

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:24,808

2

00:00:24,808 --> 00:00:26,350

Bokor, you mentioned  
during the break

3

00:00:26,350 --> 00:00:28,750

that you would like to  
talk about your brother.

4

00:00:28,750 --> 00:00:31,480

Yes.

5

00:00:31,480 --> 00:00:35,860

I knew that my brother,  
even he was young,

6

00:00:35,860 --> 00:00:38,500

he was called up  
for forced labor.

7

00:00:38,500 --> 00:00:41,470

But I didn't know where.

8

00:00:41,470 --> 00:00:47,560

And because the Germans  
was losing the war,

9

00:00:47,560 --> 00:00:49,570

they was in defense.

10

00:00:49,570 --> 00:00:52,930

They were crossing  
through Budapest.

11

00:00:52,930 --> 00:00:56,170

Also, the Hungarian military,  
the German military,

12

00:00:56,170 --> 00:00:59,230

it was [INAUDIBLE]  
[? chaos ?] that time.

13  
00:00:59,230 --> 00:01:02,500  
Military all over everything,  
through the Danube.

14  
00:01:02,500 --> 00:01:10,000  
And in between, lots of  
forced labors, Jewish kids.

15  
00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:12,130  
And somehow, I had feeling--

16  
00:01:12,130 --> 00:01:15,940  
I had some kind of feeling  
to find my brother.

17  
00:01:15,940 --> 00:01:20,500  
So I always went out when  
it started to be dark,

18  
00:01:20,500 --> 00:01:23,950  
and they don't see me,  
that I am in Nazi uniform.

19  
00:01:23,950 --> 00:01:28,390  
I went out and I was asking if--

20  
00:01:28,390 --> 00:01:35,500  
I remember his number of  
the company where he was.

21  
00:01:35,500 --> 00:01:38,680  
And I wanted to  
find him so I always

22  
00:01:38,680 --> 00:01:42,730  
asked these people that was  
crossing Budapest if they knew

23  
00:01:42,730 --> 00:01:47,770  
about his number of company.

24  
00:01:47,770 --> 00:01:49,030  
Many of them didn't know.

25  
00:01:49,030 --> 00:01:53,590  
But one night, a  
guy in the dark.

26  
00:01:53,590 --> 00:01:55,510  
I asked him, do you  
know this company?

27  
00:01:55,510 --> 00:01:57,760  
He says, yes, I am from this.

28  
00:01:57,760 --> 00:02:00,454  
Do you know Ladislav Bokor?

29  
00:02:00,454 --> 00:02:04,390  
Bokor Laszly-- his  
name was in Hungarian.

30  
00:02:04,390 --> 00:02:09,160  
He says, yes, he stepped  
just out by the synagogue

31  
00:02:09,160 --> 00:02:11,290  
in certain street.

32  
00:02:11,290 --> 00:02:13,250  
[PLACE NAME], they called it.

33  
00:02:13,250 --> 00:02:14,260  
And he went over there.

34  
00:02:14,260 --> 00:02:16,270  
He must be there.

35  
00:02:16,270 --> 00:02:20,290  
I thanked him and I  
disappeared in the darkness.

36

00:02:20,290 --> 00:02:25,040

I didn't want to that  
he sees me, who I am.

37

00:02:25,040 --> 00:02:27,790

So I was walking there and  
I came to the synagogue.

38

00:02:27,790 --> 00:02:34,420

I pulled up my coat that  
I took off my armband,

39

00:02:34,420 --> 00:02:36,730

and I left with my  
friends my arms.

40

00:02:36,730 --> 00:02:38,300

And I went in the synagogue.

41

00:02:38,300 --> 00:02:42,370

And I asked about my brother.

42

00:02:42,370 --> 00:02:44,140

In the darkness  
of the synagogue,

43

00:02:44,140 --> 00:02:46,000

they had some candle lights.

44

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:48,700

I remember it like today.

45

00:02:48,700 --> 00:02:53,870

I screamed, if Bokor  
Laszly is here.

46

00:02:53,870 --> 00:02:58,970

I remember his voice when he  
called, brother, I am here.

47

00:02:58,970 --> 00:03:02,060

So right away we come together.

48  
00:03:02,060 --> 00:03:07,400  
He had lots of friends from  
the forced labor company.

49  
00:03:07,400 --> 00:03:11,360  
And I told him next day I  
will take him out from there.

50  
00:03:11,360 --> 00:03:15,110  
Because I didn't like  
it, the way that it--

51  
00:03:15,110 --> 00:03:17,540  
like herrings pushed together.

52  
00:03:17,540 --> 00:03:19,640  
Thousands and thousands of kids.

53  
00:03:19,640 --> 00:03:21,770  
And I knew that  
the Nazis wouldn't

54  
00:03:21,770 --> 00:03:26,740  
let them to stay there,  
[? like ?] just that.

55  
00:03:26,740 --> 00:03:31,330  
And next day I came, at  
night, and I took him

56  
00:03:31,330 --> 00:03:34,450  
to one of these Swiss houses.

57  
00:03:34,450 --> 00:03:38,400  
I thought at the time  
that it is a better place.

58  
00:03:38,400 --> 00:03:40,960  
And they stayed over  
there a long time.

59

00:03:40,960 --> 00:03:45,720

I used to bring  
over food for them.

60

00:03:45,720 --> 00:03:50,850

And they went out  
for certain work.

61

00:03:50,850 --> 00:03:55,840

They was working,  
all kinds of works.

