

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:15,360

2

00:00:15,360 --> 00:00:18,810

Mr. Erlich, would you
continue with your story?

3

00:00:18,810 --> 00:00:21,000

Perhaps you can
tell us a little bit

4

00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:27,750

about what happened when the
ghetto was finally dissolved?

5

00:00:27,750 --> 00:00:28,380

Liquidated.

6

00:00:28,380 --> 00:00:29,190

Liquidated, yes.

7

00:00:29,190 --> 00:00:35,053

8

00:00:35,053 --> 00:00:36,470

When the ghetto
was liquidated, we

9

00:00:36,470 --> 00:00:42,930

were transferred to
the concentration camp

10

00:00:42,930 --> 00:00:46,320

of what they call
Krakow-Plaszow, which

11

00:00:46,320 --> 00:00:47,700

was the vicinity of Krakow.

12

00:00:47,700 --> 00:00:50,700

It was a part of Krakow.

13

00:00:50,700 --> 00:00:56,900

14

00:00:56,900 --> 00:01:04,379

They had a place for about
20,000, 30,000 people.

15

00:01:04,379 --> 00:01:08,700

Barracks, very plain
barracks, surrounded

16

00:01:08,700 --> 00:01:19,260

by electric wires,
gates, and surrounded

17

00:01:19,260 --> 00:01:29,540

by patrols of SS
with machine guns,

18

00:01:29,540 --> 00:01:40,515

dogs, SS, and also
with Jewish police.

19

00:01:40,515 --> 00:01:47,560

20

00:01:47,560 --> 00:01:55,460

The camp was divided into living
quarters and working quarters.

21

00:01:55,460 --> 00:02:00,470

Working quarters were
divided into different shops,

22

00:02:00,470 --> 00:02:11,610

factories, metalworks,
textile works.

23

00:02:11,610 --> 00:02:15,450

Uniforms were sewn in
by Jewish women and men.

24

00:02:15,450 --> 00:02:18,200

25

00:02:18,200 --> 00:02:22,610

Garages, where cars
and trucks were

26

00:02:22,610 --> 00:02:32,935

fixed by Jewish mechanics, and
many different smaller shops.

27

00:02:32,935 --> 00:02:36,930

28

00:02:36,930 --> 00:02:44,910

And a part of the working
gang from the camp

29

00:02:44,910 --> 00:02:53,700

was distributed outside, work
for different German needs,

30

00:02:53,700 --> 00:02:58,670

like airports, factories
outside of ghetto,

31

00:02:58,670 --> 00:03:07,712

outside of the camp, warehouses.

32

00:03:07,712 --> 00:03:10,430

33

00:03:10,430 --> 00:03:14,000

I would say about
one third of people

34

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:21,620

were leaving for this
work outside the camp

35

00:03:21,620 --> 00:03:24,650

and the rest of the people

were inside the camp

36
00:03:24,650 --> 00:03:26,180
in these factories.

37
00:03:26,180 --> 00:03:33,610

38
00:03:33,610 --> 00:03:35,620
There were communal
kitchens, of course.

39
00:03:35,620 --> 00:03:44,200
Each barrack had a kitchen,
but they were bringing food

40
00:03:44,200 --> 00:03:44,950
to each barrack.

41
00:03:44,950 --> 00:03:47,920

42
00:03:47,920 --> 00:03:49,480
The food was hardly edible.

43
00:03:49,480 --> 00:03:51,130
Yeah, you could hardly eat it.

44
00:03:51,130 --> 00:03:52,420
The soup was bitter.

45
00:03:52,420 --> 00:03:57,820
It was made of some kind
of a dried vegetable, which

46
00:03:57,820 --> 00:03:59,830
was so bitter that
even if you're hungry,

47
00:03:59,830 --> 00:04:02,020
you couldn't eat it.

48

00:04:02,020 --> 00:04:07,750

You had a portion of bread and
some margarine or marmalade.

49

00:04:07,750 --> 00:04:12,920

50

00:04:12,920 --> 00:04:17,329

And then I was
miserable over there.

51

00:04:17,329 --> 00:04:21,019

Beatings, shootings.

52

00:04:21,019 --> 00:04:25,370

We saw every single
day trucks come in.

53

00:04:25,370 --> 00:04:29,630

They came from the outside
with hundreds of people

54

00:04:29,630 --> 00:04:35,690

to a designated place,
which we called a hill.

55

00:04:35,690 --> 00:04:37,880

But they were
liquidating these people.

56

00:04:37,880 --> 00:04:38,690

They came.

57

00:04:38,690 --> 00:04:40,250

They were shot.

58

00:04:40,250 --> 00:04:42,050

The trucks left empty.

59

00:04:42,050 --> 00:04:43,550

At random they were shot?

60

00:04:43,550 --> 00:04:47,140

61

00:04:47,140 --> 00:04:49,850

They were shot right there.

62

00:04:49,850 --> 00:04:55,390

They had to dig their own
graves, and they were shot.

63

00:04:55,390 --> 00:04:59,260

And I'm talking not only
about Jewish people, which

64

00:04:59,260 --> 00:05:00,910

they were brought in by trucks.

65

00:05:00,910 --> 00:05:02,200

Also Polish people.

66

00:05:02,200 --> 00:05:04,100

Like I said before--

67

00:05:04,100 --> 00:05:05,920

I don't know if I mentioned it--

68

00:05:05,920 --> 00:05:14,090

they took the intelligentsia,
the Polish, as well as Jewish.

69

00:05:14,090 --> 00:05:17,180

That was the system
that they were working.

70

00:05:17,180 --> 00:05:18,420

They took the leadership.

71

00:05:18,420 --> 00:05:20,090

They liquidate the leadership.

72

00:05:20,090 --> 00:05:24,830

And without the leadership,
people become like sheep.

73
00:05:24,830 --> 00:05:27,113
Without leadership,
you have no direction.

74
00:05:27,113 --> 00:05:28,780
You don't know what
to do with yourself.

75
00:05:28,780 --> 00:05:30,050
You don't know.

76
00:05:30,050 --> 00:05:35,740
You have to have someone
to tell you what to do,

77
00:05:35,740 --> 00:05:41,740
someone who is smarter than
you, have more experience.

78
00:05:41,740 --> 00:05:45,160
They took all the smart
people, the college professors,

79
00:05:45,160 --> 00:05:53,950
the teachers, the priest, the
rabbis, and they killed them.

80
00:05:53,950 --> 00:05:57,220
Are you talking about before
Plaszow or after Plaszow?

81
00:05:57,220 --> 00:06:01,120
I'm talking before
Plaszow, when they came in.

82
00:06:01,120 --> 00:06:04,840
And then right in
Plaszow, they were

83
00:06:04,840 --> 00:06:09,130

bringing truckloads of
people from the outside

84
00:06:09,130 --> 00:06:11,650
to be liquidated in Plaszow.

85
00:06:11,650 --> 00:06:12,865
And these were also leaders?

86
00:06:12,865 --> 00:06:14,050
These were leaders.

87
00:06:14,050 --> 00:06:19,960
Mostly we saw people,
priests in their garb.

88
00:06:19,960 --> 00:06:23,770
We could see that it
was intelligentsia they

89
00:06:23,770 --> 00:06:25,060
were destroying.

90
00:06:25,060 --> 00:06:29,290

91
00:06:29,290 --> 00:06:33,580
There were several attempts
of escape from the camp,

92
00:06:33,580 --> 00:06:35,800
from Plaszow.

93
00:06:35,800 --> 00:06:42,950
Most of the time they caught
them outside of the camp.

94
00:06:42,950 --> 00:06:44,630
They brought them
in, and there was

95
00:06:44,630 --> 00:06:47,210

a great big square where
they were counting people

96
00:06:47,210 --> 00:06:50,120
every morning.

97
00:06:50,120 --> 00:06:51,930
And they were hanged, every one.

98
00:06:51,930 --> 00:06:58,220
We had to create a square
around and watch it, how

99
00:06:58,220 --> 00:07:00,080
they were executed right there.

100
00:07:00,080 --> 00:07:03,070

101
00:07:03,070 --> 00:07:04,570
It was a daily occurrence.

102
00:07:04,570 --> 00:07:08,430

103
00:07:08,430 --> 00:07:18,110
Then they have a hospital,
so-called hospital over there.

104
00:07:18,110 --> 00:07:23,910

105
00:07:23,910 --> 00:07:27,570
And every week or so,
they cleaned that hospital

106
00:07:27,570 --> 00:07:31,740
and they liquidated
every patient.

107
00:07:31,740 --> 00:07:34,866
Anybody who couldn't

work was destroyed.

108
00:07:34,866 --> 00:07:39,730

109
00:07:39,730 --> 00:07:43,400
After a while,
there was actually

110
00:07:43,400 --> 00:07:49,070
no room where to
bury the people,

111
00:07:49,070 --> 00:07:50,720
because it was all saturated.

112
00:07:50,720 --> 00:07:55,760
They were putting one
layer after another layer

113
00:07:55,760 --> 00:07:56,870
after another layer.

114
00:07:56,870 --> 00:08:00,530
And that was full, so they
started to burn the bodies.

115
00:08:00,530 --> 00:08:05,080

116
00:08:05,080 --> 00:08:08,860
There was no
crematorium over there.

117
00:08:08,860 --> 00:08:12,250
They were just piling
the bodies and throwing

118
00:08:12,250 --> 00:08:14,710
gasoline and burning.

119
00:08:14,710 --> 00:08:15,790

Like a funeral pyre.

120

00:08:15,790 --> 00:08:20,590

Like a funeral pyre that was
going day after day after day.

121

00:08:20,590 --> 00:08:22,870

You could see.

122

00:08:22,870 --> 00:08:25,660

You became numb.

123

00:08:25,660 --> 00:08:27,220

You didn't feel anymore.

124

00:08:27,220 --> 00:08:28,450

You couldn't feel anymore.

125

00:08:28,450 --> 00:08:33,039

I mean, if you see a person
on the street being hit

126

00:08:33,039 --> 00:08:35,679

by the car, you are in shock.

