

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:22,590

2  
00:00:22,590 --> 00:00:23,980  
Good afternoon.

3  
00:00:23,980 --> 00:00:26,730  
I'm Bernard Weinstein, director  
of the Kean College Oral

4  
00:00:26,730 --> 00:00:30,480  
Testimonies Project of the  
Holocaust Resource Center.

5  
00:00:30,480 --> 00:00:33,540  
Assisting me today  
is Marcia Weissberg.

6  
00:00:33,540 --> 00:00:36,120  
I would like to  
welcome Sol Urbach.

7  
00:00:36,120 --> 00:00:37,440  
Mr. Urbach?

8  
00:00:37,440 --> 00:00:39,540  
My name is Sol Urbach.

9  
00:00:39,540 --> 00:00:41,350  
I come from Poland.

10  
00:00:41,350 --> 00:00:45,830  
I was born in 1926  
outside of Kraków,

11  
00:00:45,830 --> 00:00:53,710  
in the town by the  
name of Kalwaria.

12  
00:00:53,710 --> 00:00:59,080  
After my birth, my  
family had together

13

00:00:59,080 --> 00:01:01,270  
five more children,  
which we were together,

14  
00:01:01,270 --> 00:01:02,980  
then, six children.

15  
00:01:02,980 --> 00:01:08,770  
Sometime in 1928,  
the family could not

16  
00:01:08,770 --> 00:01:11,310  
earn enough for a  
living in Poland

17  
00:01:11,310 --> 00:01:15,010  
and saw fit to go to Romania  
and remained in Romania

18  
00:01:15,010 --> 00:01:18,730  
from 1928 to 1933.

19  
00:01:18,730 --> 00:01:21,970  
In 1933, the  
Romanians didn't want

20  
00:01:21,970 --> 00:01:25,100  
to keep us as Jews  
in that country,

21  
00:01:25,100 --> 00:01:28,450  
and the family  
returned to Poland.

22  
00:01:28,450 --> 00:01:30,130  
To the same town?

23  
00:01:30,130 --> 00:01:33,760  
To Kraków, back to  
Kraków, and at that time,

24  
00:01:33,760 --> 00:01:38,190  
we located outside of Kraków, in  
Borek Fałęcki just on outskirts

25

00:01:38,190 --> 00:01:38,890  
of Kraków.

26  
00:01:38,890 --> 00:01:43,792

27  
00:01:43,792 --> 00:01:47,590  
By that time, we were, as I  
said, six children already,

28  
00:01:47,590 --> 00:01:54,190  
and we began to make our life  
in Poland without the children

29  
00:01:54,190 --> 00:01:56,950  
knowing the language,  
without being

30  
00:01:56,950 --> 00:02:00,910  
able to enter Polish schools,  
but nevertheless, they

31  
00:02:00,910 --> 00:02:05,530  
accepted us into a Polish  
school under the conditions

32  
00:02:05,530 --> 00:02:10,240  
that we will not talk  
Yiddish or Romanian at home,

33  
00:02:10,240 --> 00:02:13,300  
thereby we would learn the  
Polish language quickly.

34  
00:02:13,300 --> 00:02:18,820  
And it truly happened  
that way that, by 1934,

35  
00:02:18,820 --> 00:02:22,450  
we spoke rather fluent Polish,  
and we could attend classes.

36  
00:02:22,450 --> 00:02:25,270

37

00:02:25,270 --> 00:02:28,750  
My father was a tailor.

38  
00:02:28,750 --> 00:02:32,490  
From what I know, it was not  
very easy to earn a living.

39  
00:02:32,490 --> 00:02:36,160  
It was a hard life,  
and our ambitions

40  
00:02:36,160 --> 00:02:40,240  
were to finish six,  
seven grades of school

41  
00:02:40,240 --> 00:02:44,770  
and from then on seek  
a job and try to help

42  
00:02:44,770 --> 00:02:51,250  
with providing for the family.

43  
00:02:51,250 --> 00:02:55,630  
I attended school outside  
of Kraków by the name

44  
00:02:55,630 --> 00:03:01,270  
of [INAUDIBLE],, which was  
right in the middle of Kraków,

45  
00:03:01,270 --> 00:03:04,270  
in the Jewish section of Kraków.

46  
00:03:04,270 --> 00:03:11,480  
It was located near the Maccabi,  
the famous football club.

47  
00:03:11,480 --> 00:03:16,490  
And my sisters, brothers,  
well, attended schools.

48  
00:03:16,490 --> 00:03:21,830  
I attended the religious school  
or the cheder in Podgorze,

49

00:03:21,830 --> 00:03:26,960  
which was across the  
river from Kraków.

50  
00:03:26,960 --> 00:03:31,110  
So we lived in Borek Fałęcki  
I attended religious school

51  
00:03:31,110 --> 00:03:39,320  
in Podgorze and at the  
daily school in Kraków,

52  
00:03:39,320 --> 00:03:42,435  
which meant that there was  
a walk from my home in Borek

53  
00:03:42,435 --> 00:03:45,830  
Fałęcki to my school  
of about 4 kilometers,

54  
00:03:45,830 --> 00:03:47,990  
and that we did  
on a daily basis.

55  
00:03:47,990 --> 00:03:51,050

56  
00:03:51,050 --> 00:03:55,810  
Rain, snow, whatever may  
come, we walked 4 kilometers.

57  
00:03:55,810 --> 00:03:59,240  
And we were in school.

58  
00:03:59,240 --> 00:04:01,940  
Walking to school  
also, at times, created

59  
00:04:01,940 --> 00:04:07,160  
problems because somehow the  
non-Jewish children would

60  
00:04:07,160 --> 00:04:09,710  
always recognize  
Jewish children,

61

00:04:09,710 --> 00:04:12,930

and we were beaten  
up occasionally,

62

00:04:12,930 --> 00:04:15,450

and thrown stones at, and so on.

63

00:04:15,450 --> 00:04:16,865

So it was not such  
a simple thing

64

00:04:16,865 --> 00:04:23,330

as to simply walk to school as  
one would go to school here.

65

00:04:23,330 --> 00:04:26,250

And life was  
generally difficult.

66

00:04:26,250 --> 00:04:35,040

The living conditions in a  
small apartment, eight of us,

67

00:04:35,040 --> 00:04:38,400

father trying to make a  
living, was difficulties,

68

00:04:38,400 --> 00:04:41,760

so our dreams were  
not that great.

69

00:04:41,760 --> 00:04:46,580

A bicycle would have been  
enough for all six children.

70

00:04:46,580 --> 00:04:48,800

There was no big demands on--

71

00:04:48,800 --> 00:04:51,140

and we were rather  
happy with what we had.

72

00:04:51,140 --> 00:04:56,460

We did not need that much  
in our life at that time.

73  
00:04:56,460 --> 00:05:00,340  
By the year 1939--

74  
00:05:00,340 --> 00:05:00,840  
Excuse me.

75  
00:05:00,840 --> 00:05:03,720  
How many people were in  
your household altogether?

76  
00:05:03,720 --> 00:05:07,930  
Six children and  
father and mother.

77  
00:05:07,930 --> 00:05:12,240  
We had the family of  
uncles and a grandfather

78  
00:05:12,240 --> 00:05:15,870  
in Kalwaria that was  
a part of the family.

79  
00:05:15,870 --> 00:05:18,390  
And the other, my  
father's father,

80  
00:05:18,390 --> 00:05:21,090  
came from Oswiecim,  
which was later

81  
00:05:21,090 --> 00:05:27,930  
on the infamous Auschwitz.

82  
00:05:27,930 --> 00:05:31,170  
In our household, I would say  
there was simply one room.

83  
00:05:31,170 --> 00:05:33,540  
Maybe there was  
some small addition,

84  
00:05:33,540 --> 00:05:36,540  
which, at best, was two  
rooms, and the eight of us

85

00:05:36,540 --> 00:05:37,770  
managed to be in there.

86

00:05:37,770 --> 00:05:42,180  
And whatever we had to eat  
was quite satisfactory,

87

00:05:42,180 --> 00:05:45,540  
and we did not look  
for great things.

88

00:05:45,540 --> 00:05:54,900  
In 1939, when the war broke  
out, confusion just hit us all.

89

00:05:54,900 --> 00:06:01,350  
We had no idea what to do next,  
whether to stay home or run.

90

00:06:01,350 --> 00:06:04,500  
There certainly were no  
organizations active as

91

00:06:04,500 --> 00:06:08,890  
to help anyone, to tell  
them what to do next,

92

00:06:08,890 --> 00:06:12,900  
so everybody was sort of  
on his own, as I remember.

93

00:06:12,900 --> 00:06:18,180  
My family picked up, left the  
house in Borek Fałęcki and went

94

00:06:18,180 --> 00:06:19,170  
someplace.

95

00:06:19,170 --> 00:06:22,000  
I don't think they knew  
exactly where to go,

96

00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:24,480  
but they did get on



the road because they

97

00:06:24,480 --> 00:06:26,640  
weren't safe at home.

98

00:06:26,640 --> 00:06:30,850  
Bombardments started, and  
on the road, of course,

99

00:06:30,850 --> 00:06:31,830  
we didn't get too far.

100

00:06:31,830 --> 00:06:34,560  
We only went about 4  
or 5 kilometers outside

101

00:06:34,560 --> 00:06:37,170  
of the house, and  
we saw that wherever

102

00:06:37,170 --> 00:06:40,570  
we went it was much  
worse than where we left.

103

00:06:40,570 --> 00:06:44,610  
So eventually we returned  
back home and stayed home,

104

00:06:44,610 --> 00:06:47,880  
and by that time, the  
Germans had marched in,

105

00:06:47,880 --> 00:06:53,320  
which was in September of 1939.

106

00:06:53,320 --> 00:06:54,720  
When the Germans marched in--

107

00:06:54,720 --> 00:06:57,210  
Did you, yourself, have  
any kind of forewarning

108

00:06:57,210 --> 00:07:01,080  
of what would happen, or  
were there any premonitions,

109  
00:07:01,080 --> 00:07:04,710  
any signs that you  
could tell of what would

110  
00:07:04,710 --> 00:07:07,020  
happen on September 1, 1939?

