

1

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

2

00:00:16,320 --> 00:00:18,660

My name is Dr. Sidney
Langer, and I'm

3

00:00:18,660 --> 00:00:21,840

the director of the Oral
History Project of the Holocaust

4

00:00:21,840 --> 00:00:25,350

Studies Resource Center at
Kean College of New Jersey.

5

00:00:25,350 --> 00:00:29,370

I'm very pleased that Mr. Henry
Kolber, who presently resides

6

00:00:29,370 --> 00:00:32,759

in West Orange, New Jersey,
has come to Kean College today

7

00:00:32,759 --> 00:00:35,130

to discuss with me
some of his experiences

8

00:00:35,130 --> 00:00:36,680

during the Holocaust.

9

00:00:36,680 --> 00:00:38,250

Mr. Kolber, I want
to thank you very

10

00:00:38,250 --> 00:00:39,610

much for coming to the college.

11

00:00:39,610 --> 00:00:41,520

It's a pleasure.

12

00:00:41,520 --> 00:00:45,040

Can you tell me a little bit
about when you were born,

13
00:00:45,040 --> 00:00:48,030
beginning with
your date of birth,

14
00:00:48,030 --> 00:00:51,240
the town, the village
that you were born in?

15
00:00:51,240 --> 00:00:55,770
A little bit about your
family, life in the town?

16
00:00:55,770 --> 00:01:04,230
I was born in 1923, in
June, in a small village

17
00:01:04,230 --> 00:01:06,000
near Krakow, Poland.

18
00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:07,950
The Krakow-- Zakopane.

19
00:01:07,950 --> 00:01:11,490
That's the famous--
what will be known.

20
00:01:11,490 --> 00:01:13,560
What day in June?

21
00:01:13,560 --> 00:01:15,000
June 5th or 6th.

22
00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:15,570
June 6th.

23
00:01:15,570 --> 00:01:17,880
Yeah.

24
00:01:17,880 --> 00:01:18,780

My father had the--

25

00:01:18,780 --> 00:01:21,240

What was the name
of the village?

26

00:01:21,240 --> 00:01:31,140

Barcica, B-A-R-C-I-C-A.

27

00:01:31,140 --> 00:01:33,810

How large was this
town, this village?

28

00:01:33,810 --> 00:01:42,970

This village I would say
maybe 400, 300 people.

29

00:01:42,970 --> 00:01:44,230

How far away from Krakow?

30

00:01:44,230 --> 00:01:47,200

31

00:01:47,200 --> 00:01:49,420

From Krakow, about
60 kilometers.

32

00:01:49,420 --> 00:01:54,520

33

00:01:54,520 --> 00:01:57,410

Did the town have a
large Jewish population?

34

00:01:57,410 --> 00:01:59,050

Small Jewish population?

35

00:01:59,050 --> 00:02:02,350

We were the only
family, Jewish family,

36

00:02:02,350 --> 00:02:05,260

in this particular village.

37

00:02:05,260 --> 00:02:09,830

In the next town, which
was about 3 kilometers--

38

00:02:09,830 --> 00:02:11,360

this was a small town--

39

00:02:11,360 --> 00:02:13,850

there was a population
of about, I would say,

40

00:02:13,850 --> 00:02:16,600

20 or 30 Jewish families.

41

00:02:16,600 --> 00:02:18,130

It was Stary Sacz.

42

00:02:18,130 --> 00:02:32,600

S-T-A-R-Y S-A-C-Z. My father had
a lumberyard in this village.

43

00:02:32,600 --> 00:02:38,720

And we employed, I would
say-- about a quarter

44

00:02:38,720 --> 00:02:45,510

of the village population
worked for us in the town.

45

00:02:45,510 --> 00:02:47,180

How large was your family?

46

00:02:47,180 --> 00:02:51,395

I had one brother
and three sisters.

47

00:02:51,395 --> 00:02:54,370

48

00:02:54,370 --> 00:02:55,610

Were you the oldest?

49

00:02:55,610 --> 00:02:56,890

I was the oldest, yes.

50

00:02:56,890 --> 00:03:01,560

No one survived from
the whole family.

51

00:03:01,560 --> 00:03:04,220

Can you tell me a little bit
about life in the village?

52

00:03:04,220 --> 00:03:05,480

Growing up in the village?

