

We left you that you had jumped off the train into the forest in the rain. And there was a young boy.

No, no, no, no. An older man--

An older man.

--was in the forest. And he picked me up from the forest.

And took you to the house.

Took me to the house.

You're in the house. So what happened then?

OK. When I was in the house. I told him this. I am from Zmigród. And I want to go to Zmigród. I will pay him. He should take the horse and the bag and take me to Zmigród. He agreed to it. We went out both together to his wagon. And I was sitting in the front with him. Yeah, and before he start to go, he realize that he did not take the whip with him for the horse.

As he says to me, you sit here. I'm going inside into the house to bring out the whip. He goes to the house. And he comes out with his wife. And the wife comes to take a look whom he has. Then she looked at me. She screams. This is a Jew! Where are you going? They're going to kill you. Don't go.

And he decided he is not going to go with me. Then I didn't know where I am. And I start to plead with him. I'm going to pay you. You go by foot far away from me and I'm going to follow you. And I wouldn't have no contact with you. He agreed. He went in the front. And I went far behind him and I told him not to go to main highway. Just through fields. They shouldn't see me finally I came to make a road I came to Zmigród. He left. I knew already how to--

How far a distance was it?

Not too far. Not too far. Of course, I was going a couple hours. I mean, it was not a three. I was going a couple hours there. But I came to Zmigród. Yes. Finally I came to my house. My sister knew that I'd gone to the camp because my brother at that time, you could write. But he wrote this I'm no more here. Nobody should find out.

Finally, I came to the house. I knock in the door in the back yard. I knew how to come around. Yeah, my sister opened the door. there was another few people in the house. And they looked on me. they hugged me, they kissed me. And I start to tell them this story. Where all the people there are. What is our camp and everybody else. How we seen, how is it.

I tell them the whole story. And also I told them why I ran away. and how I came back and what happened. I told them the whole story.

Finally, I was in the house with my sister. Outside I could not go because I was afraid that the German police, which they knew me. They're going to recognize me. They knew that they send me away to concentration camp.

Also, the main Jewish community was involved. You. And I didn't want they should notice I came back. Also, after I ran away other my two cousins ran away from Kraków. And they also came to Zmigród. His name, my cousin Moishe Leidner and he brought Shimshin Leidner. And they have left home a sister, Risele. Yes, they came also. But I came before them.

And we were in Zmigród, I did not go out. And one of the days after a week, I decided I had a friend from my school times. Christian friend, a girl, which I went with her to school. I know her parents. I decided to go to visit them.

This was a few, about a kilometer out of the town. And I was down there to visit them. Her father was the engineer from the wood factory. I came there. I came in. They were very surprised to see me. Because she knew they had sent me away to concentration camp.

As I told her the whole story. Yes. And they were very glad to see me, and we were talking about a lot of things. And while I wanted to go back home, she says to me that she has to tell me some story. I will listen.

And she says, look, in another two days the German going to come in and they're going to take all of you away. And where, I don't know. If you want to, you can remain here and my parents with me going to hide you till the war going to be finished.

Then I said, that's a very good idea, but I have a sister. I can't because I have a sister. Well, we cannot take the sister. And I said, if this is the case, I have to go back home.

Then I ask her, how do you know this? Then she tells me, this on from the police, from the German police, his name was [? Klien, ?] yeah. He is coming here to my house and he told me the story. All right.

I went home. I assemble all my neighbors what are still in Zmigród and tell them. I said, look, I'm coming now from a place which I cannot tell you. and I think that today is the last day. Yes? So we should assemble and say Kaddish. After our parents. Because tomorrow, nobody going to be here. And we did.

Then I said to my sister and a couple people, whatever is going to happen I will not surrender. I will hide myself.

And I made between our house and another house, there was a distance I would say twice as big than this. Let's say by 3 feet. The front and the back was closed, I just could go on the top of the roof and take a ladder and put it down and run there in. Because if something like this is going to happen, I will hide over there and I will see what happened. In the meantime, the next day for the night in the front where we knew already from which place from which road the German comes is in the front by us was our window. We stood a couple of people in front of the window to watch what is going to happen. If this happen, whoever has this place to run going to run.

Exactly in the middle of the night, the German came in. I run with my sister and another couple of girls into this place. And all of a sudden you are hearing shots. Screaming. Shots.

