1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,700

2 00:00:05,700 --> 00:00:06,750 [INAUDIBLE]

3 00:00:06,750 --> 00:00:11,700 And within a few weeks I operated them all.

4 00:00:11,700 --> 00:00:13,260 Young I was.

5 00:00:13,260 --> 00:00:14,900 It was very easy to learn.

6 00:00:14,900 --> 00:00:16,320 You were 16 at the time.

7 00:00:16,320 --> 00:00:17,490 16, 17.

8 00:00:17,490 --> 00:00:18,780 So.

9 00:00:18,780 --> 00:00:29,130 And there we were till 1944, till the Germans had to leave.

10 00:00:29,130 --> 00:00:33,240 In fact, we were on the train, the last train,

11 00:00:33,240 --> 00:00:35,886 that left the town.

12 00:00:35,886 --> 00:00:39,930 And some of my boys hid.

13 00:00:39,930 --> 00:00:46,300 And if they could hide out for 48 hours, the Russians came in

14 00:00:46,300 --> 00:00:49,080 and they occupied that part.

15 00:00:49,080 --> 00:00:50,710 We were the last train to leave.

16 00:00:50,710 --> 00:00:51,490 They got us out.

17 00:00:51,490 --> 00:00:53,380 How long were you in this last camp?

18 00:00:53,380 --> 00:00:54,610 Over a year.

19 00:00:54,610 --> 00:00:56,470 Over year.

20 00:00:56,470 --> 00:00:58,690 Can you describe the year.

21 00:00:58,690 --> 00:01:01,810 In the camp.

22 00:01:01,810 --> 00:01:04,000 There were three shifts.

23 00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:04,780 I was lucky.

24 00:01:04,780 --> 00:01:06,820 I worked in the day shift.

25 00:01:06,820 --> 00:01:09,610 The food was terrible.

26 00:01:09,610 --> 00:01:12,760 They gave us 800 calories per day,

27 00:01:12,760 --> 00:01:14,350 just enough to keep you alive.

28 00:01:14,350 --> 00:01:20,080

29 00:01:20,080 --> 00:01:27,090 One episode which cannot be forgotten in that camp.

30 00:01:27,090 --> 00:01:33,880 Our commander had a dog, and one of the boys--

31 00:01:33,880 --> 00:01:37,150

32 00:01:37,150 --> 00:01:41,890 one of us-- took care of the dog, a German shepherd.

33 00:01:41,890 --> 00:01:47,230 That German shepherd had a booth, almost a small room,

34 00:01:47,230 --> 00:01:49,540 and he kept him there. it was his dog.

35 00:01:49,540 --> 00:01:52,836 But that dog got better food than we did.

36 00:01:52,836 --> 00:01:56,080 A pail full of good--

37 00:01:56,080 --> 00:01:59,290 they say a soup that the spoon can stand in. 38 00:01:59,290 --> 00:02:03,800 He used to bring the dog that kind of food.

39 00:02:03,800 --> 00:02:07,400 That fella, he's alive too.

40 00:02:07,400 --> 00:02:10,460 Itzhak [? Zilverberg. ?] He lives in Florida now.

41 00:02:10,460 --> 00:02:12,920 And there's only a handful of us that are alive.

42 00:02:12,920 --> 00:02:17,600 And we are still in touch sometimes.

43 00:02:17,600 --> 00:02:21,440 And I made up with him that he used

44 00:02:21,440 --> 00:02:24,200 to take the dog for a walk.

45 00:02:24,200 --> 00:02:28,250 And that time we had some things in the factory

46 00:02:28,250 --> 00:02:31,470 that we had to go and throw out the garbage.

47 00:02:31,470 --> 00:02:37,160 So the garbage disposal was on the other side of the camp,

48 00:02:37,160 --> 00:02:41,230 and we had to go by the dog's house. 00:02:41,230 --> 00:02:44,770 So throwing out the garbage on our way back,

50 00:02:44,770 --> 00:02:49,000 we used to have always, in the camps, like in anywhere else,

51 00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:51,490 you find your way to survive.

52 00:02:51,490 --> 00:02:55,795 We had some-- what do you say-- the army that when

53 00:02:55,795 --> 00:02:58,228 you carry with you?

54 00:02:58,228 --> 00:02:59,200 Dog tags?

55 00:02:59,200 --> 00:03:00,280 No, no.

56 00:03:00,280 --> 00:03:01,250 Identification?

57 00:03:01,250 --> 00:03:01,870 No.

58 00:03:01,870 --> 00:03:03,700 When you eat from.

59 00:03:03,700 --> 00:03:04,750 Oh, a canteen.

60 00:03:04,750 --> 00:03:06,010 Canteen.

61 00:03:06,010 --> 00:03:06,820 We had ours. 62 00:03:06,820 --> 00:03:10,110 We found a couple.

63 00:03:10,110 --> 00:03:13,050 And while we throw out the garbage, if you walked the dog,

64 00:03:13,050 --> 00:03:16,800 you jumped in, scooped up a couple containers of food,

65 00:03:16,800 --> 00:03:20,280 put it into the garbage bag, took it back into the factor--

66 00:03:20,280 --> 00:03:21,880 you never worked alone.

67 00:03:21,880 --> 00:03:25,920 You always walked with three, four fellas.

68 00:03:25,920 --> 00:03:27,710 So one looked out for the other one

69 00:03:27,710 --> 00:03:31,020 to make sure That the SS don't show up.

70 00:03:31,020 --> 00:03:32,430 And it helped.

71 00:03:32,430 --> 00:03:36,080 It helped supplement my food.

72 00:03:36,080 --> 00:03:43,250 Another episode, the disposal was also near the kitchen.

73 00:03:43,250 --> 00:03:49,780 One time, a truck of potatoes arrived,

74 00:03:49,780 --> 00:03:52,550 and they dumped it on the ground.

75 00:03:52,550 --> 00:03:55,230

76 00:03:55,230 --> 00:03:59,452 That's a very good occasion to grab some potatoes.

77 00:03:59,452 --> 00:04:02,730 And we did it.

78 00:04:02,730 --> 00:04:06,180 Also with a few fellas, I ask, what do you

79 00:04:06,180 --> 00:04:08,160 do with the potatoes-raw potatoes?

80 00:04:08,160 --> 00:04:13,820 In the factory, we had a blacksmith.

81 00:04:13,820 --> 00:04:16,800 the blacksmith worked with iron, with heat.

82 00:04:16,800 --> 00:04:23,310 And we also had, in the yard, roofers

83 00:04:23,310 --> 00:04:25,980 what work with tar, also heat.

84 00:04:25,980 --> 00:04:28,050 So you always tried to make out something

00:04:28,050 --> 00:04:30,520 that you work with something.

86

00:04:30,520 --> 00:04:32,120 So you split.

87

00:04:32,120 --> 00:04:35,340 You brought in a pail of potatoes here.

88

00:04:35,340 --> 00:04:37,350 Bacon, let's split.

89

00:04:37,350 --> 00:04:38,250 You know?

90

00:04:38,250 --> 00:04:41,130 You never-- you could not be selfish.

91

00:04:41,130 --> 00:04:44,190 You had to share it.

92

00:04:44,190 --> 00:04:45,450 I was caught one time.

93

00:04:45,450 --> 00:04:48,260

94

00:04:48,260 --> 00:04:49,810 And what happened?

95

00:04:49,810 --> 00:05:00,890 By the-- not just by anybody, by the commandant.

96

00:05:00,890 --> 00:05:01,880 I didn't know.

97

00:05:01,880 --> 00:05:05,060

I was in the backyard

straightening out some 2x4s,

98 00:05:05,060 --> 00:05:07,400 all kind of steel things.

99 00:05:07,400 --> 00:05:11,450 Because I worked in that kommando too, which we always

100 00:05:11,450 --> 00:05:14,720 work with the troops and then.

101 00:05:14,720 --> 00:05:20,100 So he sent us out to do some work.

102 00:05:20,100 --> 00:05:22,400 I did not realize that--

103 00:05:22,400 --> 00:05:25,010 we knew where he lives, but I did not

104 00:05:25,010 --> 00:05:27,440 know that he looked at the window.

105 00:05:27,440 --> 00:05:33,140 And he looked, and he saw me doing something.

106 00:05:33,140 --> 00:05:35,420 Many times when something like this

107 00:05:35,420 --> 00:05:39,410 came, we got ourselves two, three pairs of potatoes

108 00:05:39,410 --> 00:05:45,970 and we buried them so later on we could survive. 109 00:05:45,970 --> 00:05:51,050 Somehow one time I did not pay attention.

110 00:05:51,050 --> 00:05:56,125 And next thing I know I hear, [SPEAKING GERMAN]..

111 00:05:56,125 --> 00:05:56,750 What you doing?

112 00:05:56,750 --> 00:05:58,530 What are you doing, yeah.

113 00:05:58,530 --> 00:06:00,080 And he was in the house.

114 00:06:00,080 --> 00:06:05,750 Before I knew, he is next to me about three feet from me.

115 00:06:05,750 --> 00:06:08,840 And not only that I have a pair of potatoes,

116 00:06:08,840 --> 00:06:12,140 I had them even in my pockets.

117 00:06:12,140 --> 00:06:17,210 But there were so afraid to touch us

118 00:06:17,210 --> 00:06:20,120 that he stood three feet away from me

119 00:06:20,120 --> 00:06:21,690 and asked me what I did.

120 00:06:21,690 --> 00:06:23,540 Yes, I said I'm here.

00:06:23,540 --> 00:06:28,040 My master sent me out to do some work.

122

00:06:28,040 --> 00:06:30,050 Why was he afraid to touch you?

123

00:06:30,050 --> 00:06:32,030 Because we were unclean.

124

00:06:32,030 --> 00:06:35,750 You know, working clothes.

125

00:06:35,750 --> 00:06:40,280 We washed, we cleaned, but for him to touch me

126

00:06:40,280 --> 00:06:44,030 it would be taboo.

127

00:06:44,030 --> 00:06:49,430 But the SS man, the one that took care of us.

128

00:06:49,430 --> 00:06:51,350 Anyway, it took about five minutes

129

00:06:51,350 --> 00:06:55,520 before the guy, the SS man, came.

130

00:06:55,520 --> 00:06:57,750 But in the mean time, I had enough time-- he says,

131

00:06:57,750 --> 00:06:59,150 what do you have in my pockets?

132

00:06:59,150 --> 00:07:03,735 And we always had garbage, papers, and snot rags. 133 00:07:03,735 --> 00:07:05,210 In the mean time, I pushed it out

134 00:07:05,210 --> 00:07:07,940 from my one pocket and then the other pocket.

135 00:07:07,940 --> 00:07:10,820 By the time the SS man came, he didn't find nothing on me.

136 00:07:10,820 --> 00:07:14,210

137 00:07:14,210 --> 00:07:17,150 He didn't find it.

138 00:07:17,150 --> 00:07:20,687 But he looked around and he found the whole pail

139 00:07:20,687 --> 00:07:21,270 with potatoes.

140 00:07:21,270 --> 00:07:24,820

141 00:07:24,820 --> 00:07:27,830 what's that?

142 00:07:27,830 --> 00:07:28,400 Beats me.

143 00:07:28,400 --> 00:07:29,030 I don't know.

144 00:07:29,030 --> 00:07:31,540 00:07:31,540 --> 00:07:32,525 You sure?

146

00:07:32,525 --> 00:07:34,325 You see, I'm working here.

147

00:07:34,325 --> 00:07:36,985 This is the first time I see it.

148

00:07:36,985 --> 00:07:39,610 Because I could deny it because there are other people working.

149

 $00:07:39,610 \longrightarrow 00:07:42,490$

150

00:07:42,490 --> 00:07:43,840 He took down my number.

151

00:07:43,840 --> 00:07:47,580

152

00:07:47,580 --> 00:07:56,540 And of course at night they called me

153

00:07:56,540 --> 00:07:59,770 when we come home, back home from work.

154

00:07:59,770 --> 00:08:03,580 12 hours was a shift, not eight.

155

00:08:03,580 --> 00:08:07,060 We came home, 2,000 people.

156

00:08:07,060 --> 00:08:09,430 And he calls me out.

157

00:08:09,430 --> 00:08:12,150

What was I doing there?

00:08:12,150 --> 00:08:14,110 I said working.

159

00:08:14,110 --> 00:08:15,860 He did not punish me.

160

00:08:15,860 --> 00:08:20,920 He just gave me a warning that time, the commandant.

