- 1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:12,870
- 2 00:00:12,870 --> 00:00:14,850 [MUSIC PLAYING]
- 3 00:00:14,850 --> 00:00:51,570
- 4 00:00:51,570 --> 00:00:52,930 Good afternoon.
- 5 00:00:52,930 --> 00:00:55,830 My name is Bonnie Kind, and I'm a member of the Kean College
- 6 00:00:55,830 --> 00:00:59,430 Oral Testimonies Project of the Holocaust Resource Center.
- 7 00:00:59,430 --> 00:01:01,230 We're affiliated with the Video Archive
- 8 00:01:01,230 --> 00:01:03,750 for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale.
- 9 00:01:03,750 --> 00:01:06,990 Sharing the interview with me is Dr. Bernard Weinstein,
- 10 00:01:06,990 --> 00:01:09,960 Director of the Kean College Oral Testimonies Project
- 11 00:01:09,960 --> 00:01:12,510 and Professor of English at Kean College.
- 12 00:01:12,510 --> 00:01:16,260 We are privileged to greet Mr. David Kempinski, a survivor

13 00:01:16,260 --> 00:01:19,200 presently living in Union, New Jersey, who has graciously

14

00:01:19,200 --> 00:01:22,380 volunteered to give his testimony about his experiences

15

00:01:22,380 --> 00:01:24,800 during and after the Holocaust.

16

00:01:24,800 --> 00:01:27,198 Mr. Kempinski, perhaps we could begin

17

00:01:27,198 --> 00:01:28,740 by asking you to tell us a little bit

18

00:01:28,740 --> 00:01:31,680 about your date of birth and the country and town in which you

19

00:01:31,680 --> 00:01:33,520 were born, what things were like?

20

00:01:33,520 --> 00:01:34,020 Yes.

21

00:01:34,020 --> 00:01:41,230 I was born July the 27, 1921, in the town Praszka Poland, near--

22

00:01:41,230 --> 00:01:47,910 on the border line Germany-Poland till September

23

00:01:47,910 --> 00:01:52,620 the 1, 1939.

24

00:01:52,620 --> 00:01:55,650 After I was five years old, my parents moved.

25 00:01:55,650 --> 00:01:59,850 They had their business about 12 miles west from Praszka excuse

26 00:01:59,850 --> 00:02:03,570 me, east from Praszka to the town of Wieluń.

27 00:02:03,570 --> 00:02:06,570 There was there a county town, a bigger town,

28 00:02:06,570 --> 00:02:10,560 and my parents, my father, had their business, a mill

29 00:02:10,560 --> 00:02:13,410 [INAUDIBLE], and he build it up.

30 00:02:13,410 --> 00:02:15,240 This started in 1927.

31 00:02:15,240 --> 00:02:17,580 But I saw on the wall--

32 00:02:17,580 --> 00:02:19,080 it's still existing.

33 00:02:19,080 --> 00:02:23,230 I was there for a visit just 18 months ago, in 1985,

34 00:02:23,230 --> 00:02:24,890 it's still existing.

35 00:02:24,890 --> 00:02:28,500 The monument on the wall, on the left side from the factory,

36 00:02:28,500 --> 00:02:37,425 in 1927 my father built. In 1929 and 28, we moved to Wieluń.

37 00:02:37,425 --> 00:02:39,050 How old were you at the time you moved?

38

00:02:39,050 --> 00:02:41,800 They were the seven years old.

39

00:02:41,800 --> 00:02:49,255 And there I started, and I was there till September 1, 1939,

40

00:02:49,255 --> 00:02:50,920 and the war started.

41

00:02:50,920 --> 00:02:55,080 And approximately 4:30 PM--

42

00:02:55,080 --> 00:03:01,260 excuse me, AM-- they all of a sudden came, German aeroplanes,

43

00:03:01,260 --> 00:03:04,920 and they leveled off the town 95%.

44

00:03:04,920 --> 00:03:07,780 Did you have brothers and sisters growing up with you?

45

00:03:07,780 --> 00:03:08,280 Yes.

46

00:03:08,280 --> 00:03:10,363 Two brothers and my parents was home at that time.

47

00:03:10,363 --> 00:03:12,780 My brother came for vacation from vacation from Palestine,

48

00:03:12,780 --> 00:03:13,410 at that time.

49

00:03:13,410 --> 00:03:15,120 He was in Polytechnical.

50 00:03:15,120 --> 00:03:19,800 And our neighbor next door was the rabbi.

51 00:03:19,800 --> 00:03:24,330 And I went into the neighbor, to the Rabbi Yustman,

52 00:03:24,330 --> 00:03:26,730 and I was hiding there and they bombed.

53 00:03:26,730 --> 00:03:29,010 And my parents and the two brothers

54 00:03:29,010 --> 00:03:32,550 went down the ground floors.

55 00:03:32,550 --> 00:03:36,650 And I didn't saw him, but when they bombed,

56 00:03:36,650 --> 00:03:38,400 we were holding the door with everything--

57 00:03:38,400 --> 00:03:40,650 the house was shaking.

58 00:03:40,650 --> 00:03:44,610 We saw our part where we was living was leveled off.

59 00:03:44,610 --> 00:03:45,360 We couldn't go up.

60 00:03:45,360 --> 00:03:45,990 No stairs.

61 00:03:45,990 --> 00:03:47,140 Nothing.

62 00:03:47,140 --> 00:03:51,180 I was screaming this to the Rabbi Yustman.

63 00:03:51,180 --> 00:03:53,290 And now we came out and we went down

64 00:03:53,290 --> 00:03:58,150 with a pile of bricks and everything.

65 00:03:58,150 --> 00:04:00,250 It was very dusty, you know.

66 00:04:00,250 --> 00:04:02,547 And people was afraid there's gas.

00:04:02,547 --> 00:04:04,380 They were calling this gas, but it was dust.

68 00:04:04,380 --> 00:04:05,640 It was not gas.

69 00:04:05,640 --> 00:04:07,930 And we had no clothes.

70 00:04:07,930 --> 00:04:10,410 We were in the pajamas, no shoes.

71 00:04:10,410 --> 00:04:12,960 We came-- jumped from the beds.

72 00:04:12,960 --> 00:04:15,450 And we started to go east.

73 00:04:15,450 --> 00:04:20,130 We left to the exit roads from the town of Wieluń.

74 00:04:20,130 --> 00:04:23,670 And I was in the school in Piotrkow, 75 00:04:23,670 --> 00:04:26,160 and I had some stuff, some clothes there.

76 00:04:26,160 --> 00:04:31,960 And it is about 65 or 70 miles away from Wieluń,

77 00:04:31,960 --> 00:04:33,070 and I was walking.

78 00:04:33,070 --> 00:04:35,100 It was a Friday.

00:04:35,100 --> 00:04:40,350 About when we was walking, there was bombed on the roads.

80 00:04:40,350 --> 00:04:43,890 We had the Polish army that put mines on the bridges and this,

81 00:04:43,890 --> 00:04:46,980 we had, say, farmers with cows, and the cows went on the mines,

82 00:04:46,980 --> 00:04:48,240 so there was explosions.

83 00:04:48,240 --> 00:04:49,870 People got killed.

00:04:49,870 --> 00:04:50,710 Cows got killed.

85 00:04:50,710 --> 00:04:51,910 Horses got killed.

86 00:04:51,910 --> 00:04:56,125 I was walking, walking day and night till I come to a place--

87 00:04:56,125 --> 00:04:57,160 I passed the river.

88

00:04:57,160 --> 00:05:00,330 Warta is the second biggest river in Poland

89

00:05:00,330 --> 00:05:02,880 after the Vistula [INAUDIBLE].

90

00:05:02,880 --> 00:05:07,415 And I come on Saturday to the town of Piotrkow,

91

00:05:07,415 --> 00:05:10,170 but that was also, at the time, bombed.

92

00:05:10,170 --> 00:05:13,560 I couldn't, then, went into the town.

93

00:05:13,560 --> 00:05:16,800 We passed the town and we continued

94

00:05:16,800 --> 00:05:19,620 to go the direction east.

95

00:05:19,620 --> 00:05:21,300 Was your family with you at this time?

96

00:05:21,300 --> 00:05:21,360 No.

۵7

00:05:21,360 --> 00:05:22,090 I was lost.

98

00:05:22,090 --> 00:05:22,950 I was myself.

99

00:05:22,950 --> 00:05:23,970

You were all alone?

00:05:23,970 --> 00:05:24,750 I was all alone.

101

00:05:24,750 --> 00:05:26,050

102

00:05:26,050 --> 00:05:32,730 We was-- we came, and the town Sulejow was a big woods there.

103

00:05:32,730 --> 00:05:37,110 It was Sunday already, we started to resting.

104

00:05:37,110 --> 00:05:40,340 And we met a few people from our town,

105

00:05:40,340 --> 00:05:42,000 sometimes with their families.

106

00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:44,820 On the afternoon on Sunday--

107

00:05:44,820 --> 00:05:47,150 this was the 3rd of September--

108

00:05:47,150 --> 00:05:49,115 there was heavy bombing there.

109

00:05:49,115 --> 00:05:52,620 And we saw soldiers, civilian on the roads.

110

00:05:52,620 --> 00:05:53,570 So many killed.

111

00:05:53,570 --> 00:05:58,260 We started to leave the woods, we went direction east

112

00:05:58,260 --> 00:06:03,000 to direction of Opoczno, a town, and Radom.

00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:06,960 And we came to Radom.

# 114

00:06:06,960 --> 00:06:11,100 This was bombed, but still the people was living.

# 115

00:06:11,100 --> 00:06:15,660 And we continued to go east, we walk.

## 116

00:06:15,660 --> 00:06:19,740 And then we was in a barn at nighttime,

### 117

00:06:19,740 --> 00:06:23,238 and all of a sudden we so Germans on the road.

#### 118

00:06:23,238 --> 00:06:24,530 We said, where are the Germans?

### 119

00:06:24,530 --> 00:06:26,270 We started to go back.

#### 120

00:06:26,270 --> 00:06:30,910 We went back to the town of Radom

#### 121

00:06:30,910 --> 00:06:34,870 and there was the holiday Rosh Hashanah.

# 122

00:06:34,870 --> 00:06:39,335 I went into like a synagogue [INAUDIBLE],, but the midrash,

#### 123

00:06:39,335 --> 00:06:40,870 besmedresh.

## 124

00:06:40,870 --> 00:06:43,330 And we were sleeping there.

#### 125

00:06:43,330 --> 00:06:45,520

Over the Germans come and took it out,

126

00:06:45,520 --> 00:06:50,380 we had to do work like take the weapons from the Polish army

127

00:06:50,380 --> 00:06:51,340 to bring in the place.

128

00:06:51,340 --> 00:06:56,810 And they were beating, and one time she come with no food.

129

00:06:56,810 --> 00:07:00,730 And it was waiting 'till the holidays got over

130

00:07:00,730 --> 00:07:02,650 and we started to go back.

131

00:07:02,650 --> 00:07:04,990 I wasn't found approximately, I would say

132

00:07:04,990 --> 00:07:07,990 about 250 miles from my town.

133

00:07:07,990 --> 00:07:11,380 Let me ask you, Mr. Kempinksi, did you expect that any of this

134

00:07:11,380 --> 00:07:12,213 was going to happen?

135

00:07:12,213 --> 00:07:12,713 No.

136

00:07:12,713 --> 00:07:13,780 Was there any warning?

137

00:07:13,780 --> 00:07:15,010 Was there, did it just--

00:07:15,010 --> 00:07:16,620 No.

139

00:07:16,620 --> 00:07:17,950 No, no, no.

140

00:07:17,950 --> 00:07:20,800 Good we expect that the Germans are bad [INAUDIBLE]

141

00:07:20,800 --> 00:07:24,200 from November the 9th or the Kristallnacht.

142

00:07:24,200 --> 00:07:28,220 Well we was in the school, and the director,

143

00:07:28,220 --> 00:07:33,370 [Personal Name] came to us and said,

144

00:07:33,370 --> 00:07:38,140 the Jews came to [PLACE NAME],, and we have everything

145

00:07:38,140 --> 00:07:43,350 what's possible to donate it or the morning the pennies.

146

00:07:43,350 --> 00:07:47,140 Or that we have our underwear, or everything to give it.

147

00:07:47,140 --> 00:07:49,550 We sent this to [PLACE NAME].

148

00:07:49,550 --> 00:07:52,960 But we cannot visualize.

