

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,888

2
00:00:07,888 --> 00:00:11,339
[MUSIC PLAYING]

3
00:00:11,339 --> 00:00:28,620

4
00:00:28,620 --> 00:00:30,010
Good afternoon.

5
00:00:30,010 --> 00:00:32,310
My name is Marcia Weissberg.

6
00:00:32,310 --> 00:00:35,160
And I'm a member of the Kean
College Oral Testimonies

7
00:00:35,160 --> 00:00:38,700
Project of the Holocaust
Resource Center.

8
00:00:38,700 --> 00:00:40,950
We are affiliated with
the Video Archives

9
00:00:40,950 --> 00:00:44,460
for Holocaust Testimonies
at the Sterling Library

10
00:00:44,460 --> 00:00:46,290
at Yale University.

11
00:00:46,290 --> 00:00:50,000
Sharing the interview
with me is Ruth Harris.

12
00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:54,060
And we are privileged to welcome
Mr. Paul Schmelzer, a survivor

13

00:00:54,060 --> 00:00:57,570
presently living in Elizabeth,
who has generously volunteered

14

00:00:57,570 --> 00:01:00,270
to give testimony
about his experience

15

00:01:00,270 --> 00:01:03,600
before, during, and
after the Holocaust.

16

00:01:03,600 --> 00:01:06,210
Welcome, Mr. Schmelzer.

17

00:01:06,210 --> 00:01:08,580
My name is Paul Schmelzer.

18

00:01:08,580 --> 00:01:11,610
I was born in Gwozdziec, Poland.

19

00:01:11,610 --> 00:01:16,210
We were a family of six
brothers and three sisters.

20

00:01:16,210 --> 00:01:17,790
We had a business.

21

00:01:17,790 --> 00:01:21,900
My parents had a business,
a wholesale retail grocery.

22

00:01:21,900 --> 00:01:22,905
I was going to school.

23

00:01:22,905 --> 00:01:27,210
And after school, I also
started working and helping out

24

00:01:27,210 --> 00:01:30,030
my parents.

25

00:01:30,030 --> 00:01:34,230

I was living there till 1937.

26

00:01:34,230 --> 00:01:39,090

In 1937, the Poles took
me to the Polish army,

27

00:01:39,090 --> 00:01:40,530

which I was there two years.

28

00:01:40,530 --> 00:01:43,110

After the two years
I had to come home.

29

00:01:43,110 --> 00:01:45,390

The war broke out in 1939.

30

00:01:45,390 --> 00:01:47,850

The war broke out with Germany.

31

00:01:47,850 --> 00:01:51,750

I went into the German war.

32

00:01:51,750 --> 00:01:56,100

After a couple of weeks of the
whole war existed with Poland,

33

00:01:56,100 --> 00:01:58,220

I became a war prisoner.

34

00:01:58,220 --> 00:02:00,420

I was in a German war prison.

35

00:02:00,420 --> 00:02:06,760

After the war prison, by luck,
I came out from the war prison

36

00:02:06,760 --> 00:02:08,430

and I came home.

37

00:02:08,430 --> 00:02:12,900
When I came home to my
hometown, the Russians

38
00:02:12,900 --> 00:02:16,800
were there because they
split Poland with Germany.

39
00:02:16,800 --> 00:02:21,300
And my hometown was
occupied from the Russians.

40
00:02:21,300 --> 00:02:26,520
And after we were with the
Russians for a year or so,

41
00:02:26,520 --> 00:02:30,780
the war broke out between
Germany and Russia.

42
00:02:30,780 --> 00:02:34,470
When the war broke out,
the Germans came in.

43
00:02:34,470 --> 00:02:37,770
And a half a year later,
they made a ghetto.

44
00:02:37,770 --> 00:02:39,345
They put all the Jews together.

45
00:02:39,345 --> 00:02:43,540

46
00:02:43,540 --> 00:02:47,040
In two streets, they put
together the whole town.

47
00:02:47,040 --> 00:02:51,630
And after a couple
of months, they

48
00:02:51,630 --> 00:02:55,260

made judenfrei, which means
they took out all the Jews

49
00:02:55,260 --> 00:02:59,500
from the ghetto, and they
brought them up to Kolomyia.

50
00:02:59,500 --> 00:03:03,090
In Kolomyia, I was for
a while also in ghetto.

51
00:03:03,090 --> 00:03:04,780
From the ghetto,
they took us out

52
00:03:04,780 --> 00:03:08,550
and they put us into a slave
camp from the Wehrmacht.

53
00:03:08,550 --> 00:03:12,340
And I was there for
the summer period,

54
00:03:12,340 --> 00:03:14,850
which we worked on the fields.

55
00:03:14,850 --> 00:03:19,150
After the summer, they
took us out from there.

56
00:03:19,150 --> 00:03:22,140
And they wanted to
take us to Belzec.

57
00:03:22,140 --> 00:03:25,230
Luckily, I escaped
into the woods.

58
00:03:25,230 --> 00:03:26,820
I was for a while in the woods.

59
00:03:26,820 --> 00:03:29,760
And I didn't know

what happened to all

60

00:03:29,760 --> 00:03:32,490

the people in my hometown.

61

00:03:32,490 --> 00:03:37,470

And then I decide I went

to a town, Gorodenka.

62

00:03:37,470 --> 00:03:40,320

And from Gorodenka,

I came to Tovste.

63

00:03:40,320 --> 00:03:46,660

In 1941, I came to Tovste, which

I spent in Tovste one year.

64

00:03:46,660 --> 00:03:49,410

And it was not yet a ghetto.

65

00:03:49,410 --> 00:03:52,710

There I met my wife, Susan.

66

00:03:52,710 --> 00:03:57,240

67

00:03:57,240 --> 00:04:03,300

In April of '42, they took us

to camp, the slave camp, also

68

00:04:03,300 --> 00:04:07,920

Wehrmacht, which we worked in

the fields from sun to sun.

69

00:04:07,920 --> 00:04:09,990

We were sleeping on the floor.

70

00:04:09,990 --> 00:04:12,930

In barracks on the

floor, we were sleeping.

71

00:04:12,930 --> 00:04:18,450

And then as they decided to
kill all the Jewish in Tovste,

72
00:04:18,450 --> 00:04:22,410
we escaped from the
camp at the time.

73
00:04:22,410 --> 00:04:24,480
And then we came back to camp.

74
00:04:24,480 --> 00:04:27,030
How did you escape,
Mr. Schmelzer?

75
00:04:27,030 --> 00:04:29,890
We could escape.

76
00:04:29,890 --> 00:04:33,210
It wasn't chained or fenced.

77
00:04:33,210 --> 00:04:38,700
So when they started shooting
the Jews in Tovste, we heard.

78
00:04:38,700 --> 00:04:40,070
It wasn't too far away.

79
00:04:40,070 --> 00:04:42,240
It was about 2 kilometer.

80
00:04:42,240 --> 00:04:45,780
So as we heard the shootings,
we ran out from the barracks,

81
00:04:45,780 --> 00:04:49,120
where we could escape
into the fields.

82
00:04:49,120 --> 00:04:50,300
What year was this?

83
00:04:50,300 --> 00:04:50,800

'42.

84

00:04:50,800 --> 00:04:57,380

This was in April, May of '42.

85

00:04:57,380 --> 00:05:00,690

And we were there

in [PLACE NAME]..

86

00:05:00,690 --> 00:05:05,850

And then the second time they
started killing the Jews,

87

00:05:05,850 --> 00:05:07,320

this was on a Thursday.

88

00:05:07,320 --> 00:05:11,160

And then in a couple of weeks
later they came on a Sunday.

89

00:05:11,160 --> 00:05:12,600

And they started the same thing.

90

00:05:12,600 --> 00:05:16,540

At that time, I

escaped from the camp.

91

00:05:16,540 --> 00:05:21,000

In the camp, one of my brothers
were in the camp with me.

92

00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:25,410

And three months before
liberation, they killed him.

93

00:05:25,410 --> 00:05:28,280

And after the summer,
when we finished the work,

94

00:05:28,280 --> 00:05:30,740

they got together all the
people, the young people

95

00:05:30,740 --> 00:05:36,080
from the camp, and they dug a
grave and they killed them all.

96

00:05:36,080 --> 00:05:38,280
Luckily I escaped from there.

97

00:05:38,280 --> 00:05:40,490
And we also had a girl friend--

98

00:05:40,490 --> 00:05:43,410
it was another
friend's girlfriend.

99

00:05:43,410 --> 00:05:47,600
When they killed him, she
went with me and my wife--

100

00:05:47,600 --> 00:05:49,960
I was not married yet.

101

00:05:49,960 --> 00:05:52,830
But we went all three together.

102

00:05:52,830 --> 00:05:56,850
We went to one of the farmers.

103

00:05:56,850 --> 00:05:59,390
He kept us for two nights.

104

00:05:59,390 --> 00:06:00,760
And then he threw us out.

105

00:06:00,760 --> 00:06:03,300
He said that the Germans
have to come to him.

106

00:06:03,300 --> 00:06:05,490
So we went out from there.

107

00:06:05,490 --> 00:06:08,000

And we went to another farmer.

108
00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:12,020
He kept us for two weeks
and he chased us out.

109
00:06:12,020 --> 00:06:13,010
At that time--

110
00:06:13,010 --> 00:06:14,900
These were Gentile farmers?

111
00:06:14,900 --> 00:06:18,890
Gentile farmers, yes.

112
00:06:18,890 --> 00:06:20,690
But before we came to this--

113
00:06:20,690 --> 00:06:29,300

114
00:06:29,300 --> 00:06:32,885
this was during the
occupation from the Germans,

115
00:06:32,885 --> 00:06:35,250
we escaped from the camp.

116
00:06:35,250 --> 00:06:37,680
And we were living in
the woods, in the fields.

117
00:06:37,680 --> 00:06:40,900
We didn't sleep two
nights in one place.

118
00:06:40,900 --> 00:06:42,980
We went every night
in another place.

119
00:06:42,980 --> 00:06:46,430
And whatever we could get

to eat from some people,

120

00:06:46,430 --> 00:06:50,380

Gentile people, some
of them gave us food.

121

00:06:50,380 --> 00:06:52,640

And this was the
way we survived.

122

00:06:52,640 --> 00:06:55,940

And then from there--

123

00:06:55,940 --> 00:07:00,120

124

00:07:00,120 --> 00:07:01,270

I went too far out there.

125

00:07:01,270 --> 00:07:01,770

That's fine.

126

00:07:01,770 --> 00:07:03,990

Go back.

127

00:07:03,990 --> 00:07:05,950

You can go back, Mr. Schmelzer.

128

00:07:05,950 --> 00:07:06,450

What?

129

00:07:06,450 --> 00:07:07,300

Go back if you wish.

130

00:07:07,300 --> 00:07:12,240

Yeah, before we
came to the camp,

131

00:07:12,240 --> 00:07:15,980

I escaped at least
about 25 times.

132

00:07:15,980 --> 00:07:20,970

When they start killing Jews,
I escaped from the ghetto.

133

00:07:20,970 --> 00:07:25,440

And I went in one time in an
attic, one time into the woods.

134

00:07:25,440 --> 00:07:28,890

And that time they
killed all my family,

135

00:07:28,890 --> 00:07:30,980

and I remained the only one.

136

00:07:30,980 --> 00:07:35,790

And from there, I came to
Tovste, where I said before.

137

00:07:35,790 --> 00:07:38,690

And in Tovste I met my
wife, which I told you this.

138

00:07:38,690 --> 00:07:45,840

And this was going on the whole
occupation from the Germans.

139

00:07:45,840 --> 00:07:49,650

And from there, when they killed
my brother and my girl friend's

140

00:07:49,650 --> 00:07:52,080

friend, we went to this farmer.

141

00:07:52,080 --> 00:07:56,850

And after this, we didn't
have anywhere to go.

142

00:07:56,850 --> 00:08:00,870

December the 10th
was a big snow storm.

143

00:08:00,870 --> 00:08:02,490
And they threw us out.

144
00:08:02,490 --> 00:08:04,200
They chased us out
from the attic.

145
00:08:04,200 --> 00:08:06,330
One of the farmers chased
us out from the attic

146
00:08:06,330 --> 00:08:08,150
because he got different Jews.

147
00:08:08,150 --> 00:08:12,170
The other Jews gave him more
money, so he could keep them.