They killed.

You are screaming because I had an observation from there to see what is going on. In the assembled whatever it was made too many people was not remain. A few of them got killed in there, in this town. And the rest they took away and I remain over there in this place to see what happened over the day.

I sit over there and all of a sudden during this day when I was there, the Jewish police, which is still going in Zmigród. The German came into my house and they were screaming. One of the Jewish police was screaming he knew that I was hiding there. He said Mordechai if you are here in the house, better come out because if they're going to catch you, you're going to get killed on the spot.

But I did not go. I remained there till everything was quiet in the middle of the night. I heard it's quiet, nothing the shots. I ran out from over there and I had to go to a certain place and cross a water in order to come to a forest.

I just want to go back. The Jewish policeman--

Yes.

--was a policeman before the war also?

No, no, no. This was the Jewish police what was made from the Jews when the Judenrat became-- when the

Germans established a Jewish, let's say Jewish community like the head of the Jewish community. They see they had to have people who should take over this and go around and fulfill them.

So what did you think of that Jewish policeman?

Well, look. They didn't do anything bad. If some of them, they just want to help out. He came in. He didn't mean nothing. Nothing to tell me. Maybe he meant to tell me that I should come out because otherwise they're going to kill me. Yes? I should not get killed. This was my impression. But, I didn't have the intention to go out. I said whatever's going to happen is going to happen.

All right.

I went out in middle of the night with my sisters and other I think three girls. In going to our water. And while I'm in the middle of this water, I saw my two cousins that also were hiding, but them in the house. And they also went to certain place. I guess him where are you going? He told me where they were going. They had Pole which they gave about all their goods to this guy. And this guy said, yeah come to my house, and we're going to hide you.

I didn't have nobody in the meantime like this. I had somebody, but I went first to the forest. And we were in the forest maybe exactly for two weeks. It was getting cold. We had to go down to the-- I mean, near the forest was small little outskirts. You know, from Poles. He was one house. He had the other house. If you went into a certain house, if you paid him money he gave us food. We went back into the forest. Yes.

And this was going on for a week. And then after one week one day, a couple Poles came into the forest. With masks. And they said we came, we taking you to the gentlemen police or you're going to give us what you have.

I recognize their voices when they talk to me who they are. And I call them out by their names. And I told them. You know me. I am the son of Isaac. Where are you taking me? You was a friend of my father? And they didn't want to listen. I said, listen, I don't have nothing here. The girls had two, three, little rings here. You have, and you leave them alone.

They took this and went away. But I figured myself if they come today, tomorrow they will send somebody else and I don't have nothing what to give. And I decided in that time to leave my sister with the other two girls in the forest. And I had a Pole, one, which he told me before everything happened, he came to our house and I gave him out everything what we had.

That time my father was also handling with sewing machine he used to sell. I gave them up six, seven new sewing machines with other stuff. And he says to me, if you're going to need something, I always going to send you money. And if you are running where I live, come into me and I'm going to hide you.

Then came the situation. I didn't have nothing what to do. As I left them and I went to this Pole. I find a place. I knew where he live. I came in early in the morning. And I went into the stable, where he has the cows. And I stood behind the door and was waiting. He should come in.

As the wife came in the stable to go to milk the cows, when she was milking the cows and had the pail between the legs, I went out to her. And I had a beard like this. Then she saw me. She start to scream, Oh God! Oh God!

This is a how to say. I don't know how to tell you this in English. But she said in Polish this is somebody from the other world what came. I quieted down. Be quiet. Bring in your husband.

Now she went in. The husband came in. And I said to him, you told me I should come here. He says, look I give you our bread. Here is our bread. And go out from here otherwise I kill you. OK. I went back to the forest. I knew. I came back to my sister with them and I told him the story. And I said, listen, this what I don't know what's going to happen.

And after a couple days after this, the Polish police came into the forest. They start to shoot into the forest. And they came and they came and they caught me with my sisters. They tied me up in chains and they brought me down from the forest to the neighboring small town. The name is [PLACE NAME] To the mayor from the town. Bring me. And there we were sitting by the mayor from the town and they were waiting they should bring a horse with a wagon to bring to Zmigród. Because there was a couple kilometer there.