149

00:07:52,960 --> 00:07:57,520 But when I come on vacation and this was Hanukkah there

150

00:07:57,520 --> 00:08:03,460

at Christmas, and my mother told me that all the meetings

151

00:08:03,460 --> 00:08:05,200 in the town of Wieluń.

152

00:08:05,200 --> 00:08:09,790 And one lady, a wife from the doctor, Dr. Schreiber.

153

00:08:09,790 --> 00:08:14,180 She ask to the ladies, who will be helping us?

154

00:08:14,180 --> 00:08:18,060 And I remember my mother told me this.

155

00:08:18,060 --> 00:08:20,550 I think no, I didn't expect it.

156

00:08:20,550 --> 00:08:21,850 I couldn't expect it.

157

00:08:21,850 --> 00:08:24,740 And I started to walk back.

158

00:08:24,740 --> 00:08:27,230 'Till I come exactly a day before Yom Kippur.

159

00:08:27,230 --> 00:08:28,530 Yom Kippur was on Saturday.

160

00:08:28,530 --> 00:08:31,048 And I cam on Yom Kippur Friday.

161

00:08:31,048 --> 00:08:32,090 I don't remember the day.

162

00:08:32,090 --> 00:08:34,820 I know to remember that Yom Kippur was Saturday.

00:08:34,820 --> 00:08:37,640 And I had a friend also from the school in the town,

164

00:08:37,640 --> 00:08:40,750 Belchatow On the maps, I can show you.

165

00:08:40,750 --> 00:08:41,735 It's near Piotrkow.

166

00:08:41,735 --> 00:08:48,110 I passed Piotrokow back and Bełchatow And we was there,

167

00:08:48,110 --> 00:08:51,500 I was sleeping then waiting after Yom Kippur.

168

00:08:51,500 --> 00:08:53,550 I go back to Wieluń.

169

00:08:53,550 --> 00:08:57,170 And it had all just going about 45 miles.

1/0

00:08:57,170 --> 00:09:01,320 And Yom Kippur on the morning, we went to the attic to prayer.

171

00:09:01,320 --> 00:09:05,450 It was there about seven people that had not dominion.

172

00:09:05,450 --> 00:09:07,700 And all of a sudden came a German with his bayonet

173

00:09:07,700 --> 00:09:09,370 in the hands and he find us.

174

00:09:09,370 --> 00:09:14,240 And we have to come out to the square they had marked for us.

00:09:14,240 --> 00:09:17,456 And I saw all the Jews they bring from all over,

176

00:09:17,456 --> 00:09:19,730 and this was Yom Kippur.

177

00:09:19,730 --> 00:09:24,710 We have to go a town I was the first time the town I was

178

00:09:24,710 --> 00:09:27,770 passing with a pass to go from Wieluń before the war when I

179

00:09:27,770 --> 00:09:29,600 was school when I vacation, no?

180

00:09:29,600 --> 00:09:32,570 I don't know what the town was, only the people.

181

00:09:32,570 --> 00:09:38,050 They took us to every place where the Jews was praying

182

00:09:38,050 --> 00:09:42,360 or that synagogue, and took me with another few people

183

00:09:42,360 --> 00:09:45,440 to a place to like a shtiebel.

184

00:09:45,440 --> 00:09:49,640 We have to take it out all the shebichtay Torah.

185

00:09:49,640 --> 00:09:51,410 We have opened the shebichtay Torah.

186

00:09:51,410 --> 00:09:57,890 We have the books, they put it as some as Bibles and Kimoras

00:09:57,890 --> 00:09:59,028 and all kinds of books.

188

00:09:59,028 --> 00:09:59,570 And we have--

189

00:09:59,570 --> 00:10:00,490 All the sacred books?

190

00:10:00,490 --> 00:10:03,120 [INAUDIBLE] we have that, you have to walk only

191

00:10:03,120 --> 00:10:04,120 on the shebichtay Torah.

192

00:10:04,120 --> 00:10:06,310 There was a roll up with other people rolls up.

193

00:10:06,310 --> 00:10:08,185 And we have to bring this to the market platz

194

00:10:08,185 --> 00:10:11,170 the square market platz we have to put in one place.

195

00:10:11,170 --> 00:10:12,810 Again and again, and again,

196

00:10:12,810 --> 00:10:17,690 was hundreds, maybe thousands of from the books in one place.

197

00:10:17,690 --> 00:10:20,150 And after we was finished, we have

198

00:10:20,150 --> 00:10:22,820 to roll it up again, the shebichtav Torah

199

00:10:22,820 --> 00:10:24,830

and put this on the pile.

200

00:10:24,830 --> 00:10:30,560 And they took Jewish man with a beard, I don't know who he was.

201

00:10:30,560 --> 00:10:32,300 I was not from the town.

202

00:10:32,300 --> 00:10:34,560 The beard, with the tallis and tfillin

203

00:10:34,560 --> 00:10:36,650 and put him on the middle of the pile

204

00:10:36,650 --> 00:10:39,230 and they put fire on the fire.

205

00:10:39,230 --> 00:10:44,540 Everything was, and it was around soldiers, around.

206

00:10:44,540 --> 00:10:46,600 It was not SS.

207

00:10:46,600 --> 00:10:51,350 It was an yellow arbeitsfront with the yellow armbands.

208

00:10:51,350 --> 00:10:52,100 And there--

209

00:10:52,100 --> 00:10:53,940 Were these German or Polish soldiers?

210

00:10:53,940 --> 00:10:54,530 No, no, no.

211

00:10:54,530 --> 00:10:55,030 Germans.

00:10:55,030 --> 00:10:55,697 German soldiers.

213

00:10:55,697 --> 00:10:57,830 I saw them later in other town the same people

214

00:10:57,830 --> 00:11:00,110 I recognize him, the German.

215

00:11:00,110 --> 00:11:02,660 And there with bayonets and with [INAUDIBLE],,

216

00:11:02,660 --> 00:11:06,340 they put us to the fire, near, near, and near all day

217

00:11:06,340 --> 00:11:07,850 Yom Kippur.

218

00:11:07,850 --> 00:11:10,430 And I hear a sound, there was screaming,

219

00:11:10,430 --> 00:11:13,150 today's the Roosevelt's birthday,

220

00:11:13,150 --> 00:11:15,560 Roosevelt's geburstog.

221

00:11:15,560 --> 00:11:19,105 And all day after in the evening I

222

00:11:19,105 --> 00:11:21,230 don't remember what has happened with the Jew over,

223

00:11:21,230 --> 00:11:24,140 they bring down, how I can't remember.

224

00:11:24,140 --> 00:11:25,400

I didn't know it then.

225 00:11:25,400 --> 00:11:28,250 I was some religious Jew and they put them on the top

226 00:11:28,250 --> 00:11:31,080 with the fire.

227 00:11:31,080 --> 00:11:34,160 They let us go, and I went back.

228 00:11:34,160 --> 00:11:36,430 You were about 16 years old?

229 00:11:36,430 --> 00:11:37,490 17 years old.

230 00:11:37,490 --> 00:11:38,180 Yes.

231 00:11:38,180 --> 00:11:41,350 And I went back.

232 00:11:41,350 --> 00:11:45,350 And the next day, in the morning I came up

233 00:11:45,350 --> 00:11:48,570 and I want to go home.

234 00:11:48,570 --> 00:11:50,640 And I come in the market.

235 00:11:50,640 --> 00:11:55,160 I saw a autobus was belong to Wieluń to our town.

236 00:11:55,160 --> 00:11:57,630 Or there was took from the German.

237 00:11:57,630 --> 00:11:59,430 Well, the driver was a Polish. 238 00:11:59,430 --> 00:12:01,808 And I said, listen, take me home.

239

00:12:01,808 --> 00:12:02,600 I want from Wieluń.

240

00:12:02,600 --> 00:12:03,840 Can you pay me?

241

00:12:03,840 --> 00:12:04,500 I don't have.

242

00:12:04,500 --> 00:12:05,460 He want two zloties.

243

00:12:05,460 --> 00:12:07,140 I don't have money.

244

00:12:07,140 --> 00:12:10,630 I am convince him from the mill.

245

00:12:10,630 --> 00:12:12,160 Oh, I know from the mill.

246

00:12:12,160 --> 00:12:12,930 OK, you come home.

247

00:12:12,930 --> 00:12:14,040 You pay me.

248

00:12:14,040 --> 00:12:17,760 I say, OK, my father pay you.

249

00:12:17,760 --> 00:12:22,230 And this was autobus, a red autobus,

250

00:12:22,230 --> 00:12:24,130 what the name from the company was

00:12:24,130 --> 00:12:30,390 SAN, S-A-N. And was two SS men and their black uniforms

252

00:12:30,390 --> 00:12:32,970 with the red arm under the black swastika.

253

00:12:32,970 --> 00:12:36,150 And I was sitting, I was looking not in direction from there,

254

00:12:36,150 --> 00:12:38,340 but I hear the conversation from that.

255

00:12:38,340 --> 00:12:40,140 How they do to the Jews?

256

00:12:40,140 --> 00:12:43,560 In all kind of cities when they come in to Poland.

257

00:12:43,560 --> 00:12:45,270 And were laughing and this and that.

258

00:12:45,270 --> 00:12:50,260 I turned around, and listen, I was very dirty from the fire.

259

00:12:50,260 --> 00:12:52,970 And I come from Wieluń.

260

00:12:52,970 --> 00:12:57,180 Took me about maybe two hours to come with the bus to Wieluń.

261

00:12:57,180 --> 00:13:02,250 And I come in and my father, the house I know I was bombed.

262

00:13:02,250 --> 00:13:04,950 I went into the mill to the factory that they are.

00:13:04,950 --> 00:13:07,977 So my father they came in and father didn't recognize me.

264

00:13:07,977 --> 00:13:14,180

265

00:13:14,180 --> 00:13:15,244 I [CRIES].

266

00:13:15,244 --> 00:13:23,790

267

00:13:23,790 --> 00:13:28,570 There was two SS men, there was the Treuhänder they call,

268

00:13:28,570 --> 00:13:30,900 they took care for the--

269

00:13:30,900 --> 00:13:31,860 They took his business?

270

00:13:31,860 --> 00:13:33,000 His business, yeah.

271

00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:36,920 One was from Sudetenland he had I say the small mill

272

00:13:36,920 --> 00:13:39,940 in Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia,

273

00:13:39,940 --> 00:13:41,960 not Czechoslovakia in Sudentenland.

274

00:13:41,960 --> 00:13:43,050 And one was Luszczow.

275

00:13:43,050 --> 00:13:45,850

00:13:45,850 --> 00:13:53,580 And they wanted my father be working for their need

277

00:13:53,580 --> 00:13:54,990 some information.

278

00:13:54,990 --> 00:13:57,820 My father was working the office,

279

00:13:57,820 --> 00:14:03,320 and some workers from the mill was mobilized the Polish army.

280

00:14:03,320 --> 00:14:08,630 And there was, we had about maybe six, seven workers.

281

00:14:08,630 --> 00:14:11,680 Well, there was after Volksdeutsche-- one

282

00:14:11,680 --> 00:14:15,280 day there was a release from the prisoners of war

283

00:14:15,280 --> 00:14:16,680 and they came home.

284

00:14:16,680 --> 00:14:21,150 We had one and name Moscow.

285

00:14:21,150 --> 00:14:26,040 He was one professional miller And we all machines--

286

00:14:26,040 --> 00:14:29,160 we had general machines from miag,

287

00:14:29,160 --> 00:14:36,690 M-I-A-G from Raszyn imported to Poland in 1926 or seven when

00:14:36,690 --> 00:14:39,550 my father built those.

289

00:14:39,550 --> 00:14:42,120

He even spoke with my father, German.

290

00:14:42,120 --> 00:14:45,650 And when he was released, he came back

291

00:14:45,650 --> 00:14:48,410 in the short time he

saw with the swastika.

292

00:14:48,410 --> 00:14:50,160

And I look him on, I couldn't believe

293

00:14:50,160 --> 00:14:53,790 he was just an MP in the

Polish army, a Sergeant,

294

00:14:53,790 --> 00:14:55,080 and now he has swastika.

295

00:14:55,080 --> 00:14:56,400 I didn't say what I looking.

296

00:14:56,400 --> 00:14:57,567 He say, what you're looking?

297

00:14:57,567 --> 00:14:59,550 So what you are wondering so?

298

00:14:59,550 --> 00:15:02,270

I was still there, was the beginning

299

00:15:02,270 --> 00:15:06,038 and they was nice to my father, more or less.

