

Continue, please.

So, continuing to the life with my family at a time, of course, as I said before, I tried to get my sister to go to Germany for work. And I couldn't get her. Couldn't get a birth certificate that she is not Jewish in order to get her to work.

And it was a hard thing to do, and it was one of the lifesavers. Quite a few girls went. And they are now in Israel living. And then they came back after the war.

You started to tell us about a story of a family that you met that you came upon when you were in hiding or something?

Yeah. Hiding? Hiding was a, at that time, one of the important, temporary things, what happened in the ghettos. Because, when the shooting were going on, or they surrounded, let's say, a part of the ghetto and loaded them trucks straight to Auschwitz, and if you had the hiding place where nobody knew-- of course, it had to be secret because, as I said before, people when they knew that there is, in this house, a hiding place, you had 40 people coming when this hiding place could only take five or ten. And that's how you had to make it in secret. And so people were hiding out, temporarily.

But, later on, when the ghettos were cleared, the Germans had already found out about the hiding place. They could measure a house. A brick house, let's say they measured. It had 40 feet the front.

And they went in through the basement, and they saw it's only 30 feet, the width of that house. So they know that there was another wall there. And people did build other walls in the basements, double walls, to sleep in, temporarily. And they found out.

They threw a grenade through a little window, and that's it. And that's how they destroyed the house, and the people were there. And this was how it was going.

Now, I would like to continue-- I had a grandmother. Of course, she was over 80 years old. And when this town where we were living, Radomyśl Wielki, was cleared of Jews, and we knew a night before, I took my whole family and went out into the forest there with the family.

And my grandmother couldn't walk. She couldn't go. So next thought was where nuns were living, nuns. They have their house. And I went in there-- we were very acquainted with them-- and asked them to let my grandmother sleep overnight.

And, tomorrow, the ghetto might still continue-- part of the ghetto. She will go out, and we'll be [INAUDIBLE]. And so they did. I took a mattress, and I put it in the basement there. And she was staying there overnight.

And, the next day, the ghetto was called in German Judenfrei, free of Jews. And nobody-- and, also, big, big signs on the corners of the houses. Whoever will hide the Jew will be destroyed. The house will be burned up, and he will be destroyed with the whole family.

And they wouldn't take a chance. And I don't blame them. And it happened.

It happened, let's say, 50 miles away. And everybody knew about it, that their house was destroyed and the family killed. And so they had to let her go.

So she dressed-- always when there was a slaughter-- we called it a slaughter. The Germans used to call it an aktion-- aktion--

Aktion.

--and so, whenever there was my grandmother dressed herself in those shrouds because she knew that this

is what she is going to have to wear. Then that's it.

And so she dressed herself in the shrouds, and she went to the police. And she said, I'm-- shoot me. I'm still alive. Shoot me.

And this her was a man, also, an old man-- the richest man in town-- his name was, I think, Noah Green. He could probably cover this place here was with thousands of dollars. And, at that time, no money could save him.

And he couldn't stay in the forest. Nobody would give you a drink of water. The flies will eat you up. And there's no question about it. You couldn't walk.

So the police asked her to go to the cemetery. And we will come, and we will shoot you. And so they went to the cemetery. Sitting there, it was about 2 o'clock, I was told.

And they were sitting there. My grandmother had a little Bible with her. And she was praying, saying [? tillum ?] all afternoon until it became dark. And they came, and they shot her-- both-- shot them both.

And this is the way the conditions were in Poland. This is the way where you didn't have-- there was no place where you could go and survive.

Here is a man with her. He was the richest man. He was so rich. He also had a big ranch and everything not far away and was one of the richest people. And he was so poor that he went over to the police and had asked to be shot.

Now, would somebody believe that this can happen? It happened. It happened there.

And so I found out about that because I had the bicycle. And I gave her bicycle to a-- I paid a young gentleman. I said go over there and find out if there is still a ghetto there. And, if there is a ghetto, let us know, and we might go over there.

