

We were talking previously about the food packages that your family were able to send to you in the camp. You said that it was through the ability of the Judenrat that they were able to locate.

They were able to send once in a week. Sometimes, once in two weeks. Sometimes, once in three weeks, but they used to be able to get packages. They lived not too far. Like, I was about 40 to 50 kilometers away from the camp.

But there were many people there were 100 kilometers away, and they didn't get. But when they did get it, they used to split with the one that didn't get it. And so we tried to help ourselves out whenever as possible. But unfortunately, this was not going on for a long time because it took about-- it was about six months in camp. And they came, and they destroy it, our town.

They liquidate our town. Our town, Khorostkiv, had history for over 500 years where Jewish used to live in Khorostkiv. They liquidated it in one day. They came around, and this was [NON-ENGLISH] in 1942. This was in October '42.

And they, as I said before, the town had over 2,000 Jews. They took away over 1,000 Jews. They took away to Belzec, and 100, they killed on the spot. Whoever didn't want to go, didn't want to listen to the orders was killed on the spot. And in that state, he made judenfrei, Khorostkiv came judenfrei, free from Jews.

So the people there still came out from their hidings. Had one day to leave. They went to other ghettos. This is the day when my father and among other-- as I said before, about 1,000 Jews went to Belzec. I was at a camp, which in Poland where over 600,000 Jews were killed.

There, they didn't wait. This was a camp, only a death camp strictly. People would come in every day, and people were killed immediately. Nobody came out alive from this.

If I'm not mistaken, there was the one somehow who came out a Jew because he worked there as a janitor. And he had papers as a janitor, but he was a Jew. And he told exactly the story. Some other janitors told the story. However, no Jew-- they didn't make him work there. When they came in immediately, they were killed.

How did you find out about the liquidation of your town while you were in the concentration camp?

My brother, Harry [INAUDIBLE], he still lives in Union. He has a wife and children. And he told me the story and many other people, the were left. They killed-- they took away to Belzec over 1,000 people, and 100, they killed. But still over 1,000 people were alive at that time.

And I met several one of them, several of them. After the war, was only a few alive. And they told me exactly the story, which I would like to tell a little bit how it was there.

They came in. They surrounded the town. The people, most of them are hidden in such a bunker. They called them such an underground cellars. And they came out with the Ukrainian police and the SS.

And they took out the people they were able, and they took them to the railroad station. And they took over 1,000. First of all, they took them to the marketplace, and they assembled them. And if anybody didn't want to go, immediately was killed.

And they took them to the railroad station, and they locked them up. And the station, on the floors of the rails in the wagons, they had lime. Such a lime, they used for special-- they used this for construction. They used this for painting. They had about three or four inches of lime.

But the time the people came ready to build it, most of them were already anyhow killed, and they kept them another day or so. So when they came to build it, they didn't even have to kill them. They were already dead.

I visited Belzec already twice after the war, and there is still, today, a sign in Belzec, which is important, which says in

Polish [POLISH].

It's here Hitler killed from 1942 and 1943 600,000 Jews and 1,500 Poles that tried to help Jews. The sign still says so. I visit twice, and that is there in Belzec. 12 such signs, six round one, six square one.

But two signs tells who was killed here and how they were killed. Well, first of all, they were-- whoever wasn't shot was burned, and they buried them. And as I mentioned, Belzec's a very big camp because we lost six million Jews, and in Belzec alone was over 10%. 600,000 Jews were killed in Belzec alone.

People don't talk about it. People talk about Majdanek and Auschwitz, but Belzec is one of the very big camp. It is true it didn't-- in Auschwitz, they killed three million Jews. However, they killed a lot of Belzec, which very few people know about it, and this is the reason I try to emphasize.

