

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:19,750

2

00:00:19,750 --> 00:00:21,320

Good afternoon.

3

00:00:21,320 --> 00:00:23,590

I'm Bernard Weinstein,
director of the Kean College

4

00:00:23,590 --> 00:00:27,310

oral testimonies project
on the Holocaust.

5

00:00:27,310 --> 00:00:30,340

I am Paul Monka, survivor
of the Holocaust.

6

00:00:30,340 --> 00:00:33,400

7

00:00:33,400 --> 00:00:42,740

I was born in Bedzin, Poland,
which was about 12 kilometers

8

00:00:42,740 --> 00:00:43,910

from the German border.

9

00:00:43,910 --> 00:00:46,900

10

00:00:46,900 --> 00:00:52,910

The presence of Jews in
Bedzin was about 45,000

11

00:00:52,910 --> 00:00:56,190

against a population of 60,000.

12

00:00:56,190 --> 00:01:00,450

Jews lived in Bedzin for
about 500 to 600 years.

13

00:01:00,450 --> 00:01:06,720

It was one of the
oldest cities in Poland.

14

00:01:06,720 --> 00:01:09,810

They were invited by
the King Kazimierz

15

00:01:09,810 --> 00:01:14,100

the Great, who
brought the Jews in

16

00:01:14,100 --> 00:01:19,180

to improve the commerce
and economy of Poland.

17

00:01:19,180 --> 00:01:23,548

And he promised and delivered
full autonomy to the Jews

18

00:01:23,548 --> 00:01:24,090

at that time.

19

00:01:24,090 --> 00:01:27,210

20

00:01:27,210 --> 00:01:31,730

And the Jewish people
lived very comfortably

21

00:01:31,730 --> 00:01:39,490

in this city for this period
until Hitler came to power.

22

00:01:39,490 --> 00:01:45,120

I remember in 1933,
I was a young boy,

23

00:01:45,120 --> 00:01:50,680

and I used to go with
my father to Germany.

24

00:01:50,680 --> 00:01:55,360

We had a trolley car which
went from us to Germany.

25

00:01:55,360 --> 00:01:58,730

It was like an open border.

26

00:01:58,730 --> 00:02:04,310

And I remember that the people
there were very friendly to me.

27

00:02:04,310 --> 00:02:07,310

As a matter of fact,
they used to give me toys

28

00:02:07,310 --> 00:02:09,440

when I came with my father.

29

00:02:09,440 --> 00:02:10,610

They liked to deal with him.

30

00:02:10,610 --> 00:02:14,570

He was in textile
business, wholesale.

31

00:02:14,570 --> 00:02:20,590

And he had customers in
Silesia, and also in Germany.

32

00:02:20,590 --> 00:02:24,950

But later on, when
Hitler took over

33

00:02:24,950 --> 00:02:30,030

and he started a propaganda
against the Jews,

34

00:02:30,030 --> 00:02:35,220

things really
changed dramatically.

35

00:02:35,220 --> 00:02:39,480

How old were you when
Hitler invaded Poland?

36
00:02:39,480 --> 00:02:45,750
When Hitler invaded Poland,
I was going 18 years old.

37
00:02:45,750 --> 00:02:47,070
What do you remember?

38
00:02:47,070 --> 00:02:53,010
What are some of your memories
of your early life in Bedzin?

39
00:02:53,010 --> 00:02:59,670
Well, Bedzin, as I said before,
was a city where the presence--

40
00:02:59,670 --> 00:03:01,290
I mean, they lived
for so many years,

41
00:03:01,290 --> 00:03:06,210
they had highly
good school systems.

42
00:03:06,210 --> 00:03:12,870
And being that we had
autonomy, we had our own mayor,

43
00:03:12,870 --> 00:03:17,250
we had our own police,
and our own courts.

44
00:03:17,250 --> 00:03:24,420
And when I was a young boy,
about 3 and 1/2 years old going

45
00:03:24,420 --> 00:03:28,590
to 4, I was sent to cheder.

46
00:03:28,590 --> 00:03:35,970
It means that I attended

a kindergarten-type school

47

00:03:35,970 --> 00:03:39,660

where pre-school kids go.

48

00:03:39,660 --> 00:03:43,140

And as a matter of fact,
by the age of five,

49

00:03:43,140 --> 00:03:46,830

we knew how to read
the Hebrew letters,

50

00:03:46,830 --> 00:03:53,590

and we knew exactly how to
daven, pray in the shuls.

51

00:03:53,590 --> 00:03:58,790

And it was almost
like a Jewish town.

52

00:03:58,790 --> 00:04:02,640

Friday afternoon, the
town completely was empty.

53

00:04:02,640 --> 00:04:05,410

Everybody was
preparing for Shabbos.

54

00:04:05,410 --> 00:04:12,180

And everybody ran around to
make the last preparations

55

00:04:12,180 --> 00:04:14,750

for that Sabbath.

56

00:04:14,750 --> 00:04:17,970

The Sabbath was very
holy in our town.

57

00:04:17,970 --> 00:04:22,740

The people who could afford to
buy food had to share it with

58
00:04:22,740 --> 00:04:24,410
the ones who couldn't.

59
00:04:24,410 --> 00:04:28,530
So it was a charitable
way of saying

60
00:04:28,530 --> 00:04:32,510
there won't be any hungry
people going around.

61
00:04:32,510 --> 00:04:35,130
The schools were fantastic.

62
00:04:35,130 --> 00:04:41,860
We all had enough education by
just finishing public school.

63
00:04:41,860 --> 00:04:45,870
But if somebody went to high
school, it was even greater.

64
00:04:45,870 --> 00:04:47,965
And very few had
to go to colleges.

65
00:04:47,965 --> 00:04:50,880

66
00:04:50,880 --> 00:04:55,120
All these things
naturally changed

67
00:04:55,120 --> 00:04:58,530
when Hitler invaded Poland.

68
00:04:58,530 --> 00:05:03,970
I will go back even to
the time when I finished.

69
00:05:03,970 --> 00:05:07,835

I went to public school,
which was Mizrahi,

70
00:05:07,835 --> 00:05:09,820
it was a Hebrew school.

71
00:05:09,820 --> 00:05:15,240
Then I went from there
to junior high school.

72
00:05:15,240 --> 00:05:20,550
And to finish up high school,
I went to a technical lyceum,

73
00:05:20,550 --> 00:05:22,830
which was in
Piotrków Trybunalski.

74
00:05:22,830 --> 00:05:28,440
It was about maybe 400
kilometers up north.

75
00:05:28,440 --> 00:05:32,610
And later on, after I
finished that school,

76
00:05:32,610 --> 00:05:37,740
I was accepted to the
Polytechnic of Warsaw.

77
00:05:37,740 --> 00:05:44,490
Actually, the name was
[NON-ENGLISH] of two prominent

78
00:05:44,490 --> 00:05:51,860
Jews, German Jews who wanted to
educate the Polish Jewish youth

79
00:05:51,860 --> 00:05:54,720
in technical matters.

80
00:05:54,720 --> 00:06:02,520
And I went to this school

just maybe for a few months.

81

00:06:02,520 --> 00:06:07,740

We had an incident
in the school where

82

00:06:07,740 --> 00:06:13,060

we were studying calculus.

83

00:06:13,060 --> 00:06:17,220

And Professor-- his
name is [? Jalenski-- ?]

84

00:06:17,220 --> 00:06:20,850

was laying out
for some problems.

85

00:06:20,850 --> 00:06:23,940

And then he asked
the class, do you

86

00:06:23,940 --> 00:06:29,380

understand what I
have taught you here?

87

00:06:29,380 --> 00:06:33,090

So if somebody knows,
please raise your hand?

88

00:06:33,090 --> 00:06:38,820

So I was sitting in the
back, and I raised my hand.

89

00:06:38,820 --> 00:06:42,090

So Professor
[? Jalenski ?] said to me,

90

00:06:42,090 --> 00:06:43,635

we don't need any
Jewish answers.

91

00:06:43,635 --> 00:06:46,150

92

00:06:46,150 --> 00:06:50,620

Well, maybe you don't know that,
but because of the influence

93

00:06:50,620 --> 00:06:53,710

of Hitler, in the
time when he came

94

00:06:53,710 --> 00:07:02,350

to power, till 1938 and '39,
Poland became anti-Semitic.

95

00:07:02,350 --> 00:07:06,350

As a matter of fact, they tried
to bring all kinds of rules

96

00:07:06,350 --> 00:07:07,910

against the Jewish people--

97

00:07:07,910 --> 00:07:10,860

economic rules,
no violent rules.

98

00:07:10,860 --> 00:07:14,950

Usually, the Polish people
were more liberal people.

99

00:07:14,950 --> 00:07:20,090

They were not gangsters,
like the Germans were.

100

00:07:20,090 --> 00:07:23,480

But later on, things changed.

101

00:07:23,480 --> 00:07:29,150

A new fascistic party
came about, [NON-ENGLISH]..

102

00:07:29,150 --> 00:07:33,020

And they were
anti-Semitic, and they

103

00:07:33,020 --> 00:07:36,290

wanted to do violent things
against the Jewish people.

104

00:07:36,290 --> 00:07:42,620

Now at that particular time in
the school, when a Jew came,

105

00:07:42,620 --> 00:07:48,410

he had to sit in the last rows.

106

00:07:48,410 --> 00:07:50,600

It means there was
numerus clausus in Latin.

107

00:07:50,600 --> 00:07:53,715

108

00:07:53,715 --> 00:08:04,200

It didn't allow a Jew
to be an equal citizen

109

00:08:04,200 --> 00:08:06,180

with the Polish people.