62

00:03:55,840 --> 00:04:00,830

And in the end, we came on the--

63

00:04:00,830 --> 00:04:04,060

I know that is  
the Russian more--

64

00:04:04,060 --> 00:04:07,270

closing more and more.

65

00:04:07,270 --> 00:04:11,080

One night, I decided  
that I'd throw away

66

00:04:11,080 --> 00:04:13,962

my arms and everything.

67

00:04:13,962 --> 00:04:15,170

And I stayed with my brother.

68

00:04:15,170 --> 00:04:18,040

I didn't want to let him to go.

69

00:04:18,040 --> 00:04:20,740

I wanted to be  
beside him because he

70

00:04:20,740 --> 00:04:27,820

was a tall, skinny boy, not as  
strong, physically, like I am.

71

00:04:27,820 --> 00:04:29,260

I wanted to stay behind them.

72

00:04:29,260 --> 00:04:31,900

I knew that my mother  
is not alive no more.

73

00:04:31,900 --> 00:04:33,610

I didn't know about my sister.

74

00:04:33,610 --> 00:04:36,400

How did you know that your  
mother wasn't alive anymore?

75

00:04:36,400 --> 00:04:41,650

The American Air Force,  
early in 1944 in--

76

00:04:41,650 --> 00:04:44,880

I don't remember,  
it was about June.

77

00:04:44,880 --> 00:04:45,960

I don't know.

78

00:04:45,960 --> 00:04:48,060

It was in summertime.

79

00:04:48,060 --> 00:04:52,260

It was a huge  
bombardment in Budapest.

80

00:04:52,260 --> 00:04:55,620

And the American Air Force,  
between the bombardment

81

00:04:55,620 --> 00:05:01,640

they was throwing down  
leaflets and telling

82

00:05:01,640 --> 00:05:03,590

the Hungarian Nazis--

83  
00:05:03,590 --> 00:05:05,630  
I remember the leaflet.

84  
00:05:05,630 --> 00:05:09,710  
It was like a washing bowl  
where you wash your hands.

85  
00:05:09,710 --> 00:05:12,260  
It had two hands in it.

86  
00:05:12,260 --> 00:05:14,660  
Even if you were  
washing your hands,

87  
00:05:14,660 --> 00:05:17,720  
you wouldn't be protected  
because you are killing

88  
00:05:17,720 --> 00:05:19,730  
the Jewish people in Auschwitz.

89  
00:05:19,730 --> 00:05:21,350  
I didn't know what  
Auschwitz means.

90  
00:05:21,350 --> 00:05:21,990  
I didn't know.

91  
00:05:21,990 --> 00:05:25,610  
I believed a little  
bit, but mostly not.

92  
00:05:25,610 --> 00:05:30,280  
I couldn't believe a  
thing like that happening.

93  
00:05:30,280 --> 00:05:36,610  
But somehow, it was in June  
till November or December,

94  
00:05:36,610 --> 00:05:41,470



when I found my brother, you  
know, everything was changing.

95  
00:05:41,470 --> 00:05:43,405  
And somehow I--

96  
00:05:43,405 --> 00:05:44,440  
I don't know.

97  
00:05:44,440 --> 00:05:45,370  
I had had the feeling.

98  
00:05:45,370 --> 00:05:49,300  
But I had the feeling I  
had to stand by my brother.

99  
00:05:49,300 --> 00:05:52,930  
I know that my mother is not  
in the city we used to live,

100  
00:05:52,930 --> 00:05:54,730  
nor my sisters and nobody.

101  
00:05:54,730 --> 00:05:57,340  
About the deportation, I knew.

102  
00:05:57,340 --> 00:06:00,340  
Because certain deportation  
happened already

103  
00:06:00,340 --> 00:06:02,500  
from Budapest also.

104  
00:06:02,500 --> 00:06:04,630  
They took our people.

105  
00:06:04,630 --> 00:06:08,800  
So I knew that something  
is going wrong.

106  
00:06:08,800 --> 00:06:11,900  
So I wanted to stay

with my brother.

107

00:06:11,900 --> 00:06:16,830

We was working, packing  
up German trucks.

108

00:06:16,830 --> 00:06:21,180

And this way they  
took us to Austria.

109

00:06:21,180 --> 00:06:23,340

We got to Austria.

110

00:06:23,340 --> 00:06:27,610

From there, they took  
us over to Germans.

111

00:06:27,610 --> 00:06:31,510

And they took us to Mauthausen--

112

00:06:31,510 --> 00:06:34,120

concentration camp Mauthausen.

113

00:06:34,120 --> 00:06:36,520

We weren't too many.

114

00:06:36,520 --> 00:06:40,120

We came over there at night.

115

00:06:40,120 --> 00:06:41,620

I remember, I  
didn't know that day

116

00:06:41,620 --> 00:06:44,670

what concentration camps mean.

117

00:06:44,670 --> 00:06:49,410

We came-- it was a tent,  
big tents, huge tents.

118

00:06:49,410 --> 00:06:50,940

And I didn't go in.

119  
00:06:50,940 --> 00:06:52,200  
But we stayed outside.

120  
00:06:52,200 --> 00:06:54,410  
It was at night--

121  
00:06:54,410 --> 00:06:56,280  
moonlight.

122  
00:06:56,280 --> 00:06:57,710  
It was already--

123  
00:06:57,710 --> 00:06:58,710  
I don't know what month.