I'm going to go back to my town. My town was-- that time, my father was in the one cellar. My mother was in another place, and my older brother, Harry, was in the third place. Well, my mother and my brother was-- they didn't uncovered those places. And where my father went was supposed to be the best place, and there, they uncovered him and additional-- it was, I think, about 32 to 33 people where they were taken away together with 1,000 other people to the railroads and--

This place where they were hiding, was that in somebody's house, or was that--

Yes, this was in a friend's house under-- from a cellar, they had another very big hole, and this is the hole they were hiding. They were sitting there, but the SS and the Ukranian police came in. And anybody, if they didn't want to go out to one of the places, they didn't want to go out, they put up hand grenades. They put up fires.

They [INAUDIBLE] point out, and people still believe maybe if they're going to sit there, they're definitely going to be killed. Maybe they'll take them out. Maybe they'll take them to work. But people always believed maybe they're going to be saved. This is the way my father and other 600,000 Jews were appoint to death in Belzec.

I'm going to go back now to the camp. I'd like to tell you. Of course, I may as well-- I want to continue. My brother left from Khorostkiv. They left to Terebovlya with my mother. And he stayed in the ghetto under very tough conditions without any food, the ghetto Terebovlya, till [NON-ENGLISH], and this was in March '43, about another six-- five to six months.

And this is the time actually came to Terebovlya. They surrounded entire city. And my father then got [INAUDIBLE] the last minute to run away from this place where my mother was them, but in the last minute, he didn't trust this place. He ran away.

And my mother and that time about 1,100, 1,200 Jews in Terebovlya, which is 15 kilometer from my town, from Khorostkiv, they were-- at that time, they didn't even take them already to Belzec. They took them out, and outside the town, there was a little village called Plebanivka, where they made everybody-- they took them to the marketplace, they assembled them, they told the men, and women, and children to undress naked, and they marched them through the town to this little village outside the town, Plebanivka. Their ditches was already dug, and everybody had to go through in a certain [INAUDIBLE]. And everybody got one bullet. And whether it was a life or there was death, it didn't matter, and they fall into this big ditch. And after this, everybody was buried. This was in March 1943, six months after my father.

Hopefully, I'll be able to tell you later on. I even visited. The last three months ago, I visited this place. But now we're going to continue talking about-- my brother ran away from this [? act ?] here and voluntarily came to the concentration camp where I was, which this was about 50 kilometers away from our town.

He came voluntarily because my father was no more alive, my mother was no more alive, and my older brother, [PERSONAL NAME], was that time in a camp which we didn't even know where he is. So he wanted to be together with me, so he came to me. And we were together till my camp was liquidated.

I want to mentioned something about my older brother [PERSONAL NAME]. He was killed in a town called Helm. While there, the-- in 1941, it was mobilized to the army. And the Germans caught him, and they caught him with many thousands of other people. And this was in [INAUDIBLE]. 10 days in [INAUDIBLE]. This is about in 1943.

And they killed them all. [INAUDIBLE] must be some time in December in 1943. They killed thousands and thousands of Jewish boys there, and among them, was my older brother, [PERSONAL NAME]. My brother, Harry, came to me to camp and must be in the end March '43. And we were together in camp till July the 10th 1943.

What were your feelings when you saw your brother? How long had it been since you had seen him when he came?

Well, I didn't see my brother at that time for 12 months.

12 months.

For 12 months because I left in '42, and he came for 12 months I didn't see him. And of course, we are very happy to be united. When I left, my father still was alive, my mother was alive, and my older brother. And now we already it's only the two of us.

We were together working very hard in camp and trying the best to survive. And we always planned how can we run away? We had a plan to run away. But one day when we planned about the next few days already to go away, and one day, a friend of mine ran away. And the next day the SS [GERMAN] came in, and he took out four young boys. And he shot them on the spot.

In front of everybody.

In front of everybody should see it.

Right.

So when we saw this, we decided we will not run away because there's a question whether we're going to be alive is a maybe, but in meantime, other people are going to be killed for definitely. So we decided we will not run away only if we really feel like they want to shoot us.

