

In September-- in the September 1942, there was a big arrest in the ghetto. This was arrest every day, but this was big arrest. This come from this, that the Jewish underground throw grenades in a cafe. They called it Cyganeria, the name from the cafe-- Cyganeria. You know what is Cyganeria-- like for us, in English, gypsy. And they kill 10 high officers from the army. This was a cafe where the army officers come together.

Where was it?

In Kraków.

In Kraków.

In this time, there come big arrest from youths in the ghetto. One from this wrote those poems, was Yitzhak Zuckerman. He was a founder from the kibbutz Lohamei ghettos-- the ghettos. He was in the Warsaw uprising, ghetto uprising, he was. He in this time was--

Wounded?

Wounded in the leg by this.

He was.

Because they shot, but he get away, he ran away. This was big arrest in this time. And the old people, they shot. A lot from the youths. This was in the end for 19--

The end of 1942.

Yeah, this was in the end from 1942. And this time was again a selection. This was in October, 28th. I was living with the two families. Not with this German Jew gentleman. He was in this time not employed in the-- by the Gestapo. In the Gestapo, he fired, they give him recommendation to be a policeman in the ghetto. He helped me a lot I think.

In the night, we hear something is going on. We hear they come. They took out people from the apartments. In the night, he come to us in our apartment. And he said, Mr. and Mrs. Grynwald, take what you can, like you will stay, not much, and come with me. And when somebody will be on the street ask where are you going, you are arrested. And I provide you to the police command. And he provide us to his house. And we was hiding over there.

In this time was the selection by the gate from the ghetto, which because the Jewish people was going out to work, like me was going out. When one man was going out they took him to the transport to send him away.

I'm sorry, I didn't understand the last part. When one--

When one man was only-- like me-- I was one Jew in my factory. I tell you why they did this. We was hiding. And this day, they sent 7,000 Jews to the railroad, to the-- In the ghetto, I belonged to a illegal circle, in the underground. There was over there two brothers. Zucker, their name was.

To his-- their shop, they have a shop, a metal shop. I come in-- I know them because they both buy me wire something. And I belonged to this. This was over there, belonged. I, Mr. Schmaltz, Tislovitz, and Goldberg-- Alexander Goldberg. He was from the underground. He was shot by the Gestapo. They caught him.

And over there to the shop for the brothers, the Zucker brothers come every time. And a famous [INAUDIBLE], painter-- Abraham Lehman his name was. He was-- he told me that his teacher was Max Liebermann. Max Liebermann was a member from the German Academy for Kunst. You see? I have the picture from this book, from the Abraham Lehman.

And when this was the selection, on this day, from October 1942, he-- his arm-- he was armed with Mordechai Gebirtig. Mordechai Gebirtig was in ghetto. He's famous-- he was a carpenter. And he was writing songs. The song "Es Brent," It's fire-- [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]. This was his-- that's his.

Now in the whole world they listen to this. Sometime on the Jewish radio, you hear his songs-- "Reyzele." He has three daughters. He was a folks poet. He was more poet than carpenter. They, together, went when they provide the transport. And they was old. And they shot them, when going in the-- Gebirtig, and then in this day together.

And when you say the selection, which the selection was taking place at that time?

28th of October.

Correct.

19--

But were they liquidating the ghetto on that day?

No, no, no, no, no-- 1942.

Correct.

After this happened, in this day the brother, Zuckers.

Why did they shoot that day?

They shoot a lot of people.

I know, but that day?

They shoot-- the two brothers lose their wives. They went with the kids. They don't want leave the kids. They went with the kids in the transport. The men both back to work in a factory. They were saved. And some wives, some people-- the men was in the-- by the work. And they won't leave.

They write a piece of paper on the door. The writers leave me this, and English, like with my dictionary-- don't grieve about me, about us. Take care of yourself. This write the women from the Zuckers. They went-- one Zucker has two kids and one, one kid.

