4
00:00:38,450 --> 00:00:40,230
Good afternoon.
5
00:00:40,230 --> 00:00:43,400
My name is Bernard Weinstein
I'm a member of the Kean College
6
00:00:43,400 --> 00:00:47,390
Oral Testimonies Project at
the Holocaust Resource Center.
7
00:00:47,390 --> 00:00:49,760
We are affiliated with
the Video Archives
8
00:00:49,760 --> 00:00:53,600
for Holocaust Testimonies
at Yale University.
9
00:00:53,600 --> 00:01:00,380
Sharing the interview with
me is Mr Ernest Bokor.
10
00:01:00,380 --> 00:01:03,050
A survivor presently
living in Edison,
11
00:01:03,050 --> 00:01:05,480
New Jersey, who has
generously volunteered
12
00:01:05,480 --> 00:01:08,030
to give testimony about his experiences

13
00:01:08,030 --> 00:01:10,700
before, during, and
after the Holocaust.

## 14

00:01:10,700 --> 00:01:11,990
Welcome, Mr Bokor.
15
00:01:11,990 --> 00:01:12,890
Thank you.
16
00:01:12,890 --> 00:01:15,440
Mr. Bokor, I'd like
to begin by asking you
17
00:01:15,440 --> 00:01:19,160
if you would tell us a little
bit about the place you

## 18

00:01:19,160 --> 00:01:22,940 were born and your early life.

## 19

00:01:22,940 --> 00:01:29,810
Really, I was born in August
21 in 1920 in Czechoslovakia,

## 20

00:01:29,810 --> 00:01:31,250 the town called Debrad.

## 21

00:01:31,250 --> 00:01:33,710
It was a very small town.
22
00:01:33,710 --> 00:01:37,760
And we moved from there in--
23
00:01:37,760 --> 00:01:42,710
I know good-- in 1923, we
moved on to another part
24
00:01:42,710 --> 00:01:46,550
in Slovakia, which is about 80 miles farther.

25
00:01:46,550 --> 00:01:51,890

## 26

00:01:51,890 --> 00:01:56,120
It was also a small town, two Jewish family, all Roman

00:01:56,120 --> 00:01:57,560 Catholics.

28
00:01:57,560 --> 00:02:03,500
When I arrived over there, sure, right away, they jumped on me.

```
29
00:02:03,500 --> 00:02:05,660
```

I was the only Jewish kid.
30
00:02:05,660 --> 00:02:08,630
The other family had
also one, but he was

## 31

00:02:08,630 --> 00:02:12,200 more indoor, not outdoor kid.

## 32

00:02:12,200 --> 00:02:14,030
I was outdoor.
33
00:02:14,030 --> 00:02:15,860
They started to beat me up.
34
00:02:15,860 --> 00:02:21,140
One time I came home with a little blood on my face

35
00:02:21,140 --> 00:02:24,080
from fight, crying.

## 36

00:02:24,080 --> 00:02:26,000
My father was a merchant.

00:02:30,410 --> 00:02:34,880
And he gave me through my behind, and he said,

40
00:02:34,880 --> 00:02:39,080
never again come home
crying, fight back.
41
00:02:39,080 --> 00:02:44,960
And this made me a
fighter and a hard kid.
42
00:02:44,960 --> 00:02:49,130
Sooner or later, I became the leader of between the kids,

00:02:49,130 --> 00:02:50,780
like a small gang.

## 44

00:02:50,780 --> 00:02:52,640
We wasn't afraid of nobody.
45
00:02:52,640 --> 00:02:55,190
They respected me.
46
00:02:55,190 --> 00:02:57,750
I wasn't afraid
even from older--
47
00:02:57,750 --> 00:03:01,010
I was really always
fighting back.
48
00:03:01,010 --> 00:03:04,440
And this way I grew up.

```
4 9
00:03:04,440 --> 00:03:06,800
```

Even when I went to
school, to high school,
50
00:03:06,800 --> 00:03:11,330
which was about 15
miles from the town--
51
00:03:11,330 --> 00:03:14,630
we had to commute by train.
52
00:03:14,630 --> 00:03:19,280
And usually, we got our seats
in first day of September.
53
00:03:19,280 --> 00:03:25,340
And that seat was for whole
year in the railroad car.
54
00:03:25,340 --> 00:03:29,300
One day I came in the car,
and there was another guy
55
00:03:29,300 --> 00:03:31,070
on my sitting on my seat.
56
00:03:31,070 --> 00:03:33,950
And I thought, listen,
that's my seat.
57
00:03:33,950 --> 00:03:36,320
You have to move
away from there.
58
00:03:36,320 --> 00:03:38,150
He didn't want.
59
00:03:38,150 --> 00:03:42,410
He says, a dirty Jew isn't going
to tell me where I have to sit.

And I got really angry.
61
00:03:45,530 --> 00:03:48,790
Was this someone you had known who knew you were Jewish?

## 62

00:03:48,790 --> 00:03:51,860
Yes, he was from my class.
63
00:03:51,860 --> 00:03:55,190
And I have had very easy--
64
00:03:55,190 --> 00:03:57,830
I was bleeding very
easily from my nose.
65
00:03:57,830 --> 00:04:02,060
He jumped up on the seat, and he hit me on my nose.

## 66

00:04:02,060 --> 00:04:03,380
He know that.
67
00:04:03,380 --> 00:04:06,380
I was bleeding, and he started to holler,

```
6 8
```

00:04:06,380 --> 00:04:08,390
the Jewish blood is flowing.

## 69

00:04:08,390 --> 00:04:09,630
I got really angry.
70
00:04:09,630 --> 00:04:13,220
I jumped also up, and we started to fight.

71
00:04:13,220 --> 00:04:16,550
And somehow I pushed him in the window, in the railroad car.

## 73

00:04:18,500 --> 00:04:23,210
Sure, we got the next day
in the school, both of us

```
7 4
00:04:23,210 --> 00:04:24,860
was punished.
7 5
00:04:24,860 --> 00:04:29,780
```

We had very strict
schools over there.
76
00:04:29,780 --> 00:04:32,840
And this way I grew up.
77
00:04:32,840 --> 00:04:34,730
That was my life--
78
00:04:34,730 --> 00:04:36,680
fight back or give up.
79
00:04:36,680 --> 00:04:39,470
And I never gave up.
80
00:04:39,470 --> 00:04:43,400
Living in the kind of
community you lived in,

## 81

00:04:43,400 --> 00:04:47,720
were you able to
practice Judaism?
82
00:04:47,720 --> 00:04:50,030
Were you able to--
83
00:04:50,030 --> 00:04:55,430
It was really hard because, we
were far away from everything
84
00:04:55,430 --> 00:04:58,020
in that small town.
85
00:04:58,020 --> 00:05:02,090
And I went 40 years to
a Roman Catholic school,

## 86

00:05:02,090 --> 00:05:05,730
because we had no other school in the town.

87
00:05:05,730 --> 00:05:09,590
My father had to pay
because the town kept up.

## 88

00:05:09,590 --> 00:05:11,870
They paid for the teacher.
89
00:05:11,870 --> 00:05:15,080
And where I went, the first years,

## 90

00:05:15,080 --> 00:05:17,510
I learned lots of
about Catholicism,

## 91

00:05:17,510 --> 00:05:21,260
even more than I
learned from Judaism.
92
00:05:21,260 --> 00:05:24,230
It's hard to say, but
the first alefbet I

93
00:05:24,230 --> 00:05:28,100
learned from the Catholic
priest in the school.
94
00:05:28,100 --> 00:05:31,550
And later on when I
went to high school,

## 95

00:05:31,550 --> 00:05:38,220
we had to go to Hebrew

## 96

00:05:38,220 --> 00:05:42,640
twice, I think, one
hour, if I remember good.
97
00:05:42,640 --> 00:05:48,570 And when I was a bar mitzvah, that time my father died.

98
00:05:48,570 --> 00:05:50,850
And we got pretty broke.
99
00:05:50,850 --> 00:05:53,070
He had cancer.
100
00:05:53,070 --> 00:05:57,390
My grandmother took me to her.
101
00:05:57,390 --> 00:05:59,040
And over there I learned.
102
00:05:59,040 --> 00:06:01,140
And whatever, you know, we had [INAUDIBLE] kind

103
00:06:01,140 --> 00:06:02,400
of teacher, schools.
104
00:06:02,400 --> 00:06:05,620
So I learned a little
bit about Judaism.
105
00:06:05,620 --> 00:06:08,580
So religiously, I cannot
say I learned too much.
106
00:06:08,580 --> 00:06:12,628
I know but I have
what Jewish men
107
00:06:12,628 --> 00:06:13,920
have to know about you Judaism.
108
00:06:13,920 --> 00:06:18,840
Was there a synagogue anywhere in the area where you lived?

109
00:06:18,840 --> 00:06:19,920
No.

## 110

00:06:19,920 --> 00:06:22,950
In the town like I said, it
was only two Jewish family,

## 111

00:06:22,950 --> 00:06:25,980
altogether about 160 houses.

