

We're going to resume our interview, but before we do, we wanted you to relate the story that you were telling us during the break.

Well, there was in 1942, in Krakow, a law came out. The German gave out that every Pole had to get a certain percentage of employees. And if we had three, we had to give up one for labor into Germany into a factory, or on a farm, et cetera, and et cetera, all the type of a thing.

So I became sort of middleman. Because I knew a lot of Christian fellows which I hang around with, slept in the type situation, where they were sleeping, hiding out. So they didn't have families either. I said if you want to make some money, there is an opportunity to make money.

Let's say, for instance, a bartender, he had three employees, he had to give up one. If somebody had a little factory, he had to give up somebody. So I was going from there. Do you want anybody to go? You want your employees, but you have to pay 10,000 zlotys. So I had people, they wanted to share with me, with five. He took five and I took five. So this way I would be able to make a few dollars to exist.

So one day I come into one man. He had a bar, a restaurant/bar. And he was too late to deliver his quota. So the police-- German police came in. They have seen me and another fellow. They've taken us as their quota.

They put in-- they've taken us into a car and they brought us in-- always as a Pole-- they did not know that I'm Jewish-- into a school. They called it-- on [Place name] Street in Krakow. And from there, they were taken in, following two days or one day after, to a doctor to be examined.

And they were making a transport of people, sending into Germany for labor. Not the concentration camp, but into a farmer. For instance, when a farmer gave up a son to an army, to a war, they need a substitute somebody working in the fields or anything. So this way [INAUDIBLE].

And I was very excited of going. This way all the pressure from me would be gone away. At least I would have a place where to sleep. I would work. I could survive that way.

But one thing came into my mind. When you go to a doctor, and there you have to take a shower and go out in front of him. My problem was because I was circumcised and standing next to all the rest of the Christians, I'll be like a sore thumb sticking out. And so I thought, here I'm hanging. Here I'm free. In a few days later, who knows what's going to happen to me?

So I've taken with a rope from the third floor, attached some money. Some people were on the ground waving to the families. And as we send down money, they were sending in liquor. Not distilled liquor, they call that bumber.

And they sent us a couple of bottles. My bottle of liquor, I poured out, I didn't drink. But a fellow I became friends with, he drank the liquor. He happened to go to the doctor already. He had all the approval of leaving in the morning, 6 o'clock in the morning.

So he drank till about 3 o'clock in the morning. So the guy fell asleep, but good. I took his papers out and under assumed his name, I left.

They put us on a train. And they brought us as far as Katowice. Here, all of the sudden in the train, I see they're looking for somebody. And I right away spotted maybe they're looking-- the guy could have woke up and he's looking for me. And he hasn't got the paper. Maybe I escaped. So I was afraid.

So I said to five Poles, we're going to go at the station, the train stop, we're going to take a drink of water, which they had the crane on the station. And I said, fellas, I'm going to break away to the left and you go to the right. And the guard came with them. And there were quite a few people on the station.

There was a train right opposite me. I jumped into that train on to the return. And the train had proceeded further. So then I came to a border. I had to get off because I had no papers to go through the border. That was-- Poland was taken into government-- Governor Frank, he ruled that part.

It's Frank.

And the rest of it was-- what do you call-- an ax-- Katowice, Lodz, and the rest would become [? Reichskommissariat. ?] Became Germany, solid Germany ground. So you had to go through a border line.

Yeah so I went to the Polish. And I'm a smuggler. And I'd like to bring some pepper. They were smuggling pepper and saccharin in the war. Tell me how do you do it? So they dressed me as a girl. And go into the woods and pick some branches. And you're going to see the border. You're going to see the guard.

They mapped me out how to go through the border. And I went over. Once you went over the border and you see a house, there'd be somebody waiting for you and then you-- and I came back to Krakow. Again, back to the fire. I thought my problem was solved. But from a fire into the oven.

Yes.

It continued in places. And I start travelling. I went to Lvov, Przemysl, Bochnia, Kielce, Lublin, Rava-Ruska, Warsaw, Radom. All these cities, Czestochowa-- all these cities I was visiting. And I happened to be bad luck. At that time every city I came in, they were taking people out and they were transporting them.