53

00:03:05,480 --> 00:03:06,980

Did you go to school
in the village?

54

00:03:06,980 --> 00:03:10,670

I went to public
school in this village.

55

00:03:10,670 --> 00:03:19,730

And then, when came to go to
gymnasium, I went to the town

56

00:03:19,730 --> 00:03:23,180

in the school.

57

00:03:23,180 --> 00:03:28,880

In 1939, I was in the second
class in the gymnasium

58

00:03:28,880 --> 00:03:30,290

when the war broke down--

59

00:03:30,290 --> 00:03:31,400

broke out.

60

00:03:31,400 --> 00:03:34,550

And naturally, the
Jews were not allowed

61
00:03:34,550 --> 00:03:39,050
to further any education, and I
could not attend normal school.

62
00:03:39,050 --> 00:03:40,850
Let me stop you
just for one second.

63
00:03:40,850 --> 00:03:44,630
Before 1939, when you were
going to school in the village,

64
00:03:44,630 --> 00:03:46,100
you were the only
Jewish student?

65
00:03:46,100 --> 00:03:47,720
Only Jewish student, yeah.

66
00:03:47,720 --> 00:03:50,060
And how was the relationship
between yourself

67
00:03:50,060 --> 00:03:52,780
and the rest of the students,
the rest of the village?

68
00:03:52,780 --> 00:03:59,570
Well, day to day wasn't
too bad because we--

69
00:03:59,570 --> 00:04:01,100
everybody knows us.

70
00:04:01,100 --> 00:04:06,370
We employ almost half
of the population.

71
00:04:06,370 --> 00:04:11,140
So it wasn't bad.

72
00:04:11,140 --> 00:04:13,760
Did you have any Jewish
education during those years?

73
00:04:13,760 --> 00:04:16,240
Yes, I went to the Stary Sacz--

74
00:04:16,240 --> 00:04:21,430
when I started school, I
went to cheder, where I--

75
00:04:21,430 --> 00:04:22,580
After public school--

76
00:04:22,580 --> 00:04:22,800
After public school, yes.

77
00:04:22,800 --> 00:04:23,730
--you'd go to cheder.

78
00:04:23,730 --> 00:04:24,451
Yes.

79
00:04:24,451 --> 00:04:28,000
In the town.

80
00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:31,060
Were you active in any
organizations when you were

81
00:04:31,060 --> 00:04:32,590
growing up?

82
00:04:32,590 --> 00:04:33,220
No.

83
00:04:33,220 --> 00:04:39,370
Just like every young boy,
Boy Scouts, all those things.

84

00:04:39,370 --> 00:04:42,724
But no particular Jewish
organization or anything else.

85
00:04:42,724 --> 00:04:45,570

86
00:04:45,570 --> 00:04:47,430
Did you ever go to Krakow?

87
00:04:47,430 --> 00:04:49,680
Oh, yes, yes.

88
00:04:49,680 --> 00:04:55,350
Visit the Krakow,
Zakopane, Krynica.

89
00:04:55,350 --> 00:04:57,255
That was summer resorts.

90
00:04:57,255 --> 00:04:59,760

91
00:04:59,760 --> 00:05:00,260
OK.

92
00:05:00,260 --> 00:05:03,050
Now you say you
went to gymnasium.

93
00:05:03,050 --> 00:05:03,800
Yes.

94
00:05:03,800 --> 00:05:05,330
And you were in--

95
00:05:05,330 --> 00:05:09,350
Second grade [INAUDIBLE].

96
00:05:09,350 --> 00:05:12,560
Did anything happen in
your town and your village

97
00:05:12,560 --> 00:05:14,510
when Hitler came to
power in Germany?

98
00:05:14,510 --> 00:05:16,550
Were there any
changes in the town?

99
00:05:16,550 --> 00:05:19,260
Hitler came to power in 1933.

100
00:05:19,260 --> 00:05:20,850
So between '33 and '39--

101
00:05:20,850 --> 00:05:21,590
'39.

102
00:05:21,590 --> 00:05:27,530
There was not much changes
as far as in our village.

103
00:05:27,530 --> 00:05:30,920
We heard that Poland was--

104
00:05:30,920 --> 00:05:32,570
the government was antisemitic.

105
00:05:32,570 --> 00:05:36,080
And that there were incidents
where they broke windows,

106
00:05:36,080 --> 00:05:40,370
and they instigated
taking Jewish businesses.

