

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:35,790

2

00:00:35,790 --> 00:00:37,030

Good morning.

3

00:00:37,030 --> 00:00:38,430

My name is Bernard Weinstein.

4

00:00:38,430 --> 00:00:41,430

I'm the director of the Kean
College oral testimonies

5

00:00:41,430 --> 00:00:44,520

project for the Holocaust
Resource Center.

6

00:00:44,520 --> 00:00:48,090

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00:00:48,090 --> 00:00:50,550

for Holocaust Studies
of the Sterling

8

00:00:50,550 --> 00:00:53,110

Library of Yale University.

9

00:00:53,110 --> 00:00:56,400

I am privileged today to
be speaking with Mr. Henry

10

00:00:56,400 --> 00:01:01,230

Yungst of Union, New Jersey, who
is a survivor of the Holocaust

11

00:01:01,230 --> 00:01:03,810

and will tell us
about his experiences

12

00:01:03,810 --> 00:01:06,690

before, during,
and after the war.

13
00:01:06,690 --> 00:01:08,820
Mr. Yungst, I'd
like to welcome you.

14
00:01:08,820 --> 00:01:11,430
And I would like you
to begin by telling me

15
00:01:11,430 --> 00:01:13,560
a little bit about
your experiences

16
00:01:13,560 --> 00:01:17,130
and life before the war.

17
00:01:17,130 --> 00:01:23,940
We was a town about
45,000 people.

18
00:01:23,940 --> 00:01:28,140
There was a third was
Germans, a third was Polish,

19
00:01:28,140 --> 00:01:30,040
and the other third was Jewish.

20
00:01:30,040 --> 00:01:32,040
What was the name of the
town, and where was it?

21
00:01:32,040 --> 00:01:38,970
Ozorków in Poland not far from
the Łódź and that concerns

22
00:01:38,970 --> 00:01:41,170
the Jewish population.

23
00:01:41,170 --> 00:01:46,530
Our town was most textile,
so everybody was well off.

24
00:01:46,530 --> 00:01:48,570
Let's put it that way.

25
00:01:48,570 --> 00:01:50,610
We had Jewish life.

26
00:01:50,610 --> 00:01:55,410
All the kind of organizations
we had in our town.

27
00:01:55,410 --> 00:01:57,780
Hashomer Hatzair,
Gordonia, all the kind

28
00:01:57,780 --> 00:02:01,440
of Zionist organizations,
socialist organizations.

29
00:02:01,440 --> 00:02:05,100
We have two orchestras in
that small Jewish community

30
00:02:05,100 --> 00:02:07,740
from 15,000 people.

31
00:02:07,740 --> 00:02:13,110
We had Maccabi sport,
anything you want.

32
00:02:13,110 --> 00:02:16,500
Our little Jewish
community has everything.

33
00:02:16,500 --> 00:02:18,480
And there were places
for religious worship

34
00:02:18,480 --> 00:02:19,260
and religious?

35
00:02:19,260 --> 00:02:23,190

Yeah, it was a
beautiful synagogue.

36
00:02:23,190 --> 00:02:27,330
The synagogue was burned at
the beginning, the first week

37
00:02:27,330 --> 00:02:29,760
the Germans moved in.

38
00:02:29,760 --> 00:02:32,490
And there was other
smaller synagogues.

39
00:02:32,490 --> 00:02:36,210
In Yiddish, it's shtiebel
they call it, but it's small.

40
00:02:36,210 --> 00:02:39,330
The tailors, they have
their own little synagogue

41
00:02:39,330 --> 00:02:41,070
where they got together.

42
00:02:41,070 --> 00:02:43,590
The shoemakers their
own, the textile people.

43
00:02:43,590 --> 00:02:47,880
So it was many such shtiebels
of very religious Jews.

44
00:02:47,880 --> 00:02:51,240
And we as youth, but
I really can say I

45
00:02:51,240 --> 00:02:56,310
my youth was something
because when I was young,

46
00:02:56,310 --> 00:03:03,690
that was 17, 18, and the

war was just over in Poland

47

00:03:03,690 --> 00:03:06,210

when the Germans come--

48

00:03:06,210 --> 00:03:11,610

that was in April

1st if I can recall--

49

00:03:11,610 --> 00:03:16,680

they said all the

Jews from 17 to 21

50

00:03:16,680 --> 00:03:19,170

has to come to the movie--

51

00:03:19,170 --> 00:03:20,940

there was a Jewish movie house--

52

00:03:20,940 --> 00:03:22,710

all of you had to come there.

53

00:03:22,710 --> 00:03:25,470

And whoever isn't coming,

we're going to send them

54

00:03:25,470 --> 00:03:27,270

to a concentration camp.

55

00:03:27,270 --> 00:03:29,344

This way, you're going

to go to a labor camp.

56

00:03:29,344 --> 00:03:31,386

You're going to have

everything and that and that

57

00:03:31,386 --> 00:03:32,350

and that and that.

58

00:03:32,350 --> 00:03:37,920

So because I was the oldest

from my family, I went there.

59

00:03:37,920 --> 00:03:39,610

How many siblings did you have?

60

00:03:39,610 --> 00:03:40,840

How many brothers or sisters?

61

00:03:40,840 --> 00:03:45,750

I have two younger
brothers and one sister.

62

00:03:45,750 --> 00:03:46,950

I have a brother, Maher.

63

00:03:46,950 --> 00:03:49,020

He was two years
younger than me.

64

00:03:49,020 --> 00:03:51,990

My sister was four
years younger than me.

65

00:03:51,990 --> 00:03:56,070

And my youngest brother,
he was born in 1930,

66

00:03:56,070 --> 00:03:59,010

so he was about nine years
when the war broke out.

67

00:03:59,010 --> 00:04:07,290

Yes, now prior to the war,
what was the relationship

68

00:04:07,290 --> 00:04:10,230

between the Jewish and
non-Jewish community

69

00:04:10,230 --> 00:04:11,010

in your town?

70

00:04:11,010 --> 00:04:12,810
Was there any signs of?

71
00:04:12,810 --> 00:04:14,925
No, no, I can't
say it was signs--

72
00:04:14,925 --> 00:04:15,780
--antagonism or?

73
00:04:15,780 --> 00:04:18,480
--because the factories,
the big textile factories,

74
00:04:18,480 --> 00:04:22,800
they employed Polish
people, the textiles.

75
00:04:22,800 --> 00:04:28,150
And that was run by Jewish
people, so everybody, I think,

76
00:04:28,150 --> 00:04:29,880
has good life there.

77
00:04:29,880 --> 00:04:32,250
Every Friday, it was payday.

78
00:04:32,250 --> 00:04:34,920
People come and get their
checks from the factories.

79
00:04:34,920 --> 00:04:38,400
It wasn't nothing
that I can recall bad

80
00:04:38,400 --> 00:04:41,460
against the Jews was
harmful that was lately.

81
00:04:41,460 --> 00:04:46,020
Maybe the beginning of '39,
when you start to see what

82
00:04:46,020 --> 00:04:46,770
is going on.

83
00:04:46,770 --> 00:04:49,620
The Polish people start
to change their attitude

84
00:04:49,620 --> 00:04:54,270
towards Jews, and the Germans
instigated the Polish people

85
00:04:54,270 --> 00:04:57,660
against the Jews because we
had the same amount of Germans

86
00:04:57,660 --> 00:05:01,350
in our town what Jews or Polish.

87
00:05:01,350 --> 00:05:06,360
And that means '39,
there was already

88
00:05:06,360 --> 00:05:09,900
everything done
that they could do,

89
00:05:09,900 --> 00:05:12,000
the Germans with
the Polish together

90
00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:14,740
to intimidate the Jewish people.

91
00:05:14,740 --> 00:05:15,655
We couldn't go here.

92
00:05:15,655 --> 00:05:16,530
We couldn't go there.

93
00:05:16,530 --> 00:05:18,060
We was afraid.

94
00:05:18,060 --> 00:05:21,300
Even I lived on a street
that was a Jewish--

95
00:05:21,300 --> 00:05:22,710
300% Jewish.

96
00:05:22,710 --> 00:05:24,810
We was afraid to go from
one street to another.

97
00:05:24,810 --> 00:05:27,210
That was shortly before
the war broke out.

98
00:05:27,210 --> 00:05:28,800
This was before
September 1, 1939?

99
00:05:28,800 --> 00:05:30,220
Before September, right, yeah.

100
00:05:30,220 --> 00:05:32,850
But before that, it
was an average city.

101
00:05:32,850 --> 00:05:35,750
Everybody went off to work
and to make a living or that

102
00:05:35,750 --> 00:05:37,430
was Gentiles or Jews.

103
00:05:37,430 --> 00:05:40,520
So whatever danger you
felt, you felt immediately

104
00:05:40,520 --> 00:05:42,800
before the events themselves.

105
00:05:42,800 --> 00:05:46,190

That's right, in the beginning
of '39, we start feeling it.

106
00:05:46,190 --> 00:05:52,515
Yeah, and what happened on the
outbreak of the war itself?

107
00:05:52,515 --> 00:05:54,140
What are your
recollections, let's say,

108
00:05:54,140 --> 00:05:58,040
of the first day of the war
or the first days of a war

109
00:05:58,040 --> 00:05:59,570
that was most important to you?

110
00:05:59,570 --> 00:06:03,800
Most important was when
the Germans marched in,

111
00:06:03,800 --> 00:06:08,240
and it was the first two, three,
four weeks, the whole attitude

112
00:06:08,240 --> 00:06:11,210
of the change of the
Polish people too,

113
00:06:11,210 --> 00:06:13,820
but it was our
friends and neighbors,

114
00:06:13,820 --> 00:06:15,290
and that changed right away.

115
00:06:15,290 --> 00:06:18,260
Everybody was just
out that we leave.

116
00:06:18,260 --> 00:06:20,540
The first thing

that they say, Jew,

117

00:06:20,540 --> 00:06:23,660

why don't you go to
Palestine, you know?

118

00:06:23,660 --> 00:06:26,090

This way, we can
take that you have.

119

00:06:26,090 --> 00:06:29,330

Someday we're going to take over
everything that you have here,

120

00:06:29,330 --> 00:06:32,150

all the houses, all the
inside that you have left,

121

00:06:32,150 --> 00:06:33,410

and that's what happened.

122

00:06:33,410 --> 00:06:35,630

When they took
the Jewish people,

123

00:06:35,630 --> 00:06:39,410

they sent them to
L³dz in ghetto.

124

00:06:39,410 --> 00:06:43,580

The Polish people waited
already in front of the houses

125

00:06:43,580 --> 00:06:47,960

to go in, loot everything
they could from the houses,

126

00:06:47,960 --> 00:06:50,900

and that was very painful.

127

00:06:50,900 --> 00:06:52,820

You considered certain
people friends.

128
00:06:52,820 --> 00:06:56,540
We have certain people
that they work by us.

129
00:06:56,540 --> 00:06:59,480
And my father treat
that persons very good,

130
00:06:59,480 --> 00:07:00,650
and they make a living--

131
00:07:00,650 --> 00:07:04,130
the whole family-- because
of my father supported them.

132
00:07:04,130 --> 00:07:06,530
And when that happened,
they was the first one

133
00:07:06,530 --> 00:07:09,065
to grab everything
that they could out,

134
00:07:09,065 --> 00:07:10,190
and we couldn't do nothing.

135
00:07:10,190 --> 00:07:12,420
We could just stay and look.

136
00:07:12,420 --> 00:07:15,800
So you felt not only
in physical danger,

137
00:07:15,800 --> 00:07:17,090
but you felt powerless too?

138
00:07:17,090 --> 00:07:19,850
And they took us from--
that was not a ghetto yet--

139
00:07:19,850 --> 00:07:24,520

they took us from our homes
and sent us in other homes,

140
00:07:24,520 --> 00:07:26,600
the other side of town.

141
00:07:26,600 --> 00:07:29,500
They want put all
the Jews together

142
00:07:29,500 --> 00:07:32,305
very close that
in case they want

143
00:07:32,305 --> 00:07:34,660
to send them to
Auschwitz or whatever,

144
00:07:34,660 --> 00:07:35,890
they have everybody together.

145
00:07:35,890 --> 00:07:37,030
They can't run away.

146
00:07:37,030 --> 00:07:38,800
Was this, in fact,
the ghetto already?

147
00:07:38,800 --> 00:07:39,633
It was not a ghetto.

148
00:07:39,633 --> 00:07:40,840
It was open.

149
00:07:40,840 --> 00:07:42,910
It was open.

150
00:07:42,910 --> 00:07:47,500
One place in the city they
sent-- took all the Jews.

151
00:07:47,500 --> 00:07:51,490

Because our city, as small
as it was, it was wide.

152
00:07:51,490 --> 00:07:54,760
So they took the people from
here, sent them over there.

153
00:07:54,760 --> 00:07:58,180
This way if they need them,
they have all together.

154
00:07:58,180 --> 00:07:59,380
Nobody can disappear.

155
00:07:59,380 --> 00:08:01,840
Nobody can ever run away.

156
00:08:01,840 --> 00:08:04,150
Where did you live when
you were put together

157
00:08:04,150 --> 00:08:06,920
in this other part of the city?

158
00:08:06,920 --> 00:08:08,470
Did you did you live
in an apartment?

159
00:08:08,470 --> 00:08:09,955
Did you live in a flat?

160
00:08:09,955 --> 00:08:11,050
Yeah, there was flats.

161
00:08:11,050 --> 00:08:14,810
That put so and so many
people in one flat.

