739 00:40:58,140 --> 00:41:01,690 we had over 1,000 people came to Jerusalem,

740 00:41:01,690 --> 00:41:07,530 and to Tel Aviv, and Yad Vashem to organize the gathering.

741 00:41:07,530 --> 00:41:10,840 We're even planning now another gathering for 1985.

742 00:41:10,840 --> 00:41:14,640 It's going to be 40 years exactly after the war finished.

743 00:41:14,640 --> 00:41:17,280 We are planning another gathering there together. 744

00:41:17,280 --> 00:41:19,020 That's going to be in Sweden.

745

00:41:19,020 --> 00:41:22,020 We plan to go to Denmark, and from Denmark to Israel.

746

00:41:22,020 --> 00:41:27,120

747

00:41:27,120 --> 00:41:27,830 I try to recall.

748

00:41:27,830 --> 00:41:29,330 Somebody mentioned to me, I believe,

749

00:41:29,330 --> 00:41:35,690 that when you returned to your town, the visit recently,

750

00:41:35,690 --> 00:41:38,060 the cemeteries--

751

00:41:38,060 --> 00:41:43,460 I was-- I'm a member of the Jewish Agency,

752

00:41:43,460 --> 00:41:52,430 and in July this year, '83, I went to the [NON-ENGLISH]

753

00:41:52,430 --> 00:41:55,990 to the conference of the Jewish Agency.

754

00:41:55,990 --> 00:41:57,730 I was there 10 days in Israel.

755

00:41:57,730 --> 00:42:02,940

From there, I went to Poland, and from Poland,

756 00:42:02,940 --> 00:42:06,480 I went back to the towns where I was born,

757 00:42:06,480 --> 00:42:09,740 which is now Russia because this part of Poland, Russia

758 00:42:09,740 --> 00:42:11,920 occupied.

759 00:42:11,920 --> 00:42:15,310 I visit quite a few towns.

760 00:42:15,310 --> 00:42:19,870 The big city there is Lemberg, Tarnopol, Chortkov.

761 00:42:19,870 --> 00:42:23,090 My town where I was born, Khorostkiv, Terebovlya,

762 00:42:23,090 --> 00:42:27,370 where my mother was killed [NON-ENGLISH]..

763 00:42:27,370 --> 00:42:31,480 And I went to Kamionki where I was in concentration camp.

764 00:42:31,480 --> 00:42:34,000

765 00:42:34,000 --> 00:42:39,070 In Poland, the cemeteries, they were left after the war.

766 00:42:39,070 --> 00:42:43,120 If Hitler did not destroy them, they still stay. 00:42:43,120 --> 00:42:48,640 Certain spots, even the Poles tried to fix up to have it,

768 00:42:48,640 --> 00:42:50,710 and people come.

769 00:42:50,710 --> 00:42:52,790 Jewish people from all over the world,

770 00:42:52,790 --> 00:42:56,650 they come on the graves to pray, to put up candles,

771 00:42:56,650 --> 00:42:59,510 to say Kaddish.

772 00:42:59,510 --> 00:43:03,500 And Russia, most of them, they destroyed.

773 00:43:03,500 --> 00:43:06,010

774 00:43:06,010 --> 00:43:10,540 I came to my town where I was born.

775 00:43:10,540 --> 00:43:16,170 That is now where the cemetery used to be.

776 00:43:16,170 --> 00:43:17,520 They build houses.

777 00:43:17,520 --> 00:43:22,010 You don't even see that it was a cemetery.

778 00:43:22,010 --> 00:43:23,550 The entire town is destroyed. 779

00:43:23,550 --> 00:43:26,000 They rebuilt a completely new town.

780

00:43:26,000 --> 00:43:28,120 They were a very big shul.

781

00:43:28,120 --> 00:43:33,060 The synagogue was destroyed, and you can only-- there

782

00:43:33,060 --> 00:43:35,900 a few houses which I recognize.

783

00:43:35,900 --> 00:43:40,345 There's the public place called the [NON-ENGLISH],

784

00:43:40,345 --> 00:43:44,740 the post office, and the town hall.

785

00:43:44,740 --> 00:43:46,390 And the school where I went to school

786

00:43:46,390 --> 00:43:49,300 still stays, but they enlarged the school.

787

00:43:49,300 --> 00:43:53,710 Otherwise, this entire town is rebuilt.