161

00:08:20,920 --> 00:08:21,580 I forgot.

162

00:08:21,580 --> 00:08:24,610 I have to go retrace back.

163

00:08:24,610 --> 00:08:26,860 Why didn't the SS man do anything you?

164

00:08:26,860 --> 00:08:30,070 No the SS took down my number and they called me

165

00:08:30,070 --> 00:08:34,059 out when a pail-- when we came, they counted us

166

00:08:34,059 --> 00:08:37,775 out that anybody didn't escape.

167

00:08:37,775 --> 00:08:39,490 There was a count every day.

168

00:08:39,490 --> 00:08:40,179 Yes.

169

00:08:40,179 --> 00:08:40,449 Twice.

170

00:08:40,449 --> 00:08:40,949

A few times.

171 00:08:40,949 --> 00:08:45,340 In the morning and at night, appell, when they count you.

172 00:08:45,340 --> 00:08:46,490 That was in the evening.

173 00:08:46,490 --> 00:08:49,570 Everybody was starved to death.

174 00:08:49,570 --> 00:08:52,900 Anyway, going back, tracing back,

175 00:08:52,900 --> 00:08:55,195 after he took my number down he went back

176 00:08:55,195 --> 00:08:57,580 and the SS man went away.

177 00:08:57,580 --> 00:09:00,880 I went back in the back yard and took the whole pail

178 00:09:00,880 --> 00:09:03,550 of potatoes and hid it.

179 00:09:03,550 --> 00:09:04,840 I still need my potatoes.

180 00:09:04,840 --> 00:09:07,740 I want to eat.

181 00:09:07,740 --> 00:09:11,640 That SS guy came an hour later after me,

182 00:09:11,640 --> 00:09:13,170 started looking for the potatoes.

183

00:09:13,170 --> 00:09:15,390 He couldn't find them.

184

00:09:15,390 --> 00:09:17,350 And they don't give up.

185

00:09:17,350 --> 00:09:21,930 So they went after those poor guys, the roofers working

186

00:09:21,930 --> 00:09:24,120 the other side of the yard.

187

00:09:24,120 --> 00:09:30,270 And he gave them a hard time, but they didn't know anything.

188

00:09:30,270 --> 00:09:32,040 Anyway, I hide it.

189

00:09:32,040 --> 00:09:36,780 And I took-- the following day, life goes on--

190

00:09:36,780 --> 00:09:38,640 a container full of potatoes.

191

00:09:38,640 --> 00:09:42,180 I want to go to the guys, the roofers.

192

00:09:42,180 --> 00:09:44,040 Just get away from me.

193

00:09:44,040 --> 00:09:45,930 You almost got us into trouble.

194

00:09:45,930 --> 00:09:48,420 We stay away from us.

195 00:09:48,420 --> 00:09:50,490 I went inside the factory.

196 00:09:50,490 --> 00:09:59,230 And that time there were a blacksmith.

197 00:09:59,230 --> 00:10:05,460 There were rations, civilian rations, also taken to camps.

198 00:10:05,460 --> 00:10:12,900 But they lived out the camp and worked in the blacksmith work.

199 00:10:12,900 --> 00:10:14,520 Whatever they [INAUDIBLE].

200 00:10:14,520 --> 00:10:17,520 And I asked the guy, would he let me put in my canteen

201 00:10:17,520 --> 00:10:19,350 and cook up some potatoes.

202 00:10:19,350 --> 00:10:20,220 He says, why not?

203 00:10:20,220 --> 00:10:20,730 Go ahead.

204 00:10:20,730 --> 00:10:23,370

205 00:10:23,370 --> 00:10:26,550 But it has to take 15, 20 minutes.

206 00:10:26,550 --> 00:10:27,960 I was a little negligent. 00:10:27,960 --> 00:10:30,610 Before I look around, I look in the back of me,

208

00:10:30,610 --> 00:10:33,960 and guess who is in the front and back of me, front of me,

209

00:10:33,960 --> 00:10:35,070 there is the SS man.

210

00:10:35,070 --> 00:10:38,420

211

00:10:38,420 --> 00:10:41,210 He did not recognize me.

212

00:10:41,210 --> 00:10:43,400 He took, of course, the potatoes away.

213

00:10:43,400 --> 00:10:44,450 He did not recognize you.

214

00:10:44,450 --> 00:10:46,175 The same man that confronted you that day before.

215

00:10:46,175 --> 00:10:46,400 No.

216

00:10:46,400 --> 00:10:48,110 Because if he would have recognized me,

217

00:10:48,110 --> 00:10:50,881 he would have killed me right on the spot.

218

 $00:10:50,881 \longrightarrow 00:10:53,710$

00:10:53,710 --> 00:10:54,490 And of course--

220

00:10:54,490 --> 00:10:56,290 Why do you think he didn't recognize you?

221

00:10:56,290 --> 00:10:57,400 I don't know.

222

00:10:57,400 --> 00:11:00,650 Maybe only he spoke to me for a couple minutes.

223

00:11:00,650 --> 00:11:02,620 All he did is took down the number,

224

00:11:02,620 --> 00:11:06,670 because the commandant was there.

225

00:11:06,670 --> 00:11:10,930 And I am called out again.

226

00:11:10,930 --> 00:11:15,040 When I'm called out again, the commandant did recognize me.

227

00:11:15,040 --> 00:11:18,280

228

00:11:18,280 --> 00:11:20,410 Now, what's this?

229

00:11:20,410 --> 00:11:25,210 So I told him, listen, you found the potatoes yesterday.

230

00:11:25,210 --> 00:11:27,640 I took them and I cooked them.

00:11:27,640 --> 00:11:29,050 Why?

232

00:11:29,050 --> 00:11:31,840 Because I was hungry.

233

00:11:31,840 --> 00:11:33,280 What?

234

00:11:33,280 --> 00:11:36,040 On the top of his lung--

235

00:11:36,040 --> 00:11:41,230 is there anybody up there that's hungry?

236

00:11:41,230 --> 00:11:46,760 Over 2,000 people, starving to death, not a whisper.

237

00:11:46,760 --> 00:11:49,090 He says, look at your comrades.

238

00:11:49,090 --> 00:11:51,400 Nobody's hungry but you.

239

00:11:51,400 --> 00:11:52,600 I said yes, sir.

240

00:11:52,600 --> 00:11:55,270 I was hungry.

241

00:11:55,270 --> 00:11:56,710 Then he gave me a punishment.

242

00:11:56,710 --> 00:12:02,140 He told the blockalteste to give me half an hour punishment.

243

00:12:02,140 --> 00:12:06,880

But there was a little comedy in it.

00:12:06,880 --> 00:12:13,660 Somehow one of the block leaders recognized the cooking utensil,

245

00:12:13,660 --> 00:12:22,360 the canteen, that belonged to a French Jewish fellow.

246

00:12:22,360 --> 00:12:23,860 His name was Finkelstein.

247

00:12:23,860 --> 00:12:25,960 I'll never forget it.

248

00:12:25,960 --> 00:12:28,750 And he was called almost daily.

249

00:12:28,750 --> 00:12:31,630

He was a thief.

250

00:12:31,630 --> 00:12:35,140 He was known in camp as a thief.

251

00:12:35,140 --> 00:12:37,880 And where did I get that cooking utensil?

252

00:12:37,880 --> 00:12:40,600

253

00:12:40,600 --> 00:12:44,140 I found it in the garbage.

254

00:12:44,140 --> 00:12:46,360 And you go through the garbage to find something,

255

00:12:46,360 --> 00:12:48,400 and it was perfect to cook something in.

```
256
00:12:48,400 --> 00:12:51,050
```

00:12:51,050 --> 00:12:58,610 And one of the elite block leaders says to the commandant,

258

00:12:58,610 --> 00:13:00,890 do you know something?

259

00:13:00,890 --> 00:13:04,250 That cooking utensil belongs to Finkelstein.

260

00:13:04,250 --> 00:13:06,940

261

00:13:06,940 --> 00:13:09,310 He got a smile [INAUDIBLE].

262

00:13:09,310 --> 00:13:12,090 Calls up Finkelstein--

Finkelstein, come here.

263

00:13:12,090 --> 00:13:15,600

264

00:13:15,600 --> 00:13:17,640 Is this your cooking utensil?

265

00:13:17,640 --> 00:13:20,220 He says, yes.

266

00:13:20,220 --> 00:13:24,370

Could you tell me how it got to him?

267

00:13:24,370 --> 00:13:28,260 And that's where it was my luck.

268

 $00:13:28,260 \longrightarrow 00:13:31,320$

He said, he stole it from me.

269

00:13:31,320 --> 00:13:33,870

And that was my luck, because I was

270

00:13:33,870 --> 00:13:38,520

prepared of getting at least 25 on my bare.

271

00:13:38,520 --> 00:13:39,510

That helped me.

272

00:13:39,510 --> 00:13:42,300

That's why he only gave me a half an hour punishment.

273

 $00:13:42,300 \longrightarrow 00:13:46,470$

Stay on your tip-toes in

the morning for half an hour

274

00:13:46,470 --> 00:13:49,680

straight and your

hand on your toes,

275

00:13:49,680 --> 00:13:52,600

sitting position,

staying like this.

276

00:13:52,600 --> 00:13:53,940

You were able to do that?

277

00:13:53,940 --> 00:13:54,540

Yes.

278

00:13:54,540 --> 00:13:58,350

But my block leader

was not a bad guy.

279

00:13:58,350 --> 00:14:00,150

So--

280

00:14:00,150 --> 00:14:02,270 How much did you weigh?

281

00:14:02,270 --> 00:14:03,770 Do you have any idea?

282

 $00:14:03,770 \longrightarrow 00:14:06,730$

283

00:14:06,730 --> 00:14:11,830 When I was liberated, I weighed 65.

284

00:14:11,830 --> 00:14:17,470 But I still kept my weight somewhere.

285

00:14:17,470 --> 00:14:24,430 I weighed 125, 130 pounds when we left Pruskow.

286

00:14:24,430 --> 00:14:27,310 And I kept up my strength.

287

00:14:27,310 --> 00:14:34,210 Because I found out, any way you can, you have to survive.

288

00:14:34,210 --> 00:14:37,870 Survival of the fittest is the word in English.

289

00:14:37,870 --> 00:14:40,360 I became a thief.

290

00:14:40,360 --> 00:14:41,740 I don't care what you call it.

291

00:14:41,740 --> 00:14:43,880 I wanted to survive.

292

00:14:43,880 --> 00:14:45,910

And the only way to survive is to eat.

293

00:14:45,910 --> 00:14:49,640

294

00:14:49,640 --> 00:14:52,940 And I survived.

295

00:14:52,940 --> 00:14:55,400 And from that camp--

296

00:14:55,400 --> 00:14:59,340 and that's how I survived in that camp.

297

00:14:59,340 --> 00:15:01,650 And from there--

298

00:15:01,650 --> 00:15:04,140 During the year that you're in the camp,

299

00:15:04,140 --> 00:15:06,265 were there any discussions?

300

00:15:06,265 --> 00:15:07,890 Did you have close friends in the camp?

301

00:15:07,890 --> 00:15:08,940 Were there any kind of--

302

00:15:08,940 --> 00:15:09,810 No.

303

00:15:09,810 --> 00:15:14,040 You never make any close friendship with any of them,

304

00:15:14,040 --> 00:15:15,840 because there was no time.

00:15:15,840 --> 00:15:18,870 And the time that you had, that little time that you had,

306

00:15:18,870 --> 00:15:20,610 you felt sorry for yourself.

307

00:15:20,610 --> 00:15:24,030 You didn't even have time to feel sorry for yourself

308

00:15:24,030 --> 00:15:26,970 to begin with when you lost your parents, because you

309

00:15:26,970 --> 00:15:27,720 were hungry.

310

00:15:27,720 --> 00:15:32,440 All you were thinking about, the food that you don't have.

311

00:15:32,440 --> 00:15:35,880 There is another episode that happened in that camp.

312

00:15:35,880 --> 00:15:37,842 We were mixed.

313

00:15:37,842 --> 00:15:41,940 Mixed means all the races.

314

00:15:41,940 --> 00:15:47,280 Russians, Polacks, Frenchmen, Dutch--

315

00:15:47,280 --> 00:15:48,370 Jews and non-Jews.

316

00:15:48,370 --> 00:15:49,260 And of course Jews.

00:15:49,260 --> 00:15:52,140 I'm talking non-Jews and Jews.

