

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:12,130

2

00:00:12,130 --> 00:00:14,002

What's wrong with the equipment?

3

00:00:14,002 --> 00:00:17,938

4

00:00:17,938 --> 00:00:21,580

I'm sure he has to come back
to control it, isn't it?

5

00:00:21,580 --> 00:00:23,930

He moves the camera.

6

00:00:23,930 --> 00:00:24,815

OK.

7

00:00:24,815 --> 00:00:27,290

Continue please.

8

00:00:27,290 --> 00:00:36,852

I [AUDIO OUT] that my real
name should have been Issing.

9

00:00:36,852 --> 00:01:08,120

[AUDIO OUT] She was already
dead, also two of her children

10

00:01:08,120 --> 00:01:09,290

were dead.

11

00:01:09,290 --> 00:01:10,770

One of them was still alive.

12

00:01:10,770 --> 00:01:13,100

She is in the late 70s.

13

00:01:13,100 --> 00:01:16,910

And we were trying to
reminisce about the past,

14

00:01:16,910 --> 00:01:20,790
about our mutual
grandfather, and so on.

15

00:01:20,790 --> 00:01:22,940
We also found letters
and some pictures.

16

00:01:22,940 --> 00:01:26,600
I found a picture
of my mother with me

17

00:01:26,600 --> 00:01:29,520
and my brother when I was
about 2, 2 and 1/2 years old,

18

00:01:29,520 --> 00:01:31,340
and my brother was a year older.

19

00:01:31,340 --> 00:01:34,940
I also found a picture
of my older brother

20

00:01:34,940 --> 00:01:39,380
who was already married that
I met in 1944 in Auschwitz.

21

00:01:39,380 --> 00:01:42,530
We found a picture
of my grandfather,

22

00:01:42,530 --> 00:01:45,030
which I have never seen.

23

00:01:45,030 --> 00:01:46,400
He died before I was born.

24

00:01:46,400 --> 00:01:48,140
And I was named after him.

25

00:01:48,140 --> 00:01:52,400

And I can see the resemblance
from my grandfather

26

00:01:52,400 --> 00:01:57,260

to my father, the same
profile, the same Jewishness,

27

00:01:57,260 --> 00:02:03,720

the same type of attire of
like this fur hats and so on.

28

00:02:03,720 --> 00:02:06,260

And in the letter,
we found a letter,

29

00:02:06,260 --> 00:02:12,770

which was dated back in 1917,
that my grandfather wrote

30

00:02:12,770 --> 00:02:15,890

to his daughter in Germany.

31

00:02:15,890 --> 00:02:20,750

And it says in the letter
about the observance of Shabbat

32

00:02:20,750 --> 00:02:24,650

and to be sure that
you read the Torah

33

00:02:24,650 --> 00:02:27,140

and to remember
that she is Jewish

34

00:02:27,140 --> 00:02:28,730

and et cetera and et cetera.

35

00:02:28,730 --> 00:02:30,770

You still have those
letters and photographs--

36

00:02:30,770 --> 00:02:35,660

I have at home all the
letters, all the copies.

37

00:02:35,660 --> 00:02:40,010

And in one paragraph, it says,
I want you to remember it,

38

00:02:40,010 --> 00:02:44,120

because you come from
a line of rabbis.

39

00:02:44,120 --> 00:02:48,320

And it mentioned that
their grandfather, which

40

00:02:48,320 --> 00:02:52,730

was my great grandfather,
was a rabbi in a little town

41

00:02:52,730 --> 00:02:56,990

called [PLACE NAME] which
is on the border of Poland

42

00:02:56,990 --> 00:02:59,240

and Czechoslovakia.

43

00:02:59,240 --> 00:03:07,820

And when he got old in the
80s in the 1870s or 1860s,

44

00:03:07,820 --> 00:03:11,540

he wanted to go to Israel,
like some very pious Jews

45

00:03:11,540 --> 00:03:13,730

wanted to be buried in Israel.

46

00:03:13,730 --> 00:03:18,170

He came to Israel, and he became
one of the three rabbis, which

47

00:03:18,170 --> 00:03:20,660

is called Rosh Beth Din.

48

00:03:20,660 --> 00:03:23,600

He was the head of
the three rabbis.

49

00:03:23,600 --> 00:03:28,310

Like if you perform a divorce
or any kind of ritual thing

50

00:03:28,310 --> 00:03:29,990

that you have to have
the three rabbis--

51

00:03:29,990 --> 00:03:30,740

The Jewish court--

52

00:03:30,740 --> 00:03:32,690

The Jewish court.

53

00:03:32,690 --> 00:03:35,120

And he lived down there.

54

00:03:35,120 --> 00:03:38,090

And my daughter at that
time, my younger one, Lisa,

55

00:03:38,090 --> 00:03:42,440

who is now in Israel, was
going to Hebrew University.

56

00:03:42,440 --> 00:03:45,150

And I called her
and I said, honey,

57

00:03:45,150 --> 00:03:49,490

you must go and find out,
do some of the research.

58

00:03:49,490 --> 00:03:51,950

She went what we
call in the Jewish,

59

00:03:51,950 --> 00:03:54,230
called the Chevra Kadisha.

60

00:03:54,230 --> 00:03:58,880
And there is also a place
where you go through

61

00:03:58,880 --> 00:04:02,150
to look for your inheritance,
who the grandfather

62

00:04:02,150 --> 00:04:03,980
and so on and so on.

63

00:04:03,980 --> 00:04:07,610
She found a rabbi who
really had a book.

64

00:04:07,610 --> 00:04:10,610
It went back all the
way to the 1800s.

65

00:04:10,610 --> 00:04:13,830
And they found out that
he definitely was a rabbi.

66

00:04:13,830 --> 00:04:15,980
He was the head of
the Rosh Beth Din.

67

00:04:15,980 --> 00:04:19,610
And he died around the 1870s.

68

00:04:19,610 --> 00:04:22,550
And he was buried on
the Mount of Olives.

69

00:04:22,550 --> 00:04:26,430
Of course, the second thing
was to find the grave.

70

00:04:26,430 --> 00:04:27,860

We went to the Chevra Kadisha.

71

00:04:27,860 --> 00:04:30,230

And sure enough,
they had the name

72

00:04:30,230 --> 00:04:32,150

and the date and everything.

73

00:04:32,150 --> 00:04:34,670

And it took us quite a few
hours to find the grave.

74

00:04:34,670 --> 00:04:37,760

The grave was
beaten up, I guess,

75

00:04:37,760 --> 00:04:39,890

from the weather
for so many years.

76

00:04:39,890 --> 00:04:41,750

And we bought some special ink.

77

00:04:41,750 --> 00:04:44,630

And we traced the
Jewish Hebrew letters.

78

00:04:44,630 --> 00:04:46,730

And as we traced
it, all the letters

79

00:04:46,730 --> 00:04:50,810

came out exactly the
way the letter was.

80

00:04:50,810 --> 00:04:55,460

Then, ironically, we found out
when we went back to the rabbi

81

00:04:55,460 --> 00:04:57,140

in telling him that
we found everything,

82
00:04:57,140 --> 00:04:59,420
he said, I want you
to tell you something,

83
00:04:59,420 --> 00:05:01,950
that there is a rabbi
in Jerusalem now.

84
00:05:01,950 --> 00:05:04,910
His name is Itzinger.

85
00:05:04,910 --> 00:05:07,860
And he's a very young
man, but he's a rabbi.

86
00:05:07,860 --> 00:05:13,580
And he claims that this
was also his family,

87
00:05:13,580 --> 00:05:17,120
because each Itzinger,
wherever they are,

88
00:05:17,120 --> 00:05:19,200
they're related to each other.

89
00:05:19,200 --> 00:05:23,000
So now, we have found
relatives in Jerusalem,

90
00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:26,820
in Columbus, Ohio, by
everybody the name of Itzinger.

91
00:05:26,820 --> 00:05:28,160
It was very-- I don't know.

92
00:05:28,160 --> 00:05:33,440
I put this in to show you if
you trace thing to find out.

93

00:05:33,440 --> 00:05:36,440

Anyway, it was a very
beautiful occasion,

94

00:05:36,440 --> 00:05:38,810

and we went back home.

95

00:05:38,810 --> 00:05:45,350

I decided then, my wife inspired
me to go back to Poland.

96

00:05:45,350 --> 00:05:47,750

And the reason we want
to get back to Poland

97

00:05:47,750 --> 00:05:50,360

is for-- actually
that I decided to go.

98

00:05:50,360 --> 00:05:52,950

I really-- to be
very honest with you,

99

00:05:52,950 --> 00:05:55,880

I was very reluctant to go
back to Poland, the country

100

00:05:55,880 --> 00:05:57,570

that I was born.

101

00:05:57,570 --> 00:06:00,110

I never had a happy childhood.

102

00:06:00,110 --> 00:06:02,450

We were very poor.

103

00:06:02,450 --> 00:06:06,310

Antisemitism was rampant
when I was a youngster.

104

00:06:06,310 --> 00:06:08,770

We were scared to associate
with any other boys

105
00:06:08,770 --> 00:06:10,180
except Jewish boys.

106
00:06:10,180 --> 00:06:13,480
And you could feel it in
your bones all the time.

107
00:06:13,480 --> 00:06:14,800
What year was this, Leo?

108
00:06:14,800 --> 00:06:16,680
This was in the '30s.

109
00:06:16,680 --> 00:06:19,410
No, I mean the year
that you went back.

110
00:06:19,410 --> 00:06:20,440
1983.

111
00:06:20,440 --> 00:06:21,130
'83.

112
00:06:21,130 --> 00:06:22,273
I never wanted to go back.

113
00:06:22,273 --> 00:06:23,440
But this was the first time.

114
00:06:23,440 --> 00:06:25,990
In 1983, my wife
and my daughter,

115
00:06:25,990 --> 00:06:28,160
who graduated at that
time Boston University,

116
00:06:28,160 --> 00:06:31,540
she said, Daddy, let's look
for some roots, you know.

117

00:06:31,540 --> 00:06:34,000

The roots factor was
then predominantly

118

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:34,880

in the United States.

119

00:06:34,880 --> 00:06:37,040

So we went back to
look for the roots.

120

00:06:37,040 --> 00:06:38,500

And then I went
back, before I went

121

00:06:38,500 --> 00:06:44,380

back, I was trying to think,
what do I want to see?

122

00:06:44,380 --> 00:06:46,350

And four things came to mind.

123

00:06:46,350 --> 00:06:50,410

Number one, the first
camp, Ruchocki-Mlyn,

124

00:06:50,410 --> 00:06:54,260

as I described it to you before.

125

00:06:54,260 --> 00:06:57,440

The second thing was to find
this precious little lady,

126

00:06:57,440 --> 00:07:00,850

this Catholic woman, who
her son was my friend.

127

00:07:00,850 --> 00:07:04,810

And I said, well, if God is
good to me, she is still alive.

128

00:07:04,810 --> 00:07:08,110

I hope so, because
based on my age,

129
00:07:08,110 --> 00:07:11,530
she got to be in the
late 70s, early 80s.

130
00:07:11,530 --> 00:07:13,630
The third thing I
wanted to see was

131
00:07:13,630 --> 00:07:15,220
the home that I
was born in, which

132
00:07:15,220 --> 00:07:18,520
was very, very old when I left.

133
00:07:18,520 --> 00:07:21,100
Now this is 40 some
odd years later.

134
00:07:21,100 --> 00:07:25,120
And the fourth thing is I wanted
to see if I could possibly find

135
00:07:25,120 --> 00:07:27,700
the grave of my older brother.

136
00:07:27,700 --> 00:07:34,270
At least, I would have
a feeling that one

137
00:07:34,270 --> 00:07:38,500
of the members I know
for sure is buried here,

138
00:07:38,500 --> 00:07:42,370
because the rest
them is hearsay.

139
00:07:42,370 --> 00:07:45,250
I know they took to Chelmno.

140
00:07:45,250 --> 00:07:48,760
And I know my brother
died in Dachau.

141
00:07:48,760 --> 00:07:53,770
But I could never pinpoint
actually where is he buried?

