

Here we go.

Then my mother brought me back to health. And then we were driven out of our town. I must have been Easter time. [? Second ?] days of Easter. The doors like a marketplace, all the Germans, but mainly there was Ukrainians, Ukraine, from Ukraine people, with the black uniforms. And they were so ordinary. I never encountered-- the Poles were bad. I can-- I'll tell you the truth, I can-- not I have anything against humanity or against people. But it's what they did is unforgivable in my mind, my estimation of mine.

You know, there's certain things, you can do certain harm to somebody but with a little of sensitivity. But they hadn't had no sensitivity at all. When we were driving out in the market, I remember one episode, there was one German getting up on a couple-- a few Germans, SS. They went up on a wagon, like on a horse and buggy wagon, a tall one. Or he had a stool there.

He was talking to the whole area. And the people were very, very-- all of a sudden, we went-- not used to be known during the war time that burning down, I think, but we weren't used to-- we were used to episodes like sometimes they used to go down, let's say, the Poles in procession. They used to carry all their emblems, the Holy Mary, or Jesus, or the disciples on their shoulders.

There used to be a group going with them, and they used to break the windows, and they used to kick, and they used to knock, and they used to bang. Put them Ukrainians, that was-- that I had understood this before even that Hitler came in. You know, that's what I'm saying, that my Holocaust in my life didn't start at 1939 when Hitler came in. It started up years before within me. But it lay dormant.

But when Hitler came in, it brought back to me more and more this stuff. So the them Ukrainians, they were going around, hitting them poor old people, kids, kicking them, knocking them with their bayonets, with the butt of their rifles. And it's unbelievable. They put them on wagons. All the farmers had to come in with the wagons. But they had old people. They had to dispose of them.

So they give an order to the farmers, to bring-- every farmer had to come with a horse and buggy. All disabled people used to be thrown into that wagon, and the farmer used to drive him through towards that area, towards [? KÅ³nskowola ?], down there where the barn, where they all drove us in.

And the rest of the able-bodied people like I, my mother, and my brother, healthy people, they used to walk. That was there that-- I don't know. Must have been about 10 kilometers away from our town. And we used to walk. It was a heat, Easter time. Was warm. And my mother was very, very not sick, but she was very--

Fragile.

Very-- she was-- my mother was a very healthy person, not thin. But she was torn apart. My father wasn't there. I understand now, if you have your husband with you-- it's different when you got the kids. My father wasn't there. And that's what I was telling you, then a neighbor of us had a daughter. Outstanding in my mind, very pretty girl. She was somehow living like-- like a [INAUDIBLE]. She had a little baby. And she had just got married a year before. Probably, you know the young people, we didn't accept that something like this would happen.

And then guys were going down toward that area, and we were walking down this road. And one of the Ukrainians with a black uniform, he outstands me right in my face, with a long face, ordinary face. Hit that. Or he meant to hit somebody else. He hit that kid. And she walked with it all bleeding. And people used to cry. They'd put away the baby. The kid is dead. And she put it into the side of the road, that baby. And just throw it into the side of the road.

I had another episode. There was a guy like I was talking about. He had-- he was the seizures. He had seizures.

Epilepsy?

Epilepsy. And he was kind of like a fun guy, but he was sick. And I know him as a child coming up with him, a distant neighbor. He become-- he got the seizure as he was going down. Right after we're going out of town or out of our city. And he fell down. And the guy just went down. The Ukrainian guy just shot him in the head. Just killed him.

I myself was not even-- you know, you are torn apart. Before even you got to that concentration camp or that oven, you were tortured to death innerly, mentally. You were not a person. You were non-human. You were a-- you didn't know where you belonged. Nonthinkable. It was nonthinkable. what they did.

What did this-- what did this do to you mentally?

Mentally--

Did it make you stronger? Or did it make you more--

It made me stronger to survive. That's what I'm talking about, they drove us out. And then we went into the area. Then like I was telling you, I came back to my town with my brother. We found our father, and we continued on the outskirts. Not outskirts, away from human existence. There was no human there. Only thing you could see was animals, cows.