107
00:05:40,370 --> 00:05:47,510
But in my village, it was
quiet until war broke out

108
00:05:47,510 --> 00:05:56,450
in September 1, 1939.

109

00:05:56,450 --> 00:06:01,650

My father was afraid to
stay there by ourselves.

110

00:06:01,650 --> 00:06:08,660

So we went to this little
town second day of the war

111

00:06:08,660 --> 00:06:12,948

when German march in to Poland.

112

00:06:12,948 --> 00:06:14,240

Shall I continue what happened?

113

00:06:14,240 --> 00:06:14,510

Sure.

114

00:06:14,510 --> 00:06:15,170

Sure.

115

00:06:15,170 --> 00:06:17,120

Your whole family went
together-- was still together

116

00:06:17,120 --> 00:06:17,390

at this time?

117

00:06:17,390 --> 00:06:17,990

Yes.

118

00:06:17,990 --> 00:06:19,550

We were all together.

119

00:06:19,550 --> 00:06:22,520

We went to Stary SÄ...cz.

120

00:06:22,520 --> 00:06:28,040

And the second day,
when the German march

121

00:06:28,040 --> 00:06:33,800
occupied this village,
they took all men separate,

122
00:06:33,800 --> 00:06:41,030
and they put them in a school,
and they hold them as hostages

123
00:06:41,030 --> 00:06:43,580
that they should not--

124
00:06:43,580 --> 00:06:44,300
nothing.

125
00:06:44,300 --> 00:06:49,700
Not only Jews, there
were Gentiles too there.

126
00:06:49,700 --> 00:06:59,150
They hostages again that there
shouldn't be any retaliation

127
00:06:59,150 --> 00:07:00,485
against the Germans deported.

128
00:07:00,485 --> 00:07:03,080

129
00:07:03,080 --> 00:07:06,260
The whole time, my father
was there in school,

130
00:07:06,260 --> 00:07:09,020
for about 48 hours,
then they released them,

131
00:07:09,020 --> 00:07:10,980
and we went back home.

132
00:07:10,980 --> 00:07:13,010
This was in Stary
SÄ...cz that they were--

133

00:07:13,010 --> 00:07:13,740

Stary SÄ...cz, yes.

134

00:07:13,740 --> 00:07:14,240

Stary SÄ...cz.

135

00:07:14,240 --> 00:07:16,250

Yes.

136

00:07:16,250 --> 00:07:21,200

After a week, we went back
to our village, lived there.

137

00:07:21,200 --> 00:07:24,080

It was, more or less, quiet.

138

00:07:24,080 --> 00:07:26,950

139

00:07:26,950 --> 00:07:33,700

But the rules were there
that all young men and men

140

00:07:33,700 --> 00:07:34,580

have to work.

141

00:07:34,580 --> 00:07:38,650

So we worked on
the road for the--

142

00:07:38,650 --> 00:07:41,940

143

00:07:41,940 --> 00:07:47,490

keep up the roads during
the summer, and in winter,

144

00:07:47,490 --> 00:07:53,040

shovel snow that the German
vehicles be able to go through.

145

00:07:53,040 --> 00:07:56,250

146

00:07:56,250 --> 00:08:01,050

For about six months or
maybe a little shorter,

147

00:08:01,050 --> 00:08:04,230

everything was,
more or less, like--

148

00:08:04,230 --> 00:08:06,600

I wouldn't say it was
normal, but there it

149

00:08:06,600 --> 00:08:10,640

was possible to live.

150

00:08:10,640 --> 00:08:15,230

We lived as far as could,
more or less, normal.

151

00:08:15,230 --> 00:08:29,160

Then in April, in 1940 we were
taken to Rabka, about a hundred

152

00:08:29,160 --> 00:08:34,281

of young men from
this particular area.

153

00:08:34,281 --> 00:08:35,590

Jewish and non-Jewish.

154

00:08:35,590 --> 00:08:36,090

No, no.

155

00:08:36,090 --> 00:08:36,590

Only Jewish.

156

00:08:36,590 --> 00:08:37,110

Only Jewish.

157

00:08:37,110 --> 00:08:38,190
Only Jewish.

158
00:08:38,190 --> 00:08:41,049
We went to Rabka.

159
00:08:41,049 --> 00:08:43,590
This was an SS school.