142
00:07:53,770 --> 00:07:55,240
When was the funeral?

143
00:07:55,240 --> 00:07:58,990
And this is the dilemma
that I have been confronted

144
00:07:58,990 --> 00:08:03,100
all my life until even now.

145
00:08:03,100 --> 00:08:05,980
So we went to Poland.

146
00:08:05,980 --> 00:08:07,100
We came to Warsaw.

147
00:08:07,100 --> 00:08:09,460
We stayed at the Victoria Hotel.

148
00:08:09,460 --> 00:08:12,370
And since I know the
language, Polish, so it

149
00:08:12,370 --> 00:08:14,500
wasn't too hard to get along.

150
00:08:14,500 --> 00:08:18,700
I rented the taxi driver
that we are still friends

151
00:08:18,700 --> 00:08:22,450
since 1983, a very
fine young man,

152

00:08:22,450 --> 00:08:25,870
also, very devout Catholic,
but precious young man, really

153

00:08:25,870 --> 00:08:27,550
nice, a taxi driver.

154

00:08:27,550 --> 00:08:31,780
And we hired him for the
duration, for the two weeks.

155

00:08:31,780 --> 00:08:33,890
He went everywhere with us.

156

00:08:33,890 --> 00:08:35,590
The only problems
we had, we could not

157

00:08:35,590 --> 00:08:37,270
accommodate him with lodging.

158

00:08:37,270 --> 00:08:40,750
And he had to find his own
lodging, because you could not

159

00:08:40,750 --> 00:08:42,100
get lodging unless--

160

00:08:42,100 --> 00:08:44,290
if you're an American,
you got to make

161

00:08:44,290 --> 00:08:47,260
your lodging arrangement
before you leave, like you have

162

00:08:47,260 --> 00:08:51,130
to go through [? Arbus, ?]
through New York and so on.

163

00:08:51,130 --> 00:08:51,970

So we traveled.

164
00:08:51,970 --> 00:08:55,320
We went to Warsaw first.

165
00:08:55,320 --> 00:08:59,610
And, of course, the
second place was Lodz.

166
00:08:59,610 --> 00:09:01,890
We went to my city.

167
00:09:01,890 --> 00:09:06,150
And I was trying to tell
the taxi driver where to go

168
00:09:06,150 --> 00:09:08,670
and I will direct him
where I used to live

169
00:09:08,670 --> 00:09:11,160
to remember the streets.

170
00:09:11,160 --> 00:09:14,340
We first went to the house.

171
00:09:14,340 --> 00:09:16,080
The home was still standing.

172
00:09:16,080 --> 00:09:18,630
In fact, it was so ironic.

173
00:09:18,630 --> 00:09:24,570
When I came to the front
of the house, the paint

174
00:09:24,570 --> 00:09:27,300
at the entrance of the doors
to the building-- you know,

175
00:09:27,300 --> 00:09:30,210
the building was a brick

building, four story.

176

00:09:30,210 --> 00:09:32,040

And they had a
door, because there

177

00:09:32,040 --> 00:09:33,840

used to be horse
and buggies that

178

00:09:33,840 --> 00:09:37,290

used to go through to
the backyard, and usually

179

00:09:37,290 --> 00:09:40,410

the water in the toilets,
but in the back, and so on.

180

00:09:40,410 --> 00:09:43,830

The paint was still
the same, identical,

181

00:09:43,830 --> 00:09:48,660

when I left back in 1940.

182

00:09:48,660 --> 00:09:52,310

So I said, let's see what
other improvements there was.

183

00:09:52,310 --> 00:09:54,750

We went to the second floor.

184

00:09:54,750 --> 00:09:56,670

And I remember the
apartment numbers was

185

00:09:56,670 --> 00:09:59,250

13 and 14, which was two rooms.

186

00:09:59,250 --> 00:10:00,840

And I knocked on the door.

187

00:10:00,840 --> 00:10:02,640
And an old little
lady opened up,

188
00:10:02,640 --> 00:10:04,020
and she was scared to death.

189
00:10:04,020 --> 00:10:05,640
And I talked to her in Polish.

190
00:10:05,640 --> 00:10:06,900
And I said, don't worry.

191
00:10:06,900 --> 00:10:10,380
And I said, I came
from the United States

192
00:10:10,380 --> 00:10:12,630
and I used to live in here.

193
00:10:12,630 --> 00:10:15,360
I was born in this room.

194
00:10:15,360 --> 00:10:16,363
And she let us in.

195
00:10:16,363 --> 00:10:17,280
She was very gracious.

196
00:10:17,280 --> 00:10:18,960
And I came in.

197
00:10:18,960 --> 00:10:21,975
And I was, believe me,
when you talk of poverty,

198
00:10:21,975 --> 00:10:28,260
it was so pathetic to see a
woman in the 70s live really

199
00:10:28,260 --> 00:10:32,970
in poverty, in one little room,

shabby looking, and so on.

200

00:10:32,970 --> 00:10:34,770

And we stayed a little while.

201

00:10:34,770 --> 00:10:36,300

We left her some presents.

202

00:10:36,300 --> 00:10:39,600

And I was trying to
describe to my daughter, who

203

00:10:39,600 --> 00:10:44,400

thank God lived very
comfortably in Dallas,

204

00:10:44,400 --> 00:10:48,840

I was trying to tell her of
the four walls of the room.

205

00:10:48,840 --> 00:10:52,020

One third of the room
was divided to a kitchen,

206

00:10:52,020 --> 00:10:56,160

because now they already
got water piped in.

207

00:10:56,160 --> 00:10:57,060

We didn't have it.

208

00:10:57,060 --> 00:11:00,210

We had to go down and pump
the water and bring it up.

209

00:11:00,210 --> 00:11:01,380

They already got gas.

210

00:11:01,380 --> 00:11:03,900

And I said, you know, my
mother and I and my father

211

00:11:03,900 --> 00:11:07,440
used to chop wood with
coal and do this burning.

212
00:11:07,440 --> 00:11:11,250
And she asked, Daddy, where
did you take a shower?

213
00:11:11,250 --> 00:11:12,180
There was no shower.

214
00:11:12,180 --> 00:11:14,940
We had a little tub
that my mother used

215
00:11:14,940 --> 00:11:17,325
to wash the children
from one to the next

216
00:11:17,325 --> 00:11:19,680
and the ext and the next,
and this is the way it was.

217
00:11:19,680 --> 00:11:22,380
And you used to take the water
and have to drag it down,

218
00:11:22,380 --> 00:11:24,480
because there was no sink.

219
00:11:24,480 --> 00:11:26,280
And I was trying to
show her the walls.

220
00:11:26,280 --> 00:11:28,050
And I said, you see this wall?

221
00:11:28,050 --> 00:11:32,350
We had an iron bed with
a little straw bag.

222
00:11:32,350 --> 00:11:33,690
And me and my brother--

223
00:11:33,690 --> 00:11:38,190
I never remember having
that I slept ever in my life

224
00:11:38,190 --> 00:11:39,540
by myself.

225
00:11:39,540 --> 00:11:41,340
There was always
me and my brother.

226
00:11:41,340 --> 00:11:44,880
There was another side, another
bed, two little sisters slept.

227
00:11:44,880 --> 00:11:47,910
In the third row, two
other little children.

228
00:11:47,910 --> 00:11:51,480
And then in the other room,
my father and my mother.

229
00:11:51,480 --> 00:11:53,790
Of course, you know,
Jewish tradition,

230
00:11:53,790 --> 00:11:55,350
you cannot have one double bed.

231
00:11:55,350 --> 00:11:57,030
You had to have it separate.

232
00:11:57,030 --> 00:11:58,920
So it took up some room
because my mother had

233
00:11:58,920 --> 00:12:00,420
to have a separate
bed and my father

234

00:12:00,420 --> 00:12:01,590
had to have a separate bed.

235
00:12:01,590 --> 00:12:04,470
And then it was two other beds
for the rest of the children.

236
00:12:04,470 --> 00:12:09,420
And I was trying to see what
America really means to me.

237
00:12:09,420 --> 00:12:12,300
It was unbelievable really.

238
00:12:12,300 --> 00:12:16,290
It was very emotional and to
see the poverty that they live--

239
00:12:16,290 --> 00:12:19,020
this was 1983.

240
00:12:19,020 --> 00:12:20,680
We left from there.

241
00:12:20,680 --> 00:12:22,710
And I've traced
myself back where

242
00:12:22,710 --> 00:12:25,680
I used to smuggle across
to the next street, which

243
00:12:25,680 --> 00:12:27,360
is Kapliczna.

244
00:12:27,360 --> 00:12:30,270
And I went to the
Kapliczna 12 to see

245
00:12:30,270 --> 00:12:32,760
if Mrs. Grabowska
is still alive,

246

00:12:32,760 --> 00:12:35,220
the precious little lady.

247

00:12:35,220 --> 00:12:40,935
I came down there, and I had to
look for somebody who was old,

248

00:12:40,935 --> 00:12:42,560
otherwise they wouldn't
know who it is.

249

00:12:42,560 --> 00:12:46,020
So I said, do you have
anybody in this building who

250

00:12:46,020 --> 00:12:47,970
is in the late 70s or 80s?

251

00:12:47,970 --> 00:12:51,585
She said, yes, there is one
the third floor another--

252

00:12:51,585 --> 00:12:54,060
another walk-up, no
elevators, no nothing.

253

00:12:54,060 --> 00:12:55,560
So we walked up
the three floors.

254

00:12:55,560 --> 00:12:57,270
And there was an
old little lady.

255

00:12:57,270 --> 00:13:02,190
And I said, do a woman
by the name of Grabowska?

256

00:13:02,190 --> 00:13:04,020
She said, yes.

257

00:13:04,020 --> 00:13:09,330

She said Grabowska moved a few
years ago to Limonowskiego,

258
00:13:09,330 --> 00:13:11,340
another street.

259
00:13:11,340 --> 00:13:14,730
And she gives me the number
and gives me the apartment.

260
00:13:14,730 --> 00:13:18,120
And sure enough, we
drove over down there.

261
00:13:18,120 --> 00:13:21,570
And I tell you, you
talking about emotions.

262
00:13:21,570 --> 00:13:24,240
It was horrible.

263
00:13:24,240 --> 00:13:27,720
And we walked up, and
I came into the room,

264
00:13:27,720 --> 00:13:29,400
all in the one
little bitty room.

265
00:13:29,400 --> 00:13:32,790
And unfortunately, she
lived in such poverty.

266
00:13:32,790 --> 00:13:37,440
She lived now-- this was 1983--

267
00:13:37,440 --> 00:13:40,530
the same as we lived
before the war--

268
00:13:40,530 --> 00:13:44,490
no water, no gas, no toilet.

269

00:13:44,490 --> 00:13:46,500

You have to walk down.

270

00:13:46,500 --> 00:13:48,050

And I came in.

271

00:13:48,050 --> 00:13:49,050

She had one little room.

272

00:13:49,050 --> 00:13:50,370

And one of them was little--

273

00:13:50,370 --> 00:13:51,360

I took some pictures.

274

00:13:51,360 --> 00:13:53,520

Sorry, I didn't

bring the pictures.

275

00:13:53,520 --> 00:13:58,110

And she with a little curtain

corded off part of the room

276

00:13:58,110 --> 00:13:59,610

for the little kitchen.

277

00:13:59,610 --> 00:14:04,020

And you can see the pipe going

into the wall and the buckets

278

00:14:04,020 --> 00:14:07,530

that she has to drag this water

from downstairs two flights.

279

00:14:07,530 --> 00:14:09,900

The woman is over 80.

280

00:14:09,900 --> 00:14:13,200

And I looked at the

window, and there was

281

00:14:13,200 --> 00:14:14,730
an old man sitting down there.

282
00:14:14,730 --> 00:14:17,580
And I said-- and after
we got acquainted--

283
00:14:17,580 --> 00:14:18,690
she didn't remember.

284
00:14:18,690 --> 00:14:20,940
And I said, Mrs.
Grabowska-- of course,

285
00:14:20,940 --> 00:14:25,390
there were four people coming
in like army invading, my wife,

286
00:14:25,390 --> 00:14:28,500
my daughter, the taxi
driver, and myself.