You want me talking about the animals, I was envying the cows on the field, that they don't have to be afraid. I was envying the animals. As a young man, what did I do? As I was sitting in the fields, I was thinking about it by myself. And things-- and it was a horrible thing. And when I come back, we started up, and then this, and then that.

Finally I joined-- it was groups left over. One group was older people, kids where they took them away right away, the Germans, the Poles, give them over to that area where the Germans were, to that office where the Germans reside.

They give them over, and they took him away towards Pulawy. They went away with the single-ized children. They don't have no father, no mother. It was such a turmoil. And we stayed on the fields. And I remember episodes. So my thinking was, I was a youngster. They were older than I am. I joined some groups of people. There were--

Some people were left deserters from the army, in the Polish army. They couldn't go no place. They were left in our Town They were left in our town. They reside in our town. They didn't have no place to go back probably towards their own area. So they were residing.

And then they made a group of them. I don't recall that they were 10 or 20 of them people. It's in that book written down there. And I stayed with them. But I was a person, I was a youngster. I know the farms around there. The area was familiar around there. As my father was in the area, he used to take me along that area when the school was out in the summer. He used to take me along on like outings, and he used to go down doing business, you know?

But he used to take me along. And I recall it, he used to sometimes-- we were, I think my father was a fine man, too. But I can't recall an episode, he used to go to a tree where there used to be apples or some pears or some cherries. He used to stop with the wagon especially for me to get myself off some fruit, you know? That takes a lot of-- some people, they don't think about it. They just kept going, you know?

But I appreciate that even today I know he stopped, I should get myself some. Not that I was missing it at home, you know? And things like this. And I was residing in this area with my father. But I knew them farms. And I used to bring him some bread from the farmers, some milk. Or sometimes potatoes, a few potatoes. I used to go out in the fields.

Oh, I used to bring him some-- like I used to bring him like sugar beets. There used to be a lot of sugar beets. I used to make sugar beets. I used to live on it. I remember, I used to chew on it. It used to be stringy, them sugar beets.

So I used to chew on them. It was to get out this sweetness from them. And the rest, I had to it spit out. I couldn't swallow it. It's like straw. It becomes like straw after a while. You know, and I used to eat them beets. I used to bring them down this, whatever I could muster to get them together. And I brought him down, and they were thankful. That's all.

I remember one night, it was the summertime, and I was lying down there. It must have been '43. I decided I was staying with him for the night. And all of a sudden, me as a person, not that I'm trying to project myself that I'm such a good man. That's my nature. Even today, I practice that with all my ways of doing it, if I can help somebody, I'll help. If I can't, I'll say I'm sorry but I will try it or something.

I will not go away, say hey or something, "who are you? I gotta help you? Why don't you go to work?" and things like this, that's not mine, my way of doing things. So I helped them out. So one night I was lying with them in the bushes down there. My aunt was there, too. She is now passed away.

She and her husband, only two survived, and me. I survived that night. It must have been around 12 o'clock at night. As a young man, I was lying down. I tossed around for everybody the food, but I was hungry. Very hungry. And I was lying down and looking up. I couldn't fall asleep all from being hungry.

There wasn't enough for everybody.

No, it wasn't enough, you know?

How many were you?

Must have been around-- between 10 and 20. I don't know exact. There was young girls, not from out town, different styles. It was my cousin, my mother's sister from Konskowola. Her son hid her at a farmer, where he know about. He gave away some money and all the wealth, whatever he had. They were well off people, too. My mother's sister.

He came to the woods. He couldn't stay by that farmer. One thing, he didn't want to stay another. Another thing, he couldn't stay. You couldn't stay one family in one place. Otherwise, you were gone. You must have-- make them people think that somebody will come and harm them if they do something. If you could mess with that, that was fine.

And that night, I picked myself up. And the sun-- the moon was coming down straight at me like, and I would go kind of like carried away. And I picked myself up, and I said to the people, you know, I'm going into town. I didn't know where I was going. I'm going into town. Must have been maybe about five kilometers away.

So I was going away. And they were kind of joking at me, laughing. Where you going at night? What, are you chicken? What, are you afraid? Or what, are you going to find something down there? I says, no, I'm hungry. Maybe I'll bring home some-- bring back some food with me.