160
00:08:43,590 --> 00:08:45,750
R-A-P-K-A?

161
00:08:45,750 --> 00:08:53,986
R-A-P-K-A. This
was an SS school.

162
00:08:53,986 --> 00:08:56,250
So your father, yourself,
and your brother went?

163
00:08:56,250 --> 00:08:59,100
No, just me.

164
00:08:59,100 --> 00:09:03,540
The younger brother with
father was still home.

165
00:09:03,540 --> 00:09:06,060

166
00:09:06,060 --> 00:09:13,830
I still ran the
lumber yard, and we

167
00:09:13,830 --> 00:09:19,720
got [INAUDIBLE],, who was
in charge of this thing.

168
00:09:19,720 --> 00:09:21,420
But he helped them to run.

169
00:09:21,420 --> 00:09:26,370

So it was that he was
necessary for the German--

170
00:09:26,370 --> 00:09:30,750

171
00:09:30,750 --> 00:09:31,350
Economy.

172
00:09:31,350 --> 00:09:32,700
Economy, yes, economy.

173
00:09:32,700 --> 00:09:34,470
Thank you.

174
00:09:34,470 --> 00:09:41,190
So we were taken to Rabka,
about 100 of young men.

175
00:09:41,190 --> 00:09:46,240
Rabka was located
about 40 kilometers

176
00:09:46,240 --> 00:09:50,830
from this particular town.

177
00:09:50,830 --> 00:09:57,070
Originally, we're supposed
to just work there

178
00:09:57,070 --> 00:10:04,360
to help prepare for the school.

179
00:10:04,360 --> 00:10:09,650
They also built this from
scratch, started building.

180
00:10:09,650 --> 00:10:13,060
So we were supposed
to work there.

181
00:10:13,060 --> 00:10:18,250

The first-- we came
there on a Monday,

182
00:10:18,250 --> 00:10:22,870
and this commandant was a
young man named Rosenbaum.

183
00:10:22,870 --> 00:10:26,392

184
00:10:26,392 --> 00:10:27,850
Did you have any
idea when you were

185
00:10:27,850 --> 00:10:30,790
going to this camp exactly what
was going to happen to you?

186
00:10:30,790 --> 00:10:31,730
No.

187
00:10:31,730 --> 00:10:32,230
No.

188
00:10:32,230 --> 00:10:34,750
We were sent to work.

189
00:10:34,750 --> 00:10:39,770
As we work previously on the
roads, it was just plain work.

190
00:10:39,770 --> 00:10:42,490
We didn't know for how long or
whatever it's going to happen.

191
00:10:42,490 --> 00:10:45,030

192
00:10:45,030 --> 00:10:47,790
He greeted us immediately
in the Monday morning,

193

00:10:47,790 --> 00:10:52,140
and he says that we
came here to work.

194
00:10:52,140 --> 00:10:55,410
And he mentioned
this because Rabka

195
00:10:55,410 --> 00:11:04,890
was a place where, in summer,
people came there for vacation.

196
00:11:04,890 --> 00:11:07,560
This is not a vacation
place no more.

197
00:11:07,560 --> 00:11:09,180
We came here to work.

198
00:11:09,180 --> 00:11:14,490
And he took 10,
indiscriminately, 10 of us,

199
00:11:14,490 --> 00:11:19,380
1/10-- because it was a
hundred, he pulled out 10 men--

200
00:11:19,380 --> 00:11:21,390
young men, older men--

201
00:11:21,390 --> 00:11:23,790
indiscriminately,
put them on the side

202
00:11:23,790 --> 00:11:26,160
and shoot them, right
in front of our eyes.

203
00:11:26,160 --> 00:11:30,300
That was the first
encounter what

204
00:11:30,300 --> 00:11:35,010

I had with the cruelty of SS.

205

00:11:35,010 --> 00:11:37,620

206

00:11:37,620 --> 00:11:41,610

The work would we
performed in Rabka.

207

00:11:41,610 --> 00:11:47,730

Looking back, it was really
nothing important work.

208

00:11:47,730 --> 00:11:49,740

There was nothing
important there.

209

00:11:49,740 --> 00:11:54,060

The man, apparently,
had some place

210

00:11:54,060 --> 00:11:58,500

in the SS hierarchy,
an important role,

211

00:11:58,500 --> 00:12:06,170

and he wanted have his job as
a commandant of a small camp

212

00:12:06,170 --> 00:12:09,150

so he does not have
to go to the front.