And I tried to get into the cities. And a matter of fact, in Rejowiec, when they were taking out people, in Rejowiec-- I mean liquidation-- and I was at the train station, there was a woman. And I came over to her. And I said, [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] to the woman. Don't be afraid.

I went out to a place. And I took the bandage. And I said I injured my leg. I took her head, I wrapped around her head with a bandage. And I brought that woman to Warsaw. And I kissed her goodbye. If she survived, who knows? Because nobody wanted to know where the other one is, nobody wanted. Because under torture, under something, you can--

You might blurt something out.

--break out and not be able to save others. That was the key of the hiding. And then in Krakow, I was riding-- on March the 15th came in to Krakow. The Krakow ghetto, was liquidation of the Krakow ghetto. I came that time into Krakow. I've seen the police surrounded the ghetto and taking the people to Jerozolimska, into a camp at the cemetery.

It was a cemetery. They liquidated the cemetery. And they made-- from the stones of the cemetery, they made streets out of it, from the stones. And they made a camp over there.

So I'm traveling in the trolley. We had a neighbor. He was Jewish. The name was [Personal name] He married a German woman before the war. And that woman, she was a conductor on a trolley. And she said to me, [Personal name] actually my name in Polish instead of David was [Personal name]

Yeah.

And she said to me [Personal name] I didn't recognize her. I got scared that somebody did. And she says continue to the end of the trolley. I came there. Where are you? Where you hiding? I have no place where to sleep. I'm looking for a place to hide myself. She said, my husband is hidden by [Place name] not far from Krakow. He works in a factory, brick factory. Maybe he'll be able to help you.

She gave me the address. I came over to the farm, [INAUDIBLE]. She gave me all the tips, how to enter the house, that I'm a relation. When you came-- the first thing you came to a Polish home, you said, [SPEAKING POLISH]. Which it mean God should bless Jesus Christ.

You came into the home. And then they would set at a table. They're asking questions-- how's mother? How's uncle? All the fictional names-- my aunt and so on, I had to know all these things. They spill out of him.

We finished our dinner. He took me on the outside. And he said, [Personal name] I'd like to help you. I'd like to hide you, but I'm being under investigation. I would love to, but I can't. I cannot hide you.

So therefore, I left. I've kissed him and I left him. Due to this particular case, I'll continue because there is an episode, which after the war these people have survived. Matter of fact, Norman, he knew he was-- the other fellow was a colonel in Polish army in Krakow.

So, from the guilt that they could not hide me out, they wrote the letter to my brother. If your name is so-and-so, if have you a brother so-and-so, so please let us know who you are. And we would like to know if he's alive. Because the rumor was in the city that I was in Montelupich. I was executed.

So I wrote him a letter, I'm alive and well. And I went to Israel and I paid him a visit in '68. It was a tremendous reunion. He passed away. She's still alive. Lives in Israel. I'm helping her till today. She had a wonderful attention. She lives.

Their name, they remained their name, [Personal name] That's their name when they left. This type of episode which came back to me to recall what happened, it happened.

When we left off before the break, you are telling us about the experience of being arrested by the Gestapo. Can you pick up there.

By Gestapo, they've taken me. They took me. Put handcuffs on me. And they've taking me into Gestapo quarters, Pomorska. It was a very famous Gestapo. And they put me against the wall. And they had tools-- a jack, and jack like to a car which you lift the car.

They put handcuffs on me through the back, this way, in the back. And they jacked me up that I stood on my tiptoes. And from the front, they were slashing me with whips. And they wanted to know where other Jews are hiding. I said, I don't know anybody. I'm all by myself. Because that fellow that he point me out that I'm Jewish. So they knew already. I could not deny.

And then they sat me at the table. And they put bamboo sticks between your finger here. From both sides he was squeezing my fingers, knuckles. Up today, I haven't got much feeling into the knuckles. Because they were squeezed to that, that I fainted.

From there, they took me into a Gestapo place named [? Schlock, ?] also in Krakow. Spent about a day. And they've taken me into a prison called Montelupich. And there I arrived. I never seen the prison in my life.