127

00:08:35,679 --> 00:08:43,201

But when you see 10,000 people
hit by the car, it numbs you.

128

00:08:43,201 --> 00:08:48,140

Like a soldier in the front
line, you don't feel anymore.

129

00:08:48,140 --> 00:08:50,380

You're not scared anymore.

130

00:08:50,380 --> 00:08:53,470

You see people falling right
and left, right and left,

131

00:08:53,470 --> 00:08:57,790

and you take it

that's the way it is.

132
00:08:57,790 --> 00:09:04,310
So everybody was watching,
was trying to stay alive.

133
00:09:04,310 --> 00:09:08,510
The rations that we were
getting were not enough to live

134
00:09:08,510 --> 00:09:11,370
and too much to die,
so we were starving.

135
00:09:11,370 --> 00:09:14,290

136
00:09:14,290 --> 00:09:19,810
Every morning, there was an
appell, which means counting.

137
00:09:19,810 --> 00:09:25,810
Wintertime we could stay an
hour in cold, freezing weather,

138
00:09:25,810 --> 00:09:29,020
and they were counting.

139
00:09:29,020 --> 00:09:36,200
While they were counting, they
saw somebody looking sick.

140
00:09:36,200 --> 00:09:38,800
Out.

141
00:09:38,800 --> 00:09:43,825
Anybody who couldn't
function was eliminated.

142
00:09:43,825 --> 00:09:46,620

143

00:09:46,620 --> 00:09:52,610

Some people who were
going outside of the camp

144

00:09:52,610 --> 00:09:56,720

had an easier time to
get some more food.

145

00:09:56,720 --> 00:10:00,580

You could buy some
food sometimes.

146

00:10:00,580 --> 00:10:02,940

Sometimes people would
throw a piece of bread

147

00:10:02,940 --> 00:10:07,950

while they were marching
down the street.

148

00:10:07,950 --> 00:10:13,070

But the people who are left
in will depend on the rations.

149

00:10:13,070 --> 00:10:14,760

Did you work outside the camp?

150

00:10:14,760 --> 00:10:18,950

I was working outside
the camp, yes.

151

00:10:18,950 --> 00:10:21,590

And did you stay
outside the camp at all?

152

00:10:21,590 --> 00:10:25,370

I was staying mostly
outside the camp.

153

00:10:25,370 --> 00:10:30,860

I was in Plaszow
inside only two months,

154

00:10:30,860 --> 00:10:33,590
and the rest of the time
I was staying outside.

155
00:10:33,590 --> 00:10:37,400
And outside, it was
very bad, but not as

156
00:10:37,400 --> 00:10:39,740
bad as in the camp itself.

157
00:10:39,740 --> 00:10:41,360
Where did you
sleep, in barracks?

158
00:10:41,360 --> 00:10:42,560
Barracks.

159
00:10:42,560 --> 00:10:45,540
On bunks, barracks.

160
00:10:45,540 --> 00:10:48,320
We had straw--

161
00:10:48,320 --> 00:10:49,100
Mattresses.

162
00:10:49,100 --> 00:10:51,470
Mattresses.

163
00:10:51,470 --> 00:10:59,830
And we worked so hard that
you wouldn't believe it.

164
00:10:59,830 --> 00:11:02,380
We had a group of 12 people.

165
00:11:02,380 --> 00:11:06,850
I was a foreman of a
group of 12 people.

166
00:11:06,850 --> 00:11:07,810

We were loading--

167
00:11:07,810 --> 00:11:10,330
12 people, mind you--

168
00:11:10,330 --> 00:11:17,110
40 railroad cars
with telephone poles.

169
00:11:17,110 --> 00:11:19,618

170
00:11:19,618 --> 00:11:21,410
They wouldn't permit
more than three people

171
00:11:21,410 --> 00:11:23,660
carrying a telephone
pole, which was

172
00:11:23,660 --> 00:11:25,880
25 feet long and that thick.

173
00:11:25,880 --> 00:11:30,930

174
00:11:30,930 --> 00:11:35,940
Women were working very hard.

175
00:11:35,940 --> 00:11:40,230
Wintertime and in the spring
was the worst because there was

176
00:11:40,230 --> 00:11:43,180
mud up to here and very cold.

177
00:11:43,180 --> 00:11:45,720
And we had very little
clothing, and the clothing

178
00:11:45,720 --> 00:11:48,450
we were wearing was

made of some kind

179

00:11:48,450 --> 00:11:55,290

of a paper combination, these
striped uniforms they gave us.

180

00:11:55,290 --> 00:12:01,140

Wooden shoes,
which were leaking.

181

00:12:01,140 --> 00:12:02,280

Always wet.

182

00:12:02,280 --> 00:12:03,570

Always cold.

183

00:12:03,570 --> 00:12:06,030

Always freezing.

184

00:12:06,030 --> 00:12:09,340

Not enough food.

185

00:12:09,340 --> 00:12:11,680

So whoever could
survive survived.

186

00:12:11,680 --> 00:12:13,630

Whoever couldn't
survive was eliminated.

187

00:12:13,630 --> 00:12:16,810

It was a process of elimination.

188

00:12:16,810 --> 00:12:19,180

Nobody survived
because he was smart

189

00:12:19,180 --> 00:12:23,740

or he could outdo or
outsmart the other.

190

00:12:23,740 --> 00:12:29,930

Anybody who survived survive
only because the faith.

191
00:12:29,930 --> 00:12:31,340
That's how it was.

192
00:12:31,340 --> 00:12:32,300
He just survived.

193
00:12:32,300 --> 00:12:34,940
I didn't survive because I
was smart or strong or this.

194
00:12:34,940 --> 00:12:37,630

195
00:12:37,630 --> 00:12:41,080
Before the end of the war--

196
00:12:41,080 --> 00:12:42,640
you see me now here.

197
00:12:42,640 --> 00:12:46,270
I am 170 pounds now, 168 pounds.

198
00:12:46,270 --> 00:12:49,420
I was 70 pounds.

199
00:12:49,420 --> 00:12:54,910
When I was liberated,
I was 70 pounds.

200
00:12:54,910 --> 00:12:55,697
I went to Prague.

201
00:12:55,697 --> 00:12:57,280
They took me to the
hospital, and they

202
00:12:57,280 --> 00:13:01,690
were feeding me until
I gained some weight

203
00:13:01,690 --> 00:13:02,935
because I was a skeleton.

204
00:13:02,935 --> 00:13:05,950

205
00:13:05,950 --> 00:13:09,430
You could see people,
walking skeletons.

206
00:13:09,430 --> 00:13:13,960

207
00:13:13,960 --> 00:13:17,890
Now let me go back
to the worst part.

208
00:13:17,890 --> 00:13:23,520

209
00:13:23,520 --> 00:13:29,170
After Plaszow, they sent
transport to different places.

210
00:13:29,170 --> 00:13:30,880
They sent several
thousand people

211
00:13:30,880 --> 00:13:36,290
to Auschwitz, several people
to many different places,

212
00:13:36,290 --> 00:13:38,260
different camps in Germany.

213
00:13:38,260 --> 00:13:43,450

214
00:13:43,450 --> 00:13:47,400
I was sent to a place
near Dresden, Germany

215

00:13:47,400 --> 00:13:55,080
with a group of 400 people, who
were supposed to be craftsmen,

216

00:13:55,080 --> 00:14:02,970
like mechanics
and steel workers,

217

00:14:02,970 --> 00:14:05,190
because the factory
that they sent us to

218

00:14:05,190 --> 00:14:08,370
was producing the
tanks, German tanks.

219

00:14:08,370 --> 00:14:12,840

220

00:14:12,840 --> 00:14:16,860
We came, after seven
days in cattle cars

221

00:14:16,860 --> 00:14:23,600
without food and
water, to Dresden.

222

00:14:23,600 --> 00:14:30,030
And they unloaded us
on top of the factory.

223

00:14:30,030 --> 00:14:31,380
The factory was in the bottom.

224

00:14:31,380 --> 00:14:34,760
Upstairs was the
living quarters.

225

00:14:34,760 --> 00:14:39,140
And we found ourselves
together with Russian prisoners

226

00:14:39,140 --> 00:14:47,090

of war, French prisoners,
prisoners from Holland.

227

00:14:47,090 --> 00:14:51,650

228

00:14:51,650 --> 00:14:56,750

And together, we are
working the factory.

229

00:14:56,750 --> 00:15:00,480

230

00:15:00,480 --> 00:15:05,375

In the beginning, the first
few weeks were not too bad.

231

00:15:05,375 --> 00:15:11,410

We were producing
and getting food.

232

00:15:11,410 --> 00:15:15,150

Very bad, not enough, but
it didn't kill anyone.

233

00:15:15,150 --> 00:15:19,690

234

00:15:19,690 --> 00:15:25,000

Later on, it started
to get worse,

235

00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:29,410

because our overseers
were German criminals,

236

00:15:29,410 --> 00:15:33,940

professional criminals.

237

00:15:33,940 --> 00:15:36,890

One was a murderer.

238
00:15:36,890 --> 00:15:41,720
One was a political prisoner.

239
00:15:41,720 --> 00:15:44,810
And these guys,
they were civilians.

240
00:15:44,810 --> 00:15:46,160
They were not in uniforms.

241
00:15:46,160 --> 00:15:50,180
They were civilian criminals,
professional criminals.

242
00:15:50,180 --> 00:15:53,600
And they started to mistreat us.

243
00:15:53,600 --> 00:15:57,370

244
00:15:57,370 --> 00:16:01,210
It got so bad that
people were starving.

245
00:16:01,210 --> 00:16:01,950
They were beaten.

246
00:16:01,950 --> 00:16:04,600

247
00:16:04,600 --> 00:16:10,390
As a matter of
fact, the German who

248
00:16:10,390 --> 00:16:15,550
worked with us, our overseers
downstairs in the factory,

249
00:16:15,550 --> 00:16:18,820
they called in the SS and
they told them, listen,

250
00:16:18,820 --> 00:16:21,430
you want to produce the tanks?