287
00:14:28,500 --> 00:14:30,810
But I recognized it
from the profile,

288
00:14:30,810 --> 00:14:32,790
she was a very
beautiful looking woman.

289
00:14:32,790 --> 00:14:34,830
But now, you know, I
looked at the profile

290
00:14:34,830 --> 00:14:38,520
and said to my wife, honey,
this is Mrs. Grabowska,

291
00:14:38,520 --> 00:14:39,900
I could swear.

292
00:14:39,900 --> 00:14:41,160
And we walked over.

293
00:14:41,160 --> 00:14:42,870
And, of course, she
didn't recognize.

294
00:14:42,870 --> 00:14:44,460
I said, Mrs.
Grabowska, in polish,

295
00:14:44,460 --> 00:14:47,070
I said, do you remember me?

296
00:14:47,070 --> 00:14:48,810
She said, nie.

297
00:14:48,810 --> 00:14:51,330
And I said, if I
tell you that I am

298
00:14:51,330 --> 00:14:54,630
Libek they used to call me
in Polish instead of Leo

299
00:14:54,630 --> 00:14:55,950
was Libek--

300
00:14:55,950 --> 00:14:59,750
and I said, do you remember
we smuggled from Kapliczna

301
00:14:59,750 --> 00:15:01,650
to Dolna.

302
00:15:01,650 --> 00:15:04,550
And I thought she's going to
have a heart attack, really.

303
00:15:04,550 --> 00:15:07,230
And both of us just embraced.

304
00:15:07,230 --> 00:15:08,730
And really, we cried.

305
00:15:08,730 --> 00:15:11,580
It was very, very emotional.

306
00:15:11,580 --> 00:15:13,110
And I asked about her son.

307
00:15:13,110 --> 00:15:14,910
And her son is dead.

308
00:15:14,910 --> 00:15:15,480
He died.

309
00:15:15,480 --> 00:15:17,130
So I couldn't talk--

310
00:15:17,130 --> 00:15:18,510
Your friend, the one who--

311
00:15:18,510 --> 00:15:20,670
Yeah, her son was my friend.

312
00:15:20,670 --> 00:15:23,280
But he died during
the war and so on.

313
00:15:23,280 --> 00:15:25,770
And then she told me that
this is her husband, which

314
00:15:25,770 --> 00:15:26,430
I've never met.

315
00:15:26,430 --> 00:15:29,580
In 1983 is the first
time I met her husband.

316
00:15:29,580 --> 00:15:31,800
He was so crippled,
he couldn't get up.

317

00:15:31,800 --> 00:15:33,030
She's taking care of him.

318
00:15:33,030 --> 00:15:34,238
This was the old man you saw.

319
00:15:34,238 --> 00:15:35,280
The old man, right.

320
00:15:35,280 --> 00:15:37,560
And he was her husband.

321
00:15:37,560 --> 00:15:41,980
He was in the army for
years and years and years.

322
00:15:41,980 --> 00:15:44,190
And he came home with wounds.

323
00:15:44,190 --> 00:15:46,770
And, you know, he couldn't
he couldn't walk practically,

324
00:15:46,770 --> 00:15:48,360
no wheelchair, no nothing.

325
00:15:48,360 --> 00:15:50,100
He sits on the chair.

326
00:15:50,100 --> 00:15:52,090
And he goes from the
chair to the bed.

327
00:15:52,090 --> 00:15:53,012
And this is his life.

328
00:15:53,012 --> 00:15:55,470
How did she support herself in
all those years do you know?

329
00:15:55,470 --> 00:15:59,150
They get some pension.

330
00:15:59,150 --> 00:16:01,520
They got social services.

331
00:16:01,520 --> 00:16:03,440
They get a pension.

332
00:16:03,440 --> 00:16:06,350
And, of course, doctors
and everything is--

333
00:16:06,350 --> 00:16:07,370
Disability--

334
00:16:07,370 --> 00:16:08,790
Disability, and so on.

335
00:16:08,790 --> 00:16:11,780
But the way they
live, believe me,

336
00:16:11,780 --> 00:16:14,810
when you're talking about
poverty or below poverty,

337
00:16:14,810 --> 00:16:20,180
I think this is 100 notches
way below poverty level.

338
00:16:20,180 --> 00:16:24,380
Of course, we stayed on
there as much as we could.

339
00:16:24,380 --> 00:16:26,630
And we reminisced
about the past.

340
00:16:26,630 --> 00:16:27,592
And she remembered.

341
00:16:27,592 --> 00:16:28,800
And everything was beautiful.

342

00:16:28,800 --> 00:16:32,660

Then I found out to my amazement
that I did not know before

343

00:16:32,660 --> 00:16:34,700

that she has two daughters.

344

00:16:34,700 --> 00:16:36,590

One of them lives in
Lodz and the other one

345

00:16:36,590 --> 00:16:38,840

lives in another
part of the country,

346

00:16:38,840 --> 00:16:41,570

because the next day
one of the daughters

347

00:16:41,570 --> 00:16:43,520

came over and became
very friendly.

348

00:16:43,520 --> 00:16:47,930

And, of course, whatever I
and my wife and my daughter

349

00:16:47,930 --> 00:16:51,680

had in our pockets money-wise
and presents and whatever,

350

00:16:51,680 --> 00:16:53,990

everything was left to her.

351

00:16:53,990 --> 00:16:57,020

Nobody got anything
after her was finished.

352

00:16:57,020 --> 00:17:00,440

We really left her everything,
because I really cried.

353

00:17:00,440 --> 00:17:02,190

It was unbelievable.

354

00:17:02,190 --> 00:17:06,680

And we were very much in touch after we left back.

355

00:17:06,680 --> 00:17:08,540

The second thing, we went--

356

00:17:08,540 --> 00:17:12,140

there was a little small synagogue that remained.

357

00:17:12,140 --> 00:17:16,339

Of course, the big synagogues were all burned up and so on.

358

00:17:16,339 --> 00:17:18,950

A little small synagogue, they telling me

359

00:17:18,950 --> 00:17:22,819

that the reason it survived is it

360

00:17:22,819 --> 00:17:28,250

was camouflaged as a warehouse during the war.

361

00:17:28,250 --> 00:17:31,190

And after the war, they took off this camouflage

362

00:17:31,190 --> 00:17:33,440

and it became-- it was a very small place.

363

00:17:33,440 --> 00:17:36,620

And this is where the Jewish people of Lodz

364

00:17:36,620 --> 00:17:38,240
actually hang out.

365
00:17:38,240 --> 00:17:41,870
Mostly of them are
elderly, in the 70s

366
00:17:41,870 --> 00:17:46,430
and up, very reluctant
to leave Poland

367
00:17:46,430 --> 00:17:53,030
because of the pension and
the social services and so on.

368
00:17:53,030 --> 00:17:57,000
90% of them have been in
Russia fighting the war,

369
00:17:57,000 --> 00:17:59,240
during the war.

370
00:17:59,240 --> 00:18:02,501
90% have been intermarried.

371
00:18:02,501 --> 00:18:05,150

372
00:18:05,150 --> 00:18:07,550
It was a real trauma
to talk to them.

373
00:18:07,550 --> 00:18:10,830
They still spoke
Yiddish, just like I do.

374
00:18:10,830 --> 00:18:13,890
And we reminisced
about the past.

375
00:18:13,890 --> 00:18:18,080
And every day, they
come during lunchtime.

376
00:18:18,080 --> 00:18:21,200
The United Jewish Appeal
from the United States

377
00:18:21,200 --> 00:18:23,000
sends some money.

378
00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:24,230
And they do some cooking.

379
00:18:24,230 --> 00:18:27,860
They come like a Jewish kitchen
and they come down there

380
00:18:27,860 --> 00:18:28,640
every week.

381
00:18:28,640 --> 00:18:33,060
And there is always usually a
minion, not too many of them.

382
00:18:33,060 --> 00:18:35,870
And it broke my
heart to see what

383
00:18:35,870 --> 00:18:42,770
happened to the Jewish people
in a country that in a city

384
00:18:42,770 --> 00:18:45,200
that had over 250,000.

385
00:18:45,200 --> 00:18:46,710
It broke my heart.

386
00:18:46,710 --> 00:18:49,670
I honestly felt
that I would have

387
00:18:49,670 --> 00:18:54,860
loved to pay for everyone to

go to Israel, because they can

388

00:18:54,860 --> 00:18:58,880

have such a more
fruitful life down there,

389

00:18:58,880 --> 00:19:01,400

instead of staying down
there without anything.

390

00:19:01,400 --> 00:19:03,530

Did any of them speak
about going to Israel?

391

00:19:03,530 --> 00:19:04,900

Or did they want to go?

392

00:19:04,900 --> 00:19:10,610

No, a lot of them did not,
because mostly of them over 70.

393

00:19:10,610 --> 00:19:14,900

I had one incident that
really broke my heart,

394

00:19:14,900 --> 00:19:17,060

that I still cannot forget it.

395

00:19:17,060 --> 00:19:20,030

And I want to mention it.

396

00:19:20,030 --> 00:19:24,180

One elderly man-- he
was 76 years old--

397

00:19:24,180 --> 00:19:29,640

fought during the war with
the Russian army, married

398

00:19:29,640 --> 00:19:33,050

a Polish woman
after he got back,

399

00:19:33,050 --> 00:19:37,400
has two children, grandchildren.

400

00:19:37,400 --> 00:19:39,890
One of them lives in
Lodz, the other one

401

00:19:39,890 --> 00:19:42,090
a different part of Poland.

402

00:19:42,090 --> 00:19:44,510
And he was crying
to me, telling me

403

00:19:44,510 --> 00:19:52,240
that my own children don't want
to see me because I'm Jewish.

404

00:19:52,240 --> 00:19:55,920
And this is to me [INAUDIBLE].

405

00:19:55,920 --> 00:20:02,850

406

00:20:02,850 --> 00:20:06,070
And I told him, why
don't you go to Israel?

407

00:20:06,070 --> 00:20:10,860
He says, he is still hoping that
maybe they will talk to him,

408

00:20:10,860 --> 00:20:14,640
because when his wife died this
is when the tragedy happened.

409

00:20:14,640 --> 00:20:19,020
When his wife was still alive,
the children used to be around.

410

00:20:19,020 --> 00:20:20,140
And he used to see them.

411
00:20:20,140 --> 00:20:23,770
And now, he has lost complete
contact with the children.

412
00:20:23,770 --> 00:20:25,350
They don't even want to see him.

413
00:20:25,350 --> 00:20:27,750
There's a lot of stories like
this which broke my heart,

414
00:20:27,750 --> 00:20:30,660
but we kept on going.

415
00:20:30,660 --> 00:20:32,370
Did you experience,
while you were there,

416
00:20:32,370 --> 00:20:34,170
any kind of antisemitism?

417
00:20:34,170 --> 00:20:37,680
Did anybody say
anything to you that--

418
00:20:37,680 --> 00:20:39,960
Not officially.

419
00:20:39,960 --> 00:20:42,510
But I will tell you
my next trip in 1987

420
00:20:42,510 --> 00:20:50,120
that I took that I felt
that the climate in Poland

421
00:20:50,120 --> 00:20:54,440
was a country that I would
call, what Hitler used to say,

422
00:20:54,440 --> 00:20:56,300

Judenrein.

423

00:20:56,300 --> 00:21:01,220

Poland is a country, which
is really free of Jews.

424

00:21:01,220 --> 00:21:03,710

The whole country got
probably 5,000 Jews.

425

00:21:03,710 --> 00:21:07,430

And out of the 5,000
Jews, 90% are over 70.

426

00:21:07,430 --> 00:21:12,290

And I believe in 5 to 10 years,
unless some miracle happen,

427

00:21:12,290 --> 00:21:14,750

nobody will be left.

428

00:21:14,750 --> 00:21:17,570

Anyway, I was looking
for a cemetery.