162
00:08:14,810 --> 00:08:17,380
Let's say we have a
nice home, our own.

163

00:08:17,380 --> 00:08:19,410
They took us out.

164
00:08:19,410 --> 00:08:25,120
And they sent in Germans,
the Germans from Sudeten.

165
00:08:25,120 --> 00:08:26,720
You know that Sudetenland?

166
00:08:26,720 --> 00:08:27,220
Yes.

167
00:08:27,220 --> 00:08:28,845
The Volksdeutsche
they used to call it,

168
00:08:28,845 --> 00:08:31,150
this put them here
in the houses.

169
00:08:31,150 --> 00:08:33,250
And us, they took out
from here, send us

170
00:08:33,250 --> 00:08:35,200
in houses where you
have to be together,

171
00:08:35,200 --> 00:08:36,820
one room the whole
family, one room.

172
00:08:36,820 --> 00:08:37,987
Before we had 10 full rooms.

173
00:08:37,987 --> 00:08:42,059
One room, yeah, with no
bathroom facilities, and no.

174
00:08:42,059 --> 00:08:43,159
No, no.

175

00:08:43,159 --> 00:08:45,470

Everything was.

176

00:08:45,470 --> 00:08:48,265

We have already the
taste of what is coming,

177

00:08:48,265 --> 00:08:49,390

but we couldn't do nothing.

178

00:08:49,390 --> 00:08:50,920

What can we do?

179

00:08:50,920 --> 00:08:54,610

Was your father able to have
any part of his business

180

00:08:54,610 --> 00:08:56,350

in the beginning or
was he immediately?

181

00:08:56,350 --> 00:08:57,880

No, they took everything away.

182

00:08:57,880 --> 00:09:00,040

They took everything away.

183

00:09:00,040 --> 00:09:06,250

My mother, she made a remark
once to that German fellow

184

00:09:06,250 --> 00:09:08,740

that I told you he
had everything by us.

185

00:09:08,740 --> 00:09:10,120

He worked by us.

186

00:09:10,120 --> 00:09:14,290

That time is going
to change, not

187

00:09:14,290 --> 00:09:15,820
always going to be like that.

188

00:09:15,820 --> 00:09:18,220
We're going to stay and watch
how you take everything out

189

00:09:18,220 --> 00:09:20,980
that you like from
our possessions.

190

00:09:20,980 --> 00:09:24,947
So he told this to
the German Gestapo

191

00:09:24,947 --> 00:09:27,280
or whatever you call it at
that time, the German police,

192

00:09:27,280 --> 00:09:27,950
and they come.

193

00:09:27,950 --> 00:09:29,540
They took my mother out.

194

00:09:29,540 --> 00:09:31,040
They took her to
the police station,

195

00:09:31,040 --> 00:09:33,760
and they beat her up
so bad, black and blue,

196

00:09:33,760 --> 00:09:37,270
and they send her back home
because of what she said.

197

00:09:37,270 --> 00:09:39,775
We thought when
they take her, we're

198

00:09:39,775 --> 00:09:41,740

not going to see her anymore.

199

00:09:41,740 --> 00:09:45,760

And that was our best
closest associate

200

00:09:45,760 --> 00:09:49,170

that did that to my mother.

201

00:09:49,170 --> 00:09:52,800

My mother sent me to
another little town

202

00:09:52,800 --> 00:09:57,180

to buy bread because we
couldn't get nothing here.

203

00:09:57,180 --> 00:10:01,240

So in the other town, my
mother gave me money, you know?

204

00:10:01,240 --> 00:10:03,030

And I went to the
bakery, Jewish bakery.

205

00:10:03,030 --> 00:10:05,910

There was still maybe the
other town, Lentschitz,

206

00:10:05,910 --> 00:10:08,940

was easier to get
bread than by us.

207

00:10:08,940 --> 00:10:11,400

By us, they squeeze
us already altogether,

208

00:10:11,400 --> 00:10:12,660

and you couldn't get out.

209

00:10:12,660 --> 00:10:14,070

You could walk.

210

00:10:14,070 --> 00:10:16,080

You could walk, but
there was no bakery.

211

00:10:16,080 --> 00:10:18,150

The bakeries was
by us before where

212

00:10:18,150 --> 00:10:21,490

we lived in the other
town, in the other place.

213

00:10:21,490 --> 00:10:23,800

So when I come back,
so at that time

214

00:10:23,800 --> 00:10:27,150

we wear the yellow
stripes here, Magen David.

215

00:10:27,150 --> 00:10:29,310

So I went, took the
train, went there.

216

00:10:29,310 --> 00:10:32,190

It was just a half an hour.

217

00:10:32,190 --> 00:10:34,260

When I come back, I look around.

218

00:10:34,260 --> 00:10:37,070

I got the package with
bread, the round bread.

219

00:10:37,070 --> 00:10:44,190

And when I come back a Polish
fellow told us the German

220

00:10:44,190 --> 00:10:46,590

that stays by the
train, you know?

221

00:10:46,590 --> 00:10:47,940
Watch the train.

222
00:10:47,940 --> 00:10:49,110
You there, a Jew.

223
00:10:49,110 --> 00:10:50,100
You there.

224
00:10:50,100 --> 00:10:54,010
That is the first thing but
I learned to say, you there

225
00:10:54,010 --> 00:10:58,260
And he took me, took the
bread away, and beat me

226
00:10:58,260 --> 00:10:59,475
up very, very badly.

227
00:10:59,475 --> 00:11:02,010

228
00:11:02,010 --> 00:11:04,800
The German SS kicked
me all over, you know.

229
00:11:04,800 --> 00:11:08,250
And I saw that Polish
guy staying there

230
00:11:08,250 --> 00:11:10,710
because the Germans know
a Jew, but they could not

231
00:11:10,710 --> 00:11:12,420
recognize a Jew.

232
00:11:12,420 --> 00:11:14,730
So they used the
Poles to ferret out.

233

00:11:14,730 --> 00:11:17,610
The Pollack could understand,
could better recognize who

234
00:11:17,610 --> 00:11:19,035
is a Jew and who was not a Jew.

235
00:11:19,035 --> 00:11:20,820
And from that time, I
really got so fed up

236
00:11:20,820 --> 00:11:22,680
I said, how can I
get out of here?

237
00:11:22,680 --> 00:11:25,620
And I couldn't because I
couldn't leave my parents,

238
00:11:25,620 --> 00:11:26,580
you know?

239
00:11:26,580 --> 00:11:29,280
We was a very close-knit family.

240
00:11:29,280 --> 00:11:33,697
My mother from her side, that
means my grandmother that

241
00:11:33,697 --> 00:11:34,620
lived with us.

242
00:11:34,620 --> 00:11:37,800
She had 12 children.

243
00:11:37,800 --> 00:11:41,430
And they all was alive, and
most of them live in our town,

244
00:11:41,430 --> 00:11:42,940
even in the same street.

245

00:11:42,940 --> 00:11:45,960

So it was very
close, the family.

246

00:11:45,960 --> 00:11:50,263

And here, all of a sudden, the
uncle went there, an aunt here,

247

00:11:50,263 --> 00:11:51,180

and everyone was gone.

248

00:11:51,180 --> 00:11:52,260

They dispersed everyone.

249

00:11:52,260 --> 00:11:54,090

That we no have the power.

250

00:11:54,090 --> 00:11:56,670

We can't make our
decision what to do.

251

00:11:56,670 --> 00:12:00,960

Yeah, how old were you in 1939?

252

00:12:00,960 --> 00:12:01,860

19 years.

253

00:12:01,860 --> 00:12:03,210

19 years.

254

00:12:03,210 --> 00:12:05,010

Had you already
finished your schooling

255

00:12:05,010 --> 00:12:07,200

when the war broke out or
were you still in school?

256

00:12:07,200 --> 00:12:09,390

I still was in school, yeah.

257

00:12:09,390 --> 00:12:15,330

I went for textile engineering
because that's what I needed,

258
00:12:15,330 --> 00:12:17,070
and then I couldn't.

259
00:12:17,070 --> 00:12:19,700
I went, I think, two years
or a year and a half.

260
00:12:19,700 --> 00:12:20,700
Was this in a gymnasium?

261
00:12:20,700 --> 00:12:22,860
A gymnasium that was in L³dz.

262
00:12:22,860 --> 00:12:23,405
Yes.

263
00:12:23,405 --> 00:12:25,780
It was not too many people
from our town that went there,

264
00:12:25,780 --> 00:12:28,530
three, four kids.

265
00:12:28,530 --> 00:12:31,450
Were you immediately
forced to leave school?

266
00:12:31,450 --> 00:12:33,570
I couldn't travel
to L³dz anymore.

267
00:12:33,570 --> 00:12:34,470
You couldn't.

268
00:12:34,470 --> 00:12:35,970
You need to have
special permission,

269
00:12:35,970 --> 00:12:38,512

so you have to go to a German,
and he's not going to let you.

270

00:12:38,512 --> 00:12:39,900
So your schooling was curtailed.

271

00:12:39,900 --> 00:12:40,560
Yeah, finished.

272

00:12:40,560 --> 00:12:43,177
What about the schooling of
your brothers and sister?

273

00:12:43,177 --> 00:12:44,010
What happened there?

274

00:12:44,010 --> 00:12:45,210
That was curtailed.

275

00:12:45,210 --> 00:12:46,710
They didn't finish.

276

00:12:46,710 --> 00:12:50,820
Maybe three, four
years of public school.

277

00:12:50,820 --> 00:12:53,880
And my little brother,
the youngest one, he

278

00:12:53,880 --> 00:12:59,520
didn't go to school at
all, maybe the fifth grade.

279

00:12:59,520 --> 00:13:04,740
Yeah, how long were you
in this area of the city

280

00:13:04,740 --> 00:13:07,020
that you were sent to at first?

281

00:13:07,020 --> 00:13:09,110

How much time did
you spend there?

282
00:13:09,110 --> 00:13:13,980
Oh, I think about nine
months till the order

283
00:13:13,980 --> 00:13:19,800
come that the young kids
should go to the movie house.

284
00:13:19,800 --> 00:13:21,810
And we're going to send
them to labor camps.

285
00:13:21,810 --> 00:13:22,870
We need the people.

286
00:13:22,870 --> 00:13:26,700
We need people to work and
that, and you'll be all right.

287
00:13:26,700 --> 00:13:27,690
You'll be good treated.

288
00:13:27,690 --> 00:13:29,820
And that was the best
thing, so we went.

289
00:13:29,820 --> 00:13:30,880
You were among them.

290
00:13:30,880 --> 00:13:31,380
Yeah.

291
00:13:31,380 --> 00:13:34,410
Yeah, and then what happened?

292
00:13:34,410 --> 00:13:37,260
Then from there in
that movie house,

293

00:13:37,260 --> 00:13:41,040
we saw already the
brutality is changing.

294
00:13:41,040 --> 00:13:43,260
They didn't talk to us
like they talked to us

295
00:13:43,260 --> 00:13:45,600
beginning when we come in.

296
00:13:45,600 --> 00:13:48,660
And when we went to
that train and waiting

297
00:13:48,660 --> 00:13:55,440
to take us on the trains
and goes to Danzig,

298
00:13:55,440 --> 00:13:58,590
so we realized already that
we're not in the same world.

299
00:13:58,590 --> 00:14:02,550
They kick us with the
SS with the boots.

300
00:14:02,550 --> 00:14:05,100
I mean, dogs, up,
up, up, and then we

301
00:14:05,100 --> 00:14:07,180
see everything is now different.

302
00:14:07,180 --> 00:14:08,970
It's not like they
promised us or when

303
00:14:08,970 --> 00:14:10,110
we were staying at home.

304
00:14:10,110 --> 00:14:13,540
Where any of your brothers

or your sister with you

305

00:14:13,540 --> 00:14:14,590
well were sent there?

306

00:14:14,590 --> 00:14:19,650
No, see we figured if I go,
at least me, so I figure maybe

307

00:14:19,650 --> 00:14:20,670
I survive.

308

00:14:20,670 --> 00:14:24,240
I'm the oldest one, you know?

309

00:14:24,240 --> 00:14:26,250
So I volunteer
because if I went,

310

00:14:26,250 --> 00:14:28,380
my younger brother didn't go.

311

00:14:28,380 --> 00:14:30,840
So my younger brother
goes next time.

312

00:14:30,840 --> 00:14:33,420
He went with my father
to Posen, Judenlager.

313

00:14:33,420 --> 00:14:35,460
It's a Posen concentration
camp where they

314

00:14:35,460 --> 00:14:37,770
both died for hunger there.

315

00:14:37,770 --> 00:14:40,270
Yeah, and what happened
with your mother?

316

00:14:40,270 --> 00:14:43,530

And my mother they took from
that place that I told you they

317
00:14:43,530 --> 00:14:47,580
all were squeezed in, mother,
my sister, and my brother,

318
00:14:47,580 --> 00:14:50,930
and they sent then to
L³dz, in the ghetto, L³dz.

319
00:14:50,930 --> 00:14:53,390
It's a big huge ghetto,
they send them there.

320
00:14:53,390 --> 00:14:57,440
And from there, they sent
the parents, to-- my parents,

321
00:14:57,440 --> 00:14:59,690
my mother, my
sister, my brother--

322
00:14:59,690 --> 00:15:02,570
that sent them to
concentration camp, to Chelmno,

323
00:15:02,570 --> 00:15:06,530
but we saw what has
happened, gas chambers.

324
00:15:06,530 --> 00:15:09,800
After you were sent
to the labor camp,

325
00:15:09,800 --> 00:15:11,990
did you have an opportunity
to see them again?