And he came back. And he says, no, in that town, there's no more Jews left. So I sent him to another town. To town that's called Dębica. And it was not far away from this one. He went over there, and he says, hey, there's a ghetto left.

So we stayed there two nights in the forest and, one night about 2 o'clock in the morning, we start off to go to that town. And we came into the town. Everybody was shivering scared because nobody would let you in because you were illegal.

See? You were illegal. You were alive. You were illegal alive. And, to be alive at that time, you had to be legal alive. Otherwise, you have no right to be alive.

And so we came in, and nobody would let you in. They didn't have a place. Anybody who was there, were three or four families in one room. So who would let you in and take their life in the hand?

So, finally, my mother had a long, gold chain from before the war. It was a little watch. And my father had a nice watch. It was a chain.

And I took this two pieces of gold. And I went into the-- so-called Judenrat. This was the President there where this community was. And I said, look, we came from the forest, and I have no money, but I have with me those two pieces of gold. Give me a place where I can stay and have my ration cut for this little bit of soup-- what you got in the kitchen.

Because, if you didn't have a ration card, you couldn't get a spoonful of soup. And so he took this gold. And he says, come back in the afternoon. And he gave me a ration card, and he says that I am legal.

He had to get this from the Gestapo. He had to get this from the Gestapo. He couldn't write down by

himself. He wouldn't take a chance. And so they made us legal.

And I couldn't begin to tell you how important this was for us. I gave away, for \$50,000 gold, what my mother and father had all life. And this was one of the most important thing. You could stay alive in that ghetto.

And he gave me a place in a barrack there. And I was there. And, when it rained, it poured in because the roof was no good. And this was all good, as long as he gave me, also, a card that I am a legal man, and I could go out and get a quarter of a loaf of bread and a quart of soup.

So that card was the key to life? It was more important than the gold?

This is the way we started off. But, if they would let us stay there, we could have survived because I was going out. I was later legal into a group going out to work through working on the railroad. And going there out, you know, you had contact with the gentiles.

And, if you took out, let's say, a shirt-- and he gave you a shirt, he gave you a loaf of bread or [INAUDIBLE], whatever it is. And this is the way-- I smuggled it in into the ghetto-- this is the way we lived.

But this end. This end. This is, I think, which six months later, the ghetto was surrounded and cleaned out. And just a group of working people were left. And nobody else, except the group of working people.

I think I told you the last time what we did as working people there. And we are going to go further to do other things. Being in the beginning in Plaszów, a notice was given that you can go out with a group to a place, Rymanów and this was, I would say, about 50 miles away from this classroom, from that camp.

And there, we had to untie a big, big campus there. This campus erected for the German army there. One day before, they attacked Russia. They had their army there. They had camps like that erected there.

And this was on-- maybe you heard the Potoskis. They were the prince of there. They had thousands and thousands of acres of land there. This was on their land.

And they had an agreement, when this concentration camp will be finished, that the ground restored back there. And so we were taken over there. And then later, we worked there for about six months. And we dismantled that concentration camp. It wasn't a concentration camp. But, of course, a concentration camp for the Russian soldiers, the Russian POWs.

Let's say, every six months, 10,000 Russian soldiers were brought in. And they were burned and killed there at that camp. So I'll make it short. We opened, took those wirings, and rolled it up, and sent everything to Plaszów.

We loaded it on trains-- the boards, everything what was usable was going to the concentration camp to Plaszów on trains. Bricks even, everything. And then they took us-- in the last time, when we dismantled this concentration camp, we were not any more closed in.

So they took us to the prince. He had a little stable there. And this group was staying in this stable. And, of course, we were surrounded with SS, so nobody would escape. And, at that time, you didn't have way to escape. You were so far away from your living areas, where you used to live before the war, there was no escape.

And I remember a fact that is worth telling. Of course, we were-- hunger was terrible. So no-- and they gave you a small piece of bread for three or four days and a spoon full off soup. So you wouldn't find a potato, just water.