110

00:08:06,180 --> 00:08:08,280

This was against the
rules and regulations

111

00:08:08,280 --> 00:08:11,670

of the Polish government,
but it still was adopted.

112

00:08:11,670 --> 00:08:15,780

So when I got up, I was
very upset when he told me,

113

00:08:15,780 --> 00:08:18,510

I don't need any Jewish answers.

114

00:08:18,510 --> 00:08:23,190

And I said to him, Professor

[? Jalenski, ?] if you

115

00:08:23,190 --> 00:08:27,360
don't need any Jewish answers,
how come you use a book written

116

00:08:27,360 --> 00:08:31,470
by my uncle, Professor
Monka from the [? Stefan ?]

117

00:08:31,470 --> 00:08:35,039
[? Batory ?]
University in Vilna?

118

00:08:35,039 --> 00:08:40,080
When he heard this, he
was very embarrassed.

119

00:08:40,080 --> 00:08:45,420
He got red in his face and
he started shouting things.

120

00:08:45,420 --> 00:08:48,450
And I thought that
this is not good for me

121

00:08:48,450 --> 00:08:52,950
already that the professor
can express himself

122

00:08:52,950 --> 00:08:57,510
with hating the Jews in
front of a whole class.

123

00:08:57,510 --> 00:08:59,910
It was very upsetting.

124

00:08:59,910 --> 00:09:03,840
So as soon as the
class finished,

125

00:09:03,840 --> 00:09:07,990
I tried to run out

from the class fast.

126
00:09:07,990 --> 00:09:13,760
And as I ran down
the steps, I was

127
00:09:13,760 --> 00:09:19,680
approached by about 15
hooligans, university students

128
00:09:19,680 --> 00:09:25,290
who attacked me so brutally,
knocked me down, hitting me

129
00:09:25,290 --> 00:09:29,850
all over the face and
the stomach and the back.

130
00:09:29,850 --> 00:09:32,550
And a policeman was
standing not far

131
00:09:32,550 --> 00:09:34,590
that didn't pay any
attention to that.

132
00:09:34,590 --> 00:09:36,600
Was this directed
just to you, or was it

133
00:09:36,600 --> 00:09:37,933
directed to all Jewish students?

134
00:09:37,933 --> 00:09:40,590
It was directed to
me particularly,

135
00:09:40,590 --> 00:09:44,790
because I confronted
the professor,

136
00:09:44,790 --> 00:09:47,397
and I told him that--

137
00:09:47,397 --> 00:09:48,480
I embarrassed him, really.

138
00:09:48,480 --> 00:09:49,810
Prior to this, nothing--

139
00:09:49,810 --> 00:09:50,643
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

140
00:09:50,643 --> 00:09:54,300
Prior to this, there were
incidents in the university

141
00:09:54,300 --> 00:09:57,445
that they beat up
some Jewish students.

142
00:09:57,445 --> 00:09:59,070
There weren't too
many Jewish students.

143
00:09:59,070 --> 00:10:02,520
In the class of engineering
that I was accepted,

144
00:10:02,520 --> 00:10:08,760
there was only five Jews, and
we had a class of 250, maybe.

145
00:10:08,760 --> 00:10:15,180
So when I was beaten up
and blood was coming out

146
00:10:15,180 --> 00:10:21,120
from my mouth, from
all over, the policeman

147
00:10:21,120 --> 00:10:24,420
saw that I'm about to be killed.

148
00:10:24,420 --> 00:10:29,290

So he came up and he
says to me like this,

149
00:10:29,290 --> 00:10:32,090
do you need some help?

150
00:10:32,090 --> 00:10:39,150
So as much as I was hurt and
as much as I felt bad, I said,

151
00:10:39,150 --> 00:10:41,200
I don't want no help.

152
00:10:41,200 --> 00:10:45,560
And I slowly got up
and I walked home.

153
00:10:45,560 --> 00:10:50,150
I lived with my uncle
and aunt in Warsaw.

154
00:10:50,150 --> 00:10:54,020
And when I came in, they
didn't recognize me.

155
00:10:54,020 --> 00:10:55,730
I was black and blue.

156
00:10:55,730 --> 00:10:59,000
I was completely shook up.

157
00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:00,920
They called
immediately a doctor,

158
00:11:00,920 --> 00:11:02,330
and they called my parents.

159
00:11:02,330 --> 00:11:06,860
When you think about it now,
why did you refuse the help?

160

00:11:06,860 --> 00:11:07,700
From the policeman?

161
00:11:07,700 --> 00:11:08,510
Yes.

162
00:11:08,510 --> 00:11:12,490
Because this is my nature.

163
00:11:12,490 --> 00:11:15,200
When I come with my story,
you will see exactly how

164
00:11:15,200 --> 00:11:18,500
I acted later in my life.

165
00:11:18,500 --> 00:11:23,550
I felt so humiliated
that they did it to me.

166
00:11:23,550 --> 00:11:26,930
And I really loved Poland.

167
00:11:26,930 --> 00:11:29,180
I thought that this is
a beautiful country,

168
00:11:29,180 --> 00:11:31,460
that I have all the privileges.

169
00:11:31,460 --> 00:11:33,260
I was accepted to school.

170
00:11:33,260 --> 00:11:35,480
I had no problem.

171
00:11:35,480 --> 00:11:41,660
Very few incidents of calling
me dirty Jew or anything

172
00:11:41,660 --> 00:11:42,870
like that.

173
00:11:42,870 --> 00:11:47,310
So I felt that
Poland is my country.

174
00:11:47,310 --> 00:11:51,260
And I felt very insulted
that something like this

175
00:11:51,260 --> 00:11:54,320
could happen.

176
00:11:54,320 --> 00:11:58,460
So the next day,
the doctor came in.

177
00:11:58,460 --> 00:11:59,650
He examined me.

178
00:11:59,650 --> 00:12:00,970
Nothing was broken, really.

179
00:12:00,970 --> 00:12:04,780
So he said, I would like to
take you to the hospital,

180
00:12:04,780 --> 00:12:09,700
but if you can stand all kinds
of pains, I'll leave you home.

181
00:12:09,700 --> 00:12:15,150
The next day, my
parents came to Warsaw.

182
00:12:15,150 --> 00:12:17,400
And I decided right
away that I don't want

183
00:12:17,400 --> 00:12:20,120
to go to a school like that.

184
00:12:20,120 --> 00:12:22,840

And they took me
out from school.

185
00:12:22,840 --> 00:12:27,160
This incident I'm telling
is just to show you

186
00:12:27,160 --> 00:12:29,590
what the influence of
Hitler was on Poland

187
00:12:29,590 --> 00:12:31,780
at that particular time.

188
00:12:31,780 --> 00:12:38,320
I took a crash course in French,
and I was accepted in Belgium,

189
00:12:38,320 --> 00:12:42,730
Liège, the University
of Montefiore.

190
00:12:42,730 --> 00:12:49,180
Unfortunately, it was not for me
to go to a foreign university,

191
00:12:49,180 --> 00:12:52,300
because the war broke out.

192
00:12:52,300 --> 00:12:54,310
I remember before
the war broke out,

193
00:12:54,310 --> 00:13:01,630
my parents and my brothers and
sisters went to the mountains.

194
00:13:01,630 --> 00:13:05,050
We always went a
month in summertime.

195
00:13:05,050 --> 00:13:12,340
And I packed myself up, and

I was ready to go to Belgium.

196

00:13:12,340 --> 00:13:17,690

It was a week before
Hitler started the war.

197

00:13:17,690 --> 00:13:24,580

And I was stopped on the
border, and I was turned back.

198

00:13:24,580 --> 00:13:28,400

199

00:13:28,400 --> 00:13:31,580

A week later, the war started.

200

00:13:31,580 --> 00:13:35,570

It was September 1st, 1939.

201

00:13:35,570 --> 00:13:39,080

Being that we are so close
to the German border,

202

00:13:39,080 --> 00:13:43,230

we felt the impact right away.

203

00:13:43,230 --> 00:13:46,060

204

00:13:46,060 --> 00:13:53,790

Now Friday morning, we
got up in the morning,

205

00:13:53,790 --> 00:13:59,930

we heard bombardment,
not in the city itself,

206

00:13:59,930 --> 00:14:01,610

but around the cities.

207

00:14:01,610 --> 00:14:06,230

And then we walk, we

take a look outside,

208

00:14:06,230 --> 00:14:12,510
and we hear that people are
screaming that a war broke out.

209

00:14:12,510 --> 00:14:14,390
We look up in the
skies, there are

210

00:14:14,390 --> 00:14:25,100
hundreds of planes flying east,
and the explosions around us.

211

00:14:25,100 --> 00:14:30,820
Two days later, the German
troops marched into my town.

212

00:14:30,820 --> 00:14:34,110

213

00:14:34,110 --> 00:14:39,870
This was exactly September
3rd, a Sunday morning.

214

00:14:39,870 --> 00:14:43,330
They were highly technical.

215

00:14:43,330 --> 00:14:46,820
You couldn't see a
German soldier walk.

216

00:14:46,820 --> 00:14:53,340
Mostly were on motorcycles, on
half tracks, and other means.

217

00:14:53,340 --> 00:14:59,030
The people of Bedzin came
out to see them marching in.

218

00:14:59,030 --> 00:15:05,090
Nobody felt that this is
going to be a catastrophe

219
00:15:05,090 --> 00:15:06,470
for the Jewish people.

220
00:15:06,470 --> 00:15:12,080
They all felt that it will
be another occupation.

221
00:15:12,080 --> 00:15:13,710
We were used to occupations.