300

00:15:06,038 --> 00:15:08,580

I don't know what to make of it to say hello to him at least,

301

00:15:08,580 --> 00:15:09,800

302

00:15:09,800 --> 00:15:16,960 Sacred, and after 10 or 11 months,

303

00:15:16,960 --> 00:15:20,080 we was living in the office.

304

00:15:20,080 --> 00:15:22,060 We took two room for

the officer we was

305

00:15:22,060 --> 00:15:23,650 living with them at the house.

306

00:15:23,650 --> 00:15:25,360 You couldn't go to the main office

307

00:15:25,360 --> 00:15:27,190 through was the main entrance, we

308

00:15:27,190 --> 00:15:29,045 had to use in the back yard the window.

309

00:15:29,045 --> 00:15:32,573 We jump and we make like a stump, a 2 by 4 stump.

310

00:15:32,573 --> 00:15:34,740 And we walk into the window and out from the window.

311

00:15:34,740 --> 00:15:36,610 Is that your father, and your mother, and you?

312

00:15:36,610 --> 00:15:38,155

My parents, yes, and my two brothers.

313

00:15:38,155 --> 00:15:42,080

314

00:15:42,080 --> 00:15:45,860 And after, that was how they was living good friends

315

00:15:45,860 --> 00:15:48,230 took us and give us a room.

316

00:15:48,230 --> 00:15:50,670 We put a small kitchen, it was living.

317

00:15:50,670 --> 00:15:52,587 So they let you stay there for 9 or 10 months?

318

00:15:52,587 --> 00:15:53,087 Yes.

319

00:15:53,087 --> 00:15:53,710 But then--

320

00:15:53,710 --> 00:15:54,910 Oh, yes, yes.

321

00:15:54,910 --> 00:15:55,532 After came--

322

00:15:55,532 --> 00:15:56,240 --Forced you out?

323

00:15:56,240 --> 00:15:56,780 --Yes.

324

00:15:56,780 --> 00:15:57,500 But they changed.

325

00:15:57,500 --> 00:16:02,660 The two SS, I would say about the January or December 1939,

326

00:16:02,660 --> 00:16:08,030 they were gone and they send us a Treuhänder from Breslau

327

00:16:08,030 --> 00:16:09,540 today, Vratislav.

328

00:16:09,540 --> 00:16:12,090 Fritz [? Kinor ?] was his name.

329

00:16:12,090 --> 00:16:17,150 Yes, I mean he was, I would say not a killer.

330

00:16:17,150 --> 00:16:22,220 Say sometimes had a solid conversation with my father.

331

00:16:22,220 --> 00:16:25,210 And I would hear on the telephone was in next room

332

00:16:25,210 --> 00:16:29,070 when was a bad weather, and he was calling to Breslau

333

00:16:29,070 --> 00:16:29,860 to Vratislav.

334

00:16:29,860 --> 00:16:32,470 Always say to his wife, we have a Churchill weather,

335

00:16:32,470 --> 00:16:33,980 he said bad weather.

336

00:16:33,980 --> 00:16:36,160 He said the bad weather is a Churchill weather.

337

00:16:36,160 --> 00:16:38,780 Because I remember it, when my father told us,

00:16:38,780 --> 00:16:40,320 he said Churchill weather.

339

00:16:40,320 --> 00:16:42,480 It's bad weather.

340

00:16:42,480 --> 00:16:46,820 And I was in Wieluń.

341

00:16:46,820 --> 00:16:49,670 During the time, they took us to work to clean it

342

00:16:49,670 --> 00:16:52,580 up the demolished houses.

343

00:16:52,580 --> 00:16:55,080 And we were joking, I hope they send us to Berlin,

344

00:16:55,080 --> 00:16:57,190 we do the job for them.

345

00:16:57,190 --> 00:16:59,750 But that time didn't bomb Berlin, it's too late.

346

00:16:59,750 --> 00:17:01,580 They come.

347

00:17:01,580 --> 00:17:06,125 We was hoping and dreaming as the war be a very short one.

348

00:17:06,125 --> 00:17:11,540 And my father know it that's the war, the German, first war,

349

00:17:11,540 --> 00:17:13,170 that one not so bad.

350

00:17:13,170 --> 00:17:14,579 Maybe they can us to war.

00:17:14,579 --> 00:17:17,140

They cannot expect it that's what we--

352

00:17:17,140 --> 00:17:19,030 That was just hard to believe?

353

00:17:19,030 --> 00:17:20,990 --What's happened.

354

00:17:20,990 --> 00:17:25,880 And my older brother, he get them a tutor, a student.

355

00:17:25,880 --> 00:17:30,890 Then he got a work in the library in the main school.

356

00:17:30,890 --> 00:17:33,530 There was about three libraries with I know of.

357

00:17:33,530 --> 00:17:36,380 Polish and from the gymnasium, and they brought us

358

00:17:36,380 --> 00:17:38,870 everything in one place.

359

00:17:38,870 --> 00:17:43,430 We couldn't go out from the houses in the evenings,

360

00:17:43,430 --> 00:17:44,000 not Sunday.

361

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:47,495

362

00:17:47,495 --> 00:17:50,210 I would say, I

was stealing books

00:17:50,210 --> 00:17:52,340 and my brother gave me the books to bring the books

364

00:17:52,340 --> 00:17:54,070 home that we can read.

365

00:17:54,070 --> 00:17:56,640 I was a lot of reading that time.

366

00:17:56,640 --> 00:18:01,080 And everybody, but the night was so long.

367

00:18:01,080 --> 00:18:07,160 And at one time he gave me three books, and I brought them.

368

00:18:07,160 --> 00:18:09,750 And I had this in my jacket over,

369

00:18:09,750 --> 00:18:12,650 and I have their books here under my arm.

370

00:18:12,650 --> 00:18:17,600 But all of a sudden, came a Gestapo man.

371

00:18:17,600 --> 00:18:20,510 And he had a bike with a flat tire.

372

00:18:20,510 --> 00:18:24,170 He told me, Juden, come help.

373

00:18:24,170 --> 00:18:25,510 We had stars on the front.

374

00:18:25,510 --> 00:18:27,290 We had stars on the back, yellow stars.

00:18:27,290 --> 00:18:28,550 So they could identify you?

376

00:18:28,550 --> 00:18:28,810 Yeah.

377

00:18:28,810 --> 00:18:29,518 We couldn't work.

378

00:18:29,518 --> 00:18:31,785 It was forbid, to walking on the sidewalk,

379

00:18:31,785 --> 00:18:33,980 we had to walk next to the curb.

380

00:18:33,980 --> 00:18:35,480 And we was walking next to the curb,

381

00:18:35,480 --> 00:18:38,480 there comes with the car or the motorcycle and that.

382

00:18:38,480 --> 00:18:42,308 We have to take it off and bend the heads for them.

383

00:18:42,308 --> 00:18:44,350 For each German, we were civilians or we are not.

384

00:18:44,350 --> 00:18:50,750 We don't do this, we by mistake don't saw him, they beat us up.

385

00:18:50,750 --> 00:18:55,010 And I have to take them back, the books for me out.

386

00:18:55,010 --> 00:18:57,800 He took me to the Gestapo house.

387

00:18:57,800 --> 00:18:59,960 I was there now with my

two sons and I show him,

388

00:18:59,960 --> 00:19:04,540 I make a picture here, stop my arrest.

389

00:19:04,540 --> 00:19:07,940 I came in the office and I said, he talked to me.

390

00:19:07,940 --> 00:19:09,113 I don't understand German.

391

00:19:09,113 --> 00:19:09,655 I understand.

392

00:19:09,655 --> 00:19:11,840 Why you say I don't understand?

393

00:19:11,840 --> 00:19:13,215 OK, he said, turn around.

394

00:19:13,215 --> 00:19:17,550 He told this to his secretary, bring them Dolmetscher.

395

00:19:17,550 --> 00:19:18,217 How to say that?

396

00:19:18,217 --> 00:19:19,050 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

397

00:19:19,050 --> 00:19:19,660 Translate.

398

00:19:19,660 --> 00:19:20,160 Interpreter.

399

00:19:20,160 --> 00:19:21,800 Interpreter.

400

00:19:21,800 --> 00:19:22,460 She brought.

00:19:22,460 --> 00:19:23,585 She knows what [INAUDIBLE].

402

00:19:23,585 --> 00:19:28,730 She brought the big [? weight ?] they hit me in a cut here.

403

00:19:28,730 --> 00:19:30,900 And I was so lucky.

404

00:19:30,900 --> 00:19:32,900 Tell you, tomorrow you know it.

405

00:19:32,900 --> 00:19:36,290 The Jews have to come in the school on the back yard

406

00:19:36,290 --> 00:19:37,610 there, all Jew.

407

00:19:37,610 --> 00:19:38,450 You stay home.

408

00:19:38,450 --> 00:19:39,440 You don't go.

409

00:19:39,440 --> 00:19:42,000 I come and pick you up.

410

00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:46,250 And he told me, I went there, and they took the Jews.

411

00:19:46,250 --> 00:19:51,500 This was August 19 on Tuesday.

412

00:19:51,500 --> 00:19:54,830 And 1941.

413

00:19:54,830 --> 00:20:00,800 And the entrance to the school was a gate with a tunnel,

00:20:00,800 --> 00:20:05,050 and there was from both sides all kinds, SI, SS, high up,

415

00:20:05,050 --> 00:20:08,420 at the aim what kind police.

416

00:20:08,420 --> 00:20:11,300 And every Jew came in, they beat with weight.

417

00:20:11,300 --> 00:20:12,440 We get, came in--

418

00:20:12,440 --> 00:20:13,595 Was this in Aktion?

419

00:20:13,595 --> 00:20:14,930 Was this--

420

00:20:14,930 --> 00:20:17,290 This was our public school.

421

00:20:17,290 --> 00:20:20,230 --Yeah, but was this a rounding up of--

422

00:20:20,230 --> 00:20:21,250 A rounding up, yes.

423

00:20:21,250 --> 00:20:21,950 Yes.

424

00:20:21,950 --> 00:20:22,890 And they pick it up.

425

00:20:22,890 --> 00:20:24,182 I don't know how many hundreds.

426

00:20:24,182 --> 00:20:28,580 They took us from there to the other school about two miles

427

00:20:28,580 --> 00:20:32,450

from Wieluń and they give us shots and they make a selection

428

00:20:32,450 --> 00:20:33,700 there too.

429

00:20:33,700 --> 00:20:39,390 And there was also a Jewish community,

430

00:20:39,390 --> 00:20:42,560 and they know me one from they said, Kempinksi, come.

431

00:20:42,560 --> 00:20:43,470 I release you.

432

00:20:43,470 --> 00:20:44,300 I say, no.

433

00:20:44,300 --> 00:20:46,740 My younger brother is here.

434

00:20:46,740 --> 00:20:50,420 Release him, I have to go, but the Gestapo looking for me.

435

00:20:50,420 --> 00:20:53,120 I took him, put them under the window and I push him out

436

00:20:53,120 --> 00:20:54,890 and he got released.

437

00:20:54,890 --> 00:20:58,130 But they don't need so many people like we was.

438

00:20:58,130 --> 00:20:59,790 I don't know how many hundreds.

439

00:20:59,790 --> 00:21:05,000 Were maybe about 300 or over 280 they sent away.

00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:07,230 And from there, we had to walking,

# 441

00:21:07,230 --> 00:21:09,200 running to the train station.

### 442

00:21:09,200 --> 00:21:10,830 And they put us in train station.

### 443

00:21:10,830 --> 00:21:14,400 This was the last time I was in Wieluń This was August 19,

#### 444

00:21:14,400 --> 00:21:15,740 1941.

# 445

00:21:15,740 --> 00:21:20,300 And they brought us to Poznań after five hours.

#### 446

00:21:20,300 --> 00:21:23,250 I was sitting on the floor on the train.

# 447

00:21:23,250 --> 00:21:27,660 And that's what full of, call was wagons for person.

### 448

00:21:27,660 --> 00:21:29,150 There was too many people, we had

## 449

00:21:29,150 --> 00:21:32,690 not on the, not with civilian, with a special train.

#### 450

00:21:32,690 --> 00:21:34,910 What were the conditions on the train?

### 451

00:21:34,910 --> 00:21:36,930 On the train, they gave us not food. 452 00:21:36,930 --> 00:21:45,020 But not special, we didn't go, we went to Poznań and we come

453 00:21:45,020 --> 00:21:46,040 in the night.

