

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:12,930

2  
00:00:12,930 --> 00:00:15,900  
Welcome back, Mr. Einhorn,  
after our brief pause.

3  
00:00:15,900 --> 00:00:17,470  
Please go on.

4  
00:00:17,470 --> 00:00:22,720  
I said that I landed  
in Skarzysko-Kamienna.

5  
00:00:22,720 --> 00:00:25,660  
It was in [PLACE NAME]  
which was the worst.

6  
00:00:25,660 --> 00:00:29,860  
Now that was a munitions  
factory which was during the--

7  
00:00:29,860 --> 00:00:32,710  
it's a regular munitions  
factory by Poland.

8  
00:00:32,710 --> 00:00:36,610  
I mean, it was part of a regular  
government munitions factory.

9  
00:00:36,610 --> 00:00:42,030  
And over there they had--

10  
00:00:42,030 --> 00:00:43,240  
they had a lot of employees--

11  
00:00:43,240 --> 00:00:45,948  
Polish, which were  
from before the war.

12  
00:00:45,948 --> 00:00:46,990

It was a regular factory.

13

00:00:46,990 --> 00:00:49,300

They were employed in  
the munitions factory.

14

00:00:49,300 --> 00:00:52,600

And we came over there,  
again, we got the shock

15

00:00:52,600 --> 00:00:56,080

because the first time I came  
across how many people were

16

00:00:56,080 --> 00:00:59,000

dying, I mean, I was around it.

17

00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:02,410

But this was something I saw  
the first time people was

18

00:01:02,410 --> 00:01:04,930

swollen faces, swollen ankles.

19

00:01:04,930 --> 00:01:09,400

I mean, it was-- it  
was a sight where

20

00:01:09,400 --> 00:01:10,820

you could see one  
minute walking,

21

00:01:10,820 --> 00:01:13,390

and next minute  
just fell down over.

22

00:01:13,390 --> 00:01:16,750

Now, over there  
when we came, they

23

00:01:16,750 --> 00:01:20,500

divided us into  
certain sections cause

24  
00:01:20,500 --> 00:01:25,360  
you had all kind of holes where  
they were making the artillery

25  
00:01:25,360 --> 00:01:27,820  
shells, they were  
filling artillery shells.

26  
00:01:27,820 --> 00:01:32,800  
And over there, again,  
we came a bunch of-- we

27  
00:01:32,800 --> 00:01:34,240  
were together from before.

28  
00:01:34,240 --> 00:01:35,300  
You tried to stay--

29  
00:01:35,300 --> 00:01:36,883  
I mean, you didn't  
have any relatives.

30  
00:01:36,883 --> 00:01:40,360  
You tried to stay together with  
the people that you knew with.

31  
00:01:40,360 --> 00:01:46,270  
And I was chosen what they  
called transport [NON-ENGLISH],,

32  
00:01:46,270 --> 00:01:51,730  
which meant we were about 180  
people made into 18 groups,

33  
00:01:51,730 --> 00:01:52,660  
10--

34  
00:01:52,660 --> 00:01:56,280  
to load and unload  
railroad cars.

35

00:01:56,280 --> 00:01:59,770  
They were carrying-- the empty  
shells came in the cartridges

36  
00:01:59,770 --> 00:02:01,690  
and to load up the full ones.

37  
00:02:01,690 --> 00:02:05,170

38  
00:02:05,170 --> 00:02:07,570  
And I was more or less,  
I was a short guy.

39  
00:02:07,570 --> 00:02:11,453  
And they told me I should try  
something else because it's

40  
00:02:11,453 --> 00:02:12,370  
going to be very hard.

41  
00:02:12,370 --> 00:02:14,710  
But I didn't want to  
part with my friends.

42  
00:02:14,710 --> 00:02:18,460  
You know, I tried to  
stick together with us.

43  
00:02:18,460 --> 00:02:19,810  
Anyway.

44  
00:02:19,810 --> 00:02:22,010  
We worked.

45  
00:02:22,010 --> 00:02:27,235  
Later on, what was the advantage  
of it being that we were--

46  
00:02:27,235 --> 00:02:29,440  
in other words, we didn't  
have a particular place

47

00:02:29,440 --> 00:02:33,940

to work in a certain hall  
or a certain factory.

48

00:02:33,940 --> 00:02:36,250

We were all over cause  
the railroad tracks,

49

00:02:36,250 --> 00:02:38,830

you know, you had to  
deliver carloads to each--

50

00:02:38,830 --> 00:02:41,690

you know, you had the heavy  
artillery, small artillery.

51

00:02:41,690 --> 00:02:44,030

So we had to go everywhere.

52

00:02:44,030 --> 00:02:46,420

And so we had the  
run of the place,

53

00:02:46,420 --> 00:02:47,730

more or less, in other words.

54

00:02:47,730 --> 00:02:50,860

And the advantage was, it  
was in the woods, like.

55

00:02:50,860 --> 00:02:53,650

It was surrounded by the woods.

56

00:02:53,650 --> 00:02:57,340

And you know, like, in the  
spring, you had berries.

57

00:02:57,340 --> 00:02:59,650

So as you went from  
one to the place,

58

00:02:59,650 --> 00:03:01,420

you were able to pick berries.

59

00:03:01,420 --> 00:03:05,200

I mean, to show every  
little morsel meant

60

00:03:05,200 --> 00:03:08,300

the difference between  
surviving, I mean, normal.

61

00:03:08,300 --> 00:03:17,170

It was-- So from the 180  
people, I would say within six,

62

00:03:17,170 --> 00:03:21,540

seven weeks, we  
were left about 70.

63

00:03:21,540 --> 00:03:23,490

I mean, it was--

64

00:03:23,490 --> 00:03:28,000

we were working 16,  
17, 18 hours a day.

65

00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:30,600

There was no-- when  
your transport came,

66

00:03:30,600 --> 00:03:34,140

and a transport had to go  
out, you had to go out.

67

00:03:34,140 --> 00:03:39,630

You had to go and load  
it, unload it, regardless.

68

00:03:39,630 --> 00:03:44,130

So we were in the barracks.

69

00:03:44,130 --> 00:03:45,450

You had no clothes to change.

70

00:03:45,450 --> 00:03:50,640

And the rain, and you were wet.

71

00:03:50,640 --> 00:03:51,390

You came in there.

72

00:03:51,390 --> 00:03:55,680

Like, I had a big coat  
from my home town.

73

00:03:55,680 --> 00:03:58,350

That was my cover to  
[? the ground ?] was wet.

74

00:03:58,350 --> 00:03:59,310

It was wet.

75

00:03:59,310 --> 00:04:01,560

And as far, we had  
a potbelly stove.

76

00:04:01,560 --> 00:04:04,590

If you were able to pick  
up [INAUDIBLE] we'd call it

77

00:04:04,590 --> 00:04:06,492

a [NON-ENGLISH],, on  
the place of the--

78

00:04:06,492 --> 00:04:07,950

if you were paid,  
everybody, if you

79

00:04:07,950 --> 00:04:11,405

could pick up a piece of coal,  
piece of wood, took it with us.

80

00:04:11,405 --> 00:04:13,140

And that was a communal thing.

81

00:04:13,140 --> 00:04:15,300

You threw it in there,

that's what you had to eat.

82

00:04:15,300 --> 00:04:17,980

Otherwise, you didn't have it.

83

00:04:17,980 --> 00:04:21,779

So in every day, you got up.

84

00:04:21,779 --> 00:04:23,280

We had the bunks.

85

00:04:23,280 --> 00:04:24,330

Every day you got up.

86

00:04:24,330 --> 00:04:28,260

Was always two, three, four.

87

00:04:28,260 --> 00:04:30,930

Overnight, they  
just didn't get up.

88

00:04:30,930 --> 00:04:31,710

And that was it.

89

00:04:31,710 --> 00:04:33,100

It was a matter of fact.

90

00:04:33,100 --> 00:04:35,520

I mean, you took it in  
stride, because again, it

91

00:04:35,520 --> 00:04:36,150

was a question.

92

00:04:36,150 --> 00:04:37,380

Today it's him.

93

00:04:37,380 --> 00:04:38,490

Tomorrow is your lot.

94

00:04:38,490 --> 00:04:41,100



It was-- you just  
a question of time.

95  
00:04:41,100 --> 00:04:45,870  
Now my motto was always, I  
mean, I kept saying to myself,

96  
00:04:45,870 --> 00:04:49,380  
I said, I used to say it to God.

97  
00:04:49,380 --> 00:04:52,050  
Whatever you want  
to dish out, I'll

98  
00:04:52,050 --> 00:04:55,680  
take everything except  
please let me live through.

99  
00:04:55,680 --> 00:04:58,170  
At least I should  
be able to survive.

100  
00:04:58,170 --> 00:04:59,580  
I'll accept any punishment.

101  
00:04:59,580 --> 00:05:01,402  
Just let me live through.

102  
00:05:01,402 --> 00:05:03,220  
So that was it.

103  
00:05:03,220 --> 00:05:06,490  
And over there, I  
mean, the work was--

104  
00:05:06,490 --> 00:05:10,000  
it was unbelievable because  
they're loading, unloading.

105  
00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:11,980  
Again, like in the  
winter, I remember one

106

00:05:11,980 --> 00:05:14,080  
particular Friday night.

107

00:05:14,080 --> 00:05:18,490  
It was sits in my mind, stands  
out more than anything else.

108

00:05:18,490 --> 00:05:23,560  
We had to load the  
cartridges into--

109

00:05:23,560 --> 00:05:27,310  
you loaded them on the little--

110

00:05:27,310 --> 00:05:31,120  
they call it-- again, on  
the short and narrow track

111

00:05:31,120 --> 00:05:32,710  
with your little wagons.

112

00:05:32,710 --> 00:05:34,630  
You loaded them up.

113

00:05:34,630 --> 00:05:38,620  
And they were-- each  
shell was wrapped

114

00:05:38,620 --> 00:05:41,780  
around the corrugated cartons.

115

00:05:41,780 --> 00:05:45,235  
In other words, separated from  
each of the corrugated cartons.

116

00:05:45,235 --> 00:05:47,380  
I want you to know  
this was our clothes,

117

00:05:47,380 --> 00:05:48,970  
because you couldn't  
get any clothes.

118  
00:05:48,970 --> 00:05:50,510  
We were tattered.

119  
00:05:50,510 --> 00:05:51,260  
You saw people.

120  
00:05:51,260 --> 00:05:52,343  
That's what we used to do.

121  
00:05:52,343 --> 00:05:54,310  
We used to tape the  
word on the sleeves,

122  
00:05:54,310 --> 00:05:57,200  
the word on their feet.

123  
00:05:57,200 --> 00:05:58,350  
That's what we were.

124  
00:05:58,350 --> 00:05:59,183  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

125  
00:05:59,183 --> 00:06:00,850  
That was our protect  
from the elements.

126  
00:06:00,850 --> 00:06:01,225  
It protected you.

127  
00:06:01,225 --> 00:06:01,767  
Right, right.

128  
00:06:01,767 --> 00:06:03,610  
I remember one winter night--

129  
00:06:03,610 --> 00:06:07,240  
and it was a Friday night  
because we were saying, how

130  
00:06:07,240 --> 00:06:09,100

could God punish us that much?

131

00:06:09,100 --> 00:06:17,410

I mean, it was really,  
it was coming down snow.

132

00:06:17,410 --> 00:06:18,370

It was cold.

133

00:06:18,370 --> 00:06:19,480

It was coming down.

134

00:06:19,480 --> 00:06:20,290

It's in Poland.

135

00:06:20,290 --> 00:06:21,835

You know, it is cold there.

136

00:06:21,835 --> 00:06:23,920

So it was coming down.

137

00:06:23,920 --> 00:06:25,150

The flakes were big.

138

00:06:25,150 --> 00:06:26,560

And it kept covering the track.

139

00:06:26,560 --> 00:06:29,560

You couldn't push the wagon  
because it kept covering.

140

00:06:29,560 --> 00:06:32,170

And over here,  
they're behind us.

141

00:06:32,170 --> 00:06:33,970

It's got loads,  
loads, loads, loads.

142

00:06:33,970 --> 00:06:34,780

[INAUDIBLE]

143

00:06:34,780 --> 00:06:36,050

It's got to be fast.

144

00:06:36,050 --> 00:06:37,380

You got to--

145

00:06:37,380 --> 00:06:41,020

It was above human endurance.

146

00:06:41,020 --> 00:06:43,540

You know, I say this  
stands out in my mind.

147

00:06:43,540 --> 00:06:47,750

Now you asked me before  
about helping out each other.

148

00:06:47,750 --> 00:06:50,000

I'll give you an example,  
this particular time.

149

00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:53,560

So we had, like, every 10  
people were to a car load.

150

00:06:53,560 --> 00:06:57,177

So you had some people inside  
and some people outside.

151

00:06:57,177 --> 00:06:58,010

You had to transfer.

152

00:06:58,010 --> 00:07:00,340

What happened was, these  
things were going up

153

00:07:00,340 --> 00:07:01,940

to the Russian front.

154

00:07:01,940 --> 00:07:04,160

So you had-- there  
was specification.

155  
00:07:04,160 --> 00:07:06,400  
You had to load so many shells.

156  
00:07:06,400 --> 00:07:08,920  
There was also roofing paper.

157  
00:07:08,920 --> 00:07:12,340  
And there was also some lumber  
because if they unloaded

158  
00:07:12,340 --> 00:07:14,530  
in the front to keep  
it out of the element,

159  
00:07:14,530 --> 00:07:16,600  
they had to cover it  
up with roofing paper.

160  
00:07:16,600 --> 00:07:18,190  
So you had a prescribed thing.

161  
00:07:18,190 --> 00:07:21,880  
You had to go, let's say, a  
certain x amount of shells,

162  
00:07:21,880 --> 00:07:26,350  
so many rolls of roofing paper,  
so many rolls of-- some lumber.

163  
00:07:26,350 --> 00:07:32,260  
So in one particular  
Passover, with all that thing

164  
00:07:32,260 --> 00:07:36,340  
going through, we still had  
some very orthodox people

165  
00:07:36,340 --> 00:07:37,660  
stuck to the principle.

166  
00:07:37,660 --> 00:07:38,530

But we couldn't.

167  
00:07:38,530 --> 00:07:40,210  
I mean, where they  
couldn't, they

168  
00:07:40,210 --> 00:07:43,390  
wouldn't eat bread on Pesach.

169  
00:07:43,390 --> 00:07:48,470  
And so we had-- we used to steal  
potatoes, something like that.