OK. Took some time. They brought in the wagon. They bringing me into Zmigród tied in chains. On the wagon, all the Poles look outside when they brought me into jail. Is I come into jail. The guy from the jail was registering me. He knew me before the war. And he was pretty good to me. And they put me in one cell. My sister in another cell with the girls. And I sit in jail Zmigród.

This is not Zmigród.

Yeah, this is Zmigród.

Oh, you came through Zmigród already.

Came to Zmigród. He bring me.

From the other town.

Yes. It's Zmigród. Yes. And the second day sitting in jail. In the morning, the German police is coming. Opening the door, comes in. I knew the guy very well. I don't remember exactly the name. And he speaks to me in German and says to me, what you were thinking? That we were hanging already? That we finish already? You run away. But we got you back. Tomorrow morning, you're going to be shot.

Then he asked me, you know who is going to kill you? I don't answer. Then he tells me. He asked me, you know the policeman [? Klien? ?] I said yeah, I do. He is the one going to kill you. No answer. Left the door. Go away. My sister was in the other door. I just could communicate with her if I went to the window. And I just talk out and she could hear me.

What is the news? I told her the news. This was here. Tomorrow morning we're going to get killed. And this was going on like this for about a week. Everyday they come, they told me the story.

During this week it was in Zmigród. He was a relative for me. His name was Leo Rosner with his mother Esther and a sister Malko. And another couple people from Zmigród, they were hiding also. And the Pole would used to give them til he told him that yesterday they caught Mordechai They caught him in the forest and he sits in the jail. As they decided there's no use for them to sit there if they caught me already. So they went by themselves. And they gave himself up. And they came into jail.

When they came into jail, there's Leo Rosner. He was younger from me. He was probably 9, 10 years old. The sister was two years older.

The mother tells me, Mordechai from today on you going to be his father. And this was relative who lived door by door. Every day they brought in somebody else to jail, they caught. Here another one. Here another.

Finally after two weeks, we were already a nice couple of people. Came a truck. They picked us up and they board us to Jaslo. To the jail in Jaslo. Jaslo was one of the biggest jails from the whole surrounding area. It was, I assume there was 10 floors. Very, very big jail.

That brought us to Jaslo. Before you went in, you had to register and you had to take everything out whatever you had. I was the last. Whatever I have, I took it out. And later they ask, you have any more? I said I don't have.

They just start to search me. They found by me \$100. When they find by me \$100, then they start the beatings. They use. They beat me up. They was impossible.

They put my hand between an iron door till I dropped on the floor. And I dropped on the floor, they was thinking that I'm dead already. But I was not dead. I couldn't take it. I dropped on the floor. Then I was laying like this and they picked me up. And they brought us up on the sixth floor. And they opened the door from one of the cells. And they told me, in. And I was on the floor.

Who was beating you?

This was Polish and German police.

Both?

Both. Yes. And I was inside in this jail on the floor. And I looked around. There were more people there. Are few what came with me. The woman were separate. And we were separated. And I was laying. Was coming to me, a man with a beard. And with a cane in the hand. And he asked me--

First of all when I looked around with who I am here. I knew what is going to be the end already. Because all of them were old people. Most of them were old people. The man asked me what is your name in Yiddish? And I said is my name is Motker. And he tells me, [NON-ENGLISH] what is your Jewish name? I said it again.

And he says your name is Mordechai. Your name is in Jewish, Mordechai. From today on, your name is Mordechaii. Good. Then I ask him, could I know who are you. Then he tells me, I am rabbi. Kalisz rabbi. The name is [? Juno ?] [? Halbestain. ?] I am rabbi from Kalisz An older man. Very thin with a cane, limping on one leg.

This was my description in that time when I saw him. Then he introduced me in. He says this is a Rabbi [? Mela ?] [? Rubin ?] from Jaslo, tall man. And then he said to me, this is my son-in-law. The Jaslo rabbi has a son-in-law that I don't know his name. Then were other people over there in this jail besides.

All together during this time, I assume, we were in one room maybe 30 or 35 people. Now the situation in this room was terrible. The sanitation thing was terrible. There was one corner, which was a pail. And you have to go to this pail.

Food was a piece of bread in the morning and soup. And not everybody ate because was not kosher. A whole day, you know, these rabbi I knew who they are. I talked to this rabbi of Kalisz a lot. Because he used to ask me what I was learning in cheder, where I went, what I [NON-ENGLISH] what kind of [NON-ENGLISH]. And he knew this. I knew. My conversation with him the whole time was about Torah. And there was other people which-- and some people did not care about it.