That was my excuse, but I was hungry, and I looked up to that when I got scared somehow or something down. It has done something to me. I can't recall it. I went away from the woods out. I was traveling maybe for three miles, walking near a creek. And I see something moving forward and back, moving down there.

But I thought myself, what's down there moving? And then I thought myself, I went away towards the other end, to the right-- to the left. That was the road going in towards Pulawy. And the other way into the right was towards the field.

So I moved away towards the road to avoid that creek. Maybe somebody is there. But then I didn't come across a certain part of the field. And I saw it was a bush. A bush swaying. It was swaying. And I came into town. It was like outskirts of the town, where the barns face the fields.

And I selected that farmer to stay over there. From walking then five miles-- I don't know exact-- I went up on the barn and I fell asleep. From being tired. I was hungry. It kind of like knocked me out. And I thought myself in the morning, I'll get up early in the morning. And I'll get in around somewhere, where the farmers used to get up 4:00 o'clock in the morning.

I'll get into one. I'll get a little milk. I selected that guy, and telling him I just come. He doesn't supposed to know that I was sleeping on that-- in that barn. Otherwise, it'll be bad. He would probably curse me out, or warn me, or something.

So I didn't let him know that I was sleeping down there. Finally, I overslept. As I overslept, I look outside, the kids are going to school already. The kids are going to school. And it was like a side road, where they're going to school.

And the Polish kids speaking in Polish I overhear towards the barn, a little down towards the wall. And one of the kids is saying, oh-- you want me to say in Polish or in English?

However.

They say [SPEAKING POLISH].

That means, they killed the Jews in the woods, in Klementowice woods. Must've been around 10:30 in the morning, or maybe 11 o'clock. I overslept. I was very knocked out. Then I thought myself, it's good I wasn't there. Something, mental telepathy. And I over-- I went over this. And they didn't-- they killed all of them.

The only thing is, I didn't know if my aunt was alive. He wore-- she had an army-- like an army cover, you know? The green ones. And he was a very clever-- she was clever, too, during the woods, going around on the fields.

The other people, what they did, why they killed them, they were running. You couldn't run out. They were surrounded. And they were shooting them down like rabbits.

Who shot them? Germans, Lithuanians?

The Germans. the Germans, Ukrainians. I haven't been there. I don't know who shot them. But I know it couldn't be otherwise. They couldn't have only Germans. They had police, Polish police. They had Ukrainians and part Germans. Well, all the Germans, all the Germans, the able-bodied men, the proper people went on the Russian front, towards Russia. They were fighting at that time already Russia.

And the strong people went towards Russia. And what was here was only the security, like SS, people who they couldn't send to the front down there, German police. I mean, the SS, [? SNAD ?] with black uniforms. They used to have the Ukrainians were wearing German black uniforms, like dark like this, like this cover in the back of us.

And they surrounded the woods and they killed them all. The only thing, my aunt didn't run. They ran into a bush. And they took somehow-- the way she explained me later on, well, I would have been killed, too. They covered themselves the front with that green stuff that become a part of the bushes, a part of the--

Camouflaged themselves.

Camouflaged themselves. So they survived. And that's all. From there on I never wanted to be of a group of anything. There was one working camp in our town, in Kurow. That was during that time. They had maybe about 25 people, healthy people. And they said the Germans need them, and they're going to survive.

Well, the guy who headed that camp was a Jewish guy. He said to my father, you have three of you. Each one has to give 500 zlotys. This is \$500. we were \$1,500 to get into that camp. That guy was like between the Germans, with the Germans kind of coordinating with them.

And my father said to me, you know, Joseph, how about we get in, getting into wintertime, we get into that camp? And we're going to survive there. They're going to need us for work on the roads. They took them out on the roads to work. Sometimes it used to be damaged, the road from the tanks, from the motor vehicles. We used to fill them and do things like this.

I said to my father, you know, Dad, you want to go in with Dave, my brother David, OK.

This was before you separated from them, before you were completely on your own. Is it?

Yes, that was during that time as I we were separated, yes.

Oh, all right.

But we met each other.

Oh, but you met each other periodically.

Periodically, right.

Right, I wanted to clear that up.

