

Good morning. I'm Bernard Weinstein, director of the Kean College oral testimonies project on the Holocaust. Assisting me this morning is Robert Melworm. And we are pleased to welcome Charles Levine. Mr. Levine.

My name is Charles Levine. I was born in Poland June 15, 1915. My family was seven brothers in Europe and one sister.

Where did you live in Europe, Mr. Levine?

In August³w.

In what country?

Poland. That is Bialystok, the state of Bialystok.

My father was a fisherman. He used to make a living what he used to catch the fish. It was not easy. When we grow up, every two years was a child born. When you start to go in school, It happens that four children was in school in the same time. It wasn't a free school. It was very hard to pay the tuition. But till we grow up. The oldest one start to work when he was 15, 16. He used to work even with my father.

And you couldn't get education, because to go in high school you have to pay. The school you have to pay. You have to buy all the books. Sometime I didn't even have books. I used to listen to somebody when they asked me the first question. I didn't know was asked me the question. When I heard or I know what is going on and to answer the question.

And after the years, when we grow up and more of my brothers start to work. And you saw -- We was very happy. There was no food for us to eat.

Were you the youngest in your family?

I am the youngest in the family. And the oldest one came to the United States in 1923. He was married. He left his wife in Europe with a son. After five years, they came to the United States in 1928. Till my brother died 20 years ago. His son is alive. His mother died. His mother-- his son used to be a teacher. The last year he was teaching in Old Bridge until he retired. Some of my brothers was married.

I told you I was drafted to Polish army. I went out from the Polish army in '37. And in '39, the war come out, the first one. That happened, I think, in September. The Russian attacked Poland. And a German attacked Poland. They split Poland in two, half took the German. And half Poland took the Russian.

I was drafted when the war came out in the Polish army. And out of the war The Polish army was the most on horses. No planes. No trucks. A rifle and a horse. 50% from the army. The other one used to walk.

When the German attacked Poland and they split, five days, the war was finished. And in those days I was in a city, Baranovichi. And I was waiting to go home from there to my town. 4 or 5 hours by train. And the Polish conductor, what his [INAUDIBLE] engineer from the trains, went out and he calls in Polish anybody who wants to go to Bialystok, Grodno, to go to these wagons.

And there was a couple of thousand people from the war, They -- Everybody wants to run. You don't know where to go. Woman, children, everybody was there.

And we went to the wagons. And this was not for people. That was from the horses. And the one wagon went in maybe 100 people or more. Then we expect to come home. I was in the Polish uniform. So after all --

They lock the doors. They closed the doors. How do you see. We couldn't see. Is no windows. Only like from the shine. You look out, you see soldiers by the doors. And they took us to Russia from Poland. Everybody who was there.

Soldiers, policemen, officers.

And I will go in with a train 5, 6 hours, 10 hours, and he didn't stop. And nobody knows where we're going.

Four days it was going, four days and four nights. And the train stopped. They opened the doors. And you see Russian soldiers. Automatic machines, stays about 50 feet from us. They say, everybody goes out from the wagons. We don't know what is going on. Everybody's hungry. No water. We went out. There was a couple of thousand people.

And they start, they open the drums, wooden drums. It's salt, salted fish. Was not herring, no. There was skin and a lot of salt on this. Everybody got a fish. It's [INAUDIBLE] you know, and the salt, no water. And after everybody was eating with the salt with it, no bread, nothing. They told us to go back in the wagons. It was going another four days and four nights. Deep in Russia. A couple thousand miles over Moscow. We came there.

What time of year was this?

1939.

But what month, do you know? Was it winter? or was it?

This was in September, October.

And we came there. The train stopped. We didn't see nothing only like a [INAUDIBLE]. You know, like, you don't see no houses. They put us again 10 in a row, you know, thousands of peoples. We was walking. Till we came. It took us all day. We came there. Was maybe there 15-20,000 people, all kind of people. You know.

Wasn't no food. They had military kitchens for the soldiers. Well, wasn't enough, food enough, to have everybody to get some little soup or something like water.