326
00:15:11,990 --> 00:15:14,220
No, never again, no.

327
00:15:14,220 --> 00:15:17,040

Never again.

328
00:15:17,040 --> 00:15:18,820
What happened to you
in his labor camp?

329
00:15:18,820 --> 00:15:22,780

330
00:15:22,780 --> 00:15:27,160
We worked on the autobahn.

331
00:15:27,160 --> 00:15:29,320
They want to get the
autobahn, close it,

332
00:15:29,320 --> 00:15:31,690
that the German
panzers can go straight

333
00:15:31,690 --> 00:15:35,290
and test it to the Russian
front in case they need them.

334
00:15:35,290 --> 00:15:38,900
Then we did the railroads--
the Russian railroads.

335
00:15:38,900 --> 00:15:42,280
It was widened, then
European, then the German.

336
00:15:42,280 --> 00:15:48,040
So the tracks, we
have make smaller.

337
00:15:48,040 --> 00:15:51,760
Leave all Europe, and here that
can go from Europe straight

338
00:15:51,760 --> 00:15:54,220
on the rails to Russia.

339

00:15:54,220 --> 00:16:00,040

So what we did, we was split
about 100 people, only 50

340

00:16:00,040 --> 00:16:05,200

people, and each 5, 10
miles, it was a small camp,

341

00:16:05,200 --> 00:16:07,090

and that's what we was doing.

342

00:16:07,090 --> 00:16:11,965

A part of us cut the trees, the
big huge trees in the forest

343

00:16:11,965 --> 00:16:14,170

and to put them alongside--

344

00:16:14,170 --> 00:16:15,910

"tartak" they used
to call it there.

345

00:16:15,910 --> 00:16:18,617

I don't know how to call it
in English where they put it

346

00:16:18,617 --> 00:16:19,450

through the machine.

347

00:16:19,450 --> 00:16:23,680

They come out certain
sizes, and that goes across.

348

00:16:23,680 --> 00:16:26,780

So some of our
people did that job.

349

00:16:26,780 --> 00:16:29,560

First, I work on a
tartak, as a machinist.

350

00:16:29,560 --> 00:16:32,410

Because that-- but I really was.

351

00:16:32,410 --> 00:16:34,240

That's the reason

I went to school

352

00:16:34,240 --> 00:16:37,120

in textile, the machinery.

353

00:16:37,120 --> 00:16:41,770

And some of the people

was lifting up them

354

00:16:41,770 --> 00:16:45,880

big rails, lug them alongside,

and hit the nails in,

355

00:16:45,880 --> 00:16:47,000

one after another.

356

00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:48,980

That's the way that we did.

357

00:16:48,980 --> 00:16:52,300

And you were all relatively

young and relatively strong

358

00:16:52,300 --> 00:16:53,080

at that time.

359

00:16:53,080 --> 00:16:54,040

Yeah, all young people.

360

00:16:54,040 --> 00:16:58,780

Yeah, and how did they treat

you during that period?

361

00:16:58,780 --> 00:16:59,650

Did they feed you?

362

00:16:59,650 --> 00:17:00,190

Did they?

363
00:17:00,190 --> 00:17:01,690
Yeah, they feed us.

364
00:17:01,690 --> 00:17:04,240
Soldiers are better than
the concentration camps

365
00:17:04,240 --> 00:17:06,790
because this was more
like half and half.

366
00:17:06,790 --> 00:17:08,710
It was a labor camp.

367
00:17:08,710 --> 00:17:13,119
And that was the people
that are on that camp

368
00:17:13,119 --> 00:17:16,839
was all OT they used it
call it, Organisation Todt.

369
00:17:16,839 --> 00:17:18,910
They had such yellow uniforms.

370
00:17:18,910 --> 00:17:22,150
There was paramilitary.

371
00:17:22,150 --> 00:17:25,520
There was most-- there
was in East there.

372
00:17:25,520 --> 00:17:29,662
And they was nicer than the SS.

373
00:17:29,662 --> 00:17:31,120
There were no SS
at the labor camp.

374
00:17:31,120 --> 00:17:31,787
There was no SS.

375
00:17:31,787 --> 00:17:34,000
The labor camp was not SS.

376
00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:35,545
Were they Wehrmacht?

377
00:17:35,545 --> 00:17:38,425
Yeah, from Wehrmacht,
but paramilitary.

378
00:17:38,425 --> 00:17:43,325
They have to do more with
doing work for the military.

379
00:17:43,325 --> 00:17:44,980
Mm-hmm, I see.

380
00:17:44,980 --> 00:17:47,170
In other words,
these were civilians

381
00:17:47,170 --> 00:17:51,980
who were doing military work.

382
00:17:51,980 --> 00:17:53,650
Were there any
cases of brutality

383
00:17:53,650 --> 00:17:55,030
or any cases of abuse?

384
00:17:55,030 --> 00:18:00,610
I experienced a
very bad experience.

385
00:18:00,610 --> 00:18:04,400
While we went there, there
was apartments on both sides,

386
00:18:04,400 --> 00:18:04,900
you know?

387
00:18:04,900 --> 00:18:06,192
Here apartment, here apartment.

388
00:18:06,192 --> 00:18:09,400
And when you pass close to
that apartment, the apartment

389
00:18:09,400 --> 00:18:12,580
of that old lady,
throw you a bread

390
00:18:12,580 --> 00:18:14,630
because she know
that that we need.

391
00:18:14,630 --> 00:18:21,010
So I got that bread, and some of
them I ate there while at work,

392
00:18:21,010 --> 00:18:25,960
and the rest I hide,
and I brought in camp.

393
00:18:25,960 --> 00:18:31,750
And when you come back
in camp, the officer

394
00:18:31,750 --> 00:18:35,610
that is in charge of that
camp, he saw everybody, front.

395
00:18:35,610 --> 00:18:38,720
So I'm thick, and I
shouldn't be thick,

396
00:18:38,720 --> 00:18:40,690
I had no place to
hide that bread.

397
00:18:40,690 --> 00:18:41,860
What you have in here?

398

00:18:41,860 --> 00:18:44,470

That took out the bread.

399

00:18:44,470 --> 00:18:45,970

When he took out
the bread, he want

400

00:18:45,970 --> 00:18:47,740

to know where I got the bread.

401

00:18:47,740 --> 00:18:49,150

And I was afraid to tell him.

402

00:18:49,150 --> 00:18:52,750

If I tell them from where I got
that bread, nobody ever going

403

00:18:52,750 --> 00:18:55,570

to get bread from
those people, you know.

404

00:18:55,570 --> 00:18:58,480

So I figure whatever
you do to me,

405

00:18:58,480 --> 00:19:00,490

at least you're not
going to find out

406

00:19:00,490 --> 00:19:02,620

who give me that bread.

407

00:19:02,620 --> 00:19:05,977

So they give me because
I didn't tell them

408

00:19:05,977 --> 00:19:07,060

from when I got the bread.

409

00:19:07,060 --> 00:19:08,110

I tell them a lie.

410

00:19:08,110 --> 00:19:12,370
Somebody pass by with a bicycle,
and he throw the bread to me,

411

00:19:12,370 --> 00:19:14,380
but that was a lie, you know?

412

00:19:14,380 --> 00:19:17,545
But at least I didn't tell them
I got this from that apartment.

413

00:19:17,545 --> 00:19:19,170
That way they would
go to the apartment

414

00:19:19,170 --> 00:19:20,878
and maybe they would
do something to him.

415

00:19:20,878 --> 00:19:24,130
So what they did to me,
they say you're going

416

00:19:24,130 --> 00:19:27,940
to get now 25 over your behind.

417

00:19:27,940 --> 00:19:28,900
25 lashes?

418

00:19:28,900 --> 00:19:32,695
Yeah, and 12:00,
you get another 25.

419

00:19:32,695 --> 00:19:36,460

420

00:19:36,460 --> 00:19:39,490
And tomorrow morning,
you get to 50

421

00:19:39,490 --> 00:19:42,610
before you go to work and this

way you have to go to work.

422

00:19:42,610 --> 00:19:48,530

And they have such a
big, what they call it?

423

00:19:48,530 --> 00:19:49,240

A whip?

424

00:19:49,240 --> 00:19:52,145

Whips that was made from ox.

425

00:19:52,145 --> 00:19:53,290

Ox hides?

426

00:19:53,290 --> 00:19:54,700

Ox hide, right.

427

00:19:54,700 --> 00:19:56,215

And you have to lay down.

428

00:19:56,215 --> 00:19:58,090

And if you're going to
move, then it's worse.

429

00:19:58,090 --> 00:19:59,950

They can hit you
some other places.

430

00:19:59,950 --> 00:20:02,980

They most hit me on that place.

431

00:20:02,980 --> 00:20:05,950

And I couldn't from the
time, I no feel here.

432

00:20:05,950 --> 00:20:08,380

My skin is dead here.

433

00:20:08,380 --> 00:20:12,880

It looks like crumbled.

434

00:20:12,880 --> 00:20:15,940

So the next morning
when we come back,

435

00:20:15,940 --> 00:20:18,910

now I couldn't work
because I was so swollen.

436

00:20:18,910 --> 00:20:23,510

So the friends, my friends
was most from the same town,

437

00:20:23,510 --> 00:20:26,740

so we know each other,
and we stick together.

438

00:20:26,740 --> 00:20:28,270

So they hold me
together, and that's

439

00:20:28,270 --> 00:20:29,710

the way I went to that camp.

440

00:20:29,710 --> 00:20:34,660

When I come to the camp,
there was the foreman.

441

00:20:34,660 --> 00:20:40,060

He was a nice German man, but
he was not a military man.

442

00:20:40,060 --> 00:20:44,080

They took him there to take care
of the job that has to be done.

443

00:20:44,080 --> 00:20:45,700

And he said what
they did to you?

444

00:20:45,700 --> 00:20:46,520

So I tell him.

445

00:20:46,520 --> 00:20:48,600

So the friends tell
him what they did.

446

00:20:48,600 --> 00:20:50,750

So he said, OK, you're
not going to do nothing.

447

00:20:50,750 --> 00:20:54,500

You sit down there by the fire,
and I'm going to feed you.

448

00:20:54,500 --> 00:20:57,290

Whatever I have of mine,
I'm going to give you,

449

00:20:57,290 --> 00:20:58,820

and you're not
going to do nothing.

450

00:20:58,820 --> 00:21:01,700

So that day I didn't
work because he

451

00:21:01,700 --> 00:21:03,920

felt so sorry for me.

452

00:21:03,920 --> 00:21:06,350

And I was a good
worker, you know?

453

00:21:06,350 --> 00:21:07,370

I was a machinist.

454

00:21:07,370 --> 00:21:08,720

They needed me.

455

00:21:08,720 --> 00:21:11,970

And that was my bad experience
that I had in that camp.

456

00:21:11,970 --> 00:21:15,170

That was a labor camp

they [INAUDIBLE]..

457

00:21:15,170 --> 00:21:17,630

And after two, three,
four days, I feel better.

458

00:21:17,630 --> 00:21:20,640

But that numbness,
I have up to date.

459

00:21:20,640 --> 00:21:21,650

It doesn't go away.

460

00:21:21,650 --> 00:21:23,930

Yeah, it doesn't go away.

461

00:21:23,930 --> 00:21:26,210

I know.

462

00:21:26,210 --> 00:21:30,170

What happened to move
you from that camp?

463

00:21:30,170 --> 00:21:34,970

What took place after
the several months

464

00:21:34,970 --> 00:21:36,300

that you were there?

465

00:21:36,300 --> 00:21:40,580

They had people
coming more and more,

466

00:21:40,580 --> 00:21:42,630

and they had no place
where to keep them.

467

00:21:42,630 --> 00:21:46,010

So we have already
experience, so they send us

468

00:21:46,010 --> 00:21:47,900
in another camp.

469
00:21:47,900 --> 00:21:50,510
So you jump from one
place to another.

470
00:21:50,510 --> 00:21:51,530
You left here.

471
00:21:51,530 --> 00:21:54,520
They send new people here,
and you got another 10 miles.

472
00:21:54,520 --> 00:21:57,590
Then they didn't need
it or something happened

473
00:21:57,590 --> 00:21:59,303
with the Russians,
they bombed or what,

474
00:21:59,303 --> 00:22:00,470
they didn't need the people.

475
00:22:00,470 --> 00:22:02,012
They couldn't kill
them because there

476
00:22:02,012 --> 00:22:06,380
in the East that was
already Lithuania.

477
00:22:06,380 --> 00:22:09,605
In Lithuania, then we was there.

478
00:22:09,605 --> 00:22:13,620
It was a nice
camp, but they send

479
00:22:13,620 --> 00:22:18,650
in the Jewish people
from Vilna, that

480
00:22:18,650 --> 00:22:22,520
was mothers with the children,
the fathers, whole families.

481
00:22:22,520 --> 00:22:25,070
That's the first
time in a year or two

482
00:22:25,070 --> 00:22:27,950
we saw families
together, you know?

483
00:22:27,950 --> 00:22:32,070
It was very nice, peaceful,
and that Lagerfuhrer--

484
00:22:32,070 --> 00:22:36,110
that means the
commandant of that camp--

485
00:22:36,110 --> 00:22:40,940
he was a reasonable man too
because there was no SS.

486
00:22:40,940 --> 00:22:44,075
So all of a sudden, this
SS started to take it over,

487
00:22:44,075 --> 00:22:45,920
come in big trucks--

488
00:22:45,920 --> 00:22:49,790
big, big huge trucks
in front of the camp.