788

00:43:53,710 --> 00:43:56,140 I couldn't even recognize.

789

00:43:56,140 --> 00:44:00,130 The town, Terebovlya, where my mother is buried,

790

 $00:44:00,130 \longrightarrow 00:44:02,170$

there they did not--

791

00:44:02,170 --> 00:44:07,370 the cemetery where was for years was an old cemetery,

792

00:44:07,370 --> 00:44:11,575 probably 500, 600 years old, is destroyed and houses are built

793

00:44:11,575 --> 00:44:16,540 but with a mass grave was where my mother and several thousand

794

00:44:16,540 --> 00:44:20,290 other people because they had one [NON-ENGLISH] where

795

00:44:20,290 --> 00:44:22,338 my mother was killed [NON-ENGLISH],

796

00:44:22,338 --> 00:44:24,130 yet another [NON-ENGLISH] two months later,

797

00:44:24,130 --> 00:44:26,080 my uncles and many cousin.

798

00:44:26,080 --> 00:44:28,360 So it was about over 3,000 Jews were

799

00:44:28,360 --> 00:44:30,670 killed in those two graves.

800

00:44:30,670 --> 00:44:32,740 Those two graves are there exactly the way

801

00:44:32,740 --> 00:44:34,660

they left them because the summer comes up 802 00:44:34,660 --> 00:44:38,740 between a ditch and the railroad.

803

00:44:38,740 --> 00:44:43,780 So they couldn't build there I guess, so they left it exactly.

804

00:44:43,780 --> 00:44:44,650 I went there.

805

00:44:44,650 --> 00:44:46,990 I said prayers.

806

00:44:46,990 --> 00:44:48,010 I said Kaddish.

807

00:44:48,010 --> 00:44:51,940 I put up lights and just the way the left it,

808

00:44:51,940 --> 00:44:54,170 and nobody touched it.

809

00:44:54,170 --> 00:44:59,510 I came to a town [PLACE NAME] where

810

00:44:59,510 --> 00:45:03,320 they have still the cemetery.

811

00:45:03,320 --> 00:45:07,890 Wherever the graves were there, they did not touch it.

812

00:45:07,890 --> 00:45:12,835 Around the graves, they put up corn and wheats,

813

00:45:12,835 --> 00:45:15,920 so they farm there.

814 00:45:15,920 --> 00:45:20,120 I went to Kamionka where the camp was.

815 00:45:20,120 --> 00:45:25,220 Also the camp was completely destroyed, but the very two

816 00:45:25,220 --> 00:45:28,970 big ditches where thousands of thousands of people

817 00:45:28,970 --> 00:45:32,180 are there buried, there is--

818 00:45:32,180 --> 00:45:33,980 they did not touch it.

819 00:45:33,980 --> 00:45:36,335 The only-- they have corn around and potatoes

820 00:45:36,335 --> 00:45:40,700 around wherever the actually the two graves are,

821 00:45:40,700 --> 00:45:41,840 they didn't touch this.

822 00:45:41,840 --> 00:45:46,340 I also said Kaddish, said [NON-ENGLISH],,

823 00:45:46,340 --> 00:45:49,061 and I put up candles.

824 00:45:49,061 --> 00:45:53,070 And nobody bothered me to say yes or no.

825 00:45:53,070 --> 00:45:55,900 826 00:45:55,900 --> 00:46:01,720 In Lemberg, which is a big city, they do have--

827 00:46:01,720 --> 00:46:05,500 there is still the cemetery with a fence,

828 00:46:05,500 --> 00:46:11,736 and they even put a Lemberg special big sign

829 00:46:11,736 --> 00:46:18,140 to mention it was from 1941 to 1944,

830 00:46:18,140 --> 00:46:20,990 they killed so many so many Jews in Lemberg.

831 00:46:20,990 --> 00:46:22,090 And they still have--

832 00:46:22,090 --> 00:46:24,630

833 00:46:24,630 --> 00:46:30,350 and there it is in Yiddish and in Russian.

834 00:46:30,350 --> 00:46:32,857

835 00:46:32,857 --> 00:46:35,190 Did you have conversations with any of the people living

836 00:46:35,190 --> 00:46:36,430 in Lemberg?