251
00:16:21,430 --> 00:16:23,080
We can't produce
tanks with people

252
00:16:23,080 --> 00:16:25,475
who are starved and beaten.

253
00:16:25,475 --> 00:16:27,100
You have to give them
something to eat,

254
00:16:27,100 --> 00:16:29,720
otherwise they're
not going to produce.

255
00:16:29,720 --> 00:16:32,530
So they raised the
rations for a few weeks.

256
00:16:32,530 --> 00:16:35,640

257
00:16:35,640 --> 00:16:42,700
Then came the
bombing of Dresden,

258
00:16:42,700 --> 00:16:51,160
which one day, 130,000
people were bombed out.

259
00:16:51,160 --> 00:16:54,630
And we were there, right
there, laying in the grass.

260
00:16:54,630 --> 00:16:57,570
They bombed our factory, too.

261
00:16:57,570 --> 00:17:00,630

While the factory was
burning, we were outside.

262
00:17:00,630 --> 00:17:02,628
They chase them out.

263
00:17:02,628 --> 00:17:04,170
We were laying in
the grass, watching

264
00:17:04,170 --> 00:17:07,030
how the bombs are coming down.

265
00:17:07,030 --> 00:17:09,329
And after the bombing,
they called us in.

266
00:17:09,329 --> 00:17:13,040

267
00:17:13,040 --> 00:17:18,190
The part of the
fact you survived,

268
00:17:18,190 --> 00:17:22,119
and then the terrible
thing started.

269
00:17:22,119 --> 00:17:23,035
People were starving.

270
00:17:23,035 --> 00:17:26,200

271
00:17:26,200 --> 00:17:30,160
People were-- pardon
my expression--

272
00:17:30,160 --> 00:17:31,730
but they were full of lice.

273
00:17:31,730 --> 00:17:34,890

274

00:17:34,890 --> 00:17:43,980

Typhus epidemic came, and
people were disabled by typhoid,

275

00:17:43,980 --> 00:17:45,540

by hay fever.

276

00:17:45,540 --> 00:17:49,200

I had to fight typhoid,
too, double pneumonia.

277

00:17:49,200 --> 00:17:50,730

No drugs.

278

00:17:50,730 --> 00:17:52,680

No doctors.

279

00:17:52,680 --> 00:17:54,975

No medicine no water to wash.

280

00:17:54,975 --> 00:17:58,060

281

00:17:58,060 --> 00:18:07,320

One day, we found out,
through the German overseers,

282

00:18:07,320 --> 00:18:10,890

that Americans are
very close already.

283

00:18:10,890 --> 00:18:12,225

We heard some rumors.

284

00:18:12,225 --> 00:18:15,530

285

00:18:15,530 --> 00:18:19,280

So he said, try to stay
alive another few days.

286
00:18:19,280 --> 00:18:20,040
You'll be free.

287
00:18:20,040 --> 00:18:23,070

288
00:18:23,070 --> 00:18:28,180
They took us all for a march.

289
00:18:28,180 --> 00:18:28,680
We're going.

290
00:18:28,680 --> 00:18:31,850

291
00:18:31,850 --> 00:18:35,600
We didn't know
where we were going.

292
00:18:35,600 --> 00:18:37,490
They took us in the morning.

293
00:18:37,490 --> 00:18:41,870
And they said, anybody who can
walk, there will be trucks.

294
00:18:41,870 --> 00:18:45,410
You can go by trucks.

295
00:18:45,410 --> 00:18:49,670
So some people
volunteered to the trucks.

296
00:18:49,670 --> 00:18:52,220
And the truck took
them on the side

297
00:18:52,220 --> 00:18:55,160
and killed them all right away.

298

00:18:55,160 --> 00:18:56,945
The rest of us went for a march.

299
00:18:56,945 --> 00:18:58,700
We went to the mountains.

300
00:18:58,700 --> 00:19:00,680
What time of year was this?

301
00:19:00,680 --> 00:19:05,202
It was February, 1945.

302
00:19:05,202 --> 00:19:08,740
It was cold, freezing.

303
00:19:08,740 --> 00:19:11,050
No food.

304
00:19:11,050 --> 00:19:13,450
No clothes.

305
00:19:13,450 --> 00:19:17,920
Half of the people were,
after typhoid, weak.

306
00:19:17,920 --> 00:19:20,770
With myself, my cousin,
and another fellow,

307
00:19:20,770 --> 00:19:21,850
they were dragging me.

308
00:19:21,850 --> 00:19:24,830

309
00:19:24,830 --> 00:19:27,123
After a few days,
we came to the camp.

310
00:19:27,123 --> 00:19:28,290
We didn't know where we are.

311

00:19:28,290 --> 00:19:31,340

Then we find out we
are in Theresienstadt.

312

00:19:31,340 --> 00:19:35,340

We went from Germany to
Theresienstadt, walking.

313

00:19:35,340 --> 00:19:38,865

I forgot to mention, we're
sleeping outside on the snow.

314

00:19:38,865 --> 00:19:42,250

315

00:19:42,250 --> 00:19:43,600

Once we got hot soup.

316

00:19:43,600 --> 00:19:48,580

317

00:19:48,580 --> 00:19:52,450

At Theresienstadt at that
time was the main point

318

00:19:52,450 --> 00:19:54,820

of concentration
of all the camps

319

00:19:54,820 --> 00:19:58,330

that were close, coming
from the West to the East.

320

00:19:58,330 --> 00:20:01,760

321

00:20:01,760 --> 00:20:03,980

When we walked into
Theresienstadt,

322

00:20:03,980 --> 00:20:07,340

we thought it's something

unreal over there.

323

00:20:07,340 --> 00:20:13,181

We see a street with
people dressed up

324

00:20:13,181 --> 00:20:20,820

with coats, hats,
gloves, and we don't

325

00:20:20,820 --> 00:20:22,550

know what's going on over here.

326

00:20:22,550 --> 00:20:25,980

327

00:20:25,980 --> 00:20:27,817

We thought we are safe already.

328

00:20:27,817 --> 00:20:30,720

329

00:20:30,720 --> 00:20:37,170

Theresienstadt used
to be, before the war,

330

00:20:37,170 --> 00:20:40,280

a concentration of the
Czechoslovakian military.

331

00:20:40,280 --> 00:20:45,195

They had their fortress and
their place for the military

332

00:20:45,195 --> 00:20:45,750

only.

333

00:20:45,750 --> 00:20:48,570

The whole town is nothing
but for the military.

334

00:20:48,570 --> 00:20:52,010

It was never for the civilians.

335

00:20:52,010 --> 00:20:56,280

They took us underground,
and they kept us

336

00:20:56,280 --> 00:21:00,450

for two days over
there, starving,

337

00:21:00,450 --> 00:21:02,910

after we saw people
who normal, dressed up.

338

00:21:02,910 --> 00:21:07,140

339

00:21:07,140 --> 00:21:13,750

After two days, they took us
out to showers, cold showers,

340

00:21:13,750 --> 00:21:16,630

of course.

341

00:21:16,630 --> 00:21:18,160

Changed our clothes.

342

00:21:18,160 --> 00:21:22,320

They took us to what
they call entlausung.

343

00:21:22,320 --> 00:21:22,905

Entlausung.

344

00:21:22,905 --> 00:21:24,610

You know what it
means, entlausung?

345

00:21:24,610 --> 00:21:25,170

Delousing.

346

00:21:25,170 --> 00:21:25,830

Delousing.

347

00:21:25,830 --> 00:21:28,750

Delousing.

348

00:21:28,750 --> 00:21:29,832

They took us to there.

349

00:21:29,832 --> 00:21:30,790

There were no barracks.

350

00:21:30,790 --> 00:21:37,860

351

00:21:37,860 --> 00:21:39,405

Barracks for the soldiers.

352

00:21:39,405 --> 00:21:44,080

353

00:21:44,080 --> 00:21:50,710

And the next day, we expect
to go to work or something.

354

00:21:50,710 --> 00:21:51,490

Nobody works.

355

00:21:51,490 --> 00:21:57,430

356

00:21:57,430 --> 00:22:00,820

After a few days, we found
out that we see thousands

357

00:22:00,820 --> 00:22:01,820

and thousands of people.

358

00:22:01,820 --> 00:22:04,237

We look through the windows,
we see thousands of thousands

359

00:22:04,237 --> 00:22:06,020
of people come in,
come in, come in.

360
00:22:06,020 --> 00:22:07,062
Thousands.

361
00:22:07,062 --> 00:22:12,480

362
00:22:12,480 --> 00:22:18,210
A week later, epidemic
struck, diarrhea.

363
00:22:18,210 --> 00:22:22,540

364
00:22:22,540 --> 00:22:26,410
I cannot describe what
happened over there.

365
00:22:26,410 --> 00:22:29,590
People are dying like flies.

366
00:22:29,590 --> 00:22:31,850
Hundreds every day.

367
00:22:31,850 --> 00:22:33,250
There was no
shooting over there.

368
00:22:33,250 --> 00:22:36,730
The thousands of people you
saw, were they prisoners?

369
00:22:36,730 --> 00:22:37,480
Like us.

370
00:22:37,480 --> 00:22:38,050
Like you.

371
00:22:38,050 --> 00:22:39,640

They came from different points.

372

00:22:39,640 --> 00:22:40,270

New ones.

373

00:22:40,270 --> 00:22:40,990

New.

374

00:22:40,990 --> 00:22:44,890

Thousands every single day
until there was no more room.

375

00:22:44,890 --> 00:22:50,470

376

00:22:50,470 --> 00:22:55,120

And dysentery struck, and
people are dying by the hundreds

377

00:22:55,120 --> 00:22:56,140

every single day.

378

00:22:56,140 --> 00:23:00,190

I was sleeping tonight with
a guy and the next morning,

379

00:23:00,190 --> 00:23:01,840

I sleep with a dead body.

380

00:23:01,840 --> 00:23:05,780

381

00:23:05,780 --> 00:23:13,165

That lasted till May.