454 00:21:46,040 --> 00:21:48,710 And they brought us with trucks in a camp.

455 00:21:48,710 --> 00:21:53,000 This was the name was Łubowo In German, they call it Lubów,

456 00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:53,930 near Poznań.

457 00:21:53,930 --> 00:21:57,770 There was like in a radius from Poznań 10 kilometers.

458 00:21:57,770 --> 00:22:02,960 There was a camp in Poznań for Regensburg was a big camp,

459 00:22:02,960 --> 00:22:03,770 I remember.

460 00:22:03,770 --> 00:22:06,530 And they had the all the radius from 10 kilometers

461 00:22:06,530 --> 00:22:07,820 approximately.

462 00:22:07,820 --> 00:22:11,000 There were the camps most from RAB.

463 00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:12,890 It's that Reichsautobahn in German.

00:22:12,890 --> 00:22:15,950 This is the Autobahn what we have in all Germany going on.

465

00:22:15,950 --> 00:22:20,625 We was on the [INAUDIBLE] on the [NON-ENGLISH] Frankfurt Oder

466

00:22:20,625 --> 00:22:22,220 and Poznań.

467

00:22:22,220 --> 00:22:25,660 And we hear from there meisters there was most from Kozlow.

468

00:22:25,660 --> 00:22:27,350 Oswaldo was his name, he say yeah,

469

00:22:27,350 --> 00:22:35,320 we build this to Vitebsk, Moscow and anyway, this was in 1941.

470

00:22:35,320 --> 00:22:38,210 Conditions in camp, they sent us from one camp,

471

00:22:38,210 --> 00:22:40,790 and after we was there about three weeks,

472

00:22:40,790 --> 00:22:42,620 and sent us Poggenburg.

473

00:22:42,620 --> 00:22:45,650 Probably another four weeks and they send us to Kreising.

474

00:22:45,650 --> 00:22:47,540 And there, it was very bad.

475

00:22:47,540 --> 00:22:52,520 They started to people dying through hunger.

00:22:52,520 --> 00:22:57,620 And I don't know calorie what to tell you, but we were very low.

#### 477

00:22:57,620 --> 00:23:00,740 We couldn't work.

#### 478

00:23:00,740 --> 00:23:04,760 We had to work there in swamps in the water.

#### 479

00:23:04,760 --> 00:23:07,320 And we were jealous when somebody died.

## 480

00:23:07,320 --> 00:23:08,970 We was really jealous.

#### 481

00:23:08,970 --> 00:23:10,880 What kind of work did you have to do?

## 482

00:23:10,880 --> 00:23:12,980 With a shovel, take out the top soil,

## 483

00:23:12,980 --> 00:23:16,310 we clean the top tile soil, then we put this on the wagons.

### 484

00:23:16,310 --> 00:23:19,140 We piled it up.

#### 485

00:23:19,140 --> 00:23:20,120 This was the work.

#### 486

00:23:20,120 --> 00:23:23,180 And other work was also, they make

## 487

00:23:23,180 --> 00:23:27,160 like they put the thing concrete or prepare for bridges,

00:23:27,160 --> 00:23:29,330 so the sound of mine work.

489

00:23:29,330 --> 00:23:32,830 We was digging this top soil, we put this on the wagons.

490

00:23:32,830 --> 00:23:38,050 And the wagons was moved, and the turn the rolls,

491

00:23:38,050 --> 00:23:40,960 and it was piled up at the dumpsite.

492

00:23:40,960 --> 00:23:42,800 At this point, you were by yourself?

493

00:23:42,800 --> 00:23:45,340 You had no member of your family with you?

494

00:23:45,340 --> 00:23:46,040 No, no, no.

495

00:23:46,040 --> 00:23:50,100 But we get from time to time, we can get a card from,

496

00:23:50,100 --> 00:23:55,220 and my mother wrote me that this guy, the general that borrowed

497

00:23:55,220 --> 00:23:58,140 the books, he visit us.

498

00:23:58,140 --> 00:24:00,280 He's visiting us.

499

00:24:00,280 --> 00:24:02,720 The Gestapo, he's looking for me.

500

00:24:02,720 --> 00:24:03,390

And I was lucky.

501

00:24:03,390 --> 00:24:06,550 Were not he underplays, keep me would take me to the woods

502

00:24:06,550 --> 00:24:07,280 and kill me.

503

00:24:07,280 --> 00:24:09,828 I was lucky he told me go, don't go.

504

00:24:09,828 --> 00:24:10,370 Stay at home.

505

00:24:10,370 --> 00:24:14,880 I come pick it up and I went to the camp.

506

00:24:14,880 --> 00:24:18,950 And was there and the camp condition was very bad.

507

00:24:18,950 --> 00:24:22,340 We had snow, we get the soup.

508

00:24:22,340 --> 00:24:24,350 We pick it up in the bowl.

509

00:24:24,350 --> 00:24:26,900 We going to say, we had to make our laundry in the bowl.

510

00:24:26,900 --> 00:24:28,400 We have to wash in the bowl.

511

00:24:28,400 --> 00:24:31,520 We have to pick it

up the snow to clean

512

00:24:31,520 --> 00:24:34,388 the back, the yards with the--

00:24:34,388 --> 00:24:35,180 With the same bowl?

514

00:24:35,180 --> 00:24:36,270 With the same bowl?

515

00:24:36,270 --> 00:24:36,440 Yes.

516

00:24:36,440 --> 00:24:37,440 Don't call us this name.

517

00:24:37,440 --> 00:24:42,050 We had for [NON-ENGLISH] the organization, todt.

518

00:24:42,050 --> 00:24:46,430 T-O-D-T. He came and visit us.

519

00:24:46,430 --> 00:24:49,170 And he was looking on us.

520

00:24:49,170 --> 00:24:52,720 We was in two rows, no?

521

00:24:52,720 --> 00:24:56,040 And they don't call names, they know no name.

522

00:24:56,040 --> 00:24:59,400 But they call us, idioten and ober idioten.

523

00:24:59,400 --> 00:25:02,686 Younger, good looking, better, was idioten, you know.

524

00:25:02,686 --> 00:25:09,880 The older one, the weaker one was call him ober idioten.

525

00:25:09,880 --> 00:25:13,390 And sometimes he took it out every fifth.

00:25:13,390 --> 00:25:14,640 We didn't know where he going.

527

00:25:14,640 --> 00:25:15,540 He took them out.

528

00:25:15,540 --> 00:25:19,790 They come back after a couple of days, did some work.

529

00:25:19,790 --> 00:25:24,460 And we had hungry.

530

00:25:24,460 --> 00:25:28,680 We had already the lice.

531

00:25:28,680 --> 00:25:31,020 We couldn't even wash our shirts.

532

00:25:31,020 --> 00:25:32,080 We get no shirt, nothing.

533

00:25:32,080 --> 00:25:35,200 We only the clothes what we get from home.

534

00:25:35,200 --> 00:25:38,220 We when my parents wrote me they come for the train,

535

00:25:38,220 --> 00:25:39,180 he was already waiting.

536

00:25:39,180 --> 00:25:41,885 Come with them packages, it was not away.

537

00:25:41,885 --> 00:25:43,420 And hung it in lice.

538

00:25:43,420 --> 00:25:45,030 This was this worsest thing.

00:25:45,030 --> 00:25:47,330 It was the winter we couldn't work.

540

00:25:47,330 --> 00:25:53,010 There, they took us out to clean the roads for their Germans

541

00:25:53,010 --> 00:25:54,860 went in 1941.

542

00:25:54,860 --> 00:25:58,410 In winter the road was not far from the camp,

543

00:25:58,410 --> 00:26:00,030 and there was heavy snow.

544

00:26:00,030 --> 00:26:03,590 The Germans columns with the trucks,

545

00:26:03,590 --> 00:26:07,360 went East we sometimes they were slippery.

546

00:26:07,360 --> 00:26:09,810 We had to push and to clean.

547

00:26:09,810 --> 00:26:14,380 And we build it up very high walls

548

00:26:14,380 --> 00:26:15,840 because it's windy from snow.

549

00:26:15,840 --> 00:26:20,550 You can stay when we had a couple of minutes rest.

550

00:26:20,550 --> 00:26:22,542 We can hiding from the road.

551

00:26:22,542 --> 00:26:24,750

# What was you own physical condition during this time?

552

00:26:24,750 --> 00:26:26,590 How did you feel?

553

00:26:26,590 --> 00:26:27,660 Were you were hungry?

554

00:26:27,660 --> 00:26:29,370 I was hungry always.

555

00:26:29,370 --> 00:26:31,010 I was hungry always.

556

00:26:31,010 --> 00:26:33,780 But we get from time to time from the home,

557

00:26:33,780 --> 00:26:37,670 they let send us a piece bread a kilo sometimes

558

00:26:37,670 --> 00:26:42,720 the lager master that was responsible,

559

00:26:42,720 --> 00:26:46,380 he took the old bread and threw it in, in the kitchen.

560

00:26:46,380 --> 00:26:48,600 And with the soup and everything.

561

00:26:48,600 --> 00:26:52,170 This before everybody.

562

00:26:52,170 --> 00:26:54,350 OK, and this was the winter.

563

00:26:54,350 --> 00:26:58,260

They took us once for to take a shower to Poznań.

564 00:26:58,260 --> 00:27:02,750 We was walking for three hours and there was a shower,

565

00:27:02,750 --> 00:27:06,680 this was really something what we didn't expect it,

566

00:27:06,680 --> 00:27:07,490 or something.

567

00:27:07,490 --> 00:27:11,300 But when we put again something, the clean wash was the same.

568

00:27:11,300 --> 00:27:13,998 The lice was in the skin.

569

00:27:13,998 --> 00:27:14,540 I don't know.

570

00:27:14,540 --> 00:27:16,010 We had the same problem.

571

00:27:16,010 --> 00:27:21,440 But this was still 1942, April on spring

572

00:27:21,440 --> 00:27:24,050 there was rumors the Germans need

573

00:27:24,050 --> 00:27:30,660 workers in the factories for the war, for their war industry.

574

00:27:30,660 --> 00:27:34,370 And so was, they took us to the train to Poznań.

575

00:27:34,370 --> 00:27:38,220 And they brought us to a town.

576

00:27:38,220 --> 00:27:40,790

Direction in Berlin, where we stopped,

577

00:27:40,790 --> 00:27:44,450 the town was Rzepin

near Kostrzyn.

578

00:27:44,450 --> 00:27:47,860 And we was there working in zawalidroga the--

579

00:27:47,860 --> 00:27:49,190 Watch, clock maker?

580

00:27:49,190 --> 00:27:52,070 --No, no. zawalidroga They were you know what?

581

00:27:52,070 --> 00:27:54,418 From trees you make a lumber that you cut.

582

00:27:54,418 --> 00:27:56,130 Oh, a lumber mill.

583

00:27:56,130 --> 00:27:56,930 A lumber mill.

584

00:27:56,930 --> 00:27:57,950 Yes, thank you.

585

00:27:57,950 --> 00:28:02,360 A lumber mill was working there and they was looking,

586

00:28:02,360 --> 00:28:04,550 you know who was working in the town?

587

00:28:04,550 --> 00:28:08,415 I saw the [NON-ENGLISH] on the wall near the township.

588

00:28:08,415 --> 00:28:10,170 And Juden is [NON-ENGLISH].

00:28:10,170 --> 00:28:12,950

590

00:28:12,950 --> 00:28:18,320 And some people know, we saw the German tanks.

591

00:28:18,320 --> 00:28:19,430 There was, I don't know.

592

00:28:19,430 --> 00:28:22,040 There was thinking we are the targets.

593

00:28:22,040 --> 00:28:25,220 The German talk about, you know what this is?

594

00:28:25,220 --> 00:28:26,780 I said, no I don't know it.

595

00:28:26,780 --> 00:28:27,530 I don't want that.

596

00:28:27,530 --> 00:28:29,590 I don't know, I was looking around us

597

00:28:29,590 --> 00:28:31,340 or whether I was sorry, but sometimes they

598

00:28:31,340 --> 00:28:36,230 happens that was naive questions asking, no?

599

00:28:36,230 --> 00:28:38,990 And from that day, they concentrate

600

00:28:38,990 --> 00:28:43,010 from all kind of camps.

00:28:43,010 --> 00:28:49,310 Jewish men and they brought us to their camp.

602

00:28:49,310 --> 00:28:51,740 Name was it Britz.