Was there discussion among individuals who were there about the consequences? For example, as you were just saying if, in fact, we do run away, we know that somebody is going to get killed.

Most responsible people stopped to run away at that time, but we saw. And we worked till March the 9th on a Friday. No, not March. This was till July the 9th, 1943. We saw the big concentration of SS and a big concentration of Ukrainian police concentrating themselves, and they start to bring into our camp Jewish people from other camps.

So we decided and we had some older people, doctor, engineers, our friends of ours, and they told us that they most probably is going to come. They're going to kill us right here. But there was no place to run because there was never a place. We're already judenfrei. There were no Jews in no place.

At least we didn't think about it. We did know about it. Later on, after the war, we find out about certain small places. We tried to go to the partisans, but there were no place to go. There were no forest, and there are no partisan groups. There wouldn't want to talk to us.

But in order to assure them self-- ourself, so we decided we're going to go on the field this Friday night, the 9th of July. We're going to-- we cut off the wires from the fence, a big group of us.

How many?

Maybe several hundred people at night time and--

Somebody planned and coordinated this whole effort?

No, some people-- the Ukrainian police was on one side. We cut off from the back. There were no lights. Luckily, we were able to cut off the wires.

But all of those individuals who were turning the wires had discussed this before?

Oh, sure. We had discussions to cut up the wires, and we ran out on the field in July. Especially in Poland, you've got very high big corns, big wheat, grain. And I fell in a-- not too far from the camp in a spot that was corn. My brother ran a little further. He run in the spot where was wheat, and we didn't go too far because we thought maybe it was just a rumor.

In the case, it was a rumor, we want to come back in the morning to find out we should have a place where to come back because where should we go? Wherever you go, they're killing Jews. And I fell asleep, so did my brother, so many other. I fell asleep at night time.

About 4 o'clock Saturday morning, I was woke up with already shooting. They were shooting at us right on the field several hundred foot away from the camp because they knew that some people ran away. And I already heard people would holler, oh, help. And I said to myself, I'm going to go. They shooting in every place.

So may as well, I'm going to stay. I just dug myself under a little bit deeper, and I said. [NON-ENGLISH]. And I said whatever would be the best places to sit because if I would lift my head, immediately I would be killed. And I prayed all day long. This day was 1,000 years long.

While they were cold, they took them out from the barracks, and the assembled them. And they took them out on the-- behind the barracks, and they were shot. And I heard people crying, people begging, people doing all kinds things. They didn't listen to nobody, and everybody was shot. Everybody, after they were shot, they made a fire, and they burned them.

Late at night, it must have been around 11:00, 12 o'clock at night, it was quiet. I got up. I just pinched myself if I'm still alive, and I felt-- I saw what happened. There's no place where to go, but if you have-- I decided I'll go back to the town where I was born.

At this time your brother--

I didn't know about my brother at all, whether he's alive, whether he's not alive. I did hope that he's alive. And this was-- I was already-- 16 months I was in camp. I was in ghetto about six months. I didn't see the Polish families for probably more than two years, but I know many Polish families because we were doing business with the Polish and Ukrainian people. There was one family, Gornac.

How were you able to get back to your town?

Just walking. Walking by night time.

By yourself.

By myself. At day time, mostly, I sat in the wheat laying because I was afraid people would recognize me. I walked in down the route to several times to people and asked they should sell me bread. Some of them took money. Some of them gave me a piece of bread. They didn't even want money.

And until I came, this was a village eight kilometers near my town. The village's called Ivanivka. I came in, and I had a Polish farmer, very fine family. When I walked in Tuesday night, and this was the 13th of July, 1943. Must be about

10:00, 11 o'clock at night.

I walked in, and the man, Ian Gornac, should rest in peace-- he was killed later on-- just didn't talk to me. Was afraid anybody should hear because the dogs start to bark. And he just pointed out with his finger, I should go to the barn, and I should go upstairs to the attic of the barn. Of course, I went up, and I hope maybe he'll keep me for a day or two, or possibly, maybe he wants to kill me.