382

00:23:13,165 --> 00:23:15,870

383

00:23:15,870 --> 00:23:23,810

In May, the beginning of May,
we heard already explosions,

384

00:23:23,810 --> 00:23:24,740
like artillery.

385

00:23:24,740 --> 00:23:29,210

386

00:23:29,210 --> 00:23:36,230
So we thought that this
is the end already.

387

00:23:36,230 --> 00:23:39,380
Some of us went over
the windows and ran out,

388

00:23:39,380 --> 00:23:42,350
and they caught them and
killed them right away.

389

00:23:42,350 --> 00:23:47,900
Would they spend another three
days, they would be free.

390

00:23:47,900 --> 00:23:53,430
Then May 8th, suddenly
the gates open up.

391

00:23:53,430 --> 00:23:58,212
The Russian soldiers on
their horses ride in.

392

00:23:58,212 --> 00:24:01,300
They said, you're free.

393

00:24:01,300 --> 00:24:02,620
Locked the gates.

394

00:24:02,620 --> 00:24:03,660
Nobody goes out.

395

00:24:03,660 --> 00:24:06,940

396

00:24:06,940 --> 00:24:08,050

There's a dysentery.

397

00:24:08,050 --> 00:24:11,090

They cannot spread the
disease all over the country.

398

00:24:11,090 --> 00:24:14,180

399

00:24:14,180 --> 00:24:15,380

They lock the camp.

400

00:24:15,380 --> 00:24:18,590

401

00:24:18,590 --> 00:24:22,330

They brought some trucks
with food, supposedly.

402

00:24:22,330 --> 00:24:25,510

I don't know about it, but I
heard it, because the minute I

403

00:24:25,510 --> 00:24:31,150

saw I am free, I
went over the fence

404

00:24:31,150 --> 00:24:34,270

and started to walk
with three friends.

405

00:24:34,270 --> 00:24:35,880

Before they locked the gate?

406

00:24:35,880 --> 00:24:36,640

Toward Prague.

407

00:24:36,640 --> 00:24:40,300

It was only about 35
kilometers to Prague.

408

00:24:40,300 --> 00:24:43,670

How did you feel at that moment?

409

00:24:43,670 --> 00:24:44,810

I felt exhausted.

410

00:24:44,810 --> 00:24:46,250

I was sick.

411

00:24:46,250 --> 00:24:49,100

I was very weak.

412

00:24:49,100 --> 00:24:54,340

While we were going
toward Prague,

413

00:24:54,340 --> 00:24:57,160

there are transports of
thousands and thousands

414

00:24:57,160 --> 00:25:01,465

of Germans coming the other
way, already disarmed.

415

00:25:01,465 --> 00:25:04,090

416

00:25:04,090 --> 00:25:08,540

Russians caught them and they
told them to go back this way.

417

00:25:08,540 --> 00:25:12,850

So they were going by foot,
by bicycle, by horses,

418

00:25:12,850 --> 00:25:19,340

by buggies with a lot of
suitcases, valises, and stuff

419

00:25:19,340 --> 00:25:20,853

like this.

420

00:25:20,853 --> 00:25:22,020

We were going toward Prague.

421

00:25:22,020 --> 00:25:23,270

They were going the other way.

422

00:25:23,270 --> 00:25:27,090

423

00:25:27,090 --> 00:25:32,370

We were hungry, so we stopped
one horse-driven buggy

424

00:25:32,370 --> 00:25:35,910

with German civilians.

425

00:25:35,910 --> 00:25:39,650

And we said, you should get off.

426

00:25:39,650 --> 00:25:42,280

427

00:25:42,280 --> 00:25:46,810

We want to take these
horses and we want to go.

428

00:25:46,810 --> 00:25:48,770

I mean, we are already free.

429

00:25:48,770 --> 00:25:50,515

They were already in prison.

430

00:25:50,515 --> 00:25:53,050

431

00:25:53,050 --> 00:25:55,760

They didn't want to, but
they saw how we look.

432

00:25:55,760 --> 00:25:59,080

I mean, we are all starved.

433
00:25:59,080 --> 00:26:01,210
So we started to look
through their suitcases

434
00:26:01,210 --> 00:26:02,680
and we found some food.

435
00:26:02,680 --> 00:26:07,690
We found a few cans, these cans.

436
00:26:07,690 --> 00:26:11,350
We wanted to eat, so we didn't
have anything to open the can.

437
00:26:11,350 --> 00:26:12,940
So we tried with stones.

438
00:26:12,940 --> 00:26:17,180

439
00:26:17,180 --> 00:26:18,850
We took the horses.

440
00:26:18,850 --> 00:26:22,360
We were riding on this
horses about two miles.

441
00:26:22,360 --> 00:26:23,530
The Russians came.

442
00:26:23,530 --> 00:26:24,640
They took our horses away.

443
00:26:24,640 --> 00:26:28,900
They need the horses
to shlep the artillery.

444
00:26:28,900 --> 00:26:30,880
So we took bicycles.

445

00:26:30,880 --> 00:26:32,180
So we were riding bicycles.

446
00:26:32,180 --> 00:26:34,010
So they took our bicycles.

447
00:26:34,010 --> 00:26:38,170
So we were walking and
sleeping in the grass.

448
00:26:38,170 --> 00:26:43,710
Then at night, we went to
a farmer, Czech farmer.

449
00:26:43,710 --> 00:26:46,450
He took us in.

450
00:26:46,450 --> 00:26:50,050
He asked his wife to
prepare a bed for us.

451
00:26:50,050 --> 00:26:52,030
Their own bed they gave us.

452
00:26:52,030 --> 00:26:53,560
They fed us.

453
00:26:53,560 --> 00:26:54,820
She cooked.

454
00:26:54,820 --> 00:26:57,360
She cleaned up.

455
00:26:57,360 --> 00:26:58,810
She said, stay for a few days.

456
00:26:58,810 --> 00:26:59,310
Rest up.

457
00:26:59,310 --> 00:27:01,420
No, we want to go to Prague.

458

00:27:01,420 --> 00:27:04,590

We want to go back to see
if somebody survived maybe.

459

00:27:04,590 --> 00:27:07,890

460

00:27:07,890 --> 00:27:11,070

How I did it, I don't know.

461

00:27:11,070 --> 00:27:17,280

40 miles, 40 kilometers
to walk, most of the time.

462

00:27:17,280 --> 00:27:20,900

463

00:27:20,900 --> 00:27:22,300

We came to Prague.

464

00:27:22,300 --> 00:27:29,770

Prague was a big
city, but it was chaos

465

00:27:29,770 --> 00:27:33,490

because everybody
came to Prague.

466

00:27:33,490 --> 00:27:35,780

Czechoslovakia was
saturated with prisoners,

467

00:27:35,780 --> 00:27:37,990

with the former prisoners.

468

00:27:37,990 --> 00:27:41,640

469

00:27:41,640 --> 00:27:46,950

All I can tell you, the Czechs
are the most wonderful people

470

00:27:46,950 --> 00:27:49,110
in the world.

471

00:27:49,110 --> 00:27:53,670
They received people
the best way they could.

472

00:27:53,670 --> 00:27:56,580
They didn't have
much food themself.

473

00:27:56,580 --> 00:27:59,640
They gave everything,
what they could, to us.

474

00:27:59,640 --> 00:28:02,640
They took us to their house.

475

00:28:02,640 --> 00:28:09,940
They chased the Germans
out from their villas.

476

00:28:09,940 --> 00:28:14,460
They had volunteer girls
and doctors and nurses.

477

00:28:14,460 --> 00:28:17,300

478

00:28:17,300 --> 00:28:20,540
They took me into that
hospital, so-called hospital.

479

00:28:20,540 --> 00:28:22,160
You know, it used to be a villa.

480

00:28:22,160 --> 00:28:24,930

481

00:28:24,930 --> 00:28:28,590
They fed me five
times a day, small--

482
00:28:28,590 --> 00:28:29,190
Portions.

483
00:28:29,190 --> 00:28:30,510
Portions.

484
00:28:30,510 --> 00:28:32,700
I shouldn't get sick.

485
00:28:32,700 --> 00:28:35,550
I had a doctor twice a day.

486
00:28:35,550 --> 00:28:40,170
And nurses washed
me, cleaned me.

487
00:28:40,170 --> 00:28:42,870
They gave me new clothes.

488
00:28:42,870 --> 00:28:45,810
I'll never forget it.

489
00:28:45,810 --> 00:28:49,630
Then when I was
well enough to work,

490
00:28:49,630 --> 00:28:53,260
I wanted to go back to Poland
to see if some of my family

491
00:28:53,260 --> 00:28:53,760
survived.

492
00:28:53,760 --> 00:28:59,820

493
00:28:59,820 --> 00:29:06,640
But my girl, I was
looking for her, too.

494

00:29:06,640 --> 00:29:09,900
How can you look in a city,
a teeming city with hundreds

495
00:29:09,900 --> 00:29:10,965
of thousands of people?

496
00:29:10,965 --> 00:29:14,510

497
00:29:14,510 --> 00:29:22,440
One day, someone tells me that
he saw my fiancée over there

498
00:29:22,440 --> 00:29:23,840
in a train going to Poland.

499
00:29:23,840 --> 00:29:26,470

500
00:29:26,470 --> 00:29:31,400
So he said, I told her that
you are here in Prague.

501
00:29:31,400 --> 00:29:34,300
She forgot to ask
where in Prague.

502
00:29:34,300 --> 00:29:37,840
She took another train,
go back to Prague.

503
00:29:37,840 --> 00:29:41,580
She finally-- in
a million people,

504
00:29:41,580 --> 00:29:44,630
she didn't know where to look.

505
00:29:44,630 --> 00:29:46,330
So she walks to
see that somebody

506

00:29:46,330 --> 00:29:51,190

approach her, one of our
friends, and said there he is.

507

00:29:51,190 --> 00:29:53,410

So she came and
we were reunited.

508

00:29:53,410 --> 00:29:57,100

509

00:29:57,100 --> 00:30:03,210

That was the end of
it, of the camps.