111  
00:07:07,020 --> 00:07:11,640  
There was only this great  
talk of the imminent war

112  
00:07:11,640 --> 00:07:15,180  
that no one could hear in  
a radio or people talking,

113  
00:07:15,180 --> 00:07:17,730  
and of course, the  
Polish army was well

114  
00:07:17,730 --> 00:07:20,360  
prepared to deal with that.

115  
00:07:20,360 --> 00:07:23,870  
And there was never  
any fear, really.

116  
00:07:23,870 --> 00:07:25,830  
As you were growing  
up, as a youngster,

117  
00:07:25,830 --> 00:07:27,360  
you thought that  
Poland was probably

118  
00:07:27,360 --> 00:07:29,220  
the greatest  
country in the world

119  
00:07:29,220 --> 00:07:30,660  
if you just listened to the--

120  
00:07:30,660 --> 00:07:33,480  
Had you heard anything about  
what was happening to the Jews

121  
00:07:33,480 --> 00:07:34,260  
in Germany?

122  
00:07:34,260 --> 00:07:36,190  
Not myself at my age, no.

123  
00:07:36,190 --> 00:07:37,800  
I did not.

124  
00:07:37,800 --> 00:07:41,310  
I was not aware of any  
of the goings on, no,

125  
00:07:41,310 --> 00:07:44,190  
and neither was a  
Jewish population

126  
00:07:44,190 --> 00:07:48,260  
as such by way of being  
educated or being any--

127  
00:07:48,260 --> 00:07:51,270  
or all having any leadership  
to enlighten people

128  
00:07:51,270 --> 00:07:53,400  
to what is happening.

129  
00:07:53,400 --> 00:07:58,110  
Some of the older people  
maybe had a better idea.

130  
00:07:58,110 --> 00:08:03,510  
I didn't, and I don't know  
whether anyone in my family--

131  
00:08:03,510 --> 00:08:06,240  
In fact, it got to that point  
that when the Germans already

132  
00:08:06,240 --> 00:08:14,910  
marched and the Germans  
already were posted at bridges,

133

00:08:14,910 --> 00:08:19,800

my relatives still wondered  
who those soldiers are,

134

00:08:19,800 --> 00:08:22,500

whether they are potentially  
English because we heard

135

00:08:22,500 --> 00:08:24,240

so much about how  
England was going

136

00:08:24,240 --> 00:08:29,380

to enter the war with us that,  
actually, for a short while,

137

00:08:29,380 --> 00:08:31,560

the elder people thought  
these were English.

138

00:08:31,560 --> 00:08:34,140

So they couldn't  
be German soldiers

139

00:08:34,140 --> 00:08:38,909

because we heard so much of how  
they were going to be beaten

140

00:08:38,909 --> 00:08:41,650

and how quickly.

141

00:08:41,650 --> 00:08:43,980

So for a while we thought  
they were English,

142

00:08:43,980 --> 00:08:45,990

but nevertheless,  
we quickly realized

143

00:08:45,990 --> 00:08:48,560

that these were Germans.

144

00:08:48,560 --> 00:08:52,680

The German forces that  
marched into Poland

145

00:08:52,680 --> 00:08:58,320  
acted friendly in the beginning  
and certainly permitted people

146

00:08:58,320 --> 00:09:00,120  
to get close to  
them, to the tanks

147

00:09:00,120 --> 00:09:06,360  
and to the marching  
soldiers and all that.

148

00:09:06,360 --> 00:09:09,480  
And we really did  
not really know

149

00:09:09,480 --> 00:09:14,190  
what to expect, how  
bad could this get.

150

00:09:14,190 --> 00:09:16,290  
In fact, in the  
very beginning, one

151

00:09:16,290 --> 00:09:19,770  
would say to himself, well,  
things weren't that good

152

00:09:19,770 --> 00:09:21,030  
in Poland to begin with.

153

00:09:21,030 --> 00:09:25,710  
We were living in a  
sea of anti-Semitism,

154

00:09:25,710 --> 00:09:30,100  
so it really can't  
get much worse.

155

00:09:30,100 --> 00:09:32,490  
Things will probably improve.

156

00:09:32,490 --> 00:09:35,640  
At least that's what went

through my mind and potentially

157

00:09:35,640 --> 00:09:38,280  
many other people.

158

00:09:38,280 --> 00:09:40,680  
But it did not take  
very long for us

159

00:09:40,680 --> 00:09:43,050  
to realize that  
the Germans did not

160

00:09:43,050 --> 00:09:44,740  
provide us with an improvement.

161

00:09:44,740 --> 00:09:47,280  
In fact, things began to  
get worse immediately.

162

00:09:47,280 --> 00:09:49,950

163

00:09:49,950 --> 00:09:52,890  
Our schooling ceased.

164

00:09:52,890 --> 00:09:54,030  
There was no school.

165

00:09:54,030 --> 00:09:57,420  
There were no schools available  
anymore for us to attend.

166

00:09:57,420 --> 00:09:59,370  
Cheders were closed.

167

00:09:59,370 --> 00:10:00,660  
That was shut.

168

00:10:00,660 --> 00:10:03,070  
There was no place to go.

169

00:10:03,070 --> 00:10:07,740  
In fact, we had nothing

to do, no place to go,

170  
00:10:07,740 --> 00:10:09,750  
no way of earning  
a living anymore.

171  
00:10:09,750 --> 00:10:12,660  
Nobody was neither  
a tailor, so things

172  
00:10:12,660 --> 00:10:18,780  
got rather tough  
financially and with food,

173  
00:10:18,780 --> 00:10:23,460  
with kerosene or coal for  
the stoves and all that.

174  
00:10:23,460 --> 00:10:27,570  
And it required ingenuity,  
really, in those days,

175  
00:10:27,570 --> 00:10:32,010  
in 1939, 1940 to go  
through the winter,

176  
00:10:32,010 --> 00:10:37,460  
somehow gathering enough  
to feed the family.

177  
00:10:37,460 --> 00:10:40,170  
It required an  
awful lot of effort

178  
00:10:40,170 --> 00:10:41,790  
on the whole part  
of the family that

179  
00:10:41,790 --> 00:10:49,060  
included standing on lines for  
bread if bread was available

180  
00:10:49,060 --> 00:10:52,790  
or going out into the country.

181

00:10:52,790 --> 00:10:56,810  
And this was all difficult  
because somehow the non-Jews

182  
00:10:56,810 --> 00:10:59,540  
would spot us and  
recognize us as Jews,

183  
00:10:59,540 --> 00:11:03,830  
so even traveling into the  
country, buying some produce

184  
00:11:03,830 --> 00:11:05,040  
was not that easy.

185  
00:11:05,040 --> 00:11:10,700  
It was all very difficult.

186  
00:11:10,700 --> 00:11:16,750  
And this was just the very  
beginning of a difficult life,

187  
00:11:16,750 --> 00:11:27,830  
and by 1940 we were forced into  
forced labor factories were

188  
00:11:27,830 --> 00:11:28,760  
we had to work.

189  
00:11:28,760 --> 00:11:36,070  
So a meager diet was provided  
by that time by the Germans

190  
00:11:36,070 --> 00:11:39,020  
while we were working.

191  
00:11:39,020 --> 00:11:44,200  
In 1940, we began to  
wear the armbands.

192  
00:11:44,200 --> 00:11:45,920  
The announcement  
was out that we have

193  
00:11:45,920 --> 00:11:49,570



to wear the armbands so  
they would recognize us

194

00:11:49,570 --> 00:11:51,590  
in the streets  
quickly, and we had

195

00:11:51,590 --> 00:11:55,920  
no business going anyplace else  
but where we were directed.

196

00:11:55,920 --> 00:11:59,030  
And it was difficult to  
get outside of the city,

197

00:11:59,030 --> 00:12:02,660  
or go by train, or  
leave any place.

198

00:12:02,660 --> 00:12:05,210  
You really were locked  
into where you were

199

00:12:05,210 --> 00:12:07,440  
directed to, which factory.

200

00:12:07,440 --> 00:12:10,460  
And so we worked--

201

00:12:10,460 --> 00:12:15,680  
everyone that was able-bodied  
worked, father, mother.

202

00:12:15,680 --> 00:12:18,690  
Everyone had some  
kind of a job to do,

203

00:12:18,690 --> 00:12:22,750  
which was on command  
by the Germans.

204

00:12:22,750 --> 00:12:29,090  
In 1941, the  
announcement came out.

205

00:12:29,090 --> 00:12:35,270  
The Germans announced that all  
the Jews will be reporting to--

206  
00:12:35,270 --> 00:12:40,370  
from our area, that is, have  
to report to a central point

207  
00:12:40,370 --> 00:12:46,880  
in Kraków which would be then  
surrounded by barbed wires

208  
00:12:46,880 --> 00:12:49,670  
and a ghetto created.

209  
00:12:49,670 --> 00:12:54,700  
Well, my family did not respond  
to the first initial call

210  
00:12:54,700 --> 00:13:01,180  
that we must report to the  
ghetto, and they did not go.

211  
00:13:01,180 --> 00:13:05,960  
My whole family, as a unit,  
at that time, in 1941,

212  
00:13:05,960 --> 00:13:10,640  
all of the rest of 1941, still  
continued living in the same

213  
00:13:10,640 --> 00:13:15,620  
home as we lived before in  
Borek Fałęcki outside of Kraków,

214  
00:13:15,620 --> 00:13:18,140  
thinking that somehow the  
war will come to an end

215  
00:13:18,140 --> 00:13:23,810  
and possibly we will make  
it just staying away from

216  
00:13:23,810 --> 00:13:26,240  
the ghetto.

217

00:13:26,240 --> 00:13:29,130  
Well, things were not that easy.

218

00:13:29,130 --> 00:13:34,880  
I began working as a helper to  
a furniture maker at that time

219

00:13:34,880 --> 00:13:39,260  
just because I had  
very little else to do,

220

00:13:39,260 --> 00:13:41,920  
and I was observing these  
cabinet makers at work.