213

00:12:09,150 --> 00:12:12,480

One week, we took the dirt from
one place and put it there.

214

00:12:12,480 --> 00:12:14,730

Next week, we take this
dirt from this place

215

00:12:14,730 --> 00:12:16,080

and put it back.

216
00:12:16,080 --> 00:12:22,540
It was just unnecessary work.

217
00:12:22,540 --> 00:12:30,280
Meanwhile, also near
Rabka, there was a ghetto,

218
00:12:30,280 --> 00:12:35,320
and all Jewish people
were brought there.

219
00:12:35,320 --> 00:12:40,540
And we built a big
bunker where they

220
00:12:40,540 --> 00:12:50,250
were put before they were sent,
will be sent to the transport.

221
00:12:50,250 --> 00:12:53,250
How long were you in Rabka?

222
00:12:53,250 --> 00:12:57,240
From April to December.

223
00:12:57,240 --> 00:13:00,210

224
00:13:00,210 --> 00:13:02,635
OK.

225
00:13:02,635 --> 00:13:05,010
Were there any other incidents
like you described before,

226
00:13:05,010 --> 00:13:07,020
where he shot 10 people?

227
00:13:07,020 --> 00:13:17,410
Well, in summer, every
week, he had the Aktion.

228

00:13:17,410 --> 00:13:25,690

He brought people from around,
and he hanged them, shoot them.

229

00:13:25,690 --> 00:13:28,250

230

00:13:28,250 --> 00:13:33,050

Once a week-- generally, he
did this on a Friday night.

231

00:13:33,050 --> 00:13:35,510

And we had to bury those people.

232

00:13:35,510 --> 00:13:40,590

Then our work was
like grave diggers.

233

00:13:40,590 --> 00:13:44,999

234

00:13:44,999 --> 00:13:48,220

So during this time, people
were coming into Rabka,

235

00:13:48,220 --> 00:13:49,850

more people doing this time?

236

00:13:49,850 --> 00:13:51,950

Yes.

237

00:13:51,950 --> 00:13:54,350

There was a ghetto.

238

00:13:54,350 --> 00:14:00,230

We lived in the SS school
that was a big villa.

239

00:14:00,230 --> 00:14:06,890

And next, we had our
quarters, and we lived there.

240

00:14:06,890 --> 00:14:13,640

In order to take care of
the villa and all those,

241

00:14:13,640 --> 00:14:20,450

there were about 40
Ukraine national,

242

00:14:20,450 --> 00:14:23,480

who were trained to be SS.

243

00:14:23,480 --> 00:14:25,550

It was a regular SS school.

244

00:14:25,550 --> 00:14:30,110

245

00:14:30,110 --> 00:14:37,450

In November, the ghetto
was liquidated there,

246

00:14:37,450 --> 00:14:39,920

and that was the big Aktion day.

247

00:14:39,920 --> 00:14:46,000

They killed, shot a
lot of people there.

248

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:49,587

We dug the grave.

249

00:14:49,587 --> 00:14:50,920

What was the name of the ghetto?

250

00:14:50,920 --> 00:14:52,798

Was the ghetto
also called Rabka?

251

00:14:52,798 --> 00:14:53,590

Rabka ghetto, yeah.

252

00:14:53,590 --> 00:14:54,130

It was called Rabka ghetto.

253

00:14:54,130 --> 00:14:54,630

Yeah.

254

00:14:54,630 --> 00:14:55,450

Yes, Rabka.

255

00:14:55,450 --> 00:14:57,075

And how many people
were in the ghetto?

256

00:14:57,075 --> 00:14:58,705

Do you have any idea?

257

00:14:58,705 --> 00:15:06,280

Well, approximately 500,
700, but always changing

258

00:15:06,280 --> 00:15:12,260

because he took people so make
room for new ones to come.

259

00:15:12,260 --> 00:15:15,255

So the ghetto was
liquidated in November?

260

00:15:15,255 --> 00:15:15,755

In November.

261

00:15:15,755 --> 00:15:25,120

262

00:15:25,120 --> 00:15:29,380

This particular man, also, we--

263

00:15:29,380 --> 00:15:35,340

between-- there
were the two men who

264

00:15:35,340 --> 00:15:40,646
were named Rosenbaum from near.