Maybe he thinks I have money. He wants to kill me because you heard stories like this. The Jewish people came up to certain people, and they took away if they had some money, and they killed them. But I didn't have anything more to lose. My life was, that time, very cheap.

It didn't matter, so I did have some confidence to him. And when he told me to go up, I went up. I went up, and there was fresh straw and fresh hay. And I was so tired, and hungry, and wet after raining and slept outside. When I laid down, I felt so comfortable.

All of a sudden, I heard somebody is on top on the barn on the attic, and somebody is asking me, who is this? And I start to ask, who is this? And they recognize, and this was my brother. We did not discuss we should run away, where to we should go, how we should go.

He came early in the morning. I came Tuesday late at night. He came Tuesday early in the morning, about 4 o'clock in the morning. And that time, we asked our self-- just we said to each other if we lived through such a terrible acts, we met 50 kilometers away. And although we have many Polish and Ukrainian people, friends, and we came to them, so we did-- we do hope we're going to live through the war.

And of course, about 15 minutes later, Mrs. Gornac, Tatiana Gornac, should rest in peace-- she was an angel, not a human being-- she came up with yam potatoes, and sour cream, and some borscht, a wonderful, fine, good meal that the Polish farmers had, which I didn't have this camp for a long time. And I felt what's going on? There are still some human being in this world. I thought that everybody wants to kill Jews, yet there is still some fine people here available.

[INAUDIBLE]

Go ahead.

No, go ahead. I'm sorry.

And I-- she even told me something, which you maybe going to be surprised, but I want-- you should know this. She told me she's glad we came. So I tell her, why are you glad we came? She told me she did hope she'll come because my mother-- she had a dream a night before. My mother and Mrs. Gornac were going to school together.

So she dreamed as my mother asked if the two sons would come there and she should help them to survive. And of course, we start to cry, and she cried. And we hugged, and we kissed her. And this lady kept us for eight and a half months till March the 22nd, 1944 when the Russian army came up to our town and they liberate us. At the time, they endangered their life tremendous.

During that eight months, did you ever--

Eight and a half months.

Eight and a half, did you ever get into the town, or did you remain in the farm?

I remained on the farm only at night time. I didn't even go out from the attic. I stood there the whole day. At nighttime, I used to go down just to make some physical movement. They had some special-- they horses and cows, and that was a special hard work on the farm to prepare the food for the cows.

So we wanted to do certain physical work, my brother and I, in order to survive because we were sitting kind of in a tight spot with straw. So this, at the time, [INAUDIBLE] they give us food, the same food what they ate and maybe even better food. And clothing, we didn't need it because we didn't go no place. And we stood on the farm for eight and a half months there. The farmers, they save us life.

There weren't too many. I'm sorry. There weren't too many. I wish would be more, but here, there were a few people that wanted to help Jews. Not too many, but were a few. One of them were the Gornac family.

I'm pleased to tell you I was-- I visit several times already there. I had Mr. Gornac in my house already five years ago. Now the son of law of John Gornac, which he was the older brother is no more alive, comes this next week, which is going to be October the 5th. He is coming to visit us. He's going to stay with us for three months, and we feel like they are a part of our family.

Just going back for one second, what happened when the Russians liberated?

The Russians liberated-- they wanted to demobilize everybody, but my brother and I started to work in the same places where we worked before for the first time under Russian power from '39 to '41. So I had-- the manager from the factory was killed by the Germans, so I became a manager from the factory. And my brother became an accountant from the fact that [INAUDIBLE]. And we stood there till the war end, '45. When the war end, a law came out.

Those people that were born in Poland have a right to leave Russia, so at the moment, we got this new law. We immediately left Russia. We went to Poland. At that point, we went to Germany, and from Germany, we came to America the moment we had the permission. It took several years because the war end in '45.