318

00:15:52,140 --> 00:15:55,860 What happened is one fella escaped.

319

00:15:55,860 --> 00:15:58,940

320

00:15:58,940 --> 00:16:00,200 They caught him.

321

00:16:00,200 --> 00:16:03,800 Within a couple of days, they brought them back.

322

00:16:03,800 --> 00:16:08,990 And this was the first time I ever saw an execution.

323

00:16:08,990 --> 00:16:11,660 They brought them back.

324

00:16:11,660 --> 00:16:13,550 They made a gallows.

325

00:16:13,550 --> 00:16:17,900 And they brought the boat shifts, day and night,

326

00:16:17,900 --> 00:16:23,990 put us in a circle, and they read his trial,

327

00:16:23,990 --> 00:16:27,770 where it came from and for what reason they hanging him.

328

00:16:27,770 --> 00:16:34,590 And everybody had to watch their verdict and for what reason.

329

00:16:34,590 --> 00:16:38,240 But he was considered a non-Jew.

330

00:16:38,240 --> 00:16:41,470 I don't remember-- he was a Russian or Polack.

331

00:16:41,470 --> 00:16:43,280 I don't remember.

332

00:16:43,280 --> 00:16:48,050 The following day, new orders came from Auschwitz.

333

00:16:48,050 --> 00:16:52,190 Every non-Jew, everybody that is not a Jew,

334

00:16:52,190 --> 00:16:56,815 has to be sent back to Auschwitz or wherever, out of the camp.

335

00:16:56,815 --> 00:16:58,190 Out of the camp that you were in.

336

00:16:58,190 --> 00:16:59,480 Where we were in.

337

00:16:59,480 --> 00:17:01,430 Only Jews remained.

338

00:17:01,430 --> 00:17:04,369 And there were many, especially some Russians.

339

00:17:04,369 --> 00:17:08,060 Which when they are born, they are being circumcised.

00:17:08,060 --> 00:17:11,478 The moment you were circumcised, you were considered a Jew,

341

00:17:11,478 --> 00:17:12,770 and they were left in the camp.

342

00:17:12,770 --> 00:17:16,569

343

00:17:16,569 --> 00:17:21,010 And that is another episode.

344

00:17:21,010 --> 00:17:22,450 And--

345

00:17:22,450 --> 00:17:25,030 Do you remember what month that was?

346

00:17:25,030 --> 00:17:30,820 This was in '43 going on '44.

347

00:17:30,820 --> 00:17:36,796 No, this is going in the middle of '44 already.

348

00:17:36,796 --> 00:17:41,410 We knew it, because when we left that camp,

349

00:17:41,410 --> 00:17:47,230 we knew that the war is getting bad for the Germans,

350

00:17:47,230 --> 00:17:50,560 because they had to evacuate us, as I said before.

351

00:17:50,560 --> 00:17:51,300

OK.

352

00:17:51,300 --> 00:17:53,300 The month when you were evacuated from the camp,

353

00:17:53,300 --> 00:17:54,460 you don't remember.

354

00:17:54,460 --> 00:17:57,800 You say it was mid--

355

00:17:57,800 --> 00:18:00,610 It was going '44.

356

00:18:00,610 --> 00:18:02,650 It was winter.

357

00:18:02,650 --> 00:18:03,910 Winter '44.

358

00:18:03,910 --> 00:18:05,620 I know that exclusive.

359

00:18:05,620 --> 00:18:06,730 I know very well.

360

00:18:06,730 --> 00:18:08,170 November 1944.

361

00:18:08,170 --> 00:18:10,150 Yes.

362

00:18:10,150 --> 00:18:10,960 We do.

363

00:18:10,960 --> 00:18:19,120 And they were transporting us in trains of about 20 in a train,

364

00:18:19,120 --> 00:18:23,200 in a car, instead of 100 the way we came to Auschwitz, where

00:18:23,200 --> 00:18:26,650 we came 100-150 in a cattle.

366

00:18:26,650 --> 00:18:32,380

Here, they give us

passenger cars but unheated.

367

00:18:32,380 --> 00:18:36,460

And they transported us

for a week or maybe longer.

368

00:18:36,460 --> 00:18:43,210

And they send us to

Mauthausen Austria.

369

00:18:43,210 --> 00:18:52,530

By the time we arrived in that

camp, half of us were frozen--

370

00:18:52,530 --> 00:18:57,390

froze to death,

unheated things--

371

00:18:57,390 --> 00:18:58,510

unheated cars.

372

00:18:58,510 --> 00:19:01,330

373

00:19:01,330 --> 00:19:03,100

How many people-- do

you have any idea--

374

00:19:03,100 --> 00:19:06,520

were in this transport

to Mauthausen?

375

00:19:06,520 --> 00:19:09,310

That camp held at

least 2,000 people.

376

00:19:09,310 --> 00:19:11,500

But from your camp, where you were coming from?

377

00:19:11,500 --> 00:19:12,650 [BOTH TALKING]

378

00:19:12,650 --> 00:19:15,930 But you went directly to Mauthausen, correct?

379

00:19:15,930 --> 00:19:17,405 Yes.

380

00:19:17,405 --> 00:19:19,780 I'm just wondering how many people went with you directly

381

00:19:19,780 --> 00:19:21,810 to Mauthausen in the transport.

382

00:19:21,810 --> 00:19:24,680 That camp-- the whole camp was evacuated.

383

00:19:24,680 --> 00:19:25,180 Right.

384

00:19:25,180 --> 00:19:25,780 The whole--

385

00:19:25,780 --> 00:19:28,780 But only-- you had mentioned before

386

00:19:28,780 --> 00:19:31,700 that the non-Jews already had been taken out of the camp.

387

00:19:31,700 --> 00:19:32,200 Yeah.

388 00:19:32,200 --> 00:19:34,270 But so they brought some more people in.

389

00:19:34,270 --> 00:19:37,210 There were French Jews French--

390

00:19:37,210 --> 00:19:39,670 they brought in Hungarian Jews.

391

00:19:39,670 --> 00:19:41,530 Hungarian Jews were the--

392

00:19:41,530 --> 00:19:42,670 I wouldn't say the worst.

393

00:19:42,670 --> 00:19:45,280 The worst, they want to survive--

394

00:19:45,280 --> 00:19:46,570 for survival purposes.

395

00:19:46,570 --> 00:19:49,210

396

00:19:49,210 --> 00:19:50,340 By the time they came--

397

00:19:50,340 --> 00:19:53,680 You mentioned

Auschwitz a second ago.

398

00:19:53,680 --> 00:19:55,570 You were not in Auschwitz.

399

00:19:55,570 --> 00:19:58,070 Birkenau was part of Auschwitz.

400

00:19:58,070 --> 00:20:00,470

OK.

401

00:20:00,470 --> 00:20:01,180 You see.

402

00:20:01,180 --> 00:20:04,100 We did not go into the other part because they sent us away.

403

00:20:04,100 --> 00:20:05,920 Right.

404

00:20:05,920 --> 00:20:12,580 Now, the Hungarian Jews were--

405

00:20:12,580 --> 00:20:20,290 in Poland they choked us systematically, I mean slowly.

406

00:20:20,290 --> 00:20:23,440 They did not pull that noose up tight.

407

00:20:23,440 --> 00:20:27,490 Whereby in Hungary and in France,

408

00:20:27,490 --> 00:20:30,100 they put the nose on your neck and they

409

00:20:30,100 --> 00:20:33,730 tightened it very fast.

410

00:20:33,730 --> 00:20:36,460 Like, for instance, the Germans did not

411

00:20:36,460 --> 00:20:41,410 go bad very strong with their Hungarians up till 1944,

412

00:20:41,410 --> 00:20:43,780 where I was already almost four years.

413 00:20:43,780 --> 00:20:45,790 I was already a veteran of the camps.

414 00:20:45,790 --> 00:20:48,460

415 00:20:48,460 --> 00:20:58,060 So when we got mixed up with the Hungarian Jews, in our opinion

416 00:20:58,060 --> 00:21:02,340 they became the animals compared to us.

417 00:21:02,340 --> 00:21:04,320 And I'll explain.

418 00:21:04,320 --> 00:21:06,660 We were used to the hunger.

419 00:21:06,660 --> 00:21:10,350 We took that 4 ounces of bread, and the soup,

420 00:21:10,350 --> 00:21:13,620 and the 800 calories-we had to live with it.

421 00:21:13,620 --> 00:21:17,820 Where they couldn't-- they didn't get accustomed to that

422 00:21:17,820 --> 00:21:19,050 hunger.

423 00:21:19,050 --> 00:21:23,130 So they were twice, three times as starved as us.

424 00:21:23,130 --> 00:21:29,340 And sometimes they just wanted to see how much animals we are.

425

00:21:29,340 --> 00:21:32,370 They used to call out seconds.

426

00:21:32,370 --> 00:21:36,840

Seconds-- you had to line up in a line.

427

00:21:36,840 --> 00:21:39,300

The Hungarians became animals.

428

00:21:39,300 --> 00:21:43,080

They jumped around

the pot or whatever

429

00:21:43,080 --> 00:21:44,490

it was dished out with.

430

00:21:44,490 --> 00:21:46,110

What happened is this--

431

00:21:46,110 --> 00:21:48,630

they just went wild.

432

00:21:48,630 --> 00:21:51,090

With that [INAUDIBLE]

with those things.

433

00:21:51,090 --> 00:21:52,470

They had the rubber things.

434

00:21:52,470 --> 00:21:55,380

They just went straight

over everybody.

435

00:21:55,380 --> 00:21:58,980

And that's when many times I

got hit for no apparent reason.

436

00:21:58,980 --> 00:22:02,362

Because I never volunteered or never ran for seconds.

437

00:22:02,362 --> 00:22:04,320 Because I knew nothing good can come out of it.

438

00:22:04,320 --> 00:22:07,780 So you have to do the best we can with whatever you have.

439

00:22:07,780 --> 00:22:13,350 If you get hit and you hurt yourself, you go on roll call

440

00:22:13,350 --> 00:22:14,280 to the doctor.

441

00:22:14,280 --> 00:22:15,120 You'll never return.

442

00:22:15,120 --> 00:22:17,830

443

00:22:17,830 --> 00:22:19,370 Never return.

444

00:22:19,370 --> 00:22:20,855 So you had to stay healthy-- alive.

445

00:22:20,855 --> 00:22:25,180

446

00:22:25,180 --> 00:22:27,190 So that's another episode.

447

00:22:27,190 --> 00:22:31,000

On the transfer to

Mauthausen, you say about half

448

 $00:22:31,000 \longrightarrow 00:22:35,170$

of the people who were with you in the camp froze to death.

449

00:22:35,170 --> 00:22:37,240 They froze not to death.

450

00:22:37,240 --> 00:22:38,500 They froze.

451

00:22:38,500 --> 00:22:45,160 When we arrived in Mauthausen, they put us under hot water,

452

00:22:45,160 --> 00:22:48,010 give us showers to clean up.

453

00:22:48,010 --> 00:22:52,330 I remembered something when I was a child,

454

00:22:52,330 --> 00:22:54,530 and I put a pinch--

455

00:22:54,530 --> 00:22:57,400 we actually didn't have showers.

456

00:22:57,400 --> 00:23:00,910 They gave us fountains, big fountains,

457

00:23:00,910 --> 00:23:02,470 and water came out from them.

458

00:23:02,470 --> 00:23:04,960 And there were about 20 people to each fountain--

459

00:23:04,960 --> 00:23:06,280 the water came out.

460

00:23:06,280 --> 00:23:09,400 And I put-- the first thing

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

your feet were frozen--

461 00:23:09,400 --> 00:23:12,190 a pinch of water my big toe, and it

462 00:23:12,190 --> 00:23:14,980 hurts me till the day of today.

463 00:23:14,980 --> 00:23:19,480 And you never hot

water on frozen things.

464 00:23:19,480 --> 00:23:24,790 But I was a baby, but I grew up with my own understanding.

465 00:23:24,790 --> 00:23:29,920 And I closed the hot water and I poured cold water on my feet.

466 00:23:29,920 --> 00:23:32,710 And that saved my life.

467 00:23:32,710 --> 00:23:34,690 The other people were all--

468 00:23:34,690 --> 00:23:36,790 people-- were young kids.

469 00:23:36,790 --> 00:23:37,780 They didn't know.

470 00:23:37,780 --> 00:23:41,290 They were cold and they went and they poured hot water on them.

471 00:23:41,290 --> 00:23:44,020 That's when the problems started.