603

00:28:51,740 --> 00:28:55,870 And there was camp and there was not only Jews there.

604

00:28:55,870 --> 00:28:57,620 We was only separate only.

605

00:28:57,620 --> 00:29:00,870 There was Belgium, and there was French prisoners of war

606

00:29:00,870 --> 00:29:02,210 with Russian prisoners or war.

607

00:29:02,210 --> 00:29:03,627 There was Russian prisoners of war

608

00:29:03,627 --> 00:29:08,210 and different skin and lowest stage condition.

609

00:29:08,210 --> 00:29:10,890 But maybe worse or like us.

610

00:29:10,890 --> 00:29:14,150 And the woman, a Russian woman also

611

00:29:14,150 --> 00:29:18,800 what they had their, with the OSD on the market.

612

00:29:18,800 --> 00:29:19,820 What did that stand for?

613

00:29:19,820 --> 00:29:21,337 [NON-ENGLISH] from east.

614 00:29:21,337 --> 00:29:21,920 From the east?

615 00:29:21,920 --> 00:29:23,130 Yes.

616 00:29:23,130 --> 00:29:26,780 The blue and white letter.

617 00:29:26,780 --> 00:29:29,660 We had the yellow with a Juden.

618 00:29:29,660 --> 00:29:32,480 And I come the first day in the factory.

619 00:29:32,480 --> 00:29:38,180 The factory was about I would say, about four kilometer

620 00:29:38,180 --> 00:29:39,200 from the camp.

621 00:29:39,200 --> 00:29:44,140 Was walking and there was a watchman.

622 00:29:44,140 --> 00:29:48,350 [? Velkor ?] police or something up.

623 00:29:48,350 --> 00:29:50,000 And they brought us in.

624 00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:55,340 And I came in, and they give me some German to teach me

625 00:29:55,340 --> 00:29:57,110 how to work the machine.

626 00:29:57,110 --> 00:30:01,430 We had to work, we had the produce 150 millimeter

627 00:30:01,430 --> 00:30:04,550 of shells for the [NON-ENGLISH].

628 00:30:04,550 --> 00:30:08,930 [NON-ENGLISH] for guns was on the trains.

629 00:30:08,930 --> 00:30:15,500 And I had to produce the bottom of the shell

630 00:30:15,500 --> 00:30:16,790 when you close it up.

631 00:30:16,790 --> 00:30:19,390 I don't know when you fill it up, the bottle or something.

632 00:30:19,390 --> 00:30:22,150 Or they don't fill it up in our place, this and that.

633 00:30:22,150 --> 00:30:25,580 And the first thing, his name was

634 00:30:25,580 --> 00:30:30,710 Sigfried [? Ebil ?] and the first question, he saw my star

635 00:30:30,710 --> 00:30:34,670 and say to me, Mr. Juden?

636 00:30:34,670 --> 00:30:36,690 Yeah, [GERMAN].

637 00:30:36,690 --> 00:30:40,530 So little with chutzpah You were proud.

638 00:30:40,530 --> 00:30:41,480 A little defiant?

00:30:41,480 --> 00:30:42,200 Yeah.

640

00:30:42,200 --> 00:30:44,192 What's going on?

641

00:30:44,192 --> 00:30:46,400 I know what's going on, we don't know about Auschwitz

642

00:30:46,400 --> 00:30:48,190 and other places.

643

00:30:48,190 --> 00:30:50,400 He told me, [GERMAN].

644

00:30:50,400 --> 00:30:53,750

645

00:30:53,750 --> 00:30:59,430 I want to-- lucky to for Bolsheviks and Jews to hang.

646

00:30:59,430 --> 00:31:02,780 This was his prayer for [INAUDIBLE]..

647

00:31:02,780 --> 00:31:05,240 OK, we started to work.

648

00:31:05,240 --> 00:31:07,410 I catch very fast.

649

00:31:07,410 --> 00:31:09,860 And he was satisfied.

650

00:31:09,860 --> 00:31:16,700 And I spoke I would say German not bad.

651

00:31:16,700 --> 00:31:20,420

Not like Goethe and

Schiller, but less or more he

00:31:20,420 --> 00:31:22,580 could understand me.

653

00:31:22,580 --> 00:31:27,520 And he see this, I am normal.

654

00:31:27,520 --> 00:31:31,060 He wouldn't reading the Der Stürmer of [NON-ENGLISH]

655

00:31:31,060 --> 00:31:33,430 by Jews have this difference opinion.

656

00:31:33,430 --> 00:31:35,950 Said, [NON-ENGLISH].

657

00:31:35,950 --> 00:31:36,630 I'm different.

658

00:31:36,630 --> 00:31:37,780 You're like everybody else.

659

00:31:37,780 --> 00:31:38,970 He saw you're like everybody else.

660

00:31:38,970 --> 00:31:39,470 Yeah.

661

00:31:39,470 --> 00:31:40,980 He was a young man also?

662

00:31:40,980 --> 00:31:45,000 He was maybe 38, 39.

663

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:47,280 With a long nose, blond.

664

00:31:47,280 --> 00:31:49,880 I had blue eyes, he had not blue eyes, no.

00:31:49,880 --> 00:31:51,770 And he said--

666

00:31:51,770 --> 00:31:53,640 You were more Aryan looking than he was?

667

00:31:53,640 --> 00:31:57,060 Yeah, I was more or less.

668

00:31:57,060 --> 00:32:02,710 And we was working about the 'till end of 1942.

669

00:32:02,710 --> 00:32:05,130 And I know what to do the job.

670

00:32:05,130 --> 00:32:06,790 I don't need more.

671

00:32:06,790 --> 00:32:09,490 But all of a sudden, he comes and he want to help me out.

672

00:32:09,490 --> 00:32:10,740 And he started playing around.

673

00:32:10,740 --> 00:32:12,900 He cut his finger.

674

00:32:12,900 --> 00:32:16,320 Almost hanging on the skin.

675

00:32:16,320 --> 00:32:18,470 He do a job that don't belong to him.

676

00:32:18,470 --> 00:32:21,860 But I know it what the purpose was.

677

00:32:21,860 --> 00:32:25,200 There he told me after.

00:32:25,200 --> 00:32:27,960 They took him to a hospital after two weeks.

679

00:32:27,960 --> 00:32:30,270 He's coming back with a big bandage.

680

00:32:30,270 --> 00:32:35,760 Say, I have to go to east Russia no?

681

00:32:35,760 --> 00:32:38,370 To on the front.

682

00:32:38,370 --> 00:32:39,180 I was very afraid.

683

00:32:39,180 --> 00:32:41,820

684

00:32:41,820 --> 00:32:45,390 But I come back, before I go, I go and see you.

685

00:32:45,390 --> 00:32:49,610 And he came back with a nice piece of bread.

686

00:32:49,610 --> 00:32:50,635 I was really--

687

00:32:50,635 --> 00:32:52,260 I don't know, maybe it was my birthday,

688

00:32:52,260 --> 00:32:53,620 I think it's something year.

689

00:32:53,620 --> 00:32:57,180 And in July there's something and he invited me

690

00:32:57,180 --> 00:32:59,520 to the washroom, call it.

691 00:32:59,520 --> 00:33:01,220 Say he gave me his hand.

692

00:33:01,220 --> 00:33:05,040 He tell me, Kempinski--now, Kempinski

693

00:33:05,040 --> 00:33:06,765 was very famous was near Berlin there's

694

00:33:06,765 --> 00:33:08,885 a very famous hotel there, Kempinski.

695

00:33:08,885 --> 00:33:10,260 So they heard the name Kempinski,

696

00:33:10,260 --> 00:33:12,690 I had a better uniform I get from a jacket from a German

697

00:33:12,690 --> 00:33:13,690 also.

698

00:33:13,690 --> 00:33:17,760 But he told me, I wish you'd come to your family home.

699

00:33:17,760 --> 00:33:19,550 And I have to go, I have three children.

700

00:33:19,550 --> 00:33:22,900 He give me his hand, with tears in his eyes,

701

00:33:22,900 --> 00:33:24,650 and this was the reason I want the captain

702

00:33:24,650 --> 00:33:26,840 not to go to the army.

703 00:33:26,840 --> 00:33:29,000 Was he putting himself at risk to help you?

704

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:31,790 Was he in danger himself by doing this?

705

00:33:31,790 --> 00:33:33,503 He put himself in danger, yes.

706

00:33:33,503 --> 00:33:35,045 And he was willing to risk something?

707

00:33:35,045 --> 00:33:38,570 Yeah, he brought me something was not working.

708

00:33:38,570 --> 00:33:40,580 Suddenly he brought me papers.

709

00:33:40,580 --> 00:33:42,277 I was know it exactly what's going on.

710

00:33:42,277 --> 00:33:43,110 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

711

00:33:43,110 --> 00:33:43,830 Newspapers?

712

00:33:43,830 --> 00:33:45,980 And who the general in [? Narvik, ?] and who was

713

00:33:45,980 --> 00:33:48,460 the general in [? Kratov ?] that it was North Africa,

714

00:33:48,460 --> 00:33:52,895 when the Americans came to in November with Eisenhower

00:33:52,895 --> 00:33:54,350 in North Africa.

## 716

00:33:54,350 --> 00:33:55,970 I had all as the--

#### 717

00:33:55,970 --> 00:34:00,270 and the P -- that Kennedy was landing in 1942.

### 718

00:34:00,270 --> 00:34:02,010 And August and summer.

#### 719

00:34:02,010 --> 00:34:03,820 And he told me, [NON-ENGLISH].

#### 720

00:34:03,820 --> 00:34:06,590 They don't had the success.

### 721

00:34:06,590 --> 00:34:07,780 I know what's going on.

## 722

00:34:07,780 --> 00:34:09,688 Know the names and know the places exactly.

## 723

00:34:09,688 --> 00:34:11,980 Whether it was in [PLACE NAME] whether it was in Crimea

#### 724

00:34:11,980 --> 00:34:14,170 whether it was in Stalingrad.

## 725

00:34:14,170 --> 00:34:15,590 Whether it was by Leningrad.

### 726

00:34:15,590 --> 00:34:17,300 So I'm thinking know what's going on.

### 727

00:34:17,300 --> 00:34:20,270 When they bomb West

or South Germany, yes.

00:34:20,270 --> 00:34:22,400 Help me out and

brought me books, also.

729

00:34:22,400 --> 00:34:24,199 Why do you think he did this?

730

00:34:24,199 --> 00:34:25,400 Why was he willing to do it?

731

00:34:25,400 --> 00:34:27,600 He changed maybe his mind.

732

00:34:27,600 --> 00:34:28,699 He said we suffer.

733

00:34:28,699 --> 00:34:31,520 We suffer, we was very angry.

734

00:34:31,520 --> 00:34:33,170 And I exchanged also with him.

735

00:34:33,170 --> 00:34:36,659 We get sometimes for Christmas a little bit sugar,

736

00:34:36,659 --> 00:34:37,820 or the marmalade.

737

00:34:37,820 --> 00:34:39,139 He said, maybe we can exchange.

738

00:34:39,139 --> 00:34:42,230 I give you bread, and give me for my kids little sugar, no?

739

00:34:42,230 --> 00:34:43,850 I give them to him.

740

00:34:43,850 --> 00:34:47,989
I was not smoking and we get Yugoslavian package

00:34:47,989 --> 00:34:49,179 of tobacco smoke.

742

00:34:49,179 --> 00:34:54,600 I give to the cleaner miner was a Russian prisoner of war.

743

00:34:54,600 --> 00:34:57,110 Nikola, and he, I give him, he was smoking.

744

00:34:57,110 --> 00:35:00,350 But they I saw they taking newspapers and where they find

745

00:35:00,350 --> 00:35:02,170 the leaves and they smoking.

746

00:35:02,170 --> 00:35:04,110 There was very, very bad shape.

747

00:35:04,110 --> 00:35:07,340 And we had the master was Schultz.

748

00:35:07,340 --> 00:35:12,780 And when we get our meal in then 12 o'clock was water.

749

00:35:12,780 --> 00:35:15,030 We'd get together with the Russian prisoners of war.

750

00:35:15,030 --> 00:35:19,040 And once the Russian prisoner of war took the bowl with the soup

751

00:35:19,040 --> 00:35:21,500 and put this on the floor.

752

00:35:21,500 --> 00:35:24,080 See what we were eating, they give us water to eat.

753

00:35:24,080 --> 00:35:25,640

We are prisoners of war.

754 00:35:25,640 --> 00:35:28,260 Schultz beat them up and told them, you know what?