So he said to me, would you like to join? I said, no. No one will get me in behind the wires. Well, I had to smell the idea of wires when I was a [YIDDISH]. You understand what I mean?

Yes.

That lay with me inside, that to get in between wires, I know what it means. You have only so much--

Space.

--space to get go out or being killed. So I said to my father, if you want to get in, fine with me. But me, I want to sleep in the wintertime in a haystack in a barn, any place. In a hole. And I'm not getting in there.

Finally, my father said, if you're not getting in there, maybe you are right. This somehow didn't give me my rights, but maybe he didn't mind being frank. Maybe he wanted to part from his money. You know, it's only human, you know? Why? If you get into a camp, you're up to them with your livelihood. This way, he had a few dollars.

A few dollars, you can always buy a little food. He used to smoke. He used to like to have a little like leaves. I used to bring him some leaves, some tobacco leaves. I used to bring him. And my father didn't join it, and I didn't join it either. And he went back to that farm. After-- must have been two weeks later, or maybe a month later, they killed them all.

During that time, I didn't know they killed them. But you see, I was hungry. A young man, you know, when you're young, you're always hungry. You know? Especially in Europe, you're always hungry. You know? And I didn't have my mother's meals. Whatever I ate, it was just minor things.

So I had a guy, he had a smith. He was a smith. You know what a smith is?

Yes. Blacksmith?

Blacksmith, yes. And he had kids my age. And he was always coming into my house and into our business. His name was Witkowski. That Witkowski didn't-- I used to go. He was a little bit out of the outskirts, in a road of the city. It's almost in the city, but a little bit away.

And I was a very strong young man, very young guy. He used to say, you know, Joseph, you want to help me out, you come me here. I used to stop in sometimes to him for a bottle milk or a piece of bread. Not he as much but she was a very good woman, his wife.

He was all right, too. She was compassionate, that woman. But he was business. He needed me for I should-- we used to make horse shoes for horses. And he used to-- he used to give a knock on this place. And I had to go with a big hammer into that place. He used to teach me how to do it.

I never did it, but somehow I was inclined a little bit from all that running around. He used to give a knock with a small

hammer, and I used to have to give a bigger bang in that spot. But not to cut it. It was like on fire. He used to always have the coal. He used to call it in Polish [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

And once in a while I used to have to move this up and down to get a fire going. And I used to do little things. And then he used to have a field outside. Five miles away, he used to have like two, three acres of land through this forest back. And he used to take me out to do some work, potatoes work and things like this.

And I didn't trust him. I trusted his wife more. But I know she was a compassionate person. She was not ordinary. And there were a lot of women down there, very ordinary people. Very. They used to shout at you. Maybe they were afraid for their own families. I don't-- I don't know.

But see, you could do things with saying or with a brushing you off not to come, different language, with different approaches. But she kind of-- I took a liking to her. When she used to feed the kids, her kids, I used to get sometimes-- we used to come in, some, farmers.

I used to work sometimes in certain places, where I used to be on the fields. I wasn't in their house, but I used to work on their fields. And I used to watch him from a distance, distance away, with who he's coming to that field. So he kind of asked me to come out.

But I didn't trust him. I thought maybe it's going to give me away. I didn't trust anybody. I don't care if you would be my best friend. That was my survival. So they used to give me. They thought I didn't know. They used to give me some leftover food, or they used to eat and they didn't have enough.

But I was hungry. I was like a-- I could eat anything. If I ate anything, I went in like a machine. And I ran around the fields. You lie on the fields, your appetite increases. So I-- and one day, I was standing down there. I came into this place of work. I didn't tell them when I'm coming. That was another thing. I couldn't make a date with anybody.

If you make a date, you don't know who's going to wait for you. But I somehow showed up down there in that smith place. He says to me, "you know, Joe, you better run away. They just killed yesterday the Jews in that place."

That was the month before I supposed to go into this place. "You better run away. They killed all the Jews." And from his place, there was like a house on a little hill. And they were all slaughtered down there. He was telling me the blood is even going down that hill. The guy, Witkowski, told me. So I picked myself up and ran away.

But I was very determined. When you're hungry, you're determined. But I trusted that woman. And I came back. And he needed me, too, for that few five miles on the outskirts. He had five acres. And I used to pick his potatoes. Whatever he told me to do, I used to do. And he used to bring me out some food there with him.