510

00:30:03,210 --> 00:30:04,610

May I ask--

511

00:30:04,610 --> 00:30:06,080

They were giving us--

512

00:30:06,080 --> 00:30:06,920

Go ahead.

513

00:30:06,920 --> 00:30:11,900

--a hotel, and we're
staying in the hotel

514

00:30:11,900 --> 00:30:18,530

until we came a little bit, you
know, rested up a little bit.

515

00:30:18,530 --> 00:30:20,090

You wanted to ask me something.

516

00:30:20,090 --> 00:30:22,040

Yes, I did.

517

00:30:22,040 --> 00:30:23,660

I want to backtrack
a little bit.

518

00:30:23,660 --> 00:30:24,160

OK.

519

00:30:24,160 --> 00:30:26,180

When you came to
Theresienstadt, you

520

00:30:26,180 --> 00:30:29,425

said you saw people dressed up.

521

00:30:29,425 --> 00:30:32,443

Did you ever find out
who these people were?

522

00:30:32,443 --> 00:30:33,190

Yes.

523

00:30:33,190 --> 00:30:39,440

Theresienstadt,
during the war, was

524

00:30:39,440 --> 00:30:43,250

so-called a a model
camp, was supplied

525

00:30:43,250 --> 00:30:48,020

by Swiss and Americans.

526

00:30:48,020 --> 00:30:53,970

And mostly German Jews
were in Theresienstadt.

527

00:30:53,970 --> 00:30:57,690

And any delegation that
came from Red Cross,

528

00:30:57,690 --> 00:31:00,540

they brought them
into Theresienstadt.

529

00:31:00,540 --> 00:31:05,820

They wanted to show

how to treat the Jews.

530

00:31:05,820 --> 00:31:09,420

It was a showplace.

531

00:31:09,420 --> 00:31:15,420

For about two years, the people
who were in Theresienstadt

532

00:31:15,420 --> 00:31:17,010

had it very good.

533

00:31:17,010 --> 00:31:18,420

They had food.

534

00:31:18,420 --> 00:31:22,140

Even they had
children with them.

535

00:31:22,140 --> 00:31:25,020

They had schools,
courses, and they

536

00:31:25,020 --> 00:31:27,540

were dressed like human beings.

537

00:31:27,540 --> 00:31:31,480

Until the moment
that the transports

538

00:31:31,480 --> 00:31:34,890

started to come
in from all over.

539

00:31:34,890 --> 00:31:36,660

That was it.

540

00:31:36,660 --> 00:31:44,400

You could see piles
and piles of bodies

541

00:31:44,400 --> 00:31:53,500

because they had no facilities
to incinerate people.

542
00:31:53,500 --> 00:31:56,230
They had ovens in
the next camp, which

543
00:31:56,230 --> 00:31:57,830
was only a few miles away.

544
00:31:57,830 --> 00:32:00,400
But at that time, it was chaos.

545
00:32:00,400 --> 00:32:03,760
Even the Germans, they
couldn't handle it.

546
00:32:03,760 --> 00:32:07,750
They were on the run already.

547
00:32:07,750 --> 00:32:12,730
They went out two days
before the Russians came.

548
00:32:12,730 --> 00:32:15,430
The staff and the
SS, they went out.

549
00:32:15,430 --> 00:32:21,090

550
00:32:21,090 --> 00:32:25,380
But the march and the
horror of Theresienstadt

551
00:32:25,380 --> 00:32:31,000
was the worst part
of everything.

552
00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:34,900
You cannot describe what it was.

553

00:32:34,900 --> 00:32:44,490
You actually walked up to your
ankles in human excrement.

554
00:32:44,490 --> 00:32:47,380
The dysentery hit everybody.

555
00:32:47,380 --> 00:32:48,615
There was no facilities.

556
00:32:48,615 --> 00:32:51,780
There was nothing.

557
00:32:51,780 --> 00:32:53,050
Nobody could help themself.

558
00:32:53,050 --> 00:32:53,925
There was no doctors.

559
00:32:53,925 --> 00:32:55,440
There was no medicine.

560
00:32:55,440 --> 00:32:57,510
There was chaos, complete chaos.

561
00:32:57,510 --> 00:33:00,930

562
00:33:00,930 --> 00:33:03,690
Whoever survived over there was
just by pure luck, that's all.

563
00:33:03,690 --> 00:33:12,110

564
00:33:12,110 --> 00:33:13,724
That was the end of the war.

565
00:33:13,724 --> 00:33:16,630

566

00:33:16,630 --> 00:33:22,190
And when you met your fiancée,
that was like a miracle.

567
00:33:22,190 --> 00:33:22,690
Yeah.

568
00:33:22,690 --> 00:33:25,240
She lost her family.

569
00:33:25,240 --> 00:33:28,090
Nobody survived from her
family, except one uncle.

570
00:33:28,090 --> 00:33:31,630

571
00:33:31,630 --> 00:33:40,535
And I had only three cousins.

572
00:33:40,535 --> 00:33:43,160

573
00:33:43,160 --> 00:33:45,310
Two cousins survived in Russia.

574
00:33:45,310 --> 00:33:50,690

575
00:33:50,690 --> 00:33:53,310
Three cousins.

576
00:33:53,310 --> 00:33:57,170
Yeah, two cousins
survived in Russia.

577
00:33:57,170 --> 00:34:03,290
One was in Palestine
before the war.

578
00:34:03,290 --> 00:34:08,870
She left in 1934, from

Poland to Palestine,

579

00:34:08,870 --> 00:34:12,300

and she survived, of course.

580

00:34:12,300 --> 00:34:16,550

And one cousin who was with me
in the camp, in Theresienstadt

581

00:34:16,550 --> 00:34:20,010

and also in
[PLACE NAME] by Dresden.

582

00:34:20,010 --> 00:34:21,090

He survived.

583

00:34:21,090 --> 00:34:22,080

That's all.

584

00:34:22,080 --> 00:34:24,560

The rest was gone.

585

00:34:24,560 --> 00:34:27,980

I'm talking about family
of many, many, many people.

586

00:34:27,980 --> 00:34:31,045

I told you about my brother,
my sister, and children,

587

00:34:31,045 --> 00:34:36,030

but I didn't tell you about my
uncles and nieces and nephews

588

00:34:36,030 --> 00:34:37,880

and cousins, and all that.

589

00:34:37,880 --> 00:34:40,280

I tell you about a
family of 35, 40 people.

590

00:34:40,280 --> 00:34:44,020

591

00:34:44,020 --> 00:34:50,199

And then after the war in
Prague, after a few days

592

00:34:50,199 --> 00:34:52,070

you wake up and
said, we have to go.

593

00:34:52,070 --> 00:34:53,556

Where are we going?

594

00:34:53,556 --> 00:34:54,909

What are we going to do?

595

00:34:54,909 --> 00:34:56,700

How are we going to live?

596

00:34:56,700 --> 00:35:02,880

597

00:35:02,880 --> 00:35:06,870

Start from day one
like a newborn baby.

598

00:35:06,870 --> 00:35:08,955

How are we going to live?

599

00:35:08,955 --> 00:35:10,350

Who's going to take care of us?

600

00:35:10,350 --> 00:35:14,760

The Czechs were very beautiful,
very nice for a few weeks,

601

00:35:14,760 --> 00:35:19,110

but we can't expect Czechs
to feed us all our life.

602

00:35:19,110 --> 00:35:21,510

Go on, go.

603

00:35:21,510 --> 00:35:26,070

Then we found out that in
Czechoslovakia, Americans

604

00:35:26,070 --> 00:35:28,320

are very close by.

605

00:35:28,320 --> 00:35:30,220

American forces, which
is in Czechoslovakia

606

00:35:30,220 --> 00:35:32,340

also at that time--
it's one part in Plzen.

607

00:35:32,340 --> 00:35:36,650

608

00:35:36,650 --> 00:35:39,080

We didn't want to be
under Russian rule

609

00:35:39,080 --> 00:35:40,490

because we saw what's going on.

610

00:35:40,490 --> 00:35:41,420

It's chaos, too.

611

00:35:41,420 --> 00:35:44,000

They didn't know.

612

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:46,520

They didn't behave nice.

613

00:35:46,520 --> 00:35:49,430

Even when we were
traveling on a train,

614

00:35:49,430 --> 00:35:51,470

they were turning
us from the trains.

615
00:35:51,470 --> 00:35:54,200
They didn't care if we
are from camps or not.

616
00:35:54,200 --> 00:35:57,310

617
00:35:57,310 --> 00:36:00,790
So we wanted to go
where the American are.

618
00:36:00,790 --> 00:36:03,970
So we're going toward Plzen.

619
00:36:03,970 --> 00:36:05,350
What happened?

620
00:36:05,350 --> 00:36:09,120
There was an order to evacuate
Czechoslovakia and give it

621
00:36:09,120 --> 00:36:11,890
to the Russians.

622
00:36:11,890 --> 00:36:13,382
So we couldn't get out.

623
00:36:13,382 --> 00:36:16,480

624
00:36:16,480 --> 00:36:20,500
So we went to Austria.

625
00:36:20,500 --> 00:36:25,710

626
00:36:25,710 --> 00:36:29,370
But we didn't want to stay
with this German language.

627

00:36:29,370 --> 00:36:30,300
It bothered us.

628
00:36:30,300 --> 00:36:32,730
We couldn't stand it.

629
00:36:32,730 --> 00:36:35,370
Austrians were even
worse than Germans.

630
00:36:35,370 --> 00:36:40,110

631
00:36:40,110 --> 00:36:43,170
So we went to go
to Germany in order

632
00:36:43,170 --> 00:36:45,120
to be able to go to
the United States,

633
00:36:45,120 --> 00:36:49,200
or to Palestine or to
Australia or England.

634
00:36:49,200 --> 00:36:50,530
Any place.

635
00:36:50,530 --> 00:36:51,150
Get out.

636
00:36:51,150 --> 00:36:54,120

637
00:36:54,120 --> 00:36:58,260
So after a while, after
adventures through borders,

638
00:36:58,260 --> 00:37:01,140
through rivers,
through mountains,

639

00:37:01,140 --> 00:37:03,960
we found ourselves
in Munich, Germany.