755 00:35:28,260 --> 00:35:30,860 In World War II, I was eating in prisoner of war

756 00:35:30,860 --> 00:35:33,368 in England, everyday rice.

757 00:35:33,368 --> 00:35:36,120 And was a special man, we call him the boxer.

758 00:35:36,120 --> 00:35:37,500 I don't know what the name.

759 00:35:37,500 --> 00:35:38,750 When somebody would serve him.

760 00:35:38,750 --> 00:35:41,720 Somebody broke, somebody, they call that sabotage.

761 00:35:41,720 --> 00:35:43,460 They took him to washroom, he beat him

762 00:35:43,460 --> 00:35:46,220 so up that you couldn't see his eyes

763 00:35:46,220 --> 00:35:49,600 and you couldn't see somebody still alive.

764 00:35:49,600 --> 00:35:53,360 They call him boxer, very strong man, young man.

765 00:35:53,360 --> 00:35:57,390 And he was the man when you come in his hands, that--

766

00:35:57,390 --> 00:36:01,320 he was working one night, one week night and one week day

767

00:36:01,320 --> 00:36:01,820 time.

768

00:36:01,820 --> 00:36:07,710 He was there 'till August 1943.

769

00:36:07,710 --> 00:36:10,460 By the 22nd, or 23rd.

770

00:36:10,460 --> 00:36:12,050 We figured that all of a sudden we

771

00:36:12,050 --> 00:36:15,200 see police, about seven police with machine guns.

772

00:36:15,200 --> 00:36:19,670 They came we, find it out from Potsdam near Berlin.

773

00:36:19,670 --> 00:36:23,580 We pick it up, the last meal.

774

00:36:23,580 --> 00:36:25,010 That the piece bread and the soup.

775

00:36:25,010 --> 00:36:28,940 And when we pick it up, we had the carts.

776

00:36:28,940 --> 00:36:32,780 We get the soup, we get the coupon.

777

00:36:32,780 --> 00:36:33,350 Yes.

00:36:33,350 --> 00:36:35,330 We saw one German, and German woman

779

00:36:35,330 --> 00:36:38,490 was working about in the kitchen.

780

00:36:38,490 --> 00:36:41,270 For we have a half hour after they come to Belgium's

781

00:36:41,270 --> 00:36:44,538 come the French, the Russians, not prisoners of war.

782

00:36:44,538 --> 00:36:45,830 Russian prisoners are separate.

783

00:36:45,830 --> 00:36:47,510 But civilian Russians.

784

00:36:47,510 --> 00:36:52,970 She was so crying, one on the German woman's was

785

00:36:52,970 --> 00:36:56,180 crying unbelievable.

786

00:36:56,180 --> 00:36:57,190 I couldn't understand.

787

00:36:57,190 --> 00:37:02,150 I saying maybe something, some maybe even some prisoner

788

00:37:02,150 --> 00:37:03,620 [INAUDIBLE] no.

780

00:37:03,620 --> 00:37:04,690 She was crying.

790

00:37:04,690 --> 00:37:07,630 And we left, we came the next day in the morning,

791 00:37:07,630 --> 00:37:08,930 it was in evening.

792 00:37:08,930 --> 00:37:12,980 Police took it out, they open the [? carbon ?] they

793 00:37:12,980 --> 00:37:15,650 ready to show them everything what do you have,

794 00:37:15,650 --> 00:37:18,830 money or the some, other food, potatoes

795 00:37:18,830 --> 00:37:21,890 we had in the pants potatoes.

796 00:37:21,890 --> 00:37:26,900 And carrots, everything out and in came Gestapos, civilian.

797 00:37:26,900 --> 00:37:29,270 And they took a hat from somebody

798 00:37:29,270 --> 00:37:32,800 and we get paid there about 10 mark a month

799 00:37:32,800 --> 00:37:34,903 or the eight mark a month.

800 00:37:34,903 --> 00:37:36,820 And the rest they say they send to the ghetto.

801 00:37:36,820 --> 00:37:39,000 But that was not true.

802 00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:40,790 They put us on the train.

00:37:40,790 --> 00:37:44,380 They brought us, we was walking with our stuff.

804

00:37:44,380 --> 00:37:46,400 We have a wooden box.

805

00:37:46,400 --> 00:37:49,520 And took the train to Abersfelder.

806

00:37:49,520 --> 00:37:53,160 We was about 203 men.

807

00:37:53,160 --> 00:37:56,350 Who was there once about 700.

808

00:37:56,350 --> 00:38:00,050 But the 500 couldn't, were able to continue.

809

00:38:00,050 --> 00:38:03,420 And they sent them back where?

810

00:38:03,420 --> 00:38:04,020 I don't know.

811

00:38:04,020 --> 00:38:07,330

812

00:38:07,330 --> 00:38:12,360 And we was on the train.

813

00:38:12,360 --> 00:38:15,720 It was about four wagons.

814

00:38:15,720 --> 00:38:19,390 One was for person for the police.

815

00:38:19,390 --> 00:38:20,155

And--

00:38:20,155 --> 00:38:22,030 Did they tell you where they were taking you?

817

00:38:22,030 --> 00:38:22,930 No, no, no.

818

00:38:22,930 --> 00:38:23,430 Did you?

819

00:38:23,430 --> 00:38:24,260 No.

820

00:38:24,260 --> 00:38:26,670 I hear this the police something,

821

00:38:26,670 --> 00:38:29,220 rumors was they hat that letter and they had

822

00:38:29,220 --> 00:38:32,137 to open this after three days.

823

00:38:32,137 --> 00:38:33,720 Where we going, they find it outgoing.

824

00:38:33,720 --> 00:38:35,410 They by themselves, no [INAUDIBLE]..

825

00:38:35,410 --> 00:38:37,680 But the Gestapo that when you come on the place,

826

00:38:37,680 --> 00:38:41,190 you'll get back everything but we taking you away from you.

827

00:38:41,190 --> 00:38:43,080 And we came after four days.

828

00:38:43,080 --> 00:38:50,460 And one on the way in the night was crying, screaming in wagon.

829

00:38:50,460 --> 00:38:52,620 They got us put us in fire.

830

00:38:52,620 --> 00:38:55,110 They was going to kill us.

831

00:38:55,110 --> 00:38:58,140 We don't know there's something wrong with him.

832

00:38:58,140 --> 00:38:59,330 Were these only men?

833

00:38:59,330 --> 00:39:00,690 Men, yes, yes.

834

00:39:00,690 --> 00:39:01,760 No women, no children?

835

00:39:01,760 --> 00:39:04,110 No women, no, no, no.

836

00:39:04,110 --> 00:39:09,020 And we find that out that's the German woman,

837

00:39:09,020 --> 00:39:12,570 he was working in the camp.

838

00:39:12,570 --> 00:39:13,820 He would then went to the war.

839

00:39:13,820 --> 00:39:15,840 Go back, he was cleaning the barracks.

840

00:39:15,840 --> 00:39:20,420 He lift about two or three men in the camp.

841

00:39:20,420 --> 00:39:24,470 When we were out to the

work to clean the barracks.

842 00:39:24,470 --> 00:39:30,290 And he maybe had some connection with the kitchen.

843 00:39:30,290 --> 00:39:33,020 Or he had with potatoes, he was there,

844 00:39:33,020 --> 00:39:34,820 there was some [? cow ?] the same.

00:39:34,820 --> 00:39:37,430 And no German, and maybe the German woman some things

846 00:39:37,430 --> 00:39:39,740 mentioned, where you going?

847 00:39:39,740 --> 00:39:41,240 Where are you going?

848 00:39:41,240 --> 00:39:42,740 He was screaming.

849 00:39:42,740 --> 00:39:43,490 We didn't know it.

850 00:39:43,490 --> 00:39:47,000 I was thinking something wrong with him.

851 00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:51,230 And we came to Birkenau, Auschwitz.

852 00:39:51,230 --> 00:39:54,160 This was think on Sunday.

853 00:39:54,160 --> 00:39:55,870 How long had you been traveling? 00:39:55,870 --> 00:39:56,650 How many days?

855

00:39:56,650 --> 00:39:58,860 Think about four days.

856

00:39:58,860 --> 00:40:00,760 This was near Berlin.

857

00:40:00,760 --> 00:40:02,170 I hear the station [? Kotpost. ?]

858

00:40:02,170 --> 00:40:07,750 I know the Silesia near Poland, near Katowice.

859

00:40:07,750 --> 00:40:10,980 And we was looking through the small windows.

860

00:40:10,980 --> 00:40:17,780 We saw by the train, the working Jews.

861

00:40:17,780 --> 00:40:21,280 There was something screaming, we didn't understand them.

862

00:40:21,280 --> 00:40:22,960 We came to Birkenau.

863

00:40:22,960 --> 00:40:26,860 We heard screaming, out out, shnell.

864

00:40:26,860 --> 00:40:30,440 With dogs and don't let us--

865

00:40:30,440 --> 00:40:34,180 we had some bags there, they don't let us take nothing.

866

00:40:34,180 --> 00:40:35,650 From there, there was a ramp.

00:40:35,650 --> 00:40:38,930

We jumped from there on the train.

868

00:40:38,930 --> 00:40:41,290

We came in to Birkenau.

869

00:40:41,290 --> 00:40:42,910

We went to the gate.

870

00:40:42,910 --> 00:40:51,100

On the right side, we saw on

steps bent only girls, womans

871

00:40:51,100 --> 00:40:53,710

and Navy uniforms.

872

00:40:53,710 --> 00:40:59,740

And all instruments was

violins and all kind sizes

873

00:40:59,740 --> 00:41:01,730

and all kind.

874

00:41:01,730 --> 00:41:04,900

But I'm, not an a musician,

cannot mention of, but was

875

00:41:04,900 --> 00:41:08,800

a type of violins, yes.

876

00:41:08,800 --> 00:41:13,490

I would say, but

there was 50 or 60.

877

00:41:13,490 --> 00:41:16,960

And we move it,

they was playing.

878

00:41:16,960 --> 00:41:22,690

And we came in and I

hear somebody calling me.

00:41:22,690 --> 00:41:24,710 He recognized me.

880

00:41:24,710 --> 00:41:26,440 And I didn't almost recognize him.

881

00:41:26,440 --> 00:41:29,560 He is longer than, he had I would say

882

00:41:29,560 --> 00:41:31,780 another 24 hours what he had.

883

00:41:31,780 --> 00:41:32,570 I was too late.

884

00:41:32,570 --> 00:41:37,580 And I met my cousin there, [? Olzer ?] Kempinski.

885

00:41:37,580 --> 00:41:38,470 He was there.

886

00:41:38,470 --> 00:41:43,130 You couldn't recognize the people.

887

00:41:43,130 --> 00:41:48,740 And you was so tight that so many people was there.

888

00:41:48,740 --> 00:41:52,430 On your [INAUDIBLE] we saw the running

889

00:41:52,430 --> 00:41:58,400 I know that 15, 18, 20 men's with the barrels with soup,

890

00:41:58,400 --> 00:42:00,080 hot soup coming out.

891

00:42:00,080 --> 00:42:02,330

They had two 2 by

## 4's and they're

892

00:42:02,330 --> 00:42:03,590 holding from both sides.

893

00:42:03,590 --> 00:42:07,610 And every five, six feet, they stopped, it was so heavy.

894

00:42:07,610 --> 00:42:11,690 I know what maybe 200, or 250 gallons of soup.

895

00:42:11,690 --> 00:42:15,380 What was so hot, they was afraid to spill it, no?

896

00:42:15,380 --> 00:42:22,170 And we get and as they brought it in, in the barrack and this,

897

00:42:22,170 --> 00:42:25,400 we find that out this was a stable once

898

00:42:25,400 --> 00:42:28,150 for the Austrian army that was in World War

899

00:42:28,150 --> 00:42:31,160 I. They were displaced and Birkenau was

900

00:42:31,160 --> 00:42:34,570 the Austrian army, the camp.

901

00:42:34,570 --> 00:42:36,890 And it was stables.

902

00:42:36,890 --> 00:42:38,250 We saw the floor.

903

00:42:38,250 --> 00:42:41,060

Floor was some bricks were loose.

904 00:42:41,060 --> 00:42:44,240 We started to pick it up, the bricks.

905

00:42:44,240 --> 00:42:48,590 We find the letters, addresses, pictures, gold, rings,

906

00:42:48,590 --> 00:42:51,070 diamonds, money.