124  
00:06:58,710 --> 00:07:00,780  
Maybe in April.

125  
00:07:00,780 --> 00:07:04,620  
And I saw people in those  
uniforms that they--

126  
00:07:04,620 --> 00:07:05,910  
Striped uniforms.

127  
00:07:05,910 --> 00:07:06,510  
--uniforms.

128  
00:07:06,510 --> 00:07:08,430  
I didn't see things like that--

129  
00:07:08,430 --> 00:07:10,510  
yet.

130  
00:07:10,510 --> 00:07:13,750  
And I said to my brother,  
do you know what I do?

131  
00:07:13,750 --> 00:07:16,380  
I ask somebody what

is it over here.

132

00:07:16,380 --> 00:07:19,070

How do you tell whether it's  
a good place or a bad place?

133

00:07:19,070 --> 00:07:21,490

I was pretty naive on that.

134

00:07:21,490 --> 00:07:22,420

I went over there.

135

00:07:22,420 --> 00:07:25,600

And it [INAUDIBLE]  
was like cracking.

136

00:07:25,600 --> 00:07:27,130

That guy, I said--

137

00:07:27,130 --> 00:07:28,370

I went back to my brother.

138

00:07:28,370 --> 00:07:30,420

You know, but they are  
all dead people over here.

139

00:07:30,420 --> 00:07:33,380

140

00:07:33,380 --> 00:07:37,100

And in the morning  
when I saw what's

141

00:07:37,100 --> 00:07:40,970

going on-- no food, no water.

142

00:07:40,970 --> 00:07:44,660

Around 11:00, they  
brought kind of--

143

00:07:44,660 --> 00:07:47,330

I don't know what

kind of food, what

144

00:07:47,330 --> 00:07:51,410  
they called it, in big cans.

145

00:07:51,410 --> 00:07:54,620  
And [? fight. ?] All of  
a sudden, a German Nazi

146

00:07:54,620 --> 00:08:00,350  
came over there and he  
picked up a guy by his legs

147

00:08:00,350 --> 00:08:02,240  
and pushed him in the food.

148

00:08:02,240 --> 00:08:05,060  
And he hold him till he died.

149

00:08:05,060 --> 00:08:09,540  
When I saw this, what's going  
on, I said to my brother,

150

00:08:09,540 --> 00:08:10,760  
you know what.

151

00:08:10,760 --> 00:08:14,630  
I wish we never came over here,  
and we was hiding somewhere.

152

00:08:14,630 --> 00:08:16,160  
He never wanted to run away.

153

00:08:16,160 --> 00:08:20,300  
I always-- it was on  
my mind to run away.

154

00:08:20,300 --> 00:08:22,580  
But he always wanted  
to be with his friends.

155

00:08:22,580 --> 00:08:26,740

That's why I came to this point.

156

00:08:26,740 --> 00:08:33,130

But luckily, in afternoon I  
call everybody who can walk--

157

00:08:33,130 --> 00:08:35,080

can walk.

158

00:08:35,080 --> 00:08:42,130

We'll get a piece of bread,  
a piece of roast, and go out.

159

00:08:42,130 --> 00:08:45,040

I told my brother,  
you know what,

160

00:08:45,040 --> 00:08:50,540

whatever we have to get, and go  
out from here, I don't like it.

161

00:08:50,540 --> 00:08:52,100

Early in afternoon.

162

00:08:52,100 --> 00:08:54,160

It was a small hill.

163

00:08:54,160 --> 00:08:56,620

Everybody had to run down.

164

00:08:56,620 --> 00:08:59,170

This way they decided  
if he can walk or not.

165

00:08:59,170 --> 00:09:04,860

My brother's leg, it  
was frozen partly.

166

00:09:04,860 --> 00:09:07,750

His shoes was in  
very bad condition.

167

00:09:07,750 --> 00:09:11,770

But I told him, with my  
friend of mine-- he died

168

00:09:11,770 --> 00:09:14,200

in Israel about two years ago.

169

00:09:14,200 --> 00:09:16,090

We was holding him,  
two of us, from side,

170

00:09:16,090 --> 00:09:18,430

and he was running  
three of us downhill.

171

00:09:18,430 --> 00:09:19,840

So we came to the gate.

172

00:09:19,840 --> 00:09:22,640

They gave us the food.

173

00:09:22,640 --> 00:09:25,570

And we was walking.

174

00:09:25,570 --> 00:09:29,410

But also, we heard  
already the shelling.

175

00:09:29,410 --> 00:09:33,670

And we knew already a little  
bit of what's going on--

176

00:09:33,670 --> 00:09:34,810

the bombardment.

177

00:09:34,810 --> 00:09:38,140

And I had the feeling  
the war ends very soon.

178

00:09:38,140 --> 00:09:41,290

I always was telling my  
brother, just keep up.

179

00:09:41,290 --> 00:09:44,900

We have to live over this.

180

00:09:44,900 --> 00:09:50,520

We was going through  
this town or city, Wels.

181

00:09:50,520 --> 00:09:54,630

And over there I met  
Slovak war prisoners--

182

00:09:54,630 --> 00:09:57,440

183

00:09:57,440 --> 00:09:59,150

soldiers.

184

00:09:59,150 --> 00:10:01,070

And I asked them,  
what's going on?

185

00:10:01,070 --> 00:10:02,990

And he told me, listen.

186

00:10:02,990 --> 00:10:05,270

You don't go where  
they take you.