222
00:15:13,710 --> 00:15:16,850
I had never experienced it, but
we were used to occupations,

223
00:15:16,850 --> 00:15:18,620
because during
the history, there

224
00:15:18,620 --> 00:15:23,300
were many occupations of
our town by the Germans,

225
00:15:23,300 --> 00:15:28,630
then by the Austrians,
then by the Russians.

226
00:15:28,630 --> 00:15:35,040
But this was a very sad
moment to see [GERMAN],,

227
00:15:35,040 --> 00:15:39,760
the German troops marching into
this beautiful city of Bedzin,

228
00:15:39,760 --> 00:15:44,020
where the Jews enjoyed
such a beautiful life with

229
00:15:44,020 --> 00:15:52,210
their neighbors, where people
received an education--

230

00:15:52,210 --> 00:15:56,080

maybe more of a Jewish
education than a Polish--

231

00:15:56,080 --> 00:16:01,130

but the Polish education
was equal to the Jewish.

232

00:16:01,130 --> 00:16:03,800

We had very beautiful
youth, and we

233

00:16:03,800 --> 00:16:08,050

had dreams, dreams
that maybe one day,

234

00:16:08,050 --> 00:16:11,610

we will all go to Israel.

235

00:16:11,610 --> 00:16:13,690

We were Zionist.

236

00:16:13,690 --> 00:16:17,740

We were brought up
Zionistic in our town.

237

00:16:17,740 --> 00:16:20,510

We all belonged to
different organizations.

238

00:16:20,510 --> 00:16:23,380

I personally belonged
to organization

239

00:16:23,380 --> 00:16:26,360

HaNoar HaTzioni which
was a middle ground,

240

00:16:26,360 --> 00:16:27,650

not left and not right.

241

00:16:27,650 --> 00:16:30,290

242
00:16:30,290 --> 00:16:33,990
And we lived with a dream,
and we met on the streets.

243
00:16:33,990 --> 00:16:36,470
Every day in the
evenings, we walked,

244
00:16:36,470 --> 00:16:39,050
and we said hello to each other.

245
00:16:39,050 --> 00:16:40,870
It was good to live there.

246
00:16:40,870 --> 00:16:44,180
It was a prosperous
region in Poland.

247
00:16:44,180 --> 00:16:47,650
We lived on coal and steel ore.

248
00:16:47,650 --> 00:16:55,835
And Silesia was one of the most
industrial areas in Poland.

249
00:16:55,835 --> 00:17:00,130
It combined with many
cities other than Bedzin,

250
00:17:00,130 --> 00:17:01,950
Sosnowiec, Katowice.

251
00:17:01,950 --> 00:17:07,940
This was a region which
is like a metropolis area.

252
00:17:07,940 --> 00:17:11,680
It was almost like a
very tremendous big town

253

00:17:11,680 --> 00:17:14,750
connected with a trolley
car back and forth,

254
00:17:14,750 --> 00:17:17,060
even into Germany,
as I said before.

255
00:17:17,060 --> 00:17:20,250

256
00:17:20,250 --> 00:17:25,740
A few days later, when the
Germans occupied our town,

257
00:17:25,740 --> 00:17:30,110
they came every day
with different orders.

258
00:17:30,110 --> 00:17:31,875
A curfew 6:00 to 6:00.

259
00:17:31,875 --> 00:17:34,570

260
00:17:34,570 --> 00:17:41,890
We had to wear yellow armbands
with a Star of David in black.

261
00:17:41,890 --> 00:17:46,720
Later on, it was changed
to a yellow patch

262
00:17:46,720 --> 00:17:50,080
with a J inside, Juden.

263
00:17:50,080 --> 00:17:54,530
In German, Juden means Jew.

264
00:17:54,530 --> 00:17:59,030
And we had to walk in
the middle of the street.

265

00:17:59,030 --> 00:18:02,590

We were forbidden to
walk on the sidewalks.

266

00:18:02,590 --> 00:18:05,320

German visitors used to
come from the neighboring

267

00:18:05,320 --> 00:18:13,170

towns from Germany, and we
were a laughing stock to them.

268

00:18:13,170 --> 00:18:14,220

They spit at us.

269

00:18:14,220 --> 00:18:17,010

They did all kinds of things.

270

00:18:17,010 --> 00:18:23,110

We couldn't
understand that we are

271

00:18:23,110 --> 00:18:24,790

different than other people.

272

00:18:24,790 --> 00:18:27,310

We could not understand
that the Jewish people

273

00:18:27,310 --> 00:18:32,360

are different than the German
people or the Polish people.

274

00:18:32,360 --> 00:18:37,860

So to us, it was a
tremendous humiliation.

275

00:18:37,860 --> 00:18:43,340

The feeling of not being
able to run in the street,

276

00:18:43,340 --> 00:18:48,030

and having fun with your
friends and enjoying life

277

00:18:48,030 --> 00:18:53,580
like we used to do was something
which we could not comprehend.

278

00:18:53,580 --> 00:18:58,420
Then later on, they used to
start taking elderly people

279

00:18:58,420 --> 00:19:01,110
to forced labor.

280

00:19:01,110 --> 00:19:02,700
That means they took them out.

281

00:19:02,700 --> 00:19:04,290
They took them from the street.

282

00:19:04,290 --> 00:19:10,970
They gave them shovels and picks
and all kinds of instruments.

283

00:19:10,970 --> 00:19:16,140
And they told them to
work in the gardens,

284

00:19:16,140 --> 00:19:19,618
in all kind of streets,
by cleaning the street,

285

00:19:19,618 --> 00:19:24,360
by picking up the garbage,
all kinds of things

286

00:19:24,360 --> 00:19:28,400
that some of them were
not used to doing.

287

00:19:28,400 --> 00:19:38,070
I remember my father was taking
one of these labor movements.

288
00:19:38,070 --> 00:19:43,020
And I ran after
him, and I wanted

289
00:19:43,020 --> 00:19:45,480
to see what they're
going to do to him.

290
00:19:45,480 --> 00:19:50,340
And he worked in a garden.

291
00:19:50,340 --> 00:19:56,750
And he was beaten
by a German guard.

292
00:19:56,750 --> 00:20:00,660
And I was so upset that I
wanted to run over the fence,

293
00:20:00,660 --> 00:20:04,120
and I wanted to take
revenge right away.

294
00:20:04,120 --> 00:20:07,467
But some of my friends say,
you're not going anyplace,

295
00:20:07,467 --> 00:20:08,550
because they'll shoot you.

296
00:20:08,550 --> 00:20:12,440

297
00:20:12,440 --> 00:20:18,650
Eight days later,
in the evening--

298
00:20:18,650 --> 00:20:22,000
this was Saturday prayers--

299
00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:27,425

they surrounded the
synagogue with troops.

300
00:20:27,425 --> 00:20:30,320

301
00:20:30,320 --> 00:20:36,520
They throw fire flames--
what do you call that?--

302
00:20:36,520 --> 00:20:40,310

303
00:20:40,310 --> 00:20:45,050
on the synagogue,
and on eight blocks

304
00:20:45,050 --> 00:20:48,940
surrounding the synagogue.

305
00:20:48,940 --> 00:20:52,790
They didn't let anybody
out from the synagogue.

306
00:20:52,790 --> 00:20:55,010
While the synagogue
was burning, some Jews

307
00:20:55,010 --> 00:20:58,430
tried to take out the Torahs.

308
00:20:58,430 --> 00:21:01,850
And they caught one
guy with a Torah,

309
00:21:01,850 --> 00:21:05,220
and they shot him right away.

310
00:21:05,220 --> 00:21:08,730
In that incident--
when this happened,

311

00:21:08,730 --> 00:21:12,620
we lived about 10 blocks
away from the synagogue.

312
00:21:12,620 --> 00:21:16,980
And we got scared that
maybe the fire will also

313
00:21:16,980 --> 00:21:19,680
be thrown on our building.

314
00:21:19,680 --> 00:21:27,850
I grabbed my whole family and I
said, let's go up on the attic.

315
00:21:27,850 --> 00:21:30,700
We went up on the attic
and then on the roof

316
00:21:30,700 --> 00:21:36,400
because when I was a child, I
used to go through that attic,

317
00:21:36,400 --> 00:21:38,960
we used to go through
another building.

318
00:21:38,960 --> 00:21:41,530
And there was a
garden down below,

319
00:21:41,530 --> 00:21:43,550
and we used to have
a hiding place.

320
00:21:43,550 --> 00:21:45,620
And it was just for fun.

321
00:21:45,620 --> 00:21:49,360
So I thought that just in
case, if the Germans will throw

322
00:21:49,360 --> 00:21:55,630

the flamethrowers
on our building,

323
00:21:55,630 --> 00:21:58,390
then we will go down
to the other building,

324
00:21:58,390 --> 00:22:03,000
and we'll go down to the
garden and we'll hide there.

325
00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:04,690
But where we saw
the flames and we

326
00:22:04,690 --> 00:22:07,960
saw the shouting and the
screaming of the people,

327
00:22:07,960 --> 00:22:12,560
it's just undescrivable
how we felt.

328
00:22:12,560 --> 00:22:14,800
We all got completely
like shocked.

329
00:22:14,800 --> 00:22:17,440
Because all of a sudden,
in a peaceful town,

330
00:22:17,440 --> 00:22:21,325
you see people being
killed and burned.

331
00:22:21,325 --> 00:22:23,890

332
00:22:23,890 --> 00:22:26,050
And I started screaming.

333
00:22:26,050 --> 00:22:31,510
I was so, so upset, that the

whole family jumped at me,

334

00:22:31,510 --> 00:22:33,430

and they say, don't scream.