And it was there they cut us off the hair, you know. And we don't know what is going on. Why they took me here? The war is finished. Nobody knows. Til later on, you know.

You believed all through this time that the war was already over and that--

--that was before the Germans. See--

--the Russians had won.

Russian occupied told you 50% from Poland. And it wasn't at war with them. We didn't fight with them. Nobody understood. What happened? And after a couple weeks being there, people start to get typhus. Doctors comes, they give a needle.

And there was a registration. Anybody who belongs under the Russian they would send back home. And I was go, I was there to stay in line till they call me. And I told him where I was born, where I live. And he looks in their maps. He said, this is under the German. And I said, no my town is under the Russian. I told him on the map I live here and here is the German. The border is between my town and another town. And he didn't listen to me. He chased me out.

And we came everybody who was not registered, we came back to the same-- there was there in the concentration in this.

Do you know what town you were in Russia?

There was no town. There was no town, was no village. Nobody was there. Only the people that they took by train. Then I am back in the same place to where I am, where I was before, you know.

Then after a couple of weeks, a second registration. At town in Poland what belongs, what used to be under Poland, Vilna, used to belong to Litva. And they said, anybody who was born and they stay there like Vilna, out of Vilna, goes back to Litva. They give [INAUDIBLE] a present to belong to Litva.

So I was smart, and I went there, and I registered I was born there. And before the war, I was there a few times in the city. And they asked me, what street. I gave him a street, a number, and back after this registration, we wait another couple weeks.

And they wake us up, they say, tomorrow you're going back to Kovno, Litva, Vilna. Belong everything. You walk to the train. Not woman, not children. It was Polish officers. The first transport was they took-- the reason was they took me I didn't know. In those days, Stalin was. They took all the officers, all the police.

Oh, they see intelligent people. And one of my neighbors was in the Polish Army and he was officer. When he's going back home, I say to him, you give my regards to my family. And then you'll see me. And he said, I will do it. He was a Polish teacher with a college education. You became officer when you drafted to the army.

Then the second transport, I go into Vilna. After four days and four nights, the train stops, and I see it was nighttime. A big sign in Polish, Baranovichi. The same place where they took me. From there, they took me to Russia. And I said, the train stopped to take some water over. And I went to the door. I went to jump and go out.

There was two Russian soldiers. They say to me. Where I'm going, I say. I want to drink water. Say you can't go out. Said just wait, you know. I went back. Those trains was for people. They had their door in back and their door from both sides, you know.

I went in back. There was nobody. No soldiers, very dark. I opened the door, and I jumped. I was in a Polish uniform, a Polish coat. All from the war, you know. The Polish uniform and everything. And I start to walk.

I came into town. And I see a man is walking on the street, and I stopped him. And I think he was a Jewish man. I told him the story from where-- he took me to his house. He took away my uniform. He gave me a pants, a jacket, a shirt. He said, you stay in my house a couple of days. Till everything the train will go away, you know?

And he said, you can go. You don't have any money. I said, no. He gave me some Polish money to buy a ticket, and I came home.

And when I came home, the ration was in my town already. After the war, about 3 or 4 months. The people are registered as they go into work. You having a passport, a working passport. But you couldn't be a businessman before the war. Otherwise, They took over the business people they sent in. a [INAUDIBLE] Russians superior. Zionists, all the people, you know.

When I came home, they made me a passport. But the Russian [INAUDIBLE] there where they used to going. and I start to go to work. And I go to see my neighbor, was only a house from me, to see if he's home. He never came home. They all got killed. All the officers. In those days, Stalin killed about 60-70,000 Polish officers, police. That was in 1939.

And these were the same people on the train that you had been on?

Yes. No, no, no. They chased me out. The other train what I was went farther. I jumped from the train in Baranovichi. They took the other-- the train what took me to go to Vilna, to Litva. Is far away. And I came home.

I was working. I got a job in a restaurant, with a Russian. All my brothers was working. And we made a living, but it was not, it was not a picnic. Every day, you have to go to meetings. They're making the parades, you have to go in the parade. If you don't go in the parades, you get arrested. If you don't come to work or you're late to work-- you doesn't pick a job for yourself in those days. I don't know what is now.