170  
00:07:48,470 --> 00:07:50,380  
And they were weak.

171  
00:07:50,380 --> 00:07:51,740  
We used to do--

172  
00:07:51,740 --> 00:07:52,330  
so we did.

173  
00:07:52,330 --> 00:07:55,240  
What we did is, we  
let them stay in the--

174  
00:07:55,240 --> 00:07:56,920  
pushed them in the carload.

175  
00:07:56,920 --> 00:07:59,020  
They should stay in the carload.

176  
00:07:59,020 --> 00:08:00,610  
And we were doing the work.

177  
00:08:00,610 --> 00:08:05,290  
Of course, this outside, he  
couldn't do anything cause

178  
00:08:05,290 --> 00:08:07,000  
right away he would  
have got the whip.

179  
00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:11,020  
Inside, at least, we tried  
to keep them in there.

180  
00:08:11,020 --> 00:08:13,015  
We did the work in order to--

181  
00:08:13,015 --> 00:08:14,140  
they should be [INAUDIBLE].

182  
00:08:14,140 --> 00:08:15,250  
During Pesach.

183  
00:08:15,250 --> 00:08:16,030  
During Pesach.

184  
00:08:16,030 --> 00:08:17,530  
Because they wouldn't  
eat the bread.

185  
00:08:17,530 --> 00:08:19,030  
And they were really--

186  
00:08:19,030 --> 00:08:21,460  
I mean, we all were weak.

187  
00:08:21,460 --> 00:08:23,110  
But still and all,  
it was part of it

188  
00:08:23,110 --> 00:08:25,630  
in order to shelter them  
because they were so--

189  
00:08:25,630 --> 00:08:28,210  
through that, in order  
to be able to do it.

190  
00:08:28,210 --> 00:08:33,190  
Over there-- I mean, it was bad.



191

00:08:33,190 --> 00:08:34,809

But the difference,  
again, I want

192

00:08:34,809 --> 00:08:39,610

to show between how you try to  
organize in order to organize

193

00:08:39,610 --> 00:08:42,010

a little bit extra food.

194

00:08:42,010 --> 00:08:45,160

What we did is, we were able--

195

00:08:45,160 --> 00:08:45,660

no.

196

00:08:45,660 --> 00:08:47,290

It was a munitions factory.

197

00:08:47,290 --> 00:08:49,780

So over there you had  
one of the ingredients

198

00:08:49,780 --> 00:08:51,400

of there was saltpeter.

199

00:08:51,400 --> 00:08:52,900

It's a powder.

200

00:08:52,900 --> 00:08:55,900

It comes a bit like these cement  
bags where they're paper bags,

201

00:08:55,900 --> 00:08:59,290

but they're sewn together.

202

00:08:59,290 --> 00:09:01,840

And like I mentioned  
before, you had

203

00:09:01,840 --> 00:09:03,850  
laborers from Polish people.

204  
00:09:03,850 --> 00:09:07,090  
They lived and they were  
laborers from before.

205  
00:09:07,090 --> 00:09:13,570  
We became so adept at the  
work, we were doing more work,

206  
00:09:13,570 --> 00:09:15,160  
producing more than they did.

207  
00:09:15,160 --> 00:09:18,130  
And they were experts.

208  
00:09:18,130 --> 00:09:20,360  
I mean, that's under  
the yoke, you know,

209  
00:09:20,360 --> 00:09:24,310  
when I think about it,  
the boot, the whip.

210  
00:09:24,310 --> 00:09:27,790  
So what happened  
was, being working

211  
00:09:27,790 --> 00:09:31,330  
at the transport as we  
were loading the saltpeter,

212  
00:09:31,330 --> 00:09:34,580  
we were unloaded from the  
boxcar into the warehouse.

213  
00:09:34,580 --> 00:09:38,290  
So you had a ramp from  
the back car is high.

214  
00:09:38,290 --> 00:09:42,400  
And you had a ramp running on

boxes like this going right

215  
00:09:42,400 --> 00:09:43,660  
into the warehouse.

216  
00:09:43,660 --> 00:09:44,890  
And you came in.

217  
00:09:44,890 --> 00:09:47,260  
There were two  
guys in the boxcar.

218  
00:09:47,260 --> 00:09:49,030  
And they lifted up the thing.

219  
00:09:49,030 --> 00:09:50,530  
They gave it to you  
on the shoulder.

220  
00:09:50,530 --> 00:09:51,905  
You were carrying  
it other there.

221  
00:09:51,905 --> 00:09:54,700  
There were two other  
guys stacking it.

222  
00:09:54,700 --> 00:09:57,250  
During the course  
going from the boxcar

223  
00:09:57,250 --> 00:10:03,310  
to the warehouse, these bags,  
they were sewn together.

224  
00:10:03,310 --> 00:10:05,770  
They were sewn on the machine.

225  
00:10:05,770 --> 00:10:07,480  
Again, you get adept.

226  
00:10:07,480 --> 00:10:09,850

I don't know if you know, if  
you saw the sewing machine,

227  
00:10:09,850 --> 00:10:14,020  
if you know the right cotton  
to rip, the whole thing rips.

228  
00:10:14,020 --> 00:10:15,950  
So you had a white,  
it was a white--

229  
00:10:15,950 --> 00:10:21,220  
it was like wool, but a  
white thick cotton, something

230  
00:10:21,220 --> 00:10:23,270  
like a string.

231  
00:10:23,270 --> 00:10:27,220  
So on the way I used  
to-- not only me, I mean,

232  
00:10:27,220 --> 00:10:28,390  
a lot of guys--

233  
00:10:28,390 --> 00:10:32,860  
we used to rip it off one  
side and put it in my pocket.

234  
00:10:32,860 --> 00:10:37,330  
And then at night used to  
take it and roll it in a ball,

235  
00:10:37,330 --> 00:10:38,440  
roll in a ball.

236  
00:10:38,440 --> 00:10:38,980  
The string?

237  
00:10:38,980 --> 00:10:39,480  
The string.

238

00:10:39,480 --> 00:10:40,970  
It was a white string.

239  
00:10:40,970 --> 00:10:43,000  
So what we did with it--

240  
00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:45,126  
there was no wool to be had.

241  
00:10:45,126 --> 00:10:48,880  
We used to, the Polish people,  
they used to take it from us.

242  
00:10:48,880 --> 00:10:51,820  
We used to exchange for food.

243  
00:10:51,820 --> 00:10:56,260  
They used to make themselves  
pullovers, nice white pullovers

244  
00:10:56,260 --> 00:10:57,142  
out of that.

245  
00:10:57,142 --> 00:10:58,618  
It's that wool.

246  
00:10:58,618 --> 00:11:02,225  
So to them it was-- you know.

247  
00:11:02,225 --> 00:11:03,100  
It was a [INAUDIBLE].

248  
00:11:03,100 --> 00:11:03,880  
Yarn.

249  
00:11:03,880 --> 00:11:04,910  
It was a yarn.

250  
00:11:04,910 --> 00:11:05,630  
Like a yarn.

251

00:11:05,630 --> 00:11:06,130  
Yes.

252  
00:11:06,130 --> 00:11:10,060  
They used to make  
themselves the pullovers.

253  
00:11:10,060 --> 00:11:12,610  
And they were working  
the boiler rooms.

254  
00:11:12,610 --> 00:11:15,850  
I had a couple of guys  
in the boiler room.

255  
00:11:15,850 --> 00:11:18,290  
So as soon I had  
something like this,

256  
00:11:18,290 --> 00:11:20,440  
now they were getting  
their food from home.

257  
00:11:20,440 --> 00:11:22,510  
They were all sandwiches,  
whatever it is.

258  
00:11:22,510 --> 00:11:28,100  
They were also entitled to  
rations of soup in the factory.

259  
00:11:28,100 --> 00:11:29,163  
So we used to exchange.

260  
00:11:29,163 --> 00:11:31,330  
I gave this, and they gave  
me, let's say for a week,

261  
00:11:31,330 --> 00:11:32,550  
he gave me soup.

262  
00:11:32,550 --> 00:11:36,070  
So I had my little soup that I

got from the [INAUDIBLE],, which

263

00:11:36,070 --> 00:11:38,050  
was a starvation diet.

264

00:11:38,050 --> 00:11:41,620  
There was an extra  
portion of soup.

265

00:11:41,620 --> 00:11:45,190  
But that was the  
difference to survive.

266

00:11:45,190 --> 00:11:46,240  
Then I had--

267

00:11:46,240 --> 00:11:49,030  
I mean, talk  
personally about me.

268

00:11:49,030 --> 00:11:52,100  
Then I had a friend of mine who  
worked for the Jewish police.

269

00:11:52,100 --> 00:11:53,770  
In the camp had a Jewish police.

270

00:11:53,770 --> 00:11:55,120  
He was from my hometown.

271

00:11:55,120 --> 00:11:58,960  
He was like, [? Califax, ?]  
they called him.

272

00:11:58,960 --> 00:12:00,880  
A handy guy.

273

00:12:00,880 --> 00:12:05,560  
They used to clean their  
shoes and all that.

274

00:12:05,560 --> 00:12:07,300

So I knew he was  
a friend of mine

275  
00:12:07,300 --> 00:12:10,270  
from my hometown, a  
young kid, younger kid.

276  
00:12:10,270 --> 00:12:15,770  
They were able to get-- they  
got straw, the mattresses.

277  
00:12:15,770 --> 00:12:19,360  
We were sleeping on  
the bunks on wood.

278  
00:12:19,360 --> 00:12:21,220  
They got-- the police--

279  
00:12:21,220 --> 00:12:22,840  
policemen-- the  
Jewish policemen.

280  
00:12:22,840 --> 00:12:24,700  
They were getting mattresses.

281  
00:12:24,700 --> 00:12:27,220  
So you had to fill  
it up with straw.

282  
00:12:27,220 --> 00:12:29,800  
So he gave me the mattress.

283  
00:12:29,800 --> 00:12:31,960  
And I got a-- he gave me  
a ticket, in other words.

284  
00:12:31,960 --> 00:12:35,500  
It was a permit that it would  
be that I was on the transport.

285  
00:12:35,500 --> 00:12:37,510  
I was able to go over there.



286

00:12:37,510 --> 00:12:40,750

He gave me a permit  
to go to a place

287

00:12:40,750 --> 00:12:43,140

where they filled  
it up with straw.

288

00:12:43,140 --> 00:12:44,890

They filled it-- it  
was for the policemen.

289

00:12:44,890 --> 00:12:46,300

They filled it up  
with the straw.

290

00:12:46,300 --> 00:12:47,320

And I brought it in.

291

00:12:47,320 --> 00:12:49,690

I carried it after  
I left the work.

292

00:12:49,690 --> 00:12:53,302

I carried it on my back  
all this traveling.

293

00:12:53,302 --> 00:12:54,010

And I brought it.

294

00:12:54,010 --> 00:12:55,635

When I brought it,  
he gave me an ration

295

00:12:55,635 --> 00:12:58,795

of puff bread, which was--

296

00:12:58,795 --> 00:13:03,700

I mean, that's  
what kept me alive.

297

00:13:03,700 --> 00:13:04,810

Being enterprising.

298

00:13:04,810 --> 00:13:07,560

Well, in a way, yes.

299

00:13:07,560 --> 00:13:08,230

Ingenious.

300

00:13:08,230 --> 00:13:09,160

That was it.

301

00:13:09,160 --> 00:13:10,550

The was the enterp--

302

00:13:10,550 --> 00:13:12,720

But it was a difference  
between life and death.

303

00:13:12,720 --> 00:13:13,930

Sure.

304

00:13:13,930 --> 00:13:15,440

In that way.

305

00:13:15,440 --> 00:13:20,860

But over there, I mean,  
the people that I saw,

306

00:13:20,860 --> 00:13:23,860

the smaller people that was--

307

00:13:23,860 --> 00:13:26,590

Muselmann, was a man that  
was emaciated, I mean,

308

00:13:26,590 --> 00:13:28,360

just a skeleton.

309

00:13:28,360 --> 00:13:31,420

That was already later  
on in Buchenwald.

310

00:13:31,420 --> 00:13:32,800

But over here, too.

311

00:13:32,800 --> 00:13:34,050

But what you see on a picture.

312

00:13:34,050 --> 00:13:36,820

Over here you saw [INAUDIBLE].

313

00:13:36,820 --> 00:13:39,970

So then what happened, you  
know, we talked to them.

314

00:13:39,970 --> 00:13:42,332

People there were starving.

315

00:13:42,332 --> 00:13:43,790

Once it came to a  
point, let's say,

316

00:13:43,790 --> 00:13:47,813

after four or five days  
when they didn't eat,

317

00:13:47,813 --> 00:13:48,730

they became oblivious.

318

00:13:48,730 --> 00:13:50,610

They weren't hungry anymore.

319

00:13:50,610 --> 00:13:53,290

They have oblivious  
to it anymore.

320

00:13:53,290 --> 00:13:56,240

They didn't feel any  
quest for hunger at all.

321

00:13:56,240 --> 00:13:59,275

It was just a question  
of a couple of days.

322

00:13:59,275 --> 00:14:02,560

And that was it.

323

00:14:02,560 --> 00:14:08,230

Over there also, we  
had an explosion in one

324

00:14:08,230 --> 00:14:11,680

of the holes where  
58 women perished.

325

00:14:11,680 --> 00:14:14,080

They were the ones  
who-- they're working.

326

00:14:14,080 --> 00:14:17,410

In other words, when they  
filled these artillery shells,

327

00:14:17,410 --> 00:14:18,920

it was going on a band.

328

00:14:18,920 --> 00:14:21,820

It was a wooden  
cradle, a wooden cradle

329

00:14:21,820 --> 00:14:24,010

that the shell got  
into the wooden cradle,

330

00:14:24,010 --> 00:14:26,110

square, you know, square?

331

00:14:26,110 --> 00:14:29,350

And then you stacked  
one against the other.

332

00:14:29,350 --> 00:14:32,200

And evidently, when it  
came from the band and you

333

00:14:32,200 --> 00:14:35,020

had the fire pin  
screwed on and all that.

334  
00:14:35,020 --> 00:14:37,210  
And it fell down on  
the floor and exploded.

335  
00:14:37,210 --> 00:14:38,948  
58 women perished.

336  
00:14:38,948 --> 00:14:40,240  
They closed up the whole thing.

337  
00:14:40,240 --> 00:14:43,990  
And then the Gestapo came  
down, it was a whole thing.

338  
00:14:43,990 --> 00:14:45,940  
Everything closed up.

339  
00:14:45,940 --> 00:14:48,430  
They quashed it up and all that.