## 112

00:06:25,980 --> 00:06:31,150
They nearest synagogue was about four miles away.

## 113

00:06:31,150 --> 00:06:35,400
But in high holy days, we used to go to the city, which

## 114

00:06:35,400 --> 00:06:39,820
was about 14 miles from us.
115
00:06:39,820 --> 00:06:42,300
And over there, we went.

## 116

00:06:42,300 --> 00:06:46,150
And like I said, we had to go to school and learn.

117
00:06:46,150 --> 00:06:52,970
So I knew a little, knew what had to be known, but no more.

## 118

00:06:52,970 --> 00:06:53,470
Yeah.

## 119

00:06:53,470 --> 00:06:56,790

You mentioned that you have a brother and a sister--

## 120

00:06:56,790 --> 00:06:59,520
had a brother and have a sister.
121
00:06:59,520 --> 00:07:02,610
Were their early
experiences similar to yours

## 122

00:07:02,610 --> 00:07:05,280 regarding their being Jewish?

123
00:07:05,280 --> 00:07:08,430
My sister, she was
about six-year-old

## 124

00:07:08,430 --> 00:07:14,490
when my family saw that in that small town she has no future.

## 125

00:07:14,490 --> 00:07:19,800
She cannot become like a
Jewish lady or a Jewish girl.
126
00:07:19,800 --> 00:07:22, 050
So they took her to them.
127
00:07:22,050 --> 00:07:23,670
They had only one son.
128
00:07:23,670 --> 00:07:26,160
And she was living in the city.
129
00:07:26,160 --> 00:07:30,930
My brother, he was much younger those days.

## 130

00:07:30,930 --> 00:07:37,140
And really, he didn't have the time to learn yet.

00:07:42,660 --> 00:07:46,380
he wanted to know always more about religion than I did.

133
00:07:46,380 --> 00:07:51,870
I became like here
today like a Zionist.
134
00:07:51,870 --> 00:07:56,670
I know what Judaism mean to me, not religiously, 135
00:07:56,670 --> 00:07:58,380
but nationally.
136
00:07:58,380 --> 00:08:01,900
I was in Israel in
army, in service,
137
00:08:01,900 --> 00:08:07,770
which I think is a pretty
good background also.
138
00:08:07,770 --> 00:08:10,780
Did you go to a high
school, a regular--

## 139

00:08:10,780 --> 00:08:11,520
Yes.
140
00:08:11,520 --> 00:08:12,915
Was it a kind of Gymnasium?

## 141

00:08:12,915 --> 00:08:15,990
In Europe, it's completely different than--

## 142

00:08:15,990 --> 00:08:22,770
we learned in high school maybe

## 143

00:08:22,770 --> 00:08:25,570
learn over here in eight years.
144
00:08:25,570 --> 00:08:30,060
It was a very strict
school system.
145
00:08:30,060 --> 00:08:33,960
If somebody had a failing point, he had to repeat it.

146
00:08:33,960 --> 00:08:38,070
He had to repeat the class.
147
00:08:38,070 --> 00:08:40,559
It was not like there passing.
148
00:08:40,559 --> 00:08:44,134
Over there, they
had to repeat it.
149
00:08:44,134 --> 00:08:46,920
Were you happy in school when you went?

150
00:08:46,920 --> 00:08:48,420
Or did you have--

## 151

00:08:48,420 --> 00:08:52,290
Like every kid, I was
a pretty good student.
152
00:08:52,290 --> 00:08:57,030
But always, I envied
a guy if I saw
153
00:08:57,030 --> 00:08:59,820
through the window of the school that he's outside and I had to sit the inside.

00:09:01,920 --> 00:09:05,400
But that's all what it meant.
156
00:09:05,400 --> 00:09:11,040
When did you first start to feel that you were in real danger

157
00:09:11,040 --> 00:09:15,750 or in real difficulty as a Jew?

158
00:09:15,750 --> 00:09:20,970
Really difficulty started when Hungary occupied.

159
00:09:20,970 --> 00:09:23,400
By then, they divided
Czechoslovakia.

## 160

00:09:23,400 --> 00:09:25,680
In Czechoslovakia, the
Jews had excellent life.
161
00:09:25,680 --> 00:09:29,280
We had very good and free life in 1938.

162
00:09:29,280 --> 00:09:33,600
It was our perfect
democracy, if I can say.
163
00:09:33,600 --> 00:09:36,030
And that's what destroyed it--
164
00:09:36,030 --> 00:09:40,410
too much freedom
for every minority.
165
00:09:40,410 --> 00:09:43,650
And that's what destroyed it also.

166
00:09:43,650 --> 00:09:49,350
That was the fate of
Czechoslovakia in 1938.
167
00:09:49,350 --> 00:09:53,310
After that, when the
Hungarian occupied us,
168
00:09:53,310 --> 00:09:58,170
that was the first step, the
Jewish laws they called it,
169
00:09:58,170 --> 00:10:00,630
in Hungarian, [NON-ENGLISH].
170
00:10:00,630 --> 00:10:05,070
And first of all,
most of these schools
171
00:10:05,070 --> 00:10:09,270
was forbidden for kids
who still attended.
172
00:10:09,270 --> 00:10:14,100
A year or year later, everybody was thrown out from school.

173
00:10:14,100 --> 00:10:17,160
Many didn't graduate.

## 174

00:10:17,160 --> 00:10:21,780
And work, say, you
couldn't be store helper.
175
00:10:21,780 --> 00:10:23,100
You couldn't be in an office.

176
00:10:23,100 --> 00:10:26,850

Just a hand labor was what you can do.

00:10:33,180 --> 00:10:35,160
And even that was scarce.
179
00:10:35,160 --> 00:10:37,530
At home, in
beginning, I remember
180
00:10:37,530 --> 00:10:41,580
I tried to make my
living to chop wood,
181
00:10:41,580 --> 00:10:45,480
you know, cut with
a saw and chop wood.
182
00:10:45,480 --> 00:10:48,990
But it was a very poor--

## 183

00:10:48,990 --> 00:10:51,570
we made a very poor
living from it.
184
00:10:51,570 --> 00:10:54,420
I saw that I cannot
stay like that.
185
00:10:54,420 --> 00:11:00,270
And I had a widowed mother and two younger brother and sister.

186
00:11:00,270 --> 00:11:08,510
So I decided to go to Budapest right after, a very short time.

00:11:08,510 --> 00:11:17,960
Over there I came to a place of milk store.

188
00:11:17,960 --> 00:11:20,480
They needed a delivery

## 189

00:11:20,480 --> 00:11:23,630 to very rich people.

190
00:11:23,630 --> 00:11:25,070
But that was all hand work.
191
00:11:25,070 --> 00:11:27,540
No cars, no horses.
192
00:11:27,540 --> 00:11:30,500
You was the horse and
you was the delivery man.
193
00:11:30,500 --> 00:11:36,110
Every day I had to deliver about 300 liters, which

194
00:11:36,110 --> 00:11:39,500
would be close to
300 quarts of milk
195
00:11:39,500 --> 00:11:43,940 in glass containers, or glass bottles,

196
00:11:43,940 --> 00:11:46,580 to houses with no elevators.

197
00:11:46,580 --> 00:11:49,950
And it was forbidden
to go in main entrance.
198
00:11:49,950 --> 00:11:54,440
We had to take the side
entrance for delivery entrances.
199
00:11:54,440 --> 00:12:00,560
It was 1939, '39-40
winter, very big snow.

I remember I had to push that cart, two wheel--

201
00:12:05,120 --> 00:12:07,590 how they call that--

202
00:12:07,590 --> 00:12:13,250 two wheel cart with 300 liter of milk in that deep snow.

203
00:12:13,250 --> 00:12:18,470
I went in with the milk in the staircases,

204
00:12:18,470 --> 00:12:22,640
where the stair was, came out, even with the snow,

205
00:12:22,640 --> 00:12:24,730 I came out all wet.

206
00:12:24,730 --> 00:12:28,460
Till I finished that up, I was completely wet.

## 207

00:12:28,460 --> 00:12:32,780
And also the same
year, I was sick
208
00:12:32,780 --> 00:12:34,890 and I had to stop this work.

209
00:12:34,890 --> 00:12:36,920
How old were you at this time?

00:12:36,920 --> 00:12:38,620
18.

211
00:12:38,620 --> 00:12:44,860
But to my luck, I met over there another delivery boy.

The job I got under one condition--

213
00:12:48,760 --> 00:12:50,800
nobody should know
that I'm a Jew,
214
00:12:50,800 --> 00:12:53,260 otherwise I couldn't get it.

## 215

00:12:53,260 --> 00:12:55,930
I couldn't say I am a Jew.
216
00:12:55,930 --> 00:13:02,020
So this way, I started to feel that I am not free no more.