And that Prince had such big dogs there. He had four dogs fenced in there. And then we were in the area next to the dogs. There was a fence there.

And, whenever in the morning they brought out for the docks, meat-- big pieces of meat for the dogs-- and I was a daring guy-- I took a wire, and put it under that fence. And I pulled over that plate to the fence close to [INAUDIBLE]. The dogs already finished. They didn't want to eat any more. They left this meat. But, if I would have been caught with that, that would be an end. But, still, when you were hungry, you were doing things which is more dangerous.

And so I pulled that plate over to the fence. Can I grabbed this piece of meat out with that wire and pulled it out there. And it was very good. It was very good. It could be a bullet in the head, but it's all right.

Did the dogs react?

The dogs were satisfied. They were not in there. We were staying there, so the dogs wouldn't bark always. Those dogs wouldn't bark, but--

Did you push the plate back?

No. I just get away from there as fast as possible. Things like that, you have to remember.

And then they took us in-- we finished this camp to Szebnie. Was another camp like that, also erected for the army. But there, they brought people in. They were staying there. And they were working.

So when we finished this camp, they brought us in this camp there in Szebnie. This was about 30 miles away. And, in there, they gave me a job to sort out big, big huge, like, airplane hangars. You know, where you could put an airplane in? They kept their tanks and their machinery.

And, in this place, they gathered from the whole Poland and in Europe, all Sifras torahs all scrolls-- in the thousands and thousands of scrolls-- and then silver spoons. In the millions-- not thousands-- but, in the millions, knives. In Poland, everybody had a knife that was written Shabbat Kodesh that means Holy Shabbat-- on that knife.

And those knives were not cheap knives. They were very expensive knives. They had the handle was special, special-- well, I don't know how it's called in English. But, anyway, very expensive knives.

Phylam phylactories... what is it?

Phylactories.

Phylactories. In the millions, talleisim prayer shawls, prayer shawls. And I was there with a group selecting this, putting the silver spoons separate, the phylactories separate, the knives separate, and the Sifras Torahs separate.

Beside the scrolls, there were also big-- in Europe, those orthodox people had big books. They were bound in leather. And all those books, in the thousands, were brought in into that house.

Now, the Torahs were taken out every time. And they cut them up for linings. When we were making the [INAUDIBLE] for the shovel, for the little axe-- what the soldier were carrying-- a little shovel, this Torah, the scrolls, this is a parchment. And this was cut up for lining. Under that, we sewed this together. And this was used out. And, even when they made-- there was a shoe factory-- and linings in the shoes made from the parchment. And this is what the Torahs were used for.

Did you have to work on this yourself?

Oh, there was a group. Yeah.

How did you feel doing it?

Again, you were numb. You just did. And you wanted to stay alive because to be alive was the most precious

thing to live through a week or a day. And you wouldn't complain that this all you had.

You didn't have any feelings. You were numb. There were no feelings. If you didn't have any feelings for the human being, for the children, how would you have a feeling for scrolls, or knives, silver spoons, candelabras in the thousands?

And this is what we-- you know, in Europe, everybody had a silver candelabra. Here, too. But this was taken away, and it was all loaded there. And this was taken later. The candelabras were taken into a special press.

And they pressed this up into a big pile, like a square. And this was shipped to Germany. It was very expensive silver. It was silver, pure silver.

And so working in there, I found myself a pair phylactories very small. From home, I had large ones. This one, I found. The part-- they were so small that there like a sugar cane-- a sugar cane.

Sugar cube?

A sugar cube-- a sugar cube. And they were so small, you could put them in the small pocket here. And this was good for me because I didn't where to keep them. I was afraid. And I found them, so then I smuggled this out. And so we were there for about six months, and we have finished our work. They shipped us back to Plaszów because we came from Plaszów.

And, later on, the whole group-- there were about maybe 4,000 people there in [INAUDIBLE]-- and are all shot to death. And they shipped-- their clothing where shipped to Plaszów to our. And a young man was working with me, and he recognized this sport jacket from his father.