I didn't know what to expect. I heard only before the war that anybody, a deserter from the army, or anybody, they had had like a little pole standing, and a pile of coal, and they were during the execution over there. And I was aware of it.

They've taken me in. By walking downstairs, a Polish policeman came out, out of the door. He was a friend of my brother. They played soccer together. He said, [Personal name] do they know who you are? I said, yes, don't you see how I'm beaten up, I'm bleeding? He said, don't worry, you will not be executed. He said the word to me.

What it did meant, I did not know. In other words, in Polish, the words are saying, [SPEAKING POLISH]. In other words, you will not be executed. They've taken me into a cell. The cell was maybe about 8 feet by 8, a little cell in the basement.

The first thing what they done, they put braces on my hands, a brace on my neck, braces on my legs with the short chain, with a little rope hanging. And the big ball was laying. And I was sitting in a position like this. This position I

was sitting for a day.

There was another inmate in the same room. He said, this is our end. From here, they take us, they're going to execute us. They're going to shoot us. A lot of thoughts went through my mind. Again, why me? What have I done? The question always arises-- why? Why?

The following day they came down. They cut down these braces from my hands. And they let me loose. I figured because they let me loose, now they're going to take me and execute me. They left a belt on me. I've taken that belt and I hooked up on the cell or the iron bars. I put it on my neck. And I wanted to commit suicide. I want to kill myself.

Because I could not visualize to be executed. Could not face to it. At least I want to take my own life away. He noticed that. He yelled out, tremendous yell. And beyond that, I don't remember. They cut me down. I presume because I continued following day to another cell.

They beat me up for doing it. They took away the belt. And then they've taken me to adjoining cell, cell number seven. And there were the inmates. Anybody who was caught on the Aryan papers was put into that cell.

On the first day, recollection, they made one of the men, they made him as a leader. When the Gestapo, [INAUDIBLE], he came front of the window. He stood-- we were in a cellar and he stood above us. So he had to-- well, we have a one new inmate. It's me.

He asked, how is he? Who is he? He pointed out on me. He wanted me I should hit another inmate in his face. So I went over to him and I just give them a slap on the face.

The following day he came in. He took from a bench a thing. He hit me here. He knocked my two teeth out with me. Now, you know how you hit. He told me, when I tell you to hit, that's the way you hit.

Then I had to learn a [INAUDIBLE]. In other words, a Jewish prayer. Every morning we had to say. Which it comes in German, if I may say. Later, maybe we could translate it into-- [SPEAKING GERMAN]. Which it means we Jews, it's our fault of the war, our fault of the war. [SPEAKING GERMAN]. We are murderers and thieves because German blood has to spill.

[SPEAKING GERMAN], Because [INAUDIBLE] we are murderers. And [GERMAN] and thieves and the worst element. That kind of a-- every morning-- prayer we had to do. Quite a few inmates committed suicide on their self.

So the undertaker had to come pick up the bodies from the camp, not from the ghetto, because the ghetto was not existing anymore in '43. So he used to bring-- he used to take chintz, used to bring a bread into the box. So he wrapped up that piece of bread.

And every week there was a selection. And they were picking up inmates. And they selected 5, 6, or 7. They put them on a truck. What I heard of, they were taking them to a camp in Krakow, Jerozolimaska in Krakow, Plaszow. They made a camp in Krakow. And they were taking them and executing them there.

Gãth used to be the leader in Krakow from that camp. They used to have a shovel. They used to dig the ground. The put in you the shovel and there you were executed. 99% of the inmates who were caught on Aryan papers were executed, on the spot, of further investigation.

I sat in prison there for about six weeks. Six to seven weeks I sat. Our timing in prison, we didn't know what time it is. The only timing we knew, it's from the sun. When the sun shined, and on the boards, comes into this spot, we know approximately that it's 12 o'clock, 1 o'clock, and 2 o'clock, the timing of the day.

Was Montelupich a kind of unique place for Jews to be held? Because usually you don't hear of Jews being held in prisons. They were either in ghettos or sent to concentration camps.

Well, that was the investigation. They kept an-- anybody who was caught on Aryan papers, they wanted to know where others are hiding.