End of '45, we came to Germany. We stood in Germany till '49 because it was very tough to get permission. At the moment, we got the permission in '49. In meantime, of course, I married my lovely wife, Gladys, and God blessed us and got four children, four sons. Two are now married and with me in business, and two still in school.

What happened during the years 1945 through '49 when you were in Germany?

I am a businessman. Some of the people who were sitting in a camp waiting, they should get from the owner certain help. I didn't like this. I opened up a business.

And right even in Poland in 1945, I opened up a business of grocery, wheat, flour. And when I came to Germany in 1946, I opened up a textile business, and I have my textile business till 1949. We had a private house and a business, car, and we lived quite comfortable after the war in Germany.

But I didn't like their comfort. I didn't want their business because I felt they did so much to me, to my family. I want to get out of there. I want to live in a free country.

Then I came to America. And I start to work very hard, but yet I was very pleased I'm in America. And after a year and a half being in this country, my brother and I opened up a business. We started a business together.

You met your wife in what year?

1945 in Poland. Right after the war, I met my wife, and I said [NON-ENGLISH]. And we got married in 1946, June 30, 1946. We married in Germany in a city called [PLACE NAME]. And then my other son, Freddy, was born in Germany. 1949, we came to the United States, and my son, David, was born. End of '49, David was born.

And David and Freddy then got [INAUDIBLE] two daughters. David is married. He has a son and a daughter. And now I have one son, Jackie. He is going now to NY State, a city in Western New York. And Maurice still goes to Yeshiva, right here, Jewish Educational Center. They all-- my boys went to Yeshiva, and hopefully next year is going to go to college.

Were there any organizations that helped you at all during this period while you're in Germany?

No, when I--

You didn't want to go to the UNRRA.

No, when I was free, only God helped us. We didn't need no help. Now we're free. We are business people. We're on top of business. We started a business. We started to make enough of living where we were able to not only to make for ourselves. We were able to help other people.

You came directly to New York.

Yes, I came to New York.

How did you come to New Jersey?

We were-- my brother and I, we opened up a New York a supermarket business, 1951, a year and a half after we came, and by the way, when I came to New York, I took a job in a supermarket just to learn a little bit English and to learn a little bit about business. And after a year and a half, we bought our first supermarket on Broadway. And after four years, we had four supermarkets.

We were hardworking people, and God was good to us. And we were all right well. And in 1957, when we made some money already, the supermarket, we decided we want to go in building business. And we went in '57 or '58, we moved to New Jersey. And since, then we are-- we live here in New Jersey.

We were builders, developers. And thank God. We were pleased to live here in a fine free country like United States and--

Was Israel a consideration at the time when you were going to leave Germany?

Yes, Israel was very much a consideration, but original, we couldn't write. In '45, '46, you couldn't go. And in 1948 when the state of Israel was already created, we were asked from my family here in America, we should come here. And my uncle, God bless him, Paul [PERSONAL NAME], wrote me a letter. You can always go from America to Israel.

But Israel to America is sometimes tough. Why don't you come and look up how you like America, and we came to America. We established ourself in business, and we go to Israel very often. We work for Israel, and tried to help Israel as much as possible.

Right now we live in this country. We are very pleased. Thank God.

You were telling me before during a private conversation that we were having-- did you feel-- you were never sure that people were walking to their death, and they said to you something about retelling the story of what happened during the holocaust.

Yes, I am very happy that I lived to see this day which we had today in 1983 as I can tell the story. Hopefully, some other people will be able to listen to this story and watch the story on tape because I remember the days in camp and in ghetto when people were going to the death. They told us if you are alive, please tell the story, and I personally had many times when it was very dark when everybody was being killed.

I thought who knows if somebody would be alive to tell the story, and I'm happy as I am among the one return to tell the story. I wish there would be more. And I think anybody is alive should tell the story because we owe it to them, the ones who didn't have this [INAUDIBLE] to be here to tell this story.