221

00:13:41,920 --> 00:13:49,310  
And out of curiosity, I became  
a regular worker in that shop.

222

00:13:49,310 --> 00:13:54,290

223

00:13:54,290 --> 00:13:57,590  
When I worked for a while  
for this fellow by the name

224

00:13:57,590 --> 00:14:05,360  
Kaminski in that furniture shop,  
I became rather good at it,

225

00:14:05,360 --> 00:14:08,450  
and this fellow,  
Kaminski, offered me

226

00:14:08,450 --> 00:14:10,640  
a position to stay with him.

227

00:14:10,640 --> 00:14:13,280  
And simultaneously,  
things became so difficult

228

00:14:13,280 --> 00:14:16,190  
that my family had to  
report to the ghetto

229

00:14:16,190 --> 00:14:21,440  
because the police already  
were warned to round us up

230

00:14:21,440 --> 00:14:24,960  
if we did not volunteer  
and take us to the ghetto.

231

00:14:24,960 --> 00:14:29,930  
So my family, as a whole, picked  
up bundles, and we tried to--

232

00:14:29,930 --> 00:14:32,540  
at that time, we really had  
to find a way of getting in.

233

00:14:32,540 --> 00:14:34,470  
It wasn't even easy to get in.

234

00:14:34,470 --> 00:14:37,010  
But we had to make  
it to the ghetto,

235

00:14:37,010 --> 00:14:40,200  
or else we would be in trouble.

236

00:14:40,200 --> 00:14:44,990  
So while my family was already  
on the way to the ghetto,

237

00:14:44,990 --> 00:14:48,770  
I still remained for a while  
working for this furniture

238

00:14:48,770 --> 00:14:55,850  
shop, but it was entirely  
too lonesome for me to--

239

00:14:55,850 --> 00:14:59,960  
I was too frightened to be able  
to continue with that because--

240

00:14:59,960 --> 00:15:02,450  
Where did you live when you  
were working in the shop?

241  
00:15:02,450 --> 00:15:03,040  
In the shop.

242  
00:15:03,040 --> 00:15:03,800  
In the shop?

243  
00:15:03,800 --> 00:15:05,540  
In the shop itself.

244  
00:15:05,540 --> 00:15:07,360  
And it was at the age of--

245  
00:15:07,360 --> 00:15:11,490  
at that time, I was 16.

246  
00:15:11,490 --> 00:15:12,650  
It was frightening.

247  
00:15:12,650 --> 00:15:14,330  
I was out of the  
family the first time,

248  
00:15:14,330 --> 00:15:17,140  
so I did not last very long.

249  
00:15:17,140 --> 00:15:19,780  
I also had to follow my  
family into the ghetto.

250  
00:15:19,780 --> 00:15:22,540

251  
00:15:22,540 --> 00:15:28,590  
The ghetto potentially  
had 40,000 people or so

252  
00:15:28,590 --> 00:15:29,650  
in the ghetto.

253  
00:15:29,650 --> 00:15:32,500  
Since we arrived very  
late, my whole family

254

00:15:32,500 --> 00:15:37,510  
was assigned a room in a  
basement where all eight of us

255

00:15:37,510 --> 00:15:40,390  
lived.

256

00:15:40,390 --> 00:15:43,870  
And again, we were sort  
of in a suspension.

257

00:15:43,870 --> 00:15:46,150  
We had nothing to do.

258

00:15:46,150 --> 00:15:49,510  
Whatever was dished out  
in the way of food we had,

259

00:15:49,510 --> 00:15:56,740  
but we did not earn any money  
or were able to buy anything.

260

00:15:56,740 --> 00:16:00,640  
Occasionally, most of  
the members of our family

261

00:16:00,640 --> 00:16:04,720  
were rounded up and taken  
to different locations

262

00:16:04,720 --> 00:16:07,840  
for forced labor.

263

00:16:07,840 --> 00:16:13,300  
I, myself, was rounded  
up on one of those

264

00:16:13,300 --> 00:16:17,530  
walks through the ghetto  
by a group of SS people

265

00:16:17,530 --> 00:16:24,820  
who rounded up 100  
people in early 1942,

266

00:16:24,820 --> 00:16:26,860  
and they took us to--

267

00:16:26,860 --> 00:16:29,800  
at that time, those 100  
people were taken to Oskar

268

00:16:29,800 --> 00:16:32,890  
Schindler's factory  
outside of Kraków.

269

00:16:32,890 --> 00:16:39,220  
Oskar Schindler operated a  
enamelworks factory outside

270

00:16:39,220 --> 00:16:46,210  
of Kraków, and he requested  
that he be given 100 people

271

00:16:46,210 --> 00:16:49,980  
as forced laborers.

272

00:16:49,980 --> 00:16:53,380  
And I was among that group.

273

00:16:53,380 --> 00:16:59,050  
When we arrived at that  
group, the German guards

274

00:16:59,050 --> 00:17:02,050  
presented us to Oskar Schindler.

275

00:17:02,050 --> 00:17:06,640  
Oskar Schindler inspected the  
100 of us, looked at all of us,

276

00:17:06,640 --> 00:17:10,690  
and he picked me out as  
well as another friend

277

00:17:10,690 --> 00:17:14,829  
of mine, who happened to be  
from the same school that I was.

278

00:17:14,829 --> 00:17:22,099  
And Oskar Schindler said to the  
Germans, [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH],,

279  
00:17:22,099 --> 00:17:26,270  
but the Germans, for whatever  
their reasons were, said, look,

280  
00:17:26,270 --> 00:17:27,500  
we bring you these people.

281  
00:17:27,500 --> 00:17:28,870  
You keep them.

282  
00:17:28,870 --> 00:17:30,320  
And that's the  
end, and they left.

283  
00:17:30,320 --> 00:17:34,970  
And that's how I was left in  
the factory of Oskar Schindler.

284  
00:17:34,970 --> 00:17:37,730  
For the record, who  
was Oskar Schindler?

285  
00:17:37,730 --> 00:17:47,330  
Oskar Schindler was a Sudeten  
German who, early on in 1938,

286  
00:17:47,330 --> 00:17:50,060  
has earned his keep  
with the Germans

287  
00:17:50,060 --> 00:17:57,370  
as a young, loyal party member  
and has made some contributions

288  
00:17:57,370 --> 00:18:00,080  
in helping the German Reich.

289  
00:18:00,080 --> 00:18:05,900  
And for that, they rewarded him  
by giving him a former Jewish

290



00:18:05,900 --> 00:18:12,590  
factory in Kraków, and he began  
to operate this as his own.

291  
00:18:12,590 --> 00:18:20,540  
And so I was left with  
that 100, and from then on,

292  
00:18:20,540 --> 00:18:26,480  
the SS guards picked us  
up daily from the ghetto

293  
00:18:26,480 --> 00:18:28,010  
and marched us to the factory.

294  
00:18:28,010 --> 00:18:31,490  
And in the evenings, they would  
March as back into the ghetto.

295  
00:18:31,490 --> 00:18:32,810  
Now, this was just for myself.

296  
00:18:32,810 --> 00:18:36,680  
The rest of the family was  
only employed occasionally

297  
00:18:36,680 --> 00:18:42,200  
by being taken to some other  
factories, or street cleanings,

298  
00:18:42,200 --> 00:18:46,210  
or whatever they needed,  
unloading of railroad cars

299  
00:18:46,210 --> 00:18:47,850  
and stuff like that.

300  
00:18:47,850 --> 00:18:50,540  
What were your living quarters  
like in the Kraków ghetto?

301  
00:18:50,540 --> 00:18:53,000  
This was a basement,  
in the basement.

302

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:58,040  
It was a room, a small room,  
in fact, assigned to us,

303  
00:18:58,040 --> 00:19:00,780  
and the whole family  
lived in that.

304  
00:19:00,780 --> 00:19:06,020  
As I said, we came rather late,  
so whatever was left we got.

305  
00:19:06,020 --> 00:19:08,000  
We didn't have anything else.

306  
00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:10,440  
What did the enamel  
factory make?

307  
00:19:10,440 --> 00:19:11,810  
The enamel metal factory--

308  
00:19:11,810 --> 00:19:18,460  
it was producing pots  
and pans at that time,

309  
00:19:18,460 --> 00:19:21,800  
and on the surface,  
Oskar Schindler

310  
00:19:21,800 --> 00:19:23,660  
thought that he  
could enrich himself

311  
00:19:23,660 --> 00:19:27,920  
by simply producing these  
pots and pans and selling it.

312  
00:19:27,920 --> 00:19:33,680  
But not long after he took over  
he recognized that he cannot

313  
00:19:33,680 --> 00:19:39,920  
deal very easily with the Polish  
people and turn these products

314

00:19:39,920 --> 00:19:45,510

into cash, and he came up  
with the idea that if he had

315

00:19:45,510 --> 00:19:50,300

the former Jewish owner helping  
him with arranging these deals

316

00:19:50,300 --> 00:19:54,770

he would be able to fabricate,  
and sell, and so on.

317

00:19:54,770 --> 00:19:56,080

It worked.

318

00:19:56,080 --> 00:19:58,910

He brought into his  
factory the former owner

319

00:19:58,910 --> 00:20:03,590

by the name of Bankier, and he  
located him in the back office.

320

00:20:03,590 --> 00:20:05,980

And he was the one  
that was dealing

321

00:20:05,980 --> 00:20:12,660

with the Polish clientele,  
as he had previously had.

322

00:20:12,660 --> 00:20:17,420

So the SS guards would  
be marching us daily

323

00:20:17,420 --> 00:20:21,500

into the enamelworks  
factory, and at night they

324

00:20:21,500 --> 00:20:22,430

would bring us back.

325

00:20:22,430 --> 00:20:26,000

326

00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:30,000

This went on for a  
good stretch of time,

327

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:38,970

until about March 1943.