837

00:46:36,430 --> 00:46:38,970 Yes, I spoke-- in Lemberg, there's still--

838 00:46:38,970 --> 00:46:42,120 Lemberg had probably over 40,000 Jews.

839 00:46:42,120 --> 00:46:45,380 Today, you have about 2,000 Jews.

840 00:46:45,380 --> 00:46:47,350 I spoke to them.

841 00:46:47,350 --> 00:46:50,500 They don't have any synagogue even.

842 00:46:50,500 --> 00:46:53,750 Most of them would like to leave Russia

843 00:46:53,750 --> 00:46:58,190 and to go out to Israel or to America.

844 00:46:58,190 --> 00:47:01,090 The town where I was born, no Jews live.

845 00:47:01,090 --> 00:47:02,750 Most of the town, the small towns,

846 00:47:02,750 --> 00:47:04,640 there's no Jews completely.

847 00:47:04,640 --> 00:47:07,220

848 00:47:07,220 --> 00:47:08,180 Free of Jews. 849

00:47:08,180 --> 00:47:12,440 There is a city by the name of Ternopil, which was rebuilt.

850

00:47:12,440 --> 00:47:15,680 There, they have today about 200 Jews, about 210 Jews.

851

00:47:15,680 --> 00:47:18,460

852

00:47:18,460 --> 00:47:21,540 But there's very few Jews there in Russia.

853

00:47:21,540 --> 00:47:24,660 They're confined to only the big cities like Moscow

854

00:47:24,660 --> 00:47:28,812 and Leningrad, but the smaller cities, there is no Jews.

855

00:47:28,812 --> 00:47:29,520 Very few of them.

856

 $00:47:29,520 \longrightarrow 00:47:33,950$

857

00:47:33,950 --> 00:47:40,125 You had mentioned that from your town, 26 people--

858

00:47:40,125 --> 00:47:44,400 26 people were alive at that time when after we were

859

00:47:44,400 --> 00:47:45,070 liberated.

moerated

860

00:47:45,070 --> 00:47:49,230

There are a few are in Israel, a few out in America.

861

00:47:49,230 --> 00:47:51,270 A few came back from Russia.

862

00:47:51,270 --> 00:47:54,240 Maybe today, maybe there's 70, 80 people all

863

00:47:54,240 --> 00:47:55,780 together from my town.

864

00:47:55,780 --> 00:48:00,420 But when we came back after we were

865

00:48:00,420 --> 00:48:03,360 liberated from the Russian army, we were at 26.

866

00:48:03,360 --> 00:48:07,890 We all slept in one house I remember when we came back.

867

00:48:07,890 --> 00:48:09,480 Are you in contact at all?

868

00:48:09,480 --> 00:48:10,970 Yeah, I see the people here.

869

00:48:10,970 --> 00:48:12,870 I see the people in Israel.

870

00:48:12,870 --> 00:48:15,180 Whenever I come, I'm very friendly.

871

 $00:48:15,180 \longrightarrow 00:48:17,720$

872

00:48:17,720 --> 00:48:22,470

OK, I want to thank you very much for coming.

873

 $00:48:22,470 \longrightarrow 00:48:24,250$ Thank you for inviting me.

874

00:48:24,250 --> 00:48:27,920 I'm pleased to be able to tell the story because I

875

 $00:48:27,920 \longrightarrow 00:48:30,350$ feel it is important that we survive,

876

00:48:30,350 --> 00:48:31,850 I should tell the story.

877

 $00:48:31,850 \longrightarrow 00:48:35,660$ I'd like to tell you my hear stories from other survivors,

878

00:48:35,660 --> 00:48:37,910 but sometimes, they even contradict.

879

00:48:37,910 --> 00:48:41,270 I can't hear all the truth, so I thank you

880

 $00:48:41,270 \longrightarrow 00:48:42,670$ for doing the fine job.

881

00:48:42,670 --> 00:48:46,040 I'm very pleased to see people like you take the time

882

00:48:46,040 --> 00:48:48,830 and tape the survivors.

883

00:48:48,830 --> 00:48:52,820 I feel it's very, very important job.

884 00:48:52,820 --> 00:48:54,110 I thank you very much.

885 00:48:54,110 --> 00:48:55,310 Thank you.

886 00:48:55,310 --> 00:48:57,160 Thank you.

887 00:48:57,160 --> 00:49:13,000