217
00:13:02,020 --> 00:13:05,440
I had to hide something always.
218
00:13:05,440 --> 00:13:09,430
So over there I met another guy, who was also delivering milk

## 219

00:13:09,430 --> 00:13:11,800
to certain houses.
220
00:13:11,800 --> 00:13:14,410
That was my competition.
221
00:13:14,410 --> 00:13:17,980
He was already that time the member of the Hungarian Nazi

## 222

00:13:17,980 --> 00:13:19,210
Party.
223
00:13:19,210 --> 00:13:22,360
We called this guy-- even till today I don't know why name

00:13:22,360 --> 00:13:23,050 of his--

225
00:13:23,050 --> 00:13:25,810 just we called him Popeye.

## 226

00:13:25,810 --> 00:13:29,590
And he always stopped
me for a little talk

## 227

00:13:29,590 --> 00:13:31,810 when we had a little rest.

228
00:13:31,810 --> 00:13:37,900
He says, Ernie, what in the heck you are still not in our party.

229
00:13:37,900 --> 00:13:43,750
And it was very hard to hide and tell him that I cannot be.

00:13:43,750 --> 00:13:46,990
And we became
really good friends.

## 231

00:13:46,990 --> 00:13:48,640
What excuse did you give him?
232
00:13:48,640 --> 00:13:49,555
Excuse me?
233
00:13:49,555 --> 00:13:51,430
What excuse did you give him for not joining?

234
00:13:51,430 --> 00:13:53,180
I gave him all kinds of excuses.
235
00:13:53,180 --> 00:13:54,550
It's too early for me.

I don't know about
Hungarian politics.
237
00:13:58,180 --> 00:14:01,990 It was just a few months after our so-called liberation.

00:14:01,990 --> 00:14:04,540
They called us that they
liberated us from Czechs.
239
00:14:04,540 --> 00:14:09,770

240
00:14:09,770 --> 00:14:11,050
That wasn't every day.
241
00:14:11,050 --> 00:14:14,020
He just tried to bring me in.
242
00:14:14,020 --> 00:14:19,870
And later on, like I said,
it was very hard work.
243
00:14:19,870 --> 00:14:22,010
And I was looking for other job.
244
00:14:22,010 --> 00:14:26,950
And I got a job in a printing shop through my friend.

245
00:14:26,950 --> 00:14:31,150
And over there, I had
to deliver printing.

## 246

00:14:31,150 --> 00:14:33,940
And after that, I didn't
see him ever again.

00:14:33,940 --> 00:14:36,010
I saw him in 1944.

00:14:37,750 --> 00:14:40,450

## 250

00:14:40,450 --> 00:14:44,560
In the printing shop,
it was pretty good work,

## 251

00:14:44,560 --> 00:14:48,490 much better money.

252
00:14:48,490 --> 00:14:52,540
And through this I
bought a small hand
253
00:14:52,540 --> 00:14:55,030
knitting machine for my brother.
254
00:14:55,030 --> 00:14:57,610
I sent it back home.
255
00:14:57,610 --> 00:14:59,110
He started to work with that.
256
00:14:59,110 --> 00:15:04,480
And we started to make a little living through this.

257
00:15:04,480 --> 00:15:08,730
First, in 1940, I was
called up for forced labor.
258
00:15:08,730 --> 00:15:12,470

259
00:15:12,470 --> 00:15:19,160
My mother at home, she started to ask all kinds of permits
that excuse me for forced labor because I

261
00:15:21,530 --> 00:15:24,380 was the only breadwinner.

262
00:15:24,380 --> 00:15:31,550
And she got it for one year, for one year extension.

263
00:15:31,550 --> 00:15:41,840
After this year, I got even better work in that shop.

264
00:15:41,840 --> 00:15:46,940
It was a Social Democratic unionized shop, a lot

265
00:15:46,940 --> 00:15:50,270 leftist, a lot of--

266
00:15:50,270 --> 00:15:53,060 in Hungary it was unusual.

267
00:15:53,060 --> 00:15:55,460 They helped me.

268
00:15:55,460 --> 00:16:02,660
And in 1943, I was called again in, if I remember, 269
00:16:02,660 --> 00:16:04,580
it was in April.
270
00:16:04,580 --> 00:16:08,270
I was called up
for forced labor.
271
00:16:08,270 --> 00:16:11,750
When I came to the
place that I had to go,

00:16:15,470 --> 00:16:18,620 is metal worker, who is textile worker,

274
00:16:18,620 --> 00:16:24,200
and who has no kind
of profession, trade.
275
00:16:24,200 --> 00:16:28,660

276
00:16:28,660 --> 00:16:30,950
I went first between no trade.
277
00:16:30,950 --> 00:16:36,730
My mother told me before
I left go and always
278
00:16:36,730 --> 00:16:39,640
say that you are OK.
279
00:16:39,640 --> 00:16:43,030
I knew about a little
bit in cooking.
280
00:16:43,030 --> 00:16:43,750 I didn't care.

281
00:16:43,750 --> 00:16:44,800
And I said I am a cook.
282
00:16:44,800 --> 00:16:46,120
So they put me over there.
283
00:16:46,120 --> 00:16:49,600
But later on when I saw
that some of the friends

00:16:49,600 --> 00:16:52,960
went to textile working, between textile workers,

285
00:16:52,960 --> 00:16:54,970
so I just sneaked out
from there and went
286
00:16:54,970 --> 00:16:57,670 between textile workers.

## 287

00:16:57,670 --> 00:16:58,630 It was morning.

288
00:16:58,630 --> 00:17:03,670
In late afternoon from about 300 people, they asked for 10.

289
00:17:03,670 --> 00:17:08,520
Between the 10 textile
workers was my name too.
290
00:17:08,520 --> 00:17:10,170
I came back to Budapest.

## 291

00:17:10,170 --> 00:17:14,220
Where I was working, they took us to a military factory,

292
00:17:14,220 --> 00:17:18,720
where you was weaving material for uniform.

293
00:17:18,720 --> 00:17:21,569
And also they had the tailors was

294
00:17:21,569 --> 00:17:25,650
making the uniforms over there.

00:17:25,650 --> 00:17:29,100
And we was working--

00:17:29,100 --> 00:17:30,360
I was like weaver.
297
00:17:30,360 --> 00:17:32,970
They told us in
a very short time
298
00:17:32,970 --> 00:17:37,270
how to work with the weaving machines.

299
00:17:37,270 --> 00:17:41,490
And we was working
from 6:00 in afternoon
300
00:17:41,490 --> 00:17:45,560
till 6:00 in the morning, 12 hours in a day at night.

301
00:17:45,560 --> 00:17:48,900

302
00:17:48,900 --> 00:17:54,870
Who was changing, who was working in daytime,

303
00:17:54,870 --> 00:17:55,710 he was the--

304
00:17:55,710 --> 00:17:58,890

305
00:17:58,890 --> 00:18:00,420
how can I say it?
306
00:18:00,420 --> 00:18:07,510
He was a big functionary in Nazi party, in a certain section.

307
00:18:07,510 --> 00:18:09,210
He became very good friends.

00:18:09,210 --> 00:18:13,300
I didn't get anything for my production.

309
00:18:13,300 --> 00:18:18,060
So I used to leave him always a few thousand bits.

## 310

00:18:18,060 --> 00:18:20,640
He made extra money on it.
311
00:18:20,640 --> 00:18:26,700
In long run, he made more money.
312
00:18:26,700 --> 00:18:30,570
And sure, he brought me sometimes some kind of cakes,

313
00:18:30,570 --> 00:18:33,990 some food, extra food.

## 314

00:18:33,990 --> 00:18:45,750
And in 1944, when the Germans in March 19 occupied Hungary, 315
00:18:45,750 --> 00:18:50,250
I knew that it is the end of
it, that something very big
316
00:18:50,250 --> 00:18:50,880
will happen.
317
00:18:50,880 --> 00:18:57,150

318
00:18:57,150 --> 00:19:02,370
He was very big hero that time, my Nazi friend.

319
00:19:02,370 --> 00:19:04,680
He says, no, it will be

## 320

00:19:04,680 --> 00:19:09,120
He didn't know that for us is a catastrophe.

00:19:09,120 --> 00:19:12,690
For him is something
better for a short time.
322
00:19:12,690 --> 00:19:16,060

323
00:19:16,060 --> 00:19:26,760
And so I started bringing
in false papers, which
324
00:19:26,760 --> 00:19:29,310 cost a lot of
money, false papers,

## 325

00:19:29,310 --> 00:19:35,520
complete from
grandfather till today.

## 326

00:19:35,520 --> 00:19:37,830
Just the picture
had to be put on.
327
00:19:37,830 --> 00:19:40,600
But like I said, it was too expensive.

328
00:19:40,600 --> 00:19:43,200
I couldn't afford it.
329
00:19:43,200 --> 00:19:46,760
And the day that we started with the star,

00:19:56,340 --> 00:19:59,010
didn't feel it in
that forced labor,
332
00:19:59,010 --> 00:20:01,140
because that was a
very important part
333
00:20:01,140 --> 00:20:06,450
of the manufacturing of the uniforms.

334
00:20:06,450 --> 00:20:11,970
So we didn't have bad life comparing to the other ones.

## 335

00:20:11,970 --> 00:20:15,600
They stopped giving out the permits to go home,

336
00:20:15,600 --> 00:20:19,890
to go out, only in certain occasions.