472 00:23:44,020 --> 00:23:46,280 They got the gangreen and all that thing.

473

00:23:46,280 --> 00:23:48,250

That's why I said half of them died.

474

00:23:48,250 --> 00:23:50,335

Because they sent

them out from camp,

475

00:23:50,335 --> 00:23:51,752

that's the last

you heard of them.

476

00:23:51,752 --> 00:23:54,590

477

00:23:54,590 --> 00:23:56,180

How long were you in Mauthausen?

478

00:23:56,180 --> 00:23:58,970

Another transition period.

479

00:23:58,970 --> 00:24:01,590

And from there, they send us--

480

00:24:01,590 --> 00:24:02,090

How long?

481

00:24:02,090 --> 00:24:03,170

You said another trip.

482

00:24:03,170 --> 00:24:03,890

A few weeks?

483

00:24:03,890 --> 00:24:05,270

A few weeks.

484

00:24:05,270 --> 00:24:08,060

Again, because we were

considered workers.

485 00:24:08,060 --> 00:24:08,610 Right.

486 00:24:08,610 --> 00:24:10,490 And you said you had some feeling that the war was

487 00:24:10,490 --> 00:24:11,300 coming to an end.

488 00:24:11,300 --> 00:24:13,070 Sure, because we knew it.

489 00:24:13,070 --> 00:24:13,820 We knew it.

490 00:24:13,820 --> 00:24:16,250 How did you know?

491 00:24:16,250 --> 00:24:19,490 Sometimes somebody smuggled in a piece of paper.

492 00:24:19,490 --> 00:24:22,430 But how and where were not interested.

493 00:24:22,430 --> 00:24:24,320 Because yes, we knew it.

494 00:24:24,320 --> 00:24:29,030 Because the next camp, where I'm going to come to, was near

495 00:24:29,030 --> 00:24:30,221 Dýsseldorf.

496 00:24:30,221 --> 00:24:32,630 They put us on another train and they took us 497 00:24:32,630 --> 00:24:35,240 to another factory.

498 00:24:35,240 --> 00:24:39,980 And that day we arrived in January of '45.

499 00:24:39,980 --> 00:24:43,535 And in that factory, another factory for the German factory.

500 00:24:43,535 --> 00:24:48,250

501 00:24:48,250 --> 00:24:50,770 They in that factory where specialists are already.

502 00:24:50,770 --> 00:24:55,990 There were Frenchmen, Jews and non-Jews,

503 00:24:55,990 --> 00:25:05,050 and there were German political prisoners.

504 00:25:05,050 --> 00:25:07,420 And the only one we could--

505 00:25:07,420 --> 00:25:09,640 the long language we could communicate

506 00:25:09,640 --> 00:25:14,680 is German, because everybody else was from--

507 00:25:14,680 --> 00:25:16,510 my department was six, seven people

508 00:25:16,510 --> 00:25:18,640 from six different countries.

509

00:25:18,640 --> 00:25:23,170 German was the only language that we all understood.

510

 $00:25:23,170 \longrightarrow 00:25:29,825$ And there we spent almost to the week when Dýsseldorf was

511

00:25:29,825 --> 00:25:30,325

bombed.

512

00:25:30,325 --> 00:25:33,050

513

00:25:33,050 --> 00:25:34,038 Dýsseldorf.

DA74SSEIGOIT

514 00:25:34,038 --> 00:25:47,870

515

00:25:47,870 --> 00:25:48,990

Oh, I forgot.

516

00:25:48,990 --> 00:25:54,800

517

 $00:25:54,800 \longrightarrow 00:25:56,522$

And from there to

Theresienstadt.

518

00:25:56,522 --> 00:26:08,810

519

00:26:08,810 --> 00:26:10,400

Maybe it will come back to me.

520

00:26:10,400 --> 00:26:11,250

I just--

521

00:26:11,250 --> 00:26:13,280 You mentioned Theresienstadt just now.

522

00:26:13,280 --> 00:26:16,430 Theresienstadt was the last one where I was liberated.

523

00:26:16,430 --> 00:26:24,740

524

00:26:24,740 --> 00:26:26,930 Terezin.

525

00:26:26,930 --> 00:26:30,180 Terezin, that's where it was.

526

00:26:30,180 --> 00:26:33,830 It was a suburb of Terezin.

527

00:26:33,830 --> 00:26:36,230 And they were bombing.

528

00:26:36,230 --> 00:26:46,700 In fact, every time there came through the sirens,

529

00:26:46,700 --> 00:26:50,210 they, the Germans, went into the bunkers.

530

00:26:50,210 --> 00:26:54,050 And with us they left in the factory.

531

00:26:54,050 --> 00:26:55,490 And we made the bunkers.

532

00:26:55,490 --> 00:26:57,350 We dig the holes for them.

533

00:26:57,350 --> 00:27:02,190

But we were left in the factory, and they went to hiding.

534

00:27:02,190 --> 00:27:08,090 So we knew that the end was closer and closer.

535

00:27:08,090 --> 00:27:10,130 And there we spent--

536

00:27:10,130 --> 00:27:13,130 it was the last four-five months where we spent.

537

00:27:13,130 --> 00:27:14,494 And even there--

538

00:27:14,494 --> 00:27:18,710 So that's from January 1945 through February, March, April,

539

00:27:18,710 --> 00:27:19,820 May.

540

00:27:19,820 --> 00:27:21,680 So at the end of April--

541

00:27:21,680 --> 00:27:22,760 End of April.

542

00:27:22,760 --> 00:27:25,170 -- in that camp.

543

00:27:25,170 --> 00:27:26,920 How many people were in the camp with you?

544

 $00:27:26,920 \longrightarrow 00:27:30,423$

545

00:27:30,423 --> 00:27:31,090

Several hundred.

546 00:27:31,090 --> 00:27:34,260 Close to 1,000.

547 00:27:34,260 --> 00:27:38,190 And there, again, food was the biggest problem.

548 00:27:38,190 --> 00:27:45,570 Somehow people got a hold of salt. And what they did,

549 00:27:45,570 --> 00:27:49,200 they mixed it with water, and they drank it.

550 00:27:49,200 --> 00:27:50,700 What happened?

551 00:27:50,700 --> 00:27:53,200 They swelled.

552 00:27:53,200 --> 00:27:55,000 I didn't.

553 00:27:55,000 --> 00:27:57,565 I took a pinch to put in my food.

554 00:27:57,565 --> 00:28:00,120

555 00:28:00,120 --> 00:28:01,685 I didn't do it.

556 00:28:01,685 --> 00:28:04,680 It saved my life again.

557 00:28:04,680 --> 00:28:13,190 Going back to Mauthausen. 00:28:13,190 --> 00:28:15,370 In Mauthausen, they somehow tried

559 00:28:15,370 --> 00:28:19,180 to kill us down there while we were waiting.

560 00:28:19,180 --> 00:28:23,560 They gave us the portion of bread

561 00:28:23,560 --> 00:28:30,010 with a square ounce of artificial,

562 00:28:30,010 --> 00:28:35,455 some kind of grease to put on the bread, very, very salty.

563 00:28:35,455 --> 00:28:38,420

564 00:28:38,420 --> 00:28:42,800 When you finished, you were so starved,

565 00:28:42,800 --> 00:28:45,890 you're so thirsty, and coffee, or what's

566 00:28:45,890 --> 00:28:52,070 supposed to be dirt water, they gave you 3 ounces.

567 00:28:52,070 --> 00:28:56,330 So what you had to do was go for water.

568 00:28:56,330 --> 00:29:01,010 The first time I, went I had a couple sips, 00:29:01,010 --> 00:29:03,330 and I didn't feel good.

570 00:29:03,330 --> 00:29:06,770 So I'm not going to drink that water again.

571 00:29:06,770 --> 00:29:10,880 From my group, about a third of the people that

572 00:29:10,880 --> 00:29:13,250 drank that water-- that water was poisoned.

573 00:29:13,250 --> 00:29:15,900 I don't know with what.

574 00:29:15,900 --> 00:29:17,565 You got the diarrhea.

575 00:29:17,565 --> 00:29:18,940 And the moment you got diarrhea--

576 00:29:18,940 --> 00:29:20,490 the people were still alive.

577 00:29:20,490 --> 00:29:22,860 When they came to the appell, and when they counted,

578 00:29:22,860 --> 00:29:25,200 they counted them as dead.

579 00:29:25,200 --> 00:29:26,130 And now we heard--

580 00:29:26,130 --> 00:29:28,390 I didn't see it personally--

581 00:29:28,390 --> 00:29:31,930 they had big drums-there were no doctors--

582 00:29:31,930 --> 00:29:36,790 they drowned them and throw them away.

583 00:29:36,790 --> 00:29:38,920 And I survived again by my wits.

584 00:29:38,920 --> 00:29:42,100 I did not-- that water didn't taste good to me.

585 00:29:42,100 --> 00:29:46,990 I'd rather I was thirsty and alive.

586 00:29:46,990 --> 00:29:49,990 Another episode.

587 00:29:49,990 --> 00:29:59,970 And in that camp, we were the [? salt. ?]

588 00:29:59,970 --> 00:30:01,830 They did not send you away.

589 00:30:01,830 --> 00:30:03,150 When they put you on--

590 00:30:03,150 --> 00:30:08,070 when you reported sick, they send you outside

591 00:30:08,070 --> 00:30:10,230 to dig trenches for the Germans.

592 00:30:10,230 --> 00:30:13,020 It was 10 times as hard workers as in the factory. 00:30:13,020 --> 00:30:15,810 In the factory at least you stay in a place,

594

00:30:15,810 --> 00:30:18,780 and you do whatever you can.

595

00:30:18,780 --> 00:30:30,200 Then it came that early night, where we saw the town burning.

596

00:30:30,200 --> 00:30:33,540 And so they took us around--

597

00:30:33,540 --> 00:30:35,940 The town of Terezin?

598

00:30:35,940 --> 00:30:37,292 Which town?

599

00:30:37,292 --> 00:30:41,200 Terezin No, Terezin was in the foreground.

600

00:30:41,200 --> 00:30:45,180 We were in the suburbs somewhere in a factory.

601

00:30:45,180 --> 00:30:49,050 And they told us to congregate.

602

00:30:49,050 --> 00:30:50,860 We're going to go.

603

00:30:50,860 --> 00:30:52,860 No trucks, no more nothing.

604

00:30:52,860 --> 00:30:55,170 Just a dead march.

605

00:30:55,170 --> 00:30:58,570

And we walked out.

606 00:30:58,570 --> 00:31:02,310 But one thing they did, they took away our shoes.

607 00:31:02,310 --> 00:31:04,245 And they gave us Holland shoes--

608 00:31:04,245 --> 00:31:05,440 you know, those wooden.

609 00:31:05,440 --> 00:31:07,570 Wooden shoes.

610 00:31:07,570 --> 00:31:12,870 And again, I put them on for about 10 seconds,

611 00:31:12,870 --> 00:31:15,030 and I didn't feel comfortable in them.

612 00:31:15,030 --> 00:31:17,430 And I, again, am a farm boy.

613 00:31:17,430 --> 00:31:19,920 Because we did have [INAUDIBLE],, and I

614 00:31:19,920 --> 00:31:22,470 knew how to walk barefoot.

615 00:31:22,470 --> 00:31:25,110 And we always have rags with us.

616 00:31:25,110 --> 00:31:28,820 I went and I wrapped around my feet with rags.

617 00:31:28,820 --> 00:31:35,480 And I found a stick, and I walked barefoot. 618 00:31:35,480 --> 00:31:37,520 What happened?

619 00:31:37,520 --> 00:31:39,110 We walked for about a week.

620 00:31:39,110 --> 00:31:43,190 We walked actually in from there into Czechoslovakia,

621 00:31:43,190 --> 00:31:45,500 to Theresienstadt.

622 00:31:45,500 --> 00:31:47,460 But we go into Theresienstadt directly.

623 00:31:47,460 --> 00:31:49,190 We went into a holding camp, I don't

624 00:31:49,190 --> 00:31:53,300 know, about five kilometers from Theresienstadt.

625 00:31:53,300 --> 00:31:57,590 And on that march, half the people--

626 00:31:57,590 --> 00:31:58,590 [INAUDIBLE] [? shoot ?].

627 00:31:58,590 --> 00:32:00,410 This was the worst thing where they did.

628 00:32:00,410 --> 00:32:02,690 People did not realize.

629 00:32:02,690 --> 00:32:07,810 The heavyset people, they fell like flies.