340  
00:14:48,430 --> 00:14:54,010  
And by us being that we  
were in the transport,

341  
00:14:54,010 --> 00:14:56,362  
we used to load these on  
the wagon, on little wagons,

342  
00:14:56,362 --> 00:14:57,820  
you know, like you  
have today where

343  
00:14:57,820 --> 00:15:00,040  
you pump it up and lift  
it up and you carry it

344  
00:15:00,040 --> 00:15:02,020  
into the wagons.

345

00:15:02,020 --> 00:15:03,970

We were really trying  
to commit suicide.

346

00:15:03,970 --> 00:15:06,195

I mean, we didn't care if  
it fell down or-- you know,

347

00:15:06,195 --> 00:15:08,660

we were so careless because  
it was came to a point,

348

00:15:08,660 --> 00:15:10,000

we couldn't take it anymore.

349

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:11,410

Like I said, it was--

350

00:15:11,410 --> 00:15:13,430

whatever, que sera, sera.

351

00:15:13,430 --> 00:15:16,300

Whatever's going to happen, it  
didn't mean anything anymore.

352

00:15:16,300 --> 00:15:19,480

Do you have a sense  
of what time this was?

353

00:15:19,480 --> 00:15:25,190

That was-- well, we came through  
to Skarzysko the end of '43.

354

00:15:25,190 --> 00:15:31,120

That was in '43, '44, the  
beginning, the end of '43, '44

355

00:15:31,120 --> 00:15:33,430

over there we were there.

356

00:15:33,430 --> 00:15:35,970

Now also over there you had a--

357

00:15:35,970 --> 00:15:39,640

I'll tell you about the gr--  
you hear about the green people.

358

00:15:39,640 --> 00:15:41,680

Over there you had  
the green people.

359

00:15:41,680 --> 00:15:43,840

What happened was,  
they were making--

360

00:15:43,840 --> 00:15:47,110

361

00:15:47,110 --> 00:15:50,050

we understood it was  
underwater mines.

362

00:15:50,050 --> 00:15:51,850

We called it [POLISH] in Polish.

363

00:15:51,850 --> 00:15:54,500

It was picric acid.

364

00:15:54,500 --> 00:15:57,322

It came in boxes, powder.

365

00:15:57,322 --> 00:15:58,780

Then they used to  
take these boxes.

366

00:15:58,780 --> 00:16:00,730

They used to take  
it in the hole,

367

00:16:00,730 --> 00:16:02,762

you know, in the things  
they had, presses.

368

00:16:02,762 --> 00:16:04,720

They used to take this

and compress it somehow,

369

00:16:04,720 --> 00:16:06,220  
in their clothes [INAUDIBLE].

370

00:16:06,220 --> 00:16:09,280  
Compress it, but it  
had to be cleaned.

371

00:16:09,280 --> 00:16:11,710  
After so many times,  
it had to be cleaned.

372

00:16:11,710 --> 00:16:15,310  
And being that you had to  
give the quota, I mean,

373

00:16:15,310 --> 00:16:16,960  
everything was hurry up.

374

00:16:16,960 --> 00:16:19,030  
You couldn't clean it properly.

375

00:16:19,030 --> 00:16:21,610  
So it wasn't-- you know,  
they used to explode.

376

00:16:21,610 --> 00:16:24,820  
But whoever worked on  
it, this picric acid

377

00:16:24,820 --> 00:16:29,525  
is so bitter, I mean, it's  
unbelievable how bitter.

378

00:16:29,525 --> 00:16:34,420  
It permeates your whole body,  
your clothes, your skin.

379

00:16:34,420 --> 00:16:37,090  
If you worked on it, you  
became completely green.



380

00:16:37,090 --> 00:16:41,230

I worked in the transport,  
we were just unloading it.

381

00:16:41,230 --> 00:16:43,360

But when I worked  
on it to unload it,

382

00:16:43,360 --> 00:16:48,240

I was green for about two,  
three, or four days till they--

383

00:16:48,240 --> 00:16:50,120

and don't forget, I  
wasn't in touch with it.

384

00:16:50,120 --> 00:16:53,100

I just took the boxes and loaded  
it from one place to the other.

385

00:16:53,100 --> 00:17:00,580

As a matter of fact, one day  
this continued that camp.

386

00:17:00,580 --> 00:17:03,050

And they made also, they made--

387

00:17:03,050 --> 00:17:06,040

they gathered everybody.

388

00:17:06,040 --> 00:17:10,990

And they-- all these  
people, they tried to--

389

00:17:10,990 --> 00:17:13,810

they didn't want to  
leave a trace of them.

390

00:17:13,810 --> 00:17:20,170

So over there, again, I was  
picked out also to be shot.

391

00:17:20,170 --> 00:17:23,560

A group and somehow to  
this day, I don't know how.

392

00:17:23,560 --> 00:17:25,540

I was able to sneak behind.

393

00:17:25,540 --> 00:17:27,310

I sneak behind the barracks.

394

00:17:27,310 --> 00:17:29,020

I hid out for a  
while till they--

395

00:17:29,020 --> 00:17:31,687

just after they took away the  
people they took away to shoot.

396

00:17:31,687 --> 00:17:32,770

And then they [INAUDIBLE].

397

00:17:32,770 --> 00:17:37,270

And then I came back to  
the, with the people again.

398

00:17:37,270 --> 00:17:43,030

Then I went to the--

399

00:17:43,030 --> 00:17:47,140

was it-- I'm trying to--

400

00:17:47,140 --> 00:17:49,585

I know we walked for a while.

401

00:17:49,585 --> 00:17:52,510

So we went into Przedb<sup>3</sup>rz.

402

00:17:52,510 --> 00:17:54,100

We walked for a  
while over there.

403

00:17:54,100 --> 00:17:55,530

And we worked.

404

00:17:55,530 --> 00:17:56,530

We destroyed over there.

405

00:17:56,530 --> 00:17:58,120

And we lived in a barn.

406

00:17:58,120 --> 00:18:00,640

It was just temporarily,  
we lived in a barn.

407

00:18:00,640 --> 00:18:03,160

And we destroyed-- also  
we build something--

408

00:18:03,160 --> 00:18:05,920

we destroyed a Jewish cemetery,  
we had to destroy that.

409

00:18:05,920 --> 00:18:07,000

They made you do that?

410

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:07,503

Oh yeah.

411

00:18:07,503 --> 00:18:08,170

We had to do it.

412

00:18:08,170 --> 00:18:08,440

Yes.

413

00:18:08,440 --> 00:18:08,710

It was--

414

00:18:08,710 --> 00:18:09,670

How did you do that?

415

00:18:09,670 --> 00:18:12,340

416

00:18:12,340 --> 00:18:13,090  
Manual labor.

417  
00:18:13,090 --> 00:18:13,810  
I mean--

418  
00:18:13,810 --> 00:18:15,550  
With picks and shovels?

419  
00:18:15,550 --> 00:18:16,890  
Shovels, picks, and everything.

420  
00:18:16,890 --> 00:18:17,890  
Because we were digging.

421  
00:18:17,890 --> 00:18:21,770  
They would make some kind of  
a whatever formation, whatever

422  
00:18:21,770 --> 00:18:22,600  
it is.

423  
00:18:22,600 --> 00:18:23,470  
To clear it off.

424  
00:18:23,470 --> 00:18:24,820  
Clear it, yes.

425  
00:18:24,820 --> 00:18:26,860  
To even it, whatever it was.

426  
00:18:26,860 --> 00:18:30,340  
Then we went to the  
[? CzÄ™stochowa ?]..

427  
00:18:30,340 --> 00:18:33,730  
Over there we worked like I  
said before, we were trying,

428  
00:18:33,730 --> 00:18:40,090  
we were working for  
fixing up these tanks.

429  
00:18:40,090 --> 00:18:44,800  
And so again, you  
know, you had to be--

430  
00:18:44,800 --> 00:18:49,270  
the tanks have a treadmill  
which was a heavy rubber.

431  
00:18:49,270 --> 00:18:50,920  
So when we used to do--

432  
00:18:50,920 --> 00:18:53,260  
they came in in disrepair.

433  
00:18:53,260 --> 00:18:54,280  
We used to steal--

434  
00:18:54,280 --> 00:18:56,020  
cut off the rubber.

435  
00:18:56,020 --> 00:18:59,260  
You cut it off and make--  
used to use it for soles.

436  
00:18:59,260 --> 00:19:00,560  
Cut up a piece of our soles.

437  
00:19:00,560 --> 00:19:05,170  
It was a heavy  
thing, which helped.

438  
00:19:05,170 --> 00:19:10,540  
Then came-- at that time,  
the people from Lodz.

439  
00:19:10,540 --> 00:19:12,030  
And they started to--

440  
00:19:12,030 --> 00:19:14,680  
they were emptying  
out Lodz ghetto.

441  
00:19:14,680 --> 00:19:17,080  
And a lot of them came  
from the Lodz ghetto.

442  
00:19:17,080 --> 00:19:18,640  
So they came with suits.

443  
00:19:18,640 --> 00:19:22,490  
They had certain  
possessions on themselves.

444  
00:19:22,490 --> 00:19:25,240  
And so they were able to trade.

445  
00:19:25,240 --> 00:19:29,920  
So over there, I  
became a shoemaker.

446  
00:19:29,920 --> 00:19:34,960  
What we used to do, we used  
to get the wooden bottoms.

447  
00:19:34,960 --> 00:19:36,340  
A lot of them had the--

448  
00:19:36,340 --> 00:19:39,730  
we had the Holland shoes,  
what do you call these?

449  
00:19:39,730 --> 00:19:40,290  
Wooden shoes.

450  
00:19:40,290 --> 00:19:41,080  
The wooden shoes.

451  
00:19:41,080 --> 00:19:41,840  
Clogs.

452  
00:19:41,840 --> 00:19:42,340  
Clogs?

453  
00:19:42,340 --> 00:19:43,000  
Clogs.

454  
00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:43,500  
Yeah.

455  
00:19:43,500 --> 00:19:44,520  
A lot of people use.

456  
00:19:44,520 --> 00:19:45,820  
I couldn't wear them.

457  
00:19:45,820 --> 00:19:47,320  
I broke my legs.

458  
00:19:47,320 --> 00:19:49,275  
And I couldn't wear them.

459  
00:19:49,275 --> 00:19:50,380  
Most of them wore a clog.

460  
00:19:50,380 --> 00:19:51,670  
It's all you could get.

461  
00:19:51,670 --> 00:19:53,330  
But over there I  
became a shoemaker.

462  
00:19:53,330 --> 00:19:58,240  
And I used to make out of  
cloth, the tops, you know.

463  
00:19:58,240 --> 00:20:00,740  
And I was quite adept to it.

464  
00:20:00,740 --> 00:20:02,323  
And for this I was  
able-- because they

465  
00:20:02,323 --> 00:20:04,990  
were a little better off because

they just came from the ghetto.

466

00:20:04,990 --> 00:20:06,490

They had certain possessions.

467

00:20:06,490 --> 00:20:10,240

We were already-- whole time  
we didn't have anything on us.

468

00:20:10,240 --> 00:20:13,750

So I became a shoemaker,  
it helped a little soup,

469

00:20:13,750 --> 00:20:15,280

a little this.

470

00:20:15,280 --> 00:20:16,330

[INAUDIBLE]

471

00:20:16,330 --> 00:20:18,430

Then came a man--

472

00:20:18,430 --> 00:20:19,720

a German.

473

00:20:19,720 --> 00:20:21,887

And he was trying to  
save his own skin.

474

00:20:21,887 --> 00:20:24,220

Otherwise, he would have had  
to go to the Russian front.

475

00:20:24,220 --> 00:20:26,200

He told us himself.

476

00:20:26,200 --> 00:20:29,473

What happened was, they had  
the big barracks-- big halls.

477

00:20:29,473 --> 00:20:31,390

And they had, the Germans



had-- a lot of them,

478

00:20:31,390 --> 00:20:32,900  
they had families.

479

00:20:32,900 --> 00:20:37,180  
So in order to make  
like apartments--

480

00:20:37,180 --> 00:20:40,120  
so you had a big hall like,  
you had to make certain walls--

481

00:20:40,120 --> 00:20:41,710  
partitions.

482

00:20:41,710 --> 00:20:44,290  
But you couldn't make  
it from regular brick

483

00:20:44,290 --> 00:20:47,140  
because the weight of  
it wouldn't carry it.

484

00:20:47,140 --> 00:20:49,690  
They had over there,  
they were getting--

485

00:20:49,690 --> 00:20:51,820  
I don't know what kind  
of product it was.

486

00:20:51,820 --> 00:20:55,960  
It was like a light  
stuff, like you get--

487

00:20:55,960 --> 00:20:58,660  
I don't know how to explain it.

488

00:20:58,660 --> 00:21:01,380  
It looked like-- what  
do you call this?

489

00:21:01,380 --> 00:21:03,440

Puffed cor--

490

00:21:03,440 --> 00:21:03,940

Corn?

491

00:21:03,940 --> 00:21:04,440

492

00:21:04,440 --> 00:21:05,410

Puffed rice?

493

00:21:05,410 --> 00:21:06,340

No, not puffed rice.

494

00:21:06,340 --> 00:21:09,400

What do you-- what do you puff?

495

00:21:09,400 --> 00:21:10,345

Popcorn?

496

00:21:10,345 --> 00:21:11,020

Popcorn.

497

00:21:11,020 --> 00:21:12,432

It looked like popcorn.

498

00:21:12,432 --> 00:21:13,390

It looked like popcorn.

499

00:21:13,390 --> 00:21:15,700

But it was some kind of  
a sand or something mix.

500

00:21:15,700 --> 00:21:16,750

I don't know what it was.

501

00:21:16,750 --> 00:21:19,360

It was a light mixture.

502

00:21:19,360 --> 00:21:23,320  
And he took six guys  
of us, six guys.

503  
00:21:23,320 --> 00:21:25,870  
And I was one of  
them that he picked.

504  
00:21:25,870 --> 00:21:29,980  
And he gave us a  
hole over there.

505  
00:21:29,980 --> 00:21:31,150  
We had a machine.

506  
00:21:31,150 --> 00:21:34,330  
And we pressed this into brick.

507  
00:21:34,330 --> 00:21:35,783  
He used some kind of a mixture.

508  
00:21:35,783 --> 00:21:36,700  
We pressed into brick.

509  
00:21:36,700 --> 00:21:40,390  
It was regular size bricks,  
but they were very light.

510  
00:21:40,390 --> 00:21:42,340  
And they used to  
use these bricks--

511  
00:21:42,340 --> 00:21:47,215  
they used to use to make the  
partitions for the Germans.