They gave you a job to work and you worked it. And they are telling you, that I am the owner from this factory. I'm a partner in this factory. The Russian. They are educated officers. We was living quiet as you get used to them, you know. Till 1939, the German attacked Russia.

You mean 1941?

Yeah, 1941. In 1941. From '39 til '41. June the 22nd.

How were you treated by the Russians as a Jew? Was there antisemitism?

There was not, no. There was not anti-Semite. There was a lot of high rank Jewish officers. They came, they sent from Russia and the effect, it was mixed, you know.

What did your father do during this time? You said he was a fisherman.

Yeah.

Did he continue to work as a fisherman--

Yes.

-- under the Russians?

Yes. But they took the control. Whatever they catch the fish, they used to get wages.

Were you allowed, under the Russians, to practice your religion and--

It was not allowed.

--observed?

--but you used to go. When I worked and the Jewish holidays comes, I used to change with the Polish to work for me for the Jewish holidays. And I worked for him. I took off for Christmas. I worked for him Christmas-time. There in the Russia, the calendar is not like seven days. There are five days. Five days you work, and the six days is [INAUDIBLE]. Holidays. Not a holiday like you take a rest day.

And you work, the Russian -- The Russian people get better, you know. When you work a couple day, a couple years with them or a year you get a week vacation. But what they told you all the factories belongs to everybody. Work, work it, it's true in that way you know? That is the life.

They was born there under Stalin, and they have to do what he says. He was the most butcher, a dictator, in those days. He killed the most intelligent people from Russia, he killed them. You know. When Trotsky, he send him out. Or, he got a chance to go out. He came to Mexico. He sent somebody to kill him. And now that's his end.

In 1941, June the 22nd, people who went to sleep. It was on Saturday night through Sunday morning, they bombed the city. You know, it was something you woke up, you know, it was unexpected. The German is already in the city. And we couldn't even go out in the street. [INAUDIBLE] the phones are you still when you had the German you had the Polish people from the resistance, you know. And it started very bad. All the stores was confiscated. Everything what you have, they took away.

They -- I told you before. After a couple of weeks, you know, they made a registration. Everybody from 13 years and over by the city hall go to register. If you don't go register, they will shoot you. But we took a chance, you know. My two brothers, went there -- married, they never came back.

We still was four brothers in the house with my sister and parents. After a couple weeks, they send out of town. Two, three miles. It was gentile people living. Very small houses, one room and a kitchen. They send him out. They came in town. And we went from the town to live there. In a one room and a kitchen they put two or three families. It was eight of the family, four children. Five children was 10, 12 children. One room, one kitchen.

They did this only to the Jews?

Yeah. We went out, they put us in a ghetto. They close the ghetto around to let-- not electric.

But --

The wires.

Barbed wire.

And who was the guards there? They used to call them Volksdeutsche He's a half Pole and a half Deutsch. He could speak German. They themselves went to get the jobs. They used to watch us.

When they need people to work, they took us through the city. Like, you know, there was warehouses where the Jewish people had before from food. But they used to sell to the smaller business. And we went with them. They bring us back.

We was living like this, you know from '41, '42, till November the 2nd. Before that they gave everybody prepared some food for the winter. Like vegetables, carrots, potatoes, beets, all kind. Everybody-- nobody expected something quick. We stay here the winter. Meantime maybe the war will be finished. Everybody was happy. After that everybody got their food. Everybody was--

It was November the 2nd. They waked up everybody. Put the children, women, the mothers-- we don't know where they're going. You couldn't take anything with you. They was walking, it was maybe 4 o'clock in the morning. We went out, it was 6:00-7:00. We came there, it was already dark. A lot of people couldn't make it. I had some food. I throw it away. I couldn't carry this.

When we came there, it was concentration. Is still not far from the city Grajewo. They called this, [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]. Between the German and Polish. When I came there was more than 10,000 people. Same thing. They're most women and children. Not too many pay. There was already a Judenrat.