I mentioned you before, we was in the underground, the illegal circle. There was over there Alexander Goldberg. After this, I don't remember when, maybe a few weeks, maybe three, I don't remember-- two, maybe two, three, four weeks-- he come in the ghetto with a Polish man. The Polish man was from the underground. The Polish man was in a uniform from the railroad, engineer, from work.

And he told us-- this was-- the meeting was in the apartment from Zucker. And he told us where they take the people. They take the people by the railroad, by the Polish engineer to one place. Then the Polish engineer has to go out. And a German take this. And they go with them in the forest. Over there, we don't know what this is. Nobody come out. This was the information what we had.

We didn't know all this time that is gas chambers. In the end from 1942, we didn't know. This was not believable. Later, maybe three months later, we get from the underground this is gas chambers and crematoriums in Belzec. From Kraków, they took him to Belzec. And over there they liquidate all.

After this 28th of October, my permit was not valid. I must say to you, I had a commissar, I tell you, a German from Vienna. He was an anti Nazi. He told me the ghetto is your grave. He brought me a gift. I bring you weapons if something happens.

And I ask in my circle, in the underground, what I have to do. He want me-- he talk to me so like anti Nazi. I don't believe it. They said to me, we cannot. I said I don't want touch this. But this is characteristic. I made a mistake. I tell you after this.

When the Russian-- when the Germans, 1941-- I get back to this time-- they start the war with the Russians, he disappear. In his place come a Ukraine. The Ukraine was a [? Romanik-- ?] Stan-- Not Stanislaw. I don't remember it now, what it is. [? Romanik ?] was his last name. He belonged to the-- to the Ukraine, what the killed-- they called the OUN. This is the Orhanizatsiya Ukrayins'kykh Natsionalistiv, in Polish.

And this Ukrainian talked also that the Germans lose the war. But I keep my mouth shut. Because I think this is provocative statement. And he told me, Mr. Grynwald, I was in Kiev by Babi Yar, where they shoot 70,000 Jews, they shoot over there. I was standing by this. He told me this.

And he was something. I don't know. Because he bring me a paper from the head quarters from the army, weapons, and [INAUDIBLE]. This is for the weapons, they had-- That I am needed in the factory and I am not replaceable. This was made.

But after the 28th of October, this was not valid. And I was-- because no Jew can go to work out of the ghetto, only with a guard. And the guard will go only with 10 Jews, not with the one Jew special. Because this-- I was one Jew. I cannot go out. You have the answer now why.

But I must work because in ghetto you cannot-- when you have not work, you have not the right to live. I went to a shop. And I work in a shop in the ghetto. Till the 13 of March 1943. It's Saturday. This was the 13th of March. There was-- 9:00 in the morning was a notice in the whole ghetto from the Judenrat that we have-- 11:00 we have to stay on this and this place by the gate in line, five, and over there to go out to Plaszów.

In this time was they murdered the whole hospital. They murdered the sick people. From the epidemic hospital in the ghetto the doctor said to the people, run away. Where do you go? They run away in their underclothes. Many people went through the tunnels, through the sewers, but to the Vistula. Kraków is by the Vistula, the river.

And in the beginning they was going out. But then the Germans was learning and who come over there, they shot. One from the-- a woman doctor was going through this way and she broke her legs. Then they took her back to the Jewish hospital in the ghetto. I said this episode what was. All sick people, what can go out, they ran away. And she was not coming.

Then a younger doctor, a woman, Dr. Blau, was staying by her. They come there, the SS man. His name was Hujar. And told to her to lay down. And he want a shot. They shot here mostly, in the neck. And she said to him, I can look on you when you shoot me. I have not to tell. And he shot her right in the face. [INAUDIBLE] is this-- the woman who broke the leg, the Dr. -- I'm unable to remember the name-- was living after this. And she, Dr. Blau was shot.

We came to Plaszów to the barracks. Over there was-- the head from Plaszów was Amon Goeth, was the commandant. He shot right and left. He was brutal. I work in the technical-- in the mechanical barracks, I work. Over there was maybe 500 citizens -- mechanical. We know everything what they needed.