148
00:08:12,170 --> 00:08:15,460
And we went to one
of the farmers.

149
00:08:15,460 --> 00:08:20,760
He was the only one on
the field near a forest.

150
00:08:20,760 --> 00:08:22,100
We came there.

151
00:08:22,100 --> 00:08:23,520
We knocked on the door.

152
00:08:23,520 --> 00:08:28,830
And they opened up the
door, and they let us in.

153
00:08:28,830 --> 00:08:32,280
When he let us in, he
asked, who are you?

154
00:08:32,280 --> 00:08:38,429
So my girl friend said she was
from the nearest village, where

155
00:08:38,429 --> 00:08:40,360
she was living.

156
00:08:40,360 --> 00:08:42,750
And I said from where I am.

157
00:08:42,750 --> 00:08:46,830
And he knew more or
less where my home was.

158
00:08:46,830 --> 00:08:48,400
And he let us in there.

159
00:08:48,400 --> 00:08:54,300
And we stayed there
3 and 1/2 months.

160
00:08:54,300 --> 00:08:57,660
Were you working for them?

161
00:08:57,660 --> 00:08:59,340
I was not working for him.

162
00:08:59,340 --> 00:09:03,650
But he kept us for pity.

163
00:09:03,650 --> 00:09:06,930
And he was the only
one on the field there.

164
00:09:06,930 --> 00:09:11,360
And after this-- we were there.

165
00:09:11,360 --> 00:09:16,920
And one of the last
nights, we were outside,

166
00:09:16,920 --> 00:09:18,660
and we thought
that the Russians--

167

00:09:18,660 --> 00:09:20,540

we saw some soldiers
are going. .

168

00:09:20,540 --> 00:09:23,730

And we thought that this
is already the Russians.

169

00:09:23,730 --> 00:09:25,380

So we went into the house.

170

00:09:25,380 --> 00:09:29,660

And when we came into the house,
the Germans came into the door.

171

00:09:29,660 --> 00:09:30,930

This was still Germans.

172

00:09:30,930 --> 00:09:32,070

They came into the door.

173

00:09:32,070 --> 00:09:34,680

And they knocked on
the door, [GERMAN]..

174

00:09:34,680 --> 00:09:37,280

And we opened up--

175

00:09:37,280 --> 00:09:41,010

the owner, the farmer
opened up the house.

176

00:09:41,010 --> 00:09:42,660

They had a wounded soldier.

177

00:09:42,660 --> 00:09:44,250

And they brought him in.

178

00:09:44,250 --> 00:09:45,420

And they laid him down.

179

00:09:45,420 --> 00:09:50,040
And he asked for a towel,
in German, for a [GERMAN]..

180
00:09:50,040 --> 00:09:52,320
I made believe I
don't understand,

181
00:09:52,320 --> 00:09:53,680
I don't know nothing.

182
00:09:53,680 --> 00:09:56,880
And the old man, the
farmer, gave him a towel.

183
00:09:56,880 --> 00:10:00,960
So he took-- he saw that he
understands a little bit.

184
00:10:00,960 --> 00:10:06,030
He took him to bring him over
the [Non-English], the water.

185
00:10:06,030 --> 00:10:08,250
That he should bring
them down to a farmer,

186
00:10:08,250 --> 00:10:10,360
he should bring
them over the water.

187
00:10:10,360 --> 00:10:13,200
And then he brought them there.

188
00:10:13,200 --> 00:10:16,350
The farmer wasn't home, so he
brought them to another one.

189
00:10:16,350 --> 00:10:17,820
And then he left them there.

190
00:10:17,820 --> 00:10:19,710
He said, I'm going

to look for him.

191
00:10:19,710 --> 00:10:21,390
And he came home.

192
00:10:21,390 --> 00:10:25,530
And the next day,
the Russians came in.

193
00:10:25,530 --> 00:10:27,060
The Russian army came in.

194
00:10:27,060 --> 00:10:30,270
And we got mostly
like liberated.

195
00:10:30,270 --> 00:10:36,150
And then when the Russians
came in, they came from them,

196
00:10:36,150 --> 00:10:40,040
they went into Tovste, to the
place where we were in camp.

197
00:10:40,040 --> 00:10:44,550
And we met more Jewish boys and
girls, which they were together

198
00:10:44,550 --> 00:10:46,230
with us in camp.

199
00:10:46,230 --> 00:10:48,180
This was the only place--

200
00:10:48,180 --> 00:10:52,530
the first place where
the Russians saw Jews.

201
00:10:52,530 --> 00:10:53,970
And we got together.

202
00:10:53,970 --> 00:10:56,550

Everybody was going
into one house.

203
00:10:56,550 --> 00:11:00,150
We were afraid to go
to different houses.

204
00:11:00,150 --> 00:11:03,490
Some of the houses were empty
because they killed the Jews

205
00:11:03,490 --> 00:11:05,830
and they took them
out from there.

206
00:11:05,830 --> 00:11:14,290
And from there, we went
back to one of the farmers

207
00:11:14,290 --> 00:11:18,930
where my girl friend had
stuff, gave them away to hide.

208
00:11:18,930 --> 00:11:20,220
And we took back the stuff.

209
00:11:20,220 --> 00:11:25,260
And as we came back to Tovste,
the Germans were back in.

210
00:11:25,260 --> 00:11:27,780
And we came into
one of the farmers.

211
00:11:27,780 --> 00:11:30,390
And she asked me, where
are you going to go?

212
00:11:30,390 --> 00:11:32,130
She says to me, the
Germans are there.

213
00:11:32,130 --> 00:11:33,600

I said, I want to go someplace.

214
00:11:33,600 --> 00:11:35,520
She says, don't go no place.

215
00:11:35,520 --> 00:11:37,830
You just tell them
you are my brother

216
00:11:37,830 --> 00:11:40,940
and they are two sisters,
my girl friend and my wife

217
00:11:40,940 --> 00:11:43,410
are two sisters.

218
00:11:43,410 --> 00:11:47,310
And we stayed there
with them 12 days.

219
00:11:47,310 --> 00:11:49,890
We slept with the
Germans on the floor.

220
00:11:49,890 --> 00:11:53,490
They didn't know we
are Jews, Jewish.

221
00:11:53,490 --> 00:11:54,630
And we slept with them.

222
00:11:54,630 --> 00:12:00,480
And then when the Russians
came closer, we escaped.

223
00:12:00,480 --> 00:12:04,630
And that time we decide
to go to Chernivtsi.

224
00:12:04,630 --> 00:12:08,940
This was occupied from the
Russians, but it was Romania.

225

00:12:08,940 --> 00:12:11,880

And we were in Romania.

226

00:12:11,880 --> 00:12:16,390

In Chernivtsi, we were
there for almost a year.

227

00:12:16,390 --> 00:12:19,540

I worked for the Russians.

228

00:12:19,540 --> 00:12:21,300

Where did you live
in Chernivtsi?

229

00:12:21,300 --> 00:12:25,630

In Chernivtsi, we
took an empty house.

230

00:12:25,630 --> 00:12:28,860

And we live with
another two families

231

00:12:28,860 --> 00:12:33,480

because we always were afraid
to go ourselves into a house,

232

00:12:33,480 --> 00:12:35,250

so then we live with people.

233

00:12:35,250 --> 00:12:37,440

So we were there
with two friends.

234

00:12:37,440 --> 00:12:39,160

We were living together.

235

00:12:39,160 --> 00:12:41,520

What kind of work did
you do for the Russians?

236

00:12:41,520 --> 00:12:45,240

For the Russians I

said I am a mechanic.

237

00:12:45,240 --> 00:12:47,580

So they gave me mechanic work.

238

00:12:47,580 --> 00:12:50,540

Whatever I could,

I did for them.

239

00:12:50,540 --> 00:12:53,790

And your wife and girl friend?

240

00:12:53,790 --> 00:12:56,880

My girl friend was

already not with me.

241

00:12:56,880 --> 00:13:00,030

She went with somebody else.

242

00:13:00,030 --> 00:13:02,950

And my wife was with me.

243

00:13:02,950 --> 00:13:06,300

And I lived with another

friend which we met there.

244

00:13:06,300 --> 00:13:07,540

I lived with him.

245

00:13:07,540 --> 00:13:10,020

And what did your wife-to-be do?

246

00:13:10,020 --> 00:13:11,880

My wife was home.

247

00:13:11,880 --> 00:13:15,780

I got her a piece of

paper from the Russians,

248

00:13:15,780 --> 00:13:18,720

that she is my wife

and that I'm working,

249
00:13:18,720 --> 00:13:22,050
she didn't supposed to work.

250
00:13:22,050 --> 00:13:26,190
And we did some business
there, black marketing

251
00:13:26,190 --> 00:13:29,250
to survive the time.

252
00:13:29,250 --> 00:13:32,210
And at the time when
it came out a law

253
00:13:32,210 --> 00:13:40,020
that the Polish citizens can
go to Poland, so we registered.

254
00:13:40,020 --> 00:13:44,700
And then a time later,
we went to Poland.

255
00:13:44,700 --> 00:13:49,290
They put us into cars,
cattle cars, the Russians.

256
00:13:49,290 --> 00:13:51,750
And they brought
us up to Poland.

257
00:13:51,750 --> 00:13:56,610
And we came to Poland.

258
00:13:56,610 --> 00:14:00,790
I lived in Poland
for three months.

259
00:14:00,790 --> 00:14:04,860
And then we went to Germany.

260
00:14:04,860 --> 00:14:06,900

And they put us into a train.

261

00:14:06,900 --> 00:14:10,200

And we went to Germany.

262

00:14:10,200 --> 00:14:13,560

And on the Czech
border they called us.

263

00:14:13,560 --> 00:14:15,840

And they opened up the cars.

264

00:14:15,840 --> 00:14:18,070

And they took us out.

265

00:14:18,070 --> 00:14:19,660

This was after the war was over?

266

00:14:19,660 --> 00:14:22,830

This was after liberation.

267

00:14:22,830 --> 00:14:27,317

And then they took
us in Czechoslovakia,

268

00:14:27,317 --> 00:14:28,150

in Morovska Ostrava.

269

00:14:28,150 --> 00:14:33,450

And they took us in to
one room, 500 people.

270

00:14:33,450 --> 00:14:36,480

Everybody, whoever got a
table, slept on the table.

271

00:14:36,480 --> 00:14:39,090

Whoever had three chairs,
slept on three chairs.

272

00:14:39,090 --> 00:14:41,330

If not, you slept on the floor.

273
00:14:41,330 --> 00:14:45,350
And a policemen used
to sit at the door,

274
00:14:45,350 --> 00:14:46,920
and watching us
that we shouldn't

275
00:14:46,920 --> 00:14:49,290
be able to go out from there.

276
00:14:49,290 --> 00:14:52,660
They gave us bread
and soup for a while.

277
00:14:52,660 --> 00:14:56,160
And then they decided they
couldn't keep us there.

278
00:14:56,160 --> 00:14:58,180
They took us out from there.

279
00:14:58,180 --> 00:15:05,280
And they brought us to barracks,
which was [PLACE NAME]..

280
00:15:05,280 --> 00:15:09,870
And we were there also for a
few months in the barracks,

281
00:15:09,870 --> 00:15:12,360
living also in one room.

282
00:15:12,360 --> 00:15:17,760
We were living there,
maybe about 15, 20 people.

283
00:15:17,760 --> 00:15:20,970
Who was in charge there?

284
00:15:20,970 --> 00:15:25,050

In charge were the
Czechs, the Czechs.

285
00:15:25,050 --> 00:15:29,550
You know, it was meant that
they are from the UNRRA.

286
00:15:29,550 --> 00:15:35,190
And they gave us some
food because the UNRRA

287
00:15:35,190 --> 00:15:36,300
paid for this.

288
00:15:36,300 --> 00:15:38,180
That time the UNRRA paid for it.

289
00:15:38,180 --> 00:15:40,590
And they gave us
coupons that we used.

290
00:15:40,590 --> 00:15:45,220
And they sent out people to
get the food in one place.

291
00:15:45,220 --> 00:15:52,025
And we had the kitchens,
one kitchen for everybody

292
00:15:52,025 --> 00:15:53,700
in one barrack.

293
00:15:53,700 --> 00:15:56,070
And there we were living
for a couple of months.