335

00:22:33,430 --> 00:22:36,390

Because if the Germans

will hear your voice,

336

00:22:36,390 --> 00:22:38,940

they will definitely

kill us all.

337

00:22:38,940 --> 00:22:44,080

338

00:22:44,080 --> 00:22:49,650

Later on, when our house was

not meant to be destroyed,

339

00:22:49,650 --> 00:22:54,120

we were all down

to our apartments.

340

00:22:54,120 --> 00:22:58,950

And we were watching all night

to see what happened there.

341

00:22:58,950 --> 00:23:03,250

The screams started to subside.

342

00:23:03,250 --> 00:23:07,020

We thought that we did

not know the damage

343

00:23:07,020 --> 00:23:12,660

as much as it happened, because

we couldn't see the whole area.

344

00:23:12,660 --> 00:23:23,410

Next day, the charred

bodies of 800 people

345

00:23:23,410 --> 00:23:27,560

were taken away to a mass
grave out of the town,

346

00:23:27,560 --> 00:23:31,200

and among them,
a friend of mine.

347

00:23:31,200 --> 00:23:36,130

His name was [? Vivek ?]
[? Strier. ?] I loved this

348

00:23:36,130 --> 00:23:42,910

friend so much that he
was like a brother to me.

349

00:23:42,910 --> 00:23:49,000

He got killed when he ran
out of his burning house,

350

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:53,680

and he climbed up
the church wall,

351

00:23:53,680 --> 00:23:57,000

and a bullet hit him in
the head, and he fell down.

352

00:23:57,000 --> 00:24:00,210

353

00:24:00,210 --> 00:24:01,230

I missed him very much.

354

00:24:01,230 --> 00:24:04,570

As a matter of fact,
many, many years,

355

00:24:04,570 --> 00:24:07,110

even today when I
think of him, he's

356

00:24:07,110 --> 00:24:12,190
vividly the nice-looking
guy who had so much income

357
00:24:12,190 --> 00:24:15,240
and belonged to the same
organization with me.

358
00:24:15,240 --> 00:24:16,530
And I missed him.

359
00:24:16,530 --> 00:24:18,270
How old was he when he died?

360
00:24:18,270 --> 00:24:22,020
He was about 17 and
1/2 or 18 years old.

361
00:24:22,020 --> 00:24:27,310

362
00:24:27,310 --> 00:24:29,140
He lost all his family.

363
00:24:29,140 --> 00:24:32,500
The whole family got
killed in this onslaught.

364
00:24:32,500 --> 00:24:35,620
I understand that in
the neighboring towns,

365
00:24:35,620 --> 00:24:43,680
there were similar incidents,
but not as brutal as this one.

366
00:24:43,680 --> 00:24:49,860
This gave me an idea
that Hitler came here

367
00:24:49,860 --> 00:24:51,720
to destroy all
the Jewish people.

368

00:24:51,720 --> 00:24:58,110

In 1939, a week into the
war, I knew deep in my heart

369

00:24:58,110 --> 00:25:04,540

that we are all going
eventually to be killed.

370

00:25:04,540 --> 00:25:10,900

However, you live with
the feeling and with hope

371

00:25:10,900 --> 00:25:17,820

that things like this are
not going to happen anymore.

372

00:25:17,820 --> 00:25:24,460

They came later on,
confiscated all the businesses,

373

00:25:24,460 --> 00:25:32,070

threw all the inhabitants
from better neighborhoods out.

374

00:25:32,070 --> 00:25:36,630

And we lived in a
mediocre neighborhood,

375

00:25:36,630 --> 00:25:43,810

so they gave us another two
families to live with us.

376

00:25:43,810 --> 00:25:48,670

Because we had an
apartment of five rooms,

377

00:25:48,670 --> 00:25:52,690

so we got another two families.

378

00:25:52,690 --> 00:25:57,870

It was crowded, but
we accepted the will

379
00:25:57,870 --> 00:26:00,000
of God, whatever has to be.

380
00:26:00,000 --> 00:26:03,510
Excuse me, was the town
already a ghetto by this time?

381
00:26:03,510 --> 00:26:08,040
At that time, the town was--
being that we had 45,000 Jews,

382
00:26:08,040 --> 00:26:11,010
the whole town, except for
the better neighborhoods

383
00:26:11,010 --> 00:26:15,600
which I mentioned before,
was an open ghetto.

384
00:26:15,600 --> 00:26:21,870
The Gentile people lived around
the town and some in town.

385
00:26:21,870 --> 00:26:24,930
As a matter of fact,
across the street from us

386
00:26:24,930 --> 00:26:29,160
was a Gentile family.

387
00:26:29,160 --> 00:26:32,160
Their name was [? Ujawick. ?]
One of his sons

388
00:26:32,160 --> 00:26:34,090
was a good friend of mine.

389
00:26:34,090 --> 00:26:39,780
And he lived there
with all of his family,

390

00:26:39,780 --> 00:26:42,370
plus he had tenants too.

391
00:26:42,370 --> 00:26:44,850
Were the Gentiles
allowed inside?

392
00:26:44,850 --> 00:26:48,132
The Gentiles at that time were
allowed to come inside, yes.

393
00:26:48,132 --> 00:26:49,590
But you were not
allowed to go out?

394
00:26:49,590 --> 00:26:52,210
We were not allowed
to go out anymore.

395
00:26:52,210 --> 00:26:54,540
But it was like an open ghetto.

396
00:26:54,540 --> 00:26:56,940
You just took a
bicycle, and maybe you

397
00:26:56,940 --> 00:27:00,810
drove out to get some food.

398
00:27:00,810 --> 00:27:03,540
Because food started
to become very scarce.

399
00:27:03,540 --> 00:27:07,740
There were bread lines
getting bigger all the time.

400
00:27:07,740 --> 00:27:11,750
There were punishments
coming later on,

401
00:27:11,750 --> 00:27:17,070
when we had already

the patch with Star

402

00:27:17,070 --> 00:27:21,390
of David on, one in front on the
left side and one in the back.

403

00:27:21,390 --> 00:27:25,570
So we identified from the
back and from the front.

404

00:27:25,570 --> 00:27:27,490
Everyone.

405

00:27:27,490 --> 00:27:31,630
It was a pity seeing the young
children who didn't understand

406

00:27:31,630 --> 00:27:39,730
what Judaism means or what a
Jew is running in the street,

407

00:27:39,730 --> 00:27:42,820
not knowing that
they are not allowed

408

00:27:42,820 --> 00:27:48,290
to walk on the sidewalks,
with their parents running

409

00:27:48,290 --> 00:27:51,520
after them, trying to
tell them something.

410

00:27:51,520 --> 00:27:57,110
It was impossible to understand
the feeling of all the people.

411

00:27:57,110 --> 00:28:00,230
But later on, when
things got worse,

412

00:28:00,230 --> 00:28:04,670
when they wanted to

punish people for--

413

00:28:04,670 --> 00:28:09,020

let's say, somebody
went out from the town

414

00:28:09,020 --> 00:28:12,170

and brought some
food in and wanted

415

00:28:12,170 --> 00:28:17,560

to sell it to the Jewish
people, and he was caught.

416

00:28:17,560 --> 00:28:24,460

The punishment was to
hang that person on a tree

417

00:28:24,460 --> 00:28:28,330

and bring in thousands of
people to watch the punishment

418

00:28:28,330 --> 00:28:31,270

so nobody would do such things.

419

00:28:31,270 --> 00:28:36,100

There was absolute control
of the German might

420

00:28:36,100 --> 00:28:40,555

to not allow Jews
to live decently.

421

00:28:40,555 --> 00:28:45,070

422

00:28:45,070 --> 00:28:52,090

Later on, when they confiscated
my father's business,

423

00:28:52,090 --> 00:28:54,840

the director of that new
business-- a German--

424
00:28:54,840 --> 00:28:58,140
took him in, because he
wanted to familiarize himself

425
00:28:58,140 --> 00:29:02,940
with the articles of what
he had, the textile stuff.

426
00:29:02,940 --> 00:29:05,970
And he took him to
work, and he also

427
00:29:05,970 --> 00:29:09,510
took in my younger brother.

428
00:29:09,510 --> 00:29:13,280

429
00:29:13,280 --> 00:29:20,750
And I again wanted
to go to work.

430
00:29:20,750 --> 00:29:22,440
So I met a friend of mine.

431
00:29:22,440 --> 00:29:24,800
His name is Ludwig
Ehrlich, who lives now

432
00:29:24,800 --> 00:29:27,910
in Brooklyn, New York.

433
00:29:27,910 --> 00:29:33,030
And his father had an factory.

434
00:29:33,030 --> 00:29:38,010
He used to make from
tin all kinds of things

435
00:29:38,010 --> 00:29:42,390
for the kitchen, like to bake.

436
00:29:42,390 --> 00:29:44,970
So he came, and he
said, look, Paul,

437
00:29:44,970 --> 00:29:49,710
you went to a technical school.

438
00:29:49,710 --> 00:29:53,580
Being that we all have
to have work, maybe

439
00:29:53,580 --> 00:29:59,580
we can form a little bit
of like a little workshop,

440
00:29:59,580 --> 00:30:05,970
and we'll take in
a German director.

441
00:30:05,970 --> 00:30:08,000
And so this way,
we'll have work,

442
00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:13,230
and the Germans won't be able
to take us to forced labor.

443
00:30:13,230 --> 00:30:15,610
And we did so.

444
00:30:15,610 --> 00:30:19,620
And we found a fellow, his
name was [? Dukstulski. ?]

445
00:30:19,620 --> 00:30:23,130
I don't know how much he
loved the Jewish people,

446
00:30:23,130 --> 00:30:25,570
but he was a decent fellow.