We'd have to go register. Everybody register. There was no food to eat. When the horse died, they gave their horse to the kitchen for meat.

They deliver potatoes. Children, boys, girls, 4-5 years, they went to grab a potato. A potato. SS men used to stay and throw potatoes. The children would run after to grab a potato. He used to stay with the gun and shoot it.

You saw this?

Yeah. Yeah. Yes. Everybody used to have a card to get up however how big the family to get some bread, you know, there was a store. And he opened a kitchen. Used to cook there for the people. But every day, of all those people. There was a lot of doctors that said, with this food what we live, we can't live long. Even if they don't kill you, you will die. You know, according, there was no fat, no milk.

You know, everything was made of soup of water and some piece of something what they cook there. And there was a lot of problems. You don't know what will happen. Every day, 50 people are dead. The older people, they're most older people. We made a big grave over time. It wasn't a separate. Everybody died. Put in the grave.

Was it mostly from starvation or was it a disease?

You know, sickness, starvation.

Typhus?

Typhus. The doctor was no medicine. There was twelve doctors. They couldn't go out. The doctors were surprised. One doctor said to me, what will happen, will happen. My father was a tailor. I used to help him before I went to college. So whatever I do, I will be a tailor or what work. But it didn't happen like this. After a short time, you know, they making registrations.

Transporters go into work. About 6,000 people. Families. No husbands. A woman with children. They don't know what to do to go on the first transport or the second. After the registration, me and my brothers had went. My sister didn't went. The first transport It was a lager, not lager, it was Treblinka. Treblinka. There, I don't know how far was it from. Was still in Poland, I think. And there the people, they didn't select people to work.

When a transport came, I said, dump him, you know. And they get killed. And I've had a couple hundred Jewish people walk by this. They used to burn, burn in the fire [INAUDIBLE]. Before this, you know, that's happened.

Before this, they took out you-- a lot of people had golden teeth in Europe. They took out the teeth. It was, they cut a women the hair. What they did, I don't know.

The second, that's the second transport they left over, everybody goes. A lot of people was laying. Was no beds, you know. Just wake on the ground. Couldn't work. And this is people you left.

And a daughter asked the SS to shoot her father. He was sick. He couldn't talk. He didn't walk. Since she gave him something to shoot him from far away. She couldn't-- she said it's better if he will be dead, whatever they do.

The second transport came. That was December, the last week after Christmas. And we you came in Auschwitz, Birkenau Auschwitz. For five-- 5,000 or 4,000. I didn't count. I don't know, but it was packed every train.

They stopped the train. Everybody goes out. We see the Gestapo and says, wait, we don't know who's there. I said, what a lot of them. Big, big dogs. And there was a selection. They take one here, one here, one here, one here.

They took from my transport what I came in Auschwitz about 200 boys men. Not only from my town. From all them, was mixed, not only in the ghetto, in the concentration where I was in Grajewo was not-- all these people from every town was mixed together. And we came there.

They took out about 200 woman, young, and about 200 men they had. The woman was separate, the men were separate. The other peoples they took on trucks. Families. And all the luggage what you had was there. They said, when you'll be there. You'll get your luggage. In the house where you'll be located. But it never happened.

They took them to -- It was not crematoriums in those days. They kept them on the trains. It was a little house.

And they used to gas there 500-600, 400 at a time. An out-of-sight, out-of-sight, deep in the ground was working. There was the crematorium. There was fire.

And the dead bodies they used to throw there. They used to burn them. The crematoriums they start to build in 1943. Came specialists from Germany, engineers. The bricks came from Germany. White, every brick was the difference.

1-S, 2-S, 3-S. 3-S goes on the bottom from the crematorium and the ovens. They keep the heat. The other one goes on the top. And on the trains came with the bricks. I was there. I worked there. They took me and another three people. Four. Take off 60,000 or 70,000 in a couple hours.

If you couldn't walk so fast, was a German, a couple, got killed. Oh, you don't get a piece of bread. And they start in those days, in 1943, start to build the crematoriums. And they was built in a short time.