The sport jacket was shot-- was a hole here-- and he recognized that sport jacket. He said, this is father. So he grabbed this jacket. And he put a hand in the pocket, and there was a note with his father's name. Things like that-- it's unbelievable what was going on for those five years.

How were you liberated?

Pardon?

How were you liberated?

As you know, I have jumped out of the train. And I was going back to my area where I lived. And, the last time, I told you how I crossed the bridge. And I had two more bridges to cross. I only told you about one bridge. I had two more bridges to cross.

One bridge, I knew because, before the war, I was going out there to bathe. This was clear water. There were no ships or barges going with oil there. The water was as clear as crystal.

And, before the war, I used to go out there once in a while on a bicycle for a ride because I was in the town where my wife was born. And it was wasn't too far away. And taking a bath there always there when it was hot, like some days when you do work.

So I knew this river. And I went straight further in into a wave of the road, and I crossed that river. The water was still here about. It was dry. It was hot. The air was dry. The waters were low. And I crossed. So this is the second river.

And the third river, this was near Tarnów. It was called Dunajec. That river wasn't clean. The sewers from this town was all dumped in that river. But who cares about? The same thing, I went through the waters--

Was this the day or at night?

During the day. You wouldn't move at night. At night, it was dangerous.

Why?

And I came--

She wanted to know why.

Oh. At night, the Germans were patrolling the rivers, the bridges, and changing patrols. Going from one, back and forth. And, if they catch you at night going, you are a traitor. You are a spy. You are something.

And they wouldn't be patrolling during the day?

During the day, there are movements. People are walking. People are going, especially when you go in the populated areas.

So I'll make it short. I came to my area where I used to live near that big wrench there. And I went-- yeah, before going, this I have to tell you. I had to cross the main road from one side-- there was forests. There were those forests from that same wrench.

And I had to cross that main road. So I went through the road, and I go on the road, and there's a military brat laying on the road. It was just a little bit by a wheel. It splat-- in one side, run over.

And bread-- oh, my goodness, I said. This is mana from this skies. Bread? [INAUDIBLE] the bread. I picked up that bread. And, right way-- we were taught in the army that, when our enemy is drawing, they poison the water. They poison the flour. They poison bread, and they especially leave bread so that, when the opposition comes in, and they eat this, it's poison.

And so this is what we were taught in the Polish army. I was 18 months in the army. And they had that in my head for 18 months.

And I took this bread. And I said, oh, maybe something [INAUDIBLE] was poison. But I was hungry like a dog.

I broke off a small piece. And I'll say, I'll try a small piece. Maybe this was all right.

So I tried a small piece. It was delicious. And I waited about 15, 20 minutes. I said, nothing happened to me. I took a larger piece and I ate.

This is a thing where you remember. This is a good thing what happened to me. And I said, this is a good sign. I am probably going to be liberated.

And I went back there. I told you before because I was jumping [INAUDIBLE], and I went back into the forest. And I was sitting with those people who were in the forest. Now, they had a system-- had a [? iron ?] three legs, [? iron ?]. And they were in a pot. It was all smoked up black like this all around.

And we were digging potatoes on a farm. As the farmers had potatoes at that time, it was potato time. And we're digging potatoes, and we're cooking there.

And I picked some little mushrooms. And this was put in the potatoes, and they made potato soup. And so we cooked them here very low, so it wouldn't be too much smoke because smoke is seen from far away. And then, later, you took the potatoes, and you about, let's say, a half a kilometer away-- a half a mile away-- and you ate it there because, in case somebody saw the smoke here, you shouldn't be on that place.

And, after you ate, the sun was shining. Everybody was undressed and taking out the livestock. And there were plenty.

And everybody was doing that. This is the only way they kept the livestock lower. And this people that I met,

they looked almost like wild-- black from the smoke. Never washed the hands. Never washed.