489
00:22:49,790 --> 00:22:54,496
All of the kids, the women
should give the kids up.

490
00:22:54,496 --> 00:22:57,600
So shortly, no women
want to give the kids up.

491
00:22:57,600 --> 00:22:59,670
Some kids were
small little babies.

492
00:22:59,670 --> 00:23:01,470
Some hide the
babies, so the baby

493
00:23:01,470 --> 00:23:03,960
was crying because
all of them, all of us

494
00:23:03,960 --> 00:23:07,590
has to go out from the barracks,
then they come in and check.

495
00:23:07,590 --> 00:23:11,137
They took all the kids
out, and they'd throw them.

496
00:23:11,137 --> 00:23:12,720
When we stayed there,
we'd see, they'd

497
00:23:12,720 --> 00:23:13,910
throw them just like that.

498
00:23:13,910 --> 00:23:14,760
That means the kids are going.

499
00:23:14,760 --> 00:23:15,570
Onto the trucks?

500
00:23:15,570 --> 00:23:17,352
On the trucks, open trucks.

501
00:23:17,352 --> 00:23:19,060
That means the kids
are going to be dead.

502
00:23:19,060 --> 00:23:20,070

We know it already.

503

00:23:20,070 --> 00:23:22,890

You don't treat little babies
like that and children, just

504

00:23:22,890 --> 00:23:24,700

like that.

505

00:23:24,700 --> 00:23:28,110

So one woman, I remember
she was from Vilna too,

506

00:23:28,110 --> 00:23:32,310

and she backed that assessment
and told guy with them boots,

507

00:23:32,310 --> 00:23:33,420

please leave my kid.

508

00:23:33,420 --> 00:23:37,320

That kid was maybe about three
years old, a cute little boy.

509

00:23:37,320 --> 00:23:38,550

And he said no.

510

00:23:38,550 --> 00:23:40,320

So she said, so take me.

511

00:23:40,320 --> 00:23:41,280

You want to come with?

512

00:23:41,280 --> 00:23:43,113

So she said, yeah, I
want to be with my son.

513

00:23:43,113 --> 00:23:44,280

They took her too.

514

00:23:44,280 --> 00:23:48,180

In about half an hour

from there or an hour,

515

00:23:48,180 --> 00:23:50,610

there was Paneriai
woods, the forest.

516

00:23:50,610 --> 00:23:51,930

Maybe had about the Paneriais?

517

00:23:51,930 --> 00:23:53,340

Yes.

518

00:23:53,340 --> 00:23:55,380

So they killed him.

519

00:23:55,380 --> 00:23:57,630

They dig holes over there,
and they killed him.

520

00:23:57,630 --> 00:24:00,540

And then it was quiet
for two, three days.

521

00:24:00,540 --> 00:24:02,490

They come again
looking for sick people

522

00:24:02,490 --> 00:24:04,290

because there was
no more children.

523

00:24:04,290 --> 00:24:06,570

And while that was
going on, we have

524

00:24:06,570 --> 00:24:09,840

to sing because I
was entertaining

525

00:24:09,840 --> 00:24:12,040

us when we had good
times, you know?

526

00:24:12,040 --> 00:24:14,580

There in camp, we
sing reminiscent

527

00:24:14,580 --> 00:24:17,650

about nice, old songs from
the hometown and all that.

528

00:24:17,650 --> 00:24:21,090

And here, we have to stay and
sing for the crying o women

529

00:24:21,090 --> 00:24:22,650

that they took
the children away.

530

00:24:22,650 --> 00:24:24,780

You know how it feels?

531

00:24:24,780 --> 00:24:26,530

Yeah.

532

00:24:26,530 --> 00:24:29,940

They force you to do something,
but your heart was bleeding.

533

00:24:29,940 --> 00:24:32,520

But just they were so stupid.

534

00:24:32,520 --> 00:24:34,830

What do you want to
prove to those women

535

00:24:34,830 --> 00:24:36,372

that their hearts are bleeding?

536

00:24:36,372 --> 00:24:37,830

They took their
little babies away.

537

00:24:37,830 --> 00:24:39,780

Our singing is

going to help them?

538

00:24:39,780 --> 00:24:41,820

Is going to comfort them?

539

00:24:41,820 --> 00:24:48,990

Yeah, the irrationality of
it is mind-boggling, yeah.

540

00:24:48,990 --> 00:24:51,090

Did they take all
the children at once?

541

00:24:51,090 --> 00:24:52,038

Yeah.

542

00:24:52,038 --> 00:24:56,070

Yeah, were they the
very young, or were they

543

00:24:56,070 --> 00:24:57,510

teenagers there too?

544

00:24:57,510 --> 00:24:59,130

Teenagers that didn't take.

545

00:24:59,130 --> 00:25:03,690

The kids, let's say till 12,
13 years, and the little,

546

00:25:03,690 --> 00:25:07,260

you know, what happen, mothers,
the first thing that they hold

547

00:25:07,260 --> 00:25:11,730

is their little children, a half
a year, a year, two years old.

548

00:25:11,730 --> 00:25:17,610

And from that time, the whole
camp was the women went crazy.

549

00:25:17,610 --> 00:25:18,420
They were crying.

550
00:25:18,420 --> 00:25:20,370
They were screaming
for no reason.

551
00:25:20,370 --> 00:25:24,570
After that, they took the women
in the concentration camps

552
00:25:24,570 --> 00:25:26,070
because they have
no use for them.

553
00:25:26,070 --> 00:25:28,890
They just took them
out with the kids

554
00:25:28,890 --> 00:25:32,040
to be a little bit together,
then they took the kids away,

555
00:25:32,040 --> 00:25:34,260
then they took the women away.

556
00:25:34,260 --> 00:25:37,020
Selection they used to
call it, come in the camp.

557
00:25:37,020 --> 00:25:39,540
Whoever was sick, they took him.

558
00:25:39,540 --> 00:25:42,090
That's the only way they
get rid of them is take them

559
00:25:42,090 --> 00:25:44,590
at concentration camp,
whether there's crematoriums

560
00:25:44,590 --> 00:25:45,495
or whatever.

561
00:25:45,495 --> 00:25:48,150
So for these people, this
was a transition point

562
00:25:48,150 --> 00:25:51,030
from, let's say, the ghetto
to the concentration camp.

563
00:25:51,030 --> 00:25:54,090
And they separated the able
from the disabled and the young.

564
00:25:54,090 --> 00:25:58,000
And we was there as workers.

565
00:25:58,000 --> 00:26:00,660
They like to call it the we
was there already months.

566
00:26:00,660 --> 00:26:01,690
We know everything.

567
00:26:01,690 --> 00:26:03,720
But that was new
people, young people.

568
00:26:03,720 --> 00:26:05,280
When they come in
there, they see

569
00:26:05,280 --> 00:26:08,690
how we look good and
dressed in civilian clothes,

570
00:26:08,690 --> 00:26:11,300
so just to get them
in not to feel bad.

571
00:26:11,300 --> 00:26:13,160
That's what happened.

572

00:26:13,160 --> 00:26:16,290
Yeah, what happened
to you after that?

573
00:26:16,290 --> 00:26:19,830
After these events took place?

574
00:26:19,830 --> 00:26:21,720
Were you allowed
to stay there or?

575
00:26:21,720 --> 00:26:25,470
Yeah, we stayed there another
two, three, four months,

576
00:26:25,470 --> 00:26:27,660
something like that.

577
00:26:27,660 --> 00:26:30,600
And there they
took us Palemonas.

578
00:26:30,600 --> 00:26:34,050
That is Lithuania, too.

579
00:26:34,050 --> 00:26:40,504
That was the first cruelty that
we ever saw was in that camp.

580
00:26:40,504 --> 00:26:43,290
So when we come
in that camp, they

581
00:26:43,290 --> 00:26:45,420
hang people for
no reason, people

582
00:26:45,420 --> 00:26:48,330
that I know, people that
I was within friends.

583
00:26:48,330 --> 00:26:49,380
We grew up together.

584
00:26:49,380 --> 00:26:52,380
For no reason, three people
they shot, to scare us

585
00:26:52,380 --> 00:26:55,496
that nobody should run away.

586
00:26:55,496 --> 00:26:56,452
Who did the hanging?

587
00:26:56,452 --> 00:26:58,035
Was it the Germans
or the Lithuanians?

588
00:26:58,035 --> 00:27:00,180
The Germans, the
Germans, the Germans.

589
00:27:00,180 --> 00:27:06,240
We have the Ukrainian SS they
used to call it, you know?

590
00:27:06,240 --> 00:27:07,410
They was doing it.

591
00:27:07,410 --> 00:27:08,280
I don't know.

592
00:27:08,280 --> 00:27:09,270
They were young guys.

593
00:27:09,270 --> 00:27:11,850
If you saw the SS--

594
00:27:11,850 --> 00:27:16,260
the Ukrainians-- they're young
people, 20, 22 years old,

595
00:27:16,260 --> 00:27:20,400
black uniforms, and how
could they do such a thing?

596

00:27:20,400 --> 00:27:21,605

They was laughing.

597

00:27:21,605 --> 00:27:25,425

There was one guy, Peter.

598

00:27:25,425 --> 00:27:29,310

We used to call him Peter the
Terrible, a tall young fellow.

599

00:27:29,310 --> 00:27:31,260

And he was so cruel.

600

00:27:31,260 --> 00:27:34,290

He could do every day
when we went to work,

601

00:27:34,290 --> 00:27:38,550

if he didn't like somebody,
he put a cross on his back

602

00:27:38,550 --> 00:27:40,080

with chalk.

603

00:27:40,080 --> 00:27:42,283

That means then he know
who is going to be next.

604

00:27:42,283 --> 00:27:44,700

He took you in the woods because
whenever we worked there,

605

00:27:44,700 --> 00:27:45,420

there was woods.

606

00:27:45,420 --> 00:27:49,200

We chopped off the trees.

607

00:27:49,200 --> 00:27:50,190

Killed him.

608

00:27:50,190 --> 00:27:52,470

Dig the hole he said,
and then he kills him.

609

00:27:52,470 --> 00:27:53,930

Dig the hole and kills him.

610

00:27:53,930 --> 00:27:58,480

We was in that camp about
47 people, 50 people

611

00:27:58,480 --> 00:28:00,880

because they divide
us some more.

612

00:28:00,880 --> 00:28:04,780

When we left there, there was 23
left, and I was between the 23.

613

00:28:04,780 --> 00:28:13,440

Mm-hmm, in this camp, you
said they hung people.

614

00:28:13,440 --> 00:28:16,490

Did they hang them for
specific offenses or just?

615

00:28:16,490 --> 00:28:17,730

No, no, just to scare us.

616

00:28:17,730 --> 00:28:18,300

To scare.

617

00:28:18,300 --> 00:28:22,558

Not to run away, listen to that
and that what they have to do.

618

00:28:22,558 --> 00:28:23,850

We have to work in the morning.

619

00:28:23,850 --> 00:28:25,392

They give you a

whole lesson of what.

620

00:28:25,392 --> 00:28:28,170

If not, it's going
to happen like them.

621

00:28:28,170 --> 00:28:30,930

And if that wasn't good
enough, if some people just

622

00:28:30,930 --> 00:28:32,400

ran away because there's woods.

623

00:28:32,400 --> 00:28:36,960

They figured maybe they're going
to find partisans in the woods

624

00:28:36,960 --> 00:28:40,830

that they can take them
and fight the Germans,

625

00:28:40,830 --> 00:28:43,410

but there is their lives.

626

00:28:43,410 --> 00:28:46,410

And one, two, three had
left away, the next day

627

00:28:46,410 --> 00:28:48,030

we have them here, dead.

628

00:28:48,030 --> 00:28:50,800

So they put them alongside
when we went to eat,

629

00:28:50,800 --> 00:28:53,235

to get that little
soup, that little water,

630

00:28:53,235 --> 00:28:55,770

there was laid out
dead bodies in front

631

00:28:55,770 --> 00:28:57,480

that we see what's going on.

632

00:28:57,480 --> 00:29:02,740

You couldn't go into the
kitchen for your food

633

00:29:02,740 --> 00:29:07,440

that they give you lest you see
the dead bodies bleeding dead,

634

00:29:07,440 --> 00:29:09,750

so that's what happened.

635

00:29:09,750 --> 00:29:12,060

So there was a kind of
psychological torture

636

00:29:12,060 --> 00:29:12,930

as well as the.

637

00:29:12,930 --> 00:29:15,360

Yeah, they didn't let you
eat because they know we was

638

00:29:15,360 --> 00:29:17,240

hungry after a day's hard work.

639

00:29:17,240 --> 00:29:22,620

They give you-- in that camp,
Palemonas, they give you--

640

00:29:22,620 --> 00:29:24,780

put in that we know--

641

00:29:24,780 --> 00:29:30,540

two pound of flour in
300 liter of water.

642

00:29:30,540 --> 00:29:35,970

That was our soup, and
there was 22 boys--

643
00:29:35,970 --> 00:29:41,790
22 men-- got the small bread
that was cut in 22 pieces.

644
00:29:41,790 --> 00:29:43,770
12, one there and one there.

645
00:29:43,770 --> 00:29:47,560
Now, that should be
enough for 24 hours.

646
00:29:47,560 --> 00:29:49,170
Those were your day's rations.

647
00:29:49,170 --> 00:29:51,300
Right, yeah, that
was very, very bad.

648
00:29:51,300 --> 00:29:53,310
Worse than Buchenwald.