So in other words, this was a place for torture.

For torture.

And interrogation.

And interrogation to find out where other Jews are hiding. And from there, once you spilled out all your beans, that was the final solution with you.

And you had nothing to spill.

I never wanted to know. Only one place I knew, one man, [Personal name] [Personal name] I knew him, in that brick factory. I never reveal anybody. Would not. Never anybody meet me even on the Aryan paper. Where you live? Don't know. Did not know anything. So when they--

I said that. Then one day, around September, or maybe earlier than September-- timing, dates are very-- we didn't know from days, the dates. The name of the Gestapo's which were there, we were giving them the names only by sight. One we called barszcz. Barszcz, it means the-- what do you make borscht?

Beets. Beets, his face was very red so we called him barszcz.

Yeah.

And one was [Personal name] Certain names, what we would feel, us, we gave. One day they came out a order to take us out. We did not know where we going, not at all. They lined up everybody, a group of Poles and the 13 Jews who remained in the cell. Sometimes we have 25, 30 inmates.

But one only thing. I had a nail where I scraped on the wall. Here was sitting [Personal name] Rosenblum. He's got a family in America. In case I be shot, please notify them that I was here and here. That I had said. I've done that. Maybe today it's still on in that cell. I have yearned to go and pay a visit the. But my heart don't let me for reasons. I'm not welcome.

And then they put us on the trucks. Chain us with a big chain across, one to another. And we traveling. We traveling for about an hour. Then we came into a place. And a big door opened up. And I was there on top of it. And it said "Arbeit macht frei." We came to Auschwitz.

Here, we've never seen people. And all of a sudden, we see so many people. I said there must be a paradise here. This must be the place where they relocate people. Came in there. First of all, entlausungskommando. First they lined us up.

The obersturmbannfuhrer, he came in. And he looked at-- he walked with his boots and with a stick. He came over to everybody, looked through the face, particularly to take 13 Jews to separate.

Fortunate enough, we were not enough. If not, they would put us into gas chamber. But he made by the hands, let them go. They took us to in lousing-- in lousing. In other words, this is a cleaning, taking a shower. Cut the hair. Then giving tattoo. They gave a tattoo, a tattoo which I still have on, which is consists of 153004.

Happened to be a very lucky number to me. Because if you take the numbers, add them up together, it means 13, and 1 and 4 is 5. And 3, it's 8. 13. 13. Being a 13th child, born on the 13th, leaving to America on the 13th, and the 13 happened to be for me very lucky.

Came to Birkenau. And very strange surrounding. You see the wire, barbed wires. You see inmates, big barracks, be

bewildered. What's this space like? You can't survive. Don't worry, you'll go through the chimney. They're going to make a piece of soap out of you. This conversation through the camp.

Who said this? I'm sorry.

Up until then you didn't know about the concentration camps?

No, did not know, not about that, not about Auschwitz. They were secretly held. Because when the ghetto were made, the purpose of a ghetto made that no Jew could have communication to the next street. You didn't know-- when they were evacuating this street, the following street did not know what was happening.

They [INAUDIBLE].

You had no radios. You had no communication. On the outside world, you didn't have no friends. So either way, out from a rain into a shower. Didn't know what it was. I came in there.

The following day, a big transport came from Belgium. And a woman jumped down, the truck they were taken into a crematorium. And the woman gave birth to a child, which I see front of my eyes. And he took that child and ripped it into half. That little baby, just infant born. I see that-- all the time I see that scene.

And they were taken them. And we had to stay at the appell. Watch in other words that the people should not panic that there are people in camp being relocated. In the meantime, they were taken them into gas chamber in Birkenau and they were destroying them.

I was in Birkenau in the quarantine. Quarantine-- that was the type of a place. From there they were taking selection, people, whoever didn't have no strength. They were taking them, selection. They put them into 50, 60, 70. March them into the gas chamber. And that's what they do.

Recalling certain, particular-- In the morning when we got up, I noticed 10, 15, 20 people were on the wires, didn't want to live. They just came over to the wires. They hugged the wires. They were electrocuted, 1, 2, 3.