265
00:15:40,646 --> 00:15:44,910
He brought them in
camp, and one, he shot.

266
00:15:44,910 --> 00:15:48,810
And the other, he hanged because
that beared the same name

267
00:15:48,810 --> 00:15:50,040
as the Lagerkommandant.

268
00:15:50,040 --> 00:15:53,100

269
00:15:53,100 --> 00:15:53,952
They were Jewish?

270
00:15:53,952 --> 00:15:54,660
They were Jewish.

271
00:15:54,660 --> 00:15:55,530
And his name was Rosenbaum.

272
00:15:55,530 --> 00:15:56,030
Rosenbaum.

273
00:15:56,030 --> 00:15:56,850
But he was not.

274
00:15:56,850 --> 00:15:57,510
He was not.

275
00:15:57,510 --> 00:16:01,440

276
00:16:01,440 --> 00:16:04,410
And he killed them because
their name was Rosenbaum.

277

00:16:04,410 --> 00:16:05,240

That's right.

278

00:16:05,240 --> 00:16:05,820

That's right.

279

00:16:05,820 --> 00:16:07,560

That's the only reason.

280

00:16:07,560 --> 00:16:12,690

They were strong
working people working--

281

00:16:12,690 --> 00:16:18,640

because we were told if you're
going to work and you produce,

282

00:16:18,640 --> 00:16:19,540

nothing will happen.

283

00:16:19,540 --> 00:16:23,190

284

00:16:23,190 --> 00:16:26,730

So why do you think
he killed them?

285

00:16:26,730 --> 00:16:32,670

Why he killed them-- because
the beared the same name as he

286

00:16:32,670 --> 00:16:33,990

has, you know, Rosenbaum.

287

00:16:33,990 --> 00:16:40,140

And Rosenbaum--
apparently he was ashamed

288

00:16:40,140 --> 00:16:44,390

that there's a Jewish
name Rosenbaum.

289

00:16:44,390 --> 00:16:44,890

Mm-hmm.

290

00:16:44,890 --> 00:16:51,740

291

00:16:51,740 --> 00:16:55,010

Shall I go chronological,
or just mention

292

00:16:55,010 --> 00:16:58,660

that I went to the to
the trial after he was--

293

00:16:58,660 --> 00:17:01,160

You can talk a little bit about
the trial, if you like, now.

294

00:17:01,160 --> 00:17:01,490

Yes.

295

00:17:01,490 --> 00:17:02,532

And then we'll come back.

296

00:17:02,532 --> 00:17:04,579

We'll go chronological.

297

00:17:04,579 --> 00:17:11,270

In 1967, and then
I received a letter

298

00:17:11,270 --> 00:17:20,030

from the German consulate that
a man by the name of Rosenbaum

299

00:17:20,030 --> 00:17:23,450

was living in Hamburg.

300

00:17:23,450 --> 00:17:30,650

And he was a commandant in
Rabka, where I was an inmate--

301

00:17:30,650 --> 00:17:33,740

if I am willing
to go to the trial

302

00:17:33,740 --> 00:17:38,480

to testify against him, because
when I came to the United

303

00:17:38,480 --> 00:17:45,170

States in 1947, I registered
with the German authorities,

304

00:17:45,170 --> 00:17:53,240

and I named all the
camps I was in custody

305

00:17:53,240 --> 00:17:58,910

and the name of the
commandants who were there.

306

00:17:58,910 --> 00:18:05,840

So I went to the German council.

307

00:18:05,840 --> 00:18:08,900

And I spoke with the
prosecutor who took the case

308

00:18:08,900 --> 00:18:12,790

to prosecute this Rosenbaum.

309

00:18:12,790 --> 00:18:17,920

He explained to me that
the man came after the war.

310

00:18:17,920 --> 00:18:22,330

His hometown was Hamburg,
and he lived there.

311

00:18:22,330 --> 00:18:24,970

And he came and
applied for a pension

312

00:18:24,970 --> 00:18:28,450
from the German
authorities, that he

313
00:18:28,450 --> 00:18:31,030
spent his time in the army.