Around the-- around the lager was the towers where the Ukrainians were staying. And I and an other man was from the mechanical to give-- to take care on the light--

For the towers.

--and the projectors for them. Over there, the projector can go down. It can go so on. It can go-- right. When, every time when the Ukrainian when he come, not the one time, he was staying over in the booth in the tower. He sung-- he sing songs, Russian songs. And this was knowing the Russian songs in lager because this was the whole-- it was the Germans and the Russians. This was they call the Vlasovci. This is the general Vlasov, who betrayed the Russian front.

Every day was shooting in lager.

In Plaszów.

In Plaszów. Every day was beating, not so beating, but a beating on the back. Must lay on a table, a small table. The pants down, they'd be. They shoot. Over there, you work day shift, from 6:00 to 6:00 in the evening. Then from 6:00 in the evening to 6:00 in the morning. They went in the night and looked through the barrack what the people work, where the people work. Were they sewing or something, by the shoemakers. And if somebody sleep, they shot him right away. This was terrible.

Some people was going out to factories from--

From Plaszów.

From the concentration-- from Plaszów. One time come-- I will not tell you exactly how many. This was, I think, 12 people, was from one place. They come back and they have bread. They hide it because they bring-- like my wife bring for me a piece of bread. She made one pence more a day to get a piece of bread. And she bring me. Because in the lager it was hunger. They took the whole 12 people to the place where they shot them.

I don't know if I have to tell this. One man told me he was over there. When they shot him, they shot him in this ear. They shot him in this ear. They want him shot here. They shoot him in this ear. He fall down. Then in the night, he come out. Went over there. This was from the hole.

And he come to the barrack where I work in the night. And we give him clothes. And he said he saw the Ukrainian, what was doing to guard the dead people. Over there was one woman, she was shot. He went to this woman and he wrapped her up, a dead woman. So --

This was--

You want to take a drink of water?

Water, yes. I will drink because I am dry. On November, I don't remember the day, was a selection in our barrack for the mechanics. And they sent to Szczygłow, another lager where they made granites or there. Over there was the trinitrate The trinitr -- they call this. This is the chemical, what is-- from the dynamite, the people become [NON-ENGLISH], yellow.

Right.

I was choose to stay because I was on the-- in the mechanical-- the first, from the category one. There was category one, category two, helpers. Category three, this was like students, where they learned this. And category four was the old people, what they were sitting already. And we worked for them to cover them. Because I was from the category one, from the special, like a technic, I was on the one, I was chosen to stay.

So I was staying. This was end 1943. I was, 1944. They send to other, over to another. I was staying in the work. 1944, in-- in August, I think, 7-- I don't remember-- 7. They took us, made a selection and they send us to Mauthausen.

We went--

You had been separated from your wife for the entire time when you were in Plaszów.

Yes, this time I was every day. In Plaszów, we was-- we see--

Different barracks.

--each another because this was barbed wire only between the women lager and between the-- Over there, I was sent to Mauthausen. In the last minute, my wife come-- when I was--

Ready.

--to walk away, she come to me. Give me your picture. I had my book, like a passport. I give her this. And I said to her, when we leave, you have to come to Kraków, to the factory, or to Zawierce to your family, or to our family, to Bedzin. And I went. And we went over there. We have no water. 96 people was in our wagon. This was a wagon for six horses.

On the way to Mauthausen.

And 96 people was. Two people died. When we come to Mauthausen, we was 6,000 Jews, they took from Plaszów to Mauthausen. In Mauthausen I work in the [NON-ENGLISH], the stones.

In the quarry?

In the stones. Over there in the stones were Spanish people from the civil war, from Spain, what they took them. The Germans took over what was in French lagers, they took them. And they worked. And we Jews only took on our shoulders the stones and was going. Over there was, they called the Wiener Graben, to go down 164 stairs. And we go so maybe 500 down and 500 up.