When you came to the United States, did you have any feelings about the American Jewish community, the silence of

the American Jewish community during the war? Did you--

I think I'm a little bitter because I feel as maybe something more could be done. I am sure that the state of Israel would be created 10 years before. Hitler would've kill Jews, but he wouldn't kill six million because we saw what happened in Entebbe. Probably millions of people could be saved.

I feel Mr. Roosevelt, and Mr. Churchill, and Stalin, if they wanted, they could have saved more Jews. Why? I realized they had to fight a war, but there were no time during the war where we wanted so much help. We should get help. People in Auschwitz were begging them, please, they should bomb the rails at least, bomb Auschwitz.

People shouldn't be able to be killed, and the mass production just to slow down because the way they were doing lately, they were killing in Auschwitz thousands and thousands of people daily because of the gas chambers. If they would bomb Auschwitz, they would kill but maybe with a slower pace in retail, not in wholesale. I feel it wasn't done.

You asked me the question about the Jewish community. The Jewish community maybe could go maybe in the hundreds of thousands, maybe a half a million Jews should go to the president, and sit in the front of the White House, and explain the situation. Maybe the president would recognize. This a question. Maybe. But please understand as we are older, a little bit bitter why people didn't help us. I don't know if the Jewish community could help us, but I think the leaders of the great countries could do a little bit more than they did.

What do you feel are some of the lessons to be learned from the experience of the Holocaust?

I am glad you asked me this question. I feel as Jewish people must be alert no matter wherever they are. Even in a good country like in America, you must be alert. And the only way is to fight back. If, God forbid, something happened, right in the beginning is to fight back.

I know I was in certain places, wherever Jews were fighting back, they killed Jews. But they didn't kill them all. They killed maybe 20%, 30%, but not 99%. Like, from my city, we had over 2,000. 26 people were alive after we were liberated.

My wife comes from a city where there were about 5,000 Jews. And when they were liberated, I think about 56 Jews, so you can see a little bit more than 1%. Almost 99% of Jews were killed. I am sure in certain places, which I know they were fighting back, the percentages came out much better. They are alive.

And I want-- my advice is for future generations always to be alert. In order to be alert, it's important Jewish children should get Jewish education. It's very important. You should know about Jew because otherwise, they drift away completely.

If they drift away, they wouldn't know how to be proud as a Jew. They will be ashamed to be a Jew. If they're going to have Jewish education, they're going to be proud that they're Jews.

I think it is very important to have a strong Israel because Israel gives every Jew in the world, no matter wherever he is, it gives them a certain strength, gives them certain power, and gives them pride. And we Jews in the diaspora must seek to do everything possible to help the Jews in Israel.

I'm sure you were actually the one with the candles, did you not, at the gathering of Holocaust survivors in Washington?

Yes, I am in the committee, and I was-- I did help to organize the first gathering in Israel, which was two years ago, and the second gathering, which was in April '83 in Washington. And I was also on the committee, another one, which we just came back several weeks ago from Israel. There's another one on people there about put up some uprisings, and I was on this committee too.

I just came back from Israel, and there was another-- we had over 1,000 people came to Jerusalem, and to Tel Aviv, and Yad Vashem to organize the gathering. We're even planning now another gathering for 1985. It's going to be 40 years



exactly after the war finished. We are planning another gathering there together.

That's going to be in Sweden.

We plan to go to Denmark, and from Denmark to Israel.

I try to recall. Somebody mentioned to me, I believe, that when you returned to your town, the visit recently, the cemeteries--

I was-- I'm a member of the Jewish Agency, and in July this year, '83, I went to the [NON-ENGLISH] to the conference of the Jewish Agency. I was there 10 days in Israel. From there, I went to Poland, and from Poland, I went back to the towns where I was born, which is now Russia because this part of Poland, Russia occupied.