640
00:37:03,960 --> 00:37:07,340

641
00:37:07,340 --> 00:37:12,090
There's a large Jewish
population of people like us.

642
00:37:12,090 --> 00:37:17,670
They were already there
for two to three months,

643
00:37:17,670 --> 00:37:23,060
and they already
were more experienced

644
00:37:23,060 --> 00:37:26,070
what to do, how to
live, where to get food.

645
00:37:26,070 --> 00:37:28,068
So they told us, go
here and go there.

646
00:37:28,068 --> 00:37:30,110
If you're here, you're
going to get an apartment.

647
00:37:30,110 --> 00:37:32,100
You're going to
get carts for food,

648
00:37:32,100 --> 00:37:34,560
and here you can
buy a pair of shoes.

649
00:37:34,560 --> 00:37:36,440
So we got directed
by them, and that's

650

00:37:36,440 --> 00:37:43,790
how we were in Germany
until we found out

651
00:37:43,790 --> 00:37:49,490
that we have some
relatives in England

652
00:37:49,490 --> 00:37:51,410
and some friends in
the United States.

653
00:37:51,410 --> 00:37:54,320
These were survivors
who lived in England

654
00:37:54,320 --> 00:37:56,570
or they were people who
lived there all along?

655
00:37:56,570 --> 00:37:58,550
I had cousins in England.

656
00:37:58,550 --> 00:38:01,990

657
00:38:01,990 --> 00:38:05,350
I remember the address
and I wrote to them

658
00:38:05,350 --> 00:38:08,355
and right away they responded.

659
00:38:08,355 --> 00:38:10,600
They asked me, where
would you like to go?

660
00:38:10,600 --> 00:38:11,710
We'll help you to go.

661
00:38:11,710 --> 00:38:14,380
Do you want to come to England
or to Australia or the United

662
00:38:14,380 --> 00:38:15,390
States?

663
00:38:15,390 --> 00:38:19,250
We'll do anything we
can to help you out.

664
00:38:19,250 --> 00:38:24,030
So we decided we want to
come to the United States.

665
00:38:24,030 --> 00:38:27,690
Without their help-- we
were in a quota, you know.

666
00:38:27,690 --> 00:38:32,170
We came to the United
States in 1947.

667
00:38:32,170 --> 00:38:36,960
And then we had to start like
from day one all over again.

668
00:38:36,960 --> 00:38:39,720

669
00:38:39,720 --> 00:38:41,580
And we didn't do so bad.

670
00:38:41,580 --> 00:38:43,620
Yeah.

671
00:38:43,620 --> 00:38:44,550
What did you do?

672
00:38:44,550 --> 00:38:45,930
How did you make a living?

673
00:38:45,930 --> 00:38:48,840

674

00:38:48,840 --> 00:38:56,420

My first job was a friend
of mine came before me.

675

00:38:56,420 --> 00:38:59,090

He came in 1946.

676

00:38:59,090 --> 00:39:03,960

He worked in Washington
Heights in New York

677

00:39:03,960 --> 00:39:06,740

in a factory run by German-Jews.

678

00:39:06,740 --> 00:39:10,790

They were making the
flashlights for the cameras.

679

00:39:10,790 --> 00:39:12,950

He said, you want to work?

680

00:39:12,950 --> 00:39:15,860

I'll fix you up with my boss.

681

00:39:15,860 --> 00:39:18,850

So I went to work.

682

00:39:18,850 --> 00:39:21,260

I earned \$0.65 an hour.

683

00:39:21,260 --> 00:39:22,850

I was happy.

684

00:39:22,850 --> 00:39:29,150

My wife was making
another \$0.65 an hour.

685

00:39:29,150 --> 00:39:34,016

We had an apartment in the
Lower East Side for \$15 a month.

686

00:39:34,016 --> 00:39:35,300
We were making a living.

687
00:39:35,300 --> 00:39:38,590

688
00:39:38,590 --> 00:39:44,430
Then we got a better job and
a better job, and we moved.

689
00:39:44,430 --> 00:39:45,420
We had a son.

690
00:39:45,420 --> 00:39:49,870

691
00:39:49,870 --> 00:39:53,560
And our children are educated.

692
00:39:53,560 --> 00:39:57,490
My son is a good physician.

693
00:39:57,490 --> 00:39:59,630
My daughter is doing very well.

694
00:39:59,630 --> 00:40:03,930
So that's how it is.

695
00:40:03,930 --> 00:40:06,030
Do you talk to them
about these experiences?

696
00:40:06,030 --> 00:40:06,530
Have you?

697
00:40:06,530 --> 00:40:07,140
Yes.

698
00:40:07,140 --> 00:40:08,400
They know everything.

699

00:40:08,400 --> 00:40:10,335
I spoke to them.

700
00:40:10,335 --> 00:40:13,620
They know everything.
they read about it.

701
00:40:13,620 --> 00:40:15,030
They know about it.

702
00:40:15,030 --> 00:40:18,780
They are very well aware of what
was going on and what happened.

703
00:40:18,780 --> 00:40:23,090

704
00:40:23,090 --> 00:40:24,340
Do you have grandchildren?

705
00:40:24,340 --> 00:40:26,770
No, not yet.

706
00:40:26,770 --> 00:40:28,660
Are they part of the
second generation group,

707
00:40:28,660 --> 00:40:29,630
with Steve and--

708
00:40:29,630 --> 00:40:30,130
No.

709
00:40:30,130 --> 00:40:30,902
No?

710
00:40:30,902 --> 00:40:31,540
No.

711
00:40:31,540 --> 00:40:33,310
They live in New York.

712

00:40:33,310 --> 00:40:34,570

They have their own--

713

00:40:34,570 --> 00:40:37,510

Well, there must be a group
of that kind in New York, too.

714

00:40:37,510 --> 00:40:38,680

Oh, they have.

715

00:40:38,680 --> 00:40:41,650

I belong to the Society,
Krakow Society, which

716

00:40:41,650 --> 00:40:43,390

is a large group of people.

717

00:40:43,390 --> 00:40:46,390

You probably know because of--

718

00:40:46,390 --> 00:40:47,412

what's his name?

719

00:40:47,412 --> 00:40:48,820

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

720

00:40:48,820 --> 00:40:50,440

721

00:40:50,440 --> 00:40:55,790

There's about 350
families, survivors.

722

00:40:55,790 --> 00:40:59,725

We get together very often.

723

00:40:59,725 --> 00:41:05,500

During the years immediately
after the war, and even,

724

00:41:05,500 --> 00:41:09,280

perhaps, closer to
the present, did

725
00:41:09,280 --> 00:41:11,380
you want to talk
about these things?

726
00:41:11,380 --> 00:41:16,400
Or did you feel that you
wanted to put it behind you

727
00:41:16,400 --> 00:41:17,290
and forget about it?

728
00:41:17,290 --> 00:41:20,100

729
00:41:20,100 --> 00:41:29,050
It happens that we survivors
used to meet with survivors.

730
00:41:29,050 --> 00:41:36,010
We used to be together since
we didn't have the knowledge

731
00:41:36,010 --> 00:41:38,590
of English in the beginning.

732
00:41:38,590 --> 00:41:41,080
I happened to know
English because I

733
00:41:41,080 --> 00:41:42,350
studied before the war.

734
00:41:42,350 --> 00:41:44,750
When I went to high
school, I studied English,

735
00:41:44,750 --> 00:41:45,760
so I knew something.

736

00:41:45,760 --> 00:41:48,860

737

00:41:48,860 --> 00:41:50,840

But most of us
couldn't speak English.

738

00:41:50,840 --> 00:41:52,340

So we had meetings.

739

00:41:52,340 --> 00:41:56,360

We spoke about the same things.

740

00:41:56,360 --> 00:42:01,760

Every time we met, that
was the main topic.

741

00:42:01,760 --> 00:42:03,290

Whatever you were
talking about--

742

00:42:03,290 --> 00:42:08,900

the job or your children
or your family--

743

00:42:08,900 --> 00:42:14,630

it had to come to
the life in camp,

744

00:42:14,630 --> 00:42:19,820

always, because this
is embedded in you.

745

00:42:19,820 --> 00:42:21,580

You cannot forget about it.

746

00:42:21,580 --> 00:42:24,046

You don't want to
forget about it.

747

00:42:24,046 --> 00:42:28,130

You can block out certain
things, which I did.

748
00:42:28,130 --> 00:42:30,470
I blacked out many things.

749
00:42:30,470 --> 00:42:35,060
And I became aware
of it only lately.

750
00:42:35,060 --> 00:42:38,210
Things start coming back to me.

751
00:42:38,210 --> 00:42:43,490
After my trip to Poland
last year, I was amazed.

752
00:42:43,490 --> 00:42:47,480
I thought when I come to
Krakow, I wouldn't recognize.

753
00:42:47,480 --> 00:42:53,970
I recognized every street,
every corner, every store,

754
00:42:53,970 --> 00:42:57,450
and every person,
where everybody lived.

755
00:42:57,450 --> 00:43:00,470
As a matter of fact, we
were riding with a driver.

756
00:43:00,470 --> 00:43:05,120
We hired a cab for the day.

757
00:43:05,120 --> 00:43:10,040

758
00:43:10,040 --> 00:43:12,300
I told him I wasn't
here for 40 years.

759
00:43:12,300 --> 00:43:14,600

He said, you know
Krakow better than I do.

760
00:43:14,600 --> 00:43:16,740
I live here all my life.

761
00:43:16,740 --> 00:43:19,220
I knew every stone.

762
00:43:19,220 --> 00:43:23,580
That's how suddenly
things opened up.

763
00:43:23,580 --> 00:43:24,500
I was amazed.

764
00:43:24,500 --> 00:43:25,560
My wife was amazed.

765
00:43:25,560 --> 00:43:29,270
She said, how can you
remember all these things?

766
00:43:29,270 --> 00:43:32,730
What made you go back?