294
00:15:56,070 --> 00:16:00,790
And then we went from
there to Germany.

295
00:16:00,790 --> 00:16:03,040
We went to the border.

296

00:16:03,040 --> 00:16:08,070

In the nighttime, we crossed
the border from Czechoslovakia

297

00:16:08,070 --> 00:16:11,520

to Germany, and then
we came to Germany.

298

00:16:11,520 --> 00:16:14,120

And this was in Munich.

299

00:16:14,120 --> 00:16:17,550

And from there they
distributed everybody

300

00:16:17,550 --> 00:16:20,310

to different DP camps.

301

00:16:20,310 --> 00:16:23,190

They put me to a camp.

302

00:16:23,190 --> 00:16:25,020

It was named Pocking.

303

00:16:25,020 --> 00:16:27,750

In the barracks--

304

00:16:27,750 --> 00:16:29,730

I don't know what they
had in these barracks.

305

00:16:29,730 --> 00:16:31,200

But we were in the barracks.

306

00:16:31,200 --> 00:16:35,430

And we also had two,
three families in one room

307

00:16:35,430 --> 00:16:38,250

because they didn't
have so much room.

308

00:16:38,250 --> 00:16:39,180

And I was there.

309

00:16:39,180 --> 00:16:40,740

And my wife got pregnant.

310

00:16:40,740 --> 00:16:45,010

And from there, I was
transferred to Windsheim.

311

00:16:45,010 --> 00:16:47,520

Windsheim was a
better camp, which

312

00:16:47,520 --> 00:16:52,220

they allowed to have pregnant
women, women with children,

313

00:16:52,220 --> 00:16:53,920

with small children
they allowed.

314

00:16:53,920 --> 00:16:58,900

Was Windsheim under the
direction of UNRRA also?

315

00:16:58,900 --> 00:17:01,050

This was under
direction of UNRRA.

316

00:17:01,050 --> 00:17:03,550

This was under
direction of UNRRA.

317

00:17:03,550 --> 00:17:06,250

And they allowed
me to come there.

318

00:17:06,250 --> 00:17:11,109

I had a friend there,
which was in camp already.

319

00:17:11,109 --> 00:17:16,030
And they wrote me that
we can come there.

320
00:17:16,030 --> 00:17:20,800
So this is why we came there,
because my wife was pregnant.

321
00:17:20,800 --> 00:17:23,740
And I was there until--

322
00:17:23,740 --> 00:17:24,730
about three years.

323
00:17:24,730 --> 00:17:30,700
My son was born and there,
in the DP camp in 1946.

324
00:17:30,700 --> 00:17:34,300
And then we lived there
another 2 and 1/2 years.

325
00:17:34,300 --> 00:17:39,450
In May '49, we came
to the United States.

326
00:17:39,450 --> 00:17:41,320
When we came to
the United States,

327
00:17:41,320 --> 00:17:43,120
we also didn't have
anywhere to live.

328
00:17:43,120 --> 00:17:45,190
My wife had an aunt.

329
00:17:45,190 --> 00:17:47,120
She gave us a room.

330
00:17:47,120 --> 00:17:49,060
Where was she located?

331
00:17:49,060 --> 00:17:50,470
In the Bronx.

332
00:17:50,470 --> 00:17:51,640
She was in the Bronx.

333
00:17:51,640 --> 00:17:53,770
She gave us a room.

334
00:17:53,770 --> 00:17:57,600
And we were living
there for a few months.

335
00:17:57,600 --> 00:17:59,980
Then later the
family helped us out

336
00:17:59,980 --> 00:18:03,310
and I got an apartment
in the Bronx.

337
00:18:03,310 --> 00:18:05,850
And I started working.

338
00:18:05,850 --> 00:18:08,500
I looked for a job
and I started working.

339
00:18:08,500 --> 00:18:10,990
And I got a butcher job.

340
00:18:10,990 --> 00:18:15,820
To be a butcher,
I made \$25 a week.

341
00:18:15,820 --> 00:18:17,160
This was 1949?

342
00:18:17,160 --> 00:18:18,490
'49.

343

00:18:18,490 --> 00:18:21,100
I got \$25 a week.

344
00:18:21,100 --> 00:18:23,470
And then I got a
different butcher job.

345
00:18:23,470 --> 00:18:30,400
I made \$35 a week, which I
worked a year's time there.

346
00:18:30,400 --> 00:18:32,860
There I became a union member.

347
00:18:32,860 --> 00:18:34,570
And I went to different jobs.

348
00:18:34,570 --> 00:18:37,210
And I worked myself
up a little bit.

349
00:18:37,210 --> 00:18:39,580
And I bought my own store.

350
00:18:39,580 --> 00:18:40,480
A butcher shop?

351
00:18:40,480 --> 00:18:41,230
A butcher shop.

352
00:18:41,230 --> 00:18:41,772
In the Bronx?

353
00:18:41,772 --> 00:18:43,930
I had a butcher shop
in the East Bronx.

354
00:18:43,930 --> 00:18:49,150
And from the butcher shop,
I had some friends which

355
00:18:49,150 --> 00:18:51,520

they were in the building line.

356

00:18:51,520 --> 00:18:59,260

And I came into the building
line at the end of 1969.

357

00:18:59,260 --> 00:19:01,300

And I am since--

358

00:19:01,300 --> 00:19:04,950

and I moved into
Elizabeth in 1970.

359

00:19:04,950 --> 00:19:08,860

And I lived in
Elizabeth since 1970.

360

00:19:08,860 --> 00:19:09,800

Pardon me.

361

00:19:09,800 --> 00:19:10,750

Can we go back?

362

00:19:10,750 --> 00:19:11,260

Yes.

363

00:19:11,260 --> 00:19:14,530

When you were growing up.

364

00:19:14,530 --> 00:19:16,590

Was your family from--

365

00:19:16,590 --> 00:19:18,010

were you Orthodox?

366

00:19:18,010 --> 00:19:19,270

Were you very religious?

367

00:19:19,270 --> 00:19:24,820

In Europe, every Jew
was like here, Orthodox.

368

00:19:24,820 --> 00:19:28,240

My father was going
every day, davening.

369

00:19:28,240 --> 00:19:31,900

My father was wearing
a [INAUDIBLE],, a black

370

00:19:31,900 --> 00:19:33,130

[INAUDIBLE] with a gartel.

371

00:19:33,130 --> 00:19:36,040

372

00:19:36,040 --> 00:19:38,980

They would go into
shul every day.

373

00:19:38,980 --> 00:19:41,320

In Shabbos, we
were going to shul.

374

00:19:41,320 --> 00:19:45,340

All of us did shul
wherever they belonged.

375

00:19:45,340 --> 00:19:49,480

And we had a kosher home.

376

00:19:49,480 --> 00:19:50,630

I had a kosher home.

377

00:19:50,630 --> 00:19:53,560

My mother was helping
out in the store

378

00:19:53,560 --> 00:19:55,750

because we had a
big, big business.

379

00:19:55,750 --> 00:19:57,610

And my mother helped

out in the store.

380
00:19:57,610 --> 00:20:00,460
So she helped out in the store
and also did the cooking?

381
00:20:00,460 --> 00:20:03,040
And also took care
of the children.

382
00:20:03,040 --> 00:20:03,850
The children, my.

383
00:20:03,850 --> 00:20:09,220
She took care of the children
and one of her sisters, who

384
00:20:09,220 --> 00:20:10,180
lived with us.

385
00:20:10,180 --> 00:20:15,190

386
00:20:15,190 --> 00:20:19,390
My mother died in 1933.

387
00:20:19,390 --> 00:20:22,750
And my father died
after I came home from--

388
00:20:22,750 --> 00:20:25,170
he died in 1940.

389
00:20:25,170 --> 00:20:25,690
I see.

390
00:20:25,690 --> 00:20:26,960
When I came home from war.

391
00:20:26,960 --> 00:20:29,260
Do you remember-- you
were in the Polish army

392
00:20:29,260 --> 00:20:30,710
from '37 to '39.

393
00:20:30,710 --> 00:20:31,600
Yes.

394
00:20:31,600 --> 00:20:34,210
Do you remember when
you were first aware,

395
00:20:34,210 --> 00:20:39,140
as a Polish Jew, that there
was terrible danger coming?

396
00:20:39,140 --> 00:20:43,690
When I was in the army, I
was told from my officers,

397
00:20:43,690 --> 00:20:46,325
I'm a Jew.

398
00:20:46,325 --> 00:20:48,200
So there was antisemitism
in the Polish army.

399
00:20:48,200 --> 00:20:51,970
There was antisemitism
in the Polish army,

400
00:20:51,970 --> 00:20:54,660
and because the main--

401
00:20:54,660 --> 00:20:57,854

402
00:20:57,854 --> 00:20:59,070
what shall I say?

403
00:20:59,070 --> 00:21:02,970
The main boss from
our army said--

404

00:21:02,970 --> 00:21:07,440

they put me in for an
advance, to advance me.

405

00:21:07,440 --> 00:21:13,170

So he said, so long he is
the boss from this division,

406

00:21:13,170 --> 00:21:15,950

a Jew will not advance.

407

00:21:15,950 --> 00:21:19,120

Antisemitism was big that time.

408

00:21:19,120 --> 00:21:21,750

And I had friends
which were living

409

00:21:21,750 --> 00:21:24,870

in different towns in Poland.

410

00:21:24,870 --> 00:21:30,160

They used to get letters that
at the outskirts of the town,

411

00:21:30,160 --> 00:21:32,400

they knocked out-- at the
shoemaker they knocked out

412

00:21:32,400 --> 00:21:32,900

the windows.

413

00:21:32,900 --> 00:21:36,090

414

00:21:36,090 --> 00:21:38,760

The Poles were also
cutting beards,

415

00:21:38,760 --> 00:21:40,920

the beards from the Jews.

416
00:21:40,920 --> 00:21:42,810
This was before 1937?

417
00:21:42,810 --> 00:21:44,250
This was before.

418
00:21:44,250 --> 00:21:50,030
This was before '38.

419
00:21:50,030 --> 00:21:56,310
This was already before the
war between Germany and Poland.

420
00:21:56,310 --> 00:21:59,010
Before the war, did
you hear of things

421
00:21:59,010 --> 00:22:01,390
that were going on in Germany?

422
00:22:01,390 --> 00:22:05,640
No, no, you see,
we didn't know what

423
00:22:05,640 --> 00:22:12,020
was going on in Germany
because we were in Poland

424
00:22:12,020 --> 00:22:16,590
and everybody was
living there and thought

425
00:22:16,590 --> 00:22:19,320
that this is the best.

426
00:22:19,320 --> 00:22:22,320
But I heard from Germany--

427
00:22:22,320 --> 00:22:24,720
after liberation,
I met a German.

428
00:22:24,720 --> 00:22:30,090
And he told me a nice
story of how it came,

429
00:22:30,090 --> 00:22:31,665
how it came to kill the Jews.

430
00:22:31,665 --> 00:22:34,530

431
00:22:34,530 --> 00:22:42,210
Hitler took his mind
because of the Jews,

432
00:22:42,210 --> 00:22:46,100
the Germans are suffering.

433
00:22:46,100 --> 00:22:49,420
As a child in school, when you
went to the Polish schools,

434
00:22:49,420 --> 00:22:53,150
did you have any antisemitism
there in the school?

435
00:22:53,150 --> 00:22:55,250
In school, not so much.

436
00:22:55,250 --> 00:22:57,330
In school, not so much.

437
00:22:57,330 --> 00:22:59,930
But out of school,
sometimes you met--

438
00:22:59,930 --> 00:23:04,310
with Ukraine boys or whatever.

439
00:23:04,310 --> 00:23:10,970
They always used to
say, Jew, Jew, Jew.

440
00:23:10,970 --> 00:23:17,780
Antisemitism already
started from 1937, '38.

441
00:23:17,780 --> 00:23:19,440
But I wasn't home.

442
00:23:19,440 --> 00:23:23,270
See, I was in the
army from 1937 until I

443
00:23:23,270 --> 00:23:26,540
had to come home in 1939,
which I went into the war.

444
00:23:26,540 --> 00:23:29,760
Did everybody have to
go to army service?

445
00:23:29,760 --> 00:23:30,260
Yes.

446
00:23:30,260 --> 00:23:30,980
Every young man?