I still came out from the concentration camp-- in the concentration camp, you still had some water you could wash yourself if you felt like. And they were all black completely-- the hands-- and they looked like wild people, honestly. But they still had their [INAUDIBLE] how [INAUDIBLE] on--

Sense. Their intelligence. Their [INAUDIBLE].

They still knew what they were doing. And we were there for about four weeks. I was with them together. And, later, because the Russian/German front was stopped at-- there was a Wisłoka-- they call it Vistula, a river. Again, a river.

So the Russians were the other side of this river. And the Germans were on this side of the river. And we were about four weeks in that forest. Later on, the front moved a little bit. And we know that something is going on because we heard the airplanes and the shooting. We heard because we were in that forest.

So the Russians were shooting in that forest because they saw that the Germans are there. And the Germans, already, was drew further, and they were shooting in that forest. Every couple of seconds, another big cannon exploded here and there. It was already.

So we were digging holes and then hiding in the holes, but it was all dangerous. One morning-- and a lot of farmers used to-- when the Germans moved, they took the cattle, their livestock, the geese, and then ducks, and chickens and came to the forest with them, staying with us, already. At that time, it was already one thing.

And, one morning about 2 o'clock in the morning, I looked up there on the horizon. The whole horizon was red, burning. And, again, I learned in the army, when the army is withdrawing-- let's say, the enemy is withdrawing. They burn the houses, so that the other--

Scorched earth.

--the opposition comes in, they wouldn't have a way to get in. They couldn't go through. They made blocks and things like that.

And so I saw, about 2 o'clock in the morning, the whole horizon all around was red, burning. To my friends there in the forest, I said, we can't stay here any longer because this is a area where it is being shot in. We must go out as soon as possible.

So, when the Polish people saw that we are going, they said, oh. The Jews. They are smart. When they are going, we are going, too.

And they took their horses and their cows. And the cows were so afraid, they were mooing so terribly because of those noise every time. And, again, I said give me a cow. I go to the farmer.

I said give me a cow. And the other guy took a horse. And I helped them go to the front.

And we are going there for another probably about 10 miles to walk. And the explosions every minute, it got light and exploded. Every couple of minutes, another one here, another there. And this cattle was so afraid.

Finally, we came over to not far away from that horizon where it was burning, and we were stopped by the Russians. Oh, we saw them. This was just like HaShem was there. And we really saw that we are now-- they saw, of course, the horses and cows. They know that this is not the enemy. Those are farmers.

So they say, [PERSONAL NAME]. Let's go. Go. And we went over there. We went through the town. But we were staying in the town.

And a couple of weeks later, we heard that, in another town, there were 30 people killed by the Polish. They

called themselves AK. This is Armia Krajowa. And, in English, it would be the army of the [? lent ?] to translate this, what they were calling themselves.

And they were actually--

This is the Polish Underground?

Polish Underground. And they were killing Jews. They went in, and they was in a small town called [PLACE NAME]. In that town, there were about, maybe 30 or 35-- I don't remember, exactly-- Jews killed who came out from concentration camp, from the forest. And they were killed. And so, when we heard that, we picked up our things and were going further into a larger town. And it was called [PLACE NAME].

And there, there was already a lot of Jews came from Russia, back, and in the army, and things like that. People, the Jews, started already to do business. But you were afraid to walk out of town. You didn't know who was your enemy because they were really looking for Jews. They didn't want the Jews to survive. Again, this same army who were-- during the Hitler time, they were underground. They came out, and they were shooting the Jews.

And so we didn't wait so long. We went over to that larger town until that front moved. And it was another six months. It took six months until the front, the Russians moved. And they went still to Berlin.

And when Krakow was liberated, I went back from [PLACE NAME] to Krakow. And then Krakow, I met some friends who went out from the concentration camp. And there in Krakow, again, was already whatever you took in your hand, you could make some money.

For instance, you took out, let's say, from what you had hidden somewhere, a suit, you went out to sell it. You could live a couple of weeks for the money. People were buying.