Mostly the SS men come to a man. He was big. He said, why you took so small stone? He said I cannot find. Because they-- hurry, hurry. And this was over there in the ground. The SS man-- you must take this-- these stones. He said, come, I show you that this-- and he provide him near the edge. And then he kicked him and he fall down. And they call this paratrooper, [INAUDIBLE]. They killed.

When I was over there I saw people fall down and all blood on the stone. Because this was like a--

[INAUDIBLE]

This was some 80 meters. This is-- three times-- 240 foot deep, this was. I one time think that I was finished also. This was on a Saturday. They give me so a big stone. I cannot move this. And the SS man told to the Spanish, give him on his shoulder. Two people cannot lift this. Then three come. They lift and they give me this.

I come to this. and the SS man that was over there, higher, said me, in German, you fool, why you took so heavy stone? I didn't answer because it's better not to answer. Over there, you saw, in lager, have the mouth closed, the eyes open.

But the French people, they helped me. And the way we was going, we was going 5 kilometers to the place where you throw-- I throw this. And I took right away another. I throw the other, I took a smaller. So I come out.

After three weeks, although I am not tall, and I was every time in the front. By the gate where you go out, the SS man said to the couple, you have to report me to any less. This mean this-- twenty people, less has to come back from the work and the rest have to be killed. They killed the people with sticks.

Over there I was four weeks. Then they send me to St. Valentin. Over there I work in a factory. What they made, 16 tanks every day were out. I have over there good work. Because they examined me. They have the papers that I am a technic. And they examined me at the blueprint, if I can read. And I read. And they give me measures for the size. This is the-- of [INAUDIBLE] to measure. And I was-- they call me machine and controller, machine control. And I work over there.

Till they bombed one time They bombed the second time. Then this was in February. They made over these infections.

February 194--

1945. They made these infections. We were staying the whole night over there in the forest, naked. Because the barracks was closed over there. They cleaned from the lice. We was squeezed. And over there, after this we was 600 Jews. We was sent from this Plaszów lager to Mauthausen. From Mauthausen to St. Valentin. Then come other nationality too-- Russians, Hollanders, Yugoslavs, Germans, Czechoslovaks, to the lager to St. Valentin. We built this lager, the Jews.

After this, many people become sick, pneumonia, and they died. On the 13th of April, they evacuate our larger. And this was from the 600 Jews, 140. Our barrack, the Jewish barrack, I know this was 140. You went by car. Because the railroad was bombed out. We was on the railroad. They took us back. And we went with buses to Ebensee. This is near some-- near Italy-- can't say it. Over there in the Alps, by the Alps. We went over there.

Over there was very bad. This was April, the end from the war. We didn't know what happened. But is outside the whole time. [INAUDIBLE]. On the 6th of May, the German-- the American army come in. The Germans--

To where you were in Italy?

I was-- no, in Austria. This is Austria.

Yeah, but the American army--

I don't know from where they come. They come from maybe from Italy, from this side. I hope so. The Germans, the SS, want us put on the stalls. This was-- over there was factories inside the mountain, what the prisoners built. They want put us over there. And then give a locomotive, from the railroad. The railroad was inside, machines. And with dynamite, it would build up, then we will be killed.

But six SS men said no, we don't do this. And they save our life. For this, when the Americans come, the lager committees was front of the line, they took under their protect-- to protect them.

Those six SS men.

This was on the 6th of May, they come, the tanks, the American tanks.

But on the 6th of May, where were you? You were--

In Ebensee.

Right, which you said was in the Alps.

This was -- Salzburg. Not far from Salzburg.

And on the 6th of May the American troops came.

Came and they liberated us. In 1945.

Right. When they came, what was the reaction? I mean, you had no-- you knew the war was coming to an end. You heard there was--

I know that they we are liberated. All people, I saw, I like to observe, I observed-- a young man, a French-- I understand a little French-- hit the one kapo man. And he said, that is por Raymond.

For Raymond.

Por is for.

Yeah.

You have this for Raymond, for Henry, for name, for name what you killed. I saw this. A young man, but he is right. Over there, the people took revenge on the oppressors what the collaborated with the Germans. They was prisoners, but they collaborated with the Germans.