One day, somehow he took me home. He had some work for me, from the fields in home. And I was working with him in that [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] in this smith place, making some nails, making some-- fixing them hooves for the horses.

And all of a sudden, he looks around. Oh, he says, "there's a gathering of Germans on the bridges all over. You better go away." But I didn't go away. I went upstairs, upstairs to his attic, where the straw was there. He says, I could see that I couldn't trust him. I trusted her. She didn't come up, but he came up.

And he said, you better get out of here. What was down there? They didn't look for me. There was a-- they were taking the Poles to Germany to work in the factories and things. Not to a camp to kill them, in the factories and the ammunition places. And they used to take away the young, able-bodied men.

So and I was there, too, in the midst of it. If I would be seen between the Polish boys, I would be right away killed. Well, they're going to give me out. I know they would give me out. They would say right away, oh, there's Leo's son here. What are you doing here?

So the thing is, I went down. As he had his horse standing there by the wagon, I had a little sense how will I get out? And they surrounded all the bridges. Well, I thought myself, I'll take a chance. I got on the horse, riding with the things, all the utensils a horse is supposed to have on him.

And I got on the horse with all of the ropes. And I drove through that bridge where the Germans were there. And somehow all they thought I looked like-- now maybe I look more older. I didn't look like a real Jew, you know. I had clothes on. Maybe today that's fashionable Barlow bags. Today they have jeans. It was a big thing.

Now I wore the jeans 50 years ago.

You were ahead of time, yeah.

But they weren't colored. They weren't blue. They were white, you know? And I had the shirt, too, like that. So I used to-- I wasn't noticeable. And I kind of passed by that bridge. I went through. And I came down to an area. There was them marks, like you some people used to put down monumental, like from Jesus and Mary, some monument with a little hood on it.

Down there, as far as I got there, I left the horse, tied him up. I didn't tie him up. I put him on the fields. But that horse got back to him. Usually horses somehow got back after I talked to him. And I got away. That was one episode.

Another episode, the same after a while-- after a while that was one thing. I didn't go join the camp. Another thing is, right after I would have be gone, the Germans would have caught me. And not to look for me, for look for the Polish boys. And I got away from this thing, too.

And that's thing. Hanging around for a while, I didn't go back into the city for a while. And very little I went in back to that. I didn't like his attitude. He had an ordinary attitude. Not she, but he was a smith, a very vigorous, tall man. I remember he stays right in front of me when he was talking to me and things like this.

Not I was touchy or very like, oh, don't talk to me like this. But I could sense of it--

Was it instinct?

Huh?

Instinct?

That was his upbringing and his way of expression. Very ordinary, you know. He knows that he's got me in his palm, like so to say. He knows that he's the master. Even--

You could tell that.

Sure. But not to his wife. And I ran away, and I never got back to him until one day I went back into the city. So we had-- our city was a city of furs. They used to make furs. Industrial city. They made furs. And that was during the time when Hitler invaded Russia.

And they needed to prepare themselves with furs on the Russian front. So where do they come? They went into our city. And they made their people, wherever they had fur, to produce the fur. They brought them in skins.

And there was a few Jews down there, where they-- not they needed them. There had a formula of producing the leather to make it soft. They had the formula for it. And them people, there was one Jew from Warsaw. His name was [? Fidesz ?]. One. And there was a couple of Jews, a father and a couple of sons was Mr. Blank. He was in that factory down there, in the back.

And the one-- and I know about them there. They left me know messages, if I could do something for them to take him

out of there. It was very like going towards the-- they were fighting towards Zytomierz, towards the area Kiev, never losing, the Germans, the battle down there.

And then people older than I am, educated, they knew how to do things like this. You had to be pretty clever to have formulas and things like this. And they said to me-- one day, they made an appointment with me. That guy [? Fidesz ?] and that guy Mr. Blank with his sons, and said to me, "Joe, you're on the fields. Can you find us a hiding place with a farmer?" I says, "I'll see what I can do."