When the crematoriums were built, was three or four, I don't know exactly. Maybe it was four. The crematorium used to work 24 hours. 24,000 people were killed in a day and night.

And who was working there? Our people. A brother recognized his sister. He recognized his father was there. After, when he was-- the crematoriums were so big like this building. Was no windows. Was no pipes. When we -- when the people came there, all the families, I said, you'll have to take your bath. But the women, children, and men, all together go inside.

Where were your parents and the other members of your family?

What?

Where were your parents and the other members of your family? Were they in Auschwitz also?

They took them in the trucks. My sister, the parents.

They gassed them?

Me and three brothers were selected to work. So we came. In those days, it was not too many blocks you know. And we were, we would have to go to work.

They took us together a shower. They took away all the clothes from us. And they give us some clothes. Those what they gave us was in stripes. And before them, you know, they put a number, a big number on the--

Can you--

85,719.

Can you hold it up a little bit, so-- I don't know if we can see it on the camera. Yeah. Raise, can you raise your arm a little? Higher? Yeah. OK. I think we can see it.

85,719. And three brothers after me had the next numbers.

And your sister and parents?

No. They went in crematorium. We didn't know. But later on, you know, there was not-- when we came it was only they were killed. with gas.

Those crematoriums that they built were tremendous, very big. Was a big door from metal, steel. You opened the door, and everybody-- they hit, the dogs and the SS and everybody told him, you're going. You'll take your shower. When they went in, 4,000 people, they closed the door. And there's no pipes, no water was there to take a shower.

Outside, outside on the ground were little windows. The SS stays with the gas masks. A mask from If you open the window, he threw in, he opened up. A can with gas. And he threw in. 4,000 people he threw in. I don't know. Four or five or six cans like this. And after 50 minutes, everybody's dead.

50 or 15?

15. 15. 10-12 minutes. 15 minutes.

Sometimes the children were still alive. Some children. And in those days when the crematorium was built already, our people they didn't know what kind of jobs they were going. Even if they know, you know, they couldn't help.

They used to take the bodies just like a conveyor put in. Body by body. They took out the teeth. It was a lot of people.

They start to come from foreign countries, Poland, Belgium, French, Greece. Except from Poland. Was not all from Poland. Over time was mixed people.

They took out the teeth. It was when you took solid gold. A lot-- Holland and Belgium, the people used to have-- most of them, all their mouth, all gold. And they took that's was in crematorium. before they put you. After they was dead, you know.

And they had gold. So gold was in the English Goldschmidt. Our people. Professional. They used from those street cleaning, and they used to make a kilogram gold. That was all for those years, you know. And mean time they cut their hair.

And was going from country to country. Like with me and my block. Where I was was 1,000 people. There was no bed. It was like plywood.

10 people, maybe 5 foot. And 5 people sleep. My head on this side. The other 5 people, my feet was in his mouth, and his feet he was in my mouth. We couldn't tell and it was 10 people at night. If one turn, everybody.

Your shoes and everything have to stay in front of you. When we came with better shoes, in the morning it was not there. The block-- that block covered the kapos. They took him away. And the shoes what they used to give us from the dead people, and one was not fit. It was too big and my finger was frozen. The whole figure was frozen on my feet.

And I was living like this every day. Came summertime, all the smoke the crematoriums was not far, maybe 500 feet from the people where I used to live. In those times already, came people from all over. A frau lager, a camp for women. The children. like they came transport from Czechoslovakia. They put-- they made a kindergarten for the children of the teachers. They gave them better food. And it didn't last long.

Later on, they took him. on Saturday night. They took him in the trucks to the crematoriums. They liquidated for [INAUDIBLE]. Where, with me, it was some people was a few rabbis from Greece. They didn't speak Jewish. They speak some Hebrew in Greece.

They were Sephardic.

Right. Beard. Then came to Gestapo, he told them he couldn't see the difference. Who is a Jew? Who is a Greek? You know, you born there. Speak the same language. You look like them. And they was good people.