Nobody could escape. Because you had a trench here. Then you had a big trench going through. Then they had the wires. And then you had the guards standing on either side. But the most dangerous part in Birkenau was at night.

Let's say you had to go to the bathroom. I was in the block 3. And the bathroom was in the block 16. So you had to walk from one end to the other. When the guard have decided to shoot you, he did it. So you had 50, 60 people dead, lying. So I was afraid in Birkenau to do that.

So I wanted-- I had to go very badly to the bathroom. So I ran around the block. I got caught. The [INAUDIBLE] night watchman. One of the inmates have taken and wrote down my number. Two weeks later, they call my number. There was the appell. They called my number into the front.

I almost fell apart when they called my number. I couldn't believe it. For what? I forgot, for what? They took me. They had a table, a little higher than this, with a-- that you can put your feet in, with a strap. And I got 50 lashes I had to count every one of them. After 15, I was out.

Somebody mentioned there is a fellow from Krakow who was beaten. And a neighbor of ours, who was working from Krakow, a neighbor of ours who was working in a [INAUDIBLE] kommando-- they were used to fix the roofs-- he came into our camp. And he said to the block leader, he said, you better watch it. Don't put him in for selection. They should give me a little nourishment and I should be able. And the first good transport, he should ship me out.

Sunday the transport came. They send me from there to Warsaw, back to Warsaw. By being in Warsaw and seeing the uprising before, in April, and here I'm coming in September back to Warsaw. I know Warsaw like my five fingers.

So they made a camp on the Okopowa Street. There were about 16 blocks. There were 5,050 inmates. There were Greek Jews, French, Belgium, from Italy, very few, Holland, all over Europe-- Czechoslovakia. Not Hungarian, Hungarian came in 1944. The Hungarian Jews came to town because there were a tremendous epidemic of typhoid over there.

Lice, they were so big, like describe you like blueberries. They were eating you. I had marks on my feet, holes. And they were around it. We used to make a fire from the wood we were taking from the building. We hold a blanket against us and you heard nothing but-- click. They were dying, these lice. Actually, they wanted us to get the epidemic, to die out.

And we were working in the Warsaw ghetto. Our job was to collect the bricks from the buildings which they were down, bombarded. We came across a lot of [INAUDIBLE]. People were dead. But they had money on them. So we took the money and we were exchanging for liquor with the Poles, with the Poles who were coming in. With this, I was washing my body for hygienic reasons.

They used to call it [INAUDIBLE] bread, [INAUDIBLE] blood. You got blood, which meant gold. We'll give you bread. You got diamonds, we'll give bread.

And I was working on this kommando. We had to put a 500 brick. You had to go on a three-story building, only a wall stood, with a step ladder, with a pick, 500 some, clean them up. Wintertime, you took a piece of iron in your hand, the iron didn't want to come off your hand because it froze. Clothing we didn't have. Wooden shoes we had.

Did you wear the same thing all year round?

What?

Did you wear the same thing all year round?

All year round, no different. The only thing was we used paper as an insulation. We used to put paper under our body. We didn't have no socks. We used to put paper as a insulation into this. This we used to wear, the Holland shoes, wooden. We called them [INAUDIBLE].

Yeah. Wooden shoes.

And from this working used to get all kind of different scars. And that didn't want to heal because you didn't have any nourishment in your body. Once you get a scar, [INAUDIBLE] and the lice set in, and epidemic. And that's what you were falling-- falling back.

I worked in Warsaw ghetto from 1943 till 1944, [INAUDIBLE] kommando. We separated the steel from this, from the wood. Wood separated from this. Matter of fact, we liberated quite a few bunkers with people who were still alive. We left them open. Let them go.

Where they went, what they did, if they survived or not is beyond us. We could not take them into camp because there was a count. As you came in, you had to have x amount of count. At the prison-- at the appell, let's say a prisoner died, you could have stayed six, seven hours before they found the body. You had to stay all the hours.

And sometime wintertime, they gave us showers. We came in, gave us showers. But they let you out naked to the street. It was bitter cold. It was zero degrees. Everybody froze. Their body were frozen. People were dying. Actually they wanted to cut down as much as humanly possible the people. We stood there till 9--

Was there resistance?