907

00:42:51,070 --> 00:42:54,140 We decided we don't know what's going on.

908

00:42:54,140 --> 00:42:56,060 Some people started to pick it up.

909

00:42:56,060 --> 00:42:58,670 Some gold, rings, and put this in.

910

00:42:58,670 --> 00:43:01,580 All of a sudden, came an SS man.

911

00:43:01,580 --> 00:43:04,460 I was thinking some traitor.

912

00:43:04,460 --> 00:43:09,950 And come out with a pistol in his hand, he said,

913

00:43:09,950 --> 00:43:12,530 everybody who took something, or find some,

914

00:43:12,530 --> 00:43:14,690 don't put the one second.

915

00:43:14,690 --> 00:43:16,970 Out, get shot.

00:43:16,970 --> 00:43:19,880 We have take it off our clothes.

917

00:43:19,880 --> 00:43:23,440 And they open the door, the gate.

918

00:43:23,440 --> 00:43:28,610 We have to walk it out, single, naked, we have open our mouth.

919

00:43:28,610 --> 00:43:31,670 We have spread out our fingers.

920

00:43:31,670 --> 00:43:32,740 We have nothing.

921

00:43:32,740 --> 00:43:34,520 And they look in other places also.

922

00:43:34,520 --> 00:43:37,390

923

00:43:37,390 --> 00:43:40,440 OK, and they took us in other barrack.

924

00:43:40,440 --> 00:43:44,030 We was all time naked was warm.

925

00:43:44,030 --> 00:43:50,430 We saw next to them fence, woman, girls,

926

00:43:50,430 --> 00:43:52,380 they had only also--

927

00:43:52,380 --> 00:43:53,780 they had no dresses, nothing.

928

00:43:53,780 --> 00:43:58,760 They had only a cover, a blanket from the bed, no that was.

929

00:43:58,760 --> 00:44:00,980 After this, I had for the shower.

930

00:44:00,980 --> 00:44:03,290 And they prepared us to get the numbers.

931

00:44:03,290 --> 00:44:05,800

932

00:44:05,800 --> 00:44:07,640 To get the number.

933

00:44:07,640 --> 00:44:10,440 They make like with a pen.

934

00:44:10,440 --> 00:44:12,890 It was bleeding a little bit.

935

00:44:12,890 --> 00:44:16,360 Wash it up and the number.

936

00:44:16,360 --> 00:44:19,570 Last thing to take.

937

00:44:19,570 --> 00:44:20,830 This was my name.

938

00:44:20,830 --> 00:44:22,400 This was mine.

939

00:44:22,400 --> 00:44:23,460 That was your identity?

940

00:44:23,460 --> 00:44:28,900 Identity for 'till April the 29, Americans came in.

941

00:44:28,900 --> 00:44:33,100 OK, and they put us in other barrack.

00:44:33,100 --> 00:44:35,260 They cut the hairs also.

943

00:44:35,260 --> 00:44:37,320 We washed up.

944

00:44:37,320 --> 00:44:41,170 Before, and they took us near the crematorium.

945

00:44:41,170 --> 00:44:43,440 Showed us-- can I take it off?

946

00:44:43,440 --> 00:44:43,940 Sure.

947

00:44:43,940 --> 00:44:44,642 Please.

948

00:44:44,642 --> 00:44:45,142 Please.

949

00:44:45,142 --> 00:44:45,850 Excuse me.

950

00:44:45,850 --> 00:44:47,284 Thank you.

951

00:44:47,284 --> 00:44:48,160 It's hot.

952

00:44:48,160 --> 00:44:51,910 And it was in the night time.

953

00:44:51,910 --> 00:44:56,600 And they put us between Greek people, what they

954

00:44:56,600 --> 00:44:58,810 didn't spoke with our language.

955

00:44:58,810 --> 00:45:01,520

We couldn't come have a conversation.

956 00:45:01,520 --> 00:45:03,690 But they know that a few German words,

957

00:45:03,690 --> 00:45:10,130 and they show us the smoke that is my father, my mother smoke.

958

00:45:10,130 --> 00:45:11,604 We still couldn't understand.

959

00:45:11,604 --> 00:45:13,460 Didn't understand?

960

00:45:13,460 --> 00:45:15,250 And the transports start to come at night.

961

00:45:15,250 --> 00:45:16,490 We didn't know from where.

962

00:45:16,490 --> 00:45:19,100 But daytime we was waiting.

963

00:45:19,100 --> 00:45:22,650 We was a small transport 'till we get free,

964

00:45:22,650 --> 00:45:25,300 go on the gas chamber.

965

00:45:25,300 --> 00:45:29,230 In the morning, I saw come also a transport.

966

00:45:29,230 --> 00:45:31,460 People coming in trucks.

967

00:45:31,460 --> 00:45:38,350 And in the end was two trucks with stuff,

968

00:45:38,350 --> 00:45:42,550

what is left for the boxes from, there was addresses is on them.

969

00:45:42,550 --> 00:45:46,270 On [INAUDIBLE] understand, they come from Belgium.

970

00:45:46,270 --> 00:45:52,350 And the convoy in the column the last, was-- the last car,

971

00:45:52,350 --> 00:45:54,970 the last truck was an ambulance.

972

00:45:54,970 --> 00:45:56,350 I was on the right side.

973

00:45:56,350 --> 00:46:01,300 So the SS man and the white coat sitting.

974

00:46:01,300 --> 00:46:04,970 And I saw the ambulance, a very simple like the American

975

00:46:04,970 --> 00:46:09,280 ambulances on the windows [? cans, ?] [? cans ?] and this

976

00:46:09,280 --> 00:46:10,890 was a guess.

977

00:46:10,890 --> 00:46:16,780 Even the door was not closed was like with the wire

978

00:46:16,780 --> 00:46:19,887 on the lock around.

979

00:46:19,887 --> 00:46:21,970 I know what these were whether was broken or what.

980

00:46:21,970 --> 00:46:24,220 You could see that the [? cans ?] on one

981

00:46:24,220 --> 00:46:27,190 on the other one.

982

00:46:27,190 --> 00:46:29,410

They let us go in the other barrack.

983

00:46:29,410 --> 00:46:33,390

This was block 7.

984

00:46:33,390 --> 00:46:36,280

We had a block

elster Mr. Miller.

985

00:46:36,280 --> 00:46:39,790

He was a doctor from Slovakia.

986

00:46:39,790 --> 00:46:42,900

And he said, you are all professional.

an professi

987

00:46:42,900 --> 00:46:43,840

You know what to do.

988

00:46:43,840 --> 00:46:47,308

This I'm sure they sent

us to a factory back.

989

00:46:47,308 --> 00:46:48,350

But you know how to work.

990

00:46:48,350 --> 00:46:50,250

You was working [NON-ENGLISH].

991

00:46:50,250 --> 00:46:55,810

And the block was

already a regular block,

992

00:46:55,810 --> 00:46:58,480

it was a old SS ex stable.

993

00:46:58,480 --> 00:47:04,660

And there was like a stove built the long ways in the barrack,

994

00:47:04,660 --> 00:47:08,260 and the opening was where you put the woods or the coal

995

00:47:08,260 --> 00:47:09,400 in the [INAUDIBLE].

996

00:47:09,400 --> 00:47:12,910 And the night we had a watchman.

997

00:47:12,910 --> 00:47:16,180 We had a bucket, we had to go down,

998

00:47:16,180 --> 00:47:18,640 so you couldn't go out to the toilets.

999

00:47:18,640 --> 00:47:20,240 We had to use the bucket.

1000

00:47:20,240 --> 00:47:22,800 And I don't know what you fall asleep or do something.

1001

00:47:22,800 --> 00:47:26,520 All of a sudden, I hear and so from far away,

1002

00:47:26,520 --> 00:47:31,360 he fall asleep somebody took an SS man,

1003

00:47:31,360 --> 00:47:37,360 put his head in the hole where they put the woods to the oven,

1004

00:47:37,360 --> 00:47:39,790 and push up and they beat him up.

1005

00:47:39,790 --> 00:47:46,240

He was crying and calling in Polish, [NON-ENGLISH]...

1006

00:47:46,240 --> 00:47:47,620 Jesus, Mary and so.

1007

00:47:47,620 --> 00:47:49,140 Jesus, Mary in Polish.

1008

00:47:49,140 --> 00:47:53,770 Understand he's Polish guy, he fall asleep.

1009

00:47:53,770 --> 00:47:57,670 This was and I was sleeping no straw, nothing.

1010

00:47:57,670 --> 00:48:04,570 Only on the no, lumber.

1011

00:48:04,570 --> 00:48:05,350 Just a wooden?

1012

00:48:05,350 --> 00:48:07,160 Wooden, yeah [INAUDIBLE].

1013

00:48:07,160 --> 00:48:09,895 And we had a wooden shoes.

1014

00:48:09,895 --> 00:48:11,020 And you have to watch them.

1015

00:48:11,020 --> 00:48:13,390 I mean, you lost, you don't get to the shoes.

1016

00:48:13,390 --> 00:48:17,080 We put this under the head and this was our pillow.

1017

00:48:17,080 --> 00:48:20,890 And they really, they took us over a week,

00:48:20,890 --> 00:48:23,810 they took us in the next camp, [? Reischall ?]

1019

00:48:23,810 --> 00:48:26,280 we was there maybe a day two.

1020

00:48:26,280 --> 00:48:29,620 And they took us to the main camp, Auschwitz.

1021

00:48:29,620 --> 00:48:34,190 This I would say maybe a mile away or a mile and a half.

1022

00:48:34,190 --> 00:48:36,860 And we was in the barracks.

1023

00:48:36,860 --> 00:48:38,560 We was there only for five days.

1024

00:48:38,560 --> 00:48:41,470 We come in the gate, we see, Arbeit macht frei but I

1025

00:48:41,470 --> 00:48:44,880 now in '85, I saw the same gate and same writing.

1026

00:48:44,880 --> 00:48:48,820 I explain to my sons and from there,

1027

00:48:48,820 --> 00:48:54,460 they send us to the camp IG Farbenindustrie, that's

1028

00:48:54,460 --> 00:48:56,610 at the headquarters in Frankfurt.

1029

00:48:56,610 --> 00:48:57,270 IG Farben.

1030

00:48:57,270 --> 00:49:01,380

IG Farbenindustrie with the Eisenhower at his headquarters.

1031

00:49:01,380 --> 00:49:02,350 Yes

1032

00:49:02,350 --> 00:49:08,110 And I was working there with from September,

1033

00:49:08,110 --> 00:49:13,340 beginning September, through January the 17 1945.

1034

00:49:13,340 --> 00:49:17,260 They evacuated the camp.

1035

00:49:17,260 --> 00:49:22,600 And I do construction work and the all come.

1036

00:49:22,600 --> 00:49:25,060 And we have in the camp, this was

1037

00:49:25,060 --> 00:49:31,360 lucky was a camp from between 10 and 12,000 prisoners.

1038

00:49:31,360 --> 00:49:34,540 We have the--

1039

00:49:34,540 --> 00:49:36,960 I think every two weeks, a shower we

1040

00:49:36,960 --> 00:49:40,510 put the block by block, block.

1041

00:49:40,510 --> 00:49:44,230 I was next with Elie Wiesel, not the same.

1042

00:49:44,230 --> 00:49:44,990 I was 55.

1043

00:49:44,990 --> 00:49:45,850 He was in 57.

i ic was

1044 00:49:45,850 --> 00:49:47,073 I find it out with him.

1045

00:49:47,073 --> 00:49:48,490

I spoke him, I

know he was in Buna

1046

00:49:48,490 --> 00:49:51,140

I was reading the ninth

and the fifth zone

1047

00:49:51,140 --> 00:49:54,740

and from the camp

from the books.

1048

00:49:54,740 --> 00:49:57,415

Was it your picture that

recently appeared in the paper

1049

00:49:57,415 --> 00:49:58,313

alongside him?

1050

00:49:58,313 --> 00:49:59,480

Because there was somebody--

1051

00:49:59,480 --> 00:50:01,138

No this was a picture

from Buchenwald

1052

00:50:01,138 --> 00:50:02,180

when he was living there.

1053

00:50:02,180 --> 00:50:03,180

I was not in Buchenwald.

1054

00:50:03,180 --> 00:50:05,650

In Buna, the [PERSONAL NAME]

I was with him.

1055

00:50:05,650 --> 00:50:06,938

He came in--

1056

00:50:06,938 --> 00:50:07,480 This was in--

1057

00:50:07,480 --> 00:50:09,410 --1944 in May or June.