337
00:20:19,890 --> 00:20:22,950
Many times it happened that the people didn't come back,

338
00:20:22,950 --> 00:20:27,540
because the Germans or the
Hungarian Nazis caught them.
339
00:20:27,540 --> 00:20:31,830
My mother before was taken to the ghetto, 340
00:20:31,830 --> 00:20:36,090
she sent me the last package.

00:20:36,090 --> 00:20:38,100
No food already in it.

00:20:40,560 --> 00:20:42,930 And I don't remember what else was in it.

00:20:42,930 --> 00:20:46,140
But they the shirts
became very important.

## 345

00:20:46,140 --> 00:20:49,140
They probably was sometimes white.

346
00:20:49,140 --> 00:20:51,780
And she had kind of green dye.

00:20:51,780 --> 00:20:55,590
She dyed it for green, which was the official color

348
00:20:55,590 --> 00:20:58,260
of the Hungarian Nazis.
349
00:20:58,260 --> 00:21:04,980
When I got the two shirts, my friend saw in the company 350
00:21:04,980 --> 00:21:06,930 that I have a green shirt.

351
00:21:06,930 --> 00:21:11,700
He says, he will wear it, and we will sneak out with that shirt.

352
00:21:11,700 --> 00:21:18,030
That was the first thing when I was thinking to became a Nazi.

00:21:18,030 --> 00:21:21,960
How I just day by

## 354

00:21:21,960 --> 00:21:26,130 was just concentrating on that part.

355
00:21:26,130 --> 00:21:28,980
My friends was using, like I said, my shirt.

356
00:21:28,980 --> 00:21:34,230
And also, I found a
taxi cab driver's cap.
357
00:21:34,230 --> 00:21:39,450
They had certain uniform caps, not like our drivers over here.

358
00:21:39,450 --> 00:21:44,100
It was dark blue cap.

## 359

00:21:44,100 --> 00:21:48,180
And I picked that up, because
I didn't have another one.
360
00:21:48,180 --> 00:21:50,520 And my friends, like I said, they

361
00:21:50,520 --> 00:21:53,160
asked the shirt from
me and that cap,
362
00:21:53,160 --> 00:21:54,660
and that one day
just sneaked out.
363
00:21:54,660 --> 00:21:58,190
And they had more security, because the real Nazi

## 364

00:21:58,190 --> 00:22:02,830
thought that he's a Nazi
too, so he didn't stop him.

00:22:02,830 --> 00:22:06,270
And like I said, they
were selling the papers.

## 366

00:22:06,270 --> 00:22:09,750
And I was thinking what to do, what I have to do.

00:22:09,750 --> 00:22:12,510 I had with me my birth certificate, which

00:22:12,510 --> 00:22:19,200
was written with ink, given out by a notary public,

369
00:22:19,200 --> 00:22:24,870 we call them over there, and two other papers, 370
00:22:24,870 --> 00:22:30,510
which was not as important as the birth certificate.

## 371

00:22:30,510 --> 00:22:33,210
In the birth certificate,
it was written
372
00:22:33,210 --> 00:22:38,700 that father Ignaz Israelite, Malvina, brewer, Israelite

00:22:38,700 --> 00:22:41,730 Ernie, Ernest Israelite.

374
00:22:41,730 --> 00:22:47,820
I saw just in four places,
I have the name Israelite.
375
00:22:47,820 --> 00:22:52,110
If I can do something,

## 376

00:22:52,110 --> 00:22:55,260
it would be a pretty good step.
377
00:22:55,260 --> 00:22:56,700
I was thinking how to do it.
378
00:22:56,700 --> 00:22:59,950
And we had over there, a friend of ours,

## 379

00:22:59,950 --> 00:23:09,150
he was a textile engineer
and also chemical engineer,
380
00:23:09,150 --> 00:23:11,440
something he had
to do with that.
381
00:23:11,440 --> 00:23:15,190
And I was telling
him, I said, listen,
382
00:23:15,190 --> 00:23:17,470
what shall be done
with these four places.
383
00:23:17,470 --> 00:23:20,430
I would like to take it out and put over there something else.

## 384

00:23:20,430 --> 00:23:22,370
He said, don't worry about it.
385
00:23:22,370 --> 00:23:24,120
Just give me the paper, and in the morning

386
00:23:24,120 --> 00:23:25,140
I will give you back.

00:23:28,170 --> 00:23:29,820
And he says, what
I shall do with it?
389
00:23:29,820 --> 00:23:34,200
I say, if you can, put
the Roman Catholic.
390
00:23:34,200 --> 00:23:38,190
He took out the Israelite in the four places

## 391

00:23:38,190 --> 00:23:40,440
and put in-- in
the morning, I got
392
00:23:40,440 --> 00:23:47,220 a beautiful first paper partly with everything

393
00:23:47,220 --> 00:23:48,960 was Roman Catholic.

394
00:23:48,960 --> 00:23:52,590
My mother became Catholic, my father and all of us

395
00:23:52,590 --> 00:23:55,110 and me too.

396
00:23:55,110 --> 00:23:59,100
So I went back to in the factory.

397
00:23:59,100 --> 00:24:03,480
But in between, the Russian army was closing on Budapest, 398
00:24:03,480 --> 00:24:05,100
closer and closer.

00:24:05,100 --> 00:24:08,740
We could see here the artillery.
400
00:24:08,740 --> 00:24:10,890
The American air force, the English air force,

401
00:24:10,890 --> 00:24:16,290
the Russian air force, they
was bombing every hour almost.
402
00:24:16,290 --> 00:24:20,060
The American went, came the English air force.

## 403

00:24:20,060 --> 00:24:22,850
The English went, the Russians came.

404
00:24:22,850 --> 00:24:25,640
That went day and night.
405
00:24:25,640 --> 00:24:31,445
The life was also for civilians very hard,

## 406

00:24:31,445 --> 00:24:35,990
a lot of bombed down housing.
407
00:24:35,990 --> 00:24:40,580
And scarce-- the food was every day less and less.

408
00:24:40,580 --> 00:24:43,250
More and more restrictions--
409
00:24:43,250 --> 00:24:47,600
more was for sure and less for Christians.

But anyway, it was no food already.

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4 1 1
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00:24:50,240 --> 00:24:52,810
412
00:24:52,810 --> 00:24:54,620
I went to this friend--
413
00:24:54,620 --> 00:24:57,080
not friend-- who was
working in daytime.
414
00:24:57,080 --> 00:25:01,370
And I told him, listen,
you can see already
415
00:25:01,370 --> 00:25:03,950
the artillery lights at night.
416
00:25:03,950 --> 00:25:05,360
You can hear the artillery.
417
00:25:05,360 --> 00:25:09,230
They are coming
closer and closer.
418
00:25:09,230 --> 00:25:10,970
You know we are in trouble.
419
00:25:10,970 --> 00:25:12,510
Help me.
420
00:25:12,510 --> 00:25:14,510
He says, how can I help you?
421
00:25:14,510 --> 00:25:17,330
I say, I will tell
you how to help me.
if you want to help me,

00:25:21,380 --> 00:25:24,050
I will help you if
the Russians come in.
424
00:25:24,050 --> 00:25:25,280 I will you help you.

425
00:25:25,280 --> 00:25:29,780 I can speak their language, because I speak Czechoslovak. 426
00:25:29,780 --> 00:25:30,840
I will help you.
427
00:25:30,840 --> 00:25:32,520
And I will talk to them.
428
00:25:32,520 --> 00:25:36,910
And I will tell them that you save me, if you save me.

429
00:25:36,910 --> 00:25:40,000
So it went day by
day, when one day I
430
00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:44,290
felt the fruit is ripe
enough to tell him

## 431

00:25:44,290 --> 00:25:47,845
that I have Christian papers.
432
00:25:47,845 --> 00:25:50,540

433
00:25:50,540 --> 00:25:53,360
I showed him my
birth certificate.

```
And I had the two other
papers when I just took out
435
00:25:57,680 --> 00:26:02,930
and it was with machine written.
```

436
00:26:02,930 --> 00:26:06,320
And over there, we put also
that I'm Roman Catholic.
437
00:26:06,320 --> 00:26:08,270
And I showed him my
birth certificate.
438
00:26:08,270 --> 00:26:10,760
He says, how you
became a Catholic?
439
00:26:10,760 --> 00:26:15,770
I said, listen, don't ask, just
if you are ready to help me.
440
00:26:15,770 --> 00:26:17,180
So it went day by day.
441
00:26:17,180 --> 00:26:21,890
And we agreed that he
will tell in the party
442
00:26:21,890 --> 00:26:24,050
that I ran away from
the town I lived
443
00:26:24,050 --> 00:26:28,670
in [? Rimsobota, ?]
Rimavska in Slovak.
444
00:26:28,670 --> 00:26:36,290
And I am like a
refugee, a Nazi refugee,
445
00:26:36,290 --> 00:26:40,160
and I want to fight on.

00:26:41,870 --> 00:26:45,410
And one of the days, he brought me the paper

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448
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00:26:45,410 --> 00:26:49,910 to fill up to the Nazi party.