What?

Was their resistance of any kind?

None, whatsoever. There could not be. Recalling, there was a Greek Jew, a very, very highly intelligent man, Saul. His name-- we knew him only by first name. He spoke seven languages-- fluently Polish, fluently German. He was an interpreter. And they let him go out of the camp with a guard.

And a Polish woman fell in love with him. He wanted to escape. She wanted to hide him. So the guard was shooting at him and he shot him in the back. They brought him in, into the camp. And they healed him and everything.

And one Sunday, they called an appeal. We had a bell hanging over on a wood. They called us. And they took him out with a handcuff and they hung him. He hung two days. His brother stood right next to me. Remember the words were here, "Boys, take advantage some day. Don't forget." That was his last words. He hung for two days.

He was such good looking, like Robert Taylor, a beautiful looking man. Intelligent, spoke English, Arabic, Hebrew, seven languages that man, very intelligent. He was highly respectful. But he wanted to run away. And that's why they executed him.

Then the Russians were coming in, in 1944, closer to Warsaw. And they tried to evacuate us. They put us on the transports. Walking from Warsaw to Kutno. That was a death march. We started 550 inmates-- 5,500 inmates. And we walked for about four to five days without water, without food. Whoever fell back was shot.

I wanted to make myself comfortable. I took off my shoes. And I start walking barefoot on the concrete. So I developed blisters. And I fell down, falling back. I took a spoon-- a spoon we used to use for knife. Because we used to sharpen that spoon to cut anything. So I just cut them open, put my shoes on and continued walking.

On the third day of walking, it was about 4 o'clock, 4-5 o'clock in the afternoon, they gave us a rest to sit down because the Germans were tired. There was a big field. Nothing grew on it, only a little grass.

So the inmates, we were thirsty. And they were drinking urine. People were going crazy from the heat and not drinking anything. So the guys were taking spoons-- spoons, and digging into the ground. And the moisture start coming. And while we were digging more, water start coming out. We made holes about-- maybe they were about a foot and a half. How big of a hole can you make with a spoon?

And the muddy water starts coming out. So we were taking and filtrating through our clothes. One was holding. And everybody was putting it on the lips. And that's how-- The Germans came in. They looked at it. They couldn't believe it. It's a miracle what happened to us. And from the 5,500, we arrived only about 2,000.

So we arrived in Kutno, marching to a bridge. There is a river, water. Everybody had tremendous thirst and they just wildly jumped into the river. And the Germans opened fire. That river turned red from the people who wanted just water.

We came to a station. And they're taking us and they load us up into the train. We travel for about a day and a half. They brought us into Dachau. That was the whole big transport in Dachau. The major transport, the first one in '44, came into Dachau.

They gave us some soup. And they gave you new clothing, new striped suit. They changed us because the other ones was dirty. And they said that we're going to be able to go to build a new camp, Waldlager. In other words, the camp in woods, which going to be underground. The tip is going to be there, but we're going to live underground.

And we were working in an [INAUDIBLE] kommando, building a factory of [INAUDIBLE]. Which they made a big sculpture. And under the bottom all that factory is [INAUDIBLE]. A huge, tremendous huge place. And we had to carry cement, 100 kilo cement on our back.

Sometimes the guy who loaded on you the cement, and it broke, so you were full of cement. So we were with icicles. And your mouth was full of cement. No drink of water. So sometimes you're working 16 and 18 hour shifts.



[INAUDIBLE], in other words one. And they put us in chains. The Germans stood in the middle. And they made a big huge circle. You picked up. You had to follow the next guy and drop it off and follow. You could not get out of the--

Circle.

--circle. We worked [INAUDIBLE]. And somehow I was organizing some food. I knew somebody in the kitchen. So I always left some potatoes raw. So at night, I took on a wire, put my little fire. And put it through the chimney. And I held it on my food.

One night I feel somebody is pulling. So my leg went up. Somebody wants to steal my potatoes. So that was only survival. And the law was very strict in camp. When one inmate would steal another inmate's bread, that was a death punishment. Because this way, you take a day off your life and add up to the other man's life in Muhldorf.