630

00:32:07,810 --> 00:32:08,527 I was skinny.

631

00:32:08,527 --> 00:32:09,360 I was always little.

632

00:32:09,360 --> 00:32:12,170 I never grew up big.

633

00:32:12,170 --> 00:32:14,330 So they left me alone.

634

00:32:14,330 --> 00:32:25,540 And we arrived in that holding camp about half.

635

00:32:25,540 --> 00:32:27,750 They did give us something to eat.

636

00:32:27,750 --> 00:32:33,510 There I saw bunkers eight floors high.

637

00:32:33,510 --> 00:32:35,730 And within 24 hours--

638

00:32:35,730 --> 00:32:37,925 Again, in Theresienstadt itself or just outside.

639

00:32:37,925 --> 00:32:38,425 No, no, no.

640

00:32:38,425 --> 00:32:39,720 It's outside.

641

00:32:39,720 --> 00:32:41,070

Outside Theresienstadt.

642 00:32:41,070 --> 00:32:43,950 That was in

Czechoslovakia already.

643 00:32:43,950 --> 00:32:45,900 All of a sudden, it's the first time,

644 00:32:45,900 --> 00:32:48,240 and I didn't hear the word Juden, Jew,

645 00:32:48,240 --> 00:32:50,010 in a couple of years.

646 00:32:50,010 --> 00:32:53,940 All of a sudden, Alle Juden raus!--

647 00:32:53,940 --> 00:32:55,050 "All Jews out!"

648 00:32:55,050 --> 00:33:00,380

649 00:33:00,380 --> 00:33:03,770 My life, you know--

650 00:33:03,770 --> 00:33:04,520 you lived through.

651 00:33:04,520 --> 00:33:09,740 You know it's only days before the liberation.

652 00:33:09,740 --> 00:33:13,580 What's happening?

653 00:33:13,580 --> 00:33:20,420 And I walked out, put us in a column, and marched us. 654 00:33:20,420 --> 00:33:26,400 And we marched the five kilometers to Theresienstadt.

655 00:33:26,400 --> 00:33:29,700 We come to Theresien stadt

We come to Theresienstadt, we see a synagogue.

we see a synagogue

656 00:33:29,700 --> 00:33:32,670 We see Jews.

657 00:33:32,670 --> 00:33:34,620 We see people there.

658 00:33:34,620 --> 00:33:40,650 And that camp, that camp was actually a ghetto.

659 00:33:40,650 --> 00:33:46,470 What the Germans did is they took the German

660 00:33:46,470 --> 00:33:53,490 Jews, the old, the crippled, and they wanted the world

661 00:33:53,490 --> 00:33:57,420 to see the goodness what he did, that he

662 00:33:57,420 --> 00:34:03,130 left a ghetto with crippled people alive.

663 00:34:03,130 --> 00:34:06,930 Honestly, I saw the where I was.

664 00:34:06,930 --> 00:34:08,820 You know something?

665 00:34:08,820 --> 00:34:11,330 I resented it. 666 00:34:11,330 --> 00:34:15,550 I still resent it very much.

667 00:34:15,550 --> 00:34:18,190 And here's the reason.

668 00:34:18,190 --> 00:34:24,280 I saw my family, my young sisters and brothers, and six

669 00:34:24,280 --> 00:34:28,420 million, three million, young children, fathers, youngsters,

670 00:34:28,420 --> 00:34:31,600 healthy, good, could be left alive.

671 00:34:31,600 --> 00:34:37,570 And here cripples-- not that I am not for letting people live.

672 00:34:37,570 --> 00:34:40,060 But if I have a choice to let somebody

673 00:34:40,060 --> 00:34:44,830 live, people that can have a life or people that were in

674 00:34:44,830 --> 00:34:48,460 wheelchairs or dead or blind to leave something

675 00:34:48,460 --> 00:34:53,530 like 30,000 people like this, leaving those people alive,

676 00:34:53,530 --> 00:34:55,900 to show the world that he left cripples. 677 00:34:55,900 --> 00:34:58,630 I don't understand why he Hitler did this,

678 00:34:58,630 --> 00:35:02,730 or whoever was in charge why he did this.

679 00:35:02,730 --> 00:35:09,810 And there we were only a couple weeks, and the liberation came.

680 00:35:09,810 --> 00:35:11,070 Russians liberated us.

681 00:35:11,070 --> 00:35:12,780 The Russians came in.

682 00:35:12,780 --> 00:35:15,150 There was another hedge there too.

683 00:35:15,150 --> 00:35:17,520 Can you describe when the Russians came?

684 00:35:17,520 --> 00:35:18,480 Yes.

685 00:35:18,480 --> 00:35:19,720 There was a hedge.

686 00:35:19,720 --> 00:35:22,183 The Germans left.

687 00:35:22,183 --> 00:35:23,100 Just all of a sudden--

688 00:35:23,100 --> 00:35:26,310 And they came back.

689

00:35:26,310 --> 00:35:28,260 I understand-- I never saw it--

690

00:35:28,260 --> 00:35:30,010 Did you have any idea how many people were

691

00:35:30,010 --> 00:35:32,790 in Theresien stadt at the time?

692

00:35:32,790 --> 00:35:33,840 There were any people?

693

00:35:33,840 --> 00:35:34,830 Yeah, how many people.

694

00:35:34,830 --> 00:35:35,820 Do you have any--

695

00:35:35,820 --> 00:35:37,740 30,000 or more.

696

00:35:37,740 --> 00:35:38,970 On the day of liberation.

697

00:35:38,970 --> 00:35:40,740 Yes.

698

00:35:40,740 --> 00:35:43,140 And there were maybe the same amount

699

00:35:43,140 --> 00:35:45,710 of us coming into the camp from all over.

700

00:35:45,710 --> 00:35:48,660 What were you doing for those three days-- those three weeks.

701

00:35:48,660 --> 00:35:52,560

They cleaned us.

702 00:35:52,560 --> 00:35:55,500 They gave us civilian clothes.

703 00:35:55,500 --> 00:35:58,060 That's the first time we put in a civilian--

704 00:35:58,060 --> 00:36:01,510 I thought-- we knew that the end was close.

705 00:36:01,510 --> 00:36:03,960 Close-- the end is very close.

706 00:36:03,960 --> 00:36:08,610 But we did not know that Theresienstadt

707 00:36:08,610 --> 00:36:10,680 had prepared-- there was-- first of all,

708 00:36:10,680 --> 00:36:13,110 they had a crematorium there.

709 00:36:13,110 --> 00:36:17,580 And they had 30,000 loaves of poisoned bread

710 00:36:17,580 --> 00:36:21,090 to be distributed to the inmates.

711 00:36:21,090 --> 00:36:26,430 Somehow that leader, that German whoever it was in command

712 00:36:26,430 --> 00:36:32,220 of that camp, looked out for himself more than for us, 00:36:32,220 --> 00:36:36,240 that he thought, from himself-which I'm sure he did--

714 00:36:36,240 --> 00:36:39,000 that he did not distribute that bread.

715 00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:41,410 That bread was found.

716 00:36:41,410 --> 00:36:44,970 That's how we are alive again.

717 00:36:44,970 --> 00:36:47,580 And they left, they came back, and then

718 00:36:47,580 --> 00:36:50,820 finally the Russians came.

719 00:36:50,820 --> 00:36:56,190 When the Russians came, they gave us

720 00:36:56,190 --> 00:36:59,160 a free hand to go into town.

721 00:36:59,160 --> 00:37:01,770 Plunder, do what you want.

722 00:37:01,770 --> 00:37:03,390 Go into town.

723 00:37:03,390 --> 00:37:04,800 We went.

724 00:37:04,800 --> 00:37:07,590 We went into a town.

725 00:37:07,590 --> 00:37:12,482 There was German occupied, a factory.

726 00:37:12,482 --> 00:37:14,190 Did you believe that the war was really--

727 00:37:14,190 --> 00:37:15,630 I mean, what were your feelings?

728 00:37:15,630 --> 00:37:20,250 I mean, this is after going from one camp to another camp.

729 00:37:20,250 --> 00:37:22,680 We were not humans.

730 00:37:22,680 --> 00:37:28,260 Now, when we got out, the first thing you wanted to do--

731 00:37:28,260 --> 00:37:30,660 You said at the time before you were

732 00:37:30,660 --> 00:37:32,820 about 60 pounds when you were--

733 00:37:32,820 --> 00:37:36,180 That's what I-- yeah, 65 pounds I weighed.

734 00:37:36,180 --> 00:37:38,070 And all you thought, and my only--

735 00:37:38,070 --> 00:37:40,290 I made a promise to myself.

736 00:37:40,290 --> 00:37:42,390 Whenever I get liberated, I'm going 00:37:42,390 --> 00:37:45,480 to cook myself a bread soup.

738

00:37:45,480 --> 00:37:48,960 Because many camps, what we did when we had the chance,

739

00:37:48,960 --> 00:37:52,800 we took a pot of water, and that 4 ounces of bread,

740

00:37:52,800 --> 00:37:56,430 we put it in it, and we let it boil with a drop of water.

741

00:37:56,430 --> 00:37:57,570 This way it filled you up.

742

00:37:57,570 --> 00:38:00,470

743

00:38:00,470 --> 00:38:04,640 So by the liberation, the Russians let us out.

744

00:38:04,640 --> 00:38:06,800 They cleaned us up.

745

00:38:06,800 --> 00:38:09,470 Go, look for food, whatever you want to.

746

 $00:38:09,470 \longrightarrow 00:38:12,280$

747

00:38:12,280 --> 00:38:19,990 Going to town we saw a car.

748

00:38:19,990 --> 00:38:23,740 The Germans saw us-- there were Germans, a horse and buggy. 00:38:23,740 --> 00:38:26,440 It's [? not ?] a car-- a horse and buggy I meant.

750 00:38:26,440 --> 00:38:28,750 Everybody looked for food.

751 00:38:28,750 --> 00:38:30,520 I didn't have a chance.

752 00:38:30,520 --> 00:38:37,750 I found AN attache case full of cigarettes.

753 00:38:37,750 --> 00:38:43,800 And there was a big box, three, four feet

754 00:38:43,800 --> 00:38:47,550 by TWO feet along CLOSED.

755 00:38:47,550 --> 00:38:49,170 We opened it up--

756 00:38:49,170 --> 00:38:50,950 you wouldn't believe it.

757 00:38:50,950 --> 00:38:51,810 Alcohol?

758 00:38:51,810 --> 00:38:54,150 No, money.

759 00:38:54,150 --> 00:38:55,710 He must have been a banker.

760 00:38:55,710 --> 00:38:59,910 I grabbed a handful and stuck it in that attache case.

761 00:38:59,910 --> 00:39:01,530 Fellas, Germany's kaput. 762 00:39:01,530 --> 00:39:03,060 Who needs the money?

763 00:39:03,060 --> 00:39:04,170 Who has a match.

764 00:39:04,170 --> 00:39:06,240 We burned it.

765 00:39:06,240 --> 00:39:09,330 We burned millions of German marks.

766 00:39:09,330 --> 00:39:10,410 Who needs it?

767 00:39:10,410 --> 00:39:12,120 Now, this following--

768 00:39:12,120 --> 00:39:13,350 Let me just get this correct.

769 00:39:13,350 --> 00:39:15,720 This was money that was next to the--

770 00:39:15,720 --> 00:39:17,758 No, this is the money that--

771 00:39:17,758 --> 00:39:18,300 I understand.

772 00:39:18,300 --> 00:39:19,202 You found in a box.

773 00:39:19,202 --> 00:39:20,160 In a box on the wagon--

774 00:39:20,160 --> 00:39:20,820 The box was on the street. 775

00:39:20,820 --> 00:39:21,362 On the wagon.

776

00:39:21,362 --> 00:39:22,290 It's on the wagon.

777

00:39:22,290 --> 00:39:23,310 Nobody was in the wagon.

778

00:39:23,310 --> 00:39:24,420 No, they ran to the woods.

779

00:39:24,420 --> 00:39:27,010 They went for their lives-they ran for their lives.

780

00:39:27,010 --> 00:39:30,510 They were Germans or whoever they were.

781

00:39:30,510 --> 00:39:34,050 And they had some food, but I never had a chance to grab any.

782

00:39:34,050 --> 00:39:36,270 I guess somebody gave me [INAUDIBLE]..

783

00:39:36,270 --> 00:39:37,650 We got into the town.