187

00:10:05,270 --> 00:10:07,520

You must hide  
yourself somewhere.

188

00:10:07,520 --> 00:10:08,840

Don't go.

189

00:10:08,840 --> 00:10:12,810

[INAUDIBLE] the  
Americans are very close.

190

00:10:12,810 --> 00:10:15,980

So with [INAUDIBLE] and my  
brother, all three of us



191  
00:10:15,980 --> 00:10:19,860  
know Slovak, was  
from the same town.

192  
00:10:19,860 --> 00:10:22,110  
So we decided to run away.

193  
00:10:22,110 --> 00:10:26,610  
On one of the corners,  
we sneaked out

194  
00:10:26,610 --> 00:10:32,190  
and was running on the  
street, and came to a house.

195  
00:10:32,190 --> 00:10:34,935  
And we opened the cellar door.

196  
00:10:34,935 --> 00:10:36,210  
It was open.

197  
00:10:36,210 --> 00:10:39,030  
And we sneaked in.

198  
00:10:39,030 --> 00:10:41,160  
We was hiding over  
there a few days.

199  
00:10:41,160 --> 00:10:44,170  
I don't remember how long.

200  
00:10:44,170 --> 00:10:47,820  
And probably the old woman  
who lived there, he heard us.

201  
00:10:47,820 --> 00:10:50,400  
And he heard kind of movement.

202  
00:10:50,400 --> 00:10:54,000  
But soldiers, they  
didn't have too many.

203  
00:10:54,000 --> 00:10:57,780  
So one of the days,  
the door opened.

204  
00:10:57,780 --> 00:11:00,250  
And the old--

205  
00:11:00,250 --> 00:11:02,490  
I don't know what he  
was-- a policeman.

206  
00:11:02,490 --> 00:11:05,730  
I didn't know the uniform.

207  
00:11:05,730 --> 00:11:06,360  
He came.

208  
00:11:06,360 --> 00:11:08,910  
He says, you get out from there.

209  
00:11:08,910 --> 00:11:10,260  
Hands up.

210  
00:11:10,260 --> 00:11:12,540  
We went out.

211  
00:11:12,540 --> 00:11:15,540  
And one of my friends, he knew  
a little bit German, better

212  
00:11:15,540 --> 00:11:17,010  
than I did.

213  
00:11:17,010 --> 00:11:19,230  
And he asked him, where  
are you taking us?

214  
00:11:19,230 --> 00:11:22,110  
He says it's over here, not  
too far up, a concentration

215

00:11:22,110 --> 00:11:23,790

camp, a new camp.

216

00:11:23,790 --> 00:11:25,595

I have to take you there.

217

00:11:25,595 --> 00:11:27,840

He says, don't worry.

218

00:11:27,840 --> 00:11:31,570

It will be very soon over.

219

00:11:31,570 --> 00:11:33,520

We came to the place.

220

00:11:33,520 --> 00:11:35,290

It was in the forest.

221

00:11:35,290 --> 00:11:36,790

The barracks wasn't finished.

222

00:11:36,790 --> 00:11:38,680

Everything was just muddy.

223

00:11:38,680 --> 00:11:43,420

I said, again, from one part,

I felt in the other one.

224

00:11:43,420 --> 00:11:46,570

From one camp, I came

to the other one.

225

00:11:46,570 --> 00:11:49,240

Even worse, maybe.

226

00:11:49,240 --> 00:11:56,150

But, like I said, the shelling

was always closer and closer.

227

00:11:56,150 --> 00:11:58,010

It was a late night.

228  
00:11:58,010 --> 00:12:04,320  
In the morning, it was  
raining, muddy around.

229  
00:12:04,320 --> 00:12:04,850  
Looked out.

230  
00:12:04,850 --> 00:12:06,950  
We didn't see the Germans.

231  
00:12:06,950 --> 00:12:08,480  
And I didn't know  
what's going on.

232  
00:12:08,480 --> 00:12:11,540  
I was very-- really naive.

233  
00:12:11,540 --> 00:12:13,850  
I said to the guys  
and my brother,

234  
00:12:13,850 --> 00:12:16,040  
I said, it's no Germans around.

235  
00:12:16,040 --> 00:12:19,100  
All of a sudden  
now, one of the--

236  
00:12:19,100 --> 00:12:20,840  
in striped uniform came in.

237  
00:12:20,840 --> 00:12:21,990  
The Germans disappeared.

238  
00:12:21,990 --> 00:12:24,740  
Everybody can go  
wherever he wants.

239  
00:12:24,740 --> 00:12:26,840  
But some of the guys  
that came, he says

240  
00:12:26,840 --> 00:12:31,220  
don't go out because the Nazis  
still hiding in the forest.

241  
00:12:31,220 --> 00:12:32,510  
Stay here.

242  
00:12:32,510 --> 00:12:35,990  
And about in very  
short time after that,

243  
00:12:35,990 --> 00:12:40,700  
the first American tank  
came in, and soldiers.

244  
00:12:40,700 --> 00:12:44,450  
It was right after that they  
started to give out food.

245  
00:12:44,450 --> 00:12:46,970  
Too much food, which was bad.

246  
00:12:46,970 --> 00:12:51,680  
A lot of people with  
that empty stomach,

247  
00:12:51,680 --> 00:12:57,450  
they was felling  
like flies, dying.

248  
00:12:57,450 --> 00:13:02,970  
And [INAUDIBLE]  
lice, we had plenty.