767
00:43:32,730 --> 00:43:39,510
Number one reason was my father
died a natural death in 1929,

768
00:43:39,510 --> 00:43:42,030
and he was buried in Krakow.

769
00:43:42,030 --> 00:43:45,555
So I wanted to find his
grave, which I didn't.

770
00:43:45,555 --> 00:43:48,930
I couldn't find it.

771
00:43:48,930 --> 00:43:52,680
The cemetery is there,

or almost intact.

772

00:43:52,680 --> 00:43:56,790

Not all together,
but almost intact.

773

00:43:56,790 --> 00:44:01,140

It's so neglected,
so grown thick.

774

00:44:01,140 --> 00:44:04,230

The little bushes I remember
are big trees right now.

775

00:44:04,230 --> 00:44:06,210

Only 40 years, 45 years.

776

00:44:06,210 --> 00:44:08,910

777

00:44:08,910 --> 00:44:13,325

So we spent all day long
looking for the grave.

778

00:44:13,325 --> 00:44:15,050

It was pouring.

779

00:44:15,050 --> 00:44:16,220

It was raining.

780

00:44:16,220 --> 00:44:20,210

We were soaked wet,
completely soaked.

781

00:44:20,210 --> 00:44:24,320

I don't know how we did it,
but we couldn't find it.

782

00:44:24,320 --> 00:44:27,230

That was one reason.

783

00:44:27,230 --> 00:44:37,010

Second reason was, after all,
that was where I grew up.

784
00:44:37,010 --> 00:44:39,650
That's where I
lived for 19 years.

785
00:44:39,650 --> 00:44:42,530
That's where I spent my youth.

786
00:44:42,530 --> 00:44:46,040
I had fond memories of
my youth and my friend,

787
00:44:46,040 --> 00:44:47,480
and I want to see.

788
00:44:47,480 --> 00:44:50,450
I mean, it draws you.

789
00:44:50,450 --> 00:44:55,430
For 35 years, I had no
intention to go back at all.

790
00:44:55,430 --> 00:45:01,550
In the last few years, like a
magnet, was pulling me back.

791
00:45:01,550 --> 00:45:03,650
And one day I said,
I have to go back.

792
00:45:03,650 --> 00:45:05,030
I have to see it.

793
00:45:05,030 --> 00:45:08,450
As a matter of fact,
I went to the house

794
00:45:08,450 --> 00:45:12,022
where I lived most of my life.

795

00:45:12,022 --> 00:45:13,730

I didn't think that
they would let me in,

796

00:45:13,730 --> 00:45:14,990

but they did let me in.

797

00:45:14,990 --> 00:45:16,490

I saw it.

798

00:45:16,490 --> 00:45:19,825

Now I'm happy I was there.

799

00:45:19,825 --> 00:45:21,200

I wouldn't want
to go back again.

800

00:45:21,200 --> 00:45:21,800

This is it.

801

00:45:21,800 --> 00:45:24,760

802

00:45:24,760 --> 00:45:29,570

I found myself in a city
exactly the way I remember.

803

00:45:29,570 --> 00:45:31,020

Beautiful.

804

00:45:31,020 --> 00:45:33,200

I knew all the things about it.

805

00:45:33,200 --> 00:45:36,920

But I felt like a
complete stranger.

806

00:45:36,920 --> 00:45:39,890

I see people but I
don't know anybody.

807

00:45:39,890 --> 00:45:43,370

I remember when I walk out
on the street, I couldn't--

808
00:45:43,370 --> 00:45:49,310
I had friends, friends of my
mother, friends of my sister.

809
00:45:49,310 --> 00:45:55,490
I mean, 70,000 Jews in one spot.

810
00:45:55,490 --> 00:45:57,530
Suddenly there's none.

811
00:45:57,530 --> 00:46:03,790
There are 200 broken up,
old people left in Krakow.

812
00:46:03,790 --> 00:46:05,710
And that's it.

813
00:46:05,710 --> 00:46:06,520
This is the end.

814
00:46:06,520 --> 00:46:09,550

815
00:46:09,550 --> 00:46:12,010
These people are
Jewish, the 200?

816
00:46:12,010 --> 00:46:14,860
Yeah.

817
00:46:14,860 --> 00:46:17,950
They stayed there for
many different reasons.

818
00:46:17,950 --> 00:46:21,430
Some of them were members
of Communist Party.

819
00:46:21,430 --> 00:46:28,590

820

00:46:28,590 --> 00:46:32,250

The Russians were in the war and
they were trained over there,

821

00:46:32,250 --> 00:46:33,010

educated.

822

00:46:33,010 --> 00:46:38,250

They came back and they had
some positions in Poland.

823

00:46:38,250 --> 00:46:40,890

Some of them
married Polish women

824

00:46:40,890 --> 00:46:43,680

and they didn't want to leave.

825

00:46:43,680 --> 00:46:45,550

Some of them were old.

826

00:46:45,550 --> 00:46:46,785

Where are they going to go?

827

00:46:46,785 --> 00:46:48,270

So they stayed.

828

00:46:48,270 --> 00:46:49,380

So they are broken up.

829

00:46:49,380 --> 00:46:53,860

They are very old, sick people.

830

00:46:53,860 --> 00:46:54,870

We help them out.

831

00:46:54,870 --> 00:46:57,163

We send some money to them.

832

00:46:57,163 --> 00:46:58,830
I'm talking about a
Krakow organization.

833
00:46:58,830 --> 00:47:03,120
We had a fund that we spent
so many thousands of dollars

834
00:47:03,120 --> 00:47:07,160
every year to send everybody
a check every month, \$10, \$15,

835
00:47:07,160 --> 00:47:07,660
whatever.

836
00:47:07,660 --> 00:47:09,420
Over there this is great help.

837
00:47:09,420 --> 00:47:12,000

838
00:47:12,000 --> 00:47:18,840
This is the end of Poland's
remain without Jews.

839
00:47:18,840 --> 00:47:23,530
3 and 1/2 million Jews was it.

840
00:47:23,530 --> 00:47:26,630
It's heartbreaking to see.

841
00:47:26,630 --> 00:47:29,230

842
00:47:29,230 --> 00:47:30,088
You can't believe.

843
00:47:30,088 --> 00:47:30,880
I couldn't believe.

844
00:47:30,880 --> 00:47:36,990
When I stepped on the Polish

ground and I looked around,

845

00:47:36,990 --> 00:47:38,380

I don't see anybody.

846

00:47:38,380 --> 00:47:39,250

How did you feel?

847

00:47:39,250 --> 00:47:42,400

848

00:47:42,400 --> 00:47:46,030

I felt completely strange.

849

00:47:46,030 --> 00:47:50,980

I don't know how to express
how I felt. I was shaking.

850

00:47:50,980 --> 00:47:52,930

I didn't know.

851

00:47:52,930 --> 00:47:53,500

I'm here.

852

00:47:53,500 --> 00:47:54,170

I see it.

853

00:47:54,170 --> 00:47:54,880

I remember.

854

00:47:54,880 --> 00:47:56,590

I know every street.

855

00:47:56,590 --> 00:47:59,290

856

00:47:59,290 --> 00:48:01,510

People go by, I
don't know anyone.

857

00:48:01,510 --> 00:48:04,093

858
00:48:04,093 --> 00:48:05,010
It's a terrible thing.

859
00:48:05,010 --> 00:48:07,700

860
00:48:07,700 --> 00:48:09,430
Like a ghost.

861
00:48:09,430 --> 00:48:13,300
That's how they
destroyed Jewish people.

862
00:48:13,300 --> 00:48:17,380
Here some people will say
the Holocaust is just a myth.

863
00:48:17,380 --> 00:48:18,220
It's a story.

864
00:48:18,220 --> 00:48:21,760
People just saying nothing
happened like that.

865
00:48:21,760 --> 00:48:24,330

866
00:48:24,330 --> 00:48:28,160
And the world looked
and the world knew,

867
00:48:28,160 --> 00:48:32,270
and no one did
anything about it.

868
00:48:32,270 --> 00:48:36,800
We begged them to bomb the
railroad going to Auschwitz.

869
00:48:36,800 --> 00:48:37,880

They refused.

870

00:48:37,880 --> 00:48:40,950

They didn't want to do it.

871

00:48:40,950 --> 00:48:44,750

They said, that's
not our business.

872

00:48:44,750 --> 00:48:46,040

It's military.

873

00:48:46,040 --> 00:48:49,710

It's not our
objective to do this.

874

00:48:49,710 --> 00:48:55,260

We sent people from
Poland, scream,

875

00:48:55,260 --> 00:49:00,120

people are being
destroyed by the millions.

876

00:49:00,120 --> 00:49:01,460

The world turned around.

877

00:49:01,460 --> 00:49:03,492

They said, it's too bad.

878

00:49:03,492 --> 00:49:07,650

879

00:49:07,650 --> 00:49:10,320

I hope it will
never happen again.

880

00:49:10,320 --> 00:49:13,080

I want to take you back
for one moment to something

881

00:49:13,080 --> 00:49:14,150

you described earlier.

882
00:49:14,150 --> 00:49:23,460
You were talking about
lying on the ground

883
00:49:23,460 --> 00:49:27,090
when you were near Dresden
and seeing the bombs

884
00:49:27,090 --> 00:49:28,950
fall on the city.

885
00:49:28,950 --> 00:49:30,630
And I want to know how--

886
00:49:30,630 --> 00:49:31,350
The reaction?

887
00:49:31,350 --> 00:49:32,585
--you felt, how you reacted.

888
00:49:32,585 --> 00:49:36,060

889
00:49:36,060 --> 00:49:40,220
One way it felt we like to see
what's happened, that they are

890
00:49:40,220 --> 00:49:41,930
being bombed out of the area.

891
00:49:41,930 --> 00:49:44,900

892
00:49:44,900 --> 00:49:48,210
We saw their planes.

893
00:49:48,210 --> 00:49:51,830
English and American planes,
we are happy to see them.

894

00:49:51,830 --> 00:49:56,230

We are happy that they
dropped the bombs.