I visit quite a few towns. The big city there is Lemberg, Tarnopol, Chortkov. My town where I was born, Khorostkiv, Terebovlya, where my mother was killed [NON-ENGLISH]. And I went to Kamionki where I was in concentration camp.

In Poland, the cemeteries, they were left after the war. If Hitler did not destroy them, they still stay. Certain spots, even the Poles tried to fix up to have it, and people come. Jewish people from all over the world, they come on the graves to pray, to put up candles, to say Kaddish.

And Russia, most of them, they destroyed. I came to my town where I was born. That is now where the cemetery used to be. They build houses. You don't even see that it was a cemetery.

The entire town is destroyed. They rebuilt a completely new town. They were a very big shul. The synagogue was destroyed, and you can only-- there a few houses which I recognize.

There's the public place called the [NON-ENGLISH], the post office, and the town hall. And the school where I went to school still stays, but they enlarged the school. Otherwise, this entire town is rebuilt. I couldn't even recognize.

The town, Terebovlya, where my mother is buried, there they did not-- the cemetery where was for years was an old cemetery, probably 500, 600 years old, is destroyed and houses are built but with a mass grave was where my mother and several thousand other people because they had one [NON-ENGLISH] where my mother was killed [NON-ENGLISH], yet another [NON-ENGLISH] two months later, my uncles and many cousin. So it was about over 3,000 Jews were killed in those two graves. Those two graves are there exactly the way they left them because the summer comes up between a ditch and the railroad.

So they couldn't build there I guess, so they left it exactly. I went there. I said prayers. I said Kaddish. I put up lights and just the way the left it, and nobody touched it.

I came to a town [PLACE NAME] where they have still the cemetery. Wherever the graves were there, they did not touch it. Around the graves, they put up corn and wheats, so they farm there. I went to Kamionka where the camp was.

Also the camp was completely destroyed, but the very two big ditches where thousands of thousands of people are there buried, there is-- they did not touch it. The only-- they have corn around and potatoes around wherever the actually the two graves are, they didn't touch this. I also said Kaddish, said [NON-ENGLISH], and I put up candles. And nobody bothered me to say yes or no.

In Lemberg, which is a big city, they do have-- there is still the cemetery with a fence, and they even put a Lemberg special big sign to mention it was from 1941 to 1944, they killed so many so many Jews in Lemberg. And they still have-- and there it is in Yiddish and in Russian.

Did you have conversations with any of the people living in Lemberg?

Yes, I spoke-- in Lemberg, there's still-- Lemberg had probably over 40,000 Jews. Today, you have about 2,000 Jews. I spoke to them. They don't have any synagogue even. Most of them would like to leave Russia and to go out to Israel or to America.

The town where I was born, no Jews live. Most of the town, the small towns, there's no Jews completely. Free of Jews. There is a city by the name of Ternopil, which was rebuilt. There, they have today about 200 Jews, about 210 Jews.

But there's very few Jews there in Russia. They're confined to only the big cities like Moscow and Leningrad, but the smaller cities, there is no Jews. Very few of them.

You had mentioned that from your town, 26 people--

26 people were alive at that time when after we were liberated. There are a few are in Israel, a few out in America. A few came back from Russia.

Maybe today, maybe there's 70, 80 people all together from my town. But when we came back after we were liberated from the Russian army, we were at 26. We all slept in one house I remember when we came back.

Are you in contact at all?

Yeah, I see the people here. I see the people in Israel. Whenever I come, I'm very friendly.

OK, I want to thank you very much for coming.

Thank you for inviting me. I'm pleased to be able to tell the story because I feel it is important that we survive, I should tell the story. I'd like to tell you my hear stories from other survivors, but sometimes, they even contradict. I can't hear all the truth, so I thank you for doing the fine job.

I'm very pleased to see people like you take the time and tape the survivors. I feel it's very, very important job. I thank you very much.

Thank you.

Thank you.