249  
00:13:02,970 --> 00:13:10,060  
And the next day,  
my brother got sick.

250  
00:13:10,060 --> 00:13:14,200  
Even I brought food,  
even I brought water,

251  
00:13:14,200 --> 00:13:17,500  
killing still for food,  
which wasn't important

252  
00:13:17,500 --> 00:13:19,910  
because was enough.

253  
00:13:19,910 --> 00:13:22,660  
But it was psychological.

254  
00:13:22,660 --> 00:13:26,172  
If I don't have it with  
me, next day maybe I

255  
00:13:26,172 --> 00:13:27,130  
don't going to have it.

256  
00:13:27,130 --> 00:13:29,710

257  
00:13:29,710 --> 00:13:32,360  
I brought even milk for him.

258  
00:13:32,360 --> 00:13:37,160  
I remember I wanted to  
make some noodles for him.

259  
00:13:37,160 --> 00:13:39,550  
He didn't want to eat.

260  
00:13:39,550 --> 00:13:43,840  
And one of my friends  
who was making transport

261  
00:13:43,840 --> 00:13:48,670  
to hospitals, he said,  
Ernie, how about you will

262  
00:13:48,670 --> 00:13:50,590  
go with him to the hospital?

263

00:13:50,590 --> 00:13:53,720  
Maybe it will be better for him.

264  
00:13:53,720 --> 00:13:58,610  
It was late  
afternoon, and put him

265  
00:13:58,610 --> 00:14:01,680  
on the American military truck--

266  
00:14:01,680 --> 00:14:03,860  
more sick people.

267  
00:14:03,860 --> 00:14:09,290  
And through that bumpy road,  
he was in pretty bad condition.

268  
00:14:09,290 --> 00:14:11,720  
My brother already  
had the typhoid.

269  
00:14:11,720 --> 00:14:14,840  
We didn't know what's going on.

270  
00:14:14,840 --> 00:14:17,270  
I took him to a  
so-called hospital.

271  
00:14:17,270 --> 00:14:19,860  
It was a school.

272  
00:14:19,860 --> 00:14:21,780  
And they took him in the bed.

273  
00:14:21,780 --> 00:14:25,650  
No doctors, nothing.

274  
00:14:25,650 --> 00:14:28,990  
It was at night we  
came to this school.

275  
00:14:28,990 --> 00:14:34,140

He didn't want to eat, even  
we had plenty of food already.

276  
00:14:34,140 --> 00:14:41,400  
Early in the morning, he says,  
Ernie, give me something.

277  
00:14:41,400 --> 00:14:44,400  
I have to have a toilet.

278  
00:14:44,400 --> 00:14:46,708  
You know, he had to go.

279  
00:14:46,708 --> 00:14:48,000  
I said, I have nothing, Laszly.

280  
00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:49,672  
I will bring something.

281  
00:14:49,672 --> 00:14:50,880  
He says all right, all right.

282  
00:14:50,880 --> 00:14:53,430  
Stay over here with me.

283  
00:14:53,430 --> 00:14:54,770  
He says, look at me.

284  
00:14:54,770 --> 00:14:57,570  
He says, Ernie,  
I cannot see you.

285  
00:14:57,570 --> 00:14:59,790  
I said, Laszly,  
Laszly, that cannot be.

286  
00:14:59,790 --> 00:15:01,110  
I am over you.

287  
00:15:01,110 --> 00:15:03,600  
He says, but I can't see you.



288

00:15:03,600 --> 00:15:05,110

But you know what,  
leave me alone.

289

00:15:05,110 --> 00:15:07,670

I want to sleep.

290

00:15:07,670 --> 00:15:10,910

And I was sitting by his bed.

291

00:15:10,910 --> 00:15:12,980

And all of a sudden he wakes up.

292

00:15:12,980 --> 00:15:16,200

He says, Ernie.

293

00:15:16,200 --> 00:15:21,110

[INAUDIBLE] he's holding my  
hand, [INAUDIBLE] going around

294

00:15:21,110 --> 00:15:24,590

[INAUDIBLE].. [? Like ?]  
this, he died.

295

00:15:24,590 --> 00:15:26,120

On his birthday morning.

296

00:15:26,120 --> 00:15:31,420

297

00:15:31,420 --> 00:15:34,470

This was the day  
after liberation.

298

00:15:34,470 --> 00:15:37,990

Five days after liberation.

299

00:15:37,990 --> 00:15:42,520

And after long, I  
always had in my mind,

300

00:15:42,520 --> 00:15:45,880

I never knew where  
they buried him.

301

00:15:45,880 --> 00:15:48,340

I had the feeling,  
I have to find him.

302

00:15:48,340 --> 00:15:51,350

I was telling all this,  
this story to my wife.

303

00:15:51,350 --> 00:15:54,970

She's pretty good in German.

304

00:15:54,970 --> 00:16:02,290

And she wrote a letter to  
the town where it happened.

305

00:16:02,290 --> 00:16:06,280

And we got the answer that  
they have his grave together

306

00:16:06,280 --> 00:16:07,390

with a mass grave.

307

00:16:07,390 --> 00:16:11,710

But he's in a separate grave  
because I gave his name.

308

00:16:11,710 --> 00:16:14,410

So he's in separate grave.

309

00:16:14,410 --> 00:16:17,450

And I had always a  
feeling I find it.