328

00:20:38,970 --> 00:20:44,880

In March 1943, the Germans  
decided to liquidate the Kraków

329

00:20:44,880 --> 00:20:51,210

ghetto and doing  
it very hastily.

330

00:20:51,210 --> 00:20:54,960

They had orders to liquidate  
as fast as they could,

331

00:20:54,960 --> 00:20:59,250

ship those as they saw  
fit to different camps

332

00:20:59,250 --> 00:21:07,290

and the remnants to the  
Kraków-Plaszów concentration

333

00:21:07,290 --> 00:21:09,870

camp outside the Kraków.

334

00:21:09,870 --> 00:21:14,670

335

00:21:14,670 --> 00:21:17,910

My whole family resided, at  
that time, in the ghetto,

336

00:21:17,910 --> 00:21:26,280

but I was, as I stated before,  
at work at the factory run

337

00:21:26,280 --> 00:21:28,230

by Oskar Schindler.

338

00:21:28,230 --> 00:21:34,800  
Oskar Schindler was alerted of  
what is going on in the ghetto,

339  
00:21:34,800 --> 00:21:37,710  
and therefore he did  
not permit any one of us

340  
00:21:37,710 --> 00:21:43,230  
to be taken back together  
as we were doing every day.

341  
00:21:43,230 --> 00:21:45,790  
In other words, every day we  
would March back to the ghetto,

342  
00:21:45,790 --> 00:21:48,570  
but on this particular  
day, because he

343  
00:21:48,570 --> 00:21:51,690  
was alerted of the  
killings in the ghetto,

344  
00:21:51,690 --> 00:21:53,430  
he did not permit us to go home.

345  
00:21:53,430 --> 00:21:55,980  
He simply kept us  
overnight and over,

346  
00:21:55,980 --> 00:22:02,800  
potentially, three nights,  
until the ghetto was silenced.

347  
00:22:02,800 --> 00:22:07,300  
In the meantime, at the ghetto--

348  
00:22:07,300 --> 00:22:10,180  
as I said, this  
was in great haste,

349  
00:22:10,180 --> 00:22:15,130  
organized in order to do it in  
the shortest time as possible.

350

00:22:15,130 --> 00:22:21,040

And the only word that I heard  
about it was that my older

351

00:22:21,040 --> 00:22:24,800

brother was trying  
to reach his family,

352

00:22:24,800 --> 00:22:29,650

which was in a separated group,  
tried to run towards them,

353

00:22:29,650 --> 00:22:31,960

that he was shot on the spot.

354

00:22:31,960 --> 00:22:35,800

Now, this was only brought back  
to me on some later occasion

355

00:22:35,800 --> 00:22:39,647

by somebody what was there,  
but I don't know it for 100%.

356

00:22:39,647 --> 00:22:41,230

But he was the only  
one that was shot.

357

00:22:41,230 --> 00:22:43,720

The rest of the  
family most likely,

358

00:22:43,720 --> 00:22:48,550

but unknown at that time,  
was taken to Auschwitz.

359

00:22:48,550 --> 00:22:53,380

360

00:22:53,380 --> 00:22:56,140

After the three days were  
over, where Schindler kept us

361

00:22:56,140 --> 00:23:02,320

at the factory, he had  
to deliver us back,

362

00:23:02,320 --> 00:23:06,220  
no longer to the ghetto, but to  
the newly-created concentration

363

00:23:06,220 --> 00:23:10,600  
camp in Kraków-Plaszów, which  
was now housing some 60,000,

364

00:23:10,600 --> 00:23:15,820  
80,000 people, many barracks,  
horrible living conditions,

365

00:23:15,820 --> 00:23:18,070  
watchtowers, the whole bit.

366

00:23:18,070 --> 00:23:20,560  
But nonetheless, Schindler  
had enough muscle

367

00:23:20,560 --> 00:23:25,240  
to somehow see to it that  
these 100 that he employed

368

00:23:25,240 --> 00:23:30,520  
were again being marched out  
of the concentration camp

369

00:23:30,520 --> 00:23:34,690  
into his factory, so  
therefore I continued the--

370

00:23:34,690 --> 00:23:39,580  
except for a short while where  
I worked at a stone quarry

371

00:23:39,580 --> 00:23:45,650  
until Schindler settled  
our coming back to work.

372

00:23:45,650 --> 00:23:48,180  
I went back to work and worked--

373

00:23:48,180 --> 00:23:53,650  
again, from March 1944,

I continued my employment

374

00:23:53,650 --> 00:23:56,060  
with that 100 group.

375

00:23:56,060 --> 00:24:01,960  
Sometime during  
1943 Schindler was

376

00:24:01,960 --> 00:24:06,580  
told that he no longer  
can employ any Jews that

377

00:24:06,580 --> 00:24:10,930  
live in a concentration  
camp, that no one can employ

378

00:24:10,930 --> 00:24:13,140  
any people that live in  
a concentration camp,

379

00:24:13,140 --> 00:24:20,020  
they would either work in the  
concentration camp or no place

380

00:24:20,020 --> 00:24:22,000  
at all.

381

00:24:22,000 --> 00:24:25,240  
Well, it was at that time  
that Oskar Schindler came up

382

00:24:25,240 --> 00:24:28,960  
with the idea that  
he would do what

383

00:24:28,960 --> 00:24:30,790  
it takes to build  
a concentration

384

00:24:30,790 --> 00:24:36,610  
camp on his property so he  
would be able to continue

385

00:24:36,610 --> 00:24:39,520



keeping his labor force.

386

00:24:39,520 --> 00:24:42,730

Well, somehow, by travels  
to Berlin and all this,

387

00:24:42,730 --> 00:24:48,160

he discovered that he can  
build a concentration camp,

388

00:24:48,160 --> 00:24:55,090

but he would have to be able to  
employ a minimum of 1,000 Jews.

389

00:24:55,090 --> 00:24:57,770

So with that in hand,  
with that approval,

390

00:24:57,770 --> 00:25:01,690

he proceeded to build  
a concentration camp

391

00:25:01,690 --> 00:25:06,520

on the grounds of the factory,  
and after a short stay

392

00:25:06,520 --> 00:25:09,970

in Kraków-Plaszów, we were  
all again delivered back

393

00:25:09,970 --> 00:25:16,390

to the camp inside  
the factory complex.

394

00:25:16,390 --> 00:25:20,470

And Oskar Schindler also  
got an increased force

395

00:25:20,470 --> 00:25:22,960

to 1,000 people.

396

00:25:22,960 --> 00:25:26,470

He obviously did not have  
enough work for the 1,000 people

397

00:25:26,470 --> 00:25:32,500  
force, so he began to build  
some additional plants,

398  
00:25:32,500 --> 00:25:34,690  
some additional  
buildings which would

399  
00:25:34,690 --> 00:25:40,420  
produce one or another thing  
for the Defense Department.

400  
00:25:40,420 --> 00:25:42,190  
None of this ever materialized.

401  
00:25:42,190 --> 00:25:49,330  
He simply was making motions,  
and he utilized his labor force

402  
00:25:49,330 --> 00:25:54,760  
mainly for the pots  
and pans fabrication,

403  
00:25:54,760 --> 00:25:57,330  
and on occasion,  
he also delivered

404  
00:25:57,330 --> 00:26:00,040  
us to help out with  
unloading of cars

405  
00:26:00,040 --> 00:26:03,640  
or shoveling of streets  
from snow and all

406  
00:26:03,640 --> 00:26:06,940  
that because he could  
not use that whole labor

407  
00:26:06,940 --> 00:26:15,760  
force until the buildings got  
under way where he was using

408  
00:26:15,760 --> 00:26:19,510  
all of the 1,000 people.

409

00:26:19,510 --> 00:26:22,150

He also made an agreement at that time,

410

00:26:22,150 --> 00:26:26,710

evidently, with an adjoining factory by the name of NKF

411

00:26:26,710 --> 00:26:32,980

which was also some kind of a producer of defense

412

00:26:32,980 --> 00:26:34,600

instruments.

413

00:26:34,600 --> 00:26:39,010

And so this labor force covered, now, two factories.

414

00:26:39,010 --> 00:26:44,900

One was the enamelworks and the other one, the NKF.

415

00:26:44,900 --> 00:26:45,400

Excuse me.

416

00:26:45,400 --> 00:26:48,660

At this time, the Plaszów camp was still standing,

417

00:26:48,660 --> 00:26:52,150

was still in existence?

418

00:26:52,150 --> 00:26:55,420

The Kraków-Plaszów camp was still in existence,

419

00:26:55,420 --> 00:27:00,160

and we simply became inmates of another concentration camp,

420

00:27:00,160 --> 00:27:04,780

which now was located on the grounds of the factory.

421

00:27:04,780 --> 00:27:07,330

Oskar Schindler, as a  
civilian, did not have anything

422

00:27:07,330 --> 00:27:09,330

to do with the guarding of us.

423

00:27:09,330 --> 00:27:12,580

There was a whole contingency  
of German SS guards

424

00:27:12,580 --> 00:27:16,000

that were providing  
for the guarding of us.

425

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:22,330

But I remember incidents during  
the construction of this camp

426

00:27:22,330 --> 00:27:25,660

where Oskar Schindler  
milled amongst us

427

00:27:25,660 --> 00:27:30,580

and talked to us,  
to the inmates,

428

00:27:30,580 --> 00:27:38,860

and his remarks on occasion were  
that the watchtowers are needed

429

00:27:38,860 --> 00:27:40,660

only because we  
actually will have

430

00:27:40,660 --> 00:27:43,420

it so good here that the  
outside population might

431

00:27:43,420 --> 00:27:45,020

want to come in.

432

00:27:45,020 --> 00:27:49,800

So they will be protecting  
us from them coming in.

433

00:27:49,800 --> 00:27:50,300

Excuse me.

434

00:27:50,300 --> 00:27:53,690

Was he in uniform, or was  
he in the civilian clothes?

435

00:27:53,690 --> 00:27:57,040

He was a civilian by and  
large, but when he needed,

436

00:27:57,040 --> 00:28:00,350

he put on a very  
sharp SA uniform.