00:26:49,910 --> 00:26:54,480
And he was guaranteeing the truth of it.

450
00:26:54,480 --> 00:26:56,930
And one of his
friends signed for me.
451
00:26:56,930 --> 00:27:02,870
So this way I became a member of the Nazi party.

452
00:27:02,870 --> 00:27:07,460
And after that, at night--
453
00:27:07,460 --> 00:27:09,290
I was working in daytime--
454
00:27:09,290 --> 00:27:11,330
many times I sneaked out.
455
00:27:11,330 --> 00:27:17,420
I had to go-- in the factory,
we had where they made steam,
456
00:27:17,420 --> 00:27:18,680
a steam house.
457
00:27:18,680 --> 00:27:22,910
And over there was a hole here.

00:27:25,970 --> 00:27:30,420 from the walls.

460
00:27:30,420 --> 00:27:32,060
It was not too high.

## 461

00:27:32,060 --> 00:27:34,730
And the same way I used to come back at night

462
00:27:34,730 --> 00:27:37,610
that I will be in the factory.
463
00:27:37,610 --> 00:27:42,450
For a short time, for a certain time, I lived two way of life.

464
00:27:42,450 --> 00:27:47,090
I was hiding my uniform, which was a shirt, a green shirt,

## 465

00:27:47,090 --> 00:27:52,160
with a tie emblem in
it and an armband.
466
00:27:52,160 --> 00:27:56,010
And I had that time just
a small 9 millimeter
467
00:27:56,010 --> 00:27:59,230
revolver and two hand grenades.
468
00:27:59,230 --> 00:28:02,930
This I used to hide in a small box under the hole.

00:28:02,930 --> 00:28:06,140
And I put down and at
night I used to take--

## 470

00:28:06,140 --> 00:28:11,000
I mean in daytime, I used to take out and go out.

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:20,270
One night, I went to the meeting in the Nazi party.

472
00:28:20,270 --> 00:28:25,820
Somehow they had information that one of the synagogues

473
00:28:25,820 --> 00:28:27,500 hiding five Slovak Jews.

## 474

00:28:27,500 --> 00:28:30,380
In Slovakia it was worse than it was in Hungary.

00:28:30,380 --> 00:28:32,810
It's a lot of
Slovak Jews, which I
476
00:28:32,810 --> 00:28:36,640
had to know the geography of these two countries.

477
00:28:36,640 --> 00:28:38,840
They were pretty close.
478
00:28:38,840 --> 00:28:42,110
So they came to
hide in Budapest.
479
00:28:42,110 --> 00:28:43,670
And they didn't have no papers.
480
00:28:43,670 --> 00:28:46,970
They didn't know the language, the Hungarian language.

00:28:49,070 --> 00:28:50,810 It was forbidden.

00:28:50,810 --> 00:28:54,830
It was an old couple, who caretakers.

## 484

00:28:54,830 --> 00:28:58,110
And these five kids was hiding there.

485
00:28:58,110 --> 00:29:00,630
And the Nazis from
there I don't they.
486
00:29:00,630 --> 00:29:05,930
They knew about it that they are five Slovak Jews there.

487
00:29:05,930 --> 00:29:10,340
I remember it was a rainy day.
488
00:29:10,340 --> 00:29:14,840
I think it was in November 1944.
489
00:29:14,840 --> 00:29:18,230
They gave our order
to take out and just
490
00:29:18,230 --> 00:29:20,690
shoot them in the Danube.

491
00:29:20,690 --> 00:29:23,030
That was their
style in those days.
492
00:29:23,030 --> 00:29:25,250
No trials, nothing.

00:29:27,590 --> 00:29:30,710

## 495

00:29:30,710 --> 00:29:35,270 Usually, I never wanted to be in the middle of the place,

## 496

00:29:35,270 --> 00:29:37,430 in the room.

497
00:29:37,430 --> 00:29:40,100
I always was
standing by the door.
498
00:29:40,100 --> 00:29:43,010
If it's air raid or
anything goes wrong,
499
00:29:43,010 --> 00:29:46,070
I have time to get out.
500
00:29:46,070 --> 00:29:49,670
Budapest was dark
because of air raids.
501
00:29:49,670 --> 00:29:53,630
It was no light nowhere.
502
00:29:53,630 --> 00:29:56,600
So when I knew they had to be executed, first, even

503
00:29:56,600 --> 00:29:58,670
they told me, how about you go?
504
00:29:58,670 --> 00:30:01,250
I said, I cannot go because
I have to go to work yet.

00:30:05,550 --> 00:30:09,560
So I sneaked out through
the door before everything.
508
00:30:09,560 --> 00:30:14,360
And I was running like
hell to the synagogue.
509
00:30:14,360 --> 00:30:17,660 I came there.

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510
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00:30:17,660 --> 00:30:21,050
I was hitting the
doors, because--

## 511

00:30:21,050 --> 00:30:23,000
I don't remember if it was--
512
00:30:23,000 --> 00:30:25,310
many places they didn't
have no electricity.
513
00:30:25,310 --> 00:30:28,130
It was bombed and no electricity.

514
00:30:28,130 --> 00:30:29,270 I was hitting the door.

## 515

00:30:29,270 --> 00:30:31,460
So the old man came out.
516
00:30:31,460 --> 00:30:35,480
And I told him, I came
from the Nazi party,

00:30:37,115 --> 00:30:39,110 Jews you are hiding over here.

## 519

00:30:39,110 --> 00:30:41,750
In beginning, he
says, no, I have
520
00:30:41,750 --> 00:30:45,740 no Slovak Jews around here.

## 521

00:30:45,740 --> 00:30:50,960 His wife came out, and they was just pouring on

522
00:30:50,960 --> 00:30:52,590 that they have nobody.

## 523

00:30:52,590 --> 00:30:55,160
And I know that if I
don't take them out,
524
00:30:55,160 --> 00:30:56,880 the real one will come.

525
00:30:56,880 --> 00:31:00,660
So I took out my gun, and I told him, listen,

00:31:00,660 --> 00:31:03,950
I will shoot you over here, all you or the Slovaks.

## 527

00:31:03,950 --> 00:31:05,360
You have a choice.
528
00:31:05,360 --> 00:31:08,720
Both of you die or you
give me the Slovak Jews.

## 529

00:31:08,720 --> 00:31:14,570 So the old lady started to cry, and they gave me the five kids.

00:31:14,570 --> 00:31:19,790
If I remember, it was
three girls and two boys.
531
00:31:19,790 --> 00:31:22,490
Sure, I was hollering
at them, you're
532
00:31:22,490 --> 00:31:26,120 eating our Hungarian
bread, you dirty Jews.
533
00:31:26,120 --> 00:31:28,400
I took them out.
534
00:31:28,400 --> 00:31:32,450
And it was in-- you have to know Buda and Pest.

535
00:31:32,450 --> 00:31:33,950
They are two cities like.
536
00:31:33,950 --> 00:31:37,010 The Danube is dividing it.

```
5 3 7
```

00:31:37,010 --> 00:31:39,260
In the darkness,
I started to walk.
538
00:31:39,260 --> 00:31:41,630
It was drizzling,
like I remember
539
00:31:41,630 --> 00:31:44,570 it was very pitch dark.

00:31:44,570 --> 00:31:48,800
I came to a bridge,
which was already mined.
541
00:31:48,800 --> 00:31:51,770
I had to cross the
bridge with them.

## 542

00:31:51,770 --> 00:31:54,200
And before the bridge,
I knew I had the feeling
543
00:31:54,200 --> 00:31:58,290
that it will be kind of guard.
544
00:31:58,290 --> 00:32:01,670
So one Hungarian military
policeman or one German
545
00:32:01,670 --> 00:32:03,530 came over there to me.

## 546

00:32:03,530 --> 00:32:04,580
And he says--
547
00:32:04,580 --> 00:32:05,870
I was hollering already.
548
00:32:05,870 --> 00:32:09,380
Before that I hear, whom you have over here.

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549
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00:32:09,380 --> 00:32:12,470
I said, I have five Slovak Jews.
550
00:32:12,470 --> 00:32:15,350
I have to take
them to the Central
551
00:32:15,350 --> 00:32:17,580 Committee of the Nazi house.

00:32:25,170 --> 00:32:26,600 I don't remember what it was.

555
00:32:26,600 --> 00:32:28,590 I was playing--

556
00:32:28,590 --> 00:32:29,910
Bluffing--
557
00:32:29,910 --> 00:32:30,800
Russian roulette.
558
00:32:30,800 --> 00:32:32,820
Yeah.
559
00:32:32,820 --> 00:32:33,900
I showed them the paper.

## 560

00:32:33,900 --> 00:32:35,370
OK, OK, just go with them.
561
00:32:35,370 --> 00:32:38,250
It was, like I said, drizzling then.

562
00:32:38,250 --> 00:32:42,270
Just go and do with them whatever you want.

563
00:32:42,270 --> 00:32:47,760
One of the nicest
minute of my life, when

00:32:47,760 --> 00:32:52,560
we was on the middle of the

00:32:52,560 --> 00:32:54,840
was just hollering
at them all kind
566
00:32:54,840 --> 00:32:58,590
of dirty words, which I
wouldn't like to repeat.
567
00:32:58,590 --> 00:33:02,250 But I had to hide.