784

00:39:37,650 --> 00:39:39,330 There was a factory--

785

00:39:39,330 --> 00:39:41,078 cheeses and all kinds of things.

786

00:39:41,078 --> 00:39:42,620

Let me just ask you another question.

787

00:39:42,620 --> 00:39:44,230

The cigarettes--

788

00:39:44,230 --> 00:39:45,180

I'll come back.

789

00:39:45,180 --> 00:39:46,450

I took them back to camp

790

00:39:46,450 --> 00:39:46,980

Yeah.

791

00:39:46,980 --> 00:39:47,670

Did you smoke?

792

00:39:47,670 --> 00:39:49,140

I started smoking.

793

 $00:39:49,140 \longrightarrow 00:39:50,820$

I never smoked in my life.

794

 $00:39:50,820 \longrightarrow 00:39:54,717$

That's one of my bad

habits that I developed.

795

00:39:54,717 --> 00:39:56,550

You never smoked in

your life prior to that?

796

00:39:56,550 --> 00:39:58,320

Not prior to then, no.

797

00:39:58,320 --> 00:40:02,460

In fact, in one of the camps,

when you made your quota,

798

00:40:02,460 --> 00:40:04,410

they gave you a

couple cigarettes.

799

00:40:04,410 --> 00:40:07,740

I used to sell them for a piece of bread.

800

00:40:07,740 --> 00:40:10,400 So here you have a case full of cigarettes.

801

00:40:10,400 --> 00:40:12,216 So I became a big shot--

802

00:40:12,216 --> 00:40:12,950 started smoking.

803

00:40:12,950 --> 00:40:15,300 In the beginning there was no taste.

804

00:40:15,300 --> 00:40:17,970 Then you develop something.

805

00:40:17,970 --> 00:40:23,130 And the money-- anyway, I changed it later.

806

00:40:23,130 --> 00:40:26,700 \$160 for it when I came to Germany.

807

00:40:26,700 --> 00:40:27,600 For the cigarettes?

808

00:40:27,600 --> 00:40:30,270 No, for the handful of German money-- marks.

809

00:40:30,270 --> 00:40:31,950 Oh, you said you burned it.

810

00:40:31,950 --> 00:40:33,210 In other words, you saved some of it, and you--

00:40:33,210 --> 00:40:33,990 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

812

00:40:33,990 --> 00:40:35,220 I grabbed a handful and put it in my attache case.

813

00:40:35,220 --> 00:40:36,053 In the attache case.

814

00:40:36,053 --> 00:40:36,720 OK.

815

00:40:36,720 --> 00:40:39,750 And we're going back to into that town.

816

00:40:39,750 --> 00:40:45,400 In the town there was a factory where cheeses.

817

00:40:45,400 --> 00:40:45,900 Tubes.

818

00:40:45,900 --> 00:40:49,740 We never knew that cheese can be in a tube.

819

00:40:49,740 --> 00:40:53,490 German was advanced and all kind of thing.

820

00:40:53,490 --> 00:40:56,070 But things, no food.

821

00:40:56,070 --> 00:40:57,320 And we came back to Camp.

822

00:40:57,320 --> 00:41:00,690 Oh, of course, we did something.

823

00:41:00,690 --> 00:41:01,590

Another day--

824

00:41:01,590 --> 00:41:02,490

When you say we--

825

00:41:02,490 --> 00:41:03,240

you were.

826

00:41:03,240 --> 00:41:04,560

We never went alone.

827

00:41:04,560 --> 00:41:06,960

We always went in groups.

828

00:41:06,960 --> 00:41:08,460

Because you don't go alone.

829

00:41:08,460 --> 00:41:10,440

You're always afraid.

830

00:41:10,440 --> 00:41:12,300

But when a group-- what

happens to a group.

831

00:41:12,300 --> 00:41:13,050

So you were still afraid.

832

00:41:13,050 --> 00:41:13,760

I mean, the Russian came--

833

00:41:13,760 --> 00:41:14,260

Sure.

834

 $00:41:14,260 \longrightarrow 00:41:17,730$

--told you the war is

finished, go into town.

835

00:41:17,730 --> 00:41:19,590

Right, we went.

836

00:41:19,590 --> 00:41:26,010

On another excursion like this, we found--

837 00:41:26,010 --> 00:41:28,920 they must have been soldiers or something--

838 00:41:28,920 --> 00:41:32,730 a loaf of bread I found in one of the rucksacks.

839 00:41:32,730 --> 00:41:37,350 And next to it was like a brick--

840 00:41:37,350 --> 00:41:39,978 honey.

841 00:41:39,978 --> 00:41:42,180 Oh, I wouldn't dare eating it there.

842 00:41:42,180 --> 00:41:45,780 I brought it back to camp and I ate it up.

843 00:41:45,780 --> 00:41:50,070 I ate up the loaf of bread and I ate up the honey with it.

844 00:41:50,070 --> 00:41:53,880 Immediately I got diarrhea.

845 00:41:53,880 --> 00:41:57,300 I didn't know, but later on I found out why.

846 00:41:57,300 --> 00:41:58,680 But I was lucky.

847 00:41:58,680 --> 00:42:02,730 We did have some things to stop the diarrhea. 848 00:42:02,730 --> 00:42:06,390 But the diarrhea and that--

849 00:42:06,390 --> 00:42:09,600 again, it was not clean, another typhoid

850 00:42:09,600 --> 00:42:12,270 broke out in Theresienstadt.

851 00:42:12,270 --> 00:42:14,910 And quite a few people died, except there

852 00:42:14,910 --> 00:42:18,480 was better medical care then.

853 00:42:18,480 --> 00:42:20,100 Who gave them medical care then?

854 00:42:20,100 --> 00:42:22,740 Whoever was in charge there already.

855 00:42:22,740 --> 00:42:26,790 I don't remember who was the administration there.

856 00:42:26,790 --> 00:42:29,250 But the Russians were--

857 00:42:29,250 --> 00:42:30,120 In command.

858 00:42:30,120 --> 00:42:31,320 --in command of the camp.

859 00:42:31,320 --> 00:42:32,670 The camp, right.

860

00:42:32,670 --> 00:42:36,420 But they let people, whoever they were, in charge.

861 00:42:36,420 --> 00:42:38,610 I understand later on why I'd rather

862 00:42:38,610 --> 00:42:45,120 everybody came in and tried to take you wherever you want to.

863 00:42:45,120 --> 00:42:52,020 And if I wouldn't have had my typhoid in Rzeszow,

864 00:42:52,020 --> 00:42:54,480 I wouldn't have survived.

865 00:42:54,480 --> 00:42:57,240 I was immune to that.

866 00:42:57,240 --> 00:43:00,600 That's how I survived again.

867 00:43:00,600 --> 00:43:06,270 And then, from there we had that choice to go to Italy,

868 00:43:06,270 --> 00:43:11,340 like straight to Israel or whatever, or to Germany.

869 00:43:11,340 --> 00:43:14,710 I took the ride to Germany, because I wanted to see.

870 00:43:14,710 --> 00:43:15,660 Again, until I came--

871 00:43:15,660 --> 00:43:18,095 For how long were you in Theresienstadt 872 00:43:18,095 --> 00:43:18,970 after the liberation.

873

00:43:18,970 --> 00:43:19,720 A few weeks.

874

00:43:19,720 --> 00:43:20,250 A few weeks.

875

00:43:20,250 --> 00:43:21,510 A few weeks.

A lew weeks

876

00:43:21,510 --> 00:43:22,950 And we came into Germany.

877

00:43:22,950 --> 00:43:23,460 In Germany--

878

00:43:23,460 --> 00:43:25,320 Did you have any contact with any other organizations

879

00:43:25,320 --> 00:43:27,000 at the time other than the Russians?

880

00:43:27,000 --> 00:43:28,380 Did you have contact with the Red Cross?

881

00:43:28,380 --> 00:43:29,338 Did your contact with--

882

00:43:29,338 --> 00:43:30,510 They came into the camp.

883

00:43:30,510 --> 00:43:31,380

They fed us.

884

00:43:31,380 --> 00:43:33,150

They gave us.

885 00:43:33,150 --> 00:43:39,210 And they, again, here already is Germany back--

886 00:43:39,210 --> 00:43:42,570 West Germany, Landsberg.

887 00:43:42,570 --> 00:43:46,680 And there again, int our camp, not free, they registered

888 00:43:46,680 --> 00:43:47,620 and everything.

889 00:43:47,620 --> 00:43:49,030 But they let us go.

890 00:43:49,030 --> 00:43:52,800 We can go to Munich, where I registered.

891 00:43:52,800 --> 00:43:55,180 I knew I had some family in America.

892 00:43:55,180 --> 00:43:58,320 And I also knew I had a brother in Belgium.

893 00:43:58,320 --> 00:44:03,360 And I also knew I left my family in Poland.

894 00:44:03,360 --> 00:44:05,220 And you registered in HIAS.

895 00:44:05,220 --> 00:44:09,120 You left all your numbers, your names.

00:44:09,120 --> 00:44:12,600 And I started traveling.

897

00:44:12,600 --> 00:44:15,480 We had free passes in Germany.

898

00:44:15,480 --> 00:44:19,560 ID cards-- you didn't have to pay for any transportation.

899

00:44:19,560 --> 00:44:23,610 Or which town you came in, you give us free food.

900

00:44:23,610 --> 00:44:27,390 And I met already some friends, some boys.

901

00:44:27,390 --> 00:44:32,220 I wound up going to the English zone to Bergen-Belsen

902

00:44:32,220 --> 00:44:34,080 after the war.

903

00:44:34,080 --> 00:44:38,270 And I spent there six months.

904

00:44:38,270 --> 00:44:41,390 Again, no future.

905

00:44:41,390 --> 00:44:46,610 Fine, you belong to a Zionist organization here and there.

906

00:44:46,610 --> 00:44:49,190 But still, my mind was on, where am I?

907

00:44:49,190 --> 00:44:50,705 What am I going to do?

00:44:50,705 --> 00:44:51,455 Where's my family?

909 00:44:51,455 --> 00:44:54,260

910 00:44:54,260 --> 00:44:56,600 What were you doing for the six months at Bergen-Belsen?

911 00:44:56,600 --> 00:45:00,440 Just looking around-loafing, talking.

912 00:45:00,440 --> 00:45:06,110 We met Ben-Gurion came to visit us there

913 00:45:06,110 --> 00:45:08,670 and spoke in a beautiful Yiddish.

914 00:45:08,670 --> 00:45:11,290 Of course Hebrew we didn't speak.

915 00:45:11,290 --> 00:45:16,310 And he said if he could he would take us all with him.

916 00:45:16,310 --> 00:45:19,280 And that's when I registered.

917 00:45:19,280 --> 00:45:22,430 I was one of the Zionist organizations.

918 00:45:22,430 --> 00:45:26,870 But my mind was not made up.

919 00:45:26,870 --> 00:45:30,800 I wanted to go back home. 920 00:45:30,800 --> 00:45:33,170 And I registered as a legal alien.

921 00:45:33,170 --> 00:45:33,920 I want to go back.

922 00:45:33,920 --> 00:45:36,800 I am Polish.

923 00:45:36,800 --> 00:45:41,210 And they put me in the transport and gave me papers.

924 00:45:41,210 --> 00:45:43,580 I went back to Poland.

925 00:45:43,580 --> 00:45:44,550 By yourself?

926 00:45:44,550 --> 00:45:45,800 By myself.

927 00:45:45,800 --> 00:45:47,720 This is already by myself.

928 00:45:47,720 --> 00:45:49,892 And I don't know.

929 00:45:49,892 --> 00:45:51,350 We didn't have money, but somehow I

930 00:45:51,350 --> 00:45:53,660 arrived in my own town.

931 00:45:53,660 --> 00:45:55,700 There was maybe a handful of Jewish people

932 00:45:55,700 --> 00:45:59,530 living in that part which used to be a ghetto.

933

00:45:59,530 --> 00:46:03,620 There was no thing of getting food and being around.

934

00:46:03,620 --> 00:46:06,500 In fact, not only food--

935

00:46:06,500 --> 00:46:08,360 I went to my neighbors, because I knew

936

00:46:08,360 --> 00:46:11,930 that our house was taken apart.

937

00:46:11,930 --> 00:46:14,900 I have pictures, and I bring them with me.

938

00:46:14,900 --> 00:46:18,590 And I went to my neighbors, and there they are hanging.

939

00:46:18,590 --> 00:46:21,930 They plundered our house when we left.