437

00:28:00,350 --> 00:28:04,220

When he mingled with  
generals, he also

438

00:28:04,220 --> 00:28:09,030

had a very sharp-looking uniform  
to look like the generals.

439

00:28:09,030 --> 00:28:12,045

That's how he got away with  
a lot of the undertakings

440

00:28:12,045 --> 00:28:12,545

that he--

441

00:28:12,545 --> 00:28:22,880

442

00:28:22,880 --> 00:28:28,970

and this factory went on  
and produced whatever--

443

00:28:28,970 --> 00:28:30,320

pots and pans-- they could.

444

00:28:30,320 --> 00:28:31,280

They built a factory.

445

00:28:31,280 --> 00:28:34,610

They made attempts to  
get the factory going.

446

00:28:34,610 --> 00:28:42,440

But in the midst of all this,  
sometime at the end of 1943

447

00:28:42,440 --> 00:28:46,400

or beginning of '44,  
an English spy plane

448

00:28:46,400 --> 00:28:52,460

traveling across Poland was  
either shut down or crashed,

449

00:28:52,460 --> 00:28:56,630

and it crashed right  
into our small camp,

450

00:28:56,630 --> 00:29:00,020

which housed the 1,000 people.

451

00:29:00,020 --> 00:29:03,770

As it happens, this was already  
towards the time when they were

452

00:29:03,770 --> 00:29:07,610

already moving a lot of the  
people back into Kraków-Plaszów

453

00:29:07,610 --> 00:29:10,160

because the Russians were  
already making advances from

454

00:29:10,160 --> 00:29:17,430

the east, and they didn't know  
exactly where to move next.

455

00:29:17,430 --> 00:29:18,870

This was at the end of--

456

00:29:18,870 --> 00:29:24,090

457

00:29:24,090 --> 00:29:27,610  
and the beginning of 1944.

458  
00:29:27,610 --> 00:29:31,190  
In other words, through  
the winter of 1944.

459  
00:29:31,190 --> 00:29:36,310  
So after the plane crashed,  
no one was killed in our camp

460  
00:29:36,310 --> 00:29:40,780  
because the plane simply crashed  
into an area which was already

461  
00:29:40,780 --> 00:29:43,280  
evacuated a short while ago.

462  
00:29:43,280 --> 00:29:45,220  
It was sheer luck that  
no one lived there

463  
00:29:45,220 --> 00:29:49,600  
because the plane actually  
fell-- the fuselage fell

464  
00:29:49,600 --> 00:29:54,790  
into that camp with the  
ammunition exploding all

465  
00:29:54,790 --> 00:30:03,590  
through the night with the  
pilot still being fastened

466  
00:30:03,590 --> 00:30:06,080  
to the seat in his cockpit.

467  
00:30:06,080 --> 00:30:10,880  
He burned in that fire.

468  
00:30:10,880 --> 00:30:14,720  
While this happened, of  
course, they closed the rest

469  
00:30:14,720 --> 00:30:19,610

of the camp, and  
they were shipping--

470  
00:30:19,610 --> 00:30:21,890  
a good number of us  
they were shipping back

471  
00:30:21,890 --> 00:30:24,470  
to Kraków-Plaszów.

472  
00:30:24,470 --> 00:30:28,190  
Once again, Oskar  
Schindler tried

473  
00:30:28,190 --> 00:30:33,230  
to retain a small  
a force as he could

474  
00:30:33,230 --> 00:30:38,270  
to keep up some of the works  
that were still necessary.

475  
00:30:38,270 --> 00:30:42,710  
So the SS guards  
were helping him

476  
00:30:42,710 --> 00:30:48,040  
in segregating down from the  
large group to a small group.

477  
00:30:48,040 --> 00:30:50,390  
And I somehow stood,  
and I felt that I

478  
00:30:50,390 --> 00:30:55,940  
was segregated to be  
shipped out of the camp.

479  
00:30:55,940 --> 00:31:00,920  
And instincts just  
told me to run out

480  
00:31:00,920 --> 00:31:04,160  
of my line that was in  
front of the SS guards.



481

00:31:04,160 --> 00:31:11,310

I ran towards Oskar Schindler,  
and declared to him that,

482

00:31:11,310 --> 00:31:15,020

Herr Schindler,  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH],,

483

00:31:15,020 --> 00:31:16,210

which meant that--

484

00:31:16,210 --> 00:31:19,010

I told him I just didn't  
know what else to say.

485

00:31:19,010 --> 00:31:22,130

I simply said that  
if I am not left

486

00:31:22,130 --> 00:31:26,450

with the group in  
his factory, then

487

00:31:26,450 --> 00:31:29,840

there will be no carpenter left.

488

00:31:29,840 --> 00:31:33,620

Well, Oskar Schindler took me  
back, and says, you're right.

489

00:31:33,620 --> 00:31:37,330

And he put me back into the  
group that would be left,

490

00:31:37,330 --> 00:31:40,100

and that's how I was  
left until the last day

491

00:31:40,100 --> 00:31:46,090

of that camp in the factory.

492

00:31:46,090 --> 00:31:50,900

The rest of the group was  
shipped out to Kraków-Plaszów,

493

00:31:50,900 --> 00:31:54,700

and they were already in  
shipments to Mauthausen,

494

00:31:54,700 --> 00:31:57,330

to Dachau, and so on.

495

00:31:57,330 --> 00:32:04,190

And the 300 of us that remained  
were also forced to close up

496

00:32:04,190 --> 00:32:09,020

this camp, and we were shipped  
to Kraków-Plaszów again

497

00:32:09,020 --> 00:32:16,910

in sometime in  
September of 1944.

498

00:32:16,910 --> 00:32:19,670

And this camp was  
totally closed.

499

00:32:19,670 --> 00:32:22,150

We were up there  
in Kraków-Plaszów,

500

00:32:22,150 --> 00:32:25,670

and we did not know of  
what is to happen next.

501

00:32:25,670 --> 00:32:29,840

But what was really happening  
is that the Germans, because

502

00:32:29,840 --> 00:32:31,820

of the pressure from  
the Eastern Front,

503

00:32:31,820 --> 00:32:38,210

were urged to simply  
quickly liquidate this camp.

504

00:32:38,210 --> 00:32:48,800

And in October of 1944,

all the Jews from the camp

505

00:32:48,800 --> 00:32:53,330  
in Kraków-Plaszów were  
loaded up into cattle cars,

506

00:32:53,330 --> 00:32:57,660  
and most of the groups went  
to either Auschwitz, Dachau,

507

00:32:57,660 --> 00:32:59,330  
Mauthausen.

508

00:32:59,330 --> 00:33:05,290  
Our group, that is, the  
300 people from the former

509

00:33:05,290 --> 00:33:10,240  
enamelworks in Kraków, were  
shipped to Gross-Rosen.

510

00:33:10,240 --> 00:33:15,500  
Unbeknown to me at that  
time, the group of the 300

511

00:33:15,500 --> 00:33:20,360  
grew back to 1,000, and  
what has happened evidently

512

00:33:20,360 --> 00:33:25,340  
is that Schindler was still  
influencing these events.

513

00:33:25,340 --> 00:33:30,530  
And he demanded that he be  
given 1,000 people again.

514

00:33:30,530 --> 00:33:33,500  
Now, of course, of the original  
1,000 people he had employed,

515

00:33:33,500 --> 00:33:38,810  
700 were already shipped out  
to different camps, Mauthausen,

516

00:33:38,810 --> 00:33:43,670  
Dachau, and so on, so therefore  
some new 700 people from

517  
00:33:43,670 --> 00:33:49,250  
the Kraków-Plaszów camp joined  
us on the trip to Gross-Rosen,

518  
00:33:49,250 --> 00:33:49,880  
and also--

519  
00:33:49,880 --> 00:33:52,080  
I did not know it at  
that time-- this was all

520  
00:33:52,080 --> 00:33:55,310  
prearranged it was Oskar  
Schindler, that he would still

521  
00:33:55,310 --> 00:33:59,870  
be receiving these 1,000  
people for his employment

522  
00:33:59,870 --> 00:34:01,970  
in the factory that  
he was now obtaining

523  
00:34:01,970 --> 00:34:05,780  
in the middle of Czechoslovakia  
and hoping to again start up

524  
00:34:05,780 --> 00:34:10,850  
some kind of an  
industrial complex.

525  
00:34:10,850 --> 00:34:14,000  
These 1,000 of us  
traveled to Gross-Rosen.

526  
00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:19,730  
In Gross-Rosen,  
we were met by SS

527  
00:34:19,730 --> 00:34:22,670  
guards, stripped  
of all our clothes,

528

00:34:22,670 --> 00:34:26,090  
marched into the showers.

529

00:34:26,090 --> 00:34:33,830  
In the showers, we  
were also sat down,

530

00:34:33,830 --> 00:34:39,949  
and our heads were  
shaved, or the hair

531

00:34:39,949 --> 00:34:42,139  
was cut down to a crew cut.

532

00:34:42,139 --> 00:34:47,840  
But in the middle of the head  
they shaved a 2-inch strip

533

00:34:47,840 --> 00:34:49,805  
to prevent us from escape.

534

00:34:49,805 --> 00:34:53,090

535

00:34:53,090 --> 00:34:55,969  
The hair cutting  
and shaving was done

536

00:34:55,969 --> 00:35:04,440  
by Ukrainian and  
Polish prisoners.

537

00:35:04,440 --> 00:35:07,700  
In the process of it, they  
helped along the shaving

538

00:35:07,700 --> 00:35:14,150  
process by spitting on our heads  
to get the 2-inch strip shaved.

539

00:35:14,150 --> 00:35:19,040  
We were kept in Gross-Rosen  
for about a week.

540

00:35:19,040 --> 00:35:21,080

Conditions were horrible.

541

00:35:21,080 --> 00:35:27,380

Food was dished out in the form  
of a soup with nothing in it

542

00:35:27,380 --> 00:35:28,280

once daily.