568
00:33:02,250 --> 00:33:03,930
$I$ heard shooting.
569
00:33:03,930 --> 00:33:06,060 I didn't know then what is it.

570
00:33:06,060 --> 00:33:08,700
I saw the fire--
571
00:33:08,700 --> 00:33:14,880
I mean, bullet, gunfire is.
572
00:33:14,880 --> 00:33:16,260
Just I wanted to
know what is it.
573
00:33:16,260 --> 00:33:19,980
But anyway, we cross the river.
574
00:33:19,980 --> 00:33:22,080
In the darkness, I
try to bring them over
575
00:33:22,080 --> 00:33:26,280
to the Jewish committee, which was still somehow working.

## 576

00:33:26,280 --> 00:33:32,070
I thought is in that house.

00:33:35,850 --> 00:33:41,070
But in the darkness, I told them in Slovak that I am also a Jew,

00:33:41,070 --> 00:33:43,050 and go the way you can.

## 580

00:33:43,050 --> 00:33:45,200 I didn't have those Wallenberg.

00:33:45,200 --> 00:33:48,030
Wallenberg came after that.
582
00:33:48,030 --> 00:33:50,370
I just told them, go the way you want.

583
00:33:50,370 --> 00:33:54,450
I was happy that I took
them out from there.
584
00:33:54,450 --> 00:33:58,470
I was curious what's
going on by the Danube.
585
00:33:58,470 --> 00:34:01,050 I had to be almost in the work.

586
00:34:01,050 --> 00:34:03,000
It was winter, dark.
587
00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:08,670
I came to Danube when
I was coming back.
588
00:34:08,670 --> 00:34:14,520
And I came to the place
where the young kids--

## 589

00:34:14,520 --> 00:34:18,488
believe me, I don't think they
were older than 16,17 years
590
00:34:18,488 --> 00:34:21,060 old or younger.

591
00:34:21,060 --> 00:34:28,409
They was tying-- they were
tying together three people
592
00:34:28,409 --> 00:34:31,110 and shooting one in the head.

593
00:34:31,110 --> 00:34:35,010
And this one was
falling in the water,
594
00:34:35,010 --> 00:34:38,159
take the other one with them to save bullets.

595
00:34:38,159 --> 00:34:40,900
Until one of them said,
if you want to have fun,
596
00:34:40,900 --> 00:34:43,449
you can stay over here with us.
597
00:34:43,449 --> 00:34:45,659
I didn't know what to do.
598
00:34:45,659 --> 00:34:48,000
Shall I start to kill?
599
00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:53,760
But I knew if I'm going to kill him, I would kill about three.

00:34:56,130 --> 00:35:00,990
I have no result. So I
decided not to do nothing.
602
00:35:00,990 --> 00:35:04,380
Blame my own father.
603
00:35:04,380 --> 00:35:06,300 I came back.

604
00:35:06,300 --> 00:35:14,240
And in October 15,
if I remember good,
605
00:35:14,240 --> 00:35:18,700
SzÃ $j$ lasi took over the country.
606
00:35:18,700 --> 00:35:19,620
And I run away.
607
00:35:19,620 --> 00:35:22,030
I couldn't take longer.
608
00:35:22,030 --> 00:35:23,590
And I went out on the street.
609
00:35:23,590 --> 00:35:26,920 I ran away from forced labor.

610
00:35:26,920 --> 00:35:32,380
One day I was walking on the street, when also the bomb

611
00:35:32,380 --> 00:35:35,110 destroyed the streetlight.

612
00:35:35,110 --> 00:35:38,320
And just two military policemen, a German and Hungarian,

00:35:38,320 --> 00:35:46,060 was directing the traffic.

614
00:35:46,060 --> 00:35:50,938
At that time, I had
already my machine gun too.

00:35:50,938 --> 00:35:53,590
And what I see you on the other side of the street,

## 616

00:35:53,590 --> 00:35:56,770
I saw my commander.
617
00:35:56,770 --> 00:36:00,070
I thought that that's the end.
618
00:36:00,070 --> 00:36:04,600
I was prepared that
he will do something.
619
00:36:04,600 --> 00:36:06,370
But I didn't want to give up.
620
00:36:06,370 --> 00:36:11,440
I was prepared to throw the two hand grenades between people.

621
00:36:11,440 --> 00:36:16,510
And I had the machine gun with 48 bullets

622
00:36:16,510 --> 00:36:20,080 and to shoot the nearest one.

## 623

00:36:20,080 --> 00:36:22,390
And I had my handgun
in my pocket.

00:36:22,390 --> 00:36:24,350
Had he seen you too?

He saw me.
626
00:36:25,630 --> 00:36:30,040
But he saw that I had my hands on the hand grenades.

## 627

00:36:30,040 --> 00:36:33,640
The German hand grenade is different than ours.

## 628

00:36:33,640 --> 00:36:35,200 It had a handle.

629
00:36:35,200 --> 00:36:37,930
And on the end was a ring.
630
00:36:37,930 --> 00:36:42,070
You had to pull out
the ring and throw it.

## 631

00:36:42,070 --> 00:36:46,780
So I was prepared to pull out the ring if it's anything--

632
00:36:46,780 --> 00:36:48,940
I was waiting, and
he was walking.
633
00:36:48,940 --> 00:36:49,990
I was walking.
634
00:36:49,990 --> 00:36:52,990
It was a very tense minutes.
635
00:36:52,990 --> 00:36:55,090
So he was saluting me.
636
00:36:55,090 --> 00:36:57,610
And I was saluting him.

00:36:59,810 --> 00:37:02,800
He knew that what going to be.

## 639

00:37:02,800 --> 00:37:07,630
He saw what I want to do.
640
00:37:07,630 --> 00:37:13,270
He saw my will, what I going to do with.

641
00:37:13,270 --> 00:37:15,310
And so we crossed.
642
00:37:15,310 --> 00:37:16,990
And he went his way.
643
00:37:16,990 --> 00:37:18,340
I went my way.
644
00:37:18,340 --> 00:37:20,060
But I was scared.
645
00:37:20,060 --> 00:37:21,150
I was scared to death.
646
00:37:21,150 --> 00:37:23,770

00:37:23,770 --> 00:37:29,290
After that one day,
I was on the streets.

00:37:29,290 --> 00:37:37,390
My life was on the street and in beginning in the ruined houses,

650
00:37:41,350 --> 00:37:43,270
until I found a friend of mine.
651
00:37:43,270 --> 00:37:54,670
And he was in the houses what was under the Swedish embassy--

652
00:37:54,670 --> 00:37:59,540
not control, but you know
about Wallenberg did--
653
00:37:59,540 --> 00:38:01,360
under protection.
654
00:38:01,360 --> 00:38:04,020
It had a Swedish flag.
655
00:38:04,020 --> 00:38:10,390
It was a Red Cross flag, some Vatican flags and Portugal,

656
00:38:10,390 --> 00:38:12,640
not too many.
657
00:38:12,640 --> 00:38:13,480
Neutral flags.
658
00:38:13,480 --> 00:38:14,950
Yes.

659
00:38:14,950 --> 00:38:16,720
That was already
Wallenberg's work.
660
00:38:16,720 --> 00:38:23,350
And I met on the street a friend
of mine from [NON-ENGLISH]..
661
00:38:23,350 --> 00:38:26,350
And he saw me in the Nazi uniform, and he was also.

00:38:48,880 --> 00:38:52,570

00:38:52,570 --> 00:38:55,300
And we know how to behave.
672
00:38:55,300 --> 00:38:59,740
One day, we got--
673
00:38:59,740 --> 00:39:05,110
I think, I don't know if that is the picture in that paper,

00:39:05,110 --> 00:39:08,350 in that magazine--

675
00:39:08,350 --> 00:39:12,530
we got order from
Wallenberg to go
676
00:39:12,530 --> 00:39:18,320
in front of the houses which are under the Swedish protection.

## 677

00:39:18,320 --> 00:39:19,480
They were in Nazi uniform.
678
00:39:19,480 --> 00:39:22, 180
We were in Nazi uniform.
679
00:39:22,180 --> 00:39:27,730
Went over there and said, if the real Nazis would come

## 680

00:39:27,730 --> 00:39:30,490
or they are there,
you just go there
681
00:39:30,490 --> 00:39:33,210
and tell them that you
have an order, that you
682
00:39:33,210 --> 00:39:36,440
are taking over this house.
683
00:39:36,440 --> 00:39:39,880
Usually, the event
when we knew that they
684
00:39:39,880 --> 00:39:45,420
want to deport the people from
those houses or do something.

00:39:45,420 --> 00:39:50,490
We came to the house
and like it was told us.

## 686

00:39:50,490 --> 00:39:52,080
We came and we
told them, listen,
687
00:39:52,080 --> 00:39:55,780
you go to somewhere else.
688
00:39:55,780 --> 00:39:57,300
We will take care
about these Jews.