512  
00:21:47,215 --> 00:21:49,090  
They had their own  
cubicles, their own rooms,

513  
00:21:49,090 --> 00:21:51,280  
whatever it was.

514

00:21:51,280 --> 00:21:54,730

So the advantage of  
it was that we only

515

00:21:54,730 --> 00:21:56,500

had to make a certain amount.

516

00:21:56,500 --> 00:21:59,932

517

00:21:59,932 --> 00:22:00,640

We were separate.

518

00:22:00,640 --> 00:22:03,730

He told us one thing, we  
shouldn't show our faces

519

00:22:03,730 --> 00:22:06,010

because we were  
through, let's say,

520

00:22:06,010 --> 00:22:08,770

regular work was at  
say, 5:00 quitting time.

521

00:22:08,770 --> 00:22:11,710

We were through by 4:00,  
about a quarter to 4.

522

00:22:11,710 --> 00:22:14,500

He said if you're  
smart, stay indoors.

523

00:22:14,500 --> 00:22:19,690

And this entitled us to get  
an extra piece of bread.

524

00:22:19,690 --> 00:22:21,190

I don't know how  
much bigger it was,

525

00:22:21,190 --> 00:22:24,820

but it was entitled us to  
get an extra piece of bread.

526  
00:22:24,820 --> 00:22:28,610  
So again, it was a  
question of doing it.

527  
00:22:28,610 --> 00:22:30,240  
I mean, you do--

528  
00:22:30,240 --> 00:22:34,810  
it wasn't enough to  
live on, but it helped.

529  
00:22:34,810 --> 00:22:36,910  
Let's put it this way.

530  
00:22:36,910 --> 00:22:42,790  
Now for a minute, I'll  
digress for a minute.

531  
00:22:42,790 --> 00:22:46,090  
In [PLACE NAME]  
and in Skarzysko.

532  
00:22:46,090 --> 00:22:50,020  
Over there, we had no facilities  
for bathing and all that.

533  
00:22:50,020 --> 00:22:55,660  
You had to go to Werk A. Every  
week, every Sunday, to Werk A.

534  
00:22:55,660 --> 00:23:00,778  
But in order to go to Werk A to  
get a shower and a hot water--

535  
00:23:00,778 --> 00:23:01,820  
hot water shower, rather.

536  
00:23:01,820 --> 00:23:03,740  
All we had was cold water.

537

00:23:03,740 --> 00:23:05,530

Hot water shower.

538

00:23:05,530 --> 00:23:09,850

You had to show  
that you had lice.

539

00:23:09,850 --> 00:23:10,480

Yeah.

540

00:23:10,480 --> 00:23:11,180

You know, you had to show--

541

00:23:11,180 --> 00:23:12,763

Otherwise, you  
couldn't have a shower?

542

00:23:12,763 --> 00:23:13,720

No, you couldn't.

543

00:23:13,720 --> 00:23:16,000

You weren't entitled  
to go over there.

544

00:23:16,000 --> 00:23:20,320

And we tried to keep  
ourselves more or less,

545

00:23:20,320 --> 00:23:22,030

you tried with cold water.

546

00:23:22,030 --> 00:23:25,360

As a matter of fact,  
at one time over here

547

00:23:25,360 --> 00:23:26,500

there were a couple of--

548

00:23:26,500 --> 00:23:29,560

all this time, I  
didn't know there

549

00:23:29,560 --> 00:23:31,210  
were any Jewish women left.

550

00:23:31,210 --> 00:23:34,548  
Cause all males-- was  
all-male population.

551

00:23:34,548 --> 00:23:36,340  
We didn't know there  
were any Jewish women.

552

00:23:36,340 --> 00:23:40,690  
We thought all the Jewish  
women were annihilated.

553

00:23:40,690 --> 00:23:42,280  
Over here we found  
a couple of them.

554

00:23:42,280 --> 00:23:46,280  
The Jewish policemen had  
some girls over there,

555

00:23:46,280 --> 00:23:46,947  
whatever it was.

556

00:23:46,947 --> 00:23:47,988  
They had them over there.

557

00:23:47,988 --> 00:23:49,630  
It's the first time  
we came across.

558

00:23:49,630 --> 00:23:53,560  
So we had a separate  
bathroom, a shower room.

559

00:23:53,560 --> 00:23:56,740  
And then the females  
had a shower room.

560

00:23:56,740 --> 00:23:58,710

Then ours-- one of  
them was broken.

561  
00:23:58,710 --> 00:24:01,030  
I know one of them  
was broke down,

562  
00:24:01,030 --> 00:24:02,630  
the plumbing or whatever it is.

563  
00:24:02,630 --> 00:24:07,800  
So we had to be mixed.

564  
00:24:07,800 --> 00:24:09,820  
We had them mixed.

565  
00:24:09,820 --> 00:24:13,750  
I tell you one thing, you're  
a human being, you know,

566  
00:24:13,750 --> 00:24:14,860  
[INAUDIBLE].

567  
00:24:14,860 --> 00:24:15,520  
We were naked.

568  
00:24:15,520 --> 00:24:16,750  
They were naked.

569  
00:24:16,750 --> 00:24:17,990  
It didn't mean anything.

570  
00:24:17,990 --> 00:24:20,450  
It was like a stone.

571  
00:24:20,450 --> 00:24:21,370  
Like they don't exist.

572  
00:24:21,370 --> 00:24:22,270  
I mean it was no--

573



00:24:22,270 --> 00:24:23,020  
Irrelevant.

574  
00:24:23,020 --> 00:24:27,160  
No, no, no feeling, no  
sexual drive, nothing,

575  
00:24:27,160 --> 00:24:28,000  
absolutely nothing.

576  
00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:29,000  
It didn't mean anything.

577  
00:24:29,000 --> 00:24:31,810  
It was completely--

578  
00:24:31,810 --> 00:24:33,070  
Right.

579  
00:24:33,070 --> 00:24:34,300  
I just want to point it out.

580  
00:24:34,300 --> 00:24:34,930  
It was--

581  
00:24:34,930 --> 00:24:36,260  
Asexual.

582  
00:24:36,260 --> 00:24:36,760  
Hm?

583  
00:24:36,760 --> 00:24:37,610  
Asexual.

584  
00:24:37,610 --> 00:24:38,110  
Nothing.

585  
00:24:38,110 --> 00:24:39,130  
It didn't mean anything.

586  
00:24:39,130 --> 00:24:42,060

I mean, you know, that's what.

587  
00:24:42,060 --> 00:24:42,560  
OK.

588  
00:24:42,560 --> 00:24:48,220  
Now, from there,  
from CzÄ™stochowa,

589  
00:24:48,220 --> 00:24:50,020  
we talk about the front was--

590  
00:24:50,020 --> 00:24:51,800  
the Russia front was  
coming up already.

591  
00:24:51,800 --> 00:24:53,800  
As a matter of fact, the  
Skarzysko-Kamienna this

592  
00:24:53,800 --> 00:24:55,390  
could come in at night.

593  
00:24:55,390 --> 00:24:58,780  
Already at night you  
could hear from a distance

594  
00:24:58,780 --> 00:25:04,080  
heavy artillery rumbling, a lot  
of rumbling, heavy artillery.

595  
00:25:04,080 --> 00:25:05,710  
We knew that it's getting close.

596  
00:25:05,710 --> 00:25:07,420  
As the front was  
getting close, they

597  
00:25:07,420 --> 00:25:10,960  
closed up the things in order  
to bring us in deeper away

598

00:25:10,960 --> 00:25:12,440  
from the front.

599  
00:25:12,440 --> 00:25:14,740  
So then, in fact, a  
couple of foremen--

600  
00:25:14,740 --> 00:25:20,230  
from in Skarzysko come in a  
couple of foremen, which to me,

601  
00:25:20,230 --> 00:25:22,270  
I mean, I'm happy  
that happened to them.

602  
00:25:22,270 --> 00:25:25,220  
I mean, I can't say,  
but they deserved it.

603  
00:25:25,220 --> 00:25:27,070  
Let's put it this way.

604  
00:25:27,070 --> 00:25:31,170  
Because whatever the Germans  
did, they did it more in order

605  
00:25:31,170 --> 00:25:32,860  
to better themselves,  
whatever it was.

606  
00:25:32,860 --> 00:25:36,160

607  
00:25:36,160 --> 00:25:40,840  
They were so close that  
at one time they decided--

608  
00:25:40,840 --> 00:25:43,330  
I mean, they knew we  
got to be closed up,

609  
00:25:43,330 --> 00:25:45,520  
the camp is going to close up.

610  
00:25:45,520 --> 00:25:49,780  
A night or two before  
last, they skip.

611  
00:25:49,780 --> 00:25:53,470  
They figured they're  
going to be able to go

612  
00:25:53,470 --> 00:25:55,870  
towards Russia front and--

613  
00:25:55,870 --> 00:25:57,460  
but it happened.

614  
00:25:57,460 --> 00:25:58,810  
What happened was, I don't know.

615  
00:25:58,810 --> 00:25:59,980  
The Russians stopped.

616  
00:25:59,980 --> 00:26:01,970  
It came a point in  
time over there,

617  
00:26:01,970 --> 00:26:03,640  
whatever before  
wars or something,

618  
00:26:03,640 --> 00:26:05,218  
that they stopped for a while.

619  
00:26:05,218 --> 00:26:06,760  
They were going for  
a while, pushing,

620  
00:26:06,760 --> 00:26:08,470  
and then they stopped a while.

621  
00:26:08,470 --> 00:26:13,960  
That particular camp, in that  
camp, this could come in now--

622

00:26:13,960 --> 00:26:16,495

if you were-- this was--

623

00:26:16,495 --> 00:26:20,800

you talk about escaping,  
you live among people.

624

00:26:20,800 --> 00:26:25,840

Over there if you escape,  
the Polish population--

625

00:26:25,840 --> 00:26:31,686

they themselves-- for 3 pounds  
of sugar, they turned you in.

626

00:26:31,686 --> 00:26:34,000

For sugar was there,  
you couldn't get it.

627

00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:35,680

For 3 pounds of sugar.

628

00:26:35,680 --> 00:26:38,330

So even if you escaped,  
and you were able to,

629

00:26:38,330 --> 00:26:41,320

you go into the woods, you  
had to live off the land.

630

00:26:41,320 --> 00:26:43,930

I mean, you had to go  
sooner or later to a farm

631

00:26:43,930 --> 00:26:47,050

or to steal of the bag  
for 3 pounds of sugar.

632

00:26:47,050 --> 00:26:51,430

We had one time that they  
caught a father and a son.

633

00:26:51,430 --> 00:26:54,910

And we-- the whole camp had  
to get together, stand--

634

00:26:54,910 --> 00:26:55,690

appell.

635

00:26:55,690 --> 00:26:57,370

It was called appell.

636

00:26:57,370 --> 00:26:59,320

And they hung the  
father and the son.

637

00:26:59,320 --> 00:27:01,000

They hung them in  
front of our eyes.

638

00:27:01,000 --> 00:27:02,980

That the Polish  
people brought them

639

00:27:02,980 --> 00:27:06,940

over to this in  
front of our eyes.

640

00:27:06,940 --> 00:27:12,670

So you knew, even if you wanted  
to, you had nowhere to go.

641

00:27:12,670 --> 00:27:15,243

Do you remember any of  
the Polish people helping

642

00:27:15,243 --> 00:27:15,910

any of the Jews.

643

00:27:15,910 --> 00:27:17,510

I personally don't.

644

00:27:17,510 --> 00:27:18,280

I mean--

645  
00:27:18,280 --> 00:27:19,480  
Did you hear about that?

646  
00:27:19,480 --> 00:27:20,110  
--of cases.

647  
00:27:20,110 --> 00:27:20,610  
No.

648  
00:27:20,610 --> 00:27:21,250  
No.

649  
00:27:21,250 --> 00:27:22,150  
No.

650  
00:27:22,150 --> 00:27:24,960  
Because I'll tell  
you a better story.

651  
00:27:24,960 --> 00:27:27,580  
In Skarzysko-Kamienna,  
there was one--

652  
00:27:27,580 --> 00:27:29,530  
being that I worked--

653  
00:27:29,530 --> 00:27:31,695  
like I said, I was able--

654  
00:27:31,695 --> 00:27:32,320  
we were groups.

655  
00:27:32,320 --> 00:27:34,220  
We were going from one  
place to the other.

656  
00:27:34,220 --> 00:27:35,890  
We never knew from  
one day to the other

657

00:27:35,890 --> 00:27:37,000  
where we're going to work.

658  
00:27:37,000 --> 00:27:39,400  
And we were going  
all over the camp.

659  
00:27:39,400 --> 00:27:41,918  
There was one particular  
spot at the end of the camp,

660  
00:27:41,918 --> 00:27:43,960  
there was a hole where we  
were working, you know,

661  
00:27:43,960 --> 00:27:45,160  
loading and unloading.

662  
00:27:45,160 --> 00:27:47,530  
In the back they made a fence.

663  
00:27:47,530 --> 00:27:53,350  
Later on we found out it was  
a lime pit, a big lime pit,

664  
00:27:53,350 --> 00:27:54,910  
dug out a lime pit.

665  
00:27:54,910 --> 00:27:59,260  
And all day long they were  
bringing in these trucks,

666  
00:27:59,260 --> 00:28:03,670  
there were particular  
trucks, closed trucks.

667  
00:28:03,670 --> 00:28:06,820  
They were bringing the  
Polish intelligentsia.

668  
00:28:06,820 --> 00:28:08,410  
And they were annihilated.



669

00:28:08,410 --> 00:28:09,670

There was gas trucks.

670

00:28:09,670 --> 00:28:12,333

They were gasses on the way, by  
the time they came to the pits.

671

00:28:12,333 --> 00:28:13,750

And they unloaded  
them over there.

672

00:28:13,750 --> 00:28:15,620

That stench was unbelievable.

673

00:28:15,620 --> 00:28:19,650

Whenever we worked over there,  
the stench is unbelievable.

674

00:28:19,650 --> 00:28:23,600

And with this, with  
that, knowing all that,

675

00:28:23,600 --> 00:28:26,320

and the people around,  
they worked in the factory,

676

00:28:26,320 --> 00:28:28,750

they still had it  
against the Jew.

677

00:28:28,750 --> 00:28:30,250

They saw what's happening.

678

00:28:30,250 --> 00:28:33,870

They still have it  
against the Jew.

679

00:28:33,870 --> 00:28:36,360

I don't know whether--

680

00:28:36,360 --> 00:28:38,880

I'll tell you,

they tell a story.