And I used to run around from field to field. I was like a rabbit. No-- to me was no roads and houses I avoided all the time, at all time. Even sometimes stacks of hay, I didn't know who was in them. The only thing that I recognized is empty fields. I did recognize.

And two, in the summertime, I didn't-- couldn't trust myself with it, where they had they were growing the wheat high and they had the barley growing. And I was leery, very leery to go near them, too. I used to go all the way with different [INAUDIBLE].

So finally, I said to them, "I'll find you something." That was-- but I kept contact with them. But one day, I wanted to keep contact with them. And then somehow I set a date with them. In between, I had that guy who used to give me-- he had at barn with cows. He knew my father, my mother, the whole family.

And once in a while, he used to give me a bottle of milk. And I used to carry it all the time, a bottle of milk. So there comes in my mother's sister, her son was shot in the woods in Klementowice. All of a sudden, one day, I found there on the fields-- somebody must have told them that we are moving around, from the Jewish people. She didn't find out from the--

But somewhere, someone told her that we are-- and all of a sudden, I found there my mother's sister. She is a very sick person, sick of asthma. And she was crying that Harry, her son, got killed. She knew about it. And was crying. She made me cry.

And it was a constant agony for me, not I didn't want her to survive. And I hadn't the heart of like some younger persons say, "hey, I don't have no time for you" or something. I took her with me. Wherever I went, I took her with me.

During that summer, what had happened, the farmer where she stayed, giving away all the money, she didn't go away. He threw her out, so to say. She found out. Then after she was thrown out from the barn, he was afraid for his own family, maybe. Or he had all her money, and he didn't care anymore for her.

And I took her along with me. I took her along with me. And I was traveling around in the fields with her. And I carried a bottle of always with me, or I needed some water. I was a distance already. I had a little bag with me. And all of a sudden, I said to my aunt, O came before the town was a creek.

There was-- in our town there was all some little waters, little creeks, and big waters. There were fisheries down there. And I said to her, "you know, Aunt, stay here. I'm going in to get some milk and bread." It was already getting dark in the summertime.

I didn't trust myself to go in during the daytime into the city. It was very daring as it is to go in with the Germans around. And I broke the bottle. You know, they say it's superstitious. I said, look at this. So my aunt didn't want to go away from me. She wanted to come along with me. I says, fine. OK, come with me. What can it be? Let her come with me.

But I even said to her, if I have to run, you wouldn't be able to run. Stay here. No, she says, "you must take me with you." And I took her along with me. I took her along with me. I broke the bottle a little right after I was going down the-- it fell something down out of my hand. I thought myself, I'll get a bottle from that guy. He'll give me another bottle or give me some kind of a little thing. That was a very comfortable bottle for me.

I could get enough water. I could get enough milk. If you give me a little milk, I know it was enough. And as a go in with my aunt, they robbed that fur places, in that area where the Jews were there. You know, Mr. Blank and Figasz and that factory. The underground, the Polish underground, before the Russian came for the fur, they took them away.

As they took them away, the Germans were very angry. They surrounded every night our town. Anyhow, or they surrendered different points of the area. The thoroughfares, main thoroughfares, main arteries. As I walked down, it was like a fence. All of a sudden, two SS come with the bayonets at me. "Stop." Like they say, "stop."

And they're pointing the bayonets at me and my aunt. I thought myself, "I am gone." So they start questioning me. I told them I am Polish. I didn't speak to him-- I used always my Polish language. I spoke Jewish and things like this, but I never, never used but Polish.

And I talked to him in Polish. I thought myself, I'm not going to talk to you in Polish-- in Jewish or something. I'm not going to reveal I'm a Jew. So they took me-- they were satisfied. They wanted to check me out in the office by that factory down there. But maybe somebody saw them guys that was robbing them. You know what I mean?

And they took me back down there. And there used to be-- the Germans used to do-- they used to take one police unit from my town, that unit. And they took him into Konskowola, 10 miles away to my aunt's town. And they used to take the unit of the Polish police from Konskowla into my town, to Kurow.

They made the exchange that they feed the population from this area. Will not have no contact with them to wheel and deal with them. You know, the Germans secured themselves with that. So all of a sudden, I was just [INAUDIBLE] down with the hands.