I spend in Muhldorf working for about-- till 19--

Are you saying that-- excuse me-- that the person whose food was stolen added an extra day onto his life for the day that the thief lost.

Denied the other guy.

Yeah, OK. I just wanted to clarify. Thank you.

Because you went to sleep and somebody want to eat in the morning. And you had that piece of bread. You fell asleep. And this guy came and took it away. You didn't have it.

Yeah.

There was a conditioning that dog eats dog. In a way they conditioned the people to be-- they were not that way when they got in. But everybody wanted to survive. I've seen that mothers give up the children in the line, survived them. Children give up the parents. I did. I did. And I feel very guilty till today why I did it.

And I have no answer for it. Nobody came out with an answer for me. Nobody came. I feel whether today is my day or it might be [INAUDIBLE]. It's something which is in-- branded in me. Because the dearest of the dearest what I had, you face. And here you have to depart. I feel very guilty from all the years.

So from that particular camp it became a final solution for us. They put us on a transport into the Tyrolean mountains, to Alps. And they supposed to do the job on us. Traveling in the train, we had a guard on our train. He sat with a machine gun. And an American plane went by. He opened fire into the-- opened fire.

As he opened fired, the American came down and start shooting into the train, into our inmates. We had a [INAUDIBLE] with out jacket, pointing out that we are prisoners. Two carloads of dead. I jump down the train and I ran behind the wheel of the train. And I hid.

And I seen just silver bullets going by and bouncing off the train. Then I amputated a guy's leg because the machine gun went through. I took that spoon. I tied his wound and I took it off. He's alive in Israel, thank God.

You saved his life.

I got a-- here-- a bullet went through right here. One went right through here and went right though here. Got a bullet went right through here. And then proceeding further, I heard from a distance the Americans shooting. The lights, the guns, the lighting up like a-- [INAUDIBLE] was beautiful. It's no rain. But we've seen the big lightning from guns.

So I said to a couple of Frenchmen-- one was Belgium, one was a Frenchman. And I said, [? Haskel, ?] this is the time

to make [INAUDIBLE], run when we want to live. But I said, but on one condition you must understand when you run.

In Europe, each railroad station has wires to change the signal-- change the signal of the railroad.

Right.

If you touch these wires, they'll be like a mandolin. They're very tight. So you touch them, we are dead dogs. You must go slowly under. The guards were tired. And just run. I was the first one goes under. Took off my shoes. And I ran into the field.

And that was in April. Because they already were putting in potatoes into the field. So they had these rows. Realizing while I'm running making foot mark on the rows that I could be detected, I was jumping 5, and 5, and 5, [INAUDIBLE].

This was in April of '45 already.

Right.

So we're nearing the end of the war.

End of the war, yeah. And then I ran in front-- the other two got caught. And the machine-- one touched the wire. And the machine guns start shooting. And the field was wide open, like a lightning, like now with the lights.

Yes.

And I seen a German standing with a gun. I said to him, the Americans are coming. He dropped the gun. I grabbed the gun and I ran. I jumped into the woods and I went like a squirrel on a tree. I tied myself up. And I fell down the tree, scratched full of blood.

I went, I jumped up again. And I heard German soldiers going by in the woods. The army moving in, and I was sitting on top of the tree. When they went by, in the morning, early in the morning, around 6 o'clock in the morning, I hear a tank going by with a white star.

I said, I've never seen a thing with a white star. That must be some kind of a tank. So I let by one. So I went into another. Then I stopped the train and went down. And I put my hands up. And I showed them my number on my hand, that I'm a prisoner-- a prisoner.

So he said, you wait here. There was a Jewish lieutenant. I wish I would know his name. He was from Brooklyn. And he say, you stay here. I said, oh, no, I don't stay here, no, sir. I go with you. Because a lot of Germans around. And they catch me, they kill me.

We're going to have to stop and continue on another tape.

Yeah. We're at a point now where we're reaching the liberation. So this is a good point at which to end it and to continue it.

OK, a lot to go.

I know. I know. That's why I want you to come back.