314
00:18:31,030 --> 00:18:33,970

315
00:18:33,970 --> 00:18:37,390
And I remember distinctly,
the man, the prosecutor,

316
00:18:37,390 --> 00:18:41,320
mentioned-- and he
says, the man thought

317
00:18:41,320 --> 00:18:44,350
that he killed all
of you and there

318
00:18:44,350 --> 00:18:48,700
won't be any witnesses left
to testify against him,

319
00:18:48,700 --> 00:18:49,900
that there's nobody left.

320
00:18:49,900 --> 00:18:53,780

321
00:18:53,780 --> 00:18:58,360
In the first instance,
I hesitated a little bit

322
00:18:58,360 --> 00:19:07,880
to go to the trial because I was
afraid to bring all the wounds

323
00:19:07,880 --> 00:19:12,320
back and start all this thing.

324
00:19:12,320 --> 00:19:16,340
It was only 20 years--

325
00:19:16,340 --> 00:19:18,110
22 years after the war.

326
00:19:18,110 --> 00:19:21,180
And those days were
a little different.

327
00:19:21,180 --> 00:19:22,130
We tried to forget.

328
00:19:22,130 --> 00:19:25,430

329
00:19:25,430 --> 00:19:29,010
But I decided I have to go.

330
00:19:29,010 --> 00:19:31,300
There's not many left.

331
00:19:31,300 --> 00:19:34,510
There were four of us left--

332
00:19:34,510 --> 00:19:37,390
two in the United
States and two in Israel

333
00:19:37,390 --> 00:19:39,640
when we met them in Hamburg.

334
00:19:39,640 --> 00:19:44,570
The trial, I have to say,
was conducted very much--

335
00:19:44,570 --> 00:19:45,610
very nice.

336
00:19:45,610 --> 00:19:50,960

337
00:19:50,960 --> 00:19:53,480
I was a little skeptical
that the German government

338
00:19:53,480 --> 00:20:05,780
will really try it, to bring
him to justice for what he did.

339
00:20:05,780 --> 00:20:11,870
But the prosecutor
really did his job,

340
00:20:11,870 --> 00:20:17,910
and the man was sentenced
to life in prison.

341
00:20:17,910 --> 00:20:22,790
But I found out that the man,
two years ago, was released

342
00:20:22,790 --> 00:20:26,480
on a kind of bad health.

343
00:20:26,480 --> 00:20:31,580
But at least the satisfaction
I had that I have seen,

344
00:20:31,580 --> 00:20:43,340
and he did not kill everyone
as he thought that he will.

345
00:20:43,340 --> 00:20:45,600
There are some
survivors from him.

346
00:20:45,600 --> 00:20:48,740

347
00:20:48,740 --> 00:20:51,600
I have been in the bigger camps.

348

00:20:51,600 --> 00:20:53,630

Let me ask you a
question about the trial.

349

00:20:53,630 --> 00:20:54,410

Yes.

350

00:20:54,410 --> 00:20:56,210

First of all, how
long was the trial?

351

00:20:56,210 --> 00:20:58,760

The trial lasted about a week.

352

00:20:58,760 --> 00:21:01,290

Did you know the other people
who testified against him?

353

00:21:01,290 --> 00:21:03,540

Did you remember them or
were they at different times?

354

00:21:03,540 --> 00:21:04,850

Oh, yes, yes, yes, yes.

355

00:21:04,850 --> 00:21:07,860

I knew every one of
them because as I say,

356

00:21:07,860 --> 00:21:09,770

that was a small group.

357

00:21:09,770 --> 00:21:13,550

We originally went
there 100 young men.

358

00:21:13,550 --> 00:21:17,690

10 were killed immediately,
so there was only 90 left.

359

00:21:17,690 --> 00:21:24,340

And it's about
four still living--

360
00:21:24,340 --> 00:21:27,030
two in the United States
and two in Israel.

361
00:21:27,030 --> 00:21:29,150
And you have seen these
other people [INAUDIBLE]??

362
00:21:29,150 --> 00:21:30,360
Yes, I have seen.

363
00:21:30,360 --> 00:21:31,280
I have, yes.

364
00:21:31,280 --> 00:21:38,770

365
00:21:38,770 --> 00:21:42,850
Maybe this is more vivid in
my mind than anything else,

366
00:21:42,850 --> 00:21:48,850
although in the other camps,
there were more people killed.

367
00:21:48,850 --> 00:21:56,050
But this was small, on a
smaller scale, the camp.

368
00:21:56,050 --> 00:22:04,800
And it was more or less
direct cruelty between.