447
00:23:30,980 --> 00:23:33,640
Yes, every young man
was [Both talking].

448
00:23:33,640 --> 00:23:34,640
Jew or Gentile.

449
00:23:34,640 --> 00:23:39,710
Jew or Gentile had to go to
the Polish army for two years.

450
00:23:39,710 --> 00:23:43,680

451
00:23:43,680 --> 00:23:46,790
And then when the war started,

then they sent you home,

452

00:23:46,790 --> 00:23:47,630
is that it?

453

00:23:47,630 --> 00:23:49,360
When the war started
with Germany--

454

00:23:49,360 --> 00:23:49,910
With Germany.

455

00:23:49,910 --> 00:23:52,940
--I went into the German
war, Poland and Germany.

456

00:23:52,940 --> 00:23:54,050
I went into the war.

457

00:23:54,050 --> 00:23:56,425
And you were captured and sent
to a prisoner-of-war camp.

458

00:23:56,425 --> 00:24:00,410
And I was captured in the Warsaw
and I became a war prisoner.

459

00:24:00,410 --> 00:24:04,820
And I was in war
prison for a while.

460

00:24:04,820 --> 00:24:09,400
Then I found out how
they're letting out people.

461

00:24:09,400 --> 00:24:10,850
And I lied to them.

462

00:24:10,850 --> 00:24:12,810
I told them I'm a German.

463

00:24:12,810 --> 00:24:15,400

My name is a German name.

464

00:24:15,400 --> 00:24:18,470

And I told them my
father was a German.

465

00:24:18,470 --> 00:24:20,340

You know, it's called
the Volksdeutsche, not

466

00:24:20,340 --> 00:24:25,930

a full German, and whoever
was born in Germany,

467

00:24:25,930 --> 00:24:28,460

under occupation of Germany.

468

00:24:28,460 --> 00:24:30,000

So they let us out.

469

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:32,330

And I organized there.

470

00:24:32,330 --> 00:24:35,100

And we went out, 25 people.

471

00:24:35,100 --> 00:24:36,980

We came out, six Jews.

472

00:24:36,980 --> 00:24:39,560

One didn't know from each
other that we are Jews.

473

00:24:39,560 --> 00:24:43,260

474

00:24:43,260 --> 00:24:46,505

And as we were going
home, we were walking--

475

00:24:46,505 --> 00:24:51,530

476
00:24:51,530 --> 00:24:53,540
they didn't have
no train anymore.

477
00:24:53,540 --> 00:24:55,700
So we walked from 6:00 to 6:00.

478
00:24:55,700 --> 00:24:59,030
And whenever we came
into a village or a town,

479
00:24:59,030 --> 00:25:01,770
we stopped and we
went into a house.

480
00:25:01,770 --> 00:25:03,650
And we said we
want to sleep over.

481
00:25:03,650 --> 00:25:06,050
The Gentile people,
they let us in.

482
00:25:06,050 --> 00:25:08,900
They put some straw on the
floor and we slept over.

483
00:25:08,900 --> 00:25:10,550
They gave us something to eat.

484
00:25:10,550 --> 00:25:11,960
They didn't know you were Jews?

485
00:25:11,960 --> 00:25:12,260
No.

486
00:25:12,260 --> 00:25:12,760
No, OK.

487
00:25:12,760 --> 00:25:14,690
They were Poles too.

488
00:25:14,690 --> 00:25:15,380
I was Jewish.

489
00:25:15,380 --> 00:25:16,290
But they were Poles.

490
00:25:16,290 --> 00:25:16,790
Right.

491
00:25:16,790 --> 00:25:22,920
And I had a friend from my
place where I was in the army.

492
00:25:22,920 --> 00:25:24,770
He knew that I am a Jew.

493
00:25:24,770 --> 00:25:27,560
He even came when
we were in prison.

494
00:25:27,560 --> 00:25:31,820
He said to me, why should you
give yourself out as a Jew?

495
00:25:31,820 --> 00:25:34,760
Because from the Jews,
they took off the coats,

496
00:25:34,760 --> 00:25:38,480
and they made them
to dig the toilets.

497
00:25:38,480 --> 00:25:40,750
So he says, if it's
going to be better,

498
00:25:40,750 --> 00:25:42,890
you will say you
are a Jew, otherwise

499
00:25:42,890 --> 00:25:47,060

why should you give yourself out
and you should go to this work?

500
00:25:47,060 --> 00:25:51,350
Instead, he says to
me, your name is Paul,

501
00:25:51,350 --> 00:25:53,660
your name is going to
be Pavo, a Polish name,

502
00:25:53,660 --> 00:25:56,750
but it is similar to my name.

503
00:25:56,750 --> 00:25:58,670
And we were there.

504
00:25:58,670 --> 00:26:02,600
And then they put us in--

505
00:26:02,600 --> 00:26:06,620
as I found out how to go
out, what to lie to them,

506
00:26:06,620 --> 00:26:08,990
they let us out.

507
00:26:08,990 --> 00:26:10,910
And we were going home.

508
00:26:10,910 --> 00:26:13,790
And as we came to
a train station,

509
00:26:13,790 --> 00:26:16,970
that we heard already
the train, there I

510
00:26:16,970 --> 00:26:21,110
met a girl friend from my
hometown and another woman.

511

00:26:21,110 --> 00:26:23,520

And they start kissing
me and hugging me.

512

00:26:23,520 --> 00:26:26,840

So the Polish guy who
was staying there,

513

00:26:26,840 --> 00:26:28,310

and he was blessing himself.

514

00:26:28,310 --> 00:26:30,020

I said, what are you doing?

515

00:26:30,020 --> 00:26:35,498

He says, if you could do a thing
like that, you're deserving it.

516

00:26:35,498 --> 00:26:36,290

I don't understand.

517

00:26:36,290 --> 00:26:37,320

What did he mean?

518

00:26:37,320 --> 00:26:41,750

If I could arrange myself,
not showing that I was a Jew--

519

00:26:41,750 --> 00:26:42,330

I see.

520

00:26:42,330 --> 00:26:44,330

Oh, he knew from the women
that you were Jewish.

521

00:26:44,330 --> 00:26:45,890

Yes, so he said to
me, if you could

522

00:26:45,890 --> 00:26:50,870

do a thing like-- in Polish-- if
you could do a thing like that,

523

00:26:50,870 --> 00:26:51,800
you deserve it.

524

00:26:51,800 --> 00:26:53,900
You were smart
enough to find a way.

525

00:26:53,900 --> 00:26:54,680
Go ahead.

526

00:26:54,680 --> 00:26:57,950
And then the war also,
when we were in the woods,

527

00:26:57,950 --> 00:27:01,700
I met a couple of Jewish
boys, they remind ourselves

528

00:27:01,700 --> 00:27:07,112
that this is Rosh ha-Shanah
and just Friday Erev Yom

529

00:27:07,112 --> 00:27:09,770
Kippur was September 20th.

530

00:27:09,770 --> 00:27:14,810
I got called that
time into prison.

531

00:27:14,810 --> 00:27:17,480
And they walked us-- they
caught, at that time, 40,000

532

00:27:17,480 --> 00:27:20,630
people, 40,000 soldiers.

533

00:27:20,630 --> 00:27:23,990
And they walked
us in the fields.

534

00:27:23,990 --> 00:27:25,923
And Friday night they stopped.

535
00:27:25,923 --> 00:27:27,590
When it came in the
evening, we stopped.

536
00:27:27,590 --> 00:27:30,170
Wherever you walked
there, you stopped.

537
00:27:30,170 --> 00:27:33,920
And I remind myself
it's Yom Kippur.

538
00:27:33,920 --> 00:27:34,580
So I fasted.

539
00:27:34,580 --> 00:27:38,480

540
00:27:38,480 --> 00:27:41,160
Otherwise what were you eating?

541
00:27:41,160 --> 00:27:43,580
What we were eating when
they walked us, well,

542
00:27:43,580 --> 00:27:47,860
whatever you could get, a raw
potato, a raw beet, an onion,

543
00:27:47,860 --> 00:27:50,720
whatever you could
get on the field.

544
00:27:50,720 --> 00:27:52,422
They didn't give us to to eat.

545
00:27:52,422 --> 00:27:53,630
They gave you nothing to eat?

546
00:27:53,630 --> 00:27:55,590
No, the days when

we marched, they

547

00:27:55,590 --> 00:27:56,840

didn't give us nothing to eat.

548

00:27:56,840 --> 00:27:59,480

549

00:27:59,480 --> 00:28:02,090

When you marched, how
many were you marching?

550

00:28:02,090 --> 00:28:07,113

They marched us for two days.

551

00:28:07,113 --> 00:28:07,780

They marched us.

552

00:28:07,780 --> 00:28:10,370

And they brought
us in to a stadium.

553

00:28:10,370 --> 00:28:15,890

And they let us in on an open
stadium, which the stadium was

554

00:28:15,890 --> 00:28:18,120

a soccer stadium.

555

00:28:18,120 --> 00:28:19,610

It was fenced all around.

556

00:28:19,610 --> 00:28:21,380

And they let us in there.

557

00:28:21,380 --> 00:28:23,270

And when we were
there, it was raining.

558

00:28:23,270 --> 00:28:26,400

So you bend down your head.

559

00:28:26,400 --> 00:28:27,440

Was this winter?

560

00:28:27,440 --> 00:28:28,260

Was it very cold?

561

00:28:28,260 --> 00:28:29,600

No, this was September.

562

00:28:29,600 --> 00:28:30,540

Oh.

563

00:28:30,540 --> 00:28:33,650

This was towards the
end of September.

564

00:28:33,650 --> 00:28:36,555

Had you been able to communicate
with your family at all

565

00:28:36,555 --> 00:28:37,230

while you were--

566

00:28:37,230 --> 00:28:38,930

No, I was too far away.

567

00:28:38,930 --> 00:28:42,200

I didn't know-- if somebody
is alive, I didn't know.

568

00:28:42,200 --> 00:28:44,497

I just knew that Russia--

569

00:28:44,497 --> 00:28:45,830

I didn't know if Russia came by.

570

00:28:45,830 --> 00:28:48,962

I heard that Russia split
Poland with Germany.

571

00:28:48,962 --> 00:28:51,420

They took a part of Poland,
and they took a part of Poland.

572
00:28:51,420 --> 00:28:54,420
This was during the pact
between Stalin and Hitler.

573
00:28:54,420 --> 00:28:57,530
Stalin and Hitler.

574
00:28:57,530 --> 00:29:03,170
While you were in the
prison, did you hear anything

575
00:29:03,170 --> 00:29:06,420
more about what was
happening to the Jews

576
00:29:06,420 --> 00:29:08,490
regarding the
concentration camps?

577
00:29:08,490 --> 00:29:11,330
When I was in prison,
I stood near the fence.

578
00:29:11,330 --> 00:29:13,090
And a German was
on the other side.

579
00:29:13,090 --> 00:29:15,890
He started talking
to me in German.

580
00:29:15,890 --> 00:29:19,130
And he says to me, now we
have Poland-- we want Poland.

581
00:29:19,130 --> 00:29:22,760
Now, he says, we're going to
take ourselves to the Jews.

582
00:29:22,760 --> 00:29:25,910

So I says to him, I don't
understand what you're saying.

583
00:29:25,910 --> 00:29:28,910
I understood every word,
but I didn't understand.

584
00:29:28,910 --> 00:29:32,950
I said to him, I don't
understand what you're saying.

585
00:29:32,950 --> 00:29:41,350
You know, but also going back,
being in camp with my wife,

586
00:29:41,350 --> 00:29:44,660
when they escape
from camp, when they

587
00:29:44,660 --> 00:29:46,310
start shooting in the city--

588
00:29:46,310 --> 00:29:47,980
you know, like I said
before, we started

589
00:29:47,980 --> 00:29:49,550
running from the barracks.

590
00:29:49,550 --> 00:29:51,980
This was in the nighttime.

591
00:29:51,980 --> 00:29:56,290
We had like Jewish
police watching us.

592
00:29:56,290 --> 00:29:57,310
The kapos you mean?

593
00:29:57,310 --> 00:29:57,810
Kapos.

594

00:29:57,810 --> 00:29:58,430
Yeah.

595
00:29:58,430 --> 00:30:01,430
Kapos were watching us.