This was going on every day in the morning. By 6 o'clock in the morning. When they were coming to the door and the were knocking, the guards from jail was knocking in the door. Everybody had to stay by the door lined up.

And they make one of the jail off this particular room, he was the chief of the thing. Is when they open the door, the man has to tell him, is so many so many prisoners is here. First he had to tell them good morning, captain-- whatever rank is. And then you have to tell him so many so many prisoners is here. And after this, one has to take these they pail with the garbage out. They gave in the bread and they close off.

This was going on for a couple of weeks. Then one of the days that Gestapo came. The German Gestapo came. And they took us all out in the corridor.

And then he went around. He ask everybody what kind of profession you have. Now they asked me what kind of profession you have. I told him I was working by the field for Emit Ludwig. [? By ?] Everybody.

They ask everybody what it is. Come to the rabbi. Ask him what you are. He said, I am a rabbine. No. And he said he's a rabbine. Then they start the hitting. Then I cannot tell you. Cannot. No words. He had to run from one corner to the other one in this hallway. Very big hallway. He could not run because he was limping.

It was murder. Then they took the other one. Then there was murder. It was a couple hours beating and beating and beating. How these men survive, I don't know this beating. But he survived.

Who was doing the beating?

The German. The Gestapo from Jaslo. Jaslo. Then they went to segregate.

Were you under the impression they were trained to do that?

They don't have to be trained because they all knew this thing. All the Gestapo knew this thing. And they got the lessons to do this thing. All this thing. This is the Gestapo what did the killing in Zmigród. This is the Gestapo what did the killing in all the surrounding towns from Zmigród. This is the Gestapo from the Jaslo. They were the main Gestapo from Jaslo.

They got their orders from the-- was in Jaslo, a [? krie ?] Schutzmannschaft. He was in charge, like the governor. He was in charge on all of this. And he gave them the authorization and they did the job.

Finally they came to segregation. They segregated. They picked up 14 people from all this people. I was the first to pick me up. They picked up most of the young people. I already had the idea what will happen here. Because we knew what they did to the older people.

They picked up about 12 people on the side, young ones. And then I picked up my hand and I said I have a question to this Gestapo. And I told them this. I have a question to ask. He asked me, what do you want to say? Then I said, this young man is my cousin. His name is Leo Rosner. And he was working with me by the [? Fillmore ?] Emit Ludwig [INAUDIBLE] And he is a very strong boy.

When I said this, he had a whip in the hand. He start to whip me. And then he kicked me. And then he told me, take him. And I took him out from here to here with me. And after this, they took us away. They took us away.

The thing isn't working. The time. Go ahead.

They took us away out from the prison to the town Jaslo. They took us to the town of Jaslo. I knew a guy over there, a Polish guy. Which he was in charge of the-- he was working for a German. And he was in charge of all the Jewish furniture, merchandise, because it was no more Jews in Jaslo.

We had to sort it. The clothing with all the stuff. And every day, we went back to jail to sleep with nobody. We had to line up hand by hand and go straight to jail.

As we were going like this every day from here to jail, while I was there we find a lot of stuff because everybody had to hide. You had to take the clothes. Look in the clothes. You find thousands and thousands of dollars, diamonds, all that kind of thing.

Well this particular guy, his name was [? Shpuck. ?] He was a very nice guy. And I knew him from before the war. I was very good friends with him. A lot of time he asked me, could you give me that? I didn't have no need. I gave him plenty of money, plenty stuff.

When I came, we came back to jail, I tried to bribe one of these guards from jail they should let me go to see my sister. Because my sister was there and my friend's mother was there. One of these guys tell me if you're going to be bring me a golden watch. Why. I said, how can I bring you a golden watch. How would I be able to?

OK, finally, I brought in a golden watch and I bribed him and the next day he came in and he took me with my friend and I went to see my sister. And he saw his mother with his sister. And there were more women in this particular room. And this was just one time.

Then we went end of day to work. We come back. The rabbi was still here. They were all happy. And the

rabbi used to tell me, Mordechai, I see the yeshia going to come. I asked him, rabbi, how is the yeshia come? Take a look what they did to you. Take a look. The yeshia going to come.