940

00:46:21,930 --> 00:46:24,620 I said, these are our pictures.

941

00:46:24,620 --> 00:46:26,870 My mother was [INAUDIBLE].

942

00:46:26,870 --> 00:46:29,550 And the neighbor says, your mother gave it to us

943

00:46:29,550 --> 00:46:32,640 we should pray for her.

00:46:32,640 --> 00:46:34,160 I said, I'm want to take them.

945

00:46:34,160 --> 00:46:35,020 And I did.

946

00:46:35,020 --> 00:46:37,340 They didn't say nothing.

947

00:46:37,340 --> 00:46:40,430 I had another story.

948

00:46:40,430 --> 00:46:47,330 Another neighbor says to me, why don't I change my religion

949

00:46:47,330 --> 00:46:49,730 and become a Christian?

950

00:46:49,730 --> 00:46:54,440 Because in our town there was a judge--

951

00:46:54,440 --> 00:46:55,710 I forgot his name--

952

00:46:55,710 --> 00:46:57,450 he changed his religion.

953

00:46:57,450 --> 00:47:01,550 [Whether there was a God? ?] The Germans came, he hid.

954

00:47:01,550 --> 00:47:05,750 But after the war he became a big shot again.

955

00:47:05,750 --> 00:47:08,090 I suffered the whole war, now am I

956

00:47:08,090 --> 00:47:09,890

going to after I lived through?

957

00:47:09,890 --> 00:47:10,700

Why did I come.

958

00:47:10,700 --> 00:47:13,250 I came to see if it's anybody--

959

00:47:13,250 --> 00:47:17,380 I found a couple

pictures-- anything.

960

00:47:17,380 --> 00:47:18,680

I didn't find much.

961

00:47:18,680 --> 00:47:25,890 In fact, some neighbors, which

I know my nephew went, my five,

962

00:47:25,890 --> 00:47:31,780

six-year-old nephew, I had

to pay him for holding him.

963

00:47:31,780 --> 00:47:33,310

You know he was here--

964

00:47:33,310 --> 00:47:36,040

I paid him, my neighbors.

965

00:47:36,040 --> 00:47:39,070

Of course our house

was taken apart,

966

00:47:39,070 --> 00:47:40,900

and neighbors owed money.

967

 $00:47:40,900 \longrightarrow 00:47:43,350$

And I knew about it

as a little child.

968

00:47:43,350 --> 00:47:45,190

They said, this is all--

969 00:47:45,190 --> 00:47:49,930 your nephew, we gave him more than what you owe us.

970 00:47:49,930 --> 00:47:56,180 And I was lucky, because as I was in my town,

971 00:47:56,180 --> 00:48:02,380 I saw two funerals on Jewish boys who were left alive,

972 00:48:02,380 --> 00:48:05,750 came back, and they went into the villages.

973 00:48:05,750 --> 00:48:07,450 And that same thing--

974 00:48:07,450 --> 00:48:12,700 the families left whatever they possessed.

975 00:48:12,700 --> 00:48:16,890 But instead of giving them back, they killed them.

976 00:48:16,890 --> 00:48:21,600 There was no police to go and give you back your stuff.

977 00:48:21,600 --> 00:48:22,980 They buried them.

978 00:48:22,980 --> 00:48:28,320 Our cemetery in our town was all destroyed.

979 00:48:28,320 --> 00:48:29,730 One tombstone.

00:48:29,730 --> 00:48:32,730 There was nobody to erect it or do anything.

981 00:48:32,730 --> 00:48:34,020 And that's how it is.

982 00:48:34,020 --> 00:48:37,320 And do you know what happened to your family?

983 00:48:37,320 --> 00:48:44,220 I don't know for sure, but I know my oldest brothers

984 00:48:44,220 --> 00:48:47,160 were in the Russian side.

985 00:48:47,160 --> 00:48:49,170 I told you they were soldiers.

986 00:48:49,170 --> 00:48:52,890 And when they registered to come back to our side,

987 00:48:52,890 --> 00:48:56,250 the Russians took them and sent them to Siberia.

988 00:48:56,250 --> 00:49:00,650 They were young, and they survived.

989 00:49:00,650 --> 00:49:03,030 They survived the war and they were in America.

990 00:49:03,030 --> 00:49:05,910 One of my brothers just died last year.

991 00:49:05,910 --> 00:49:10,050 One is still alive, and he lives in Union near me.

992

00:49:10,050 --> 00:49:12,180 And you had another brother in Belgium?

993

00:49:12,180 --> 00:49:14,560 I had one brother before the war.

994

00:49:14,560 --> 00:49:15,390 He did not--

995

00:49:15,390 --> 00:49:20,220 I did get an answer from the HIAS.

996

00:49:20,220 --> 00:49:24,850 When I came back, going back from Poland,

997

00:49:24,850 --> 00:49:28,590 i had to go to a kibbutz, which was organizing Katowice,

998

00:49:28,590 --> 00:49:30,750 and spend there a few months.

999

00:49:30,750 --> 00:49:35,880 And with them, they transported us, a Zionist organization,

1000

00:49:35,880 --> 00:49:39,030 to Austria and to Germany again.

1001

00:49:39,030 --> 00:49:41,320 But then I said, I'm not going get to Israel.

1002

00:49:41,320 --> 00:49:43,160 I want to see a little more of Germany,

1003 00:49:43,160 --> 00:49:45,060 see about what happened.

1004 00:49:45,060 --> 00:49:49,860 And being in Katowice, when I was in a kibbutz,

1005 00:49:49,860 --> 00:49:53,490 people started coming back from Russia.

1006 00:49:53,490 --> 00:49:58,320 And I have already received an address and people

1007 00:49:58,320 --> 00:50:00,390 that knew where my brothers were,

1008 00:50:00,390 --> 00:50:02,760 that my brothers were alive.

1009 00:50:02,760 --> 00:50:03,990 I knew that.

1010 00:50:03,990 --> 00:50:08,010 But when they were coming, I did not know.

1011 00:50:08,010 --> 00:50:14,820 Ironically, the day I crossed the border going from Poland

1012 00:50:14,820 --> 00:50:17,430 back into Germany, Austria and Germany,

1013 00:50:17,430 --> 00:50:22,050 that same day they arrived in Poland.

1014 00:50:22,050 --> 00:50:25,590 Because within a few weeks, not too many Jews left in Poland.

1015

00:50:25,590 --> 00:50:28,200

They kept on going the same way as we do.

1016

00:50:28,200 --> 00:50:34,770 So by the time I came to Munich to go into the Jewish community

1017

00:50:34,770 --> 00:50:38,370

there, I had an

answer from Belgium

1018

 $00:50:38,370 \longrightarrow 00:50:42,120$

that he was taken to

one of the transports.

1019

 $00:50:42,120 \longrightarrow 00:50:47,730$

I found people-- in

fact he was a Trencher.

1020

 $00:50:47,730 \longrightarrow 00:50:49,750$

He's in Israel now.

1021

 $00:50:49,750 \longrightarrow 00:50:57,360$

He says that he saw my brothers in Gleiwitz, both my brothers.

1022

00:50:57,360 --> 00:50:59,970

So I knew that sooner

or later that-- and I

1023

00:50:59,970 --> 00:51:02,430

used to go to those trains

where they come from Russia

1024

 $00:51:02,430 \longrightarrow 00:51:05,070$

every day, looking and looking.

1025

00:51:05,070 --> 00:51:08,160

But I couldn't wait any

more than six months.

1026 00:51:08,160 --> 00:51:12,360 Because they did something in Russia

1027

00:51:12,360 --> 00:51:14,070 that held them back those six months.

1028

00:51:14,070 --> 00:51:17,280 They wanted to become Russian citizens.

1029

00:51:17,280 --> 00:51:23,130 But finally, one day, Russian let the Polish citizens go,

1030

00:51:23,130 --> 00:51:25,840 because they did not want to become Russian citizen.

1031

00:51:25,840 --> 00:51:29,250 They sent them the last out.

1032

00:51:29,250 --> 00:51:34,450 Anyway, they joined me in Germany within six,

1033

00:51:34,450 --> 00:51:37,620 seven months later back.

1034

00:51:37,620 --> 00:51:42,600 And by then I was a native.

1035

00:51:42,600 --> 00:51:45,240 I knew Germany a little bit.

1036

00:51:45,240 --> 00:51:47,580 And I moved into a city.

1037

00:51:47,580 --> 00:51:52,290

I knew that there was a friend of ours from my hometown,

1038

00:51:52,290 --> 00:51:53,985 he had pull in that town.

1039

00:51:53,985 --> 00:51:56,200 He was a macher.

1040

00:51:56,200 --> 00:51:57,570 And he gave me--

1041

00:51:57,570 --> 00:51:59,610 I had to have a room.

1042

00:51:59,610 --> 00:52:04,050 And if I had the room, I could live in a city out of camp.

1043

00:52:04,050 --> 00:52:07,350 And the city was called Regensburg.

1044

00:52:07,350 --> 00:52:12,210 And in that city, once I had where to live,

1045

00:52:12,210 --> 00:52:13,800 I got a Kennekarte--

1046

00:52:13,800 --> 00:52:21,715 I got not a passport, Ausweiss.

1047

00:52:21,715 --> 00:52:22,570 ID papers?

1048

00:52:22,570 --> 00:52:26,300

ID, a German ID.

1049

00:52:26,300 --> 00:52:32,950 And eventually I got the room.

1050 00:52:32,950 --> 00:52:35,500 It only cost pennies.

1051 00:52:35,500 --> 00:52:39,430 And I lived there for a good six months.

1052 00:52:39,430 --> 00:52:41,800 And all of a sudden I hear my brothers

1053 00:52:41,800 --> 00:52:44,950 were coming to our camp.

1054 00:52:44,950 --> 00:52:49,210 And I went there and got them.

1055 00:52:49,210 --> 00:52:51,610 Again, everywhere you went, they never

1056 00:52:51,610 --> 00:52:53,748 let you lose, always in a camp and again.

1057 00:52:53,748 --> 00:52:55,165 I had to get them out of the camp.

1058 00:52:55,165 --> 00:52:56,240 Out of the DP camp.

1059 00:52:56,240 --> 00:52:56,740 A false ID.

1060 00:52:56,740 --> 00:53:02,140 Yeah, with false papers I got from friends.

1061 00:53:02,140 --> 00:53:05,020 I got into the camp at night when 1062 00:53:05,020 --> 00:53:07,090 I got them out the same way.

1063 00:53:07,090 --> 00:53:09,010 Once I had the papers I brought them.

1064 00:53:09,010 --> 00:53:12,160 Once we had in the city, eventually they

1065 00:53:12,160 --> 00:53:16,270 got the papers too [? straight. ?]

1066 00:53:16,270 --> 00:53:18,085 And in Germany--

1067 00:53:18,085 --> 00:53:20,600

1068 00:53:20,600 --> 00:53:22,880 I came to the United States in '49.

1069 00:53:22,880 --> 00:53:26,030

1070 00:53:26,030 --> 00:53:27,860 And in Germany, we don't--

1071 00:53:27,860 --> 00:53:33,530 I started-- I tried to acquire a trade.

1072 00:53:33,530 --> 00:53:38,450 I thought maybe I'll be able to go back to mechanical work.

1073 00:53:38,450 --> 00:53:41,670 I worked the Messerschmitt works in Regensburg.

1074 00:53:41,670 --> 00:53:44,120 They had a factory.

1075 00:53:44,120 --> 00:53:46,400 Mechanically I wasn't too good inclined,

1076 00:53:46,400 --> 00:53:48,260 but I learned a little bit reading

1077 00:53:48,260 --> 00:53:50,180 and writing, a little arithmetic,

1078 00:53:50,180 --> 00:53:52,890 like algebra, the first stage.

1079 00:53:52,890 --> 00:53:55,740 Which helped me a little bit too.

1080 00:53:55,740 --> 00:53:58,108 And then you were just--

1081 00:53:58,108 --> 00:53:59,900 You were in Germany for how long before you

1082 00:53:59,900 --> 00:54:01,190 came to the United States?

1083 00:54:01,190 --> 00:54:01,950 Three years.

1084 00:54:01,950 --> 00:54:03,060 Three full years.

1085 00:54:03,060 --> 00:54:06,200 What was life like in Germany? 1086 00:54:06,200 --> 00:54:10,880 We considered ourselves above a little bit.

1087 00:54:10,88

00:54:10,880 --> 00:54:15,890 Because, you see, it's a right way and a wrong way.