596
00:30:01,430 --> 00:30:03,260
For them, we weren't so afraid.

597
00:30:03,260 --> 00:30:04,730
So we grabbed each other.

598
00:30:04,730 --> 00:30:10,130
I grabbed my wife, you know,
and we ran out to the fields.

599
00:30:10,130 --> 00:30:13,670
And in the fields, we
ran into the woods.

600
00:30:13,670 --> 00:30:16,710
Everybody was running
wherever he could.

601
00:30:16,710 --> 00:30:19,760
And sometimes you met with
different people in the field.

602
00:30:19,760 --> 00:30:25,010
Also, in camp-- when I
was in camp, I got a gun.

603
00:30:25,010 --> 00:30:27,755
I bought three guns for me,
for my brother, for my friend.

604
00:30:27,755 --> 00:30:30,860

605
00:30:30,860 --> 00:30:34,530
A Ukrainian came over
and asked for my name.

606

00:30:34,530 --> 00:30:38,480

So I says, [INAUDIBLE].

607

00:30:38,480 --> 00:30:40,180

He says to me, I need them.

608

00:30:40,180 --> 00:30:43,260

I says, what would be if I
would be [PERSONAL NAME]].].

609

00:30:43,260 --> 00:30:45,500

You know, my name,
what he called me.

610

00:30:45,500 --> 00:30:48,060

He says to me, I got a gun.

611

00:30:48,060 --> 00:30:50,510

I says, how do you know
I want to have a gun?

612

00:30:50,510 --> 00:30:52,040

He says, I know.

613

00:30:52,040 --> 00:30:58,050

So he wanted \$20,
just American money.

614

00:30:58,050 --> 00:31:01,700

So I had some money
in a little bottle.

615

00:31:01,700 --> 00:31:06,170

And I had this money
dug in under a tree.

616

00:31:06,170 --> 00:31:07,760

You know, I couldn't
keep it with me,

617

00:31:07,760 --> 00:31:09,590

so I dug it in

there under a tree.

618
00:31:09,590 --> 00:31:13,370
And whenever I need
something, I went there,

619
00:31:13,370 --> 00:31:16,870
and I sat down, make
believe I do something.

620
00:31:16,870 --> 00:31:18,490
I sat down and I dug it out.

621
00:31:18,490 --> 00:31:20,340
I took it out and I
went to another tree.

622
00:31:20,340 --> 00:31:23,070
And I buried it
in another place.

623
00:31:23,070 --> 00:31:24,670
And I gave it to him.

624
00:31:24,670 --> 00:31:28,490
And then in a while,
he says to me--

625
00:31:28,490 --> 00:31:31,940
he came, and he says,
I got another gun.

626
00:31:31,940 --> 00:31:33,110
I says, where is the gun?

627
00:31:33,110 --> 00:31:34,670
He says, in the field.

628
00:31:34,670 --> 00:31:36,520
I said to him, you
know, the first gun

629

00:31:36,520 --> 00:31:40,118
you brought with you, the
second you put in the field.

630
00:31:40,118 --> 00:31:41,660
He says to me, I
put it in the field.

631
00:31:41,660 --> 00:31:45,470
I says, look, you know,
my life is worth nothing

632
00:31:45,470 --> 00:31:47,300
and you want to live.

633
00:31:47,300 --> 00:31:49,410
You go in front of me.

634
00:31:49,410 --> 00:31:51,380
And if anybody's waiting
for me there, I says,

635
00:31:51,380 --> 00:31:54,290
you are killed first and
then they will kill me.

636
00:31:54,290 --> 00:31:55,910
And sure enough, I came there.

637
00:31:55,910 --> 00:31:59,420
I got the other gun,
and for my friend a gun.

638
00:31:59,420 --> 00:32:05,400
And then he wanted to
give me for 100 people--

639
00:32:05,400 --> 00:32:09,040
for 100 people, he
wanted to give me

640
00:32:09,040 --> 00:32:10,790
ammunition and everything.

641
00:32:10,790 --> 00:32:12,830
Have you any idea
where he got the guns?

642
00:32:12,830 --> 00:32:13,790
I asked him.

643
00:32:13,790 --> 00:32:14,480
I asked him.

644
00:32:14,480 --> 00:32:18,470
When the Russians escaped,
they threw everything off.

645
00:32:18,470 --> 00:32:20,270
They throw away everything.

646
00:32:20,270 --> 00:32:31,430
And he was working
in the church.

647
00:32:31,430 --> 00:32:32,680
He was working in the church.

648
00:32:32,680 --> 00:32:34,750
He was helping out the priest.

649
00:32:34,750 --> 00:32:37,402
He took all these things and
he put them into the church.

650
00:32:37,402 --> 00:32:38,860
Because when he
brought me the gun,

651
00:32:38,860 --> 00:32:41,350
I ask him how you
got these things.

652
00:32:41,350 --> 00:32:43,150
And he says, I'm going

to make you bullets.

653

00:32:43,150 --> 00:32:45,210

I asked him, how you
going to make me bullets?

654

00:32:45,210 --> 00:32:47,720

He says, when he was
in the Polish army,

655

00:32:47,720 --> 00:32:48,880

he told me what he was.

656

00:32:48,880 --> 00:32:52,440

And I knew already if he
was working in this place,

657

00:32:52,440 --> 00:32:53,840

he knew how to make bullets.

658

00:32:53,840 --> 00:32:57,760

He knew how to put
together rifles.

659

00:32:57,760 --> 00:33:01,030

You know, and then I went
away to another camp.

660

00:33:01,030 --> 00:33:03,230

And I went to the Jewish boys.

661

00:33:03,230 --> 00:33:07,690

And I said to the
boys, I got somebody

662

00:33:07,690 --> 00:33:10,900

that he wants to
give me ammunition.

663

00:33:10,900 --> 00:33:14,620

He wants to give me
rifles, guns, everything.

664

00:33:14,620 --> 00:33:17,290

Everyone said before, I
want it, I'm going to go,

665

00:33:17,290 --> 00:33:18,040

we're going to go.

666

00:33:18,040 --> 00:33:22,120

I figured we're going to
have some people that should

667

00:33:22,120 --> 00:33:24,460

be able to go to the partisans.

668

00:33:24,460 --> 00:33:26,590

And we never could--
and they didn't--

669

00:33:26,590 --> 00:33:32,920

nobody got ready to
buy a gun or get a gun.

670

00:33:32,920 --> 00:33:36,070

So when we got the guns,
we tried to get together

671

00:33:36,070 --> 00:33:37,870

with the partisans.

672

00:33:37,870 --> 00:33:39,730

And we never could get
together with them.

673

00:33:39,730 --> 00:33:40,040

Why?

674

00:33:40,040 --> 00:33:40,670

What happened?

675

00:33:40,670 --> 00:33:42,510

It was too far away.

676

00:33:42,510 --> 00:33:45,310

It was too far away
for us, you know,

677

00:33:45,310 --> 00:33:48,250

we should get in
contact with them.

678

00:33:48,250 --> 00:33:51,130

While you were in the army,
and then the prison camp,

679

00:33:51,130 --> 00:33:55,570

and the slave labor camp,
you said one of your brothers

680

00:33:55,570 --> 00:33:57,640

was killed just after
the liberation or--

681

00:33:57,640 --> 00:33:59,110

Yes, right before
the liberation.

682

00:33:59,110 --> 00:34:01,402

What happened to the rest of
your brothers and sisters?

683

00:34:01,402 --> 00:34:05,328

My brothers and sisters
got killed in my hometown.

684

00:34:05,328 --> 00:34:06,620

In the ghetto in your hometown?

685

00:34:06,620 --> 00:34:08,800

In the ghetto in my hometown.

686

00:34:08,800 --> 00:34:12,750

And then the rest of
them, they took together--

687

00:34:12,750 --> 00:34:15,100
whoever survived,
they took together,

688
00:34:15,100 --> 00:34:17,530
they brought them to Belzec.

689
00:34:17,530 --> 00:34:18,590
One of my sisters--

690
00:34:18,590 --> 00:34:19,750
this is what I was told.

691
00:34:19,750 --> 00:34:22,239
My sister jumped the train.

692
00:34:22,239 --> 00:34:25,000
But she didn't survive.

693
00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:28,840
Because I went--
about four years ago,

694
00:34:28,840 --> 00:34:31,540
we went back to Poland and
we went back to Russia.

695
00:34:31,540 --> 00:34:37,420
We went to the graves where
they killed my wife's parents

696
00:34:37,420 --> 00:34:40,080
and my brother and
friend is killed there.

697
00:34:40,080 --> 00:34:45,370
So they went to the graves,
to my wife's hometown.

698
00:34:45,370 --> 00:34:47,050
And the Russians were there.

699

00:34:47,050 --> 00:34:49,330
They let us go.

700
00:34:49,330 --> 00:34:50,239
They went with us.

701
00:34:50,239 --> 00:34:51,070
They let us go.

702
00:34:51,070 --> 00:34:52,489
And they didn't say nothing.

703
00:34:52,489 --> 00:34:53,800
We came there.

704
00:34:53,800 --> 00:34:55,630
We said Kaddish.

705
00:34:55,630 --> 00:34:56,800
We light candles.

706
00:34:56,800 --> 00:34:59,170
We lit candles also there.

707
00:34:59,170 --> 00:35:02,670
And they did not say nothing.

708
00:35:02,670 --> 00:35:03,280
When was this?

709
00:35:03,280 --> 00:35:04,570
Last year?

710
00:35:04,570 --> 00:35:07,420
This is already
about four years.

711
00:35:07,420 --> 00:35:12,640
We planned to go this year
again, but somehow we didn't.

712

00:35:12,640 --> 00:35:14,830

Where exactly did
you meet your wife?

713

00:35:14,830 --> 00:35:17,530

My wife, I met in
Tovste, in the ghetto.

714

00:35:17,530 --> 00:35:18,730

In the ghetto.

715

00:35:18,730 --> 00:35:20,320

You had not known her before?

716

00:35:20,320 --> 00:35:23,670

No, she is from [PLACE NAME].

717

00:35:23,670 --> 00:35:26,690

And I am from a different
town, from Gwozdziec.

718

00:35:26,690 --> 00:35:30,340

But when I was in
ghetto, I was alone.

719

00:35:30,340 --> 00:35:32,080

I didn't had nobody.

720

00:35:32,080 --> 00:35:38,170

So a girl says to me
one day, let's go.

721

00:35:38,170 --> 00:35:42,040

Let's go there to a
girl friend, which

722

00:35:42,040 --> 00:35:44,710

I knew her from before the war.

723

00:35:44,710 --> 00:35:47,260

She was from Gorodenka,
from another town.

724

00:35:47,260 --> 00:35:49,808

She says, you know, girls
come together there.

725

00:35:49,808 --> 00:35:51,100

So I says, all right, let's go.

726

00:35:51,100 --> 00:35:52,540

So we went through the fields.

727

00:35:52,540 --> 00:35:55,030

Now, How old were you?

728

00:35:55,030 --> 00:35:59,020

I was-- this was already in '41.

729

00:35:59,020 --> 00:36:02,430

I was-- 16 to '41--

730

00:36:02,430 --> 00:36:05,250

about 26, 27 years old.

731

00:36:05,250 --> 00:36:07,010

You know, so we went
through the fields.

732

00:36:07,010 --> 00:36:10,610

And they came in this
girl friend's house.

733

00:36:10,610 --> 00:36:14,030

And my wife was there,
sitting on the bed.

734

00:36:14,030 --> 00:36:15,310

I sat down next to her.

735

00:36:15,310 --> 00:36:19,120

And we're sitting, thank
God, until now, 45 years.

736

00:36:19,120 --> 00:36:20,770
That's a lovely time to sit.

737
00:36:20,770 --> 00:36:25,750
And after liberation, when
we came to Chernivtsi,

738
00:36:25,750 --> 00:36:29,470
I went in, like here in court.

739
00:36:29,470 --> 00:36:32,620
And we took out papers
that we're married.

740
00:36:32,620 --> 00:36:35,980
And we decide to go to a rabbi.

741
00:36:35,980 --> 00:36:39,170
January 15, we went to a rabbi.

742
00:36:39,170 --> 00:36:41,560
And I said to the
rabbi, I want to marry

743
00:36:41,560 --> 00:36:44,050
[INAUDIBLE], a Jewish wedding.