429

00:21:17,570 --> 00:21:22,423

430

00:21:22,423 --> 00:21:23,840

One all older men
in the synagogue

431

00:21:23,840 --> 00:21:27,470

told me that they have
a little Chevra Kadisha.

432

00:21:27,470 --> 00:21:32,480

And they're going
to try to find a--

433

00:21:32,480 --> 00:21:37,670

they've got a box with
names from before the war.

434
00:21:37,670 --> 00:21:43,070
Believe it or not, we found a
little yellow piece of paper,

435
00:21:43,070 --> 00:21:45,860
which was so brittle--

436
00:21:45,860 --> 00:21:48,740
I was so thankful that I did go.

437
00:21:48,740 --> 00:21:54,170
I found the exact day
that my brother died.

438
00:21:54,170 --> 00:21:58,160
It says in this thing
what hospital he even

439
00:21:58,160 --> 00:22:02,170
was that he died, which
was Poznanski's hospital.

440
00:22:02,170 --> 00:22:05,540
There was a very famous, very
rich Jewish man, Poznanski.

441
00:22:05,540 --> 00:22:07,430
That was his hospital.

442
00:22:07,430 --> 00:22:10,250
And he died in appendicitis.

443
00:22:10,250 --> 00:22:11,330
And they buried him.

444
00:22:11,330 --> 00:22:14,810
And on this ticket, it shows
you what street in the cemetery

445
00:22:14,810 --> 00:22:16,830
and what cemetery.

446
00:22:16,830 --> 00:22:19,490
And sure enough, I took
this little Jewish fellow.

447
00:22:19,490 --> 00:22:20,810
We took him in the car.

448
00:22:20,810 --> 00:22:22,820
And I said, please,
come with us.

449
00:22:22,820 --> 00:22:23,450
I'll pay you.

450
00:22:23,450 --> 00:22:24,680
We gave him some money.

451
00:22:24,680 --> 00:22:27,110
And he went with us to
try to find the grave.

452
00:22:27,110 --> 00:22:29,910
It took a long time.

453
00:22:29,910 --> 00:22:32,400
We came into the cemetery.

454
00:22:32,400 --> 00:22:37,940
I don't know, being
Jewish, it hurt me so much.

455
00:22:37,940 --> 00:22:40,940
And I'm sure Gentiles
would probably feel--

456
00:22:40,940 --> 00:22:43,430
Christian would feel the
same way about a cemetery.

457
00:22:43,430 --> 00:22:49,220
It should be holy,

protected by the government

458

00:22:49,220 --> 00:22:53,700

if it's a democracy or if
it is a communist country,

459

00:22:53,700 --> 00:22:55,220

doesn't make any difference.

460

00:22:55,220 --> 00:22:59,540

It's a place where
no Jew or no Gentile

461

00:22:59,540 --> 00:23:02,540

is going to get out of the
grave and fight you to death.

462

00:23:02,540 --> 00:23:07,610

It was so broken up.

463

00:23:07,610 --> 00:23:11,090

Every stone was turned over.

464

00:23:11,090 --> 00:23:14,000

It was the most horrible
sight to see when you

465

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:16,460

walk into this old cemetery.

466

00:23:16,460 --> 00:23:17,810

It's called [PLACE NAME].

467

00:23:17,810 --> 00:23:22,760

That's the old Jewish cemetery
in Lodz, which is probably

468

00:23:22,760 --> 00:23:25,490

hundreds of years old.

469

00:23:25,490 --> 00:23:28,130

And you walk through the

stones, the sidewalks,

470

00:23:28,130 --> 00:23:33,770

and everything was broken stones
from-- what do you call it,

471

00:23:33,770 --> 00:23:35,545

the [NON-ENGLISH]?

472

00:23:35,545 --> 00:23:36,170

The headstones.

473

00:23:36,170 --> 00:23:37,550

The headstones.

474

00:23:37,550 --> 00:23:39,060

It was horrible.

475

00:23:39,060 --> 00:23:41,480

And I hope to God that I
will find my brother's.

476

00:23:41,480 --> 00:23:43,130

And we traced and we worked.

477

00:23:43,130 --> 00:23:44,850

And we finally found it.

478

00:23:44,850 --> 00:23:47,600

And it was about
seven foot overgrown.

479

00:23:47,600 --> 00:23:50,270

And we found the grave.

480

00:23:50,270 --> 00:23:51,725

And then, as I told you before--

481

00:23:51,725 --> 00:23:53,100

Was the stone intact?

482

00:23:53,100 --> 00:23:54,260
Yes.

483
00:23:54,260 --> 00:23:57,380
That we were so poor
that my father probably

484
00:23:57,380 --> 00:24:01,490
didn't have money to put any
marble between the signs,

485
00:24:01,490 --> 00:24:05,990
you know, and so on, because
it was a plain, cement thing,

486
00:24:05,990 --> 00:24:08,000
which was engraved in.

487
00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:10,370
And to my amazement,
I was so delighted

488
00:24:10,370 --> 00:24:14,210
that my little daughter
Lisa, who was with us--

489
00:24:14,210 --> 00:24:16,700
and since she graduated
Hebrew University,

490
00:24:16,700 --> 00:24:19,340
she was very briefed on Hebrew.

491
00:24:19,340 --> 00:24:21,530
I couldn't read the words.

492
00:24:21,530 --> 00:24:24,230
I couldn't decipher
the year and so on.

493
00:24:24,230 --> 00:24:29,180
And this beautiful girl
translated to me every word

494
00:24:29,180 --> 00:24:32,910
and wrote it down in English.

495
00:24:32,910 --> 00:24:37,550
And then, of course, we
got a man from the cemetery

496
00:24:37,550 --> 00:24:40,850
to chop the woods, you know,
the grass and all over.

497
00:24:40,850 --> 00:24:42,170
And I paid him.

498
00:24:42,170 --> 00:24:45,060
And I left some money
to perpetuate it.

499
00:24:45,060 --> 00:24:46,700
There is a caretaker down there.

500
00:24:46,700 --> 00:24:49,130
He and his wife
supposedly take care,

501
00:24:49,130 --> 00:24:53,190
but it's impossible to take
care of such a big place.

502
00:24:53,190 --> 00:24:57,320
And I looked at it from
a point of a survivor.

503
00:24:57,320 --> 00:25:04,760
And I said, at least here,
I know my brother is buried.

504
00:25:04,760 --> 00:25:07,970
They had a funeral.

505
00:25:07,970 --> 00:25:08,930

We cried.

506
00:25:08,930 --> 00:25:10,130
We weep.

507
00:25:10,130 --> 00:25:13,590
But it was God's will and
he died, unfortunately,

508
00:25:13,590 --> 00:25:15,270
as a young man.

509
00:25:15,270 --> 00:25:19,020
But the rest of the family is
I don't know where there are.

510
00:25:19,020 --> 00:25:23,130
And this really
meant to a whole lot.

511
00:25:23,130 --> 00:25:25,640

512
00:25:25,640 --> 00:25:28,750
Then we went to Poznan.

513
00:25:28,750 --> 00:25:31,650

514
00:25:31,650 --> 00:25:33,060
We traveled to Poznan.

515
00:25:33,060 --> 00:25:34,170
And I looked at the map.

516
00:25:34,170 --> 00:25:41,790
And I found a town called
Wolsztyn, which is near Poznan.

517
00:25:41,790 --> 00:25:46,920
From Wolsztyn, we traced
ourselves back to Ruchocki-Mlyn.

518
00:25:46,920 --> 00:25:50,880
When we came to
Ruchocki-Mlyn, we

519
00:25:50,880 --> 00:25:55,260
confronted a bicycle
driver, a woman

520
00:25:55,260 --> 00:25:57,510
who was going the
opposite direction.

521
00:25:57,510 --> 00:25:59,340
And we kind of got
lost, because it's

522
00:25:59,340 --> 00:26:02,700
a very, very remote
little villages and so on.

523
00:26:02,700 --> 00:26:03,600
And we stopped her.

524
00:26:03,600 --> 00:26:07,080
And the taxi driver
asking in Polish,

525
00:26:07,080 --> 00:26:09,450
do you know where
Ruchocki-Mlyn is?

526
00:26:09,450 --> 00:26:12,360
And actually,
Ruchocki-Mlyn is a village.

527
00:26:12,360 --> 00:26:14,760
But if anybody ask you
about Ruchocki-Mlyn,

528
00:26:14,760 --> 00:26:19,660
they direct you to this
mill that we were in 1940.

529
00:26:19,660 --> 00:26:23,790
So this woman stop,
comes over to the car.

530
00:26:23,790 --> 00:26:26,550
And we start to reminisce.

531
00:26:26,550 --> 00:26:30,390
She said, you go about another
mile and you will see a white

532
00:26:30,390 --> 00:26:33,000
house on the left side
of the little road--

533
00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:35,040
it's like a dirt road--

534
00:26:35,040 --> 00:26:37,500
and make a left.

535
00:26:37,500 --> 00:26:39,720
And you go a little farther,
you will go in right

536
00:26:39,720 --> 00:26:44,490
to the gate to this farm.

537
00:26:44,490 --> 00:26:48,030
So I said, this white
house, is this yours?

538
00:26:48,030 --> 00:26:48,810
She said, yes.

539
00:26:48,810 --> 00:26:51,340
And I said, how long have
you lived down there?

540
00:26:51,340 --> 00:26:52,470
Oh, all my life.

541
00:26:52,470 --> 00:26:53,580
This was my papa's home.

542
00:26:53,580 --> 00:27:01,090
And she is I would say around
in the late 60s, early 70s.

543
00:27:01,090 --> 00:27:03,120
And I said, my gosh,
if you lived in here,

544
00:27:03,120 --> 00:27:07,380
you must know about
Ruchocki-Mlyn.

545
00:27:07,380 --> 00:27:11,370
And she did not know
who I am, because we

546
00:27:11,370 --> 00:27:15,330
look very good fed, you know,
my wife and my daughter,

547
00:27:15,330 --> 00:27:16,353
and the taxi driver.

548
00:27:16,353 --> 00:27:17,520
And we asked her a question.

549
00:27:17,520 --> 00:27:19,170
I said, how long
have you lived here?

550
00:27:19,170 --> 00:27:19,860
All my life.

551
00:27:19,860 --> 00:27:23,280
And I said, what do you
know about Ruchocki-Mlyn?

552
00:27:23,280 --> 00:27:26,550

Was there anything
during the war?

553
00:27:26,550 --> 00:27:31,680
She said-- and from
her, I got even the name

554
00:27:31,680 --> 00:27:34,830
of this farmer, this
Volksdeutsche, who

555
00:27:34,830 --> 00:27:38,910
requisitioned these 200
youngsters from Lodz

556
00:27:38,910 --> 00:27:42,020
to work on this river.

557
00:27:42,020 --> 00:27:43,050
His name was Buda.

558
00:27:43,050 --> 00:27:46,800
And she was telling
me he already died.

559
00:27:46,800 --> 00:27:52,650
And she was telling us
with such beautiful words,

560
00:27:52,650 --> 00:27:55,680
what a beautiful Schwab--

561
00:27:55,680 --> 00:27:58,380
they used to call the
Germans, the Poles

562
00:27:58,380 --> 00:28:01,780
used to call the Germans
the Schwabs, the Germans.

563
00:28:01,780 --> 00:28:06,120
We used to call them
Polish expression Schwab.

564
00:28:06,120 --> 00:28:09,540
He said, this
Schwab was the best

565
00:28:09,540 --> 00:28:11,950
I have ever met in my life.

566
00:28:11,950 --> 00:28:13,120
I said, really?

567
00:28:13,120 --> 00:28:14,970
And I said, why was he so good?

568
00:28:14,970 --> 00:28:16,800
What did he do?

569
00:28:16,800 --> 00:28:21,360
She says, during the
war he had a mill.

570
00:28:21,360 --> 00:28:23,280
And I knew about the mill.

571
00:28:23,280 --> 00:28:26,800
And she said, he gave
us bread and everything.

572
00:28:26,800 --> 00:28:29,610
And she said, when
the Russians came,

573
00:28:29,610 --> 00:28:36,360
she was hiding him, his wife,
and a daughter in her house,

574
00:28:36,360 --> 00:28:37,890
so the Russians
wouldn't take him,

575
00:28:37,890 --> 00:28:41,010
because the Russians were

looking for these Germans.