Then they told the rabbis to write letters to the congregation. We walked in here. Everything is OK. Everybody is alive. And they send the letters to Greek congregations. And later they came. He didn't hide you know. They took out all the Jewish people. So he got killed. Not too many. Not to many after the war was alive.

They got people from Belgium. There was no water. Used to give it-- we used to get every-- when you came from work in the evening, a little black water, white coffee. And if he had a piece of bread, he exchanged. Could give you the piece of bread to give him. He didn't last too long. He was not born in a country like Poland. He was used to the cold weather.

In Poland, the winter start in November, December. Stays still the way it is. Six months, nobody cleans the snow. The legs, the eyes, get a couple feet deep. You know, everything is frozen. The Polish people was used to the weather. From other countries, they was not used to the weather. These people. They don't have winter, I think. I know that is.

And that's what's going and going you know . Every time comes a transport from Poland, comes a transport from Warsaw, comes a transport from Litzmannstadt, Å Å³dÅ° A big, big town, maybe half a million Jewish people. They made a-- a Judenrat. They made their own money for them to buy in the stores for the food for the German. The president-- it was Rumkowski. Rumkowski. They made songs about him.

You can satisfy it, you couldn't satisfy it yourself. The German wants something, you have to give it. He asked 10,000 people, you'll have to give it. Since some people used to come to-- used to say he was not bad. Other people said, no, he was very bad.

They order the liquidation from Litzmannstadt. On the last transport, he came. And the Gestapo what he used to, used to give him all the gold and diamonds from the people, you know. He would do this. When he took everything away, he never see him again.

From the Judenrat Rumkowski, family and friend came with a letter in Auschwitz. And he told him, don't open the letter. Give the letter to one of the Gestapo. And he will take you in a good place to work or whatever. He will take care on this, and that's what happened. They took him over on the -- separately.

Only 40 or 50 people on the truck and took him to give [INAUDIBLE]. So he got killed. They don't want it, to know what happened. They took away everything what he had. Everything. Every couple weeks, they took away the clothes from you. And they give you new ones. You went to take a shower in one place. You go out naked in a different building to get dressed. With other clothes.

I was there and it was summertime I think. There was a registration. So they picked me up to go in another place. I don't know where I'm going. I had a good friend. He died last year, a doctor, Dr. [? Waldman. ?] He was with me in all the concentration camps.

And I went to him and I say, maybe you could leave me here. He said, Charlie. My name was Henry in German. He say, you go. What will happen will happen. We don't know where we will go. And there was, they took maybe 500 people.

But I was born in Poland and this transport there was the destruction from the ghetto in Warsaw. They took maybe a 1,000 or 500 people to work there. To clean up the ghettos. Its was everything bombs. And all the buildings was on fire.

They didn't take all the people was born in Poland. They didn't took me. They said I can't go. And I didn't went. They took people from other countries because they can't speak the language. If people was they speak Polish, they didn't take it.

And I was till December. January 19 45 I was in Auschwitz.

Did you have any work to do there? Did they-- did they put on you forced labor, or did you--

It was not-- it was not production work. They used to take you only out like 5 o'clock in the morning and wake up. You go out. Everybody's stay in line. And the block the block over, he report to the Gestapo SS man, everybody's here.

No, somebody is missing. Somebody is missing, they look for him. If he hides they hang you. sometime somebody didn't went out or he was sick you couldn't go out, they call this, [INAUDIBLE] couldn't you in the military, you have to ever-- they count the people, how many soldiers you have.

In every block was 1500, 1200. Depends how the people are. And they took us a couple miles away, five miles, 10 miles from the camp from Auschwitz for other works, but there was nothing to do. We used to dig [INAUDIBLE] graves. The next day, we covered it. Only to keep the people out.

You know there was no production work. Was no factories. Later on, in 1944, they was looking for people to send to Germany in the factories. Was nobody alive. Was no people. Was everybody was not good enough for well-- everybody was weak already. And that's what happened. And they was looking for people to work in the German factory. There was no people. Was always sick people.