744
00:36:44,050 --> 00:36:47,370
So he says, come
over in the evening,

745
00:36:47,370 --> 00:36:49,290
I will have here a minyan.

746
00:36:49,290 --> 00:36:51,310
And he will have a chuppah.

747
00:36:51,310 --> 00:36:52,360
So I took my wife.

748
00:36:52,360 --> 00:36:54,510
She was wearing a [INAUDIBLE].

749
00:36:54,510 --> 00:36:56,980
I wore a [INAUDIBLE].

750
00:36:56,980 --> 00:36:58,510
And we came there.

751
00:36:58,510 --> 00:36:59,410
He had a minyan.

752
00:36:59,410 --> 00:37:01,980
And he gave us [INAUDIBLE].

753
00:37:01,980 --> 00:37:06,740
And we got married, Jewish
traditional marriage.

754
00:37:06,740 --> 00:37:07,360
[INAUDIBLE]

755
00:37:07,360 --> 00:37:11,560
You had mentioned earlier that
you had wanted to go to Israel.

756
00:37:11,560 --> 00:37:15,410
Yes, after liberation.

757
00:37:15,410 --> 00:37:18,590
See, I wanted to go to
Israel all my years.

758
00:37:18,590 --> 00:37:20,980
You know, and then when
they took me in the army,

759
00:37:20,980 --> 00:37:22,060
it was already too late.

760
00:37:22,060 --> 00:37:23,560
The war broke out.

761

00:37:23,560 --> 00:37:27,680
And when we came to Germany,
I wanted to go to Israel.

762
00:37:27,680 --> 00:37:29,430
I wanted to go to Israel.

763
00:37:29,430 --> 00:37:32,430
But my wife has a brother.

764
00:37:32,430 --> 00:37:34,800
And her brother was here.

765
00:37:34,800 --> 00:37:38,790
And her family, her mother's
sister, her mother's brother,

766
00:37:38,790 --> 00:37:41,940
and the mother's uncle was here.

767
00:37:41,940 --> 00:37:43,860
So she wanted to go here.

768
00:37:43,860 --> 00:37:45,880
I says, look, I want
to go-- she says to me,

769
00:37:45,880 --> 00:37:47,297
you know, she has
the brother here

770
00:37:47,297 --> 00:37:48,870
and the whole family is here.

771
00:37:48,870 --> 00:37:52,650
So I decided to come to America.

772
00:37:52,650 --> 00:37:56,360
They sent us an affidavit at
that time, what was needed.

773
00:37:56,360 --> 00:38:00,960

And we came to
the United States.

774
00:38:00,960 --> 00:38:02,760
And you haven't
regretted it, I'm sure.

775
00:38:02,760 --> 00:38:05,350
I don't regret.

776
00:38:05,350 --> 00:38:07,050
I have no regrets.

777
00:38:07,050 --> 00:38:12,680
It's one country-- the
country where we're living,

778
00:38:12,680 --> 00:38:14,280
it's the best
country in the world.

779
00:38:14,280 --> 00:38:15,480
I know countries, you know.

780
00:38:15,480 --> 00:38:16,800
I knew Poland.

781
00:38:16,800 --> 00:38:20,130
I know the Russian system
because I worked for them

782
00:38:20,130 --> 00:38:21,820
a year and a half.

783
00:38:21,820 --> 00:38:23,860
I know the system, their system.

784
00:38:23,860 --> 00:38:27,240
And I know already,
I'm long enough here.

785
00:38:27,240 --> 00:38:32,270

And thank God, I'm not sorry.

786

00:38:32,270 --> 00:38:35,120

What did you tell your children
about your experiences?

787

00:38:35,120 --> 00:38:37,700

My children know everything.

788

00:38:37,700 --> 00:38:39,170

Were they interested?

789

00:38:39,170 --> 00:38:39,670

Yes.

790

00:38:39,670 --> 00:38:44,170

791

00:38:44,170 --> 00:38:46,640

Did you talk to them
when they were small?

792

00:38:46,640 --> 00:38:51,150

We would talk to them
when they were smaller.

793

00:38:51,150 --> 00:39:00,840

And we told them what we went
through, how we survived,

794

00:39:00,840 --> 00:39:01,710

you know.

795

00:39:01,710 --> 00:39:03,390

We told them everything.

796

00:39:03,390 --> 00:39:07,340

And then they watched Exodus.

797

00:39:07,340 --> 00:39:09,640

And they saw, on
Exodus, a boy and a girl

798
00:39:09,640 --> 00:39:11,820
is running, running away.

799
00:39:11,820 --> 00:39:15,340
When they were watching, they
said, there's Mommy and Daddy.

800
00:39:15,340 --> 00:39:17,160
His name was Dov, wasn't it?

801
00:39:17,160 --> 00:39:18,300
Yeah.

802
00:39:18,300 --> 00:39:22,890
You know, it was hard.

803
00:39:22,890 --> 00:39:26,370
You know, the [INAUDIBLE]
for life was so strong,

804
00:39:26,370 --> 00:39:31,380
they were walking in
the nights, in the rain.

805
00:39:31,380 --> 00:39:33,690
You didn't have what to put on.

806
00:39:33,690 --> 00:39:38,520
When we escaped
from the camp, we

807
00:39:38,520 --> 00:39:41,460
went in for hiding in bushes.

808
00:39:41,460 --> 00:39:43,610
And it started raining.

809
00:39:43,610 --> 00:39:48,030
It started raining during
the morning, a whole day

810

00:39:48,030 --> 00:39:48,930
and a whole night.

811

00:39:48,930 --> 00:39:50,160
We were laying on the ground.

812

00:39:50,160 --> 00:39:52,070
The water came under.

813

00:39:52,070 --> 00:39:54,780
And we were laying and
the raining on top.

814

00:39:54,780 --> 00:39:57,350
We were wet, complete wet.

815

00:39:57,350 --> 00:40:00,540

816

00:40:00,540 --> 00:40:02,405
It was a struggle to survive.

817

00:40:02,405 --> 00:40:06,960

818

00:40:06,960 --> 00:40:09,720
I was thinking the
day we get liberated,

819

00:40:09,720 --> 00:40:12,240
they're going to frame us.

820

00:40:12,240 --> 00:40:14,330
You know, we got liberated.

821

00:40:14,330 --> 00:40:18,420
But the Russians
didn't frame nobody.

822

00:40:18,420 --> 00:40:23,490
The Russians didn't know.

823
00:40:23,490 --> 00:40:27,300
Because when they weren't
listed, the first --

824
00:40:27,300 --> 00:40:31,750
right after liberation, they
came out to town, to the city.

825
00:40:31,750 --> 00:40:34,920
So they were the
Russian officers.

826
00:40:34,920 --> 00:40:37,890
And one of them heard
we're talking Jewish.

827
00:40:37,890 --> 00:40:42,150
He walked after us because we
all were living in one house.

828
00:40:42,150 --> 00:40:43,530
So he walked after us.

829
00:40:43,530 --> 00:40:47,050
And he asked, how
did you survive?

830
00:40:47,050 --> 00:40:49,440
You know, we told
him, we were in camp,

831
00:40:49,440 --> 00:40:51,840
and this is the way we survived.

832
00:40:51,840 --> 00:40:54,280
It was a Wehrmacht camp.

833
00:40:54,280 --> 00:40:57,180
We worked from sun to sun.

834
00:40:57,180 --> 00:41:01,650

We had Ukrainian watchmen
We had all kinds.

835
00:41:01,650 --> 00:41:05,670
And there was a German,
which he wasn't--

836
00:41:05,670 --> 00:41:08,460
he was a German, but
he wasn't too bad.

837
00:41:08,460 --> 00:41:10,930
He wasn't too bad, you know.

838
00:41:10,930 --> 00:41:13,890
And he came into the house.

839
00:41:13,890 --> 00:41:15,120
We told him we're Jewish.

840
00:41:15,120 --> 00:41:18,880
He walked out to the other
officers, to the mayor.

841
00:41:18,880 --> 00:41:22,690
And he says to the mayor,
you know, Jews are here.

842
00:41:22,690 --> 00:41:25,920
So he says, they must have
worked with the Germans.

843
00:41:25,920 --> 00:41:30,210
They couldn't believe that the
Germans left over some Jews,

844
00:41:30,210 --> 00:41:31,110
you know.

845
00:41:31,110 --> 00:41:34,570
So he said, they must have
worked with the Germans.

846

00:41:34,570 --> 00:41:36,630

This is why they remain alive.

847

00:41:36,630 --> 00:41:39,660

And then they found out,
the further they were going,

848

00:41:39,660 --> 00:41:43,590

they found more
Jews in more camps.

849

00:41:43,590 --> 00:41:47,940

So they saw already
that some Jews survived.

850

00:41:47,940 --> 00:41:52,980

Why do you think
some of you survived?

851

00:41:52,980 --> 00:41:53,520

Why?

852

00:41:53,520 --> 00:41:54,480

Yes.

853

00:41:54,480 --> 00:41:56,670

How did you get the strength?

854

00:41:56,670 --> 00:41:57,570

I had brothers.

855

00:41:57,570 --> 00:42:00,670

They were smart, maybe
smarter than I am.

856

00:42:00,670 --> 00:42:02,490

And they didn't.

857

00:42:02,490 --> 00:42:06,270

When I was in my hometown--
this is a coincidence--

858

00:42:06,270 --> 00:42:08,790

and the Germans
and the Ukrainians

859

00:42:08,790 --> 00:42:15,030

chained us around in this
little ghetto, I was in a house

860

00:42:15,030 --> 00:42:17,250

without a ladder,
without nothing.

861

00:42:17,250 --> 00:42:19,350

I jumped up in the attic.

862

00:42:19,350 --> 00:42:23,045

My mind said, you
lived through the war.

863

00:42:23,045 --> 00:42:23,670

Just like that.

864

00:42:23,670 --> 00:42:26,580

I wasn't even thinking
of living or what.

865

00:42:26,580 --> 00:42:28,860

Just I was thinking of escaping.

866

00:42:28,860 --> 00:42:32,570

My mind said to me, you
lived through the war.

867

00:42:32,570 --> 00:42:35,120

It was-- I don't know
if it was smartness.

868

00:42:35,120 --> 00:42:36,600

It was lucky.

869

00:42:36,600 --> 00:42:37,960

Just luck.

870
00:42:37,960 --> 00:42:39,630
Just pure luck.

871
00:42:39,630 --> 00:42:42,930
You know, because I was
walking around, I had my wife

872
00:42:42,930 --> 00:42:44,700
and I had my girl friend.

873
00:42:44,700 --> 00:42:47,100
She lives in Brooklyn now.

874
00:42:47,100 --> 00:42:50,460
I used to walk
with them at night.

875
00:42:50,460 --> 00:42:53,320
They were by a
farmer in an attic.

876
00:42:53,320 --> 00:42:55,620
And I went to another farmer.

877
00:42:55,620 --> 00:42:57,690
I gave him a gun.

878
00:42:57,690 --> 00:43:01,320
And he used to give me
food anytime I came.

879
00:43:01,320 --> 00:43:02,760
He couldn't keep us.

880
00:43:02,760 --> 00:43:06,960
He couldn't hide us because he
had too many people working.

881
00:43:06,960 --> 00:43:10,650
So he said to me, I will
give you anything you want,

882
00:43:10,650 --> 00:43:12,800
but I cannot keep you.

883
00:43:12,800 --> 00:43:16,680
So I used to go
with my girl friend.

884
00:43:16,680 --> 00:43:18,750
We used to go to him.

885
00:43:18,750 --> 00:43:21,240
I was in a strange vicinity.

886
00:43:21,240 --> 00:43:22,500
She knew where it was.

887
00:43:22,500 --> 00:43:23,970
I used to go with her.

888
00:43:23,970 --> 00:43:25,500
We were never thinking--

889
00:43:25,500 --> 00:43:27,540
we left my wife, you know.

890
00:43:27,540 --> 00:43:32,175
We left her in
the attic herself.

891
00:43:32,175 --> 00:43:35,930
If anything happens to us--
all right, I had a gun with me.

892
00:43:35,930 --> 00:43:38,490
But if we have more than
one, I can get killed.

893
00:43:38,490 --> 00:43:40,620
And the same thing, I can
kill him, he can kill me,

894

00:43:40,620 --> 00:43:41,650
and that's it.