681

00:28:38,880 --> 00:28:42,150

In Poland, you had-- the one  
time you had the landowners.

682

00:28:42,150 --> 00:28:44,880

Polish, you know, the  
Polish landowners.

683

00:28:44,880 --> 00:28:48,540

Every landowner had his own  
[? Moshek ?],, his own Jew.

684

00:28:48,540 --> 00:28:51,630

He had his store over there.

685

00:28:51,630 --> 00:28:54,300

And he paid to the--

686

00:28:54,300 --> 00:28:56,220

one of the landowner--

687

00:28:56,220 --> 00:28:58,530

tell a story about  
one of the landowners.

688

00:28:58,530 --> 00:29:02,130

He was so cruel, he was cruel to  
his own people, to the farmers,

689

00:29:02,130 --> 00:29:05,730

that they made once a revolt.  
They wanted to kill him.

690

00:29:05,730 --> 00:29:08,507

So he came, and  
he was hiding out.

691

00:29:08,507 --> 00:29:09,090

He was hiding.

692

00:29:09,090 --> 00:29:11,610  
He went to the Jew to  
hide out by the Jew.

693  
00:29:11,610 --> 00:29:15,930  
And over there in the olden  
days they had the big ovens.

694  
00:29:15,930 --> 00:29:18,762  
It was like a big chimney  
that you could hide into it.

695  
00:29:18,762 --> 00:29:20,220  
So as he was hiding  
in the chimney,

696  
00:29:20,220 --> 00:29:23,850  
he was yelling to [? Moshek ?]  
to take off his hat.

697  
00:29:23,850 --> 00:29:25,577  
So I mean, it really was.

698  
00:29:25,577 --> 00:29:26,160  
It really was.

699  
00:29:26,160 --> 00:29:28,170  
Because they could have--

700  
00:29:28,170 --> 00:29:33,210  
I mean, I feel this.

701  
00:29:33,210 --> 00:29:35,730  
Why he chose Poland?

702  
00:29:35,730 --> 00:29:38,340  
Why he chose Poland to do it?

703  
00:29:38,340 --> 00:29:39,720  
Because nowhere else--

704  
00:29:39,720 --> 00:29:40,220

[INAUDIBLE]

705

00:29:40,220 --> 00:29:42,678

He couldn't do it in Holland,  
he couldn't do it in Belgium.

706

00:29:42,678 --> 00:29:46,110

The local population--  
over there, they used to--

707

00:29:46,110 --> 00:29:47,700

under the Germans,  
they were already--

708

00:29:47,700 --> 00:29:48,900

Germany was there.

709

00:29:48,900 --> 00:29:51,630

They themselves, they had  
to give up from whatever

710

00:29:51,630 --> 00:29:53,097

they took from the farms.

711

00:29:53,097 --> 00:29:54,180

They used to have a motto.

712

00:29:54,180 --> 00:29:58,230

Hitler, [NON-ENGLISH].

713

00:29:58,230 --> 00:30:01,470

It means, Hitler, Hitler,  
Hitler's behind you.

714

00:30:01,470 --> 00:30:04,530

I mean, they themselves  
they were in it.

715

00:30:04,530 --> 00:30:06,560

Hitler [NON-ENGLISH].

716

00:30:06,560 --> 00:30:08,080

Hitler [NON-ENGLISH].

717

00:30:08,080 --> 00:30:10,470

That was it.

718

00:30:10,470 --> 00:30:12,240

So I felt there was no--

719

00:30:12,240 --> 00:30:15,780

really, there wasn't--

there was nowhere to go.

720

00:30:15,780 --> 00:30:20,040

What happened after-- when did

you leave this particular--

721

00:30:20,040 --> 00:30:21,075

Well, this was--

722

00:30:21,075 --> 00:30:23,730

I left in '44.

723

00:30:23,730 --> 00:30:29,610

And from '44 already, I went to

Przedb<sup>3</sup>rz, [? Cz<sup>TM</sup>stochowa ?]..

724

00:30:29,610 --> 00:30:34,020

It was all-- it was four weeks.

725

00:30:34,020 --> 00:30:38,040

There was about two months

as the front was going.

726

00:30:38,040 --> 00:30:40,000

The main stays that

I had was Plaszow,

727

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:42,840

where I stayed for '42,

towards the end of '43

728

00:30:42,840 --> 00:30:44,820

to August or September '43.

729

00:30:44,820 --> 00:30:47,460

Then we went to

Skarzysko-Kamienna,

730

00:30:47,460 --> 00:30:49,170

where I was there for a while.

731

00:30:49,170 --> 00:30:52,215

And then there was

little, nothing--

732

00:30:52,215 --> 00:30:53,430

Short stops.

733

00:30:53,430 --> 00:30:55,080

Short stops, yeah.

734

00:30:55,080 --> 00:30:56,010

Anyway.

735

00:30:56,010 --> 00:31:03,150

I landed in December 31, '44.

736

00:31:03,150 --> 00:31:07,680

From [? CzÄ™stochowa ?],, the only  
thing that I had where you hear

737

00:31:07,680 --> 00:31:11,502

from people, they were

walking for weeks.

738

00:31:11,502 --> 00:31:15,750

A lot of them, for weeks, like  
my wife, and my mother-in-law,

739

00:31:15,750 --> 00:31:17,130

they walked for weeks.

740

00:31:17,130 --> 00:31:21,960

I did-- in a way it was

good because I traveled.

741  
00:31:21,960 --> 00:31:25,050  
It was boxcars, but at  
least we didn't walk.

742  
00:31:25,050 --> 00:31:32,180  
From there we went  
to Buchenwald.

743  
00:31:32,180 --> 00:31:33,250  
We went on a--

744  
00:31:33,250 --> 00:31:34,350  
it took us three days.

745  
00:31:34,350 --> 00:31:37,050

746  
00:31:37,050 --> 00:31:41,820  
They gave us a bread, a whole  
bread, which was, you know,

747  
00:31:41,820 --> 00:31:42,570  
[INAUDIBLE].

748  
00:31:42,570 --> 00:31:43,500  
And they gave us--

749  
00:31:43,500 --> 00:31:46,980  
they loaded us up on boxcars.

750  
00:31:46,980 --> 00:31:49,890  
For three days, the boxcar-- the  
doors were a little open where

751  
00:31:49,890 --> 00:31:53,730  
they had the [NON-ENGLISH]----  
the watchmen.

752  
00:31:53,730 --> 00:31:55,350  
They were with us.

753  
00:31:55,350 --> 00:31:58,260  
And it took us three days.

754  
00:31:58,260 --> 00:32:01,680  
And we landed in December  
31 we landed in Buchenwald.

755  
00:32:01,680 --> 00:32:03,690  
That's what year?

756  
00:32:03,690 --> 00:32:05,040  
That was '44.

757  
00:32:05,040 --> 00:32:06,770  
Yeah.

758  
00:32:06,770 --> 00:32:09,420  
December 31, '44 we  
landed in Buchenwald

759  
00:32:09,420 --> 00:32:11,460  
to go to the concentration camp.

760  
00:32:11,460 --> 00:32:14,430  
We came over there.

761  
00:32:14,430 --> 00:32:17,940  
They took us, and they gave us--

762  
00:32:17,940 --> 00:32:21,750  
till now we wore  
regular clothes.

763  
00:32:21,750 --> 00:32:24,070  
We still had belongings.

764  
00:32:24,070 --> 00:32:27,180  
I had photographs, pictures.

765  
00:32:27,180 --> 00:32:29,340



I had a pair of tefillin.

766  
00:32:29,340 --> 00:32:30,870  
And I had an address.

767  
00:32:30,870 --> 00:32:37,740  
I had a New Year's card from  
an aunt of mine in the Bronx.

768  
00:32:37,740 --> 00:32:39,510  
[PLACE NAME] Avenue, she was--

769  
00:32:39,510 --> 00:32:40,770  
And I had a card.

770  
00:32:40,770 --> 00:32:43,110  
And this I had  
embedded in my memory

771  
00:32:43,110 --> 00:32:49,560  
because I knew that if we ever  
come alive, whatever it is,

772  
00:32:49,560 --> 00:32:51,240  
she was going to be the bridge.

773  
00:32:51,240 --> 00:32:52,060  
Yeah.

774  
00:32:52,060 --> 00:32:52,560  
Yeah.

775  
00:32:52,560 --> 00:32:55,050  
One thing I forgot to  
tell you, in Krakow,

776  
00:32:55,050 --> 00:32:57,000  
I was with my brother.

777  
00:32:57,000 --> 00:32:58,350  
That was my brother.

778

00:32:58,350 --> 00:33:01,410

Later on, they gave us--

779

00:33:01,410 --> 00:33:05,530

everybody wore a shield.

780

00:33:05,530 --> 00:33:09,090

One was R, Rustung,  
which meant--

781

00:33:09,090 --> 00:33:12,720

Rustung meant works for the--

782

00:33:12,720 --> 00:33:17,280

like, munitions, for the  
war effort, we worked.

783

00:33:17,280 --> 00:33:20,550

Then you had B [NON-ENGLISH].

784

00:33:20,550 --> 00:33:21,760

So everybody had it--

785

00:33:21,760 --> 00:33:23,400

you had to wear that.

786

00:33:23,400 --> 00:33:27,390

It happened that my  
brother lost his.

787

00:33:27,390 --> 00:33:28,950

He lost it.

788

00:33:28,950 --> 00:33:31,200

Till then we were  
together in [INAUDIBLE]..

789

00:33:31,200 --> 00:33:32,580

He lost his.

790

00:33:32,580 --> 00:33:34,873

And once he lost it,  
they took him away.

791  
00:33:34,873 --> 00:33:35,790  
And they separated us.

792  
00:33:35,790 --> 00:33:37,800  
They took him to  
the Krakow ghetto,

793  
00:33:37,800 --> 00:33:40,320  
into the ghetto for a while.

794  
00:33:40,320 --> 00:33:43,110  
And then I lost track of him.

795  
00:33:43,110 --> 00:33:44,580  
That's when we separated.

796  
00:33:44,580 --> 00:33:46,590  
Then I found out that  
they took him to Silesia,

797  
00:33:46,590 --> 00:33:48,300  
to the [PLACE NAME] camp.

798  
00:33:48,300 --> 00:33:52,590  
And after the war, I found some  
people that they were with him.

799  
00:33:52,590 --> 00:33:54,980  
And they told me  
that he got the--

800  
00:33:54,980 --> 00:33:57,150  
they shot him a week  
before I got liberated.

801  
00:33:57,150 --> 00:33:58,710  
He was on a march.

802  
00:33:58,710 --> 00:34:02,620

And during the march,  
whoever couldn't take it,

803  
00:34:02,620 --> 00:34:04,620  
that was, right away they  
went over, there right

804  
00:34:04,620 --> 00:34:05,870  
away [INAUDIBLE] and shot him.

805  
00:34:05,870 --> 00:34:06,930  
And that was it.

806  
00:34:06,930 --> 00:34:09,690  
So I mean, I [INAUDIBLE]  
and I digress [INAUDIBLE]..

807  
00:34:09,690 --> 00:34:14,429  
When I came to Buchenwald, they  
gave us these striped uniforms

808  
00:34:14,429 --> 00:34:15,960  
with numbers.

809  
00:34:15,960 --> 00:34:20,880  
Now, each transport, each  
transport had a series.

810  
00:34:20,880 --> 00:34:22,800  
And it was a series.

811  
00:34:22,800 --> 00:34:27,210  
Like, our transport  
had a six-digit series.

812  
00:34:27,210 --> 00:34:30,989  
By luck, whatever it was, I  
got a number of a dead person

813  
00:34:30,989 --> 00:34:33,659  
from before, which was  
a five-digit number.

814

00:34:33,659 --> 00:34:37,710

A five digit, it was  
denoted an old time.

815

00:34:37,710 --> 00:34:40,590

The six digit meant  
the new group.

816

00:34:40,590 --> 00:34:44,662

So whatever-- we came into the--

817

00:34:44,662 --> 00:34:47,699

Buchenwald was like  
the large camp.

818

00:34:47,699 --> 00:34:48,830

It was on a hill down.

819

00:34:48,830 --> 00:34:52,770

It was a large camp, and  
then it was a small camp.

820

00:34:52,770 --> 00:34:58,050

It was 50, 49, 50, 51, 52 block.

821

00:34:58,050 --> 00:34:59,970

And over there we  
were just lifted.

822

00:34:59,970 --> 00:35:02,850

There was bunks  
and on the floor.

823

00:35:02,850 --> 00:35:07,260

You know, wherever you  
could, you lived over there.

824

00:35:07,260 --> 00:35:09,260

I got a five-digit number.

825

00:35:09,260 --> 00:35:17,200

And during the day there was

outside the camp was a quarry.

826

00:35:17,200 --> 00:35:19,200

It was a stone quarry.

827

00:35:19,200 --> 00:35:23,430

So they used to take  
us to the stone quarry.

828

00:35:23,430 --> 00:35:24,750

They used to catch them.

829

00:35:24,750 --> 00:35:26,330

It was like hunting.

830

00:35:26,330 --> 00:35:29,010

They used to catch and go  
to the-- certain groups

831

00:35:29,010 --> 00:35:30,000

went there.

832

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:31,320

Mostly it was a stone quarry.

833

00:35:31,320 --> 00:35:35,160

Stone quarry was-- and  
this is the worst thing.

834

00:35:35,160 --> 00:35:38,820

If you do something  
that you can accomplish,

835

00:35:38,820 --> 00:35:40,920

if you do whatever it  
is, how hard it is,

836

00:35:40,920 --> 00:35:43,470

if you do something that you  
can see accomplish something,

837

00:35:43,470 --> 00:35:44,580

at least you do it.

838  
00:35:44,580 --> 00:35:46,320  
If you do [INAUDIBLE].

839  
00:35:46,320 --> 00:35:49,260  
Over there you took a stone  
from here, heavy stones.

840  
00:35:49,260 --> 00:35:50,850  
Put it here, put it here.

841  
00:35:50,850 --> 00:35:51,960  
From here, put it here.

842  
00:35:51,960 --> 00:35:53,130  
It was all day long.

843  
00:35:53,130 --> 00:35:57,150  
[INAUDIBLE] without  
any-- this is the worst--

844  
00:35:57,150 --> 00:35:57,880  
the worst thing.

845  
00:35:57,880 --> 00:36:01,410  
Because somehow it works on  
you that it's [INAUDIBLE]..

846  
00:36:01,410 --> 00:36:03,060  
You think this was  
part of their plan?