On the 7th, the people breaked in the magazines. And they took bread. This was from the bakery. We have bread. On the 7th, we four Jews, we said it's not to stay here. We have-- I was still able to-- we was able to walk. We walked out from the concentration camp.

What kind of contact did you have with the Americans? Did they say anything to you? Did you personally speak to them?

Who knows English? They stayed and they looked on us by the tank.

And then--

Two tanks was coming.

--you just walked out.

It come an officer or something. He only make pictures.

Right.

And the next day, Sunday, in the morning, we went-- and you have no time.

No, we have a few more minutes.

A few minutes. It's still an hour to say. We walked six week till we came to Poland back.

I want you to come back, but I want you to tell me-- tell me-- tell me what happened. You went back to Poland. How did you get to Poland?

We was walking together, four Jews.

And it took you six weeks to get to Poland.

Six weeks it took.

You were going back. You had made an agreement with your wife that you were going to meet.

I was looking for the family, everybody.

Of course.

We didn't know that something so terrible happened.

And how were you able to find your--

I think when I lived through the horrible time, my brothers was younger than me, than some brothers. I had-- the youngest brothers-- was two brothers are twins. But they was young. They was 15 years. They went to Auschwitz, twins.

But I count that my brothers, because my brothers was ever so work men, like. They have-- one was also a

technic. I think that they-- are living. But one brother-- after the war, I said, there he was in the army. He come back. He run away from the prisoner of war. He ran away from the Germans. He made sabotage.

He belonged to underground in ghetto in Bedzin. And they caught him. And a Pole told me after the war that he was in prison with my brother. And in November 1943, he was beheaded. He was before a court. And they sentenced him to death by beheading his head. And he was beheaded on the prison yard.

I went back to Poland. I come to Bedzin because this was near. I come back. I went to the factory where my parents live. The director from the factory said nobody come home from your family. He said, you cannot stay here. 4 o'clock he closed the office. He said Mr. Grynwald, you must go. Go over there. In the town is a committee, a Jewish committee. Go over there. He said this all belongs now to the government. This was.

I went to the committee. I met over there people, friends. They took me to sleep, where I had no sleep. They give me a paper to go to the restaurant a meal, for a soup. Then this was Friday. Sunday, I went to the town Zawierce to hear where the family was. I hear that somebody is living, somebody saw somebody, said.

Then from Zawierce from Zawierce to Bedzin is a half hour by railroad. And that took a whole day. Then I went back to Bedzin. From Bedzin in one day I went to Kraków. I come. This also took one-- this is from-- from Bedzin to Kraków is two hours by train. And this took me around. I must go where the bridge was broken from the war.

I come back. In June, I come back to Bedzin. I come back in the night to Kraków. I must stay the whole night because this was a curfew. And I went over there to the factory. This was also very -- They took over, the government took over.

And I went to where I lived. I met over there a friend. And they told me that this and this girl bring to us a letter from your wife. Then I know that she is living. And she write in this letter that she is in the hospital. And when she will recover, she come back. And she ask for me.

In this time, come transports from the prisoners from the concentration camp in two places. To Katowice and to Kraków distant. I went from one station. I stay in Katowice. She's not coming. I went to Kraków. She is not coming. And she writes she come. I don't want to go to Czechoslovakia over there. Because we can meet.

Then one time, I was in Kraków. This was maybe a month later, two months later. And I was by this man, a friend. He has the cut wood, a wood mill, a saw.

Saw.

Saw --

And one time in the morning, somebody knocked. And I hear-- I didn't open the door. I sleep in the kitchen. Because the owner has to open. And I hear-- he said I have a present for you. And I recognized her voice. And I stand up. And we meet in this time.

Then come her brother. One brother, he was also in Auschwitz, in Bergen-Belsen.

You told me one thing about your wife before. When she was with a number of people who were dead.