I was very believer in this particular man. And I believed the yeshia is going to come. Any day, we're going to be liberated. From whom I did not know. But he put in me such a belief. I believe what he told me.

Finally Came Rosh ha-Shanah. They didn't let us out anymore from jail. No. Yes, we did bring out Rosh ha-Shanah. We had to pray. We prayed. We back out from jail. Brought in food, and the rabbi still said you see. We have food, we have everything here. You bring it in everything. Succos he said. We going to have a Succos here in Jaslo by the rabbi. And I was believe what he said. We're going to have a Succos here. In matter of fact, he said bring-- he said you bring in everything today because you going to keep it. We're going to fast.

We used to bring-- I used to bring him in all the food what he could eat. Yes, and then came Yom Kippur Kol Nidrei. Came to Kol Nidrei. We had tallis because I brought in tallis from Jaslo, what the Jews left. Tallis with [? mesalim. ?] And we was praying. And praying and crying and I never saw a Kol Nidrei like this.

Finally the Gestapo came in.

This is at night?

Kol Nidrei night.

Yom Kippur night.

Yom Kippur. Came in, was murder. There was such a beating. It was terrible.

Everybody?

Everybody. And they ripped off the tallis and they took away the [? sitters ?] and they took away the tallasim. Then the beating finish.

Next day, we went back out to work outside again. Come back. Rabbi said, Mordechai, is coming Sukkos We're going to have Sukkos by the rabbi. And I still believe it. And I tell him, rabbi, look. But he says, we still alive. We still alive.

Finally one day I came back. Nobody was there.

How long after Yom Kippur was this?

This was the second day of [? Chol Hamoed ?] sukkos. I came back. Nobody was there. I asked the guards, he said to put him in another room. OK, but you didn't have another choice. Next day in the morning, we went back to work. We 16 people. I saw this guy, [? Shpuck ?] and I tell him, [? Shpuck, ?] nobody is inside. He said I wanted to tell you something. [? Shpuck ?] is a Pole. He was working for the German, but he was in charge of us.

I tell him, I say nobody is here. He says I wanted to tell you. This yesterday morning, all the people in jail including your sister, they took them to the forest of Warzyce and they all got killed. If you don't want to believe me, I'm going to take you to a place and you're going to open the door, and you're going to recognize the clothing what your sister were wearing. And you are going to recognize the clothing what the rabbi was wearing. And the rabbi was wearing clothes which a rabbi in Poland was wearing. He had a tallis coat and a special one. You'll recognize everything.

What he said, he brought me to a room. I opened the door, I went in with my friend Leo Rosner. When I opened the door, I found the clothing from my sister, the clothing from the rabbi. He find a clothing for his mother, and he also painted picture. His mother had a picture with her with his sister.

In her pocket.

And we find this. What can I tell you. Crying, screaming. You could not cry anymore because you didn't have any more tears. Is we had in our mind that this is the [? yuletide, ?] and this is the killing, and this is a forest, but I did not know what was going on in this forest. That so many people is in the forest. That someday I will be able to find a grave. Because I didn't know.

And after this, a couple days later, when they killed them, we could not go. They did not let us out any more from jail. So we had impression that this is going to happen to us. The same thing.

A couple later morning, came a small little truck.

[COUGHING]

Excuse me.

With two guards. We went on the truck, and we was going. And a few of us wanted to jump to truck. Yeah, they said as we go into this forest. And we were going and going and finally we arrived in another town, Krosno In the front of a police station, they came out from over there, the German Gestapo. And they told us to get off on the train. And this guy, he looked on us and tells--

Go down from the train?

Going down from the truck.

No the train?

No. He looked of us and says is German that we all still good for work. What this means, we didn't know. They told us to go back on the truck. and the truck went away. And we arrived to a train station in Krosno.

Coming to the train station there was a couple wagons, cattle wagons. The doors open. And they told us to go on the train, come on the train. The Jews bringing from other places. From Dukla, from Krosno from all down that were working in certain places. And this was the end which they assembled all the Jews from these places to the camps.