543

00:35:28,280 --> 00:35:35,630

People were kicked, beaten, but  
nevertheless, after seven days,

544

00:35:35,630 --> 00:35:37,970

they assembled all of us--

545

00:35:37,970 --> 00:35:42,980

that's the 1,000 group that  
arrived from Kraków-Plaszów--

546

00:35:42,980 --> 00:35:45,380

and they called us,  
actually, by name,

547

00:35:45,380 --> 00:35:50,330

which was the first  
time during the war

548

00:35:50,330 --> 00:35:53,240

that I have heard my  
name called, really.

549

00:35:53,240 --> 00:35:56,690

They called name by name  
in alphabetical order,

550

00:35:56,690 --> 00:36:00,740

and obviously, since my name  
is Urbach, starting with a U,

551

00:36:00,740 --> 00:36:04,670

it took a good night  
before my name was called.

552

00:36:04,670 --> 00:36:07,160

And the purpose of that  
is that they called,

553

00:36:07,160 --> 00:36:10,440

name after name, all  
the 1,000 people,

554

00:36:10,440 --> 00:36:16,760

loaded us back into a  
cattle car for shipment

555

00:36:16,760 --> 00:36:20,850

to an unknown  
destination at that time.

556

00:36:20,850 --> 00:36:24,860

But on arrival, we learned  
that we are in Brännlitz,

557

00:36:24,860 --> 00:36:29,600

Czechoslovakia,  
which was near Brno,

558

00:36:29,600 --> 00:36:33,530

and Oskar Schindler  
was there already.

559

00:36:33,530 --> 00:36:38,870

He somehow obtained  
a new textile--

560

00:36:38,870 --> 00:36:40,970

not a new factory,  
but that was, for him,

561

00:36:40,970 --> 00:36:45,680

new, a textile factory in which  
he was going to set up shop.

562

00:36:45,680 --> 00:36:47,810

And whatever he was  
going to manufacture

563

00:36:47,810 --> 00:36:51,860

was not known to  
us, but we began

564  
00:36:51,860 --> 00:36:57,770  
spending the time of rebuilding  
that little factory complex

565  
00:36:57,770 --> 00:37:01,130  
and setting up  
machinery for something

566  
00:37:01,130 --> 00:37:03,270  
that might happen later on.

567  
00:37:03,270 --> 00:37:09,350  
But from what I know, nothing  
was ever produced in this camp.

568  
00:37:09,350 --> 00:37:12,500  
He was simply  
preparing for something

569  
00:37:12,500 --> 00:37:14,360  
that would happen  
later on, but he never

570  
00:37:14,360 --> 00:37:17,690  
got any production going.

571  
00:37:17,690 --> 00:37:22,820  
But he was able to maintain  
this camp by occasionally

572  
00:37:22,820 --> 00:37:25,360  
bringing railroad cars in.

573  
00:37:25,360 --> 00:37:32,000  
In other words, this confusion  
was already going on,

574  
00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:35,590  
and the Germans  
were losing the war.

575  
00:37:35,590 --> 00:37:38,750



The Russians were  
marching forwards.

576  
00:37:38,750 --> 00:37:41,730  
Americans and the English were  
coming from the other side.

577  
00:37:41,730 --> 00:37:43,670  
So Oskar Schindler  
was able to get out

578  
00:37:43,670 --> 00:37:46,760  
to a railroad  
station and maneuver,

579  
00:37:46,760 --> 00:37:50,210  
manipulate some  
railroad cars which

580  
00:37:50,210 --> 00:37:55,700  
were loaded with goods  
coming from other factories,

581  
00:37:55,700 --> 00:37:57,680  
simply brought them  
into his factory,

582  
00:37:57,680 --> 00:38:02,330  
and put his own label on it,  
and shipped it out as a--

583  
00:38:02,330 --> 00:38:04,880  
shipped it out as something  
that he has produced.

584  
00:38:04,880 --> 00:38:07,960  
But obviously, nobody knew  
any better in those days.

585  
00:38:07,960 --> 00:38:10,040  
When he was not  
producing anything,

586  
00:38:10,040 --> 00:38:15,470  
how was he able to  
get away with any kind

587

00:38:15,470 --> 00:38:19,640  
of accounting of his  
production, his shipment?

588

00:38:19,640 --> 00:38:21,680  
Did he have to keep records?

589

00:38:21,680 --> 00:38:25,700  
Weren't there checks by the  
Nazis, by the SS, for example?

590

00:38:25,700 --> 00:38:32,120  
Simply, he was a opportunist  
and a quite capable person

591

00:38:32,120 --> 00:38:35,630  
with a high rank that  
he impressed whoever

592

00:38:35,630 --> 00:38:38,660  
he was dealing with as one  
that knows what he is doing,

593

00:38:38,660 --> 00:38:42,570  
and he's beyond having  
to account with anyone.

594

00:38:42,570 --> 00:38:46,820  
I remember one particular  
incident inside the camp one

595

00:38:46,820 --> 00:38:52,860  
time were the population  
outside of the camp, that is--

596

00:38:52,860 --> 00:38:55,740  
I'm speaking of Brännlitz  
in Czechoslovakia.

597

00:38:55,740 --> 00:38:57,920  
The population  
outside of the camp

598

00:38:57,920 --> 00:39:02,210

reported to the authorities  
that somehow living conditions

599  
00:39:02,210 --> 00:39:05,210  
inside the camp are  
somewhat better than they

600  
00:39:05,210 --> 00:39:06,417  
have outside of the camp.

601  
00:39:06,417 --> 00:39:08,750  
In other words, they saw that  
there was some food there,

602  
00:39:08,750 --> 00:39:13,920  
actually, and we were  
working, and we had some food.

603  
00:39:13,920 --> 00:39:19,690  
And so he was reported  
that something is going

604  
00:39:19,690 --> 00:39:21,800  
to go on that just isn't right.

605  
00:39:21,800 --> 00:39:28,490  
And I remember distinctly the  
time where he got into a car.

606  
00:39:28,490 --> 00:39:32,750  
We were in fear  
because Oskar Schindler

607  
00:39:32,750 --> 00:39:36,140  
had a habit of talking  
to some of his inmates.

608  
00:39:36,140 --> 00:39:38,990  
Some of our people were  
actually close to him,

609  
00:39:38,990 --> 00:39:42,420  
and he would share with  
them of what was happening.

610

00:39:42,420 --> 00:39:48,300

So the inmates knew that  
we were in trouble somehow,

611

00:39:48,300 --> 00:39:51,110

and Oskar Schindler has to  
leave, and report, and give

612

00:39:51,110 --> 00:39:54,140

some accounting of what's  
going on in the camp.

613

00:39:54,140 --> 00:39:56,650

Oskar Schindler  
loaded up a truck--

614

00:39:56,650 --> 00:39:58,550

I'm sorry, a car--

615

00:39:58,550 --> 00:40:02,150

with all kinds of goods like  
chocolates, and whiskies,

616

00:40:02,150 --> 00:40:05,790

and everything that he  
possessed in his warehouses,

617

00:40:05,790 --> 00:40:08,760

and he went to wherever  
he went to report

618

00:40:08,760 --> 00:40:17,710

to the higher officials about  
the goings on inside the camp.

619

00:40:17,710 --> 00:40:21,030

And of course, when he  
got back, he was drunk.

620

00:40:21,030 --> 00:40:24,060

His engineers that went  
with him was drunk.

621

00:40:24,060 --> 00:40:28,620

The inmates were sort of  
hiding inside the camp

622  
00:40:28,620 --> 00:40:31,800  
and looking out of what  
troubled to expect.

623  
00:40:31,800 --> 00:40:35,190  
But all we got out of  
this when he returned

624  
00:40:35,190 --> 00:40:45,000  
is that he was fairly drunk, and  
he went outside of the barracks

625  
00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:48,720  
and pointed to the  
engineer that he

626  
00:40:48,720 --> 00:40:52,930  
will have to come up with some  
kind of a very high fence,

627  
00:40:52,930 --> 00:40:57,090  
a solid kind of a metal fence  
so the outside would not

628  
00:40:57,090 --> 00:41:00,360  
see anymore of what's  
going on inside.

629  
00:41:00,360 --> 00:41:03,900  
And he pulled this over--

630  
00:41:03,900 --> 00:41:07,740  
again, he pulled this one,  
and we continued living.

631  
00:41:07,740 --> 00:41:10,300  
And we did not have  
that much food,

632  
00:41:10,300 --> 00:41:15,000  
but we could make it  
through the day, really.

633  
00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:19,200

I, myself, was as a carpenter.

634

00:41:19,200 --> 00:41:24,150

I was employed by Oskar  
Schindler in his own villa.

635

00:41:24,150 --> 00:41:27,150

636

00:41:27,150 --> 00:41:29,070

Myself and another  
friend of mine,

637

00:41:29,070 --> 00:41:32,850

who was also a cabinet  
maker, furniture maker,

638

00:41:32,850 --> 00:41:40,210

were marched daily to this villa  
that was located inside a mill.

639

00:41:40,210 --> 00:41:42,210

In other words, behind  
the water, over a bridge,

640

00:41:42,210 --> 00:41:43,380

he had his own--

641

00:41:43,380 --> 00:41:45,630

Oskar Schindler  
has his own house,

642

00:41:45,630 --> 00:41:49,110

in which he very rarely lived.

643

00:41:49,110 --> 00:41:50,490

His wife was there occasionally.

644

00:41:50,490 --> 00:41:53,490

He himself rarely  
spent any time there,

645

00:41:53,490 --> 00:41:58,110

but nevertheless, he kept  
us there as though we

646

00:41:58,110 --> 00:41:59,540  
were doing something useful.

647

00:41:59,540 --> 00:42:04,590  
In fact, what we were doing  
is impressing those two guards

648

00:42:04,590 --> 00:42:07,800  
that were watching us, that  
we're polishing furniture,

649

00:42:07,800 --> 00:42:10,440  
that we're fixing  
furniture, that we're

650

00:42:10,440 --> 00:42:15,180  
doing things that could have  
been done in a day or two.