310

00:16:17,450 --> 00:16:18,850

So one day we decided--

311

00:16:18,850 --> 00:16:20,740

about ten years ago  
or eight years ago,

312  
00:16:20,740 --> 00:16:22,900  
I don't remember  
what year was it--

313  
00:16:22,900 --> 00:16:24,730  
'80 or '81.

314  
00:16:24,730 --> 00:16:27,100  
We went to Czechoslovakia.

315  
00:16:27,100 --> 00:16:32,060  
I wanted to go to my  
father's grave too.

316  
00:16:32,060 --> 00:16:37,654  
[INAUDIBLE] I came to my  
father's grave and I--

317  
00:16:37,654 --> 00:16:41,280  
we already wrote to  
the city that they

318  
00:16:41,280 --> 00:16:42,840  
put a marker by his grave.

319  
00:16:42,840 --> 00:16:45,810  
Because we want to put kind  
of a memory or a plaque

320  
00:16:45,810 --> 00:16:48,330  
on the grave.

321  
00:16:48,330 --> 00:16:53,070  
And from there I collected--  
because we didn't have

322  
00:16:53,070 --> 00:16:55,390  
no cement, no tools with us.

323  
00:16:55,390 --> 00:16:58,950  
So in the town that we was

living, they gave us cement.

324

00:16:58,950 --> 00:17:03,400

And in the other town, they  
gave us a small spackle.

325

00:17:03,400 --> 00:17:08,170

And with this, I went to his  
grave, made a small monument

326

00:17:08,170 --> 00:17:10,990

which is seen still today.

327

00:17:10,990 --> 00:17:16,369

My sister will visit  
it for a few weeks.

328

00:17:16,369 --> 00:17:19,540

How did you make contact  
with your sister?

329

00:17:19,540 --> 00:17:20,470

Oh, no, my sister--

330

00:17:20,470 --> 00:17:22,060

I knew about my sister.

331

00:17:22,060 --> 00:17:26,109

My sister came home  
earlier than I came.

332

00:17:26,109 --> 00:17:27,490

She was home.

333

00:17:27,490 --> 00:17:31,220

She was liberated in  
Czechoslovakia-- in TerezÃn,

334

00:17:31,220 --> 00:17:32,890

which is Czechoslovakia.

335

00:17:32,890 --> 00:17:36,910

So she was about a week or  
two weeks earlier at home.

336  
00:17:36,910 --> 00:17:38,620  
Was she in the camp  
in Theresienstadt?

337  
00:17:38,620 --> 00:17:41,320  
Yes, she was in Auschwitz.

338  
00:17:41,320 --> 00:17:44,830  
And I don't know which  
camps she was in.

339  
00:17:44,830 --> 00:17:49,520  
She said, comparing to others,  
she was in ammunition factory.

340  
00:17:49,520 --> 00:17:50,620  
She was working.

341  
00:17:50,620 --> 00:17:54,700  
From Auschwitz they took  
them to ammunition factory.

342  
00:17:54,700 --> 00:17:58,490  
She had pretty good, comparing.

343  
00:17:58,490 --> 00:18:00,370  
I can imagine what means.

344  
00:18:00,370 --> 00:18:04,420  
Maybe they had a slice of bread  
more than the other people had.

345  
00:18:04,420 --> 00:18:05,856  
That was the goodness.

346  
00:18:05,856 --> 00:18:11,540

347  
00:18:11,540 --> 00:18:12,210

That's it.

348

00:18:12,210 --> 00:18:18,450

It is the story what came out  
from me after so many years.

349

00:18:18,450 --> 00:18:24,840

And I had to relieve myself  
about these terrible things

350

00:18:24,840 --> 00:18:31,200

what happened to us, that  
tell to the generation

351

00:18:31,200 --> 00:18:33,750

not to give up.

352

00:18:33,750 --> 00:18:36,690

Today is much  
better, much stronger

353

00:18:36,690 --> 00:18:38,110

than we were that time.

354

00:18:38,110 --> 00:18:40,720

355

00:18:40,720 --> 00:18:42,597

To fight back.

356

00:18:42,597 --> 00:18:43,180

Don't give up.

357

00:18:43,180 --> 00:18:45,880

Because if they want to kill  
you, they anyway will kill you.

358

00:18:45,880 --> 00:18:48,660

But if you're going to  
fight back, you have chance.

359

00:18:48,660 --> 00:18:52,630

360  
00:18:52,630 --> 00:18:54,970  
What was your impression?

361  
00:18:54,970 --> 00:18:58,090  
I know it was probably  
a very brief one.

362  
00:18:58,090 --> 00:19:01,510  
But what was your  
impression of Wallenberg?

363  
00:19:01,510 --> 00:19:07,060  
Wallenberg must be a angel.

364  
00:19:07,060 --> 00:19:10,090  
For me, Wallenberg  
means everything.

365  
00:19:10,090 --> 00:19:12,910  
If somebody would  
tell me today--

366  
00:19:12,910 --> 00:19:13,900  
I'm not a youngster.

367  
00:19:13,900 --> 00:19:17,770  
I am 67 year old.

368  
00:19:17,770 --> 00:19:20,710  
If somebody would tell me  
that they know he's alive

369  
00:19:20,710 --> 00:19:23,980  
and they need a rescue  
mission, I think--

370  
00:19:23,980 --> 00:19:25,330  
I don't think.

371  
00:19:25,330 --> 00:19:27,400

I would refuse not to go.

372

00:19:27,400 --> 00:19:29,170

I would be ready.