895

00:49:56,230 --> 00:50:00,250

That means that the end is near.

896

00:50:00,250 --> 00:50:05,800

But on the other hand,
we are being killed, too.

897

00:50:05,800 --> 00:50:07,000

I mean you are scared.

898

00:50:07,000 --> 00:50:10,700

Even if you are sick,
you are still scared.

899

00:50:10,700 --> 00:50:16,720

I mean, your heart and blood
is in you and you are scared.

900

00:50:16,720 --> 00:50:20,390

It's a natural phenomena.

901

00:50:20,390 --> 00:50:24,520

So the reaction
was in one minute,

902

00:50:24,520 --> 00:50:26,748

you are happy that
they are bombing you.

903

00:50:26,748 --> 00:50:29,290

The other one, you are afraid
that they're going to kill you.

904

00:50:29,290 --> 00:50:33,910

905

00:50:33,910 --> 00:50:38,080

You look up and you see

an American plane flying

906

00:50:38,080 --> 00:50:41,680

and you see this,
you get into contact

907

00:50:41,680 --> 00:50:44,650

with someone you
look forward to see.

908

00:50:44,650 --> 00:50:46,060

You're happy.

909

00:50:46,060 --> 00:50:49,430

But on the other hand,
he's there bombing you.

910

00:50:49,430 --> 00:50:54,600

So how can you react one
way and the next minute

911

00:50:54,600 --> 00:50:55,600

you react the other way?

912

00:50:55,600 --> 00:50:58,240

913

00:50:58,240 --> 00:51:03,690

Do you think you had a
particularly strong will

914

00:51:03,690 --> 00:51:09,220

to live, or did you feel
that it was just at chance?

915

00:51:09,220 --> 00:51:15,913

At one point, when I got
sick, I lost the will to live.

916

00:51:15,913 --> 00:51:16,830

I didn't want to live.

917

00:51:16,830 --> 00:51:19,120
I didn't care.

918
00:51:19,120 --> 00:51:24,210
And a friend of mine told me,
once you lose the will to live,

919
00:51:24,210 --> 00:51:25,360
you're going to die.

920
00:51:25,360 --> 00:51:29,410

921
00:51:29,410 --> 00:51:30,650
You see the end coming.

922
00:51:30,650 --> 00:51:34,670

923
00:51:34,670 --> 00:51:38,960
And I don't believe
that I changed.

924
00:51:38,960 --> 00:51:41,680
I still didn't care.

925
00:51:41,680 --> 00:51:43,840
It happened that I survived.

926
00:51:43,840 --> 00:51:46,650
I don't know how.

927
00:51:46,650 --> 00:51:51,670
If you take odds, it's a
miracle that I survived,

928
00:51:51,670 --> 00:51:54,490
because I was so sick
that I couldn't walk.

929
00:51:54,490 --> 00:51:57,420

930
00:51:57,420 --> 00:52:01,060
When I had typhoid,
I was three days--

931
00:52:01,060 --> 00:52:02,130
they told me--

932
00:52:02,130 --> 00:52:04,830
I was three days
unconscious with high fever.

933
00:52:04,830 --> 00:52:09,380

934
00:52:09,380 --> 00:52:11,730
I didn't eat
anything, of course.

935
00:52:11,730 --> 00:52:15,620
So the food that was
designated to me the people up.

936
00:52:15,620 --> 00:52:25,510
And when I woke up, I was
starved, but there was no food.

937
00:52:25,510 --> 00:52:29,110
And then a few days
later we went on a march,

938
00:52:29,110 --> 00:52:34,900
through the mountains, through
snow, sleeping on the ground.

939
00:52:34,900 --> 00:52:38,350
And then I came and
I had dysentery.

940
00:52:38,350 --> 00:52:41,680
So how did I survive,
could you tell me?

941
00:52:41,680 --> 00:52:42,670
I wasn't that strong.

942
00:52:42,670 --> 00:52:48,130
I was what they used
to call us Muselmann.

943
00:52:48,130 --> 00:52:54,320
We were completely
skin and bone.

944
00:52:54,320 --> 00:52:55,820
When I say skin and bone--

945
00:52:55,820 --> 00:52:56,450
70.

946
00:52:56,450 --> 00:52:58,550
I mean 70 pounds,
skin and bones.

947
00:52:58,550 --> 00:53:00,320
The bones weigh.

948
00:53:00,320 --> 00:53:04,700
And I had sores over
all over my back

949
00:53:04,700 --> 00:53:11,430
because when I was
laying on the ground,

950
00:53:11,430 --> 00:53:15,620
and I was so skinny that
I had sores on my skin.

951
00:53:15,620 --> 00:53:18,890
When they brought me into
the hospital in Prague,

952
00:53:18,890 --> 00:53:20,690
they treated me

first for the sores

953

00:53:20,690 --> 00:53:24,930

and then they started
to feed me a little bit.

954

00:53:24,930 --> 00:53:27,410

But in three months,
I bounced right back.

955

00:53:27,410 --> 00:53:28,730

I went swimming.

956

00:53:28,730 --> 00:53:31,840

I went on the boat.

957

00:53:31,840 --> 00:53:32,470

I walked.

958

00:53:32,470 --> 00:53:33,640

I function.

959

00:53:33,640 --> 00:53:34,480

I ate.

960

00:53:34,480 --> 00:53:35,680

I drank.

961

00:53:35,680 --> 00:53:37,090

I bounced right back.

962

00:53:37,090 --> 00:53:38,740

You said you were an athlete.

963

00:53:38,740 --> 00:53:39,850

Yeah.

964

00:53:39,850 --> 00:53:41,620

That may have helped,
because genetics.

965

00:53:41,620 --> 00:53:43,160
Your father died
when he was young.

966
00:53:43,160 --> 00:53:46,840
But let me tell you something.

967
00:53:46,840 --> 00:53:51,370
I was with people in
the camps and they

968
00:53:51,370 --> 00:53:56,980
brought in Hungarian-Jews
who were not exposed

969
00:53:56,980 --> 00:53:59,380
to any atrocities like we were.

970
00:53:59,380 --> 00:54:00,830
The Germans came.

971
00:54:00,830 --> 00:54:04,420
They sent them to the camp
straight from their beds,

972
00:54:04,420 --> 00:54:07,030
from good food.

973
00:54:07,030 --> 00:54:11,670
They were healthy and strong,
and they were the first to die.

974
00:54:11,670 --> 00:54:14,950

975
00:54:14,950 --> 00:54:18,110
They were not prepared
gradually, like we were.

976
00:54:18,110 --> 00:54:20,770
We were prepared gradually.

977

00:54:20,770 --> 00:54:30,010
The German way of the
[NON-ENGLISH],, the German--

978
00:54:30,010 --> 00:54:30,670
Regimentation.

979
00:54:30,670 --> 00:54:33,280
Regimentation.

980
00:54:33,280 --> 00:54:38,410
They were thrown from the
good life into the pits,

981
00:54:38,410 --> 00:54:39,410
and they didn't survive.

982
00:54:39,410 --> 00:54:42,580

983
00:54:42,580 --> 00:54:43,900
I couldn't understand.

984
00:54:43,900 --> 00:54:46,330
How can a healthy
man die right away?

985
00:54:46,330 --> 00:54:49,120
I mean, you have
to get sick to die.

986
00:54:49,120 --> 00:54:50,680
They died.

987
00:54:50,680 --> 00:54:52,950
They couldn't take the shock.

988
00:54:52,950 --> 00:54:56,090
The shock killed them.

989
00:54:56,090 --> 00:54:59,600
Strong, healthy,

good-looking men.

990

00:54:59,600 --> 00:55:02,177

991

00:55:02,177 --> 00:55:03,260

They suddenly disappeared.

992

00:55:03,260 --> 00:55:04,340

They suddenly died.

993

00:55:04,340 --> 00:55:07,190

994

00:55:07,190 --> 00:55:09,240

You wanted to say
something in closing?

995

00:55:09,240 --> 00:55:10,550

Yes.

996

00:55:10,550 --> 00:55:14,090

I want to give you
a chance to say it

997

00:55:14,090 --> 00:55:15,980

because we have to stop soon.

998

00:55:15,980 --> 00:55:23,030

I believe that
erecting monuments,

999

00:55:23,030 --> 00:55:26,450

it's a waste of money.

1000

00:55:26,450 --> 00:55:31,890

The money could be used
in many other ways,

1001

00:55:31,890 --> 00:55:45,080

to leave a legacy in education,
books, to educate young people,

1002
00:55:45,080 --> 00:55:46,850
not to let them
forget what happened.

1003
00:55:46,850 --> 00:55:53,160

1004
00:55:53,160 --> 00:55:56,820
If they educate
them, maybe things

1005
00:55:56,820 --> 00:55:58,830
will never happen
again with what

1006
00:55:58,830 --> 00:56:04,330
happened between 1939 and 1945.

1007
00:56:04,330 --> 00:56:11,240
It was a black page of
history of humankind.

1008
00:56:11,240 --> 00:56:14,670
This is my opinion.

1009
00:56:14,670 --> 00:56:16,910
I don't know how
good it is, but I

1010
00:56:16,910 --> 00:56:21,650
feel that most money should
be spent for education more

1011
00:56:21,650 --> 00:56:24,420
than to erect monuments.

1012
00:56:24,420 --> 00:56:28,100
Because monuments, who is
going to look at the monument.

1013
00:56:28,100 --> 00:56:34,130

If they look, maybe later they
will forget about monuments.

1014
00:56:34,130 --> 00:56:36,260
But they're not going
to forget if they are

1015
00:56:36,260 --> 00:56:38,090
going to be taught about it.

1016
00:56:38,090 --> 00:56:42,170
The brain will
absorb some of it.

1017
00:56:42,170 --> 00:56:45,150
This is my opinion.

1018
00:56:45,150 --> 00:56:47,660
Thank you very much for
coming and speaking with us.

1019
00:56:47,660 --> 00:56:49,390
My pleasure.

1020
00:56:49,390 --> 00:56:56,000