895

00:43:41,650 --> 00:43:44,580
We never were thinking
how stupid we were.

896

00:43:44,580 --> 00:43:46,500
We were never
thinking, what will

897

00:43:46,500 --> 00:43:52,170
happen to this girl in the attic
if they will not come back.

898

00:43:52,170 --> 00:43:54,180
How did you get the gun?

899

00:43:54,180 --> 00:43:57,690
I just told you, from a
farmer, a farmer which worked--

900

00:43:57,690 --> 00:44:03,400
he was in the Polish army also.

901

00:44:03,400 --> 00:44:04,780
And he worked in a church.

902

00:44:04,780 --> 00:44:07,240
He helped out the priest.

903

00:44:07,240 --> 00:44:08,725
He was Polish or Ukrainian?

904

00:44:08,725 --> 00:44:09,225
Ukrainian.

905

00:44:09,225 --> 00:44:09,725
Ukrainian.

906

00:44:09,725 --> 00:44:10,550

Ukraine.

907

00:44:10,550 --> 00:44:14,950

He did it for money because he
didn't do it for good faith.

908

00:44:14,950 --> 00:44:18,190

He did it for money
because he knew maybe--

909

00:44:18,190 --> 00:44:21,340

he figured I'll
give him some money.

910

00:44:21,340 --> 00:44:25,690

And this was the survival.

911

00:44:25,690 --> 00:44:28,890

You got the money by trading in
the black pocket, is that it?

912

00:44:28,890 --> 00:44:32,930

No, at that time I still had
some money hiding from home.

913

00:44:32,930 --> 00:44:36,320

In a little bottle, I
had some money hiding.

914

00:44:36,320 --> 00:44:38,320

And I gave him.

915

00:44:38,320 --> 00:44:42,160

And then we didn't
have no money already.

916

00:44:42,160 --> 00:44:46,030

You know, and we tried to
live whatever we could.

917

00:44:46,030 --> 00:44:49,570

There were some
Ukrainian people--

918
00:44:49,570 --> 00:44:51,150
I don't know if
they were afraid.

919
00:44:51,150 --> 00:44:53,590
They knew I got a gun.

920
00:44:53,590 --> 00:44:57,670
They used to give us-- they used
to come in the morning to work.

921
00:44:57,670 --> 00:44:59,860
They worked on one
side of the fields,

922
00:44:59,860 --> 00:45:03,100
and we worked on another
side of the fields.

923
00:45:03,100 --> 00:45:05,900
They used to bring
a pot of potatoes.

924
00:45:05,900 --> 00:45:07,690
And somehow I got it over.

925
00:45:07,690 --> 00:45:10,946
I used to give it
the girls to eat.

926
00:45:10,946 --> 00:45:13,240
So you did farming work.

927
00:45:13,240 --> 00:45:14,740
Yes, farming work.

928
00:45:14,740 --> 00:45:17,420
And you also worked as a
mechanic for the Russians.

929
00:45:17,420 --> 00:45:19,960

As a mechanic for the
Russians, I worked.

930
00:45:19,960 --> 00:45:23,830
And for the Germans,
we did farming work

931
00:45:23,830 --> 00:45:27,230
in the fields we worked.

932
00:45:27,230 --> 00:45:32,020
Anything they needed,
they got free labor.

933
00:45:32,020 --> 00:45:32,980
They got free labor.

934
00:45:32,980 --> 00:45:35,772
They got the Jews.

935
00:45:35,772 --> 00:45:37,368
And they didn't
pay you, of course.

936
00:45:37,368 --> 00:45:38,410
And they didn't feed you.

937
00:45:38,410 --> 00:45:40,420
They didn't give no food either.

938
00:45:40,420 --> 00:45:42,920
They gave a little soup..

939
00:45:42,920 --> 00:45:45,430
A little soup they
gave every day.

940
00:45:45,430 --> 00:45:47,500
They didn't give you no food.

941
00:45:47,500 --> 00:45:50,170
And then when we escaped,

I didn't need their food.

942

00:45:50,170 --> 00:45:52,770

You know, we used
to go to farmers.

943

00:45:52,770 --> 00:45:57,820

And some of the farmers
used to give me food, bread,

944

00:45:57,820 --> 00:45:59,950

different things, you know.

945

00:45:59,950 --> 00:46:02,980

You were extremely
lucky that you weren't

946

00:46:02,980 --> 00:46:04,840

sent to a concentration camp.

947

00:46:04,840 --> 00:46:06,290

Did you know many
people who were

948

00:46:06,290 --> 00:46:07,640

sent to concentration camps?

949

00:46:07,640 --> 00:46:13,600

Yes, yeah, you see, there
was a camp when my--

950

00:46:13,600 --> 00:46:19,420

how it happened, my brother came
to Tovste to me when he was--

951

00:46:19,420 --> 00:46:22,600

he remained when then they
took me the first time,

952

00:46:22,600 --> 00:46:26,307

when they cleaned out the
Jews from my hometown.

953

00:46:26,307 --> 00:46:27,640

And they brought me to Kolomyia.

954

00:46:27,640 --> 00:46:31,220

From Kolomyia, I went to the
camp, the Wehrmacht camp.

955

00:46:31,220 --> 00:46:33,520

So he remained in Kolomyia.

956

00:46:33,520 --> 00:46:36,610

He hid out there
for a lot of times.

957

00:46:36,610 --> 00:46:39,900

And then he found
out where I am.

958

00:46:39,900 --> 00:46:42,820

He wrote me a postcard
that he's going to come.

959

00:46:42,820 --> 00:46:45,310

And he paid to a Pole.

960

00:46:45,310 --> 00:46:46,890

He paid them money.

961

00:46:46,890 --> 00:46:49,500

And he brought them
over to Tovste.

962

00:46:49,500 --> 00:46:54,040

And he was with me for a
while, for a couple of months.

963

00:46:54,040 --> 00:46:58,270

And then he came to the
same camp where we were.

964

00:46:58,270 --> 00:47:01,210

And he was there with me.

965
00:47:01,210 --> 00:47:06,640
And then we were
out of the camp.

966
00:47:06,640 --> 00:47:08,530
We were going to a farmer.

967
00:47:08,530 --> 00:47:09,430
We had a farmer--

968
00:47:09,430 --> 00:47:11,420
we used to sit by the farmer.

969
00:47:11,420 --> 00:47:13,090
We used to hide by them.

970
00:47:13,090 --> 00:47:15,070
They were Ukrainians.

971
00:47:15,070 --> 00:47:17,190
For this farmer I used to work.

972
00:47:17,190 --> 00:47:19,090
For this farmer I used to work.

973
00:47:19,090 --> 00:47:21,310
When I escaped, I used
to come in to him.

974
00:47:21,310 --> 00:47:25,960
I used to work for him, helping
in the fields and everything.

975
00:47:25,960 --> 00:47:27,130
He used to give me food.

976
00:47:27,130 --> 00:47:29,080
And they gave us food.

977
00:47:29,080 --> 00:47:35,560

And my brother was
going to another camp.

978
00:47:35,560 --> 00:47:37,690
And the Germans killed him.

979
00:47:37,690 --> 00:47:43,060
What happened, there was
a Ukrainian organization,

980
00:47:43,060 --> 00:47:46,970
which they called
themselves Banderas.

981
00:47:46,970 --> 00:47:51,040
So they came to call him.

982
00:47:51,040 --> 00:47:54,610
He should go to--
like, into the army.

983
00:47:54,610 --> 00:47:55,750
He refused.

984
00:47:55,750 --> 00:47:57,550
This was on a Saturday night.

985
00:47:57,550 --> 00:47:59,950
They killed him in his house.

986
00:47:59,950 --> 00:48:02,450
So then they said
that the Poles did it.

987
00:48:02,450 --> 00:48:07,090
Then the Poles said that
we have partisans here,

988
00:48:07,090 --> 00:48:10,580
we have Jewish partisans here.

989
00:48:10,580 --> 00:48:12,490

And he didn't want
to listen to me.

990
00:48:12,490 --> 00:48:13,180
He went out.

991
00:48:13,180 --> 00:48:16,570

992
00:48:16,570 --> 00:48:19,425
Yes, they killed
him in September.

993
00:48:19,425 --> 00:48:21,130
It shook us.

994
00:48:21,130 --> 00:48:24,970
Did you ever hear of anything
happening to those farmers who

995
00:48:24,970 --> 00:48:27,290
were helpful to you?

996
00:48:27,290 --> 00:48:29,410
This farmer, that he
kept us 3 and 1/2 months,

997
00:48:29,410 --> 00:48:31,833
they killed him.

998
00:48:31,833 --> 00:48:32,870
Who did?

999
00:48:32,870 --> 00:48:38,320
The Ukrainian Banderas
as they call themselves.

1000
00:48:38,320 --> 00:48:41,680
It's an organization like this.

1001
00:48:41,680 --> 00:48:44,080
First they worked

against Hitler.

1002
00:48:44,080 --> 00:48:47,260
Then they worked
against the Jews.

1003
00:48:47,260 --> 00:48:50,260
They couldn't do nothing because
they didn't have the Jews.

1004
00:48:50,260 --> 00:48:54,700
So they found out that
this farmer kept Jews,

1005
00:48:54,700 --> 00:48:56,500
so they killed him.

1006
00:48:56,500 --> 00:49:00,660
Have you ever seen any of
the goyim who helped you?

1007
00:49:00,660 --> 00:49:02,890
No, no.

1008
00:49:02,890 --> 00:49:03,510
None of them.

1009
00:49:03,510 --> 00:49:05,490
Do you think any
of them survived?

1010
00:49:05,490 --> 00:49:06,540
They may have survived.

1011
00:49:06,540 --> 00:49:12,660
But it's too hard to communicate
with them, to go there.

1012
00:49:12,660 --> 00:49:16,590

1013
00:49:16,590 --> 00:49:23,400

When I was there three years ago, we had limited time.

1014
00:49:23,400 --> 00:49:26,760
And I don't think they are alive.

1015
00:49:26,760 --> 00:49:28,560
They weren't so young.

1016
00:49:28,560 --> 00:49:34,160
Did the Polish priests, or the clergy, help the Jews at all?

1017
00:49:34,160 --> 00:49:35,960
Not that I know.

1018
00:49:35,960 --> 00:49:38,220
You see, some of them--

1019
00:49:38,220 --> 00:49:42,900
I have a friend, a Polish farmer.

1020
00:49:42,900 --> 00:49:47,730
He escaped from the camp with his brother, [PERSONAL NAME]..

1021
00:49:47,730 --> 00:49:49,830
He escaped from the camp.

1022
00:49:49,830 --> 00:49:51,540
And he went to this farmer.

1023
00:49:51,540 --> 00:49:53,570
And he knew him.

1024
00:49:53,570 --> 00:49:55,440
Then the farmer knew them.

1025
00:49:55,440 --> 00:49:58,110
They knew his parents

and everything.

1026
00:49:58,110 --> 00:49:59,310
And he kept him.

1027
00:49:59,310 --> 00:50:02,910
He hide him for all
the way over the war.

1028
00:50:02,910 --> 00:50:07,090

1029
00:50:07,090 --> 00:50:08,590
He pays him off for it.

1030
00:50:08,590 --> 00:50:10,030
One of them died already.

1031
00:50:10,030 --> 00:50:14,800
But you know, he is
thankful to them.

1032
00:50:14,800 --> 00:50:16,790
And he pays them off.

1033
00:50:16,790 --> 00:50:19,360
He knows whatever they need.

1034
00:50:19,360 --> 00:50:26,610
And there were people which
they helped a little bit.

1035
00:50:26,610 --> 00:50:30,020
But of you would say,
I never asked them.

1036
00:50:30,020 --> 00:50:36,140
For instance, we came in,
three of us, to this farmer.

1037
00:50:36,140 --> 00:50:39,190
And they opened up 7

o'clock in the morning

1038
00:50:39,190 --> 00:50:41,560
in December, December 10th.

1039
00:50:41,560 --> 00:50:45,980
They opened up the door
and they let us in.

1040
00:50:45,980 --> 00:50:47,530
And they gave us one bed.

1041
00:50:47,530 --> 00:50:50,210
They were sleeping on
the oven there, you know.

1042
00:50:50,210 --> 00:50:51,390
And they gave us one bed.