Anyway, we're down there. The Germans kind of left me alone on the side And all of a sudden, the guy-- the-- guy, a policeman comes down to check me out with my aunt. He says, "you know, he was from her town, from KÅ³nskowola."

He recognized her?

He says, "Mrs. Zuckermann, you're still alive." There I was recognized. That means I lied to the German police, to the SS. You know? That took on a different picture, me with her. The policeman says-- I remember his name. His name was Sadurski, a little short guy. I didn't know him, but I used to-- once in a while as a youngster, my aunt used to bring me over. She had a son my age.

And she used to bring me over, go over from my mother into her town. They used to stay there. And they used to have a business. And he used to come in, that policeman used to come into their store. I vaguely recognized him from that. That Sadurski said, "Mrs. Zuckermann, you're still alive."

Then comes in-- before all around, there were a lot of Polish people, like from the factory workers, like people lived around there, they get around there. That afternoon I could see some very ordinary people, who demolished our town, were robbing, taking away.

Let's say even when we still were in town, they used to wrestle away from the Jews things. But they couldn't help themselves. So that guy, the policeman recognized. And then they took me down. They put me towards the wall. Can I express myself, get up and show you how?

Please. Well, you have to take-- you may have take you mic off. I don't know.

No, or is it far away? No, I could master it-- to go down there.

OK.

They took me down, my aunt and me, put me towards that wall.

Yeah.

And they start beating me in the sides, and my aunt with different pieces from the bayonet. Not bayonet, with the end of this, knocking on me, I saw gone. They're saying to me, there was no Jews in our town that time. They was gone. They were busy with the Russian front.

Just anything was disposed of, killed like they found some Jews or some people they didn't like, they just disposed of them, one, two, three. And I thought myself, I'm not going to die on this wall. I picked myself up. And I don't know how. There was marshes around there. And there was like-- and I ran away. Somehow I took off and ran.

Well, they turned their back or they must have went away. It's already going to be 50 years. And I ran. They were shooting after me, but somehow I got away. It was already like dark, dark. And I got away somehow. And my aunt couldn't get away. She stayed there.

But what happened, as I ran, I went through a wood. I had to go through a wood where the Germans, their vehicles and all that stuff. I was going through. It was like a-- they used to make flour, like mill. They make flour there and things. And I went down there like this. And I went into some-- I couldn't-- I was exhausted.

But I ran away where I know no one is coming after me. And I must have ran out maybe a kilometer or maybe two. And I ran into a bush, and hid there. What happened? What happened? I sometimes got away, and I was lying there. But all of a sudden, my face was burning.

And I got somehow like-- what do you call that burning leaves you have on--

Poison ivy? Poison--

Huh? Poison ivy. Yes, I ran into a poison ivy thing.

Bush.

Bush. And everything was burning on me, my face and everything. I didn't care anymore, what it was down to me, as long as I was away. And it got dark, and I took off and went away back to them fields from where I came from in a different direction.

And I got away. And they killed my aunt. They killed her. But they didn't kill her down there. They took her away somewhere with a wagon, and they killed her. And I went away at that time. And I somehow got away. And what happened is, I didn't know but they had the Jewish-- when I was standing with my hands towards that wall, in the back of this barn were them Jewish people who were waiting for this factory, producing the fur and working out the fur and the leather.

They were in the back of that farm. They knew all about it. They already knew what happened to me. That they caught me down there. They were talking and the whole. But they were right in the back of this barn. I don't know how come they were back in that barn, but they were there. But they kept them just like for work.

And I got away somehow. And that was-- she was gone. And I was back on the fields by myself with the farm. So there it was bothering me awful, my hands, my face. And I come into a farm. I know that person. That was-- and he saw all my face.

I didn't have a mirror. He says-- but you have no mirrors, they got a mirror there. He says, "your whole face is red. What happened to you?" I told him like I fell in. And they call it in Polish-- they call it [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

I remember now. I don't remember what I had done a week ago, but I remember that word, [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]. So he said, the farmer, you must have had some [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]. That's like that--

Poison ivy.