In those towns that you're saying were burned, and you were moving from one town to the other, how did you eat? Weren't supplies also destroyed, and the army was there needing supplies? Where were supplies coming from?

You mean after the--

No, as you were going, you're saying you went from the smaller town to a larger town--

Oh, this was already-- this was already under the Russians, under the Russian Occupation.

And they brought food with them?

They-- people helped themselves. For instance, right away after I was liberated-- I mean, after we went to the front-- as you know, I was a tailor. I went into a Polish family.

And they had a machine. And they had peace goods stolen-- plenty of peace goods from the Jews. And I was working for them, sewing, making shirts, making shirts. And they gave me to eat, nothing else. But they gave me good to eat.

This was a big thing for me. This was a big thing in the beginning. And then, later on, when I went into the larger town, I started, also, to do some business. What was the business?

The Russian Army, when they were reaching the German borders there, the German people, they were clearing out their closets, taking out all their goods, their suits, their things. And, when they were going back to their headquarters, back to behind where we were in [PLACE NAME], they brought big sacks of materials-- not new ones but suits and things. And we bought from them.

For instance, if you had the watch, and you gave them this watch, you could get a whole bag of clothes, and bedspreads, and sheets, and other towels, all these things. So you went out on the market.

There was a bazaar every week. You went out, and you were selling them. You made some money. This was the way it started off.

And then I went back from [PLACE NAME] to Krakow. Krakow was already liberated. They were already in Berlin. The war was still on. And, in Krakow, again, was a big town already. Right away, a Jewish Community Center was created.

And they were taking back some buildings, what the Germans occupied. And they moved in a lot of people. But we couldn't move in. We rented a large room in the main square.

And, every week, like a bazaar was going on there. I was going out there and selling, either some [INAUDIBLE] what I had, or I started off to do some business. A guy came in from further near the German border. He brought leather, and he was selling this leather on the market-- big pieces of leather.

I said, why don't you give me [? consign ?]? I'll sell it, and I'll pay for it. Good. He gave me because he had to go. And we let him store in our place to go in. This was, for him, very good.

And I started to sell the leather. And, later, I got smart. I have to take from him. I went to Katowice.

Maybe you heard of Katowice. Again, a large town. This was closer to the German borders. And I found out where I can buy leather, and I bought leather. This leather was smuggled in from Germany, from Hungary. The Russian soldiers were smuggling in. There were Jews with them.

There was one Jewish soldier. He is now living in New York. And I meet him once in a while.

He lost a leg. And he was dressed as an officer. And he took a Russian with a truck.

And he got himself a seal that he is [INAUDIBLE] means secret-- secret. That he was-- he was going through the borders. And they saw this-- it's called [INAUDIBLE]-- this [INAUDIBLE] this card, what he had written that he is a secret man didn't do anything. He went into Hungary and loaded that truck with hard leather-- leather, hard leather-- and brought back to Krakow, and was selling whoever knew about selling, making money.

And so I, again, with my friend-- and my friend, an old man, survived in the forest. He was about maybe 65, 70 years old. And he had a fur coat.

You know, the rich Jews before the war, had a black coat with a [INAUDIBLE] collar. This was very expensive. And this is only who could afford this.

He gave this out away to a farmer somewhere. And he got it back. And he goes out to sell because they didn't have a piece of bread at home.

They were going around hungry in Krakow. He went out on that bazaar to sell this. So, to sell it, comes excuse my expression-- a jerk. And he has to put it on, to try it on, if it fits him. He tries out, and he says, this is my coat. Where did you get it?

He says to that Jewish fellow, this is my fur coat. Where did you get it? And then that old man started to make noise.

And, right way, they came-- the milic was called-- this was the police at that time but also the kind from what were killing Jews. But they were the authorities. And so what can I tell you?

They arrested this old man for wanting to sell his coat. And this guy who wanted to steal that coat from him, they let him go. They just took his name, and they arrested this old man.

And we go out. Here, he had a sister, and a brother, and a daughter, and a son, and another young lady

with them who was in the forest. Honestly, hungry, was out a piece of bread, not a penny in their soul. They came to Krakow.