576

00:28:41,010 --> 00:28:42,660

So she was hiding
him in her house,

577

00:28:42,660 --> 00:28:45,600

and she was so proud
of what she did.

578

00:28:45,600 --> 00:28:49,080

Then I kept on asking
the other question.

579

00:28:49,080 --> 00:28:52,740

And I said, do you
remember in 1940

580

00:28:52,740 --> 00:28:56,390

around the latter part of
October, November, December

581

00:28:56,390 --> 00:29:02,610

of 1940, there was about
approximately 200 Jewish boys

582

00:29:02,610 --> 00:29:06,720

who worked on the River Dolca?

583

00:29:06,720 --> 00:29:10,110

Because when I looked at
the map, I saw the river.

584

00:29:10,110 --> 00:29:12,390

And the river is called Dolca--

585

00:29:12,390 --> 00:29:16,080

D-O-L-C-A. And I said, do you
remember we used to straighten

586

00:29:16,080 --> 00:29:22,920

up the Dolca River, so the
mill could grind the corn?

587
00:29:22,920 --> 00:29:25,980
Do you remember we slept
for almost six months

588
00:29:25,980 --> 00:29:27,360
in this big barn?

589
00:29:27,360 --> 00:29:29,790
And by the way, is
the barn still there?

590
00:29:29,790 --> 00:29:32,070
She said, yes, but
the mill is gone.

591
00:29:32,070 --> 00:29:32,970
It broke.

592
00:29:32,970 --> 00:29:37,380
The water mill, it broke, but
the barn is still down there.

593
00:29:37,380 --> 00:29:40,170
And I said, do you
remember all this?

594
00:29:40,170 --> 00:29:45,930
She said, nie, no, I was
too young to remember.

595
00:29:45,930 --> 00:29:47,680
All of a sudden, the--

596
00:29:47,680 --> 00:29:48,465
Memory--

597
00:29:48,465 --> 00:29:50,310
Whole thing changed.

598
00:29:50,310 --> 00:29:52,080
She knew about the German.

599

00:29:52,080 --> 00:29:54,990

She was hiding him because
the Russians came in.

600

00:29:54,990 --> 00:29:57,840

But when I asked her
about the Jewish boys, who

601

00:29:57,840 --> 00:30:01,770

used to work on the
river, she says,

602

00:30:01,770 --> 00:30:03,720

I was too young to remember.

603

00:30:03,720 --> 00:30:06,030

And, of course, you know,
I'm in a strange country.

604

00:30:06,030 --> 00:30:07,890

I left it the way it is.

605

00:30:07,890 --> 00:30:09,510

I couldn't think.

606

00:30:09,510 --> 00:30:11,590

We went to the farm.

607

00:30:11,590 --> 00:30:13,050

We made a turn.

608

00:30:13,050 --> 00:30:14,580

We came into the farm.

609

00:30:14,580 --> 00:30:16,470

And I told my wife and
daughter, and I said,

610

00:30:16,470 --> 00:30:19,110

honey, when we
come into the gate,

611
00:30:19,110 --> 00:30:21,930
you will see the barn to
the right, a little house

612
00:30:21,930 --> 00:30:22,930
to the left.

613
00:30:22,930 --> 00:30:25,610
You will see another
barn straight down there.

614
00:30:25,610 --> 00:30:28,980
And sure enough, we came in
and there's another farmer who

615
00:30:28,980 --> 00:30:33,840
spoke half Polish and half
German, also Volksdeutsche,

616
00:30:33,840 --> 00:30:37,740
he bought the farm in 1945.

617
00:30:37,740 --> 00:30:39,570
And we went to the barn.

618
00:30:39,570 --> 00:30:42,690
And I showed my wife
and my daughter, I said,

619
00:30:42,690 --> 00:30:44,320
honey, look at this.

620
00:30:44,320 --> 00:30:46,170
See the cows inside?

621
00:30:46,170 --> 00:30:49,740
This is where we used to
sleep, almost 200 youngsters.

622
00:30:49,740 --> 00:30:56,790
And I tell you, I

found even the big pots

623

00:30:56,790 --> 00:30:58,890

that they used to
cook in the kitchen--

624

00:30:58,890 --> 00:31:02,370

the kitchen was outside,
like a little small place

625

00:31:02,370 --> 00:31:04,440

next to the barn.

626

00:31:04,440 --> 00:31:05,280

It was dilapidated.

627

00:31:05,280 --> 00:31:08,970

It was already through the
weather, I guess, fallen down.

628

00:31:08,970 --> 00:31:12,690

But the same pots
are still there now

629

00:31:12,690 --> 00:31:17,590

in 1983, the same pots.

630

00:31:17,590 --> 00:31:21,760

Then as the farmer, and I said,
I want to ask you something.

631

00:31:21,760 --> 00:31:25,370

I say, you've been
here since '45.

632

00:31:25,370 --> 00:31:31,100

In the back of the farm, I said
it's somewhere not far away,

633

00:31:31,100 --> 00:31:34,400

there was a little
private cemetery,

634

00:31:34,400 --> 00:31:37,670

which was blocked
off by cement blocks.

635

00:31:37,670 --> 00:31:41,030

636

00:31:41,030 --> 00:31:43,730

And he said, ja, ja, ja, ja.

637

00:31:43,730 --> 00:31:45,670

I said, can you show me?

638

00:31:45,670 --> 00:31:46,670

We took him in the car.

639

00:31:46,670 --> 00:31:49,850

In fact, when we
took him to the car,

640

00:31:49,850 --> 00:31:52,100

he looked like a real farmer.

641

00:31:52,100 --> 00:31:54,650

You know just came out from
all the manure and everything.

642

00:31:54,650 --> 00:31:55,370

It was horrible.

643

00:31:55,370 --> 00:32:00,500

We closed our noses
just to the smell of it.

644

00:32:00,500 --> 00:32:02,810

But he took us down there.

645

00:32:02,810 --> 00:32:03,680

And I looked at it.

646

00:32:03,680 --> 00:32:05,280

And I said, honey, take a look.

647

00:32:05,280 --> 00:32:06,740

Here's a grave.

648

00:32:06,740 --> 00:32:11,210

I bet you nobody knows that
a lot of our youngsters

649

00:32:11,210 --> 00:32:13,100

are still buried down there.

650

00:32:13,100 --> 00:32:15,320

And if I would dig real
deep, I can probably

651

00:32:15,320 --> 00:32:18,080

find some bones still.

652

00:32:18,080 --> 00:32:21,080

And I told the farmer about it.

653

00:32:21,080 --> 00:32:24,350

And, of course, he did not know.

654

00:32:24,350 --> 00:32:27,740

He, of course, came in '45.

655

00:32:27,740 --> 00:32:32,000

And then I decided in the same
city to go to the city hall.

656

00:32:32,000 --> 00:32:34,030

It's a little bitty place.

657

00:32:34,030 --> 00:32:38,540

And I went to the city hall,
and I talked to a Polish woman.

658

00:32:38,540 --> 00:32:41,610

And I told her the story.

659

00:32:41,610 --> 00:32:46,470

And she told me that
they have no record

660

00:32:46,470 --> 00:32:53,850

whatsoever the Jewish
people were there in 1940.

661

00:32:53,850 --> 00:32:59,160

They do have a
record that in 1941

662

00:32:59,160 --> 00:33:04,470

that some British soldiers,
who were prisoners of war,

663

00:33:04,470 --> 00:33:11,530

used to work also on
the Dolca River in 1941.

664

00:33:11,530 --> 00:33:14,340

And I said, do you
have any documents?

665

00:33:14,340 --> 00:33:17,760

So she showed me some
documents that she gave me.

666

00:33:17,760 --> 00:33:19,530

She made some copies.

667

00:33:19,530 --> 00:33:21,960

And she signed it.

668

00:33:21,960 --> 00:33:24,000

And I said, do you have
any other documents what

669

00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:25,000

the Germans had, I said.

670

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:28,515

Because this was a real
little German town, really

671
00:33:28,515 --> 00:33:32,580
most of them are Volksdeutsche.

672
00:33:32,580 --> 00:33:40,380
So she gave me some
documents where it shows how

673
00:33:40,380 --> 00:33:46,120
a Jewish camp should be formed.

674
00:33:46,120 --> 00:33:56,170
It's called Arbeitslager
fur Juden Totus Kommando.

675
00:33:56,170 --> 00:33:59,230
The storm troopers had this--

676
00:33:59,230 --> 00:33:59,980
The death's head--

677
00:33:59,980 --> 00:34:00,520
The death's head--

678
00:34:00,520 --> 00:34:01,120
Insignia--

679
00:34:01,120 --> 00:34:03,890
And it tells you
outline how it was.

680
00:34:03,890 --> 00:34:07,690
You should have one
shirt, whatever kind you

681
00:34:07,690 --> 00:34:11,800
find, one pair of pants,
any kind that you have,

682
00:34:11,800 --> 00:34:13,420

one pair of shoes.

683

00:34:13,420 --> 00:34:16,489

And it shows you
also in the barrack

684

00:34:16,489 --> 00:34:20,139

that you have a nail
to hang your things,

685

00:34:20,139 --> 00:34:23,920

outline exactly the
way a Jewish camp.

686

00:34:23,920 --> 00:34:25,600

And then I got some
other documents

687

00:34:25,600 --> 00:34:28,750

that she showed me about
a lot of different camps

688

00:34:28,750 --> 00:34:34,880

in Poznan, where they had 100
Jews, 150, 200, and 300, and so

689

00:34:34,880 --> 00:34:35,380

on.

690

00:34:35,380 --> 00:34:37,210

Were these instructions
written in German?

691

00:34:37,210 --> 00:34:38,850

In German, all in German.

692

00:34:38,850 --> 00:34:43,090

This is dating back
during the war.

693

00:34:43,090 --> 00:34:46,000

And, of course, I was very
thankful that I found it.

694

00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:49,780

And my kids, my daughter,
couldn't believe it

695

00:34:49,780 --> 00:34:52,060

that this is the
way the Germans--

696

00:34:52,060 --> 00:34:54,850

what they have done to us.

697

00:34:54,850 --> 00:34:58,390

From there, we went to Poznan.

698

00:34:58,390 --> 00:35:01,120

And I couldn't find
any other camps.

699

00:35:01,120 --> 00:35:04,330

They all looked like
they're totally obliterated.

700

00:35:04,330 --> 00:35:07,020

701

00:35:07,020 --> 00:35:12,600

We left, and we saw all the
four things that I wanted.

702

00:35:12,600 --> 00:35:15,560

Then we went to Krakow.

703

00:35:15,560 --> 00:35:19,100

From Krakow, we
went to Auschwitz.

704

00:35:19,100 --> 00:35:21,810

When I went to Auschwitz, of
course, the sign in Auschwitz

705

00:35:21,810 --> 00:35:24,530

you still Arbeit Macht Frei.

706
00:35:24,530 --> 00:35:26,960
And this used to be a
famous song with us.

707
00:35:26,960 --> 00:35:28,760
You might think it's--

708
00:35:28,760 --> 00:35:32,950
we used to even laugh, because
you get so immune to it.

709
00:35:32,950 --> 00:35:35,850
We used to say,
Arbeit macht frei

710
00:35:35,850 --> 00:35:38,120
zum crematorium nummer drei.

711
00:35:38,120 --> 00:35:41,420
In English, which
would mean labor

712
00:35:41,420 --> 00:35:44,130
makes you free to
crematorium number three.

713
00:35:44,130 --> 00:35:45,890
And in fact, it
rhymes in English,

714
00:35:45,890 --> 00:35:47,390
and it rhymes in German.

715
00:35:47,390 --> 00:35:48,470
And it was common.

716
00:35:48,470 --> 00:35:49,750
We knew about it.

717
00:35:49,750 --> 00:35:53,600

And we came in, and I was trying
to show my daughter, of course,

718
00:35:53,600 --> 00:35:58,870
lot of barracks in Birkenau
has been totally disassembled.