1058

00:50:09,410 --> 00:50:09,910 Yes.

1059

00:50:09,910 --> 00:50:11,870 He was already old prisoners at that time.

1060

00:50:11,870 --> 00:50:16,330 We know, I know that what's going on to believe.

1061

00:50:16,330 --> 00:50:19,270 Did you learn what was going on slowly?

1062

00:50:19,270 --> 00:50:22,000 Oh, yeah, we know it by the gas chambers and the town,

1063

00:50:22,000 --> 00:50:23,440 yes, yes.

1064

00:50:23,440 --> 00:50:25,090 Because they make a selection, they

1065

00:50:25,090 --> 00:50:29,780 came every couple of weeks, and they checked us up.

1066

00:50:29,780 --> 00:50:35,020 How we were looking and they mark it us or sometimes

1067

00:50:35,020 --> 00:50:36,930 they mark it with a number.

1068

00:50:36,930 --> 00:50:40,120 And they took it out, the next day they disappeared.

1069

00:50:40,120 --> 00:50:42,780 They took him to Birkenau.

1070

00:50:42,780 --> 00:50:45,320 And people, I assume tried to stay as healthy as they could?

1071

00:50:45,320 --> 00:50:46,153 Healthy as possible.

1072

00:50:46,153 --> 00:50:48,880 Not to go in, there was a hospital like a KP.

1073

00:50:48,880 --> 00:50:51,990 [GERMAN] they call it in German.

1074

00:50:51,990 --> 00:50:55,510 And I was for one day when they, I remember by there

1075

00:50:55,510 --> 00:50:58,780 I saw the paper that's fighting from the invasion

1076

00:50:58,780 --> 00:51:02,330 from June 6 in 1944.

1077

00:51:02,330 --> 00:51:05,810 And there I find it out [NON-ENGLISH] like The New York

1078

00:51:05,810 --> 00:51:09,330 Times is the name [INAUDIBLE] from Stalin.

1079

00:51:09,330 --> 00:51:12,410 I remember exactly what the red line.

00:51:12,410 --> 00:51:15,150 I said thank God this.

1081

00:51:15,150 --> 00:51:20,010 And if they bombed down from July 1944, they came in

1082

00:51:20,010 --> 00:51:21,280 and they bombed the factory.

1083

00:51:21,280 --> 00:51:24,110 And this was for us a big release.

1084

00:51:24,110 --> 00:51:25,630 And why didn't do this before?

1085

00:51:25,630 --> 00:51:26,570 Why the leaflets?

1086

00:51:26,570 --> 00:51:29,310 Why there some papers?

1087

00:51:29,310 --> 00:51:30,310 And I was working there.

1088

00:51:30,310 --> 00:51:33,850 We had contact with the British prisoners of war.

1089

00:51:33,850 --> 00:51:36,500 They came from Tobruk from North Africa.

1090

00:51:36,500 --> 00:51:37,550 These are military?

1091

00:51:37,550 --> 00:51:38,950 Military, yeah, we was working--

1092

00:51:38,950 --> 00:51:40,430 They gave you information?

1093

00:51:40,430 --> 00:51:42,412

No, we did give to him information.

1094

00:51:42,412 --> 00:51:46,300

1095

00:51:46,300 --> 00:51:48,250 They had that paper from the paper,

1096

00:51:48,250 --> 00:51:50,440 with the reading they want from us the information.

1097

00:51:50,440 --> 00:51:53,220 But we had to contact [PERSONAL NAME]

1098

00:51:53,220 --> 00:51:56,450 and get some paper.

1099

00:51:56,450 --> 00:52:01,120 Or there some a German what he left or forgot.

1100

00:52:01,120 --> 00:52:03,640 We find it, and from the German paper,

1101

00:52:03,640 --> 00:52:05,350 we translated to English.

1102

00:52:05,350 --> 00:52:12,730 And we wrote up and we had the young rabbi from Holland

1103

00:52:12,730 --> 00:52:15,920 in the [? Teris. ?] He know perfect English.

1104

00:52:15,920 --> 00:52:17,200 I brought him the papers.

1105

00:52:17,200 --> 00:52:21,420 He translated and we

had one time was working

## 1106

00:52:21,420 --> 00:52:23,410 and come two SS people.

#### 1107

00:52:23,410 --> 00:52:26,010 We had to take it off of our hats and to bend.

## 1108

00:52:26,010 --> 00:52:30,430 And he had them there, and had and they fall down.

#### 1109

00:52:30,430 --> 00:52:33,490 And we always in 12 o'clock, we brought him the news

#### 1110

00:52:33,490 --> 00:52:36,290 and we get the barrel with the soup from them.

#### 1111

00:52:36,290 --> 00:52:38,604 It was a delicious soup compared to our soup.

## 1112

00:52:38,604 --> 00:52:41,210

### 1113

00:52:41,210 --> 00:52:45,460 And they put them in the camp immediately.

#### 1114

00:52:45,460 --> 00:52:49,710 I come in the camp, and I was 100%.

#### 1115

00:52:49,710 --> 00:52:53,210 Sure, they beat him up, and he give my name,

## 1116

00:52:53,210 --> 00:52:54,900 others as I helped him out.

#### 1117

00:52:54,900 --> 00:52:58,900 But I come and he had a big

red point on the white field

## 1118

00:52:58,900 --> 00:53:01,110 that's been [NON-ENGLISH] in German.

# 1119

00:53:01,110 --> 00:53:03,360 That's an escaper.

## 1120

00:53:03,360 --> 00:53:05,280 They took him away, and I never saw him again.

#### 1121

00:53:05,280 --> 00:53:08,670

## 1122

00:53:08,670 --> 00:53:12,440 But the British, they took him to the bunker for a few days,

# 1123

00:53:12,440 --> 00:53:13,700 he get bread and water.

#### 1124

00:53:13,700 --> 00:53:16,340 He told me, and you can see on his face.

## 1125

00:53:16,340 --> 00:53:18,165 They feed him only with water and bread.

#### 1126

00:53:18,165 --> 00:53:23,290 And Charlie's come back, and we stop.

#### 1127

00:53:23,290 --> 00:53:26,380 But we had a Polish and Czechish, Yugoslavian,

## 1128

00:53:26,380 --> 00:53:27,860 and all kind people.

#### 1129

00:53:27,860 --> 00:53:31,090 And the language we talked with them.

## 1130

00:53:31,090 --> 00:53:37,700 And we could exchange with them, and do something,

# 1131

00:53:37,700 --> 00:53:41,300 something additional to our food.

## 1132

00:53:41,300 --> 00:53:45,080 Or they that Germans when they brought the people

## 1133

00:53:45,080 --> 00:53:47,960 to the camps, no clothes.

#### 1134

00:53:47,960 --> 00:53:52,800 Sometimes we had a connection with somebody who was working,

#### 1135

00:53:52,800 --> 00:53:57,050 and we took it out to civilian clothes.

### 1136

00:53:57,050 --> 00:54:01,140 And we were selling them to get bread.

#### 1137

00:54:01,140 --> 00:54:05,690 When I tell you the story, they had not more uniforms.

# 1138

00:54:05,690 --> 00:54:08,660 So many people, that when they come from Hungary in 1944

#### 1139

00:54:08,660 --> 00:54:11,960 there was no more, the uniforms for prisoners.

#### 1140

00:54:11,960 --> 00:54:16,200 And it started in 1945, we had the coats to get.

#### 1141

00:54:16,200 --> 00:54:19,950

Where they cut it out, the pockets that we cannot put

1142

00:54:19,950 --> 00:54:22,370 anything.

1143

00:54:22,370 --> 00:54:27,300 And I tell you, they usually in the beginning,

1144

00:54:27,300 --> 00:54:33,440 on the civilian coats, they put a red pass on the back.

1145

00:54:33,440 --> 00:54:34,670 What did this mean?

1146

00:54:34,670 --> 00:54:35,460 A paint, the red?

1147

00:54:35,460 --> 00:54:35,960 Yes.

1148

00:54:35,960 --> 00:54:37,480 This say you are a prisoner.

1149

00:54:37,480 --> 00:54:44,170 What do we do, that we took bricks with water, red bricks,

1150

00:54:44,170 --> 00:54:47,120 we make paint from this.

1151

00:54:47,120 --> 00:54:50,180 And we paint it, civilian.

1152

00:54:50,180 --> 00:54:53,600 We paint with somebody want to escape, we paint it,

1153

00:54:53,600 --> 00:54:55,610 this dry out, we clean it out.

1154

00:54:55,610 --> 00:54:57,530

There was clean.

1155

00:54:57,530 --> 00:54:59,570 Was no paint, or nothing.

1156

00:54:59,570 --> 00:55:00,647 Now you see we are--

1157

00:55:00,647 --> 00:55:01,730 we learned to be criminal.

1158

00:55:01,730 --> 00:55:02,810 We will learn to cheat.

1159

00:55:02,810 --> 00:55:06,380 We did, but they would get smarter, and they cut it out.

1160

00:55:06,380 --> 00:55:08,570 We call it the windows, a square.

1161

00:55:08,570 --> 00:55:12,210 And they put it in a piece from their uniforms.

1162

00:55:12,210 --> 00:55:16,450 This was out but We had to find other ways, in other ways.

1163

00:55:16,450 --> 00:55:18,980

1164

00:55:18,980 --> 00:55:23,490 Was escapes, when the escapes, they couldn't find it,

1165

00:55:23,490 --> 00:55:28,440 they pick it up, everything and to bring him away.

1166

00:55:28,440 --> 00:55:30,420

Where?

00:55:30,420 --> 00:55:36,990

There was on October

the 9 in 1944

# 1168

00:55:36,990 --> 00:55:42,590 was they find it out as underground.

# 1169

00:55:42,590 --> 00:55:46,700 And they find it some scissors they say.

## 1170

00:55:46,700 --> 00:55:51,140 [? Pfeiffer ?] they want to put this on ice for this is meant

## 1171

00:55:51,140 --> 00:55:51,900 and to open.

# 1172

00:55:51,900 --> 00:55:54,320 And to get at least we know it.

00:55:54,320 --> 00:55:56,440 This is Poland almost--

#### 1174

00:55:56,440 --> 00:55:58,330 I mean it's going to Warsaw.

### 1175

00:55:58,330 --> 00:56:00,320 the Russian not far away.

#### 1176

00:56:00,320 --> 00:56:03,040 And not far away, 250 miles.

## 1177

00:56:03,040 --> 00:56:04,750 We was hoping everyday.

## 1178

00:56:04,750 --> 00:56:07,250 Between time, July the 20 like [INAUDIBLE] they

# 1179

00:56:07,250 --> 00:56:09,440 tried to kill Hitler.

00:56:09,440 --> 00:56:10,190 We had the papers.

1181

00:56:10,190 --> 00:56:11,506 We had them.

1182

00:56:11,506 --> 00:56:13,372 I have to pause in a moment.

1183

00:56:13,372 --> 00:56:15,080 If you want to finish what you're saying.

1184

00:56:15,080 --> 00:56:17,740 And we'll pause for a few minutes and then continue.

1185

00:56:17,740 --> 00:56:18,770 Another minute?

1186

00:56:18,770 --> 00:56:19,520 Yeah, if you want.

1187

00:56:19,520 --> 00:56:21,890 Yeah, another minute.

1188

00:56:21,890 --> 00:56:26,890 And this they took the three prisoners, three Jews,

1189

00:56:26,890 --> 00:56:33,500 and I remember one that brought the diamond, his brother in Los

1190

00:56:33,500 --> 00:56:35,240 Angeles is here.

1191

00:56:35,240 --> 00:56:37,220 His brother say, [NON-ENGLISH].

1192

00:56:37,220 --> 00:56:39,200 We are the last.

1193

00:56:39,200 --> 00:56:41,120

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection The other one, [NON-ENGLISH].

1194

00:56:41,120 --> 00:56:43,910 This the, freedom be alive.

1195

00:56:43,910 --> 00:56:46,230 And the third one won't say something,

1196

00:56:46,230 --> 00:56:47,860 but they put him down.

1197

00:56:47,860 --> 00:56:52,393 And he was saying for many hours was a really heroes.

1198

00:56:52,393 --> 00:56:55,190

1199

00:56:55,190 --> 00:56:57,650 Maybe this is a good time to pause for a few minutes,

1200

00:56:57,650 --> 00:57:00,810 and then we'll finish the questioning.

1201

00:57:00,810 --> 00:57:11,061