And he had the man-- they arrested them. And good that this police took that coat from the headquarters. They didn't let him have it.

Finally, they had to prove where this coat was hidden. And they got a witness that this is his coat from before the war, this fur coat. So they gave him back.

But he had to be in jail for 24 hours for selling this coat. This is how the conditions were after the war, the good conditions, the good Polish. And so, of course, these girls, as I said, they were hungry. I had some money because I was doing some business.

I said to the brother, go out and, first, buy a bread. Let them eat. And so we start to do some business--

Excuse me, Aaron. We have 15 minutes more.

OK.

[INAUDIBLE]

You want me to stop for 15?

No. No, no, no. Just continue. We have 15 more minutes of time.

If there's anything that you want to make sure you say--

Uh. Dah. What I want to say is this, being there in Krakow, one morning, this group came in the--

AK?

--the AK came in with machine guns, and put them all against the wall, and picked up everything what was in the house, and took out the leather. They knew where to look. We had some gold pieces-- you know, when you had money, you bought something, you wanted to invest your money. In there were, in old rags in the closet, they picked up the rags, and went through one by one, and picked up the gold pieces.

And I happened to be, at that time, in the movies. I went out in the movies. It was during the day and good that I wasn't there because I wouldn't have let them take away because I would have-- first of all, I would have go out. I would have run out and call some authorities if there were some authorities. But, anyway, they picked up everything what we had, and they left us clear without anything.

So we moved out of that apartment because, "We will be back," they said. We moved out, and I gave up the business. And I didn't do anymore this type of business.

And so, later, my wife came in the picture. She also came out sick from a concentration camp. And they introduced her to me.

She looked very bad. She lost all her hair on the head. She had a little coat made from an American blanket. So it was something she made by hand.

And this was with a girlfriend. The girlfriend provided her the blanket, and she sewed that coat up. And so, when she went out, she's wear the code. And, when the girlfriend went out, the girlfriend would wear the coat.

And I met, at that time, my wife. I wasn't so eager to get married because I didn't know. I though maybe I'm going to go away to the United States, and I am not the one in involved myself. But I did. I got married.

And then, in Krakow-- we were living in Krakow for about another year. And I had uncles in the United States, right in Plainfield. And they sent me a affidavit-- papers. And we had to smuggle from Poland to Austria. From Austria, we had to smuggle to Germany because, from Poland, nobody was going to the United States.

And we came in-- when I came into Germany, at that time, we had to register that we belong to a certain group from survivors from the concentration camp. And I went to Heidelberg because my wife was still sick. She had the lungs that were still not clear from [INAUDIBLE] because she had very bad typhus.

And so we went to Heidelberg, and there were the clinics and doctors. And she was attending a clinic there. And she was healed out there.

And, in Heidelberg, I was registering. And this guy in the-- in that community, he says, what proof do you have that you are Jewish? Because a lot of German were registering, that they say they are Jewish.

And I said, I am Jewish. What do you want me to do? You want me to talk Jewish? I'll talk to you in Jewish, but do you understand Jewish? No, he says. I said, I have no other proof to tell you that I am Jewish.

What nationality was this man?

This man was a German. Wait-- what happened to this man, it happened so that somebody recognized him that he was in an SS, and he ran away. This guy who will try to find out if I am Jewish, he was an SS.

He was in this community center, the whole chief, and finally somebody recognized him. And he was an SS. And he ran away.

And so those are things where you cannot forgive. And you are-- after five years, what you went through, you just slip a lot of it. But the main things, which is the horrible scenes and things remain with you. And you cannot forget that.

You dream about. You go through dreams every few days, another dream. You are hiding, you are running, and hiding. And there's nowhere to hide and things like that.

When did you come to the United States?

We came in '49 or late in the '48, I think. We had some problems coming here because of this organization of survivors. What happened, they elected a president, and he was a communist. And whoever belonged to this organization had a black spot. He [INAUDIBLE] communist.