847  
00:36:03,060 --> 00:36:03,850  
I know so.

848  
00:36:03,850 --> 00:36:04,350  
Yeah.

849  
00:36:04,350 --> 00:36:07,050  
The meaninglessness of it.

850

00:36:07,050 --> 00:36:11,790

Being that I had a five-digit  
number, even if I--

851

00:36:11,790 --> 00:36:13,575

and this was the local--

852

00:36:13,575 --> 00:36:14,820

the local police.

853

00:36:14,820 --> 00:36:18,090

You know, every year,  
a camp had it's own.

854

00:36:18,090 --> 00:36:22,300

The Germans are overall,  
but they had their own.

855

00:36:22,300 --> 00:36:25,350

So when they saw a five-digit  
number, oh, he's an old-timer.

856

00:36:25,350 --> 00:36:26,790

He paid his dues.

857

00:36:26,790 --> 00:36:30,090

So let's get the guys.

858

00:36:30,090 --> 00:36:31,710

In a way, it helped.

859

00:36:31,710 --> 00:36:33,600

But I still-- you  
still had to do work,

860

00:36:33,600 --> 00:36:37,710

but it wasn't as menial as this.

861

00:36:37,710 --> 00:36:39,780

But two or three times--

862



00:36:39,780 --> 00:36:42,660  
only a two or three times  
that I was over there

863  
00:36:42,660 --> 00:36:46,290  
where they selected me  
to go to bring the food.

864  
00:36:46,290 --> 00:36:50,170  
You had to bring the cattle's  
food, which for that you were--

865  
00:36:50,170 --> 00:36:51,430  
again, you had an explanation.

866  
00:36:51,430 --> 00:36:53,263  
But there was only about  
two or three times.

867  
00:36:53,263 --> 00:36:54,030  
That was it.

868  
00:36:54,030 --> 00:36:59,040  
Now when we came to Buchenwald,  
we came to the, what's called

869  
00:36:59,040 --> 00:36:59,910  
[NON-ENGLISH].

870  
00:36:59,910 --> 00:37:02,250  
You came into an  
enclosed section.

871  
00:37:02,250 --> 00:37:03,750  
It was a barrack.

872  
00:37:03,750 --> 00:37:07,200  
And you went in, you had  
to strip, completely strip.

873  
00:37:07,200 --> 00:37:10,045  
You went in one side.

874

00:37:10,045 --> 00:37:13,500

And you go through a chain  
where they shaved you.

875

00:37:13,500 --> 00:37:15,618

And you had to take a shower.

876

00:37:15,618 --> 00:37:17,160

And they put some  
disinfectant, which

877

00:37:17,160 --> 00:37:18,930

burned, because once  
you shave your hair,

878

00:37:18,930 --> 00:37:20,430

your skin is very delicate.

879

00:37:20,430 --> 00:37:21,990

They shave you,  
and it's burning.

880

00:37:21,990 --> 00:37:23,950

And you came out  
on the other side.

881

00:37:23,950 --> 00:37:26,790

And they gave you  
these striped uniforms.

882

00:37:26,790 --> 00:37:28,575

In the meantime, you had--

883

00:37:28,575 --> 00:37:30,600

we was in a cage.

884

00:37:30,600 --> 00:37:32,040

The others couldn't go--

885

00:37:32,040 --> 00:37:34,230

they told us what the  
story is, what it is.

886  
00:37:34,230 --> 00:37:35,817  
And we still came with food.

887  
00:37:35,817 --> 00:37:37,900  
We had some food leftover  
because you always tried

888  
00:37:37,900 --> 00:37:39,540  
to leave some [INAUDIBLE].

889  
00:37:39,540 --> 00:37:41,670  
They told us, you're not  
going to get anything.

890  
00:37:41,670 --> 00:37:44,220  
And we were all  
starving, hungry.

891  
00:37:44,220 --> 00:37:49,260  
That was a time that  
I said to myself,

892  
00:37:49,260 --> 00:37:51,040  
I don't care what's  
going to happen.

893  
00:37:51,040 --> 00:37:53,505  
I got to fill my  
stomach, once to feel,

894  
00:37:53,505 --> 00:37:56,640  
to feel what it  
means a full stomach.

895  
00:37:56,640 --> 00:38:00,700  
Because you always-- again,  
in Skarzysko-Kamienna,

896  
00:38:00,700 --> 00:38:04,530  
we used to get one day a week  
we used to get a sweet soup.

897

00:38:04,530 --> 00:38:05,460

It was a sweet soup.

898

00:38:05,460 --> 00:38:07,140

It was-- yeah.

899

00:38:07,140 --> 00:38:08,760

And then we had a bread soup.

900

00:38:08,760 --> 00:38:11,280

We were there, the bread was  
stale, used to buy bread.

901

00:38:11,280 --> 00:38:12,330

And we used to tell it--

902

00:38:12,330 --> 00:38:17,550

to tell to each other, oh,  
we ever get liberated, you're

903

00:38:17,550 --> 00:38:20,427

going to eat bread soup,  
it's going to be to the hilt.

904

00:38:20,427 --> 00:38:22,260

On a sweet soup, it's  
got to be to the hilt.

905

00:38:22,260 --> 00:38:24,460

You know, that's your dream.

906

00:38:24,460 --> 00:38:26,513

But when it came to  
Buchenwald, and we

907

00:38:26,513 --> 00:38:28,680

saw what the score-- they  
told us what the score is,

908

00:38:28,680 --> 00:38:29,730

I said, no.

909

00:38:29,730 --> 00:38:31,050

I got to-- this is it.

910

00:38:31,050 --> 00:38:34,710

I got to fill my stomach  
to feel one more piece.

911

00:38:34,710 --> 00:38:36,600

And people were leaving.

912

00:38:36,600 --> 00:38:38,970

You left the food because  
you couldn't take it inside.

913

00:38:38,970 --> 00:38:40,230

You left the food.

914

00:38:40,230 --> 00:38:44,397

I remember I had a half  
a bread, which was--

915

00:38:44,397 --> 00:38:45,480

I don't know what to say--

916

00:38:45,480 --> 00:38:48,240

917

00:38:48,240 --> 00:38:50,980

2 pounds, 3 pounds,  
a half a bread.

918

00:38:50,980 --> 00:38:53,130

And somebody left a jar--

919

00:38:53,130 --> 00:38:56,363

that was twice in my life  
that I ate [NON-ENGLISH]..

920

00:38:56,363 --> 00:38:58,030

What you call  
[NON-ENGLISH],, you know--

921

00:38:58,030 --> 00:38:58,890

Pig.

922

00:38:58,890 --> 00:38:59,910

Like lard.

923

00:38:59,910 --> 00:39:02,850

I mean, so this was [INAUDIBLE].

924

00:39:02,850 --> 00:39:03,900

Un-kosher food.

925

00:39:03,900 --> 00:39:07,650

Somebody had a jar of lard,  
quite a big jar of lard.

926

00:39:07,650 --> 00:39:08,490

I sat down.

927

00:39:08,490 --> 00:39:11,130

And I cut up the  
bread with the lard.

928

00:39:11,130 --> 00:39:12,230

I finished the bread.

929

00:39:12,230 --> 00:39:13,290

I finished the lard.

930

00:39:13,290 --> 00:39:14,910

I was full.

931

00:39:14,910 --> 00:39:15,930

You didn't get sick?

932

00:39:15,930 --> 00:39:17,130

I didn't get sick.

933

00:39:17,130 --> 00:39:19,830

I didn't get sick.

934

00:39:19,830 --> 00:39:22,780

But I said, I didn't care  
for the consequences.

935

00:39:22,780 --> 00:39:23,730

This is one time--

936

00:39:23,730 --> 00:39:26,260

because I saw people  
were leaving it.

937

00:39:26,260 --> 00:39:29,400

And if you could have given  
it to the others, the outside,

938

00:39:29,400 --> 00:39:30,240

you couldn't do it.

939

00:39:30,240 --> 00:39:31,567

Because we had a double fence.

940

00:39:31,567 --> 00:39:32,400

They were separated.

941

00:39:32,400 --> 00:39:34,560

You couldn't throw it  
because the guards around.

942

00:39:34,560 --> 00:39:37,890

But in other words, you  
came in over here one day,

943

00:39:37,890 --> 00:39:40,500

you come out the other way.

944

00:39:40,500 --> 00:39:41,938

But I saw there were groups.

945

00:39:41,938 --> 00:39:43,230

I didn't go to the first group.

946

00:39:43,230 --> 00:39:45,060

I never went for  
the first group.

947

00:39:45,060 --> 00:39:46,645

You know, I always--

948

00:39:46,645 --> 00:39:47,145

well, wait.

949

00:39:47,145 --> 00:39:49,180

Let's see what happens.

950

00:39:49,180 --> 00:39:51,850

So this was one time I  
filled up my stomach.

951

00:39:51,850 --> 00:39:52,680

And I felt good.

952

00:39:52,680 --> 00:39:54,940

Whatever then, didn't care.

953

00:39:54,940 --> 00:39:58,770

So when I came up, like I  
said, I got a dead number

954

00:39:58,770 --> 00:40:00,060

from a dead person.

955

00:40:00,060 --> 00:40:02,070

It was a five-digit number.

956

00:40:02,070 --> 00:40:03,500

While I was over there--

957

00:40:03,500 --> 00:40:06,390

and I think it was two  
weeks over there, something.

958

00:40:06,390 --> 00:40:07,140

Yeah.



959  
00:40:07,140 --> 00:40:09,180  
And this was one time I  
ate the [NON-ENGLISH]..

960  
00:40:09,180 --> 00:40:11,820  
Then on New Year's  
'45, the following day,

961  
00:40:11,820 --> 00:40:14,040  
they gave us a soup  
with pieces of lard.

962  
00:40:14,040 --> 00:40:19,240  
It was a New Year's  
treat, which I also ate.

963  
00:40:19,240 --> 00:40:23,430  
That was twice that I  
ate and I enjoyed it.

964  
00:40:23,430 --> 00:40:24,210  
God forgave you.

965  
00:40:24,210 --> 00:40:26,270  
Well, whatever [INAUDIBLE].

966  
00:40:26,270 --> 00:40:29,760  
I did, I had nowhere else.

967  
00:40:29,760 --> 00:40:34,613  
Then they started to  
pick groups to send out.

968  
00:40:34,613 --> 00:40:36,030  
I mean, you didn't  
stay over there

969  
00:40:36,030 --> 00:40:37,840  
because they were  
sending out there.

970

00:40:37,840 --> 00:40:39,200  
So they used to catch--

971  
00:40:39,200 --> 00:40:43,110  
they used to catch people  
and then send them out.

972  
00:40:43,110 --> 00:40:45,820  
And a couple of times--

973  
00:40:45,820 --> 00:40:48,270  
so we fell into the net.

974  
00:40:48,270 --> 00:40:52,050  
And twice, the German  
didn't pick-- cause I said,

975  
00:40:52,050 --> 00:40:55,950  
I was always a shorty,  
you know, a tiny guy.

976  
00:40:55,950 --> 00:40:56,940  
He said, oh, no.

977  
00:40:56,940 --> 00:40:59,310  
You're too weak to go there.

978  
00:40:59,310 --> 00:41:01,230  
And he left me, he left me out.

979  
00:41:01,230 --> 00:41:03,070  
And then I found out,  
people came back.

980  
00:41:03,070 --> 00:41:05,070  
One of them went for a  
week, and they came back,

981  
00:41:05,070 --> 00:41:07,030  
they were decimated.

982  
00:41:07,030 --> 00:41:11,466

And my group later on went to--

983

00:41:11,466 --> 00:41:12,450  
trying to think.

984

00:41:12,450 --> 00:41:14,050  
It's near Stuttgart.

985

00:41:14,050 --> 00:41:15,910  
I think it was [? Schlieben ?].

986

00:41:15,910 --> 00:41:18,660  
I'm not too sure, but  
it was near Stuttgart.

987

00:41:18,660 --> 00:41:27,960  
Over there we were  
extracting oil from shale.

988

00:41:27,960 --> 00:41:28,920  
You know, from shale.

989

00:41:28,920 --> 00:41:31,170  
As a matter of fact, when I  
came to the United States,

990

00:41:31,170 --> 00:41:33,550  
I got a hold of a  
"Reader's Digest."

991

00:41:33,550 --> 00:41:36,690  
I read an article about  
my place where I was.

992

00:41:36,690 --> 00:41:38,460  
The allies were  
under the impression

993

00:41:38,460 --> 00:41:41,460  
that they were working some kind  
of nuclear thing or something

994

00:41:41,460 --> 00:41:42,540  
like that.

995  
00:41:42,540 --> 00:41:45,390  
But what happened was,  
there was this shale.

996  
00:41:45,390 --> 00:41:48,510  
They were extracting oil  
because they were quite low on--

997  
00:41:48,510 --> 00:41:50,610  
they need it for the front,  
the gas and all that.

998  
00:41:50,610 --> 00:41:53,160  
So they would extract  
the oil from the shale.

999  
00:41:53,160 --> 00:41:55,320  
What happened was, the  
way we were working,

1000  
00:41:55,320 --> 00:41:57,600  
they were blasting the shale.

1001  
00:41:57,600 --> 00:42:02,388  
And we were laying pipes  
quite an [INAUDIBLE],,

1002  
00:42:02,388 --> 00:42:03,930  
I would say about  
4 foot in diameter.

1003  
00:42:03,930 --> 00:42:06,810  
Really large pipes, things.

1004  
00:42:06,810 --> 00:42:08,640  
And we were in there.

1005  
00:42:08,640 --> 00:42:15,570  
We were in there  
knee-deep in the mud.

1006  
00:42:15,570 --> 00:42:19,590  
Over there, people-- you  
didn't last too long because we

1007  
00:42:19,590 --> 00:42:22,080  
didn't have any boots.

1008  
00:42:22,080 --> 00:42:25,940  
So what happened was, you  
had to go into the mud.

1009  
00:42:25,940 --> 00:42:31,200  
So every time-- and over  
there I got a hold--

1010  
00:42:31,200 --> 00:42:33,450  
four guys got together.

1011  
00:42:33,450 --> 00:42:36,330  
We called four musketeers.

1012  
00:42:36,330 --> 00:42:40,650  
And I saw every time, they  
used to grab you to go through.

1013  
00:42:40,650 --> 00:42:44,050  
So I said, it's  
not going to work.

1014  
00:42:44,050 --> 00:42:48,130  
So the four of us, whenever  
it came to go to the-- we

1015  
00:42:48,130 --> 00:42:49,130  
all would volunteer.