719
00:35:58,870 --> 00:36:00,260
There's not any there.

720
00:36:00,260 --> 00:36:01,610
But the gate is still there.

721
00:36:01,610 --> 00:36:04,140
The sidings is still there.

722
00:36:04,140 --> 00:36:07,670
And then I showed her, I took it
to the end of the block, which

723
00:36:07,670 --> 00:36:09,980
was the latrines, the toilets.

724
00:36:09,980 --> 00:36:12,110
The toilets are still standing.

725
00:36:12,110 --> 00:36:14,200
And my daughter
couldn't believe it.

726
00:36:14,200 --> 00:36:18,140
We got a barrack, which is the
same barracks that we left,

727
00:36:18,140 --> 00:36:19,730
but you got this cubicle.

728
00:36:19,730 --> 00:36:22,790
You know, it's made out of
cement with little holes,

729
00:36:22,790 --> 00:36:26,060

probably maybe 50, 60 of
them in the same barrack.

730
00:36:26,060 --> 00:36:28,550
And this is where the toilets.

731
00:36:28,550 --> 00:36:30,500
We went over to
the crematoriums,

732
00:36:30,500 --> 00:36:33,140
which are demolished and so.

733
00:36:33,140 --> 00:36:36,800
I had a Polish girl, who
was standing down there,

734
00:36:36,800 --> 00:36:39,470
and she said to me
in Polish, she said,

735
00:36:39,470 --> 00:36:45,740
if you dig even with
your hands a little deep,

736
00:36:45,740 --> 00:36:47,240
you might find
some little bones.

737
00:36:47,240 --> 00:36:50,180
And believe it or not, I dug.

738
00:36:50,180 --> 00:36:51,408
I found little bones.

739
00:36:51,408 --> 00:36:52,450
And I found little teeth.

740
00:36:52,450 --> 00:37:01,240

741
00:37:01,240 --> 00:37:05,310

Of course, I took
it with me, and I

742
00:37:05,310 --> 00:37:09,780
was trying to describe
the camp and how we lived

743
00:37:09,780 --> 00:37:11,980
and what we did, and
et cetera and so on.

744
00:37:11,980 --> 00:37:16,260
And of course it was a
horrible sight to see.

745
00:37:16,260 --> 00:37:17,430
We went to the museum.

746
00:37:17,430 --> 00:37:18,450
We went to Auschwitz.

747
00:37:18,450 --> 00:37:21,090
We looked at the museum.

748
00:37:21,090 --> 00:37:22,770
We left.

749
00:37:22,770 --> 00:37:24,120
We went back to Warsaw.

750
00:37:24,120 --> 00:37:29,280
And I really had so much agony.

751
00:37:29,280 --> 00:37:30,550
It really hurt me.

752
00:37:30,550 --> 00:37:33,540
And then I came back
and I reminisced.

753
00:37:33,540 --> 00:37:37,790
And I said, how

God was good to me

754

00:37:37,790 --> 00:37:41,540

when I looked what
would have happened

755

00:37:41,540 --> 00:37:43,910

if I wouldn't have survived.

756

00:37:43,910 --> 00:37:49,760

There would be no shadow at
all that ever a family existed.

757

00:37:49,760 --> 00:37:52,940

But the irony of
it is the following

758

00:37:52,940 --> 00:38:01,310

is we all concentrate on
these large camps, which

759

00:38:01,310 --> 00:38:05,120

was unfortunately a
Vernichtungslager, a camp

760

00:38:05,120 --> 00:38:07,190

to eliminate masses.

761

00:38:07,190 --> 00:38:10,190

But these little small camps,
there were so many of them

762

00:38:10,190 --> 00:38:15,440

in the thousands that nobody
has ever written about it,

763

00:38:15,440 --> 00:38:17,030

know about it.

764

00:38:17,030 --> 00:38:19,700

It's totally annihilation.

765

00:38:19,700 --> 00:38:23,390

And I remember when
I went from Poland--

766

00:38:23,390 --> 00:38:27,120

we went back home and then I
took a trip back to Israel.

767

00:38:27,120 --> 00:38:29,930

And I went to Yad Vashem.

768

00:38:29,930 --> 00:38:32,030

And I went to the
director, Mr Krakowski,

769

00:38:32,030 --> 00:38:35,030

which comes from the
same city, from Lodz.

770

00:38:35,030 --> 00:38:37,340

And I told them
about Ruchocki-Mlyn.

771

00:38:37,340 --> 00:38:40,200

Whoever heard about
Ruchocki-Mlyn?

772

00:38:40,200 --> 00:38:44,080

So I opened up the book.

773

00:38:44,080 --> 00:38:48,340

And I asked this farmer, has
anybody ever came back to here?

774

00:38:48,340 --> 00:38:51,055

He said, no, nobody.

775

00:38:51,055 --> 00:38:54,250

He say, you're the only one
who ever came from America

776

00:38:54,250 --> 00:38:56,320

to look for a farm.

777

00:38:56,320 --> 00:39:00,760

And there was hundreds and
thousands of these farm areas

778

00:39:00,760 --> 00:39:04,100

that 100, 200, 300
have been eliminated.

779

00:39:04,100 --> 00:39:06,670

There is no--
there's not a shadow.

780

00:39:06,670 --> 00:39:10,360

I guess I had enough
courage to go back.

781

00:39:10,360 --> 00:39:16,660

My second trip-- while I
was in Israel, somebody

782

00:39:16,660 --> 00:39:23,050

told me that there are
some archives in Lodz.

783

00:39:23,050 --> 00:39:28,780

There is some data on what
happened in the ghetto.

784

00:39:28,780 --> 00:39:31,450

And then since the
first trip to Poland,

785

00:39:31,450 --> 00:39:36,970

I was more anxious to go back
to pursue some more activities.

786

00:39:36,970 --> 00:39:41,020

In 1987, I decided
to go back again.

787

00:39:41,020 --> 00:39:44,260

And this time, I took my

older daughter Sharon.

788

00:39:44,260 --> 00:39:46,840

Sharon already had
a master degree

789

00:39:46,840 --> 00:39:49,540

at that time, very
sophisticated young lady

790

00:39:49,540 --> 00:39:51,190

and very professional.

791

00:39:51,190 --> 00:39:52,690

She worked in Jewish
organizations.

792

00:39:52,690 --> 00:39:54,310

She worked for the JDC.

793

00:39:54,310 --> 00:39:56,650

She worked for
[? Nekrich. ?] So she

794

00:39:56,650 --> 00:39:58,977

knew about what the
Holocaust was all about.

795

00:39:58,977 --> 00:40:01,060

And she, Daddy, we're going
to have to make notes,

796

00:40:01,060 --> 00:40:03,340

and we're going to
have to take a camera.

797

00:40:03,340 --> 00:40:08,020

So we get a video camera, and
we took it with us and went

798

00:40:08,020 --> 00:40:10,030

in 1987.

799

00:40:10,030 --> 00:40:16,420

And when I came in 1987,
when I came to Warsaw,

800

00:40:16,420 --> 00:40:18,460

and I had the same driver.

801

00:40:18,460 --> 00:40:20,140

We contacted the
same driver prior,

802

00:40:20,140 --> 00:40:23,410

and we went all of two weeks.

803

00:40:23,410 --> 00:40:28,120

I told the driver that
certain days you're

804

00:40:28,120 --> 00:40:30,310

going to have to be by
yourself, because I want

805

00:40:30,310 --> 00:40:32,500

to do my own research
and so on, because I

806

00:40:32,500 --> 00:40:35,250

didn't want him to be in with.

807

00:40:35,250 --> 00:40:42,310

We found a very fine young
man who has a PhD specifically

808

00:40:42,310 --> 00:40:43,870

on the Lodz Ghetto.

809

00:40:43,870 --> 00:40:46,990

And it was amazing to
see a young fellow who

810

00:40:46,990 --> 00:40:50,230

is a very devout

Catholic, married, two

811
00:40:50,230 --> 00:40:52,150
small little children.

812
00:40:52,150 --> 00:40:57,670
And he devoted his life to write
chronologically about the days

813
00:40:57,670 --> 00:41:00,100
occurrence in the Lodz Ghetto.

814
00:41:00,100 --> 00:41:02,980
And I said, my God, I
said this would be the guy

815
00:41:02,980 --> 00:41:06,400
to really get acquainted with.

816
00:41:06,400 --> 00:41:07,540
He didn't have a phone.

817
00:41:07,540 --> 00:41:09,200
We drove over to his place.

818
00:41:09,200 --> 00:41:10,930
And we took him out for dinner.

819
00:41:10,930 --> 00:41:12,040
We became acquainted.

820
00:41:12,040 --> 00:41:16,060
A very, very bright,
fine young man.

821
00:41:16,060 --> 00:41:18,130
His name is Baranowski.

822
00:41:18,130 --> 00:41:25,390
He wrote a book about
Lodz Ghetto 1939-1945.

823

00:41:25,390 --> 00:41:27,940

And I said, how
did you get a PhD?

824

00:41:27,940 --> 00:41:30,490

I said, you must have
a lot of documents.

825

00:41:30,490 --> 00:41:32,080

He said, yes.

826

00:41:32,080 --> 00:41:35,092

He says, I work at the Archives.

827

00:41:35,092 --> 00:41:36,550

And I said, where
are the archives?

828

00:41:36,550 --> 00:41:38,650

He said, on Platz Wolnoci.

829

00:41:38,650 --> 00:41:41,240

It was like a square,
you know, before the war.

830

00:41:41,240 --> 00:41:43,660

And I knew where it was.

831

00:41:43,660 --> 00:41:46,360

The magistrate in the building.

832

00:41:46,360 --> 00:41:48,160

And I asked him,
and I said, listen,

833

00:41:48,160 --> 00:41:50,410

is there any way that me
and you could go down?

834

00:41:50,410 --> 00:41:52,160

Maybe I will find
some documents.

835
00:41:52,160 --> 00:41:53,590
And what I was
really looking for,

836
00:41:53,590 --> 00:41:56,350
because some people
in the ghetto--

837
00:41:56,350 --> 00:42:00,220
the way the situation worked
in the Ghetto is the following.

838
00:42:00,220 --> 00:42:05,860
In 1940, when the ghetto
closed, each household

839
00:42:05,860 --> 00:42:09,520
had to have their people
present, physically present,

840
00:42:09,520 --> 00:42:12,820
not say he is
downstairs or upstairs.

841
00:42:12,820 --> 00:42:14,680
You've got to be
physically present.

842
00:42:14,680 --> 00:42:15,680
They take a count.

843
00:42:15,680 --> 00:42:19,060
They take your name, born,
when, the whole business,

844
00:42:19,060 --> 00:42:20,080
and everything.

845
00:42:20,080 --> 00:42:22,750
And then you have
to sign it yourself.

846

00:42:22,750 --> 00:42:27,720

This was for rations,
food rations that you got.

847

00:42:27,720 --> 00:42:32,970

And I remember, not positively,
but I remember you go through--

848

00:42:32,970 --> 00:42:37,170

and, of course, and I found it
and I recognized my signature.

849

00:42:37,170 --> 00:42:39,390

So everybody had
to sign this thing.

850

00:42:39,390 --> 00:42:44,010

And this was called
Anmeldung, registration.

851

00:42:44,010 --> 00:42:48,060

Of course at that
time, we were--

852

00:42:48,060 --> 00:42:49,710

Shmuel already moved out.

853

00:42:49,710 --> 00:42:51,540

He was married.

854

00:42:51,540 --> 00:42:53,550

And one brother died.

855

00:42:53,550 --> 00:42:57,840

So we had actually six
children and my mother

856

00:42:57,840 --> 00:42:59,430

and father was eight people.

857

00:42:59,430 --> 00:43:03,960

And all eight of us were down

there in 1939 and in 1940,

858

00:43:03,960 --> 00:43:04,575

May 30.

859

00:43:04,575 --> 00:43:09,310

860

00:43:09,310 --> 00:43:10,840

And I asked him, and I said--

861

00:43:10,840 --> 00:43:15,970

and I was thinking some of them
used to have took pictures of.