689
00:39:57,300 --> 00:39:59,280
We will finish them up at night.
690
00:39:59,280 --> 00:40:01,680
Just you go out.
691
00:40:01,680 --> 00:40:06,180
Sure, whatever was that night, those houses disappeared

692
00:40:06,180 --> 00:40:09,420
people, went the way they could.
693
00:40:09,420 --> 00:40:16,750
We gave them-- already we had the so-called Schutzpasses,

694
00:40:16,750 --> 00:40:17,870
these papers.
695
00:40:17,870 --> 00:40:20,830
But after that, we didn't
have no photographs, pictures.
696
00:40:20,830 --> 00:40:23,830
We had without pictures too.

## 697

00:40:23,830 --> 00:40:28,960
We got a lot of papers also

# from the Swiss consular, 

698
00:40:28,960 --> 00:40:32,380
the Swiss embassy,
and the Red Cross,
699
00:40:32,380 --> 00:40:36,160
which we used to go
to that place too.
700
00:40:36,160 --> 00:40:38,680

701
00:40:38,680 --> 00:40:43,360
Once, in those days, we got--
702
00:40:43,360 --> 00:40:45,340
I don't know from where.
703
00:40:45,340 --> 00:40:47,560
Till today I have
no answer for it--
704
00:40:47,560 --> 00:40:52,130
two trucks, which
was very hard to get.
705
00:40:52,130 --> 00:41:02,650
Wallenberg told us to go to our block, cinder block factory.

## 706

00:41:02,650 --> 00:41:06,640
That was the concentration
for the Jewish people, mostly
707
00:41:06,640 --> 00:41:10,150
girls, old people, and children.
708
00:41:10,150 --> 00:41:11,410
They have to walk.

There was no transportation for them.

00:41:13,690 --> 00:41:16,310 They called it the death march.

## 711

00:41:16,310 --> 00:41:23,500
It was the concentration in that factory, the block factory.

712
00:41:23,500 --> 00:41:28,690
From there, they were going toward Vienna.

713
00:41:28,690 --> 00:41:34,690
So we got two trucks
to pick up people.
714
00:41:34,690 --> 00:41:40,300
We got a bunch of papers, these Schutzpasses,

## 715

00:41:40,300 --> 00:41:46,510 to come there and pick up as many people in those trucks as

## 716

00:41:46,510 --> 00:41:49,870
possible and bring them out.
717
00:41:49,870 --> 00:41:53,500
And on the way to give them the papers,

718
00:41:53,500 --> 00:41:59,380
bring them to what was our ruined quarter of Budapest,

719
00:41:59,380 --> 00:42:02,410
let them to go
which way they can.

## 720

00:42:02,410 --> 00:42:06,310
We came to the factory
with these two trucks.

## 721

00:42:06,310 --> 00:42:10,150 And when they saw the people that we are coming with trucks,

## 722

00:42:10,150 --> 00:42:13,120
they thought that we're
going to execute them.
723
00:42:13,120 --> 00:42:14,810
They didn't see us who we are.
724
00:42:14,810 --> 00:42:15,790
They didn't know.

## 725

00:42:15,790 --> 00:42:21,490
They just saw four Nazis.
726
00:42:21,490 --> 00:42:25,090
And the Nazis, who were
there, we told them, listen,
727
00:42:25,090 --> 00:42:26,830 look over here is the paper.

728
00:42:26,830 --> 00:42:29,740
We need people to
clean up the streets

## 729

00:42:29,740 --> 00:42:32,620 that the traffic can go.

730
00:42:32,620 --> 00:42:36,070
And it was a false paper.
731
00:42:36,070 --> 00:42:39,430
And he says, just take as many as you want, pack them up,

## 732

00:42:39,430 --> 00:42:40,790
but don't bring them back.

00:42:40,790 --> 00:42:43,630
Kill them wherever you can.
734
00:42:43,630 --> 00:42:46,130
But don't bring them back.
735
00:42:46,130 --> 00:42:49,810
So we started to the open
the side of the truck

## 736

00:42:49,810 --> 00:42:51,980 and we tried to put them in.

737
00:42:51,980 --> 00:42:54,740
But they was jumping out from the truck.

738
00:42:54,740 --> 00:42:56,650 They didn't want to go.

739
00:42:56,650 --> 00:42:58,810
All of a sudden everybody
was screaming, don't go,
740
00:42:58,810 --> 00:43:00,190
because they will kill you.
741
00:43:00,190 --> 00:43:01,400
They take you to the Danube.
742
00:43:01,400 --> 00:43:06,340
They know about it that they are killing, what's going on.

743
00:43:06,340 --> 00:43:10,420
And I told these guys over
there, the real Nazis, I said,

## 744

00:43:10,420 --> 00:43:14,380
come on and help us, because we cannot take them.

00:43:14,380 --> 00:43:18,550
So they came and surrounded the trucks and we pushed them in.

## 746

00:43:18,550 --> 00:43:21,310
I sat on the top of the cab with the machine gun,

00:43:21,310 --> 00:43:26,800
and I was hollering at them, Jews this and that, let's go.

## 748

00:43:26,800 --> 00:43:27,860
So we took them out.
749
00:43:27,860 --> 00:43:32,710
When we went out from the factory, one of our friends--

750
00:43:32,710 --> 00:43:34,300
because we had two
guys on one truck
751
00:43:34,300 --> 00:43:37,090
and two guys on the other one--

## 752

00:43:37,090 --> 00:43:40,060
he started to give
everybody the Schutzpasses.
753
00:43:40,060 --> 00:43:41,980
And we told them, we are Jews.
754
00:43:41,980 --> 00:43:42,700
Don't be afraid.
755
00:43:42,700 --> 00:43:45,560
But be careful.
756
00:43:45,560 --> 00:43:49,210
You don't know

So we took them to these ruined places and let them to go.

## 758

00:43:55,180 --> 00:43:56,320
Till today, I don't know.
759
00:43:56,320 --> 00:43:58,630
Some of them survived.
760
00:43:58,630 --> 00:44:01,348
Some of them not, I found, survived.

## 761

00:44:01,348 --> 00:44:02,890
What do you think
would have happened
762
00:44:02,890 --> 00:44:06,760
if perhaps one real Nazi had gotten on the truck with you

763
00:44:06,760 --> 00:44:09,010 and gone along?

764
00:44:09,010 --> 00:44:12,520
We was prepared for every dirty work.

765
00:44:12,520 --> 00:44:14,890
You couldn't talk.
766
00:44:14,890 --> 00:44:17,140
The word didn't have no value.
767
00:44:17,140 --> 00:44:20,410
Only strength had the value.

00:44:20,410 --> 00:44:21,460
You had the weapons.

00:44:21,460 --> 00:44:24,760
We had the weapons, the same like they had.

770
00:44:24,760 --> 00:44:26,560
We had the same strength.
771
00:44:26,560 --> 00:44:29,470
Except you had to have
the guts and the dirty--
772
00:44:29,470 --> 00:44:35,260
not the mind, but you
had to put on your scale,

## 773

00:44:35,260 --> 00:44:38,110
if you don't do it,
they will finish you.
774
00:44:38,110 --> 00:44:40,990

775
00:44:40,990 --> 00:44:43,460
So it didn't happen.
776
00:44:43,460 --> 00:44:44,660
So that was our luck.
777
00:44:44,660 --> 00:44:48,628
We didn't come to this point.
778
00:44:48,628 --> 00:44:52,670
One of the stories
also in those days,
779
00:44:52,670 --> 00:44:59,350
I was walking one of the main streets in Budapest.

```
781
00:45:02,550 --> 00:45:06,660
```

Those days, they
made a big mass grave
782
00:45:06,660 --> 00:45:10,290
of Jews, one of these squares.
783
00:45:10,290 --> 00:45:13,920
They call it [NON-ENGLISH].
784
00:45:13,920 --> 00:45:22,900
And I went over there that
maybe we can do something there.
785
00:45:22,900 --> 00:45:27,400
On the way we went,
and all of a sudden I
786
00:45:27,400 --> 00:45:33,040
saw three guys in leather
coats, elegantly dressed up
787
00:45:33,040 --> 00:45:36,160
in Nazi uniform, you know,
real Nazi uniform not like we
788
00:45:36,160 --> 00:45:39,220
were, coming toward us.
789
00:45:39,220 --> 00:45:42,290

And one is smiling from far away on me.

790
00:45:42,290 --> 00:45:44,050
And at first, I had
a very bad feeling,
791
00:45:44,050 --> 00:45:47,900
like, God, something over here will happen.

And he is smiling more and more.
793
00:45:51,910 --> 00:45:53,080
Well, we came close.

## 794

00:45:53,080 --> 00:45:57,820
All of a sudden, he came to me and he embraced me and says,

795
00:45:57,820 --> 00:46:01,320
Ernie, you don't remember me?
796
00:46:01,320 --> 00:46:04,630
Oh , after all of a sudden, it went through my mind.