447

00:30:25,570 --> 00:30:31,470

So we proposed to give
him a directorship

448

00:30:31,470 --> 00:30:33,790

and to go with him.

449

00:30:33,790 --> 00:30:37,110

The work what we
have done there was

450

00:30:37,110 --> 00:30:39,990

on machines which
were very old, so we

451

00:30:39,990 --> 00:30:42,570

had to do everything
with our strength.

452

00:30:42,570 --> 00:30:44,800

It was like slave labor.

453

00:30:44,800 --> 00:30:46,830

We invited ourselves
to slave labor,

454

00:30:46,830 --> 00:30:51,910

but being that we will
be in our hometown.

455

00:30:51,910 --> 00:30:53,120

And he liked the idea.

456

00:30:53,120 --> 00:30:56,322

He was drinking every day.

457

00:30:56,322 --> 00:30:58,030

He was happy that we
worked, and he could

458

00:30:58,030 --> 00:31:00,430

sell the stuff in Germany.

459

00:31:00,430 --> 00:31:03,550

And he made good money.

460

00:31:03,550 --> 00:31:07,480

And we had about 10

kids working for us.

461

00:31:07,480 --> 00:31:10,720

462

00:31:10,720 --> 00:31:12,940

My brother worked there--

463

00:31:12,940 --> 00:31:15,760

the youngest one-- his friends.

464

00:31:15,760 --> 00:31:19,450

And so they were all happy,

and we all got green cards.

465

00:31:19,450 --> 00:31:26,410

It was stating that we

worked for this and this.

466

00:31:26,410 --> 00:31:29,800

Employer and director

is [? Dukstulski. ?]

467

00:31:29,800 --> 00:31:30,430

He was like--

468

00:31:30,430 --> 00:31:35,520

I don't know-- like a lieutenant

or anything in the S - NSDAP,

469

00:31:35,520 --> 00:31:36,520

like the brown uniforms.

470

00:31:36,520 --> 00:31:39,340

471

00:31:39,340 --> 00:31:46,060
One day, when they start to
take the young people to a labor

472
00:31:46,060 --> 00:31:56,130
camp, the Germans had an idea
to fool the Jewish people

473
00:31:56,130 --> 00:31:59,730
that they mean well
for them to train them

474
00:31:59,730 --> 00:32:04,500
into special professions,
and they will make sure

475
00:32:04,500 --> 00:32:07,980
that the young people will go
to work so the older people can

476
00:32:07,980 --> 00:32:15,780
be fed by them and get enough
help from them to support them

477
00:32:15,780 --> 00:32:18,900
with the standard of
living what they need.

478
00:32:18,900 --> 00:32:21,570
So in the beginning,
that was the idea.

479
00:32:21,570 --> 00:32:28,470
They took young people, and
they took them to labor camps,

480
00:32:28,470 --> 00:32:31,800
to Germany, and to Silesia.

481
00:32:31,800 --> 00:32:36,210
By the way, our
area was integrated

482

00:32:36,210 --> 00:32:39,000
into Germany, annexed.

483
00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:41,250
Because we were so
close to the border,

484
00:32:41,250 --> 00:32:46,010
and they had a claim always that
Upper Silesia is German land.

485
00:32:46,010 --> 00:32:49,750
It's like Sudetenland
in Czechoslovakia.

486
00:32:49,750 --> 00:32:54,220
So the young people were caught
in the middle of the street,

487
00:32:54,220 --> 00:32:58,540
taken to labor camps.

488
00:32:58,540 --> 00:33:01,870
In the beginning, they
were writing letters.

489
00:33:01,870 --> 00:33:04,092
Later on, letters stopped.

490
00:33:04,092 --> 00:33:06,050
They never had a chance
to come back from that.

491
00:33:06,050 --> 00:33:10,050

492
00:33:10,050 --> 00:33:20,930
Later on, again they started
with forced labor camp,

493
00:33:20,930 --> 00:33:27,310
where they formed a
Jewish Militz police.

494

00:33:27,310 --> 00:33:33,830

And they made them do
the dirty work what

495

00:33:33,830 --> 00:33:36,080

the Germans didn't want to do.

496

00:33:36,080 --> 00:33:39,950

That means that if they would
need 1,000 young people to go

497

00:33:39,950 --> 00:33:44,720

to a camp, the Jewish
police will come,

498

00:33:44,720 --> 00:33:49,040

and they will surrender them,
or take them to arrest them,

499

00:33:49,040 --> 00:33:54,470

or take them to a special dulag,
they call it, a transit camp.

500

00:33:54,470 --> 00:33:56,840

And from there, they
would be sent to Germany,

501

00:33:56,840 --> 00:34:01,970

to different camps which
were spread all over Germany.

502

00:34:01,970 --> 00:34:04,270

I personally did not--

503

00:34:04,270 --> 00:34:11,179

I was not happy with a Jew
going and helping the Germans.

504

00:34:11,179 --> 00:34:15,350

But it was not for me to
say who wants to serve,

505

00:34:15,350 --> 00:34:16,370

who doesn't want.

506

00:34:16,370 --> 00:34:18,409

Everybody thought
that if you will

507

00:34:18,409 --> 00:34:24,139

become a Jewish policeman--
by the way, they had no guns.

508

00:34:24,139 --> 00:34:26,060

They had only rubber sticks.

509

00:34:26,060 --> 00:34:32,550

Because they wouldn't allow them
to have any guns, the Germans.

510

00:34:32,550 --> 00:34:39,179

So we were afraid to go
in the streets, really.

511

00:34:39,179 --> 00:34:44,770

Because every time somebody
went out and was not prepared,

512

00:34:44,770 --> 00:34:46,940

a policeman or a German came.

513

00:34:46,940 --> 00:34:49,610

514

00:34:49,610 --> 00:34:51,920

There was always
a German policeman

515

00:34:51,920 --> 00:34:58,430

with a few others who came
and arrested these people.

516

00:34:58,430 --> 00:35:02,800

517
00:35:02,800 --> 00:35:08,930
I was lucky, because
I had the green card.

518
00:35:08,930 --> 00:35:12,160
And in the beginning, it helped.

519
00:35:12,160 --> 00:35:19,820
But later on, somehow, being
that we were three brothers

520
00:35:19,820 --> 00:35:25,100
and no one went to a labor
camp, and they needed a quota,

521
00:35:25,100 --> 00:35:27,870
and they couldn't-- people
were watching themselves.

522
00:35:27,870 --> 00:35:30,560
They did not go out in
the street so easily.

523
00:35:30,560 --> 00:35:34,952
They tried to not be caught.

524
00:35:34,952 --> 00:35:36,410
So they came with
an idea that they

525
00:35:36,410 --> 00:35:39,560
have to go from house
to house and tell

526
00:35:39,560 --> 00:35:45,200
that one of the children
should go to a labor camp.

527
00:35:45,200 --> 00:35:49,360
And in my case, it was
that they came to my house,

528

00:35:49,360 --> 00:35:51,910

and they asked my mother,
where are the boys?

529

00:35:51,910 --> 00:35:54,890

So she told him that
they are working.

530

00:35:54,890 --> 00:35:58,160

531

00:35:58,160 --> 00:36:03,590

Then when I came home, my mother
said that the Jewish police was

532

00:36:03,590 --> 00:36:10,540

here, and they said that
you have to come to us

533

00:36:10,540 --> 00:36:14,120

to sign something, identify
yourself if you're working

534

00:36:14,120 --> 00:36:15,750

or not.

535

00:36:15,750 --> 00:36:19,220

So I wasn't afraid,
being that I knew

536

00:36:19,220 --> 00:36:21,530

that I am working for
that [? Dukstulski, ?]

537

00:36:21,530 --> 00:36:25,760

I one day decided to go over.

538

00:36:25,760 --> 00:36:34,250

And when I went over, the
chief of the Jewish police

539

00:36:34,250 --> 00:36:40,650

was sitting on a desk,
imitating some of the Germans

540
00:36:40,650 --> 00:36:43,870
with his feet on the desk.

541
00:36:43,870 --> 00:36:47,560
And he said, what is your name?

542
00:36:47,560 --> 00:36:49,260
And I told him.

543
00:36:49,260 --> 00:36:53,090
He said, you're going
to go to a labor camp.

544
00:36:53,090 --> 00:36:55,930

545
00:36:55,930 --> 00:36:58,140
You're not going
to go home anymore.

546
00:36:58,140 --> 00:37:00,840
We're going to
send you to a dulag

547
00:37:00,840 --> 00:37:03,440
in another town,
Sosnowiec, and you are

548
00:37:03,440 --> 00:37:06,080
going to go to that labor camp.

549
00:37:06,080 --> 00:37:10,380
I got very upset, and
I said to him, well,

550
00:37:10,380 --> 00:37:13,100
if I have to go
to the labor camp,

551

00:37:13,100 --> 00:37:15,650

I have to ask my director
first if he's going

552

00:37:15,650 --> 00:37:19,420

to relieve me from my work.

553

00:37:19,420 --> 00:37:25,690

And then I will go home, pack up
my things, and if I have to go,

554

00:37:25,690 --> 00:37:26,190

I'll go.

555

00:37:26,190 --> 00:37:29,030

556

00:37:29,030 --> 00:37:37,430

So he had a little stick, and
he threatened me with the stick.

557

00:37:37,430 --> 00:37:42,630

558

00:37:42,630 --> 00:37:45,700

I got very upset.

559

00:37:45,700 --> 00:37:51,040

And when he hit me, I
grabbed him by the tie,

560

00:37:51,040 --> 00:37:52,780

threw him over the desk.