When they bring her from Raguhn-- Raguhn was by Dessau in Germany. This is not north, like she says. But this is near Leipzig. This is south, East Germany, now is this. And she was swollen from hunger. She didn't eat. And they took her off from the wagon. This was open wagons, from coal wagons, open, not ceilings. The dead people they throw out on the railroad. But she was half dead. But a friend keep her.

And they come over there to Theresienstadt. They put her in the morgue between the dead people. Then come in a doctor, a woman. She also was a prisoner in Theresienstadt. And she looked under-- expect only



to see so many dead. And she saw-- she said, oh, this woman opened her eyes. She is still living. And she put out to the other, we take her to the hospital.

She took her to the hospital. And they cut off her-- the old shoes from wood. The shoes, the dresses, everything, because she was-- and she started to give water with sugar, like a small baby, slow, slow. And then she put a piece of sugar, tablet sugar, where she was lying. And she just sucked the sugar. And so she come back to life.

The woman doctor went home after two weeks or something. She give her-- the Russians was coming. On the 9th of-- on the 9th of May, the Russians, they liberate in Czechoslovakia over there. Then she give my wife under the protection from a Russian woman doctor. And said, here is a woman and tell the story, what is. She only needed to come back.

And by the Russians is a slogan, [RUSSIAN]. This mean when you don't work, you have not the right to eat. And this tell her-- a man from the Russians. And my wife said give me something to work. They give her in the kitchen. She peeled potatoes. She washed the dishes.

And they give her-- and the meister-- cook meister, the kitchen meister said to her-- she understand Russian-- said to her, what I can do for you, what I can cook? You don't want eat this? Because in the Russian-- from the higher officers, they eat fat. And she don't want eat fat. She know that-- she come from a family from doctors and she know that this fat, she will lose after so hunger. She has shrink everything.

Then she said, give me a little farine, I will cook this myself. He give her farine and she cooked herself farine with water. And so she come to the power. She's back. And the friends that was with her the whole time from the ghetto till the liberating was waiting for her, she would be able to go to home. And [INAUDIBLE] she come home.

I want to ask you just very quickly, you stayed in Poland until what year?

To 1961.

Till 1961.

You will think why? I was provide in the court about getting my factory back. Getting-- but I lose in 1949. This was by the Supreme Court. Because this was a law that 30 people, over 30 people, they take off the government. Less, I can go.

My father's factory I cannot get because this was over 30 people. My factory was smaller. This was not 30 people. Then I fight. But this was a law, paragraph 24. When it's something what is needed for the government, it's not different how many people work. And they made this paragraph and I lose.

Then I start for myself. Because in this time, they don't give-- in 1949, this was in the end, 1949-1950, they don't give me to go out from Poland. I made application to go out. They refused me. In 1950, then--

Why did they refuse you? Do you know?

They refused. Then they come-- in 1950, they said to me, you have to go to work-- not to work for your private, to be an owner, a capitalist. Then we're not-- you have to go out from this apartment from the city. I went to work. They want me give to work in my father's factory, to provide this factory. I refuse. I said, I don't want it.

Because you can said I do something bad or something. Give me other work. They give me other work. They give me in the headquarter from the wire industry. Over there, 40-- we have-- the concern 40 factories under our concern.

So it's truly amazing that you went back to Poland, you stayed in Poland, and then when you wanted to leave Poland again--

In 1956 was a change in Poland.

That's correct.

Gomulka was over. I made application to go out. They refused me. I made an application to the ministry, the state.

Are these applications to exit from Poland?

The applications--

To come to the United States?

No, to go out to Israel.

To go to Israel.

Because this was not allowed-- United States. This was the Cold War in this time. This was worse than Israel. Then I get from the ministry--

I just-- I want to ask you just one thing. Because we're going to come back, I hope, another time and discuss some of your experiences in Poland. I just want to know how it felt after so many years, you went through the camps, et cetera, and you were liberated, back in Poland, when you wanted to leave Poland, you couldn't leave. It was again a period of being not in control of your own-- your freedom, liberty.

I had trouble in Poland too. I was in the prison in Poland too.

This I would like to talk about with you. I would like to come back. OK?

OK.

Thank you.