373

00:19:29,170 --> 00:19:35,380

Even the strength I have  
today, after I had my best.

374

00:19:35,380 --> 00:19:38,060

Also, I was sick.

375

00:19:38,060 --> 00:19:40,760

So anyway, I am  
strong enough today.

376

00:19:40,760 --> 00:19:43,520

And I don't know if I  
wouldn't be ready to go and do

377

00:19:43,520 --> 00:19:46,840

whatever has to be done.

378

00:19:46,840 --> 00:19:52,120

I wish of bottom of my  
heart that he is alive,

379

00:19:52,120 --> 00:19:55,305

and he [INAUDIBLE] out,  
I want to kiss his hand.

380

00:19:55,305 --> 00:19:58,490

381

00:19:58,490 --> 00:20:02,630

Where did you go after the war?

382

00:20:02,630 --> 00:20:04,700

After the war, we came home.

383

00:20:04,700 --> 00:20:08,270

I was still-- 1948, I



had a small business.

384

00:20:08,270 --> 00:20:11,210

I married my wife.

385

00:20:11,210 --> 00:20:13,190

And we went to Israel.

386

00:20:13,190 --> 00:20:15,230

How did you meet?

387

00:20:15,230 --> 00:20:19,730

In 1945, everybody-- every  
survivor in Czechoslovakia

388

00:20:19,730 --> 00:20:24,530

had the right to have  
two weeks in Tatra,

389

00:20:24,530 --> 00:20:28,760

that are Carpathian Mountains,  
part of Carpathian Mountains.

390

00:20:28,760 --> 00:20:30,140

We had two weeks.

391

00:20:30,140 --> 00:20:31,220

And I came over there.

392

00:20:31,220 --> 00:20:33,230

And she was also there.

393

00:20:33,230 --> 00:20:38,750

But she was, I have to  
say, a very pretty girl.

394

00:20:38,750 --> 00:20:39,650

She's still it?

395

00:20:39,650 --> 00:20:42,110

A lot of boys around her.

396

00:20:42,110 --> 00:20:46,410

So I was just a side person.

397

00:20:46,410 --> 00:20:54,620

And after that, my cousin  
met Helena in 1945 or-- '46.

398

00:20:54,620 --> 00:20:59,870

He went to Israel and  
married my wife's sister.

399

00:20:59,870 --> 00:21:03,980

So I am my brother-in-law  
of my cousin.

400

00:21:03,980 --> 00:21:06,350

And when he came to Israel,  
he wrote me a letter.

401

00:21:06,350 --> 00:21:10,640

He says in the letter, probably  
you know my sister-in-law.

402

00:21:10,640 --> 00:21:14,510

You was with her in the Tatras,  
in the Carpathian Mountains.

403

00:21:14,510 --> 00:21:18,020

And he gave the name.

404

00:21:18,020 --> 00:21:24,570

Right away, after that,  
I picked up my stuff.

405

00:21:24,570 --> 00:21:26,000

She was, like I  
say, pretty girl.

406

00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:27,050

I liked her.

407

00:21:27,050 --> 00:21:29,720

She didn't like me,  
probably, those days.

408  
00:21:29,720 --> 00:21:34,250  
I went over to the city  
and we came together.

409  
00:21:34,250 --> 00:21:36,950  
We got married in 1948.

410  
00:21:36,950 --> 00:21:39,560  
One of the happiest person in--

411  
00:21:39,560 --> 00:21:44,708  
and I wish everybody have a  
marriage life what like we had.

412  
00:21:44,708 --> 00:21:46,430  
We came to Israel.

413  
00:21:46,430 --> 00:21:50,180  
In 1949, my daughter was born.

414  
00:21:50,180 --> 00:21:54,380  
In 1950-- she lives in Edison.

415  
00:21:54,380 --> 00:21:58,270  
And the other one in Westfield.

416  
00:21:58,270 --> 00:21:59,610  
I love them.

417  
00:21:59,610 --> 00:22:04,180  
You know, we are more tight  
because of this happening.

418  
00:22:04,180 --> 00:22:07,450  
We feel differently  
than other people.

419  
00:22:07,450 --> 00:22:09,460  
We tried to raise them.

420  
00:22:09,460 --> 00:22:14,290  
And like a plant, always  
take care, always water it.

421  
00:22:14,290 --> 00:22:15,640  
To give them the--

422  
00:22:15,640 --> 00:22:18,590  
even if we didn't have what to  
eat, but they never ever said

423  
00:22:18,590 --> 00:22:20,140  
they are hungry.

424  
00:22:20,140 --> 00:22:24,730  
Because in Israel in 1949, when  
my older daughter was born,

425  
00:22:24,730 --> 00:22:27,190  
it was very scarce food.

426  
00:22:27,190 --> 00:22:30,790  
We didn't have food  
like today they have.

427  
00:22:30,790 --> 00:22:33,450  
It was the beginning.

428  
00:22:33,450 --> 00:22:37,570  
But my children  
never had problem.

429  
00:22:37,570 --> 00:22:40,580  
We gave them the best.

430  
00:22:40,580 --> 00:22:42,190  
Even today.

431  
00:22:42,190 --> 00:22:45,710  
Have you been able to speak with  
them about your experiences?

432  
00:22:45,710 --> 00:22:47,180  
They know about it.

433  
00:22:47,180 --> 00:22:48,260  
They know about it.

434  
00:22:48,260 --> 00:22:51,860  
They hide everything, like  
the second generation.