561

00:37:52,780 --> 00:37:54,910

I don't know how much
strength I had then,

562

00:37:54,910 --> 00:37:57,550

but I must have been
strong to be able to do it.

563

00:37:57,550 --> 00:38:00,108

564

00:38:00,108 --> 00:38:01,900

I cannot even tell the
name of this person,

565

00:38:01,900 --> 00:38:07,810

because the person right now
is a survivor himself who is

566

00:38:07,810 --> 00:38:09,700

in the hospital, dying.

567

00:38:09,700 --> 00:38:12,910

It wouldn't be proper for
me to mention the name.

568

00:38:12,910 --> 00:38:16,120

But in telling
the story, I'm not

569

00:38:16,120 --> 00:38:20,372

favoring because he was Jewish.

570

00:38:20,372 --> 00:38:22,330

I must say that we have
plenty of Jewish people

571

00:38:22,330 --> 00:38:28,255

who did not behave well
during the occupation.

572

00:38:28,255 --> 00:38:31,230

573

00:38:31,230 --> 00:38:37,200

The policemen-- maybe three or
four policemen-- jumped at me,

574

00:38:37,200 --> 00:38:38,790

beat me up.

575

00:38:38,790 --> 00:38:40,690

We had a fight.

576

00:38:40,690 --> 00:38:45,370

Somehow, I managed to escape
from the police station.

577

00:38:45,370 --> 00:38:51,730

And I was running in the
street towards the work,

578

00:38:51,730 --> 00:38:55,490

towards my shop.

579

00:38:55,490 --> 00:38:58,510

And people looked at me
like I would be crazy.

580

00:38:58,510 --> 00:39:02,400

My coat-- it was wintertime--
so my coat was torn,

581

00:39:02,400 --> 00:39:06,560

and I was bleeding.

582

00:39:06,560 --> 00:39:10,010

And when I came to the
shop, I fell on the floor

583

00:39:10,010 --> 00:39:13,100

and I lost my conscious.

584

00:39:13,100 --> 00:39:16,130

And three of the
policemen were after me.

585

00:39:16,130 --> 00:39:22,540

While I was laying,
I was beaten by them.

586

00:39:22,540 --> 00:39:27,550

When my brothers and the

people who worked in that shop

587

00:39:27,550 --> 00:39:31,720

saw what's happening, they
attacked the three policemen

588

00:39:31,720 --> 00:39:33,150

brutally, and they beat them up.

589

00:39:33,150 --> 00:39:36,120

590

00:39:36,120 --> 00:39:39,480

Later on, when I came
to myself, and they--

591

00:39:39,480 --> 00:39:40,987

Were these policemen
known to you--

592

00:39:40,987 --> 00:39:41,820

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

593

00:39:41,820 --> 00:39:42,690

Yes.

594

00:39:42,690 --> 00:39:44,830

--through your
living in the town?

595

00:39:44,830 --> 00:39:45,330

Yeah.

596

00:39:45,330 --> 00:39:46,500

I knew the names of the--

597

00:39:46,500 --> 00:39:46,620

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

598

00:39:46,620 --> 00:39:47,730

They were people you
were familiar with?

599

00:39:47,730 --> 00:39:49,730

As a matter of fact, one
went to school with me.

600

00:39:49,730 --> 00:39:50,960

Yeah.

601

00:39:50,960 --> 00:39:52,610

But because he was
a policeman, he

602

00:39:52,610 --> 00:39:54,860

thought that he's a big person.

603

00:39:54,860 --> 00:39:59,260

604

00:39:59,260 --> 00:40:03,180

When I came back to
conscience, and they told me

605

00:40:03,180 --> 00:40:09,140

that they notified
the [? Dukstulski, ?]

606

00:40:09,140 --> 00:40:13,190

the director, and that he was
drunk, and they woke him up,

607

00:40:13,190 --> 00:40:17,330

and that they told
him the story.

608

00:40:17,330 --> 00:40:24,010

In the meantime,
the Jewish police

609

00:40:24,010 --> 00:40:28,000

felt that they were
a laughing stock,

610

00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:30,160
that they felt very insulted.

611
00:40:30,160 --> 00:40:34,795
They ran to the police station,
which was not the Gestapo.

612
00:40:34,795 --> 00:40:40,330
It was just a regular Schupo
police station in [PLACE NAME]..

613
00:40:40,330 --> 00:40:47,350
And all of a sudden,
two policemen

614
00:40:47,350 --> 00:40:50,950
came with three of
the Jewish police,

615
00:40:50,950 --> 00:40:54,790
and they arrested me
and Ludwig Ehrlich.

616
00:40:54,790 --> 00:40:58,570
This was my partner through this
thing where we worked together.

617
00:40:58,570 --> 00:41:01,900

618
00:41:01,900 --> 00:41:06,670
When we were arrested, the
people all ran to my parents

619
00:41:06,670 --> 00:41:09,010
to tell them what happened.

620
00:41:09,010 --> 00:41:11,380
And they thought that
we will never come back.

621
00:41:11,380 --> 00:41:17,620
Because once you arrested a Jew,

usually, they never came back.

622

00:41:17,620 --> 00:41:23,310

Anyhow, we were beaten up down
in the police station horribly.

623

00:41:23,310 --> 00:41:25,970

But in the same time,
[? Dukstultski ?] came,

624

00:41:25,970 --> 00:41:27,900

the director.

625

00:41:27,900 --> 00:41:32,910

And he was very upset
that we were arrested.

626

00:41:32,910 --> 00:41:36,530

And he compared us
as good workers--

627

00:41:36,530 --> 00:41:41,010

he showed to the commander
there, look at their hands,

628

00:41:41,010 --> 00:41:42,450

how hard they work.

629

00:41:42,450 --> 00:41:44,760

And look at the policemen,
they have soft hands.

630

00:41:44,760 --> 00:41:46,360

They don't do nothing.

631

00:41:46,360 --> 00:41:51,060

And there he really
insulted them.

632

00:41:51,060 --> 00:41:56,770

So they let us go.

633

00:41:56,770 --> 00:41:58,670
This was the first miracle.

634
00:41:58,670 --> 00:42:02,025
My wife used to talk about
miracles happened to me.

635
00:42:02,025 --> 00:42:04,950
It was the first miracle.

636
00:42:04,950 --> 00:42:10,780
When we came home,
we went back to work.

637
00:42:10,780 --> 00:42:13,840
The police did not
like us anymore.

638
00:42:13,840 --> 00:42:19,120
We knew that we will be
always picked to any selection

639
00:42:19,120 --> 00:42:20,393
or anything like that.

640
00:42:20,393 --> 00:42:22,060
When you say the
police didn't like you,

641
00:42:22,060 --> 00:42:23,310
do you mean the Jewish police?

642
00:42:23,310 --> 00:42:25,365
No, the Jewish police,
because the German police

643
00:42:25,365 --> 00:42:26,050
didn't know us.

644
00:42:26,050 --> 00:42:27,040
Yeah.

645

00:42:27,040 --> 00:42:29,680

It was a big town.

646

00:42:29,680 --> 00:42:34,510

There was only very
few German police.

647

00:42:34,510 --> 00:42:38,760

There was mostly Jewish
police who worked in cahoots

648

00:42:38,760 --> 00:42:41,590

with the Germans.

649

00:42:41,590 --> 00:42:45,040

As a matter of fact, I forgot
to mention that we have

650

00:42:45,040 --> 00:42:47,810

a Jewish committee in our town.

651

00:42:47,810 --> 00:42:49,750

You know that every town--

652

00:42:49,750 --> 00:42:52,450

when the Germans came in
at the beginning in 1939--

653

00:42:52,450 --> 00:42:56,650

this did not happen in the
places where my wife lived.

654

00:42:56,650 --> 00:42:59,170

Because over there in
'41, when they came in,

655

00:42:59,170 --> 00:43:01,390

they had the
Sonderkommando already.

656

00:43:01,390 --> 00:43:03,630

They came to kill.

657

00:43:03,630 --> 00:43:08,980

And here, being that Silesia
and Zaglebie were annexed,

658

00:43:08,980 --> 00:43:11,410

they had to behave themselves
a little more decent,

659

00:43:11,410 --> 00:43:15,190

because they were
afraid a little bit

660

00:43:15,190 --> 00:43:18,040

that the German
population should not

661

00:43:18,040 --> 00:43:23,370

notice the real killings,
what they really meant to do.

662

00:43:23,370 --> 00:43:26,100

It was politics, in a way.

663

00:43:26,100 --> 00:43:28,930

664

00:43:28,930 --> 00:43:32,185

Later on, the situation
became stronger.

665

00:43:32,185 --> 00:43:37,100

666

00:43:37,100 --> 00:43:41,530

Especially in the early morning,
they surrounded the buildings.

667

00:43:41,530 --> 00:43:45,520

They pulled out any
Jewish people they can,

668

00:43:45,520 --> 00:43:49,960

mostly younger people, and
they send them to labor camps.

669
00:43:49,960 --> 00:43:54,680
That purpose was to make slaves
out of the younger people.

670
00:43:54,680 --> 00:43:58,260
And then later on, they'll
have only children and grownups

671
00:43:58,260 --> 00:44:00,670
and adults or older
people, and they'll

672
00:44:00,670 --> 00:44:05,420
be able to decimate
them much easier.

673
00:44:05,420 --> 00:44:06,310
In one of these--

674
00:44:06,310 --> 00:44:09,130

675
00:44:09,130 --> 00:44:10,740
they called it
the [NON-ENGLISH]..

676
00:44:10,740 --> 00:44:14,970
That means it was
not a selection yet.