649
00:29:53,310 --> 00:30:00,540
Yeah, we don't hear very much
about this camp because--

650
00:30:00,540 --> 00:30:01,050
Palemonas.

651
00:30:01,050 --> 00:30:03,720
--there are obviously
so many others

652
00:30:03,720 --> 00:30:06,510
that have taken prominence.

653
00:30:06,510 --> 00:30:08,490
Was there anything
special about this camp

654
00:30:08,490 --> 00:30:13,200
that made it unique

in your mind?

655

00:30:13,200 --> 00:30:17,820

Because in that camp,
they did to us things

656

00:30:17,820 --> 00:30:19,290

that they didn't
do in other camps.

657

00:30:19,290 --> 00:30:22,200

If you mind your own
business, they let you live.

658

00:30:22,200 --> 00:30:28,073

Here, from the commandant
till the Ukrainian SS,

659

00:30:28,073 --> 00:30:28,740

it was the same.

660

00:30:28,740 --> 00:30:31,078

Those tyrants, they
just were out to kill.

661

00:30:31,078 --> 00:30:32,120

You couldn't say nothing.

662

00:30:32,120 --> 00:30:34,650

You couldn't pick,
nothing, just like that.

663

00:30:34,650 --> 00:30:36,750

If that Ukrainian
didn't like you--

664

00:30:36,750 --> 00:30:39,840

that Peter the Terrible
we used to call him--

665

00:30:39,840 --> 00:30:41,610

if he didn't like
you, he just shot you,

666
00:30:41,610 --> 00:30:44,460
give you a bullet here to
the head, and you was dead.

667
00:30:44,460 --> 00:30:47,460
And then he called
me or you, dig a hole

668
00:30:47,460 --> 00:30:49,480
and put them in it now.

669
00:30:49,480 --> 00:30:51,600
So the punishment here
was totally irrational.

670
00:30:51,600 --> 00:30:52,860
There was no such a thing.

671
00:30:52,860 --> 00:30:56,760
You couldn't complain
to anybody, no.

672
00:30:56,760 --> 00:30:58,575
Where did you go from Palemonas?

673
00:30:58,575 --> 00:31:00,900
We went to Kaiserwald, Riga.

674
00:31:00,900 --> 00:31:01,740
In Latvia?

675
00:31:01,740 --> 00:31:02,760
Latvia, right.

676
00:31:02,760 --> 00:31:06,330
Palemonas was in Lithuania.

677
00:31:06,330 --> 00:31:09,540
Then I went to Riga, a big
huge concentration camp.

678

00:31:09,540 --> 00:31:14,410

There was women in one side
and the men in the other side.

679

00:31:14,410 --> 00:31:16,830

And we used to work
in factories that I

680

00:31:16,830 --> 00:31:20,130

was to do in a big
airplane factory.

681

00:31:20,130 --> 00:31:21,570

I used to make--

682

00:31:21,570 --> 00:31:24,540

we, a part of us--
used to make the wings

683

00:31:24,540 --> 00:31:27,870

of the planes, other people
other things, you know?

684

00:31:27,870 --> 00:31:31,080

And there they assembled
the planes in that plane,

685

00:31:31,080 --> 00:31:33,465

and I don't know what
they did with that again.

686

00:31:33,465 --> 00:31:35,340

Yeah, and how were you
treated at Kaiserwald?

687

00:31:35,340 --> 00:31:38,450

But something that
happened there too.

688

00:31:38,450 --> 00:31:41,880

One night, we saw two
airplanes coming--

689

00:31:41,880 --> 00:31:44,880

they were Russia because that
was the fabrication-- two

690

00:31:44,880 --> 00:31:47,850

airplanes start
coming on that camp.

691

00:31:47,850 --> 00:31:51,270

And we didn't care or
they kill us or not.

692

00:31:51,270 --> 00:31:55,440

We just want them to destroy
that camp with all the SS

693

00:31:55,440 --> 00:31:58,050

inside.

694

00:31:58,050 --> 00:32:01,963

So and we see the flag
artillery from the Germans.

695

00:32:01,963 --> 00:32:04,380

You know that was the middle
of the night going up and up.

696

00:32:04,380 --> 00:32:07,800

Finally, one plane caught fire.

697

00:32:07,800 --> 00:32:10,380

They shot them down.

698

00:32:10,380 --> 00:32:13,320

And the next day we
hear that that man--

699

00:32:13,320 --> 00:32:15,330

the other one went
back to Russia.

700

00:32:15,330 --> 00:32:17,280

They couldn't catch him--

701

00:32:17,280 --> 00:32:22,320
that man on top there with
that plane that was on fire,

702

00:32:22,320 --> 00:32:26,460
he tried to bring that
plane straight down

703

00:32:26,460 --> 00:32:29,910
on that big huge factory
where we build the airplanes.

704

00:32:29,910 --> 00:32:32,400
And there was a
big explosion here.

705

00:32:32,400 --> 00:32:34,695
We was on the other side
because that was very huge--

706

00:32:34,695 --> 00:32:36,270
Kaiserwald.

707

00:32:36,270 --> 00:32:39,430
And there was a big
fire for days and days.

708

00:32:39,430 --> 00:32:43,710
So they left those alone because
they have themselves to do--

709

00:32:43,710 --> 00:32:44,850
the Germans there.

710

00:32:44,850 --> 00:32:50,010
But that was the rumors
we hear in the camp that

711

00:32:50,010 --> 00:32:52,600
that flier especially,
figured he's going to be dead.

712
00:32:52,600 --> 00:32:53,430
They're not going
to let him live.

713
00:32:53,430 --> 00:32:55,097
It was a suicide
mission in other words.

714
00:32:55,097 --> 00:33:00,210
Yeah, so he said let me come
down straight on that plant

715
00:33:00,210 --> 00:33:03,310
and kill as many as I can
and destroy the plant.

716
00:33:03,310 --> 00:33:06,460
That was what has happened
there in Kaiserwald once.

717
00:33:06,460 --> 00:33:08,290
So this was like a
reprieve for you.

718
00:33:08,290 --> 00:33:10,448
Right, and whoever
was in Kaiserwald,

719
00:33:10,448 --> 00:33:12,240
he remembers that
because there's something

720
00:33:12,240 --> 00:33:13,590
that you can't forget.

721
00:33:13,590 --> 00:33:14,340
We was happy.

722
00:33:14,340 --> 00:33:16,910
We were so happy when
they got theirs, you know?

723

00:33:16,910 --> 00:33:20,370

Mm-hmm, yeah, did
they sense that there

724

00:33:20,370 --> 00:33:23,260

was relief and happiness
among the prisoners?

725

00:33:23,260 --> 00:33:25,440

We couldn't show them
but inside, you know?

726

00:33:25,440 --> 00:33:27,240

Inside, of course.

727

00:33:27,240 --> 00:33:30,810

Of course, and how long did
you spend in Kaiserwald?

728

00:33:30,810 --> 00:33:31,950

I think six month.

729

00:33:31,950 --> 00:33:34,830

I can't recall exactly when
because it was so many years.

730

00:33:34,830 --> 00:33:35,400

I know.

731

00:33:35,400 --> 00:33:40,500

Yeah, that six month,
then that took us--

732

00:33:40,500 --> 00:33:43,470

the Russians start
coming or they was

733

00:33:43,470 --> 00:33:45,420

afraid the Russians are coming.

734

00:33:45,420 --> 00:33:46,735

The Russians become stronger.

735
00:33:46,735 --> 00:33:47,985
Then they took us to Stutthof.

736
00:33:47,985 --> 00:33:50,590

737
00:33:50,590 --> 00:33:56,410
So they took us by boats from
Riga, Kaiserwald to Stutthof.

738
00:33:56,410 --> 00:33:58,720
There was two boats.

739
00:33:58,720 --> 00:34:03,760
One boat they sink themselves
full of people-- of our people.

740
00:34:03,760 --> 00:34:07,360
And one boat come to Stutthof.

741
00:34:07,360 --> 00:34:11,170
I was one of those the
boats that was not sinked.

742
00:34:11,170 --> 00:34:14,330
Yeah, why did they
sink the boats?

743
00:34:14,330 --> 00:34:18,550
They didn't need so
many concentration camp

744
00:34:18,550 --> 00:34:19,833
people to come back.

745
00:34:19,833 --> 00:34:20,500
It was too much.

746
00:34:20,500 --> 00:34:22,667
Didn't it mean they would
kill their own people too?

747
00:34:22,667 --> 00:34:25,989
No, no, they have
the balls to get out

748
00:34:25,989 --> 00:34:28,417
before the explosion goes off.

749
00:34:28,417 --> 00:34:30,250
They figured they don't
need so many people.

750
00:34:30,250 --> 00:34:32,375
Stutthof couldn't
absorb so many people.

751
00:34:32,375 --> 00:34:34,000
Stutthof was a big
huge concentration--

752
00:34:34,000 --> 00:34:35,170
it moves food too.

753
00:34:35,170 --> 00:34:37,239
And when we come in
in that Stutthof,

754
00:34:37,239 --> 00:34:41,020
then it was the moment we
start to walking in the gates,

755
00:34:41,020 --> 00:34:44,219
they start beating
from all over.

756
00:34:44,219 --> 00:34:46,969
It's so brutal, I
never saw in my life.

757
00:34:46,969 --> 00:34:50,110
I swear an animal couldn't
be so bad like that was.

758

00:34:50,110 --> 00:34:55,449

Yeah, this was this was
before the actual period

759

00:34:55,449 --> 00:34:59,170

of the Final Solution when they
had the extermination camps

760

00:34:59,170 --> 00:35:00,360

with the crematoria and the.

761

00:35:00,360 --> 00:35:04,660

And if I can recall,
Stutthof wasn't only Jews.

762

00:35:04,660 --> 00:35:08,770

That was a criminal
people there,

763

00:35:08,770 --> 00:35:10,180

but they couldn't send them--

764

00:35:10,180 --> 00:35:17,630

the Germans-- they couldn't
send them to what they call it?

765

00:35:17,630 --> 00:35:18,130

The prisons.

766

00:35:18,130 --> 00:35:19,990

The prisons, so they
send them there.

767

00:35:19,990 --> 00:35:23,275

They were the ones
that took care of us.

768

00:35:23,275 --> 00:35:24,670

The criminals themselves.

769

00:35:24,670 --> 00:35:26,620

Criminals, they were

really criminals.

770

00:35:26,620 --> 00:35:28,390

In other words,
they unleashed them.

771

00:35:28,390 --> 00:35:32,740

Yeah, on us like a
dog, like a wild dog.

772

00:35:32,740 --> 00:35:38,020

Yeah, and was there any
particular suffering

773

00:35:38,020 --> 00:35:40,570

that you endured that you
remember while you were there

774

00:35:40,570 --> 00:35:42,580

in Stutthof?

775

00:35:42,580 --> 00:35:45,400

I got beat here and
there, but I survived.

776

00:35:45,400 --> 00:35:48,970

I begged God every day, give
me just one thing that I want,

777

00:35:48,970 --> 00:35:51,370

health, and the rest,
I take care of myself.

778

00:35:51,370 --> 00:35:54,580

I don't want to get sick
because the moment you get sick,

779

00:35:54,580 --> 00:35:55,510

you're finished.

780

00:35:55,510 --> 00:35:58,190

Just don't let me get sick.

781

00:35:58,190 --> 00:36:01,030

Do you think your own
will kept you strong?

782

00:36:01,030 --> 00:36:01,870

Yeah, yeah.

783

00:36:01,870 --> 00:36:04,030

Were you able to get
enough food, enough?

784

00:36:04,030 --> 00:36:08,200

If I didn't, but
I'm even up to now,

785

00:36:08,200 --> 00:36:11,230

I was always a positive thinker.

786

00:36:11,230 --> 00:36:12,677

I didn't want to give in.

787

00:36:12,677 --> 00:36:15,010

I would think tomorrow's going
to be a better day, maybe

788

00:36:15,010 --> 00:36:16,635

tomorrow, maybe
tomorrow, and that part

789

00:36:16,635 --> 00:36:22,000

keeps me alive all the years.

790

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:26,080

When you come back
from Stutthof--

791

00:36:26,080 --> 00:36:27,640

I wasn't there too long.

792

00:36:27,640 --> 00:36:29,530

They have nothing for us to do.

793

00:36:29,530 --> 00:36:33,670

So they took us from
there to Buchenwald.

794

00:36:33,670 --> 00:36:36,475

Buchenwald wasn't as
bad as was the Stutthof.

795

00:36:36,475 --> 00:36:41,180

Stutthof was a bunch
of criminals there.

796

00:36:41,180 --> 00:36:44,252

So if you don't
bother nobody, they

797

00:36:44,252 --> 00:36:46,460

left you alone because there
was thousands of people.

798

00:36:46,460 --> 00:36:47,590

There was nothing for you to do.

799

00:36:47,590 --> 00:36:49,420

Take rocks from here
and bring them here.

800

00:36:49,420 --> 00:36:51,640

Then from here, bring them
back over there, you know?

801

00:36:51,640 --> 00:36:52,900

It's nothing too much.

802

00:36:52,900 --> 00:36:54,700

From there-- from Stutthof--

803

00:36:54,700 --> 00:36:55,780

I met my cousin.

804

00:36:55,780 --> 00:36:59,990

805

00:36:59,990 --> 00:37:03,740
So my cousin was laying on top
of the bridges they call it,

806

00:37:03,740 --> 00:37:04,468
you know?

807

00:37:04,468 --> 00:37:05,760
You were able to recognize him?