1088

00:54:15,890 --> 00:54:21,660 Maybe in a way we were right that they owed us something.

1089

00:54:21,660 --> 00:54:24,500 And then, as you live, the same way

1090

00:54:24,500 --> 00:54:26,900 when we arrived in the United States,

1091

00:54:26,900 --> 00:54:32,690 we thought we were the only ones that went through the horror.

1092

00:54:32,690 --> 00:54:36,320 We were entitled to something.

1093

00:54:36,320 --> 00:54:40,760 But you have to make your own nest and live.

1094

00:54:40,760 --> 00:54:44,360 But nobody gave us guidelines.

1095

00:54:44,360 --> 00:54:48,380 So in Germany, the only way you lived,

1096

00:54:48,380 --> 00:54:51,975 there was a little

black market street.

1097 00:54:51,975 --> 00:54:53,350 You bought a carton of cigarettes

1098 00:54:53,350 --> 00:54:57,180 and you sold it individually, cigarette by cigarette.

1099 00:54:57,180 --> 00:54:58,947 You get your spending money.

1100 00:54:58,947 --> 00:55:00,030 You weren't going to work.

1101 00:55:00,030 --> 00:55:02,910 I worked in a German factory for a little while.

1102 00:55:02,910 --> 00:55:05,640 Not for working, for learning the trade.

1103 00:55:05,640 --> 00:55:08,640 I thought actually that I could--

1104 00:55:08,640 --> 00:55:12,610 I want to acquire something.

1105 00:55:12,610 --> 00:55:19,570 And we say [INAUDIBLE]---that it wasn't to be.

1106 00:55:19,570 --> 00:55:25,120 Did any Jewish agencies help you come over to the United States?

1107 00:55:25,120 --> 00:55:26,590 My brothers.

1108 00:55:26,590 --> 00:55:33,514 Finally, we decided in Germany we wanted to go to Israel.

1109

00:55:33,514 --> 00:55:36,910 And we were packed.

1110

00:55:36,910 --> 00:55:40,090 In fact, we sent away our clothes already.

1111

00:55:40,090 --> 00:55:42,640 I never-- my brothers wanted.

1112

00:55:42,640 --> 00:55:44,230 I had family here.

1113

00:55:44,230 --> 00:55:48,820 I had two uncles and an aunt in Pittsburgh.

1114

00:55:48,820 --> 00:55:52,210 And they sent me a--

1115

00:55:52,210 --> 00:55:52,770 Visa.

1116

00:55:52,770 --> 00:55:54,337 --a visa.

1117

00:55:54,337 --> 00:55:55,420 What they used to call it?

1118

00:55:55,420 --> 00:55:56,090 Visa then?

1119

00:55:56,090 --> 00:55:56,710 Yeah.

1120

00:55:56,710 --> 00:56:00,500 They paid him for my transportation, but as

00:56:00,500 --> 00:56:01,290 displaced person.

1122

00:56:01,290 --> 00:56:04,060

1123

00:56:04,060 --> 00:56:11,260 And the very last few weeks before they supposed to depart,

1124

00:56:11,260 --> 00:56:15,490 the war broke out, and Israel started to get very bad.

1125

00:56:15,490 --> 00:56:18,130 So they got cold feet.

1126

00:56:18,130 --> 00:56:23,480 And they registered with HIAS, so with UNRAA, whatever.

1127

00:56:23,480 --> 00:56:27,730 And they waited, and they came to America

1128

00:56:27,730 --> 00:56:29,440 six months later after me.

1129

00:56:29,440 --> 00:56:34,080

1130

00:56:34,080 --> 00:56:37,960 Here I came of course to my aunt,

1131

00:56:37,960 --> 00:56:46,610 to Pittsburgh, started to find out American way of, life which

1132

00:56:46,610 --> 00:56:49,130 was very hard to begin with.

00:56:49,130 --> 00:56:54,290 As I said before, I thought that the world owes not a living--

1134

00:56:54,290 --> 00:56:55,430 owes us something.

1135

00:56:55,430 --> 00:56:58,490 And I still think so too.

1136

00:56:58,490 --> 00:57:03,980 Not because-- maybe because too, there

1137

00:57:03,980 --> 00:57:09,620 are six million Jews in America, never knew of anything bad,

1138

00:57:09,620 --> 00:57:13,820 and we were under 100,000 people left alive

1139

00:57:13,820 --> 00:57:15,410 and went through the hell.

1140

00:57:15,410 --> 00:57:18,380 I think we were entitled to something--

1141

00:57:18,380 --> 00:57:19,640 to some consideration.

1142

 $00:57:19,640 \longrightarrow 00:57:22,350$

1143

00:57:22,350 --> 00:57:26,360 Especially, I had a very bad experience

1144

00:57:26,360 --> 00:57:30,490 too in Pittsburgh, which will stick in my life forever.

1145 00:57:30,490 --> 00:57:33,380

1146 00:57:33,380 --> 00:57:36,970 The week I arrived, my uncle died.

1147 00:57:36,970 --> 00:57:38,080 And I saw him alive.

1148 00:57:38,080 --> 00:57:52,740

1149 00:57:52,740 --> 00:57:57,240 But they had him in a funeral home.

1150 00:57:57,240 --> 00:58:01,590 He died in Miami, they brought him to Pittsburgh.

1151 00:58:01,590 --> 00:58:07,020 I did not understand, but the [INAUDIBLE],, the goyim,

1152 00:58:07,020 --> 00:58:10,200 they came to see in the funeral parlor.

1153 00:58:10,200 --> 00:58:14,550 I couldn't understand then that you go to see.

1154 00:58:14,550 --> 00:58:17,340 Anyway, the following day he was buried.

1155 00:58:17,340 --> 00:58:23,490 And they were sitting shiva in my aunt's house.

1156 00:58:23,490 --> 00:58:28,290 And my aunt is from my mother's side.

1157

00:58:28,290 --> 00:58:32,625 My aunt and my aunt's family's name is Penner.

1158

00:58:32,625 --> 00:58:34,700 In Pittsburgh there are lots of Penner.

1159

00:58:34,700 --> 00:58:38,100

1160

00:58:38,100 --> 00:58:45,240 And oh, nephew came from your Europe, survivor.

1161

00:58:45,240 --> 00:58:46,590 Nice.

1162

00:58:46,590 --> 00:58:50,130 Somehow our conversation came out,

1163

00:58:50,130 --> 00:58:52,890 and the Penners in Pittsburgh were quite well-off.

1164

00:58:52,890 --> 00:58:57,370 After all, they were here from before the First World War.

1165

00:58:57,370 --> 00:59:02,310 Everybody said, oh, except my poor uncle, my aunt's husband--

1166

00:59:02,310 --> 00:59:05,326 he was a salesman.

ne was a saresman

1167

00:59:05,326 --> 00:59:06,780

You couldn't put him in business.

1168 00:59:06,780 --> 00:59:09,630

1169 00:59:09,630 --> 00:59:12,240 My family.

1170 00:59:12,240 --> 00:59:13,890 And I hear the conversation.

1171 00:59:13,890 --> 00:59:15,450 They did not know--

1172 00:59:15,450 --> 00:59:18,870 I did take a few English lessons in Germany.

1173 00:59:18,870 --> 00:59:24,210 I did pick out a few words, that much I did understand.

1174 00:59:24,210 --> 00:59:30,930 If a refugee would come, I'll give them \$50 and kick him out.

1175 00:59:30,930 --> 00:59:33,900

1176 00:59:33,900 --> 00:59:35,460 This was said by--

1177 00:59:35,460 --> 00:59:37,357 My aunt's house.

1178 00:59:37,357 --> 00:59:38,440 Somebody in conversations.

1179 00:59:38,440 --> 00:59:39,648 When they were sitting shiva.

1180 00:59:39,648 --> 00:59:41,160 Yeah, in the conversation.

1181 00:59:41,160 --> 00:59:45,060 I was sitting on the porch, whatever.

1182

00:59:45,060 --> 00:59:49,485 Such a thing stick with you, especially when you survive

1183

00:59:49,485 --> 00:59:50,985 and you come to a free country, when

1184

00:59:50,985 --> 00:59:53,730 you have all that mishpucha around you,

1185

00:59:53,730 --> 00:59:55,800 and you hear talk like this.

1186

00:59:55,800 --> 01:00:00,680 Not even a word of sorry what happened

1187

01:00:00,680 --> 01:00:04,050 to our whole community of Jews.

1188

01:00:04,050 --> 01:00:05,500 People are lucky.

1189

01:00:05,500 --> 01:00:07,620 It was never touched here, the United States.

1190

01:00:07,620 --> 01:00:09,230 I still say--

1191

01:00:09,230 --> 01:00:13,530 I won't say better, but we were entitled to some consideration.

1193

01:00:17,130 --> 01:00:20,450 Next, I got a job right away.

1194

01:00:20,450 --> 01:00:22,580 I was lucky, unlucky.

1195

01:00:22,580 --> 01:00:27,620 For \$25 working six days 12 hours with some luck.

1196

01:00:27,620 --> 01:00:32,510 I didn't complain, in a butcher shop.

1197

01:00:32,510 --> 01:00:39,350 And eventually I just got laid off or fired from the job.

1198

01:00:39,350 --> 01:00:44,410 Not because I wasn't good, because the GIs came in.

1199

01:00:44,410 --> 01:00:49,790 And my boss took in a GI, he paid him the minimum,

1200

01:00:49,790 --> 01:00:52,580 and the rest the government paid the subsidy.

1201

01:00:52,580 --> 01:00:55,100 Where by me, after six months he had to give me

1202

01:00:55,100 --> 01:00:56,630 a raise automatically.

1203

01:00:56,630 --> 01:00:58,220

That was the law.

1204

01:00:58,220 --> 01:01:01,980 So for a lousy \$5 he fired me.

1205

01:01:01,980 --> 01:01:04,275 And I still have a hard time.

1206

01:01:04,275 --> 01:01:05,900 I've had to go start looking for a job.

1207

01:01:05,900 --> 01:01:09,420 Till the day of today, that's the hardest thing for me.

1208

01:01:09,420 --> 01:01:11,060 And that's why I went into business.

1209

01:01:11,060 --> 01:01:15,330

1210

01:01:15,330 --> 01:01:18,890 By then I had no [? breira. ?] I had to.

1211

01:01:18,890 --> 01:01:21,240 Knowing my family--

1212

01:01:21,240 --> 01:01:23,750 I asked my aunt, where is the Penner.

1213

01:01:23,750 --> 01:01:26,690 I know he has a pickle factory somewhere

1214

01:01:26,690 --> 01:01:30,335 in downtown Pittsburgh.

1215

01:01:30,335 --> 01:01:34,990

1216 01:01:34,990 --> 01:01:39,130 She gave me the address, and I arrived there.

1217 01:01:39,130 --> 01:01:42,670 It was like, I don't know, deli pickle whatever.

1218 01:01:42,670 --> 01:01:45,280 The man employed over 100 people.

1219 01:01:45,280 --> 01:01:48,360

1220 01:01:48,360 --> 01:01:51,720 I stayed and waited, came once, came twice.

1221 01:01:51,720 --> 01:01:54,150 Finally, he took me in.

1222 01:01:54,150 --> 01:01:57,500 And I ask him, I'm looking for a job.

1223 01:01:57,500 --> 01:01:59,670 I don't care what.

1224 01:01:59,670 --> 01:02:00,510 Employ me.

1225 01:02:00,510 --> 01:02:02,550 Give me something.

1226 01:02:02,550 --> 01:02:06,270 I see outside he have a black man doing the sweeping.

1227 01:02:06,270 --> 01:02:08,020 I can do the same thing. 1228 01:02:08,020 --> 01:02:09,150 I'm not asking more.

1229 01:02:09,150 --> 01:02:12,330 I'm asking \$25-that's the minimum.

1230 01:02:12,330 --> 01:02:15,390

1231 01:02:15,390 --> 01:02:16,670 I did not get a job.

1232 01:02:16,670 --> 01:02:19,360

1233 01:02:19,360 --> 01:02:23,350 That's why I have that sour taste in my mouth.

1234 01:02:23,350 --> 01:02:26,860 I should forget, but those things, maybe I do forget,

1235 01:02:26,860 --> 01:02:31,510 but they come back to you.

1236 01:02:31,510 --> 01:02:33,910 You survive, you have the family--

1237 01:02:33,910 --> 01:02:39,120 distant family-- not even family, a Jew.

1238 01:02:39,120 --> 01:02:42,000