Poison ivy. And I said to him-- well, I said to him, I don't recall it, "you have anything against this?" He says, "I haven't got nothing. But the only thing is, I could give you a remedy." He told me or she told me-- I can't recall it-- that might sound funny, but that's true to life. I had to urinate on a piece of cloth, and put it to my face. That was their medical thing. And that helped me somehow.

I don't know what it does, but that's what he told me to do. And I did it. I would have done anything and put it to them burning places. And even when you had a cut, you had it to do this. Are you going to a doctor? Where are you going to take a bandage?

You couldn't get a bandage. You couldn't get a piece a clean cotton or paper or something. And somehow it subsided with that, or subsided, but I think that helped. I would say that helped. And I got through that. Things like this. Then I hanged around down there in this area, and in them fields. Wherever I slept, I didn't eat. Whenever I ate, I didn't sleep.

I used to be like on the fields. It's funny. It's very-- I think it's not funny to me. I used to envy the animals sitting on the fields, just plain looking at them and envying them.

Did you think you'd be saved?

Let me say, I had a-- I had a thinking of even today it must work. I must survive. I didn't know if I'm going to survive, but I worked-- I didn't give myself a chance of not surviving, not thinking of non-survival. My thinking was positive. I didn't have no newspaper.

I didn't have no-- the only thing what I get, I used to get it from the farmers or from some people, that, oh, they're being pushed back from Kiev. They're being pushed back from Zytomierz. There was a very big fight, Zytomierz. They're being pushed back from different-- by the Bug down there, on the Bug.

And that was a little bit more, I think. But that wasn't much to me. Well, I could have been killed any moment. Any moment. I had an episode, I was lying on the field. One day, we had a date, I and my father and my brother. We had some kind of a date, I don't know what was the matter. There was a field where there was a little train, where they used to pick the beets up and put them on the train.

Surrounding the field, there was fields where they grew beets. I hanged around where I could get us some food, where there was only not growing high bushes. I didn't want anybody-- beets don't grow too high, and they could see it at a distance, too.

So one day, we made a date to meet there and there. And there was a stack of hay. They used to have like they call it in Polish [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]. [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] is in Polish an area where there only think of as seeding as hay for the animals. They had a stack of hay, and I was sleeping that night in that stack of hay to meet my father.

And all of a sudden, I hear at a distance, you know, we're sleeping. And after I got up-- I was a very light sleeper at that time. And I hear like crackling from wheels, moving wheels down there. I got out, and I looked up in the distance, and I could see-- today, I got a lens here, I got here an implant here. At that time, I could see a for miles away.

From not eating the proper food, my eyes had got bad, my teeth got bad and things. The thing is, I still have my health. I must have eaten at that time healthy food. Like now they tell you to eat all that lettuce and Cabbage I ate it. I didn't know it was healthy food. What was good I ate. What was there I ate.

So at that time I had to meet my father in that field. And I hear this coming up, this wagon coming. I looked out, and I didn't like it. I see three people, one in the front, distance in the fog I could see, and two in the back. And I said, that's not too-- too inviting for me. I'm not going to stay there.

And I see from a distance my father's coming with my brother, like from that area. I was staying like here. My father is coming towards me. And too was there like-- a town he was hiding was Bachowice, a town, a Polish farm area. It was not a town but a farm area.

He was there, staying there with one of the guys where he paid him X amount of money or something. He coming towards me, and I see somebody is getting off them wagons. And what happened? That's what saved us. It wouldn't have saved us, I think.

Anyway, they were a distance away from us. And I recognized. My father must have recognized, too, something with my brother. And we start-- I started running. I ran so fast, unbelievable. And all of a sudden, I hear shooting after us, the rat-a-tat-tat-tat-tat-tat, the machine guns after us.

And my father, I turned my head, running a different direction, my brother a different direction. And the only thing what I could imagine saved us were the train for the beets was collecting the beets. It was on a high elevation. You know what I'm talking about?

Yes.

They were on the other side of the elevation. And I was on that side of the elevation. And that must have taken away the bullets or something. And I sometimes-- yeah?

Yeah, go ahead. Finish. Finish your sentence.

And I sometimes-- I ran away, and sometimes went straight into town. And with the Germans driving by-- it was early in the morning, and I somehow got behind a barn, and I hid.

We have to stop now.

Yes.

OK. I'm sorry that--