808

00:37:05,760 --> 00:37:10,320
Yeah, a skeleton like
you see on these shows

809

00:37:10,320 --> 00:37:12,650
that you always see, the movies.

810

00:37:12,650 --> 00:37:14,960
So Heinrich, his name
was Henry like mine

811

00:37:14,960 --> 00:37:16,265
because we're cousins.

812

00:37:16,265 --> 00:37:19,100
Oh yeah, but he's dying.

813

00:37:19,100 --> 00:37:21,760
He's dead, just eyes open.

814

00:37:21,760 --> 00:37:27,080
So I said, Henry, outside it was
cold, and Buchenwald is on top,

815

00:37:27,080 --> 00:37:28,490
so I said but it's sunny.

816

00:37:28,490 --> 00:37:31,485
How about I take you
down, take a blanket,

817

00:37:31,485 --> 00:37:34,070

I'm going to let you down
and get a little fresh air.

818

00:37:34,070 --> 00:37:35,300

I was better off.

819

00:37:35,300 --> 00:37:37,760

I looked better.

820

00:37:37,760 --> 00:37:40,220

So but them, they didn't get
to eat for four months, just

821

00:37:40,220 --> 00:37:41,940

starving to death.

822

00:37:41,940 --> 00:37:44,060

So he couldn't-- no,
I'm not going to live.

823

00:37:44,060 --> 00:37:46,220

I said, Henry, the
Russians are not far.

824

00:37:46,220 --> 00:37:48,170

The Americans are not far.

825

00:37:48,170 --> 00:37:49,410

Hold onto it.

826

00:37:49,410 --> 00:37:50,695

You're going to be all right.

827

00:37:50,695 --> 00:37:52,070

What are you doing
with the soup?

828

00:37:52,070 --> 00:37:54,240

He said I smoke.

829

00:37:54,240 --> 00:37:57,440

Whoever brings the soup, he
gives me a piece of cigarette,

830

00:37:57,440 --> 00:37:58,490

and I give him the soup.

831

00:37:58,490 --> 00:37:59,480

So you no eat nothing.

832

00:37:59,480 --> 00:38:00,938

I said you're not
going to do that.

833

00:38:00,938 --> 00:38:02,750

I'm going to bring
you-- try to do anything

834

00:38:02,750 --> 00:38:05,570

to bring you a little soup,
but you're going to eat this.

835

00:38:05,570 --> 00:38:08,113

I'm going to stay here and
wait till you finish it.

836

00:38:08,113 --> 00:38:09,530

Don't give it away
for cigarettes.

837

00:38:09,530 --> 00:38:14,450

I tried to bring cigarettes,
just from leaves,

838

00:38:14,450 --> 00:38:15,350

they make cigarettes.

839

00:38:15,350 --> 00:38:17,810

I have that, but don't
give away your food.

840

00:38:17,810 --> 00:38:19,760

And he was all right.

841
00:38:19,760 --> 00:38:20,450
He survived.

842
00:38:20,450 --> 00:38:21,740
After the war, he survived.

843
00:38:21,740 --> 00:38:25,040
We met in MÃ¼nchen, in
Munich, and he was all right.

844
00:38:25,040 --> 00:38:26,150
He said thanks of you.

845
00:38:26,150 --> 00:38:27,110
He didn't care.

846
00:38:27,110 --> 00:38:27,723
I don't care.

847
00:38:27,723 --> 00:38:28,640
I'm not going to live.

848
00:38:28,640 --> 00:38:29,240
I'm not going to live.

849
00:38:29,240 --> 00:38:30,407
I said you're going to live.

850
00:38:30,407 --> 00:38:32,993
You're going to-- just think
like me because it's maybe

851
00:38:32,993 --> 00:38:34,910
it's going to take a
week, two, three, they're

852
00:38:34,910 --> 00:38:38,360
going to come here, and
they're going for you.

853

00:38:38,360 --> 00:38:40,010
And he was alive.

854
00:38:40,010 --> 00:38:42,770
Yeah, how were you
able to recognize him

855
00:38:42,770 --> 00:38:46,460
when everyone was down to
literally skin and bone?

856
00:38:46,460 --> 00:38:48,260
I don't know.

857
00:38:48,260 --> 00:38:50,120
But still, he was tall.

858
00:38:50,120 --> 00:38:53,180
He was very tall,
and the way he was

859
00:38:53,180 --> 00:38:54,680
looking to see people coming.

860
00:38:54,680 --> 00:38:56,690
If you walk, that means
you're better off.

861
00:38:56,690 --> 00:38:59,640
If you walk by their
beds, you were better off

862
00:38:59,640 --> 00:39:01,990
because you have a
little bit of strength

863
00:39:01,990 --> 00:39:05,150
in yourself, not
laying there dying.

864
00:39:05,150 --> 00:39:09,160
So Heinrich, yeah, Henry,
Polish, Heinrich, yeah, OK.

865
00:39:09,160 --> 00:39:10,700
Then I took him outside.

866
00:39:10,700 --> 00:39:15,050
And so long I was there,
I think four weeks,

867
00:39:15,050 --> 00:39:18,020
so I tried to bring him
something-- whatever I can--

868
00:39:18,020 --> 00:39:20,720
give him that he start
to gain a little bit

869
00:39:20,720 --> 00:39:22,400
weight that he can walk.

870
00:39:22,400 --> 00:39:23,630
Then I met an uncle of mine.

871
00:39:23,630 --> 00:39:26,720
He died two years ago in
Poland, the same thing.

872
00:39:26,720 --> 00:39:27,750
I recognized him.

873
00:39:27,750 --> 00:39:29,768
He recognized me.

874
00:39:29,768 --> 00:39:32,060
So I said to him, Uncle--
and Uncle didn't look so bad.

875
00:39:32,060 --> 00:39:34,437
He come from a
concentration camp, Dora.

876
00:39:34,437 --> 00:39:35,270
I don't know if you.

877
00:39:35,270 --> 00:39:36,560
Yes, I've heard of that, yes.

878
00:39:36,560 --> 00:39:41,840
So I said I gladly would
help you but Henry is dying.

879
00:39:41,840 --> 00:39:42,590
He's laying there.

880
00:39:42,590 --> 00:39:43,790
He's a skeleton.

881
00:39:43,790 --> 00:39:44,398
He can't walk.

882
00:39:44,398 --> 00:39:45,440
I have to bring him down.

883
00:39:45,440 --> 00:39:47,600
He weighed maybe 50
pounds, you know?

884
00:39:47,600 --> 00:39:50,060
And I took him down,
nothing but just bones.

885
00:39:50,060 --> 00:39:53,210
So I have to help him because
I want him to survive,

886
00:39:53,210 --> 00:39:54,740
but you don't look so bad.

887
00:39:54,740 --> 00:39:57,163
And maybe another month, two,
the Americans, the English,

888
00:39:57,163 --> 00:39:58,580
the French, they're
going to come.

889

00:39:58,580 --> 00:40:01,070

They're going to free
us, and you'll be alive,

890

00:40:01,070 --> 00:40:03,230

but him, I have to
do something now.

891

00:40:03,230 --> 00:40:05,270

So he say, OK, I can understand.

892

00:40:05,270 --> 00:40:06,860

Did you really
believe this was going

893

00:40:06,860 --> 00:40:10,010

to happen that you were going
to be freed or was it something

894

00:40:10,010 --> 00:40:12,350

that you feel you had to
tell yourself at the time

895

00:40:12,350 --> 00:40:14,420

to keep going?

896

00:40:14,420 --> 00:40:15,980

Keep going till you're free.

897

00:40:15,980 --> 00:40:19,250

I know such an
injustice that was

898

00:40:19,250 --> 00:40:22,610

done to us because when I
talked to us at that time,

899

00:40:22,610 --> 00:40:25,610

I only see the people that
surrounded-- by surrounded

900

00:40:25,610 --> 00:40:27,410
with me what's going on.

901
00:40:27,410 --> 00:40:30,110
But that can't be on forever.

902
00:40:30,110 --> 00:40:35,090
Justice has to be paid, and
the justice has to come out.

903
00:40:35,090 --> 00:40:38,000
And that is it because
I was positive always.

904
00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:40,850
Always looking for
us for a better day.

905
00:40:40,850 --> 00:40:46,490
Like some people, when we
was in a concentration camp

906
00:40:46,490 --> 00:40:49,580
that was in Rheinland.

907
00:40:49,580 --> 00:40:51,500
Bochumer Verein.

908
00:40:51,500 --> 00:40:55,490
So we worked all in
the big, huge factories

909
00:40:55,490 --> 00:40:57,770
and build the cannons.

910
00:40:57,770 --> 00:41:00,320
So many of my
friends was together.

911
00:41:00,320 --> 00:41:04,310
We sleep together, but when
we was there day and night

912

00:41:04,310 --> 00:41:06,440
the fliers come and bombed.

913

00:41:06,440 --> 00:41:08,030
Let's say, days
come the Americans,

914

00:41:08,030 --> 00:41:09,890
and night come the English.

915

00:41:09,890 --> 00:41:13,350
They switched, and there
was going up, fire all over.

916

00:41:13,350 --> 00:41:16,220
So if you have
that little bread,

917

00:41:16,220 --> 00:41:17,960
like my friend
who was to get it.

918

00:41:17,960 --> 00:41:20,495
I'm going to eat this now
because they could bomb us

919

00:41:20,495 --> 00:41:22,670
and we'll be dead anyway.

920

00:41:22,670 --> 00:41:26,405
So I said, if I eat this now, I
have to go tomorrow a whole day

921

00:41:26,405 --> 00:41:29,750
and work very hard and then
complain, and I have nothing.

922

00:41:29,750 --> 00:41:32,180
So I couldn't do it, you know?

923

00:41:32,180 --> 00:41:33,830
Even I looked at

that piece of bread,

924

00:41:33,830 --> 00:41:35,450

but I'm not going to do that.

925

00:41:35,450 --> 00:41:37,550

But my friend, but he's alive.

926

00:41:37,550 --> 00:41:42,110

He lives in the Bronx,

Banach, he said,

927

00:41:42,110 --> 00:41:43,550

"I'm not going to wait."

928

00:41:43,550 --> 00:41:46,640

Let me at least die with a

fuller stomach, you know?

929

00:41:46,640 --> 00:41:49,700

Let me eat this now because

tomorrow I'll be dead anyway.

930

00:41:49,700 --> 00:41:52,010

After that, the alarm was over.

931

00:41:52,010 --> 00:41:53,360

They didn't bomb nothing.

932

00:41:53,360 --> 00:41:54,273

We was alive.

933

00:41:54,273 --> 00:41:55,940

He didn't have more

that piece of bread,

934

00:41:55,940 --> 00:41:57,590

but I still have mine, you know?

935

00:41:57,590 --> 00:41:59,330

I think that was--

936

00:41:59,330 --> 00:42:01,740

some people ask me questions,
even my own children,

937

00:42:01,740 --> 00:42:04,880

and I say that's the most
reason because I always

938

00:42:04,880 --> 00:42:07,110

thought maybe tomorrow's
going to be-- maybe tomorrow

939

00:42:07,110 --> 00:42:09,590

the war is over.

940

00:42:09,590 --> 00:42:11,330

Maybe something happen.

941

00:42:11,330 --> 00:42:13,400

Did you did you hear
anything from the outside?

942

00:42:13,400 --> 00:42:13,900

No.

943

00:42:13,900 --> 00:42:16,310

Was there ever any?

944

00:42:16,310 --> 00:42:18,380

I'll tell you another thing.

945

00:42:18,380 --> 00:42:22,010

When I-- I skip, whatever
comes to my mind--

946

00:42:22,010 --> 00:42:25,550

when I was in Ruhrgebiet,
in the German Ruhrgebiet,

947

00:42:25,550 --> 00:42:27,020

The Rheinland.

948

00:42:27,020 --> 00:42:30,560

That was the Bochumer
Verein I just mentioned.

949

00:42:30,560 --> 00:42:34,670

They come lately, they
bomb day and night.

950

00:42:34,670 --> 00:42:37,880

The United States
and England, they

951

00:42:37,880 --> 00:42:42,987

didn't let them for
a minute have quiet.

952

00:42:42,987 --> 00:42:44,570

But there was something
to bomb there,

953

00:42:44,570 --> 00:42:47,190

the biggest industry
the Germans had.

954

00:42:47,190 --> 00:42:50,450

So in that Bochumer Verein,
they bombed the Bochumer Verein

955

00:42:50,450 --> 00:42:52,430

when we was there in
concentration camp.

956

00:42:52,430 --> 00:42:53,330

There was no water.

957

00:42:53,330 --> 00:42:54,680

There was nothing.

958

00:42:54,680 --> 00:42:58,820

The German's population,
they were starting too.

959

00:42:58,820 --> 00:43:00,440
So they come in big trucks--

960
00:43:00,440 --> 00:43:02,300
like here the milk
trucks-- and they

961
00:43:02,300 --> 00:43:04,790
stay in the line for a
little soup or whatever.

962
00:43:04,790 --> 00:43:07,802
Now, we know if they
have not too much,

963
00:43:07,802 --> 00:43:10,302
so we're going to starve here
to death in that concentration

964
00:43:10,302 --> 00:43:11,150
camp because nothing.

965
00:43:11,150 --> 00:43:11,942
There was no water.

966
00:43:11,942 --> 00:43:13,500
There was no food
too, no nothing.

967
00:43:13,500 --> 00:43:14,375
They bombed anything.

968
00:43:14,375 --> 00:43:15,650
The whole city was on fire.