January 18. The Russian army, the American army, they occupied Poland already. They chased the German army closer to closer. There was no room for them to run. They start to bomb the cities. We don't know what's going on. There was-- everybody was up, you know. [INAUDIBLE] when you start to work.

They took us on trains. The train goes 5, 10 miles. It can't go farther. The train is broken. It's bombed. They took us to work in the snow in December. That was in January. The snow was up to here.

A lot of people couldn't work. You shoot him. Assessments stopped. Couldn't work? They put him on a slide and just work in a wagon with horses, you know, winter. After a couple of days, night times they took us. There was no place to go. They took us, it was like by the farmers. But the farmers. That was allotted for the horses. Hay or straws you know.

In the morning when they wake you up, the SS goes in sticks all over. Somebody is not under. Hide. Sometimes was somebody was hiding there. Maybe he wants to run away. They did bargain it on the rifles. They stick their sticks to open up and find him. They killed him. And that's what's happened. It was going till happen.

Then we came to first place where we came to a very concentration camp. Gross-Rosen. There, the camp was like couple hundred feet in the ground. And all around it was electric wires, higher and higher. There was thousands of peoples.

This was an underground camp?

It was it-- not underground, but a couple hundred feet deep. You know, inside. It was big, like mountain. The camp was very low. You couldn't run away from there or you couldn't-- it was-- even in Auschwitz, when somebody ran away, not even a Jew, there was no place to run. Every 10 miles, was so many camps. Wherever you ran, you come to another camp. Again into German.

One from Czechoslovakia ran away. They caught him in Germany in a town. They say, bring him back, and they hang him. Never-- all the people, 20,000 people, went out and we was watching while he was hanged. To show for the people to don't run. That's what happened.

It was such a things you know. The words that I came from the American, American officers. Like pilots what they took in. Some of them got killed, too. You know. They didn't have the same privileges like a war prisoner. We used to see-- across the street it was a camp.

Was it-- they came for the Gypsies from Germany, gypsies. In 1943. Thousands of gypsies but intelligent people. Dressed nice. Whole families. They speak the same language. What happened? The husbands, some of them are in the German army.

After a couple weeks, they took him out from the army, say bring him to Auschwitz to the families. Even they made for him. For those people, they had like a casino. Like a little [INAUDIBLE] vines. It was like white coffee to sell when they keep him. But he didn't last long.

Same thing. They took them in the trucks. They killed them in the thousands. All of them. Who was there got killed. Families. They took out officers from their army. And they bring there. They killed him.

That's happened. Not only 6 million people they killed. They killed another millions of people, innocent people. They got killed.

Later from Gross-Rosen there was, I think, too short all the Russian army or the American. They took us from there on a train. We came in Buchenwald. I don't know I was there.

How long were you in Gross-Rosen?

A couple weeks. Not too long.

And your brothers?

My brothers was dead already. I didn't see him. One of my brothers got sick. When they came from work, they took him to the crematorium. One brother had an operation on a finger, an infection. And a doctor operate for him. That was in Boguszyn in the concentration camp.

That was early.

He still was fresh. They picked him out. They took him to -- I was with them a couple of weeks. That's all.

So at this time, you were totally on your own.

For my town before they killed a thousand men, after the war for my town, from all over, I think is was two or three men went out and one girl. For my town.

They were the total survivors.

Right.

You were one of the three?

That's right for my town. You know. I was sick in 1943. I got typhus. My friend who was Dr. Waldman, he came after the war. He was the United States. [INAUDIBLE] He was a surgeon. Out here, he was a practitioner. He didn't want to go back to college. He was a very good doctor.

They didn't-- a doctor in Auschwitz, you couldn't say doctor. He was a pflieger, like a nurse. But the German doctors used to take lessons from them, surgery. Take on bodies.

They so used to say [NON-ENGLISH] a Jew to be a doctor. For a Jew to be a doctor, it couldn't happen, you know? And they killed the intelligent people. They killed the working people. They killed all innocent people only because you're a Jew.

Mr. Levine, we're going to have to stop for a few minutes.

Yeah.

And we'll continue in a moment.