1016  
00:42:49,130 --> 00:42:51,780

1017  
00:42:51,780 --> 00:42:53,400  
We always volunteered.

1018  
00:42:53,400 --> 00:42:54,150  
It was a question.

1019  
00:42:54,150 --> 00:42:56,370  
I got to get hit with a  
stick till they send me.

1020  
00:42:56,370 --> 00:42:57,540  
We always volunteered.

1021  
00:42:57,540 --> 00:43:01,080  
Anyway, the outcome was,  
it was to our advantage

1022  
00:43:01,080 --> 00:43:04,020  
because over there we worked  
already under the Wehrmacht.

1023  
00:43:04,020 --> 00:43:05,190  
The Wehrmacht was the army.

1024  
00:43:05,190 --> 00:43:11,310  
In other words, it wasn't  
the Gestapo or something.

1025  
00:43:11,310 --> 00:43:14,220  
But it was under their  
jurisdiction, the army.

1026  
00:43:14,220 --> 00:43:16,620  
And you had an army guy.

1027  
00:43:16,620 --> 00:43:19,500  
And every time-- so every--

1028  
00:43:19,500 --> 00:43:21,737  
was going out for  
a couple of days.

1029  
00:43:21,737 --> 00:43:23,070  
[INAUDIBLE] after a couple days.

1030  
00:43:23,070 --> 00:43:24,720  
He said, no.

1031  
00:43:24,720 --> 00:43:26,130  
You don't go any more there.

1032  
00:43:26,130 --> 00:43:27,990  
You did your stint already.

1033  
00:43:27,990 --> 00:43:29,560  
Now with me, we  
always volunteered.

1034  
00:43:29,560 --> 00:43:30,210  
He said, no.

1035  
00:43:30,210 --> 00:43:32,430  
Let somebody else do it now.

1036  
00:43:32,430 --> 00:43:35,040  
So it was to our advantage.

1037  
00:43:35,040 --> 00:43:40,630  
A matter of fact,  
a week or so later,

1038  
00:43:40,630 --> 00:43:42,720  
they got in a  
transport of boots--

1039  
00:43:42,720 --> 00:43:44,610  
rubber boots.

1040  
00:43:44,610 --> 00:43:47,882  
The four of us, we were the  
first ones that got the boots.

1041  
00:43:47,882 --> 00:43:52,840  
We were getting--  
it was a help to us.

1042

00:43:52,840 --> 00:43:55,960

While we were working there  
already, that was '45.

1043

00:43:55,960 --> 00:43:57,760

It was getting close.

1044

00:43:57,760 --> 00:44:02,255

The Allies-- whenever  
it was a nice sunny day,

1045

00:44:02,255 --> 00:44:04,630

we know already we're not  
going to do too much work today

1046

00:44:04,630 --> 00:44:06,550

anymore.

1047

00:44:06,550 --> 00:44:09,490

Cause the Allies--  
the planes came over.

1048

00:44:09,490 --> 00:44:10,750

And they used to--

1049

00:44:10,750 --> 00:44:11,270

Strafe.

1050

00:44:11,270 --> 00:44:13,990

Strafe and shell.

1051

00:44:13,990 --> 00:44:17,830

And we didn't hide.

1052

00:44:17,830 --> 00:44:21,160

All the Germans, they were  
always-- they used to hide.

1053

00:44:21,160 --> 00:44:24,130

And we didn't.

1054



00:44:24,130 --> 00:44:25,670

The light was so--

1055

00:44:25,670 --> 00:44:26,920

it didn't mean anything to us.

1056

00:44:26,920 --> 00:44:28,390

Again, we didn't hide at all.

1057

00:44:28,390 --> 00:44:29,500

It was whatever it was.

1058

00:44:29,500 --> 00:44:32,210

1059

00:44:32,210 --> 00:44:33,910

Again, I'll digress.

1060

00:44:33,910 --> 00:44:37,840

While I was in Buchenwald,  
outside it was--

1061

00:44:37,840 --> 00:44:41,020

outside of the camp in  
Buchenwald, it was Weimar.

1062

00:44:41,020 --> 00:44:43,340

You know, the next city was  
Weimar, Weimar Republic.

1063

00:44:43,340 --> 00:44:44,060

Yes.

1064

00:44:44,060 --> 00:44:46,930

The city was a  
Weimar and Erfurt.

1065

00:44:46,930 --> 00:44:49,270

At the time when I was  
there, they were bombed.

1066

00:44:49,270 --> 00:44:51,070

Weimar and Erfurt was bombed.

1067

00:44:51,070 --> 00:44:54,970

There was also outside of the  
camp were what they called--

1068

00:44:54,970 --> 00:44:57,820

I believe it's called  
the Gustloff-Werke camp.

1069

00:44:57,820 --> 00:45:03,130

They were working, I believe the  
machine guns was [INAUDIBLE]..

1070

00:45:03,130 --> 00:45:05,230

And what happened was--

1071

00:45:05,230 --> 00:45:06,250

I mean, I was told--

1072

00:45:06,250 --> 00:45:08,200

this happened a while before us.

1073

00:45:08,200 --> 00:45:11,860

But I was told by the  
people, before the bombing

1074

00:45:11,860 --> 00:45:14,230

came a plane.

1075

00:45:14,230 --> 00:45:16,150

It must have been  
a spotter plane.

1076

00:45:16,150 --> 00:45:20,530

And he left a smoke screen  
around the perimeter

1077

00:45:20,530 --> 00:45:23,230

of the Buchenwald camp.

1078

00:45:23,230 --> 00:45:25,750

And about a half hour  
later came the bombers.

1079  
00:45:25,750 --> 00:45:29,470  
They bombed the Gustloff-Werke,  
the whole factory was bombed,

1080  
00:45:29,470 --> 00:45:31,330  
Weimar was bombed,  
and Erfurt was bombed,

1081  
00:45:31,330 --> 00:45:33,070  
the houses and all that.

1082  
00:45:33,070 --> 00:45:36,640  
Which the advantage  
of this to us was that

1083  
00:45:36,640 --> 00:45:40,950  
would be that I had  
a five number thing.

1084  
00:45:40,950 --> 00:45:45,767  
They picked us to go  
and to clean the rubble,

1085  
00:45:45,767 --> 00:45:46,600  
to clean the rubble.

1086  
00:45:46,600 --> 00:45:47,410  
After the bombing?

1087  
00:45:47,410 --> 00:45:48,190  
After the bombing.

1088  
00:45:48,190 --> 00:45:49,960  
You know, so they  
took us into Weimar

1089  
00:45:49,960 --> 00:45:52,240  
to Erfurt to clean the rubble.

1090

00:45:52,240 --> 00:45:54,670

We went into houses  
to clean the basement.

1091

00:45:54,670 --> 00:45:58,060

While we went into houses,  
so you found a carrot.

1092

00:45:58,060 --> 00:45:59,963

You found a beet.

1093

00:45:59,963 --> 00:46:01,255

Vegetables, you found a potato.

1094

00:46:01,255 --> 00:46:03,760

1095

00:46:03,760 --> 00:46:06,790

This helped.

1096

00:46:06,790 --> 00:46:09,460

This helped also.

1097

00:46:09,460 --> 00:46:13,870

And it was not only this,  
but psychologically, we

1098

00:46:13,870 --> 00:46:15,760

were so uplifted.

1099

00:46:15,760 --> 00:46:16,540

We saw this.

1100

00:46:16,540 --> 00:46:22,770

I mean, at least we saw  
something because the fact was,

1101

00:46:22,770 --> 00:46:26,560

when we were working home, in  
our hometown, when we work,

1102

00:46:26,560 --> 00:46:29,773

you know, the everyday  
work, we were working--

1103  
00:46:29,773 --> 00:46:31,690  
as a matter of fact, one  
time we were working,

1104  
00:46:31,690 --> 00:46:34,870  
we make the dugouts  
for against--

1105  
00:46:34,870 --> 00:46:37,120  
anti-tank diggings.

1106  
00:46:37,120 --> 00:46:41,170  
You know, you make these big,  
big digs, anti-tank digs.

1107  
00:46:41,170 --> 00:46:42,310  
When the United States--

1108  
00:46:42,310 --> 00:46:44,950  
I remember it like  
today, vividly.

1109  
00:46:44,950 --> 00:46:47,530  
On a Sunday morning,  
we were working these--

1110  
00:46:47,530 --> 00:46:50,440  
called the okopy in Polish.

1111  
00:46:50,440 --> 00:46:53,650  
The Panzergraben in German.

1112  
00:46:53,650 --> 00:46:56,020  
When the United States  
declared war-- and we

1113  
00:46:56,020 --> 00:46:57,898  
had clandestine radio.

1114

00:46:57,898 --> 00:46:58,690  
We knew everything.

1115  
00:46:58,690 --> 00:46:59,260  
You did?

1116  
00:46:59,260 --> 00:47:02,260  
When the United  
States declared war,

1117  
00:47:02,260 --> 00:47:06,170  
we knew [INAUDIBLE] came  
because how long will it take?

1118  
00:47:06,170 --> 00:47:07,420  
The United States declare war.

1119  
00:47:07,420 --> 00:47:09,920  
In a couple of weeks, the United  
States is going to be here.

1120  
00:47:09,920 --> 00:47:11,410  
It's going to be  
finished, the war.

1121  
00:47:11,410 --> 00:47:16,840  
And then we bowed down.

1122  
00:47:16,840 --> 00:47:17,860  
That's what it was.

1123  
00:47:17,860 --> 00:47:20,320  
So the reason I'm  
bringing this up

1124  
00:47:20,320 --> 00:47:24,070  
is because when the  
Allies came, and they

1125  
00:47:24,070 --> 00:47:27,430  
were strafing and bombing,  
and we saw this here,

1126

00:47:27,430 --> 00:47:29,860  
we saw something is moving.

1127

00:47:29,860 --> 00:47:33,490  
Because while we were home--

1128

00:47:33,490 --> 00:47:36,070  
you know, the place  
where I lived,

1129

00:47:36,070 --> 00:47:42,230  
my hometown during the first  
war, there was a main battle.

1130

00:47:42,230 --> 00:47:46,180  
The breakthrough-- we're  
talking for World War I--

1131

00:47:46,180 --> 00:47:48,280  
the breakthrough was by us.

1132

00:47:48,280 --> 00:47:50,530  
Now my hometown was part of it.

1133

00:47:50,530 --> 00:47:53,270  
It was [PLACE NAME],,  
[PLACE NAME],, Gorlice,

1134

00:47:53,270 --> 00:47:55,630  
it was a breakthrough-- when  
the Germans break through,

1135

00:47:55,630 --> 00:47:56,920  
the Russians.

1136

00:47:56,920 --> 00:47:58,180  
So it was a [INAUDIBLE].

1137

00:47:58,180 --> 00:47:59,110  
And when they--

1138

00:47:59,110 --> 00:48:03,590  
World War II when Hitler took  
Czechoslovakia, so he raped it.

1139  
00:48:03,590 --> 00:48:04,960  
He took everything out.

1140  
00:48:04,960 --> 00:48:06,235  
There was a [? Å koda Werke ?].

1141  
00:48:06,235 --> 00:48:09,490  
It was one of the biggest  
munitions and automobiles

1142  
00:48:09,490 --> 00:48:10,050  
like GM.

1143  
00:48:10,050 --> 00:48:10,550  
Å koda.

1144  
00:48:10,550 --> 00:48:13,290  
[? Å koda Werke ?].

1145  
00:48:13,290 --> 00:48:17,860  
Through my street where I lived,  
day and night, day and night

1146  
00:48:17,860 --> 00:48:19,960  
for a week was rumbling.

1147  
00:48:19,960 --> 00:48:24,730  
They were taking trucks, cars  
from Czechoslovakia to Germany,

1148  
00:48:24,730 --> 00:48:26,920  
through our home town.

1149  
00:48:26,920 --> 00:48:30,040  
Day and night was going on.

1150  
00:48:30,040 --> 00:48:34,330  
And I saw the German army with--



1151  
00:48:34,330 --> 00:48:36,970  
they were going to the front.

1152  
00:48:36,970 --> 00:48:38,740  
And the way everything worked.

1153  
00:48:38,740 --> 00:48:43,390  
That was the first time where  
the air and ground control,

1154  
00:48:43,390 --> 00:48:46,120  
they were together.

1155  
00:48:46,120 --> 00:48:46,750  
They showed it.

1156  
00:48:46,750 --> 00:48:49,160  
I mean, the message  
was [INAUDIBLE]..

1157  
00:48:49,160 --> 00:48:54,020  
How punctually they bombed,  
you know, [INAUDIBLE]..

1158  
00:48:54,020 --> 00:48:56,480  
Anyway.

1159  
00:48:56,480 --> 00:48:59,090  
So over here, it's  
the first time

1160  
00:48:59,090 --> 00:49:02,720  
that I saw already a break,  
like they say, in the dike.

1161  
00:49:02,720 --> 00:49:05,390  
We saw the [INAUDIBLE],,  
which helped to us.

1162  
00:49:05,390 --> 00:49:09,870  
And also over here, we were

going to hundreds of house.

1163  
00:49:09,870 --> 00:49:13,250  
We were going through  
the streets of the Weimar

1164  
00:49:13,250 --> 00:49:14,510  
and Erfurt.

1165  
00:49:14,510 --> 00:49:19,670  
The reason I'm bringing it out,  
they saw us in the striped--

1166  
00:49:19,670 --> 00:49:20,780  
[INAUDIBLE]

1167  
00:49:20,780 --> 00:49:22,380  
They looked at us like vermin.

1168  
00:49:22,380 --> 00:49:23,930  
We weren't human beings.

1169  
00:49:23,930 --> 00:49:24,560  
Who is they?

1170  
00:49:24,560 --> 00:49:27,050  
The local population,  
local Germans.

1171  
00:49:27,050 --> 00:49:31,260  
After the war, after the  
war, when you talk to them,

1172  
00:49:31,260 --> 00:49:32,867  
[SPEAKING GERMAN].

1173  
00:49:32,867 --> 00:49:33,950  
They didn't know anything.

1174  
00:49:33,950 --> 00:49:35,890  
Like, they were on  
the planet Mars.

1175  
00:49:35,890 --> 00:49:36,890  
We were there every day.

1176  
00:49:36,890 --> 00:49:38,630  
They saw it, they saw us.

1177  
00:49:38,630 --> 00:49:39,900  
We were vermin.