969
00:43:15,650 --> 00:43:17,780
Bochum, they call it.

970
00:43:17,780 --> 00:43:23,030
So lucky wise, I don't
know it lucky or not lucky,

971

00:43:23,030 --> 00:43:28,610
but some German firemen
come in in that camp,

972
00:43:28,610 --> 00:43:32,880
and they say who will
volunteer to work

973
00:43:32,880 --> 00:43:36,715
with us outside the
city, outside the camp?

974
00:43:36,715 --> 00:43:38,090
You're going to
have enough food.

975
00:43:38,090 --> 00:43:41,780
You're going to have
everything, and you're

976
00:43:41,780 --> 00:43:43,730
going to be all right,
better than here

977
00:43:43,730 --> 00:43:45,950
because here, you're
going to starve.

978
00:43:45,950 --> 00:43:49,970
So me-- how many
volunteers you had there?

979
00:43:49,970 --> 00:43:54,400
Six, that means three
couples, three volunteers.

980
00:43:54,400 --> 00:43:57,530
Our couple was me and my friend.

981
00:43:57,530 --> 00:43:59,390
He lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

982
00:43:59,390 --> 00:44:01,400

He is very well-off.

983

00:44:01,400 --> 00:44:06,860

We both volunteered from
all our other friends

984

00:44:06,860 --> 00:44:08,720

in from all the huge plant.

985

00:44:08,720 --> 00:44:11,000

There were so many
thousands of Hungarian Jews

986

00:44:11,000 --> 00:44:12,710

in that same camp.

987

00:44:12,710 --> 00:44:15,350

So it was from all the
camp, there were six people.

988

00:44:15,350 --> 00:44:17,840

We have to go to
couples, two in one.

989

00:44:17,840 --> 00:44:19,190

So that means three couples--

990

00:44:19,190 --> 00:44:21,050

six people from all the camp.

991

00:44:21,050 --> 00:44:23,650

Me and my friend,
we both decide.

992

00:44:23,650 --> 00:44:24,770

OK, they took us.

993

00:44:24,770 --> 00:44:25,520

That as it.

994

00:44:25,520 --> 00:44:31,250

They used to call

it Totenkommando.

995

00:44:31,250 --> 00:44:36,400

If the Americans or the
English, if they throw bombs--

996

00:44:36,400 --> 00:44:38,030

they used to call it side bomb.

997

00:44:38,030 --> 00:44:39,230

They didn't explode now.

998

00:44:39,230 --> 00:44:42,170

They explode,
let's say, in a day

999

00:44:42,170 --> 00:44:47,420

later in 20 hours or
10 hours or 15 hours.

1000

00:44:47,420 --> 00:44:50,700

Purposely, they
dropped such bombs.

1001

00:44:50,700 --> 00:44:52,200

That means that
everything is quiet.

1002

00:44:52,200 --> 00:44:53,600

Everybody goes back to work.

1003

00:44:53,600 --> 00:44:54,475

Here it comes off.

1004

00:44:54,475 --> 00:44:55,850

Because they're
not ready for it.

1005

00:44:55,850 --> 00:44:56,725

They're not expected.

1006

00:44:56,725 --> 00:45:00,170

Yeah, so if they
know a bomb is here--

1007
00:45:00,170 --> 00:45:04,790
the Germans-- we, two
people on each bomb,

1008
00:45:04,790 --> 00:45:09,500
we have to dig and dig and
dig till we come to the bomb

1009
00:45:09,500 --> 00:45:16,940
and take that mechanism out from
that bomb that doesn't explode.

1010
00:45:16,940 --> 00:45:23,000
OK, the firemen tell us a little
bit of it, and that's all then,

1011
00:45:23,000 --> 00:45:24,140
who cares?

1012
00:45:24,140 --> 00:45:27,830
So but who was doing that
till now was prisoners,

1013
00:45:27,830 --> 00:45:30,140
German prisoners,
political prisoners,

1014
00:45:30,140 --> 00:45:33,050
but they ran out of
them too because they

1015
00:45:33,050 --> 00:45:36,890
died while you was working
on it, the bomb explode.

1016
00:45:36,890 --> 00:45:38,540
So they tell us--

1017
00:45:38,540 --> 00:45:39,290
the German fellow.

1018
00:45:39,290 --> 00:45:41,690
They were nice, the
firemen, you know?

1019
00:45:41,690 --> 00:45:44,360
Nothing to do with the SS.

1020
00:45:44,360 --> 00:45:47,000
And we was under their command.

1021
00:45:47,000 --> 00:45:49,970
We had nothing to do
with the outside world.

1022
00:45:49,970 --> 00:45:52,310
But we were so
hungry in the camp

1023
00:45:52,310 --> 00:45:53,660
because there's nothing to eat.

1024
00:45:53,660 --> 00:45:57,020
Here you come out
in the city and you

1025
00:45:57,020 --> 00:45:59,210
pass by stores, other things.

1026
00:45:59,210 --> 00:46:00,078
You work outside.

1027
00:46:00,078 --> 00:46:00,995
The people are afraid.

1028
00:46:00,995 --> 00:46:02,287
They're sitting in the bunkers.

1029
00:46:02,287 --> 00:46:04,363
So we always have
something to eat,

1030

00:46:04,363 --> 00:46:06,050

fine, and that's what we want.

1031

00:46:06,050 --> 00:46:09,500

If you have to eat, you can
survive lest a bomb explode

1032

00:46:09,500 --> 00:46:11,030

and we're not lucky,
then that's it.

1033

00:46:11,030 --> 00:46:13,080

Yeah, but at least
you've got a chance.

1034

00:46:13,080 --> 00:46:17,390

Yeah, so that one nice
fireman said to us,

1035

00:46:17,390 --> 00:46:24,830

look, seldom happened that
while working on the bomb

1036

00:46:24,830 --> 00:46:27,950

that the bomb explodes, but
then there's nothing we can do.

1037

00:46:27,950 --> 00:46:31,550

So it's such a good,
easy death, you

1038

00:46:31,550 --> 00:46:34,040

get blown up in thousands
and thousands of pieces,

1039

00:46:34,040 --> 00:46:37,130

so you don't feel nothing.

1040

00:46:37,130 --> 00:46:39,300

But we didn't care at
that time about that.

1041

00:46:39,300 --> 00:46:41,180

But the main thing
that our stomach

1042

00:46:41,180 --> 00:46:42,890

is going to be full
that we can survive

1043

00:46:42,890 --> 00:46:46,250

another month, or two, or three,
whatever it's going to be.

1044

00:46:46,250 --> 00:46:51,830

And lucky wise, nothing
happened to me and my friend.

1045

00:46:51,830 --> 00:46:53,870

He did, let's say, so many feet.

1046

00:46:53,870 --> 00:46:56,330

I did, and it was all right.

1047

00:46:56,330 --> 00:46:57,620

No bomb went off.

1048

00:46:57,620 --> 00:47:00,260

Yeah, this was while you
were at Bochumer Verein.

1049

00:47:00,260 --> 00:47:01,320

Bochumer Verein, yeah.

1050

00:47:01,320 --> 00:47:05,000

Yeah, now was this
between the two times

1051

00:47:05,000 --> 00:47:07,100

you were in Buchenwald,
or was this?

1052

00:47:07,100 --> 00:47:09,128

That's right, from
Buchenwald they sent us

1053
00:47:09,128 --> 00:47:09,920
to Bochumer Verein.

1054
00:47:09,920 --> 00:47:12,920

1055
00:47:12,920 --> 00:47:16,460
Lucky wise, they didn't send me
to Auschwitz or other places.

1056
00:47:16,460 --> 00:47:17,490
I was not there.

1057
00:47:17,490 --> 00:47:19,511
I was in other places.

1058
00:47:19,511 --> 00:47:22,550
And they send us
there in that place.

1059
00:47:22,550 --> 00:47:24,770
And we survived that
we have enough food.

1060
00:47:24,770 --> 00:47:29,840
A matter of fact,
something to tell.

1061
00:47:29,840 --> 00:47:34,040
We went to where they bombed
a big place with herring.

1062
00:47:34,040 --> 00:47:36,980
The German has to have
barrels of herring.

1063
00:47:36,980 --> 00:47:39,110
The herring was all over.

1064
00:47:39,110 --> 00:47:41,420
So in camp, you didn't care.

1065
00:47:41,420 --> 00:47:46,790
Other places, we found
potatoes, so we tied up here,

1066
00:47:46,790 --> 00:47:48,620
and we put the potatoes in.

1067
00:47:48,620 --> 00:47:52,680
But nobody control us because
they feel sorry-- the SS--

1068
00:47:52,680 --> 00:47:55,940
that we are heroes to be going
to do such a dreadful job,

1069
00:47:55,940 --> 00:47:56,660
you know?

1070
00:47:56,660 --> 00:47:59,830
So when we come into camp,
so I have many friends,

1071
00:47:59,830 --> 00:48:02,387
especially him,
Banach from the Bronx.

1072
00:48:02,387 --> 00:48:03,470
I said, Banach, open here.

1073
00:48:03,470 --> 00:48:06,680
And here the potatoes come out.

1074
00:48:06,680 --> 00:48:08,550
Herring, salted herrings.

1075
00:48:08,550 --> 00:48:12,560
Now, from that salted herring
on my skin, I have such a fire,

1076
00:48:12,560 --> 00:48:15,650
and my legs was red for a

time being, but we tried.

1077

00:48:15,650 --> 00:48:19,250

Me and my friend, we eat
as much as we can outside,

1078

00:48:19,250 --> 00:48:23,270

and the rest bring
to our friends.

1079

00:48:23,270 --> 00:48:25,620

We're still the closest
because we grew up together,

1080

00:48:25,620 --> 00:48:27,750

and we belong to the
same organizations.

1081

00:48:27,750 --> 00:48:30,890

So if we in such a need
to help each other.

1082

00:48:30,890 --> 00:48:34,670

If I am out, if I'm going
to live, I'm going to live.

1083

00:48:34,670 --> 00:48:37,460

But as long as I'm living and
I can bring something to them,

1084

00:48:37,460 --> 00:48:38,870

I share with them.

1085

00:48:38,870 --> 00:48:41,390

Yeah, this may seem
like an odd question

1086

00:48:41,390 --> 00:48:44,120

to ask you at this
point, but in all

1087

00:48:44,120 --> 00:48:46,070

of this while all

this was going on,

1088
00:48:46,070 --> 00:48:49,820
you seem so optimistic and
so hopeful and everything,

1089
00:48:49,820 --> 00:48:54,140
did you see a future for
yourself beyond the war?

1090
00:48:54,140 --> 00:48:56,795
Were you able to envision
anything beyond--

1091
00:48:56,795 --> 00:48:57,377
No.

1092
00:48:57,377 --> 00:48:58,460
--surviving at that point?

1093
00:48:58,460 --> 00:49:02,900
Because we're so narrow-minded,
we didn't think too much.

1094
00:49:02,900 --> 00:49:06,100
Just we think to have our
stomach full that we not

1095
00:49:06,100 --> 00:49:07,040
starve.

1096
00:49:07,040 --> 00:49:08,160
From one day to the next.

1097
00:49:08,160 --> 00:49:08,660
Do that.

1098
00:49:08,660 --> 00:49:09,740
That's the only thing
that we would say.

1099
00:49:09,740 --> 00:49:11,090

Just one day at a time.

1100
00:49:11,090 --> 00:49:12,910
Because you was
too weak mentally

1101
00:49:12,910 --> 00:49:16,353
and physically to think
about the other things.

1102
00:49:16,353 --> 00:49:18,020
And if you think,
then it's no good too.

1103
00:49:18,020 --> 00:49:21,860
Surely when I lay down, the
only thing what to do is cry.

1104
00:49:21,860 --> 00:49:24,560
My parents, I never left home,
and this is the first time.

1105
00:49:24,560 --> 00:49:27,770
But still, you didn't
think so bad about them.

1106
00:49:27,770 --> 00:49:31,430
While I was thinking this, my
parents wasn't alive anymore.

1107
00:49:31,430 --> 00:49:33,500
Yeah, of course, you
didn't know at the time.

1108
00:49:33,500 --> 00:49:34,790
No.

1109
00:49:34,790 --> 00:49:37,170
And you didn't know about
your brothers and sisters.

1110
00:49:37,170 --> 00:49:40,190
You always think maybe

they're alive, you know.

1111
00:49:40,190 --> 00:49:43,410
I always think the good
things for to happen to them.

1112
00:49:43,410 --> 00:49:46,130
I didn't think bad.

1113
00:49:46,130 --> 00:49:49,820
The only time that I
realized that bad happened

1114
00:49:49,820 --> 00:49:54,240
is when I saw here that movie
on the television two weeks ago,

1115
00:49:54,240 --> 00:49:54,740
Shoah--

1116
00:49:54,740 --> 00:49:55,240
Shoah.

1117
00:49:55,240 --> 00:49:58,820
--and I so what really happened
to the people that they took

1118
00:49:58,820 --> 00:50:01,610
from the Łódź Ghetto to
Chelmno because my mother

1119
00:50:01,610 --> 00:50:05,153
and the brother and sister,
they was there in Łódź,

1120
00:50:05,153 --> 00:50:06,320
and they took them to there.

1121
00:50:06,320 --> 00:50:09,110
And so at that time,
I nearly break down

1122

00:50:09,110 --> 00:50:10,790
because I went
down in the kitchen

1123
00:50:10,790 --> 00:50:13,130
and started crying loud.