651

00:42:15,180 --> 00:42:17,340  
They lasted for  
months sometimes,

652

00:42:17,340 --> 00:42:20,280  
and that's how we stayed there.

653

00:42:20,280 --> 00:42:25,170  
Now, during this employment  
inside that villa--

654

00:42:25,170 --> 00:42:29,490  
and since this was  
located in a mill--

655

00:42:29,490 --> 00:42:32,000

656

00:42:32,000 --> 00:42:43,230  
and at the end of 1944,  
the SS guards were already

657

00:42:43,230 --> 00:42:47,160  
composed of older gentlemen,  
and once they got us

658

00:42:47,160 --> 00:42:52,440  
into this villa, they would  
simply doze off and not

659

00:42:52,440 --> 00:42:53,790  
know what was going on.

660

00:42:53,790 --> 00:42:56,400  
So we took advantage--  
the two of us

661

00:42:56,400 --> 00:43:00,300  
would jump out of the window  
of the villa, not both

662

00:43:00,300 --> 00:43:03,000  
of us together,  
but one at a time.

663

00:43:03,000 --> 00:43:08,040  
And we would go to the  
mill and either steal

664

00:43:08,040 --> 00:43:11,640  
or were given by the  
people working in

665

00:43:11,640 --> 00:43:23,820  
the mill some produce  
products like flour, or corn,

666

00:43:23,820 --> 00:43:25,020  
or whatever.

667

00:43:25,020 --> 00:43:29,490  
And we would fill up our pants  
with tying the bottoms of it

668

00:43:29,490 --> 00:43:33,150  
or loading them up  
into our toolboxes,

669

00:43:33,150 --> 00:43:36,330  
and then, in the evening,



we would hand them out

670

00:43:36,330 --> 00:43:43,740  
to other peoples that  
needed the nourishment.

671

00:43:43,740 --> 00:43:55,360  
And by and large, in Brännlitz,  
very few of our people died,

672

00:43:55,360 --> 00:44:01,020  
and if they died, they almost  
died of natural causes.

673

00:44:01,020 --> 00:44:05,130  
One of the incidents that  
happened inside the camp,

674

00:44:05,130 --> 00:44:11,040  
also, is that, again, somebody  
reported to the authorities

675

00:44:11,040 --> 00:44:15,930  
that, amongst the inmates,  
there are children, actually,

676

00:44:15,930 --> 00:44:20,370  
in the camp, and one  
day the SS guards

677

00:44:20,370 --> 00:44:23,910  
from the higher  
up offices came in

678

00:44:23,910 --> 00:44:28,100  
to remove those  
children from the camp.

679

00:44:28,100 --> 00:44:30,570  
And as far as I  
remember, there were

680

00:44:30,570 --> 00:44:35,430  
two children of the age of  
possibly eight, or nine, or 10.

681  
00:44:35,430 --> 00:44:40,950  
Those children were taken  
away and brought to Auschwitz.

682  
00:44:40,950 --> 00:44:45,150  
This I know from later on,  
reconstructing these events,

683  
00:44:45,150 --> 00:44:51,100  
that Schindler had enough  
muscle to get those two children

684  
00:44:51,100 --> 00:44:57,960  
returned back to the  
camp in Brännlitz.

685  
00:44:57,960 --> 00:44:59,550  
In fact, I know  
that one of those--

686  
00:44:59,550 --> 00:45:01,065  
Were they the  
children of inmates?

687  
00:45:01,065 --> 00:45:02,960  
--of inmates, yes.

688  
00:45:02,960 --> 00:45:09,140  
One of them that I remember  
distinctly was a child of a man

689  
00:45:09,140 --> 00:45:11,080  
by the name of Rosner.

690  
00:45:11,080 --> 00:45:13,167  
Rosner was a known family--

691  
00:45:13,167 --> 00:45:14,000  
Musician, wasn't he?

692  
00:45:14,000 --> 00:45:14,300  
Huh?

693  
00:45:14,300 --> 00:45:15,650

He was a musician, wasn't he?

694

00:45:15,650 --> 00:45:19,180  
Musicians-- the whole  
family were musicians,

695

00:45:19,180 --> 00:45:23,960  
and one of these kids belonged  
to one of the Rosners.

696

00:45:23,960 --> 00:45:29,090  
Now, I know that this Rosner  
kid who was pulled out

697

00:45:29,090 --> 00:45:32,390  
pulled out of our camp to  
be delivered to Auschwitz

698

00:45:32,390 --> 00:45:37,130  
and then returned to us later,  
after the war, joined the Navy

699

00:45:37,130 --> 00:45:39,510  
and became a high-ranking  
officer in the United States

700

00:45:39,510 --> 00:45:40,010  
Navy.

701

00:45:40,010 --> 00:45:43,320

702

00:45:43,320 --> 00:45:49,500  
We had incidents of beatings  
in this camp, in Brännlitz,

703

00:45:49,500 --> 00:45:56,160  
mainly coming from non-Jewish  
inmates who came to us by way

704

00:45:56,160 --> 00:45:58,160  
of--

705

00:45:58,160 --> 00:46:01,830  
what I neglected to also say

is that the women that were

706

00:46:01,830 --> 00:46:05,670  
together with us in the  
camp in Kraków were shipped

707

00:46:05,670 --> 00:46:12,420  
to Auschwitz, and they were also  
pulled out of Auschwitz to be

708

00:46:12,420 --> 00:46:16,340  
delivered to Oskar Schindler's  
factory in Brännlitz.

709

00:46:16,340 --> 00:46:20,730  
Now, those 300 women were  
marched from Auschwitz

710

00:46:20,730 --> 00:46:22,200  
to Brännlitz.

711

00:46:22,200 --> 00:46:24,480  
Well, I don't know  
exactly the distances,

712

00:46:24,480 --> 00:46:28,460  
but it was many, many  
days and nights of walk.

713

00:46:28,460 --> 00:46:33,700  
And in those walks, there were  
non-Jewish guards that helped

714

00:46:33,700 --> 00:46:37,470  
with that march from  
Auschwitz the Brännlitz,

715

00:46:37,470 --> 00:46:40,890  
and the women were  
severely beaten,

716

00:46:40,890 --> 00:46:43,860  
punished on the road to-- and  
then those inmates remained

717

00:46:43,860 --> 00:46:46,980  
with us in that Brännlitz camp.

718  
00:46:46,980 --> 00:46:53,450

719  
00:46:53,450 --> 00:46:55,400  
I learned to steal  
fairly well, and I

720  
00:46:55,400 --> 00:46:59,810  
was able to steal things  
from German trucks

721  
00:46:59,810 --> 00:47:03,060  
as they were delivering  
goods to other places.

722  
00:47:03,060 --> 00:47:04,550  
I had the ability--

723  
00:47:04,550 --> 00:47:07,340  
I was very quick, very  
young, very foolish,

724  
00:47:07,340 --> 00:47:09,390  
and I did not fear anything.

725  
00:47:09,390 --> 00:47:12,380  
So I was able to steal  
and give away things

726  
00:47:12,380 --> 00:47:16,110  
during the stay in the camp.

727  
00:47:16,110 --> 00:47:18,440  
In fact, many of those  
people remember to this day

728  
00:47:18,440 --> 00:47:24,620  
that I was very helpful  
with their diets because

729  
00:47:24,620 --> 00:47:26,390  
of my stealing abilities.

730  
00:47:26,390 --> 00:47:33,540

731  
00:47:33,540 --> 00:47:36,150  
During the course of  
the stay in this camp,

732  
00:47:36,150 --> 00:47:38,850  
some transport arrived  
in our camp that

733  
00:47:38,850 --> 00:47:45,860  
was composed of Hungarian Jews,  
and they arrived in our camp

734  
00:47:45,860 --> 00:47:49,350  
in a horrible state,  
most of them frozen

735  
00:47:49,350 --> 00:47:52,770  
to death in the cattle cars.

736  
00:47:52,770 --> 00:47:55,890  
And the rest of them we  
had to unload and help them

737  
00:47:55,890 --> 00:47:59,920  
get into our camp, and some of  
them made it through the war.

738  
00:47:59,920 --> 00:48:01,140  
A lot of them did not.

739  
00:48:01,140 --> 00:48:05,823  
They were severely destroyed  
during the transport

740  
00:48:05,823 --> 00:48:06,990  
in the middle of the winter.

741  
00:48:06,990 --> 00:48:10,970

742

00:48:10,970 --> 00:48:13,710

Our stay continued  
with the ups and downs,

743

00:48:13,710 --> 00:48:16,110

with sometimes  
having enough food

744

00:48:16,110 --> 00:48:18,490

and sometimes not  
having enough food,

745

00:48:18,490 --> 00:48:21,330

but by and large,  
we all survived.

746

00:48:21,330 --> 00:48:30,720

And on May 7, 1945,  
Oskar Schindler

747

00:48:30,720 --> 00:48:34,740

called an assembly  
of all our inmates

748

00:48:34,740 --> 00:48:38,550

together into one  
factory building.

749

00:48:38,550 --> 00:48:43,440

And he announced to us that  
tomorrow, which is May 8,

750

00:48:43,440 --> 00:48:47,280

the Germans will  
sign a surrender,

751

00:48:47,280 --> 00:48:51,090

and we will be free people.

752

00:48:51,090 --> 00:48:54,750

In that declaration,  
he also told us

753

00:48:54,750 --> 00:48:58,830

that he has prepared  
30 revolvers which

754

00:48:58,830 --> 00:49:01,710

he has placed in  
his office, that we

755

00:49:01,710 --> 00:49:03,390

should get a hold  
of-- those who know

756

00:49:03,390 --> 00:49:07,170

how to handle the  
revolvers or whatever

757

00:49:07,170 --> 00:49:10,830

ammunition or guns he had  
there should get a hold of them

758

00:49:10,830 --> 00:49:14,130

so that we would  
protect ourselves

759

00:49:14,130 --> 00:49:16,710

in case some stray  
German unit still came

760

00:49:16,710 --> 00:49:19,680

by and wanted to harm us.

761

00:49:19,680 --> 00:49:22,110

Why do you think he  
did all these things?