Well, I found that cousin over there in particular in this place. And I told my cousin, I told him the story that I was in a concentration camp in Kraków. And I ran away. And I assume that this train goes back to Kraków. In the way I said, this happened. This train was a couple hundred people bringing us back to Kraków. But not to the camp. To another place, which the name is [? Vola ?] [? Duhotska, ?] which this place-- they were building over there a big hall for locomotive to fix.

And the guy in charge of this building was a Pole. His name was Boris. He was a very nice man.

This is the end of 1942? When are we now?

This is the end of 1942.

Because it was after the main holidays.

Yeah, this was the end of 1942. And we came over there to [? Vola ?] [? Duhotska ?] and we was working over there. Everybody work by certain other things. Matter of fact, in one of these guards over there. He was a guard from the train. His name was [? Folska. ?] He used to speak Polish and also German. He was an invalid. He had one hand. But he was still in the uniform with a gun here. And he used to come in to say sometimes good words. And we were thinking that he is maybe one of the good people.

He used to come in, he used to say in German, I would say In English, that after the rain, comes the song. In Polish, a better expression. We had a lot of trust in this guy.



But one day he decided there were a few small children. He decided to take all the small children into this place that we were building. It was a hall there, and he shot all the children.

How many?

Maybe five, six. they were small children. I did not see it. But this-- we knew from this camp. The children were no more there. Is after a couple of days, this place, they brought us back in to Julag I one where I was.

In Płaszów?

In Płaszów. And I got back together with my brother, which he was still in Płaszów. And my friend, Leo Rosner had his father over there. Now, I gave him over to his father. Because till now I was the father. I gave him over to his father.

And we used to go every day to this [? Vola Duhotska ?] out of work. Was from Julag was a couple kilometer to there, and we used to go every day there to work.

You walked?

Walk. Walk with guards over there. But the Julag, the Kommandant from the Julag was at that time Miller. He was from the SS, Gestapo, and he had other one from the Gestapo. Which I cannot recall the names. He was a tall man. Very, very rough guy. He killed many people in this camp. Many people.

As matter of fact, he killed one of my Landsman. Yeah, his name was [? Shapseh. ?] [? Shapseh ?] [? Hager. ?] He came from Zmigród with me together. But he was limping on a leg, but they didn't see that he was limping. Otherwise they would kill him before. And he was on the train rack over there selling certain things. And Miller came up. He saw he was limping. He shot him on the place.

Then he shot on other people in the day. He shot one that was his mate. He was running on the horses with him. He was a killer.

His mate?

He had a Jew, which this Jew took care of his horse. He had a horse. He killed many of the Jewish people.

Miller?

Miller. Finally, yes, after finally came 1943. We were in Julag. The typhus broke out in Julag. I got sick on the typhus. We were, I estimate, about 400, 500 people who had the typhus in one room.

How many were in Julag altogether?

It was a few thousand.

It was a considerable percentage of the--

Yes. The typhus was a terrible sickness. Temperature run very, very high. We were laying. There was no medication. There was nothing. You just need water to drink because the temperature was very high. And all of kind of rumors came. I just know I was laying and one day, they said they're going to close up the whole camp because this is a disease they wouldn't let out. All kind of rumors what happened. I just remember I was laying in the room. He was coming over to me. And I saw my brother was staying by the window. He looked at me.

And came over to me a doctor. I knew this doctor. His name was Dr. Margulies. With glasses. A nice man. And he came over to me and another one, a German. He came over to me and he took my hand and he tells me like this. He called me by the second name, Findling. Findling, I'm going to give you an injection. Or you're going to live or you're going to go another world.

He gave me the injection and I fall to sleep. I did not know for nothing till the next morning. I woke up. I woke up. I saw the windows were open. And they were throwing out people. Most of them died. They are throwing out people. I was laying. I was little bit probably better. I don't know what happened. Why I got there. Went through.

I had over there three Landsman mine. Very very strong people, they died from this. I was laying another couple of days. My brother came in. He said come out, otherwise it's going to be no good. I couldn't even walk. They took me out to my barrack. And every day in the morning. Two people used to take me, one by this end, one by this end. They used to bring me this couple [? mice ?] to the [? Vola Duhotska. ?]

Yeah and I was sitting in the side over there. This Pole, Boris, he knew from this thing is the sick people. He put inside to peel potatoes. Little while till I came a little bit better. Then I got sick on the dysentery. Got dysentery. I had to go back into this particular place. The dysentery was murder. You couldn't have nothing. There's no medication. They gave you peels like coal. Black coal. Didn't help you nothing. And screaming. It was terrible thing.