1178  
00:49:39,900 --> 00:49:41,280  
So in fact [INAUDIBLE]

1179  
00:49:41,280 --> 00:49:42,040  
[SPEAKING GERMAN]

1180  
00:49:42,040 --> 00:49:44,300  
It was like, again,  
like they were on Mars.

1181  
00:49:44,300 --> 00:49:48,080  
They didn't-- they  
were total oblivion.

1182  
00:49:48,080 --> 00:49:50,060  
Where were you liberated?

1183  
00:49:50,060 --> 00:49:51,258  
So yeah.

1184  
00:49:51,258 --> 00:49:53,300  
Well, I was liberated--  
you want me to follow it?

1185  
00:49:53,300 --> 00:49:53,790  
Or you want--

1186  
00:49:53,790 --> 00:49:53,950  
Yeah.

1187  
00:49:53,950 --> 00:49:54,110

Sure.

1188  
00:49:54,110 --> 00:49:54,610  
Go ahead.

1189  
00:49:54,610 --> 00:49:55,540  
Certainly.

1190  
00:49:55,540 --> 00:49:58,870  
So to I went to, like I said,  
[? Schlieben ?] over there.

1191  
00:49:58,870 --> 00:50:02,090  
We worked there.

1192  
00:50:02,090 --> 00:50:06,130  
And from there they took us.

1193  
00:50:06,130 --> 00:50:08,640  
It was already  
towards the end of it.

1194  
00:50:08,640 --> 00:50:11,150  
They took us to Allach Dachau.

1195  
00:50:11,150 --> 00:50:12,440  
That's an annex?

1196  
00:50:12,440 --> 00:50:13,290  
That's the annex.

1197  
00:50:13,290 --> 00:50:15,290  
It was Dachau,  
and it was Allach.

1198  
00:50:15,290 --> 00:50:20,240  
But we came to  
Allach Dachau, again,

1199  
00:50:20,240 --> 00:50:23,360  
we saw already on  
the other side,

1200  
00:50:23,360 --> 00:50:25,410  
because we came into  
the [NON-ENGLISH],,

1201  
00:50:25,410 --> 00:50:27,770  
where you come into the  
reception or whatever.

1202  
00:50:27,770 --> 00:50:29,030  
The [NON-ENGLISH].

1203  
00:50:29,030 --> 00:50:31,940  
I looked around, and I saw  
people walking around naked

1204  
00:50:31,940 --> 00:50:32,840  
with--

1205  
00:50:32,840 --> 00:50:36,920  
this was already, I want you to  
know, I got liberated April 30,

1206  
00:50:36,920 --> 00:50:39,470  
'45.

1207  
00:50:39,470 --> 00:50:40,340  
It was winter.

1208  
00:50:40,340 --> 00:50:41,930  
In Bavaria, it was winter.

1209  
00:50:41,930 --> 00:50:43,270  
So it must have been--

1210  
00:50:43,270 --> 00:50:45,290  
I don't know-- the end  
of March, whatever.

1211  
00:50:45,290 --> 00:50:47,390  
And it was in April,  
the beginning of April.

1212  
00:50:47,390 --> 00:50:50,420  
Because we weren't  
too long in Allach.

1213  
00:50:50,420 --> 00:50:53,870  
I saw people naked going  
around with blankets.

1214  
00:50:53,870 --> 00:50:54,563  
You know--

1215  
00:50:54,563 --> 00:50:55,370  
Shivering.

1216  
00:50:55,370 --> 00:50:57,410  
Shivering and all that.

1217  
00:50:57,410 --> 00:51:00,500  
So then I found out  
the summer, they

1218  
00:51:00,500 --> 00:51:03,098  
told us that they don't have  
clothes they could give us.

1219  
00:51:03,098 --> 00:51:05,390  
The reason they couldn't--  
because they didn't have any

1220  
00:51:05,390 --> 00:51:07,550  
clothes they could give us.

1221  
00:51:07,550 --> 00:51:11,253  
So what happened with  
this, as we were coming in,

1222  
00:51:11,253 --> 00:51:12,920  
they were getting our  
clothing, and they

1223  
00:51:12,920 --> 00:51:15,200

were disinfecting our clothing.

1224

00:51:15,200 --> 00:51:17,690

So later on, the  
groups that came later

1225

00:51:17,690 --> 00:51:19,970

got the clothes from the  
groups that went before.

1226

00:51:19,970 --> 00:51:20,750

Previous.

1227

00:51:20,750 --> 00:51:22,160

So I said, all right.

1228

00:51:22,160 --> 00:51:23,220

I got time.

1229

00:51:23,220 --> 00:51:26,180

So I always fell  
back, fell back.

1230

00:51:26,180 --> 00:51:27,920

And I came already  
with the later--

1231

00:51:27,920 --> 00:51:30,200

when I started to see the  
other side people coming out

1232

00:51:30,200 --> 00:51:33,320

of their clothes, then  
I went into the tent.

1233

00:51:33,320 --> 00:51:37,430

And to my luck,  
I got a Russian--

1234

00:51:37,430 --> 00:51:38,930

it was a big Russian  
[NON-ENGLISH],,

1235

00:51:38,930 --> 00:51:39,740  
what they call it.

1236

00:51:39,740 --> 00:51:41,115  
You know, the  
underclothes, which

1237

00:51:41,115 --> 00:51:45,320  
is a long coat, which  
had warm wool clothes.

1238

00:51:45,320 --> 00:51:47,210  
I got a this--

1239

00:51:47,210 --> 00:51:49,220  
the hats, the Russian hat.

1240

00:51:49,220 --> 00:51:50,570  
And I got a jacket or something.

1241

00:51:50,570 --> 00:51:52,470  
I got a pair of  
pants or something.

1242

00:51:52,470 --> 00:51:56,890  
And I got a hold of a bag, these  
Russians, they like to wear--

1243

00:51:56,890 --> 00:51:58,580  
Yes, yes.

1244

00:51:58,580 --> 00:52:02,060  
But I had my possessions,  
which, a canister, you know,

1245

00:52:02,060 --> 00:52:02,810  
a tin canister.

1246

00:52:02,810 --> 00:52:05,870  
That was-- without  
it, you could starve,



1247

00:52:05,870 --> 00:52:08,430

because if you got the soup,  
where you gonna take it?

1248

00:52:08,430 --> 00:52:10,220

You got something, you know.

1249

00:52:10,220 --> 00:52:12,590

And you fashioned  
yourself a piece of tin.

1250

00:52:12,590 --> 00:52:15,500

You made a little indentation  
to make it like a spoon.

1251

00:52:15,500 --> 00:52:16,880

And that's what you had.

1252

00:52:16,880 --> 00:52:17,770

So at least--

1253

00:52:17,770 --> 00:52:19,520

I used it in the  
daytime was [INAUDIBLE]..

1254

00:52:19,520 --> 00:52:21,950

And I used it for the  
night to cover myself.

1255

00:52:21,950 --> 00:52:26,000

And that's how I  
survived over there.

1256

00:52:26,000 --> 00:52:30,770

From there we were taken  
about a week prior.

1257

00:52:30,770 --> 00:52:32,780

A week prior we were taken.

1258

00:52:32,780 --> 00:52:36,410

We walked from Allach Dachau

we walked to the Munich

1259

00:52:36,410 --> 00:52:38,540  
bahnhof, Munich bahnhof.

1260

00:52:38,540 --> 00:52:40,760  
We were put in cold cars--

1261

00:52:40,760 --> 00:52:45,290  
these boxcars open and  
with barbed wire on top.

1262

00:52:45,290 --> 00:52:47,425  
And the night that we--  
we stayed overnight.

1263

00:52:47,425 --> 00:52:49,300  
We came in the evening,  
like, we stayed over.

1264

00:52:49,300 --> 00:52:52,580  
Overnight the Allies  
bombed the Munich bahnhof.

1265

00:52:52,580 --> 00:52:54,350  
They bombed the next door to us.

1266

00:52:54,350 --> 00:52:56,120  
The bombs were all over.

1267

00:52:56,120 --> 00:52:58,200  
You couldn't go anywhere.

1268

00:52:58,200 --> 00:53:02,000  
Then in the morning,  
we started to move.

1269

00:53:02,000 --> 00:53:03,680  
We started to move.

1270

00:53:03,680 --> 00:53:06,620  
We were told that we were

going to Mauthausen, which

1271

00:53:06,620 --> 00:53:08,450  
was an extermination camp.

1272

00:53:08,450 --> 00:53:13,310  
But anyway, I think we  
went about three days out

1273

00:53:13,310 --> 00:53:15,080  
on the train-- on  
the boxcar train.

1274

00:53:15,080 --> 00:53:18,890  
It was electrically powered.

1275

00:53:18,890 --> 00:53:22,800  
And we were going  
towards Starnberg.

1276

00:53:22,800 --> 00:53:25,580  
As a matter of fact, I  
got a map of where I was

1277

00:53:25,580 --> 00:53:27,710  
and where they brought us.

1278

00:53:27,710 --> 00:53:29,300  
The Allies came.

1279

00:53:29,300 --> 00:53:32,690  
And again, at night  
you could hear heavy--

1280

00:53:32,690 --> 00:53:33,950  
the Allies, the Americans.

1281

00:53:33,950 --> 00:53:35,510  
You could hear the  
heavy artillery.

1282

00:53:35,510 --> 00:53:41,293

You could see the flames,  
the explosions, the bombs,

1283  
00:53:41,293 --> 00:53:41,960  
whatever it was.

1284  
00:53:41,960 --> 00:53:45,470  
But you could see  
like, lightning.

1285  
00:53:45,470 --> 00:53:47,530  
Way in the background,  
you could hear things.

1286  
00:53:47,530 --> 00:53:51,680  
To us, it was sweet music.

1287  
00:53:51,680 --> 00:53:53,200  
So the Allies came.

1288  
00:53:53,200 --> 00:53:55,635  
And the airplanes, and they--

1289  
00:53:55,635 --> 00:53:58,180  
with a machine gun they cut  
through the power lines.

1290  
00:53:58,180 --> 00:54:01,490  
So the locomotive, the  
engine was without--

1291  
00:54:01,490 --> 00:54:01,990  
Power.

1292  
00:54:01,990 --> 00:54:03,040  
--power.

1293  
00:54:03,040 --> 00:54:05,600  
And we were stranded  
in the middle.

1294  
00:54:05,600 --> 00:54:11,170

A day before we got  
liberated, all of a sudden--

1295  
00:54:11,170 --> 00:54:16,030  
two days before,  
our [NON-ENGLISH],,

1296  
00:54:16,030 --> 00:54:21,070  
in the boxcar that we were,  
we had already a guard.

1297  
00:54:21,070 --> 00:54:24,010  
He must've been  
about 70 years old.

1298  
00:54:24,010 --> 00:54:26,590  
He was a barber from Berlin.

1299  
00:54:26,590 --> 00:54:31,830  
An old man, you know, he  
was the [NON-ENGLISH],,

1300  
00:54:31,830 --> 00:54:35,553  
with a big rifle.

1301  
00:54:35,553 --> 00:54:36,970  
As a matter of  
fact, every time he

1302  
00:54:36,970 --> 00:54:39,250  
wanted to go down or come up--

1303  
00:54:39,250 --> 00:54:41,020  
I was near the door--

1304  
00:54:41,020 --> 00:54:42,405  
he gave me the rifle.

1305  
00:54:42,405 --> 00:54:43,780  
And I had to hold  
him by the hand

1306

00:54:43,780 --> 00:54:46,038  
to help him to go down  
and help bring him up.

1307  
00:54:46,038 --> 00:54:48,330  
He used to tell us, he said,  
what do they want from me?

1308  
00:54:48,330 --> 00:54:50,890  
He said, I'm supposed to  
be home behind my stove

1309  
00:54:50,890 --> 00:54:52,820  
and keep my hands  
behind my stove.

1310  
00:54:52,820 --> 00:54:55,450  
He said, what do  
they want from me?

1311  
00:54:55,450 --> 00:54:59,200  
He was like a home guard  
or something like that.

1312  
00:54:59,200 --> 00:55:02,830  
Over there, two days  
before, he told us

1313  
00:55:02,830 --> 00:55:07,000  
that the following  
day they're going

1314  
00:55:07,000 --> 00:55:10,030  
to have a delegation the  
Red Cross from Switzerland.

1315  
00:55:10,030 --> 00:55:13,810  
And they're going to give  
us Red Cross packages.

1316  
00:55:13,810 --> 00:55:17,890  
So we shouldn't worry about it.

1317

00:55:17,890 --> 00:55:19,730  
Nothing's going to  
happen to us anymore.

1318  
00:55:19,730 --> 00:55:20,897  
We're going to be liberated.

1319  
00:55:20,897 --> 00:55:22,210  
The question of time.

1320  
00:55:22,210 --> 00:55:27,530  
The following day came  
a transport with trucks.

1321  
00:55:27,530 --> 00:55:31,920  
And each boxcar had their own  
representative, like, you know,

1322  
00:55:31,920 --> 00:55:33,640  
and I was chosen over there.

1323  
00:55:33,640 --> 00:55:36,790  
And I went down there, and we  
had an amount of people and me.

1324  
00:55:36,790 --> 00:55:38,050  
We're a couple of guys.

1325  
00:55:38,050 --> 00:55:45,430  
And we got a box of Red  
Cross packages for everybody

1326  
00:55:45,430 --> 00:55:47,290  
to distribute for everybody.

1327  
00:55:47,290 --> 00:55:48,445  
Excuse me, Mr. Einhorn.

1328  
00:55:48,445 --> 00:55:49,690  
Yes.

1329  
00:55:49,690 --> 00:55:51,520

I'm afraid we have to stop.

1330  
00:55:51,520 --> 00:55:52,060  
OK.

1331  
00:55:52,060 --> 00:55:55,060  
And this has been  
a wonderful tape.

1332  
00:55:55,060 --> 00:55:57,160  
You were just so descriptive.

1333  
00:55:57,160 --> 00:55:57,670  
That's it?

1334  
00:55:57,670 --> 00:55:57,820  
Finished?

1335  
00:55:57,820 --> 00:55:59,110  
Well, we can continue outside.

1336  
00:55:59,110 --> 00:55:59,830  
Oh, OK.

1337  
00:55:59,830 --> 00:56:00,640  
But right now--

1338  
00:56:00,640 --> 00:56:01,150  
I was going to tell  
you-- all right.

1339  
00:56:01,150 --> 00:56:02,140  
Yeah.

1340  
00:56:02,140 --> 00:56:03,700  
We want to hear more.

1341  
00:56:03,700 --> 00:56:06,480  
And thank you very, very much.

1342  
00:56:06,480 --> 00:56:13,000



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