762

00:49:22,110 --> 00:49:26,070

Well, he began to see  
early on in the war

763

00:49:26,070 --> 00:49:31,350

that things are not  
that great for Germany

764

00:49:31,350 --> 00:49:36,240

as he envisioned as a very young  
man back in Czechoslovakia,

765

00:49:36,240 --> 00:49:39,210



that Germany will  
conquer the world

766  
00:49:39,210 --> 00:49:45,510  
and he will ride in on that wave  
and be a big business tycoon

767  
00:49:45,510 --> 00:49:46,710  
or otherwise.

768  
00:49:46,710 --> 00:49:50,130  
When he began to  
recognize that things--

769  
00:49:50,130 --> 00:49:53,160  
potentially, he also  
recognized that what

770  
00:49:53,160 --> 00:49:58,050  
the Germans were doing was not  
exactly what he had in mind.

771  
00:49:58,050 --> 00:50:04,020  
When people were killed  
in masses as they were,

772  
00:50:04,020 --> 00:50:09,840  
he began to change his mind  
as to hanging onto the Germans

773  
00:50:09,840 --> 00:50:13,450  
and helping them, in  
fact, turned the other way

774  
00:50:13,450 --> 00:50:16,800  
but still always acting  
as a loyal German.

775  
00:50:16,800 --> 00:50:19,470  
He had no way of operating  
if he did not continue

776  
00:50:19,470 --> 00:50:21,630  
acting as a loyal German.

777

00:50:21,630 --> 00:50:25,770

There was a time during  
the war that he was jailed

778

00:50:25,770 --> 00:50:29,820

because of suspicions that  
he was not very loyal,

779

00:50:29,820 --> 00:50:38,790

and he was kept in jail  
with another known Nazi

780

00:50:38,790 --> 00:50:43,980

concentration camp leader  
by the name of Goth,

781

00:50:43,980 --> 00:50:50,610

who headed the Kraków-Plaszów  
concentration camp.

782

00:50:50,610 --> 00:50:52,440

But they released  
him again because of

783

00:50:52,440 --> 00:50:57,780

his enormous influence that he  
had all over the German Empire.

784

00:50:57,780 --> 00:51:00,540

So they released him, and  
he came back to the camp

785

00:51:00,540 --> 00:51:01,900

and operated again.

786

00:51:01,900 --> 00:51:07,620

But from my point of  
view, he was a fellow

787

00:51:07,620 --> 00:51:10,650

that was seeking  
opportunities but did not

788

00:51:10,650 --> 00:51:14,130

want to join in the  
ranks of killing people.

789

00:51:14,130 --> 00:51:18,480

I have not known him to  
lift a hand on any inmate

790

00:51:18,480 --> 00:51:21,690

or to harm any  
inmate, so I would

791

00:51:21,690 --> 00:51:26,850

have to judge that he was  
a decent human being that,

792

00:51:26,850 --> 00:51:32,400

for a while, was taken by the  
great anticipation and promises

793

00:51:32,400 --> 00:51:35,490

of the German  
Reich but certainly

794

00:51:35,490 --> 00:51:40,740

did not want to join in on and  
get in on the mass killings

795

00:51:40,740 --> 00:51:43,020

and all that.

796

00:51:43,020 --> 00:51:48,510

So when he made this  
announcement, of course,

797

00:51:48,510 --> 00:51:52,680

it was one of those moments  
that one cannot forget,

798

00:51:52,680 --> 00:51:58,080

people crying,  
screaming, laughing,

799

00:51:58,080 --> 00:51:59,750

not knowing what to do next.

800

00:51:59,750 --> 00:52:04,590

The war is over, and

everyone was confused.

801

00:52:04,590 --> 00:52:08,880  
But nevertheless, we continued.

802

00:52:08,880 --> 00:52:12,420  
Oskar Schindler asked  
that two of our people

803

00:52:12,420 --> 00:52:20,020  
volunteer to see him through,  
get him out of the zone

804

00:52:20,020 --> 00:52:21,000  
that we are in now.

805

00:52:21,000 --> 00:52:24,870  
We were obviously  
in the Russian zone,

806

00:52:24,870 --> 00:52:28,350  
and if he was captured  
by the Russians--

807

00:52:28,350 --> 00:52:32,890  
he was astute enough to know  
all these things at that time--

808

00:52:32,890 --> 00:52:33,740  
he would be killed.

809

00:52:33,740 --> 00:52:40,800  
He would be considered  
a Nazi and a conspirator

810

00:52:40,800 --> 00:52:42,220  
with the Nazis,  
and he would have

811

00:52:42,220 --> 00:52:46,360  
been killed by the Russians,  
or Poles, or Czechoslovaks.

812

00:52:46,360 --> 00:52:49,690  
So he recognized that, and he

asked for two of our inmates

813

00:52:49,690 --> 00:52:55,390  
to help him get across the  
border, into the American zone.

814

00:52:55,390 --> 00:52:57,520  
Two of our people  
volunteered, and they

815

00:52:57,520 --> 00:53:02,790  
went through battlefields  
and dangerous territories

816

00:53:02,790 --> 00:53:05,320  
and helped him escape,  
essentially, now

817

00:53:05,320 --> 00:53:07,150  
into the American zone.

818

00:53:07,150 --> 00:53:14,620  
We were left in the  
camp, and on May 9,

819

00:53:14,620 --> 00:53:18,520  
the Russian soldiers  
marched into our camp.

820

00:53:18,520 --> 00:53:23,425  
Just like Schindler anticipated,  
on 8, the Germans surrendered,

821

00:53:23,425 --> 00:53:27,520  
and on the 9th, the  
Russians entered our camp

822

00:53:27,520 --> 00:53:31,730  
and freed all of us.

823

00:53:31,730 --> 00:53:33,760  
In other words, we were  
told that we are free.

824

00:53:33,760 --> 00:53:38,650

Of course, most of us did  
not know what to do next.

825

00:53:38,650 --> 00:53:42,550

When we gathered up our  
thoughts after a short stay

826

00:53:42,550 --> 00:53:46,900

still in the camp until  
we thought out our plans,

827

00:53:46,900 --> 00:53:54,160

I joined was a group of 17  
people, four women, 13 men.

828

00:53:54,160 --> 00:53:57,250

We got a hold of some horses.

829

00:53:57,250 --> 00:54:00,430

By this time, the war was  
coming towards an end,

830

00:54:00,430 --> 00:54:04,600

and there were stray  
horses, wagons.

831

00:54:04,600 --> 00:54:09,490

We picked up a wagon, a pair of  
horses, and we loaded them up.

832

00:54:09,490 --> 00:54:12,430

We loaded them up with  
whatever little we had,

833

00:54:12,430 --> 00:54:17,740

and we began our trek towards  
our hometown, which was Kraków,

834

00:54:17,740 --> 00:54:21,910

Poland, in hope of locating  
some of our relatives.

835

00:54:21,910 --> 00:54:24,850

836

00:54:24,850 --> 00:54:29,260

This trip took us  
many, many days,

837

00:54:29,260 --> 00:54:31,900

still going through  
Russian territory.

838

00:54:31,900 --> 00:54:34,500

All of it was occupied  
now by the Russians,

839

00:54:34,500 --> 00:54:36,470

and it was not very safe.

840

00:54:36,470 --> 00:54:41,980

We were people  
without any papers.

841

00:54:41,980 --> 00:54:47,440

We could not prove that we were  
survivors of a camp, or spies,

842

00:54:47,440 --> 00:54:48,280

or anything else.

843

00:54:48,280 --> 00:54:50,740

It was rather dangerous,  
and we were still

844

00:54:50,740 --> 00:54:56,260

subject to being stopped on  
the road and investigated,

845

00:54:56,260 --> 00:54:58,210

what we're really doing there.

846

00:54:58,210 --> 00:55:03,130

But in a week or  
two weeks, possibly,

847

00:55:03,130 --> 00:55:10,690

we made it back to Poland,  
and upon arrival in Poland,

848

00:55:10,690 --> 00:55:14,530  
once again, this must have  
been the most difficult time

849  
00:55:14,530 --> 00:55:18,220  
of my life or the most difficult  
point of my life because, now

850  
00:55:18,220 --> 00:55:22,130  
that I was in Kraków, I had  
absolutely no idea on what I do

851  
00:55:22,130 --> 00:55:22,630  
next.

852  
00:55:22,630 --> 00:55:25,700

853  
00:55:25,700 --> 00:55:29,680  
I already made the  
trip back to where

854  
00:55:29,680 --> 00:55:33,010  
my home was before the  
war, and I discovered

855  
00:55:33,010 --> 00:55:34,300  
that no one has returned.

856  
00:55:34,300 --> 00:55:36,290  
And I have absolutely  
no place to go.

857  
00:55:36,290 --> 00:55:40,630  
This is already after the war  
but prior to any knowledge

858  
00:55:40,630 --> 00:55:45,040  
that there are organizations  
that could help me.

859  
00:55:45,040 --> 00:55:49,390  
I found myself totally in  
the street of Kraków without

860



00:55:49,390 --> 00:55:52,240  
the other people.

861  
00:55:52,240 --> 00:55:54,100  
Most of them found  
some relatives.

862  
00:55:54,100 --> 00:55:57,150  
Or some of them found some  
relatives, I should say.

863  
00:55:57,150 --> 00:56:00,400  
And some of us that didn't  
simply grouped together,

864  
00:56:00,400 --> 00:56:06,683  
and we made our home in a former  
student building in Kraków.

865  
00:56:06,683 --> 00:56:07,600  
Excuse me, Mr. Urbach.

866  
00:56:07,600 --> 00:56:09,988  
We're going to stop for a few  
minutes to change the tape,

867  
00:56:09,988 --> 00:56:11,280  
and we'll continue momentarily.

868  
00:56:11,280 --> 00:56:12,680  
Is it an hour already?

869  
00:56:12,680 --> 00:56:13,550  
Did I do all that?

870  
00:56:13,550 --> 00:56:15,100  
Yes.