Eventually, everything went all away. I got still alive. I went back to work. Then my brother got sick on typhus again. Then he went out. Then one day, the whole group from the [? Vole Duhotska] they didn't let us out more to work. They brought us up to the other camp in Kraków. We should call this Płaszów Jerozolimska. At this Płaszów Jerozolimska, the main Kommandant was Goeth.

That's Amon Goeth?

Goeth, he was-- I particularly didn't know him. I saw him once riding on the horse with a shotgun. I just know he was a cruel man. He killed a lot of people. There was a certain place on this camp which they called [? Jurovagula. ?] Is they brought the people over there and they killed, they shot them for sport. He did a lot of thing over there.

Over there was like a real concentration camp. Yes. We didn't go out to work. We work in the camp. Certain things. I was over there a couple months. And after a couple months, my brother come up to the camp.

They took the whole Julag and they brought them up to this camp. I went to see my brother. He came into my barrack. And I said to my brother, don't go back. Remain here with me. But he was very frightened. He says, no, I have to go back to my group. He went back to his group. In a couple hours I heard that the whole group, they're sending them out from this camp. Didn't know where. I went myself voluntarily to the place. I wanted to go with them. Pole, they didn't let me anymore. And they went away. I find out later that's to send away to Skarzysko-Kamienna, him. He died.

Where's Skarzysko-Kamienna?

In Poland.

Is that the name of a town?

This is the name of the camp.

The camp. Where was it.

This is the name of the town over. Name of the camp. I assume it is not far away from Kraków some place.

How far from Kraków?

Not too far. I don't know, exactly. It's not too far. He was in this camp. I just knew after the war which people told me, my Landsman that he got sick of pneumonia. He couldn't talk anymore and he died.

His wanting to go back to his group. He was in--

His group came up from Płaszów to Jerozolimska. He came with a group of people. Yes. And he was in a certain place in this place.

He was sick at the time?

No. He was not sick. He got sick in Skarzysko.

But he also had typhus.

Yeah, typhus. Recovered. Recovered from typhus.

So he was with his group.

He was with his group. He has recovered and typhus. He died in 1944 of pneumonia.

After a couple months, I was still in Płaszów Jerozolimska. My whole group, they closed us up in this particular camp. They didn't let us out for I think a couple of days.

This is 1943.

1943.

And later they said we're going to go. In the time when I was working, one they said well rumor is that Himmler has to come into the camp. And this is going to be the day they going to decide what's going to happen with the camp. They're going to kill everybody or they're going to send the people to work. This was just rumors.

I know my group was working. They took us for two days. Later they took us out. And they told us that we going by train to Czestochawa. They give everybody a bread with other things. And we were about 500 people. But we did not believe. Because they always said a lot of things and come out different. Finally we went on the train.

We were going on the train. I don't remember how long. For a couple of day till we arrived to Czestochawa. It was almost nighttime when we arrived to Czestochawa, they open the cattle doors. And there were guards over there, and they start to beat us.

One German came. His name was, maybe his name was I think Miller. Yeah, he was in a yellow uniform. He was from the SR with the swastika. And he start to say to the guys not to beat us because we come to work here. And he stop to beat us.

And he talked to us and he said that we here now in Czestochawa. And this is factory. What the name was Warta. They were making linen over there and we going to turn this factory over to ammunition factory.

Finally, the 500 people. One of the 500 they make in charge of the 500. His name was [? Jolis ?] always also from Kraków. He was a German Jew speaking good English. He was in charge of this.

English?

He speak good German. I'm sorry. He was in charge in the beginning of the 500. And there was a kitchen. There were barracks for us to sleep. Just men. And our work was, in that time, we took out the machinery from this place and this place and brought in machinery to make ammunition.

I want to get two spellings. You went by train. It sounded like you said, to "Cheznahov."

Czestochawa. Correct.

Czestochawa. With a T or with an N?

Like, I wrote it down. C-Z- in Polish you write like this.

That's C-Z-E-S

No. E-S-T. O-C-H.

So there's no N.

No. Czestochawa. I wrote down Czestochawa Hasag. They gave the name Hasag. And the reason for Warta because the war there was running. But this factory was named Warta Is the name of this.