1043
00:50:51,390 --> 00:50:53,950
And I slept with the
two girls in one bed.

1044
00:50:53,950 --> 00:50:58,030
And I start talking, and
she says, God will help.

1045
00:50:58,030 --> 00:51:00,280
I want to tell her
why we came there.

1046
00:51:00,280 --> 00:51:02,350
She says, God will help you.

1047
00:51:02,350 --> 00:51:06,870
And we were there
for 3 and 1/2 months.

1048
00:51:06,870 --> 00:51:09,190
And I had the gun.

1049
00:51:09,190 --> 00:51:10,660

And I sold the gun.

1050

00:51:10,660 --> 00:51:13,240

I need money and
I didn't have it.

1051

00:51:13,240 --> 00:51:21,940

Because he had to pay
like taxes he had to pay.

1052

00:51:21,940 --> 00:51:23,720

He didn't have no money.

1053

00:51:23,720 --> 00:51:27,280

And she used to drink.

1054

00:51:27,280 --> 00:51:28,870

This was the farmer
and his wife?

1055

00:51:28,870 --> 00:51:33,310

Yeah, she used to go to
another farmer and buy vodka.

1056

00:51:33,310 --> 00:51:37,660

And the other farmer found out
she's buying every day vodka.

1057

00:51:37,660 --> 00:51:39,230

She knew already who was there.

1058

00:51:39,230 --> 00:51:43,250

They knew that I am
there with the two girls.

1059

00:51:43,250 --> 00:51:45,610

And the other farmer
couldn't do nothing

1060

00:51:45,610 --> 00:51:47,770

because he had a Jewish boy.

1061

00:51:47,770 --> 00:51:50,590
He hide out a Jewish boy there.

1062
00:51:50,590 --> 00:51:52,690
And they were there.

1063
00:51:52,690 --> 00:51:59,380
And sometimes even they
were by this farmer.

1064
00:51:59,380 --> 00:52:04,270
What you say to antisemitism,
when she got mad,

1065
00:52:04,270 --> 00:52:08,410
she starts singing, the
Jews betrayed Jesus.

1066
00:52:08,410 --> 00:52:11,200

1067
00:52:11,200 --> 00:52:13,580
So it was in her.

1068
00:52:13,580 --> 00:52:15,190
It was in her.

1069
00:52:15,190 --> 00:52:17,770
Even she knew we were
Jewish and everything,

1070
00:52:17,770 --> 00:52:20,020
she said the Jews
betrayed Jesus.

1071
00:52:20,020 --> 00:52:24,460
And I gave away the gun and
I didn't say nothing to them.

1072
00:52:24,460 --> 00:52:27,310
That means like I betrayed them.

1073

00:52:27,310 --> 00:52:30,850
You know, it was very,
very hard to live

1074
00:52:30,850 --> 00:52:36,100
through all these things, to
go through two, three years.

1075
00:52:36,100 --> 00:52:37,310
It was very hard.

1076
00:52:37,310 --> 00:52:39,610
And thank God for this.

1077
00:52:39,610 --> 00:52:41,890
Do you think about it often now?

1078
00:52:41,890 --> 00:52:43,860
I do.

1079
00:52:43,860 --> 00:52:49,666
When we get together in
a gathering, or any no,

1080
00:52:49,666 --> 00:52:55,210
a simchas what they're
finishing is our living through.

1081
00:52:55,210 --> 00:53:00,200
Everybody has a different
story of his life.

1082
00:53:00,200 --> 00:53:03,470
I can never forget this.

1083
00:53:03,470 --> 00:53:06,710
We can never forget.

1084
00:53:06,710 --> 00:53:13,220
The living through the 3 and
1/2 months we're also lucky.

1085

00:53:13,220 --> 00:53:16,690

The Polish woman
fell in love with me.

1086

00:53:16,690 --> 00:53:18,660

This was the luckiest
thing that she kept us.

1087

00:53:18,660 --> 00:53:18,920

She what?

1088

00:53:18,920 --> 00:53:19,850

She fell in love with you?

1089

00:53:19,850 --> 00:53:20,892

She fell in love with me.

1090

00:53:20,892 --> 00:53:22,020

So what happened?

1091

00:53:22,020 --> 00:53:23,550

Nothing, nothing.

1092

00:53:23,550 --> 00:53:24,960

You were there with your wife.

1093

00:53:24,960 --> 00:53:25,670

They were there.

1094

00:53:25,670 --> 00:53:27,170

She was with my wife, you know.

1095

00:53:27,170 --> 00:53:28,050

I had two girls.

1096

00:53:28,050 --> 00:53:31,520

But we were sleeping
in one room.

1097

00:53:31,520 --> 00:53:35,430

And I ask her, she
says God will help.

1098
00:53:35,430 --> 00:53:36,470
You know, God will help.

1099
00:53:36,470 --> 00:53:38,428
So God helped me live
through have another way.

1100
00:53:38,428 --> 00:53:41,300
Her husband-- she
had a husband too?

1101
00:53:41,300 --> 00:53:43,040
It wasn't a real
husband, you know.

1102
00:53:43,040 --> 00:53:45,530
The goy had a wife
and five children.

1103
00:53:45,530 --> 00:53:47,450
He threw her out from the house.

1104
00:53:47,450 --> 00:53:51,260
And she was running with
the Russians, you know.

1105
00:53:51,260 --> 00:53:53,960
She was a Polish officer's wife.

1106
00:53:53,960 --> 00:53:55,790
And she came there.

1107
00:53:55,790 --> 00:53:56,750
So he took her in.

1108
00:53:56,750 --> 00:53:58,945
Like he took us
in, he took her in.

1109
00:53:58,945 --> 00:54:00,320
And he was living

with her there.

1110
00:54:00,320 --> 00:54:03,140

1111
00:54:03,140 --> 00:54:04,300
Any other questions?

1112
00:54:04,300 --> 00:54:06,890

1113
00:54:06,890 --> 00:54:08,090
Any other questions?

1114
00:54:08,090 --> 00:54:11,160

1115
00:54:11,160 --> 00:54:13,830
Are there are many people
in the Elizabeth area

1116
00:54:13,830 --> 00:54:18,040
who came from a similar
part of Poland as you?

1117
00:54:18,040 --> 00:54:20,520
No, no, there aren't.

1118
00:54:20,520 --> 00:54:21,900
Different parts of Poland.

1119
00:54:21,900 --> 00:54:25,030
So you befriended-- you got
friendly with [PERSONAL NAME]]]

1120
00:54:25,030 --> 00:54:25,580
and--

1121
00:54:25,580 --> 00:54:26,080
well, here.

1122

00:54:26,080 --> 00:54:28,920
You know, I'm friendly with
[INAUDIBLE] and some partners

1123
00:54:28,920 --> 00:54:29,795
with the real estate.

1124
00:54:29,795 --> 00:54:31,410
Yes, but you know
them [Both talking].

1125
00:54:31,410 --> 00:54:34,650
They come in on the
same gatherings.

1126
00:54:34,650 --> 00:54:37,990
And we go to Rabbi Tiser's shul.

1127
00:54:37,990 --> 00:54:41,520
You know, we met each other
and we became friendly.

1128
00:54:41,520 --> 00:54:42,870
We are friends.

1129
00:54:42,870 --> 00:54:44,940
Have you gone back to Poland?

1130
00:54:44,940 --> 00:54:48,960
I was in Poland once,
when I went to Russia.

1131
00:54:48,960 --> 00:54:50,200
So we went to Poland.

1132
00:54:50,200 --> 00:54:51,780
From Poland we went to Russia.

1133
00:54:51,780 --> 00:54:56,640
When I was in Poland, we went
all over all the concentration

1134

00:54:56,640 --> 00:54:57,750
camps.

1135
00:54:57,750 --> 00:54:59,250
We were in Dachau--

1136
00:54:59,250 --> 00:54:59,860
not in Dachau.

1137
00:54:59,860 --> 00:55:02,180
We were in Auschwitz.

1138
00:55:02,180 --> 00:55:04,080
Did you get back
to your hometown?

1139
00:55:04,080 --> 00:55:04,830
No.

1140
00:55:04,830 --> 00:55:07,260
I was in my wife's hometown.

1141
00:55:07,260 --> 00:55:11,980
I was in the town that I was
in camp, where the camp was.

1142
00:55:11,980 --> 00:55:13,590
In this town I was.

1143
00:55:13,590 --> 00:55:18,330
Because my hometown is
a little out of the way.

1144
00:55:18,330 --> 00:55:19,740
We couldn't go there.

1145
00:55:19,740 --> 00:55:23,910
And I wouldn't go there because
I haven't got a home to go.

1146
00:55:23,910 --> 00:55:28,250
Here we went because it was on

the way to the [PLACE NAME]..

1147

00:55:28,250 --> 00:55:28,960

We were there.

1148

00:55:28,960 --> 00:55:32,620

And we went to Tovste,
where we were in camp,

1149

00:55:32,620 --> 00:55:35,210

where they killed my brother,
they killed my friend,

1150

00:55:35,210 --> 00:55:38,550

and my wife's parents are
there, parents and a sister.

1151

00:55:38,550 --> 00:55:40,170

Excuse me, Mr.
Schmelzer, we're going

1152

00:55:40,170 --> 00:55:41,500

to have to take a break now.

1153

00:55:41,500 --> 00:55:42,480

OK.

1154

00:55:42,480 --> 00:55:45,770

So far you've told us some
very interesting things.

1155

00:55:45,770 --> 00:55:47,400

No, I mixed in because--

1156

00:55:47,400 --> 00:55:48,450

That's all right.

1157

00:55:48,450 --> 00:55:50,020

That's fine.

1158

00:55:50,020 --> 00:55:51,270

There's more to say, you know.

1159
00:55:51,270 --> 00:55:54,840

1160
00:55:54,840 --> 00:55:56,530
Go.

1161
00:55:56,530 --> 00:55:59,160
Mr. Schmelzer, we
were going to ask you

1162
00:55:59,160 --> 00:56:03,030
about when you were a
young boy in your hometown.

1163
00:56:03,030 --> 00:56:04,742
Were there any Zionist groups?

1164
00:56:04,742 --> 00:56:05,450
There were a lot.

1165
00:56:05,450 --> 00:56:07,860
In my hometown were
a lot of Zionists.

1166
00:56:07,860 --> 00:56:10,980
I belonged to a
Zionist organization.

1167
00:56:10,980 --> 00:56:15,470
And like I said before, I
always wanted to go to Israel.

1168
00:56:15,470 --> 00:56:18,060
And if not for the war
with Poland and Germany,

1169
00:56:18,060 --> 00:56:20,500
I may well have been in Israel.

1170
00:56:20,500 --> 00:56:24,240
You know, the youth

had where to go

1171
00:56:24,240 --> 00:56:26,340
and the youth had what to do.

1172
00:56:26,340 --> 00:56:29,400
They never knew what drugs
is, or smoking whatsoever,

1173
00:56:29,400 --> 00:56:33,270
like in this United States.

1174
00:56:33,270 --> 00:56:35,973
And did some of the young
men and women in your town

1175
00:56:35,973 --> 00:56:36,640
go to Palestine?

1176
00:56:36,640 --> 00:56:37,475
They went to Israel.

1177
00:56:37,475 --> 00:56:39,030
They went to Palestine.

1178
00:56:39,030 --> 00:56:39,780
They stayed there?

1179
00:56:39,780 --> 00:56:40,738
They went to Palestine.

1180
00:56:40,738 --> 00:56:44,580
They stayed till today in
the kibbutz, in the kibbutz.

1181
00:56:44,580 --> 00:56:48,300
Kibbutz [PLACE NAME],,
which when I go to Israel,

1182
00:56:48,300 --> 00:56:53,010
I always visit them in
Israel, and go to the kibbutz.

1183
00:56:53,010 --> 00:56:56,670
Well, Mr. Schmelzer, this
has been a very revealing,

1184
00:56:56,670 --> 00:56:58,740
very valuable interview.

1185
00:56:58,740 --> 00:57:01,780
Thank you very, very much
for sharing it with us.

1186
00:57:01,780 --> 00:57:02,280
Thank you.

1187
00:57:02,280 --> 00:57:03,480
OK.

1188
00:57:03,480 --> 00:57:06,830
[MUSIC PLAYING]

1189
00:57:06,830 --> 00:57:33,000