677
00:44:14,970 --> 00:44:23,770
It was like coming and
surrounding the area,

678
00:44:23,770 --> 00:44:26,500
and taking out the people.

679
00:44:26,500 --> 00:44:31,090
My brother was caught
in one of these things,

680
00:44:31,090 --> 00:44:34,380
and he was sent to a
labor camp in Germany.

681
00:44:34,380 --> 00:44:37,570

682
00:44:37,570 --> 00:44:42,680
We felt terribly when
he was taken away,

683
00:44:42,680 --> 00:44:49,320
because it was the first
casualty, really, that we had.

684
00:44:49,320 --> 00:44:53,635
And we thought that this is
something that is terrible.

685
00:44:53,635 --> 00:44:56,380

686
00:44:56,380 --> 00:45:01,090
But we had to go on
with our lives somehow.

687
00:45:01,090 --> 00:45:06,910
They were talking
about a closed ghetto.

688
00:45:06,910 --> 00:45:09,500
They were talking
that they're going

689
00:45:09,500 --> 00:45:12,440
to open up shops for
people, that they're

690
00:45:12,440 --> 00:45:17,480
going to be employed and
make uniforms for the army.

691

00:45:17,480 --> 00:45:23,100

We had in our area probably
the biggest working shops

692

00:45:23,100 --> 00:45:31,010

in Poland for military
equipment and military uniforms

693

00:45:31,010 --> 00:45:34,160

in the whole of Poland.

694

00:45:34,160 --> 00:45:38,760

Maybe Lodz was another
center like that.

695

00:45:38,760 --> 00:45:44,600

And people went to
work on small wages.

696

00:45:44,600 --> 00:45:48,080

They couldn't even buy
too much bread with it.

697

00:45:48,080 --> 00:45:52,640

Hunger started to
inflict the population.

698

00:45:52,640 --> 00:45:56,300

There was less and
less food in the area.

699

00:45:56,300 --> 00:46:00,230

Anything which came in,
came in through some Poles

700

00:46:00,230 --> 00:46:02,990

who managed to come into
the city who still lived

701

00:46:02,990 --> 00:46:06,620

in that open ghetto, and
managed to hand it over

702

00:46:06,620 --> 00:46:07,980
to the Jewish people.

703

00:46:07,980 --> 00:46:10,920

704

00:46:10,920 --> 00:46:15,300
Then I decided that
I have to take a job,

705

00:46:15,300 --> 00:46:18,410
so I approached a
friend of mine, who--

706

00:46:18,410 --> 00:46:21,170

707

00:46:21,170 --> 00:46:23,930
by the way, I forgot to mention
that [? Dukstulski ?] was

708

00:46:23,930 --> 00:46:24,740
taken to the front.

709

00:46:24,740 --> 00:46:27,650

710

00:46:27,650 --> 00:46:31,040
When Germany attacked
Russia, [? Dukstulski ?]

711

00:46:31,040 --> 00:46:34,840
got taken to the front,
and the small shop was--

712

00:46:34,840 --> 00:46:35,410
Dissolved?

713

00:46:35,410 --> 00:46:36,270
--dissolved.

714

00:46:36,270 --> 00:46:38,970

715

00:46:38,970 --> 00:46:42,870

I was then forced to
take another job in order

716

00:46:42,870 --> 00:46:44,540

to have a card.

717

00:46:44,540 --> 00:46:46,240

So I approached
a friend of mine.

718

00:46:46,240 --> 00:46:54,630

His name is [? Feyerman. ?] And
his parents had a big factory.

719

00:46:54,630 --> 00:46:59,440

They make bolts and nuts and
nails, all kind of things.

720

00:46:59,440 --> 00:47:04,350

And it was run by a
big German director.

721

00:47:04,350 --> 00:47:08,800

His name was Fred
[? Pishniak. ?] And

722

00:47:08,800 --> 00:47:13,990

[? Pishniak ?] came
from Berlin, some area.

723

00:47:13,990 --> 00:47:18,100

And he accepted me to
work, because I had the--

724

00:47:18,100 --> 00:47:33,290

725

00:47:33,290 --> 00:47:35,170

They got me to work there.

726
00:47:35,170 --> 00:47:38,150
And there was about 800
people working there.

727
00:47:38,150 --> 00:47:41,990
There were very few Jews.

728
00:47:41,990 --> 00:47:46,160
And I was very happy that I
got this job, because this way,

729
00:47:46,160 --> 00:47:52,520
I could show that I'm making
money to help my family out.

730
00:47:52,520 --> 00:47:57,900

731
00:47:57,900 --> 00:48:05,710
I worked there for a few months,
and I did a pretty good job.

732
00:48:05,710 --> 00:48:11,110
Two engineers came from Germany,
and they came from Bavaria,

733
00:48:11,110 --> 00:48:15,580
from very prominent families.

734
00:48:15,580 --> 00:48:17,290
I remember the names.

735
00:48:17,290 --> 00:48:20,680
One was Dietrich
and one was Kohl.

736
00:48:20,680 --> 00:48:26,380
And when the director
came to introduce them

737
00:48:26,380 --> 00:48:28,670

that they're going
to work with us,

738
00:48:28,670 --> 00:48:36,000
I by mistake wanted to
shake hands with them.

739
00:48:36,000 --> 00:48:40,360
And they pulled me out,
said they don't shake hands

740
00:48:40,360 --> 00:48:42,540
with dirty Jews.

741
00:48:42,540 --> 00:48:45,678
This form.

742
00:48:45,678 --> 00:48:50,010
But the director said I
should show them around,

743
00:48:50,010 --> 00:48:53,240
show them the
machines that we run.

744
00:48:53,240 --> 00:48:56,200
And being that I made special
tools for certain machines,

745
00:48:56,200 --> 00:48:59,230
I went there, and I
start showing them.

746
00:48:59,230 --> 00:49:02,100

747
00:49:02,100 --> 00:49:05,820
They did not like me,
but I didn't care.

748
00:49:05,820 --> 00:49:13,333
I thought, who am I to worry
if they like me or not?

749
00:49:13,333 --> 00:49:15,000
I know that none of
the Germans like me.

750
00:49:15,000 --> 00:49:17,830

751
00:49:17,830 --> 00:49:23,340
One day, when the
night shift came--

752
00:49:23,340 --> 00:49:26,030
and I was not working on
the night shift that time--

753
00:49:26,030 --> 00:49:29,500
the two engineers
came in and told

754
00:49:29,500 --> 00:49:32,650
the operator of
that machine to run

755
00:49:32,650 --> 00:49:34,990
the machine a little faster.

756
00:49:34,990 --> 00:49:39,737
Because they wanted to show
the director how good they are.

757
00:49:39,737 --> 00:49:41,320
So naturally, that
machine broke down.

758
00:49:41,320 --> 00:49:44,250

759
00:49:44,250 --> 00:49:46,980
Next day, in the
morning, when I came in,

760

00:49:46,980 --> 00:49:52,560

I was blamed that the
machine was destroyed.

761

00:49:52,560 --> 00:49:54,990

I told the director
who was mad at me,

762

00:49:54,990 --> 00:49:59,040

and I explained it
that I wasn't here.

763

00:49:59,040 --> 00:50:02,910

They must have sped
up the machine.

764

00:50:02,910 --> 00:50:06,640

And the operator told
him that I was right,

765

00:50:06,640 --> 00:50:08,850

that they take came
at night to tell

766

00:50:08,850 --> 00:50:10,740

him to speed up the machine.

767

00:50:10,740 --> 00:50:15,310

Because he was afraid himself,
although he was Polish, so

768

00:50:15,310 --> 00:50:16,300

it wasn't so bad.

769

00:50:16,300 --> 00:50:20,200

770

00:50:20,200 --> 00:50:24,330

I fixed the machine
little by little,

771

00:50:24,330 --> 00:50:27,450

with the help of other

people, naturally.

772

00:50:27,450 --> 00:50:34,100

And the machine was running
slower, but it was fixed.

773

00:50:34,100 --> 00:50:38,300

They were so mad at me that one
day, when the director left,

774

00:50:38,300 --> 00:50:43,640

they called the Gestapo
to tell them that--

775

00:50:43,640 --> 00:50:46,190

my name is Pavel
Monka in Polish--

776

00:50:46,190 --> 00:50:50,510

that Pavel Monka
broke the machine.

777

00:50:50,510 --> 00:50:54,950

That means it's a sabotage
against the Third Reich.

778

00:50:54,950 --> 00:50:56,960

One day, I was standing
and working around.

779

00:50:56,960 --> 00:51:00,830

The Polish foreman who liked
me very much came over to me,

780

00:51:00,830 --> 00:51:04,190

he says, Pavel, run.

781

00:51:04,190 --> 00:51:08,650

Run, because Gestapo is there.

782

00:51:08,650 --> 00:51:12,700

So I froze.

783

00:51:12,700 --> 00:51:14,680

My legs became like lead.

784

00:51:14,680 --> 00:51:19,090

I couldn't move, because I
knew that something is funny,

785

00:51:19,090 --> 00:51:25,490

and I knew that I
am involved here.

786

00:51:25,490 --> 00:51:27,530

It's a good thing maybe
that I didn't run.

787

00:51:27,530 --> 00:51:31,930

Because had I run
through the fields,

788

00:51:31,930 --> 00:51:34,390

maybe they would shoot me dead.

789

00:51:34,390 --> 00:51:38,680

But this way, they
came in, four big guys

790

00:51:38,680 --> 00:51:44,220

in black uniforms, taller
than me, much taller than me.

791

00:51:44,220 --> 00:51:50,780

And they start beating me
that I didn't know where I am.