And we were staying in Bremenhaven, and this is where the ships moved. We were staying there for more than, I think, five weeks. And I had a little boy, a year old.

He caught a cold, and got sick, and had to put him in the hospital. And we were waiting. They were checking my papers, a bit communist, I am.

Where was he born, your son?

Who?

My oldest son?

Yeah.

In Heidelberg.

In Heidelberg?

In Heidelberg. He was-- yeah. He was born in Heidelberg. And this is where-- the problem was, when I came in to register, and I belonged to that organization. And that organization turned communist because they elected a communist. And so everybody who belonged to this organization, had some doubt if he is not a communist.

I told them I didn't go any more to any meetings. Since the first president was discharged, I didn't go to any more meetings. I don't know what you're talking about, a communist. I never was a communist. I was a hard-working man.

And, finally, they checked my papers. And it took about five weeks. And to stay there five weeks and to sleep, again, in barracks and eat every morning a half a quart of potato soup, you had another portion.

And, when you came here to wait in Germany, I moved in with a friend. Never bed. I was sleeping on the table, or under the table, or on the table for about two years. And, finally, when we reached the United States, I was, the first time, in a bed.

And that's how you-- like I said, this is the main thing. But there are more to it. You can't remember those things. It's very hard, after five years, to remember.

We haven't got anything written. We have everything with what we remember. That's what I'm trying to tell you. And so, further later on in the United States, I was working on two jobs.

During the day, I was working as a fitter a department store. And I was working on another job, going out to do some sheet rock work-- applying sheet rocks, and spackling, and things like that because I was a handyman. I learned a lot this business in the concentration camp.

And it was hard. I couldn't get an apartment because I had a little boy. Nobody would rent to you, at that time, an apartment with a child. I couldn't understand that.

Finally, we did get settled in and worked very hard. And thanks, God, that we are here, and that we survived all these things that we can tell about. And I am now, I would say, [NON-ENGLISH] doing fine.

I went in into the business into building line. And I was about 11 years in the building trade. And then I gave up.

Became bad. It became that you couldn't get any mortgages. Couldn't sell houses, so I liquidated this business.

And I am partially retired. I have a couple old houses, which I am taking care of myself. [INAUDIBLE] you fix it. You need a plumber, you call him, and you rent it. And this is what I am doing. And thanks, God, for that.

Do you talk to your children about this? Did they ever-- did they want to know about this?

They know about this. They don't want to-- they don't want to listen too much about it, like all American children, you know. But, now, they wanted a copy of those papers, what we had.

And they are more interested because they're starting to-- the [INAUDIBLE], as we call ourselves, the time is against us. Let's not kid ourselves. And, if they won't take over and be interested, those anti-Semites who are writing books now and that this was a lie, then they will open their mouth.

Do you have grandchildren?

I have had [HEBREW] six grandchildren.

And they are-- and whenever I think of those children where they were killed, it cuts my heart because I love my children. I love my grandchildren. When I don't see them, and I don't see them in two weeks, I have to go with them.

One son lives in Muncy, and one is in Fair Lawn, and one is Livingston. He's a lawyer there in Livingston.

And Fair Lawn works in computers. And, in Muncy, he is a Orthodox young man. Not special Hasidic, but he sends the kids to the yeshivas. And he has a good Jewish home.

The same thing is in Fair Lawn. Fair Lawn is now a very nice Jewish community there. And, if you want to be a Yid you can be there with all the things.

And I have [NON-ENGLISH]. That's called, in Jewish, [NON-ENGLISH].

Pleasure.

Thank you. And you know, after one man left from 46 people, and now my family, [NON-ENGLISH] is growing, I have the name. I survived. And I feel that I have accomplished something in life.

And, when I am with my children, my children don't like to hear too much about. Even if I tell them, it goes in here, and it goes out right here. But they know what I have been through. And they know what happened to the people in Europe. They know about that.

Aaron, thank you very much.

Thank you.

Thank you.