862

00:43:15,970 --> 00:43:18,040

They had pictures
on the documents.

863

00:43:18,040 --> 00:43:19,960

And this is what
I wanted so badly,

864

00:43:19,960 --> 00:43:23,480

because I don't have anything
of my brothers and sisters

865

00:43:23,480 --> 00:43:27,190

to show my grandchildren or
my children who their aunt

866

00:43:27,190 --> 00:43:30,010

and who their uncle
was and so on.

867

00:43:30,010 --> 00:43:33,040

And we went downstairs.

868

00:43:33,040 --> 00:43:34,810

He said, I'll take you.

869

00:43:34,810 --> 00:43:38,190

We went down to the basement.

870

00:43:38,190 --> 00:43:41,433

And I saw a basement
of about hundreds

871

00:43:41,433 --> 00:43:46,410

of thousands of documents,
pictures, photographs,

872

00:43:46,410 --> 00:43:52,140

all kind of paraphernalia what
was going on from 1939 to 1945.

873

00:43:52,140 --> 00:43:56,350

Then we found a box, a
little primitive plywood box.

874

00:43:56,350 --> 00:43:57,450

We opened up the door.

875

00:43:57,450 --> 00:44:02,010

And the box had letters
like L, like alphabet order.

876

00:44:02,010 --> 00:44:05,040

We slide this door open,
and we started looking.

877

00:44:05,040 --> 00:44:08,550

And it was like a card, index
card when you look through.

878

00:44:08,550 --> 00:44:10,050

And, of course,
mine was practically

879

00:44:10,050 --> 00:44:15,840

in the front, L-A, L-A-U.
So we went to the L-A-U.

880

00:44:15,840 --> 00:44:16,890

And I picked up.

881
00:44:16,890 --> 00:44:22,260
And the first one was
my mother's document.

882
00:44:22,260 --> 00:44:23,670
And I thought I'm going to die.

883
00:44:23,670 --> 00:44:26,370
I didn't-- Laufer, Tauba.

884
00:44:26,370 --> 00:44:28,890
And I was just getting
very hysterical.

885
00:44:28,890 --> 00:44:30,390
And then I wanted
to look some more.

886
00:44:30,390 --> 00:44:33,900
And I fought back,
you know, my tears.

887
00:44:33,900 --> 00:44:35,100
And I was looking for more.

888
00:44:35,100 --> 00:44:38,550
And then I found my father's,
my brother's, my sister's.

889
00:44:38,550 --> 00:44:40,810
I found even Shmuel
and his children.

890
00:44:40,810 --> 00:44:44,760
And I found one of them
which is my cousin, which

891
00:44:44,760 --> 00:44:48,580
was the same name, Shmuel Leib
Laufer, who is now in Israel.

892

00:44:48,580 --> 00:44:50,160
I found his.

893
00:44:50,160 --> 00:44:52,740
And here, I took it
out, and I hold it in.

894
00:44:52,740 --> 00:44:55,920
And I don't know, all
I wanted is a copy.

895
00:44:55,920 --> 00:44:58,980
I said I want to have because
I don't know their birthdays.

896
00:44:58,980 --> 00:45:00,390
I don't know when
they were born.

897
00:45:00,390 --> 00:45:01,960
I don't know nothing.

898
00:45:01,960 --> 00:45:04,410
I don't know what happened
to them and so on.

899
00:45:04,410 --> 00:45:07,860
And, of course, this young
man, this Baranowski,

900
00:45:07,860 --> 00:45:09,840
was such a precious man.

901
00:45:09,840 --> 00:45:17,490
He cried with the
same tears as I did.

902
00:45:17,490 --> 00:45:20,040
And he was getting worried
somebody might come in

903
00:45:20,040 --> 00:45:23,700
and caught us and so on with

is the original document.

904

00:45:23,700 --> 00:45:25,920

And he said to me,
Leo, [NON-ENGLISH]..

905

00:45:25,920 --> 00:45:27,620

He said, put it away.

906

00:45:27,620 --> 00:45:31,470

So I put it in my
pocket, and we walked out

907

00:45:31,470 --> 00:45:34,740

and all the documents, original.

908

00:45:34,740 --> 00:45:37,950

And then I go back
to the hotel and try

909

00:45:37,950 --> 00:45:43,360

to console myself, get back and
sit down and really study it.

910

00:45:43,360 --> 00:45:46,770

And as I studied the
document, with each document,

911

00:45:46,770 --> 00:45:49,350

there was an attachment
to it in the back.

912

00:45:49,350 --> 00:45:51,060

They were all very brittle.

913

00:45:51,060 --> 00:45:53,670

Mind you it's 1940.

914

00:45:53,670 --> 00:45:55,620

And with attachment
with two little staples

915

00:45:55,620 --> 00:46:02,520
on the top, the next one in the
back says Abmeldung, which is--

916
00:46:02,520 --> 00:46:04,240
Anmeldung is registration.

917
00:46:04,240 --> 00:46:07,290
And Abmeldung is when you leave.

918
00:46:07,290 --> 00:46:08,670
And it gives you everything.

919
00:46:08,670 --> 00:46:12,180
It gives you the name of
your father and mother.

920
00:46:12,180 --> 00:46:16,350
It gives you the date of birth.

921
00:46:16,350 --> 00:46:17,910
It gives your religion.

922
00:46:17,910 --> 00:46:21,990
And I thought all my life
that my religion were Jewish.

923
00:46:21,990 --> 00:46:25,890
But in this paragraph
religion was [NON-ENGLISH],,

924
00:46:25,890 --> 00:46:26,760
Moses's religion--

925
00:46:26,760 --> 00:46:27,510
Mosaic.

926
00:46:27,510 --> 00:46:28,980
Mosaic.

927
00:46:28,980 --> 00:46:36,000
And then it gives you that you

were registered on this day

928

00:46:36,000 --> 00:46:39,270
and day, and you have lived in
this apartment since whatever

929

00:46:39,270 --> 00:46:42,510
day going back to
1919 and so on.

930

00:46:42,510 --> 00:46:45,990
And on one side, there's
a stamp signed by someone,

931

00:46:45,990 --> 00:46:47,490
which I couldn't decipher.

932

00:46:47,490 --> 00:46:50,760
On the left side,
on this Anmeldung,

933

00:46:50,760 --> 00:46:53,840
each one's signature, my
father's, my mother's,

934

00:46:53,840 --> 00:46:56,700
my brothers', my sisters',
all the children,

935

00:46:56,700 --> 00:46:59,310
with their own signatures.

936

00:46:59,310 --> 00:47:05,880
And on the bottom, it says on my
mother's and my father's and so

937

00:47:05,880 --> 00:47:13,080
on, except my father's,
it says [NON-ENGLISH],,

938

00:47:13,080 --> 00:47:17,550
which means they have been
resettled outside the ghetto.

939

00:47:17,550 --> 00:47:22,170
Then on the Anmerkung, which
is the remarks in English,

940

00:47:22,170 --> 00:47:29,760
it says, transport, T-R-A-S-P,
you know abbreviated, III,

941

00:47:29,760 --> 00:47:32,340
Roman numeral III.

942

00:47:32,340 --> 00:47:34,470
And then I was going bananas.

943

00:47:34,470 --> 00:47:37,710
What is transport III?

944

00:47:37,710 --> 00:47:40,710
The next day I
called up Baranowski.

945

00:47:40,710 --> 00:47:46,810
I said, Baranowski, tell
me, what is transport III?

946

00:47:46,810 --> 00:47:47,690
I study.

947

00:47:47,690 --> 00:47:50,380
I said I couldn't sleep
all night I wanted

948

00:47:50,380 --> 00:47:52,387
to know what transport III was.

949

00:47:52,387 --> 00:47:54,970
I know there was some transport
because they were shipping out

950

00:47:54,970 --> 00:47:56,200
the people.

951
00:47:56,200 --> 00:48:00,860
So he said-- so I went over
back again to his house,

952
00:48:00,860 --> 00:48:02,000
to his apartment.

953
00:48:02,000 --> 00:48:04,510
He showed me a book,
where he showed me

954
00:48:04,510 --> 00:48:07,570
about Chelmno, what
happened with the transport

955
00:48:07,570 --> 00:48:13,690
from Lodz to Chelmno, which
was only about 30 miles away.

956
00:48:13,690 --> 00:48:17,430
He said the first
transport was the 16th.

957
00:48:17,430 --> 00:48:20,010
The second transport the 17th.

958
00:48:20,010 --> 00:48:27,730
And the third transport of
the 18th of January, 1942.

959
00:48:27,730 --> 00:48:34,792
He said, Leo, I can assure
you they all went to Chelmno.

960
00:48:34,792 --> 00:48:40,270
And my father's was on the
ausserhalb, the ghetto,

961
00:48:40,270 --> 00:48:42,190
on the transport.

962

00:48:42,190 --> 00:48:44,590
It doesn't say anything.

963
00:48:44,590 --> 00:48:49,720
But it says later on,
Ausgewiesen, March 15,

964
00:48:49,720 --> 00:48:54,490
which happened to be
my birthday, 1942.

965
00:48:54,490 --> 00:48:57,850
I found out later from
Israel, from my cousin,

966
00:48:57,850 --> 00:49:02,040
that my father ran away
from the transport.

967
00:49:02,040 --> 00:49:04,460
He let his wife and
the children go.

968
00:49:04,460 --> 00:49:07,260
And he ran away to
try to save himself.

969
00:49:07,260 --> 00:49:10,160
But they caught him,
and he went probably

970
00:49:10,160 --> 00:49:13,130
with the next
transplant on March 15.

971
00:49:13,130 --> 00:49:17,030
So, of course, we
went to Chelmno.

972
00:49:17,030 --> 00:49:25,800
That was before I saw Shoah,
before I went to Poland.

973

00:49:25,800 --> 00:49:27,530
And I never heard of Chelmno.

974
00:49:27,530 --> 00:49:29,990
But I listened to
Shoah and I knew

975
00:49:29,990 --> 00:49:31,730
what was happening and so on.

976
00:49:31,730 --> 00:49:34,370
But I never dreamed
that my whole family

977
00:49:34,370 --> 00:49:37,370
were gassed in Chelmno.

978
00:49:37,370 --> 00:49:43,770
So we went back to
Chelmno after that.

979
00:49:43,770 --> 00:49:46,800
We came to Chelmno.

980
00:49:46,800 --> 00:49:49,080
I don't know how to
describe it for you.

981
00:49:49,080 --> 00:49:50,880
I'm sure you've read
it and you've seen it.

982
00:49:50,880 --> 00:49:57,150
It's wooded areas, which
is cut out in the woods

983
00:49:57,150 --> 00:50:02,220
with graves like
football fields.

984
00:50:02,220 --> 00:50:04,890
I've never seen this in
my life, football fields.

985
00:50:04,890 --> 00:50:07,290
And what do you see
on all these graves?

986
00:50:07,290 --> 00:50:09,570
A big cross.

987
00:50:09,570 --> 00:50:12,906
And I know that not
one single Christian

988
00:50:12,906 --> 00:50:15,150
were buried down there.

989
00:50:15,150 --> 00:50:21,680
It hurt me, because
what are they

990
00:50:21,680 --> 00:50:26,630
trying to do to us
after already buried.

991
00:50:26,630 --> 00:50:30,800
Then I wanted to see, to
follow the steps of Shoah.

992
00:50:30,800 --> 00:50:34,580
So my wife said, you know,
you remember the church,

993
00:50:34,580 --> 00:50:36,980
and there was a castle,
and there was a mill.

994
00:50:36,980 --> 00:50:38,750
So we traveled the road.

995
00:50:38,750 --> 00:50:40,820
We went into the church.

996
00:50:40,820 --> 00:50:45,650

The church now, in 1987,
is the most magnificent

997
00:50:45,650 --> 00:50:47,900
beautiful building.

998
00:50:47,900 --> 00:50:49,880
It looks absolutely
beautiful, real

999
00:50:49,880 --> 00:50:52,730
nice with all the
ornaments inside and so on

1000
00:50:52,730 --> 00:50:54,720
and the crosses and so on.