435  
00:22:51,860 --> 00:22:53,770  
They know.

436  
00:22:53,770 --> 00:22:54,980  
We told them.

437  
00:22:54,980 --> 00:22:56,210  
They know.

438  
00:22:56,210 --> 00:22:58,080  
And I don't want to bother them.

439  
00:22:58,080 --> 00:23:00,350  
It's what they have from it.

440  
00:23:00,350 --> 00:23:02,390  
Just I teach them always, don't.

441  
00:23:02,390 --> 00:23:04,460  
But I said always,  
don't give up.

442  
00:23:04,460 --> 00:23:08,960  
God forbid, anything  
happens, don't give up.

443  
00:23:08,960 --> 00:23:10,960  
Fight back.

444  
00:23:10,960 --> 00:23:13,220

Only way to survive.

445

00:23:13,220 --> 00:23:16,850

If, you know, these  
people what was deported,

446

00:23:16,850 --> 00:23:18,620

they had their psychology.

447

00:23:18,620 --> 00:23:22,700

Eichmann was a shrewd person.

448

00:23:22,700 --> 00:23:25,790

He knew what to do.

449

00:23:25,790 --> 00:23:31,400

They took away the male, his  
strength, to forced labor.

450

00:23:31,400 --> 00:23:32,360

Who stayed home?

451

00:23:32,360 --> 00:23:37,010

The children, the old  
women and old people.

452

00:23:37,010 --> 00:23:38,930

It was easy to deal with them.

453

00:23:38,930 --> 00:23:40,730

Especially like in ghettos.

454

00:23:40,730 --> 00:23:42,440

They killed one or two person.

455

00:23:42,440 --> 00:23:45,800

The other heard and  
was scared already.

456

00:23:45,800 --> 00:23:49,070

They went quietly.

457

00:23:49,070 --> 00:23:55,970  
But maybe if the strength of the  
male part would stayed at home,

458

00:23:55,970 --> 00:23:57,576  
they would fight back.

459

00:23:57,576 --> 00:24:02,270  
They would have not as easy  
than they have the deportation

460

00:24:02,270 --> 00:24:05,000  
in 1944 from Hungary.

461

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:08,530  
I don't know the  
other deportations,

462

00:24:08,530 --> 00:24:11,420  
from Slovakia or from Poland.

463

00:24:11,420 --> 00:24:14,120

464

00:24:14,120 --> 00:24:20,000  
But like I'm saying, I put  
everything on one cart.

465

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:21,920  
Anyway, they destroy me.

466

00:24:21,920 --> 00:24:23,030  
But I will fight back.

467

00:24:23,030 --> 00:24:26,300  
And that's the way,  
If they destroy me,

468

00:24:26,300 --> 00:24:29,310  
they will hard time.

469

00:24:29,310 --> 00:24:31,500  
Did you always believe  
that you would survive?

470  
00:24:31,500 --> 00:24:32,640  
No.

471  
00:24:32,640 --> 00:24:33,240  
No.

472  
00:24:33,240 --> 00:24:40,930  
It was many times  
when I said maybe--

473  
00:24:40,930 --> 00:24:42,890  
first of all, the bombardments.

474  
00:24:42,890 --> 00:24:45,520  
I wasn't saved from the bombs.

475  
00:24:45,520 --> 00:24:49,750  
The same way like the German,  
the bomb can hit me too.

476  
00:24:49,750 --> 00:24:51,640  
That was one.

477  
00:24:51,640 --> 00:24:55,000  
The other part, I was  
afraid always of my friends.

478  
00:24:55,000 --> 00:24:57,460  
I never was afraid of the Nazis.

479  
00:24:57,460 --> 00:24:59,200  
I was afraid of my friends.

480  
00:24:59,200 --> 00:25:02,170  
Somebody recognize  
me and would say,

481  
00:25:02,170 --> 00:25:04,240



oh, I was very  
afraid when I said

482  
00:25:04,240 --> 00:25:09,190  
when we went to this factory,  
and we took from the trucks

483  
00:25:09,190 --> 00:25:11,020  
our people.

484  
00:25:11,020 --> 00:25:13,720  
I was afraid that somebody  
will recognize me,

485  
00:25:13,720 --> 00:25:15,480  
and god forbid, something.

486  
00:25:15,480 --> 00:25:16,510  
But I was lucky.

487  
00:25:16,510 --> 00:25:20,130

488  
00:25:20,130 --> 00:25:28,310  
Those days, you had to  
have guts, but more-- luck.

489  
00:25:28,310 --> 00:25:32,190  
Guts to do it, and  
luck to survive it.

490  
00:25:32,190 --> 00:25:34,010  
I [INAUDIBLE] one of them.

491  
00:25:34,010 --> 00:25:37,790

492  
00:25:37,790 --> 00:25:40,460  
Thank you for sharing  
with us and inspiring us.

493  
00:25:40,460 --> 00:25:42,440

You're very welcome.

494

00:25:42,440 --> 00:25:45,735

It was hard but  
somehow I did it.

495

00:25:45,735 --> 00:25:46,610

But you came through.

496

00:25:46,610 --> 00:25:47,110

Yes.

497

00:25:47,110 --> 00:25:47,700

Thank you.

498

00:25:47,700 --> 00:25:48,770

Thank you.

499

00:25:48,770 --> 00:25:52,120

[STRINGED MUSIC]

500

00:25:52,120 --> 00:26:24,000