1124
00:50:13,130 --> 00:50:16,130
Were they there up to the
liquidation of the ghetto,

1125
00:50:16,130 --> 00:50:17,630
up to the very end,
your mother and?

1126
00:50:17,630 --> 00:50:20,400
I don't think so, no.

1127
00:50:20,400 --> 00:50:24,330
My father and brother, they
died in concentration camp

1128
00:50:24,330 --> 00:50:25,660
in Posen, Judenlager.

1129
00:50:25,660 --> 00:50:28,950
So he's a-- I have a friend
here from the same town.

1130
00:50:28,950 --> 00:50:30,850
His father died.

1131
00:50:30,850 --> 00:50:35,430
He told me that my father
died-- he was there--

1132
00:50:35,430 --> 00:50:37,860
and my brother, how he
died there from hunger.

1133
00:50:37,860 --> 00:50:40,720

1134

00:50:40,720 --> 00:50:43,520

But my sister and brother
and my mother, I didn't know.

1135

00:50:43,520 --> 00:50:51,740

Mm-hmm, yeah, when did you
begin to realize that there

1136

00:50:51,740 --> 00:50:53,870

would be an end to all of this?

1137

00:50:53,870 --> 00:50:57,470

That it would be over?

1138

00:50:57,470 --> 00:51:01,700

When we was a second-- when
they start to take us out

1139

00:51:01,700 --> 00:51:05,000

from the Russian front,
away from the Russian front

1140

00:51:05,000 --> 00:51:09,110

back to Germans, and we
realized something is wrong.

1141

00:51:09,110 --> 00:51:13,250

That the Russian probably
going now after them.

1142

00:51:13,250 --> 00:51:16,220

The whole front changed there
because they wouldn't do that.

1143

00:51:16,220 --> 00:51:18,440

They took us as
many as they could.

1144

00:51:18,440 --> 00:51:20,240

They'd build and do
anything you want,

1145

00:51:20,240 --> 00:51:24,568

usually highways and
railroad, [NON-ENGLISH WORD]..

1146

00:51:24,568 --> 00:51:25,610

Maybe they thought of it.

1147

00:51:25,610 --> 00:51:27,860

If something goes
wrong, at least

1148

00:51:27,860 --> 00:51:29,870

they can come back
faster through Germany.

1149

00:51:29,870 --> 00:51:33,830

But when that changed, when
we saw trucks going away,

1150

00:51:33,830 --> 00:51:36,080

back and forth, while
we were working there,

1151

00:51:36,080 --> 00:51:38,090

there must be something wrong.

1152

00:51:38,090 --> 00:51:39,650

Usually the trucks
with the military,

1153

00:51:39,650 --> 00:51:40,698

they go up to the front--

1154

00:51:40,698 --> 00:51:41,240

They go East.

1155

00:51:41,240 --> 00:51:42,023

--not back.

1156

00:51:42,023 --> 00:51:43,190

Now, they're going Westward.

1157

00:51:43,190 --> 00:51:47,690
So we had already '45--

1158
00:51:47,690 --> 00:51:52,280
then '44, '45, we know
already that everything

1159
00:51:52,280 --> 00:51:53,840
is changing now.

1160
00:51:53,840 --> 00:51:55,430
It can't be for too long.

1161
00:51:55,430 --> 00:51:57,550
What did this do to the
morale of the people

1162
00:51:57,550 --> 00:51:58,550
when they realized this?

1163
00:51:58,550 --> 00:52:03,200
Then we start to hope it's
going to be better, yeah.

1164
00:52:03,200 --> 00:52:03,980
We want to live.

1165
00:52:03,980 --> 00:52:05,570
I want to live, anybody.

1166
00:52:05,570 --> 00:52:08,180
But before and whoever
you was around,

1167
00:52:08,180 --> 00:52:09,570
I know I am not going to live.

1168
00:52:09,570 --> 00:52:10,820
I'm not going to live the day.

1169
00:52:10,820 --> 00:52:11,737
I rather want to die.

1170
00:52:11,737 --> 00:52:12,320
I want to die.

1171
00:52:12,320 --> 00:52:13,790
And that's what causes it.

1172
00:52:13,790 --> 00:52:16,550
If you don't care about food,
you don't care about nothing,

1173
00:52:16,550 --> 00:52:18,560
and then die.

1174
00:52:18,560 --> 00:52:20,330
The second time you
were in Buchenwald,

1175
00:52:20,330 --> 00:52:24,110
was it pretty much
the same as the first?

1176
00:52:24,110 --> 00:52:26,740
Yeah, on Bochum, I want
to tell you something.

1177
00:52:26,740 --> 00:52:30,465
In Flossenbürg-- in
what's the name of it?

1178
00:52:30,465 --> 00:52:31,180
Bochumer Verein?

1179
00:52:31,180 --> 00:52:35,850
In Bochumer Verein, when
they start to evacuate us,

1180
00:52:35,850 --> 00:52:38,170
a part of the equation
were some people

1181
00:52:38,170 --> 00:52:42,580

were many Jews from
Czechoslovakia, politicians,

1182
00:52:42,580 --> 00:52:47,920
so they want to hide
in the canalization

1183
00:52:47,920 --> 00:52:50,170
because they can't disappear
outside because there

1184
00:52:50,170 --> 00:52:52,150
was electric fences.

1185
00:52:52,150 --> 00:52:54,130
You ran to the fence,
you'd get killed.

1186
00:52:54,130 --> 00:52:55,480
Many people ran to the fence.

1187
00:52:55,480 --> 00:52:57,790
You'd see them hanging.

1188
00:52:57,790 --> 00:53:00,310
So but they did--

1189
00:53:00,310 --> 00:53:02,230
probably they know
more than we know.

1190
00:53:02,230 --> 00:53:03,760
They have contact mail--

1191
00:53:03,760 --> 00:53:08,810
that they went down in the
canalization, in the what

1192
00:53:08,810 --> 00:53:10,910
they call it?

1193
00:53:10,910 --> 00:53:13,730

Where the water goes underneath.

1194

00:53:13,730 --> 00:53:15,860

Yeah, like a reservoir?

1195

00:53:15,860 --> 00:53:19,100

A reservoir and hide.

1196

00:53:19,100 --> 00:53:20,160

There was one guy.

1197

00:53:20,160 --> 00:53:21,050

He was a German.

1198

00:53:21,050 --> 00:53:22,370

He was not Jewish.

1199

00:53:22,370 --> 00:53:26,030

He was like big shot over us.

1200

00:53:26,030 --> 00:53:32,900

And he went to the SS and
told them that many of us

1201

00:53:32,900 --> 00:53:35,165

are underneath, so
they come with gas

1202

00:53:35,165 --> 00:53:38,630

and whatever they had and get
him out, and they killed him.

1203

00:53:38,630 --> 00:53:45,170

So when we come from that
camp to Buchenwald back again,

1204

00:53:45,170 --> 00:53:49,610

they are waiting for that
guy, and they lynched him

1205

00:53:49,610 --> 00:53:51,290

in front of the crematorium.

1206
00:53:51,290 --> 00:53:53,150
That's what my eyes saw.

1207
00:53:53,150 --> 00:53:54,620
Lift him up, down.

1208
00:53:54,620 --> 00:53:56,200
Lift him up, down,
until he was dead,

1209
00:53:56,200 --> 00:53:57,290
and they threw him
in the crematorium

1210
00:53:57,290 --> 00:53:58,970
because he squealed
the last minute.

1211
00:53:58,970 --> 00:54:02,300
It was a couple of days
before the English,

1212
00:54:02,300 --> 00:54:05,390
the French, and Americans
come to Rheinland,

1213
00:54:05,390 --> 00:54:08,052
he squeal on them, and
they killed him, see?

1214
00:54:08,052 --> 00:54:11,110
So that's what I see, so
everybody was happy about that.

1215
00:54:11,110 --> 00:54:12,950
And we know that
the time is coming

1216
00:54:12,950 --> 00:54:15,590
because everything starts
squeezing on the Germans.

1217

00:54:15,590 --> 00:54:17,090

There's no more open.

1218

00:54:17,090 --> 00:54:18,170

It's closed.

1219

00:54:18,170 --> 00:54:19,790

And then everything changed.

1220

00:54:19,790 --> 00:54:21,260

Our whole attitude
by us changed.

1221

00:54:21,260 --> 00:54:22,463

We only talk politics.

1222

00:54:22,463 --> 00:54:23,630

What's it going to be when--

1223

00:54:23,630 --> 00:54:25,970

we saw the second
time in Buchenwald,

1224

00:54:25,970 --> 00:54:29,060

we saw fire in the middle
of the night far away.

1225

00:54:29,060 --> 00:54:31,310

That means they're
fighting there [? north, ?]

1226

00:54:31,310 --> 00:54:33,500

so maybe they're going to come.

1227

00:54:33,500 --> 00:54:36,590

And when Buchenwald
was closed down,

1228

00:54:36,590 --> 00:54:38,990

then they took us
to Flossenbürg.

1229

00:54:38,990 --> 00:54:41,180

FlossenbÃ¼rg was the
same thing, a very bad,

1230

00:54:41,180 --> 00:54:43,370

bad concentration camp.

1231

00:54:43,370 --> 00:54:46,010

And from FlossenbÃ¼rg, when
the Americans start to come

1232

00:54:46,010 --> 00:54:48,530

to Bavaria, they
want to get 30 of us.

1233

00:54:48,530 --> 00:54:50,974

They took us on march to--

1234

00:54:50,974 --> 00:54:51,860

Dachau?

1235

00:54:51,860 --> 00:54:53,460

--Dachau.

1236

00:54:53,460 --> 00:54:55,460

And we was marching, and
marching, and marching.

1237

00:54:55,460 --> 00:54:59,510

Comes to Dachau, we're
staying there, rain.

1238

00:54:59,510 --> 00:55:00,800

Day and night it was raining.

1239

00:55:00,800 --> 00:55:03,260

In the woods, when they
say rest in the woods.

1240

00:55:03,260 --> 00:55:08,297

So there was a German soldier
with a big back of anything

1241
00:55:08,297 --> 00:55:08,880
that you want.

1242
00:55:08,880 --> 00:55:10,820
He has blankets,
food, everything.

1243
00:55:10,820 --> 00:55:14,450
And we constantly make 10
miles, everybody was resting,

1244
00:55:14,450 --> 00:55:15,160
and he took us.

1245
00:55:15,160 --> 00:55:18,860
So I said to him if you
want, I hold your rucksack.

1246
00:55:18,860 --> 00:55:21,860
And believe me--
rucksack is in German.

1247
00:55:21,860 --> 00:55:24,020
And believe me, I couldn't,
but I figured maybe

1248
00:55:24,020 --> 00:55:26,245
that way I'm going
to live, survive

1249
00:55:26,245 --> 00:55:28,370
because whoever couldn't
work anymore, they killed.

1250
00:55:28,370 --> 00:55:30,200
All over, you'd
see people laying.

1251
00:55:30,200 --> 00:55:33,680
So this way, I'd be a little
bit more safe with him.

1252

00:55:33,680 --> 00:55:35,210

And good enough,
he give me that.

1253

00:55:35,210 --> 00:55:37,460

Then we'd walk and
then stop again.

1254

00:55:37,460 --> 00:55:40,230

Then I'd give him the rucksack,
you know, and sit down and eat.

1255

00:55:40,230 --> 00:55:42,380

And I was laying
there like a dog.

1256

00:55:42,380 --> 00:55:44,420

I was so sick, skeleton.

1257

00:55:44,420 --> 00:55:46,400

I think maybe he's going
to give me something.

1258

00:55:46,400 --> 00:55:48,980

No, everything
done, give me again.

1259

00:55:48,980 --> 00:55:49,950

Then we walked again.

1260

00:55:49,950 --> 00:55:52,040

Then finally, I got
somebody by me--

1261

00:55:52,040 --> 00:55:54,660

I don't know what
nationality or whatever--

1262

00:55:54,660 --> 00:55:57,590

and I said I have to make
a move now because there's

1263

00:55:57,590 --> 00:55:58,880
thousands of people walking.

1264
00:55:58,880 --> 00:56:02,720
While he was walking outside
with his rifle and everything,

1265
00:56:02,720 --> 00:56:04,183
we slowed down.

1266
00:56:04,183 --> 00:56:06,350
And he took out everything,
the food that they have,

1267
00:56:06,350 --> 00:56:11,660
and I remember Blutwurst,
With can open, with the bread.

1268
00:56:11,660 --> 00:56:16,950
And we took this out, strapped
the back and everything,

1269
00:56:16,950 --> 00:56:18,950
and he didn't know what
happened because there's

1270
00:56:18,950 --> 00:56:19,550
thousands of people.

1271
00:56:19,550 --> 00:56:20,480
Everybody look alike.

1272
00:56:20,480 --> 00:56:23,450
It was cold at that time,
so you cover yourself

1273
00:56:23,450 --> 00:56:25,760
with your blanket, and we eat.

1274
00:56:25,760 --> 00:56:28,490
We put to rest here
in, you know how it is.

1275

00:56:28,490 --> 00:56:30,440

And that I think helped us--

1276

00:56:30,440 --> 00:56:35,510

helped me-- to survive another
10 miles till the American Army

1277

00:56:35,510 --> 00:56:37,290

come in, and they freed us.

1278

00:56:37,290 --> 00:56:40,070

Yes, we're going to stop for
a few minutes at this point,

1279

00:56:40,070 --> 00:56:43,760

and then we'll pick up with
the narrative in just a while.

1280

00:56:43,760 --> 00:56:45,610

Thank you.

1281

00:56:45,610 --> 00:56:49,073