1001
00:50:54,720 --> 00:50:56,840
And this is the place--

1002
00:50:56,840 --> 00:50:59,240
and, of course, the mill
is already torn down.

1003
00:50:59,240 --> 00:51:01,580
You can see the remains of it.

1004
00:51:01,580 --> 00:51:05,990
And also, the
castle is torn down.

1005
00:51:05,990 --> 00:51:12,260
And you look at it and you try
to visualize what happened.

1006
00:51:12,260 --> 00:51:14,660
And what happened, as you
saw in Shoah, what they did

1007
00:51:14,660 --> 00:51:18,890
is they took them into
these three places.

1008

00:51:18,890 --> 00:51:20,960

And they undressed them.

1009

00:51:20,960 --> 00:51:25,790

And they pushed them in on
some wagons, on these trucks.

1010

00:51:25,790 --> 00:51:28,520

And three miles from
there is the graves.

1011

00:51:28,520 --> 00:51:33,980

And they put the gas in
reverse, and they gassed them.

1012

00:51:33,980 --> 00:51:35,840

It is hard to describe to you.

1013

00:51:35,840 --> 00:51:43,570

I don't know-- you feel anger--

1014

00:51:43,570 --> 00:51:49,290

1015

00:51:49,290 --> 00:51:49,990

excuse me.

1016

00:51:49,990 --> 00:51:50,740

You're OK?

1017

00:51:50,740 --> 00:51:52,010

I'm all right.

1018

00:51:52,010 --> 00:51:53,570

You feel anger.

1019

00:51:53,570 --> 00:51:58,100

You don't know who is at
fault. Who do you blame?

1020

00:51:58,100 --> 00:52:00,540

Who are you going
to tell the story?

1021
00:52:00,540 --> 00:52:03,260
And here, you look at
this monstrous grave,

1022
00:52:03,260 --> 00:52:05,270
like football fields.

1023
00:52:05,270 --> 00:52:08,015
And trying to figure out,
where are my parents?

1024
00:52:08,015 --> 00:52:10,570

1025
00:52:10,570 --> 00:52:12,772
And you don't know.

1026
00:52:12,772 --> 00:52:19,310
Of course, I was
trying to get the idea

1027
00:52:19,310 --> 00:52:22,520
of what we call the bystanders.

1028
00:52:22,520 --> 00:52:25,370

1029
00:52:25,370 --> 00:52:27,230
What would I do?

1030
00:52:27,230 --> 00:52:32,000
And what did a bystander do
when he saw all this thing?

1031
00:52:32,000 --> 00:52:37,000
About 75 feet away from
the church across the road,

1032
00:52:37,000 --> 00:52:39,600

there was a farm.

1033
00:52:39,600 --> 00:52:44,370
And I saw farmer coming
to the gate, elderly man,

1034
00:52:44,370 --> 00:52:48,120
about I would say
in the early 70s.

1035
00:52:48,120 --> 00:52:48,990
And I walked over.

1036
00:52:48,990 --> 00:52:50,640
And I said, [NON-ENGLISH].

1037
00:52:50,640 --> 00:52:52,710
And I greeted him very nice.

1038
00:52:52,710 --> 00:52:55,050
In fact, I gave him a package
of American cigarettes,

1039
00:52:55,050 --> 00:52:58,072
which was unusual.

1040
00:52:58,072 --> 00:52:59,280
And I started talking to him.

1041
00:52:59,280 --> 00:53:01,680
I thought maybe I'll
strike up a conversation.

1042
00:53:01,680 --> 00:53:06,580
Maybe I can get some
information that I don't know.

1043
00:53:06,580 --> 00:53:10,180
And I talked to him, and
my daughter Sharon and I

1044
00:53:10,180 --> 00:53:12,220

ask him permission
if you don't mind

1045
00:53:12,220 --> 00:53:14,200
if I take some pictures of you.

1046
00:53:14,200 --> 00:53:15,850
He said, no, no, don't worry.

1047
00:53:15,850 --> 00:53:16,930
It's OK.

1048
00:53:16,930 --> 00:53:18,010
And we started talking.

1049
00:53:18,010 --> 00:53:21,880
And I asked him if he has
lived here a long time.

1050
00:53:21,880 --> 00:53:23,630
He said, this is the
third generation.

1051
00:53:23,630 --> 00:53:26,530
His grandfather owned
this farm, his father.

1052
00:53:26,530 --> 00:53:29,370
And during the war, his
father was very sick.

1053
00:53:29,370 --> 00:53:32,980
So he was mostly at
the time in here.

1054
00:53:32,980 --> 00:53:35,800
And I asked him, I
said, tell me what

1055
00:53:35,800 --> 00:53:41,630
did you do when this happened?

1056

00:53:41,630 --> 00:53:46,060

He says to me, nothing
I could have done.

1057

00:53:46,060 --> 00:53:48,130

And we left.

1058

00:53:48,130 --> 00:53:52,420

When I came back to the States,
I wrote everything down.

1059

00:53:52,420 --> 00:53:54,200

I made memoirs and so on.

1060

00:53:54,200 --> 00:53:56,260

But the most
important thing that I

1061

00:53:56,260 --> 00:53:59,770

think that I want to mention
before it is really getting too

1062

00:53:59,770 --> 00:54:06,250

late is about four years ago
I was contacted by a lady

1063

00:54:06,250 --> 00:54:09,280

by Bonnie [? Gourevitch ?]
from Brooklyn.

1064

00:54:09,280 --> 00:54:14,910

And Bonnie told me-- she knew--

1065

00:54:14,910 --> 00:54:16,710

I believe I gave a
testimony and she

1066

00:54:16,710 --> 00:54:20,610

knew that I was
liberated in Ohrdruf.

1067

00:54:20,610 --> 00:54:23,070

She said, Leo, you

wouldn't believe it.

1068

00:54:23,070 --> 00:54:27,840

We have the most precious man
you would ever want to meet.

1069

00:54:27,840 --> 00:54:30,060

His name is Jack Colston.

1070

00:54:30,060 --> 00:54:33,780

And he a liberator of Ohrdruf.

1071

00:54:33,780 --> 00:54:36,030

I said my gosh,
and I said, this is

1072

00:54:36,030 --> 00:54:39,930

going to be something
added to my memoir.

1073

00:54:39,930 --> 00:54:42,450

I said, beautiful, how
can we get in touch?

1074

00:54:42,450 --> 00:54:45,630

And since I'm a member
of the National Holocaust

1075

00:54:45,630 --> 00:54:48,840

Survivors at the ADL,
so she said let's

1076

00:54:48,840 --> 00:54:51,300

meet at the National ADL office.

1077

00:54:51,300 --> 00:54:55,770

And I believe Bonnie and
Jack, we met down there.

1078

00:54:55,770 --> 00:55:00,540

We talked to Ned [? Kemeny. ?]
And they took some pictures.

1079

00:55:00,540 --> 00:55:03,840

And it was the most
beautiful thing

1080

00:55:03,840 --> 00:55:07,430

to meet a handsome,
heavyset young--

1081

00:55:07,430 --> 00:55:11,820

I mean a man you could see
he was with Patton's army.

1082

00:55:11,820 --> 00:55:13,020

And we were reminiscing.

1083

00:55:13,020 --> 00:55:14,310

And he was telling me stories.

1084

00:55:14,310 --> 00:55:23,490

And I thought, the sincerity of
a man, not of the Jewish faith,

1085

00:55:23,490 --> 00:55:26,070

to be so involved.

1086

00:55:26,070 --> 00:55:28,290

I said, I don't believe it.

1087

00:55:28,290 --> 00:55:30,930

And then, of course, we became
very, very good friends.

1088

00:55:30,930 --> 00:55:34,920

1089

00:55:34,920 --> 00:55:37,320

Believe me, I think
he was probably

1090

00:55:37,320 --> 00:55:42,690

one of the angels who
was sent to liberate us.

1091
00:55:42,690 --> 00:55:46,160
Otherwise, who knows?

1092
00:55:46,160 --> 00:55:48,590
And then we became
very, very good friends.

1093
00:55:48,590 --> 00:55:51,680
I remember one incident
about Jack Colston

1094
00:55:51,680 --> 00:55:56,680
is a couple of years
later, after we met,

1095
00:55:56,680 --> 00:56:02,380
he kept on sending me literature
constantly about the Holocaust.

1096
00:56:02,380 --> 00:56:05,380
And my wife got so
involved that we became

1097
00:56:05,380 --> 00:56:06,880
really very good friends.

1098
00:56:06,880 --> 00:56:09,580
He wrote me one
time, he said, Leo,

1099
00:56:09,580 --> 00:56:12,700
the 182nd Tank
Destroyer Battalion

1100
00:56:12,700 --> 00:56:16,600
is having a gathering
in Denver, Colorado.

1101
00:56:16,600 --> 00:56:21,730
Would you mind-- would you
like to come and address some

1102

00:56:21,730 --> 00:56:23,590
of the few who still remain?

1103

00:56:23,590 --> 00:56:26,110
He said, they're all
old men, but believe me,

1104

00:56:26,110 --> 00:56:28,240
they were fighters then.

1105

00:56:28,240 --> 00:56:31,010
And, of course, I'm
not a youngster myself.

1106

00:56:31,010 --> 00:56:33,490
I took my wife, and
we went to Denver.

1107

00:56:33,490 --> 00:56:39,220
And I told him how it was
inside while they were coming in

1108

00:56:39,220 --> 00:56:41,230
from the outside.

1109

00:56:41,230 --> 00:56:45,970
And it's ironic to see
how much really went on

1110

00:56:45,970 --> 00:56:47,860
that we on the
inside did not know

1111

00:56:47,860 --> 00:56:50,140
what was going on the outside.

1112

00:56:50,140 --> 00:56:53,560
And when I addressed all this
group, I had so many people

1113

00:56:53,560 --> 00:56:57,220
come over and really embrace me.

1114
00:56:57,220 --> 00:57:00,400
In fact, one of the GIs--

1115
00:57:00,400 --> 00:57:02,890
I can't even remember
right now his name--

1116
00:57:02,890 --> 00:57:08,020
came over and gave me a little
booklet of pictures which

1117
00:57:08,020 --> 00:57:12,130
was taken by the Army, by
the Signal Corps, all the way

1118
00:57:12,130 --> 00:57:16,570
from Normandy through
the Battle of Bulge

1119
00:57:16,570 --> 00:57:20,740
and all the way through
the liberation of Ohrdruf.

1120
00:57:20,740 --> 00:57:27,430
But the most ironic thing I
must mention in conclusion,

1121
00:57:27,430 --> 00:57:29,725
in the 70s when I saw a book--

1122
00:57:29,725 --> 00:57:31,150
and there was two books written.

1123
00:57:31,150 --> 00:57:35,110
One of them was In Review
written by President Eisenhower

1124
00:57:35,110 --> 00:57:37,450
after he was president,
his, memoirs.

1125

00:57:37,450 --> 00:57:41,920
And another one was written by
Patton called Patton's Best.

1126
00:57:41,920 --> 00:57:45,490
And when I open up
the centerfold and I

1127
00:57:45,490 --> 00:57:48,940
saw the picture of the
three greatest men--

1128
00:57:48,940 --> 00:57:52,360
Bradley, Eisenhower,
and Patton--

1129
00:57:52,360 --> 00:57:54,250
and the translator.

1130
00:57:54,250 --> 00:57:58,210
And when I looked at it, I
said, my gosh, I was probably

1131
00:57:58,210 --> 00:58:05,260
20 feet away from this incident,
which happened April 12, 1945.

1132
00:58:05,260 --> 00:58:07,390
Again, I would like
to dedicate this

1133
00:58:07,390 --> 00:58:10,210
to Jack Colston, a great man.

1134
00:58:10,210 --> 00:58:13,450
I am sure he is
with the angels now

1135
00:58:13,450 --> 00:58:16,740
as he was when he liberated us.

1136
00:58:16,740 --> 00:58:17,240
Thank you.

1137

00:58:17,240 --> 00:58:18,900

Thank you.

1138

00:58:18,900 --> 00:58:29,000