Your brother died of pneumonia in what camp was that?

Skarzysko-Kamienna. I wrote this down here, too. Skarzysko some place.

Is that Czestochawa?

This is Czestochawa. Yes.

All right so let's make sure we have your brother's camp.

No, he wrote down Skarzysko.

All right. So you're in Czestochawa. You're working at the Warta Werk.

At the Hasag Warta werk. Like it says. Hasag Warta Werk. Yeah.

All right. How long did you work there?

Well, I worked there from 1943 till 1945. So you were there until liberation.

Till liberation, yes. Now, during this time, during this time they brought many more Jewish people to this place. We were one time a couple thousand people. In this Warta Werk They brought people from the Łódź ghetto. They brought people from forgot what is the name is. They brought people from a lot of places. We was a couple thousand people over there. In Hasag.

But in Czestochawa, was another three other camps also with Jews besides this one.

Yeah. You arrived at Czestochawa. It looks to me like we're talking about the summer of '43.

Of '43. I don't know if was the summer. Maybe a little bit later than the summer.

So you are in Czestochawa for about a year and a half until liberation. Til January.

That's right, til January. That's right. Yes.

How did that year and a half go by?

The camp by it self was not too bad. Food was no problem.

How come? I heard it was so terrible.

Well not in Czestochawa. In Czestochawa we had food. There was bread. They gave us bread and they gave us soup. And in the beginning we were working with Poles, too. And some times, everybody found a Pole which he brought in a piece of bread.

How was it? How is it that suddenly?

Happened. Like I said, not everybody was like this. Happened. Happened. I don't think there was in Czestochawa was any problem with food. I don't think it was any problem. There was food. Particularly, I did not have no problem with food.

And the routine was pretty normal? Was pretty regular. A year and a half of work.

I have work. You work every day.

They needed your work.

Yes, every day. You work from in the morning til the night. And at night there was a different shift. Sunday I think a half a day. I don't remember exactly. Later they brought in men, and women, too was from other places.

And the chief of this place, his name, German ISS man. His name was Barton Schlager.

Schlager.

Barton Schlager. He was a German.

Barton Schlager.

He was the one what took or kill most of the Jews from all the surrounding towns like Czestochawa, Radom, all the towns.

He killed them? He was in charge of the killing.

He was in charge of them. This was they spoke about it.

When I arrive in Czestochawa he was not bad. He always used to go around with two dogs. We were 500 people and the [? Kolac. ?] [? The Kolac, ?] Mongolian. 500 Mongolian. Because we were the first 500 in Czestochawa, and he had a lot of belief in us. Because we did a lot of work in there.

Did you have any idea of what was happening in the war?

In what? In the war?

What was happening in the war outside the camp?

Sometimes we did have. Like for instance, when the Italian army, the Italian army, you know--

Surrendered.

Surrendered. Then we got terrible beatings. It's all the time when something happened, particularly, they used to let out to us.

But the big news was on the Russian front.

Well on the Russian front we did not know too much. We didn't know too much. Maybe some people had connections. I did not know too much.

So you were really cut off from the world.

Yes. Cut off from the world. I remember one time in this particular camp in Czestochawa I had a bread, which I bought this by Pole. You still have some money? I take of pants, you mingle. Yes, I had the bread.

And I had it underneath of my shirt. It was a last Sunday morning. He and I was working. And a guard, Ukrainian guard, saw this. I have something else. I called me over. And he find by me a bread. And the bread was a warm bread. He asked me where do you got this bread? Then I told him this bread is what they gave to us. He said, they don't give you warm bread. They give you old bread.

Finally, I saw I am in a big problem. And he says, OK, he went to the barber shop to get a shave. In the barber shop was Jewish barbers in this camp. I figure he's going to take me over there, maybe they will be able to talk him out, he should let me free.

He didn't want to let me free. He brought me back to the station, and I had the idea that if this Barton Schlager going to come, he's going to see me. And he going to kill me on the spot. Finally, he came. And he saw me. And he looked on me. He asked me from where I am. And I told him I from the 500 from the Mongolian from Kraków.

As he left me, he did not kill me. But I was still in jail in Czestochawa til I'm going to tell them where I got this bread.

All right, we'll have to stop here because we're running out of tape.

Running out of the tape. Well, we almost finish.