797
00:46:04,630 --> 00:46:09,520
It was my friend Popeye from the early, early days who

798
00:46:09,520 --> 00:46:11,035
wanted to push me in the party.
799
00:46:11,035 --> 00:46:13,540

800
00:46:13,540 --> 00:46:19,090
And, you see, I told you
that you have to be with us.

## 801

00:46:19,090 --> 00:46:21,190
I told him, you see,
sooner or later I
802
00:46:21,190 --> 00:46:23,440
became you like you are.
803
00:46:23,440 --> 00:46:25,480
All right, you know I am--
804
00:46:25,480 --> 00:46:26,630
it was the center.

805
00:46:26,630 --> 00:46:29,500
I don't know how they call it.
806
00:46:29,500 --> 00:46:30,910
They call it AndrÃ $\tilde{i}_{i s s y ~ U t . ~}^{\text {In }}$
807
00:46:30,910 --> 00:46:33,850
I don't remember
the number already
808
00:46:33,850 --> 00:46:37,240
where the big Nazis were.
809
00:46:37,240 --> 00:46:38,110
Come on in.
810
00:46:38,110 --> 00:46:38,680
Don't worry.

## 811

00:46:38,680 --> 00:46:39,590
Just ask for me.
812
00:46:39,590 --> 00:46:41,680
They will invite you to come in.
813
00:46:41,680 --> 00:46:43,180
I was scared to go.

## 814

00:46:43,180 --> 00:46:44,800
But twice I had to go.
815
00:46:44,800 --> 00:46:48,850
And we got very good
information through him.
816
00:46:48,850 --> 00:46:51,880
I figured out what house will be deported.

Did you go alone or did the others go with you?

## 818

00:46:53,890 --> 00:46:54,970 I went by myself.

## 819

00:46:54,970 --> 00:46:57,530
Friends of mine were waiting outside.

## 820

00:46:57,530 --> 00:46:59,320
We were never been by--

## 821

00:46:59,320 --> 00:47:02,590
usually we were
always in groups,
822
00:47:02,590 --> 00:47:04,780
because that's the
way we figured out
823
00:47:04,780 --> 00:47:07,270
that the strength is.
824
00:47:07,270 --> 00:47:09,500
Have to be shooting.
825
00:47:09,500 --> 00:47:11,500
So we are four of us will shoot.

## 826

00:47:11,500 --> 00:47:15,820
If I am by myself, they
can take care about me.

## 827

00:47:15,820 --> 00:47:20,540
But this way, at least
we can fight back.
828
00:47:20,540 --> 00:47:26,740
And, like I said through him, I got some good information

```
831
00:47:32,680 --> 00:47:38,235
```

And what happened-- it was just
last year back in Passaic--
832
00:47:38,235 --> 00:47:42,880
833
00:47:42,880 --> 00:47:47,950
friends came together to get
our house in Saturday night.
834
00:47:47,950 --> 00:47:49,900
That's a group that
we keep together.
835
00:47:49,900 --> 00:47:54,850
Most of them are also survivors.
836
00:47:54,850 --> 00:48:02,890
And I was telling a story to
one of my wife's girlfriends
837
00:48:02,890 --> 00:48:05,320
what happened.
838
00:48:05,320 --> 00:48:08,260

Sometimes we got--
839
00:48:08,260 --> 00:48:10,270
I have to go back.
840
00:48:10,270 --> 00:48:14,380
In Budapest those days, it was many--

00:48:14,380 --> 00:48:16,960
how they call it?
842
00:48:16,960 --> 00:48:20,500
They made a circle around the streets, around the corner,

## 843

00:48:20,500 --> 00:48:24,010 and everybody had to show his papers.

## 844

00:48:24,010 --> 00:48:28,900
That was like catching a fish, catch Jews.

845
00:48:28,900 --> 00:48:33,410

## 846

00:48:33,410 --> 00:48:35,800
How they call it?
847
00:48:35,800 --> 00:48:39,310
The soldiers didn't
want to serve no more.

## 848

00:48:39,310 --> 00:48:39,910 Deserters.

849
00:48:39,910 --> 00:48:42,760
Deserters, yeah.
850
00:48:42,760 --> 00:48:48,520
So I knew that it
will be on that day.

## 851

00:48:48,520 --> 00:48:52,720
So they gave the information.
852
00:48:52,720 --> 00:48:54,880
And they told us, be around.
853
00:48:54,880 --> 00:49:00,490

If anything goes wrong, if any possibility, save people.

## 854

00:49:00,490 --> 00:49:02,350
So you were standing
on one of these corners

## 855

00:49:02,350 --> 00:49:07,000
where we was waiting the check.
856
00:49:07,000 --> 00:49:13,120
And all of a sudden, I
see a girl, a young girl.
857
00:49:13,120 --> 00:49:16,000
I used to stand always on the edge of the sidewalk.

858
00:49:16,000 --> 00:49:17,740
I went on the decide.

## 859

00:49:17,740 --> 00:49:19,380
If there's anything, I can run.
860
00:49:19,380 --> 00:49:22,900
I have more freedom
than on the sidewalk.
861
00:49:22,900 --> 00:49:24,970
It would be a massacre.
862
00:49:24,970 --> 00:49:27,310
So I was standing
on the side of the--
863
00:49:27,310 --> 00:49:28,645
Separating yourself the crowd.

## 864

00:49:28,645 --> 00:49:32,050
Yes, on the edge of the sidewalk.

And I saw a young
girl is going--
866
00:49:35,575 --> 00:49:38,980

## 867

00:49:38,980 --> 00:49:41,620
I saw that something
is wrong over there.
868
00:49:41,620 --> 00:49:43,930
She's afraid.
869
00:49:43,930 --> 00:49:46,990
And I smelled out that she's a Jewish girl.

870
00:49:46,990 --> 00:49:49,600

## 871

00:49:49,600 --> 00:49:51,140
And I said, I go after her.
872
00:49:51,140 --> 00:49:54,100
And I told my friends, I'm
going behind this girl,
873
00:49:54,100 --> 00:49:59,120
if anything happens
that I will be there.

874
00:49:59,120 --> 00:50:03,040
I told them wait
where they were.

## 875

00:50:03,040 --> 00:50:04,410
I was following her.
876
00:50:04,410 --> 00:50:08,290
She saw me that I
am going behind her.

00:50:10,240 --> 00:50:12,100 going in this on the sidewalk.

## 879

00:50:12,100 --> 00:50:14,620
She started to go faster.
880
00:50:14,620 --> 00:50:16,510 I went faster too.

## 881

00:50:16,510 --> 00:50:19,480
And I was following her.
882
00:50:19,480 --> 00:50:22,360
And on one of the streets, she turned in.

883
00:50:22,360 --> 00:50:25,880
And she went in a
Christian house,
884
00:50:25,880 --> 00:50:30,250
not marked with
the Star of David.
885
00:50:30,250 --> 00:50:31,150
I was happy.
886
00:50:31,150 --> 00:50:35,080
I say, whatever, I don't
know who she is, what she is,
887
00:50:35,080 --> 00:50:37,360
but she's safe.
888
00:50:37,360 --> 00:50:38,650
I came back.

And I was telling this
story about a year
890
00:50:41,320 --> 00:50:48,990 ago between our friends.

## 891

00:50:48,990 --> 00:50:53,420
And I will never forget
these girl was watching me.
892
00:50:53,420 --> 00:50:56,630
And she says, Ernie, do you
remember the name of the street
893
00:50:56,630 --> 00:50:58,540
where that girl turned in?
894
00:50:58,540 --> 00:51:01,580
I says, yeah, excellently
I remember it.
895
00:51:01,580 --> 00:51:06,280
And I told it was the name
of the street, Doh $\tilde{A}_{i} n y$ Utca.
896
00:51:06,280 --> 00:51:08,935
She said, Ernie,
that girl was me.
897
00:51:08,935 --> 00:51:12,740

898
00:51:12,740 --> 00:51:16,590
After so many years, and she's married

899
00:51:16,590 --> 00:51:19,320 to one of my best friends.

900
00:51:19,320 --> 00:51:21,630
And you had not seen her before or since?

```
901
00:51:21,630 --> 00:51:25,890
```

Every day we saw almost each
other, almost every week,
902
00:51:25,890 --> 00:51:28,040
every--
903
00:51:28,040 --> 00:51:29,430
very often.
904
00:51:29,430 --> 00:51:31,570
But, you know, faces changed.
905
00:51:31,570 --> 00:51:33,420
Yeah.
906
00:51:33,420 --> 00:51:36,330
She didn't see me-- probably
she wouldn't remember me.
907
00:51:36,330 --> 00:51:38,790
She just remembered that
somebody was following her.
908
00:51:38,790 --> 00:51:42,030
909
00:51:42,030 --> 00:51:44,600
She didn't know why, what.
910
00:51:44,600 --> 00:51:50,670

But she told me she was so hungry that she didn't care.

## 911

00:51:50,670 --> 00:51:52,080
She gave up everything.
912
00:51:52,080 --> 00:51:59,400
She says, she had to go out and find kind of food.

00:52:30,720 --> 00:52:34,400
And we'll continue
right after that.
926
00:52:34,400 --> 00:52:45,000