792

00:51:50,780 --> 00:51:53,045

I really-- from all the sides.

793

00:51:53,045 --> 00:51:56,120

794

00:51:56,120 --> 00:52:00,980

And the Poles-- everybody

stopped working, you know?

795

00:52:00,980 --> 00:52:01,940

They're always scared.

796

00:52:01,940 --> 00:52:06,493

They could not believe that
people can come in and beat up

797

00:52:06,493 --> 00:52:07,160

a guy like that.

798

00:52:07,160 --> 00:52:10,240

799

00:52:10,240 --> 00:52:13,510

And then later on, they
took me into the car,

800

00:52:13,510 --> 00:52:16,400

and they took me to the
Gestapo in Katowice.

801

00:52:16,400 --> 00:52:19,490

Katowice was the
main city of Silesia.

802

00:52:19,490 --> 00:52:22,710

803

00:52:22,710 --> 00:52:27,260

When I came, they brought me
in front of an officer who

804

00:52:27,260 --> 00:52:30,640

was sitting at a big desk.

805

00:52:30,640 --> 00:52:37,740

And they made a column,
like four and four Gestapo.

806

00:52:37,740 --> 00:52:45,430

And I walked through that
little thing towards the desk,

807
00:52:45,430 --> 00:52:51,860
and they beat me tremendously
with sticks, with clubs.

808
00:52:51,860 --> 00:52:55,940
When I came to the desk, I
really didn't know what I am

809
00:52:55,940 --> 00:52:58,590
and who I am.

810
00:52:58,590 --> 00:53:02,160
And this guy gets
up and shouts at me,

811
00:53:02,160 --> 00:53:06,540
you made a sabotage
against the Third Reich.

812
00:53:06,540 --> 00:53:07,290
You are a traitor.

813
00:53:07,290 --> 00:53:10,490

814
00:53:10,490 --> 00:53:14,560
You know what we do
with people like you.

815
00:53:14,560 --> 00:53:16,420
What do you have to say to that?

816
00:53:16,420 --> 00:53:20,200
So I said, I'm not guilty.

817
00:53:20,200 --> 00:53:22,000
I didn't do any sabotage.

818
00:53:22,000 --> 00:53:25,010

I tried to explain
little by little.

819
00:53:25,010 --> 00:53:27,940
With the words coming
out of my mouth,

820
00:53:27,940 --> 00:53:31,720
that I didn't recognize
my voice, even.

821
00:53:31,720 --> 00:53:36,070
I said to the Gestapo chief--

822
00:53:36,070 --> 00:53:38,690

823
00:53:38,690 --> 00:53:41,990
I said to him, I didn't do.

824
00:53:41,990 --> 00:53:47,110
I knew very well
that if I say yes,

825
00:53:47,110 --> 00:53:48,740
they'll kill me immediately.

826
00:53:48,740 --> 00:53:52,640
If I say no, it's
no good either.

827
00:53:52,640 --> 00:53:55,370
They couldn't get out
of me a confession.

828
00:53:55,370 --> 00:53:57,080
They wanted me to
sign a confession.

829
00:53:57,080 --> 00:54:00,260
They had printed a
confession already for me.

830

00:54:00,260 --> 00:54:02,180

I did not want to sign it.

831

00:54:02,180 --> 00:54:07,460

So after a while, they
put me into a cell.

832

00:54:07,460 --> 00:54:10,850

It was like you call it
a solitary confinement.

833

00:54:10,850 --> 00:54:11,750

Isolation.

834

00:54:11,750 --> 00:54:13,250

Isolation.

835

00:54:13,250 --> 00:54:17,240

The water was
about an inch high.

836

00:54:17,240 --> 00:54:20,030

[WHISPERING]

837

00:54:20,030 --> 00:54:23,810

I was so miserable.

838

00:54:23,810 --> 00:54:24,480

I was beaten up.

839

00:54:24,480 --> 00:54:25,220

I was swollen.

840

00:54:25,220 --> 00:54:26,720

I didn't feel my arms.

841

00:54:26,720 --> 00:54:29,400

I didn't feel my legs.

842

00:54:29,400 --> 00:54:32,340

I couldn't open up my mouth.

843
00:54:32,340 --> 00:54:35,540
And I said to myself,
what am I going to do?

844
00:54:35,540 --> 00:54:37,430
I was thinking-- and
my family didn't even

845
00:54:37,430 --> 00:54:42,502
know at that time
what happened to me.

846
00:54:42,502 --> 00:54:44,210
But later on, when I
came back from work,

847
00:54:44,210 --> 00:54:50,510
I understand my sister, who
died in Italy after the war,

848
00:54:50,510 --> 00:54:52,850
she was sitting
there for three days

849
00:54:52,850 --> 00:54:55,998
and nights waiting
for my director

850
00:54:55,998 --> 00:54:57,040
to come back from Berlin.

851
00:54:57,040 --> 00:54:59,970

852
00:54:59,970 --> 00:55:00,750
Seven days.

853
00:55:00,750 --> 00:55:05,980

854
00:55:05,980 --> 00:55:09,450

After that, I
signed a confession.

855
00:55:09,450 --> 00:55:12,250
I couldn't take the punishment.

856
00:55:12,250 --> 00:55:15,250
I couldn't take the treatment.

857
00:55:15,250 --> 00:55:16,840
I couldn't eat.

858
00:55:16,840 --> 00:55:18,360
Even they gave me
a little food, I

859
00:55:18,360 --> 00:55:21,400
couldn't eat, because
my mouth was swollen.

860
00:55:21,400 --> 00:55:25,220
I couldn't close my mouth.

861
00:55:25,220 --> 00:55:28,510
And I was wet.

862
00:55:28,510 --> 00:55:31,840
Really, it was a torture
like medieval times,

863
00:55:31,840 --> 00:55:33,140
probably, maybe worse.

864
00:55:33,140 --> 00:55:35,850

865
00:55:35,850 --> 00:55:42,110
After seven days, the door
opens up, and I thought--

866
00:55:42,110 --> 00:55:44,250
when I signed a

confession, I thought

867

00:55:44,250 --> 00:55:47,310

that they going to take
me out and shoot me.

868

00:55:47,310 --> 00:55:51,190

And I resigned to my fate.

869

00:55:51,190 --> 00:55:55,940

I said goodbye to my parents.

870

00:55:55,940 --> 00:55:59,750

I said goodbye to my
brothers and sisters.

871

00:55:59,750 --> 00:56:04,027

I was in a state that I
really didn't know actually

872

00:56:04,027 --> 00:56:04,860

what happened to me.

873

00:56:04,860 --> 00:56:07,510

874

00:56:07,510 --> 00:56:09,330

All of a sudden,
the door opens up.

875

00:56:09,330 --> 00:56:12,160

They take me out from the cell.

876

00:56:12,160 --> 00:56:15,790

Instead of taking me to
the court to shoot me--

877

00:56:15,790 --> 00:56:18,320

because I heard from time
to time some shots there,

878

00:56:18,320 --> 00:56:23,930

and they probably executed
plenty of the prisoners--

879
00:56:23,930 --> 00:56:29,280
I was brought to a hospital.

880
00:56:29,280 --> 00:56:33,330
I couldn't believe my luck.

881
00:56:33,330 --> 00:56:34,470
I was in a hospital.

882
00:56:34,470 --> 00:56:35,910
They put me in a bed.

883
00:56:35,910 --> 00:56:39,690
A doctor comes
over, examines me.

884
00:56:39,690 --> 00:56:40,950
He said, you'll be all right.

885
00:56:40,950 --> 00:56:45,570
Nothing serious,
nothing happened to you.

886
00:56:45,570 --> 00:56:49,860
By the way, where
did you fall in?

887
00:56:49,860 --> 00:56:55,280
He just joked with me, like.

888
00:56:55,280 --> 00:56:57,530
He thought I was in an accident.

889
00:56:57,530 --> 00:57:02,520
Maybe he knew, but he
thought I don't, that to make

890
00:57:02,520 --> 00:57:04,265
believe that they're humane.

891
00:57:04,265 --> 00:57:07,030

892
00:57:07,030 --> 00:57:11,320
I was there for a couple weeks,
actually, almost three weeks.

893
00:57:11,320 --> 00:57:14,870

894
00:57:14,870 --> 00:57:17,790
There were 30 beds in
the room where I was.

895
00:57:17,790 --> 00:57:20,530

896
00:57:20,530 --> 00:57:22,690
One day, a guy comes over to me.

897
00:57:22,690 --> 00:57:25,180
His name was Yanek.

898
00:57:25,180 --> 00:57:27,590
He introduced himself to me.

899
00:57:27,590 --> 00:57:31,590
And he said, what is your name?

900
00:57:31,590 --> 00:57:33,510
So I said, Pavel Monka.

901
00:57:33,510 --> 00:57:36,130

902
00:57:36,130 --> 00:57:41,210
So he said to me,
are you Jewish?

903
00:57:41,210 --> 00:57:43,880

I said yes.

904

00:57:43,880 --> 00:57:50,220

He says, you're a
lucky guy as a Jew.

905

00:57:50,220 --> 00:57:51,220

We never saw a Jew here.

906

00:57:51,220 --> 00:57:53,800

907

00:57:53,800 --> 00:57:55,990

He said, if you're
Jewish and you

908

00:57:55,990 --> 00:58:02,420

survived this
solitary confinement,

909

00:58:02,420 --> 00:58:06,916

then you will be
a good man for us.

910

00:58:06,916 --> 00:58:08,270

We'll stop at this point.

911

00:58:08,270 --> 00:58:10,690

We're going to change the tapes.

912

00:58:10,690 --> 00:58:19,263