369
00:22:04,800 --> 00:22:09,760
We have seen him 24 hours a
day, day and night, the man,

370
00:22:09,760 --> 00:22:13,930
because his windows were
only like from here to there.

371

00:22:13,930 --> 00:22:15,440

We have seen him.

372

00:22:15,440 --> 00:22:20,990

Any time during the night, when
he couldn't sleep, he got up.

373

00:22:20,990 --> 00:22:27,530

He called everybody down,
and he had a dog with him,

374

00:22:27,530 --> 00:22:29,660

and he had this
famous reitpeitsche.

375

00:22:29,660 --> 00:22:31,080

That's a--

376

00:22:31,080 --> 00:22:31,580

Whip?

377

00:22:31,580 --> 00:22:32,080

--whip.

378

00:22:32,080 --> 00:22:34,690

379

00:22:34,690 --> 00:22:44,525

And he found different
ways to be cruel.

380

00:22:44,525 --> 00:22:49,210

Did anybody ever try
to resist in the camp?

381

00:22:49,210 --> 00:22:50,080

It was impossible?

382

00:22:50,080 --> 00:22:53,570

Did anybody ever try to escape?

383

00:22:53,570 --> 00:22:54,470

Try to escape?

384

00:22:54,470 --> 00:22:54,970

Yes.

385

00:22:54,970 --> 00:23:01,300

Seven men one day escaped.

386

00:23:01,300 --> 00:23:06,730

One-- one is only
alive from the seven.

387

00:23:06,730 --> 00:23:09,910

And he happened to
marry my cousin.

388

00:23:09,910 --> 00:23:12,190

And I'm very close with him.

389

00:23:12,190 --> 00:23:14,770

He lives in Israel.

390

00:23:14,770 --> 00:23:20,560

Six-- that lived through
all of them through the war.

391

00:23:20,560 --> 00:23:23,440

After the war, they
came back to Poland,

392

00:23:23,440 --> 00:23:25,480

and they were killed by Poles.

393

00:23:25,480 --> 00:23:28,000

394

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:29,250

Only this one man--

395

00:23:29,250 --> 00:23:32,770

396

00:23:32,770 --> 00:23:41,330

he knew that after
the war ended,

397

00:23:41,330 --> 00:23:45,920

that Poles were
always antisemitic.

398

00:23:45,920 --> 00:23:48,260

And he had a gun with him.

399

00:23:48,260 --> 00:23:53,740

And as he told me, he
slept with the gun,

400

00:23:53,740 --> 00:23:55,880

and he had a dog with him.

401

00:23:55,880 --> 00:24:02,700

And when they came to kill him,
the dog barked and woke him up,

402

00:24:02,700 --> 00:24:05,640

and he killed those
Poles who tried--

403

00:24:05,640 --> 00:24:08,050

and then he went to Israel.

404

00:24:08,050 --> 00:24:10,530

He didn't spend any time.

405

00:24:10,530 --> 00:24:15,840

So the question many
times other people

406

00:24:15,840 --> 00:24:18,060

ask me-- did anybody
try to escape?

407

00:24:18,060 --> 00:24:20,880

408
00:24:20,880 --> 00:24:23,580
I really cannot say.

409
00:24:23,580 --> 00:24:30,770
I cannot feeling any bad
about those seven who escape.

410
00:24:30,770 --> 00:24:34,130
But for every one--

411
00:24:34,130 --> 00:24:38,440
that seven who escaped--

412
00:24:38,440 --> 00:24:40,435
that took and hanged--

413
00:24:40,435 --> 00:24:43,980

414
00:24:43,980 --> 00:24:47,440
35 people were hanged for those.

415
00:24:47,440 --> 00:24:51,220
We supposed to watch
each other, and one

416
00:24:51,220 --> 00:24:53,200
is responsible for the other.

417
00:24:53,200 --> 00:24:58,183
And was there an active
discussion amongst yourself--

418
00:24:58,183 --> 00:25:00,100
you know what's going
to happen if you escape.

419
00:25:00,100 --> 00:25:01,770
If you escape, we're
going get killed.

420

00:25:01,770 --> 00:25:02,995

We got killed, yes.

421

00:25:02,995 --> 00:25:06,500

Did people try to prevent
other people from escaping?

422

00:25:06,500 --> 00:25:08,750

Yes, we tried to prevent.

423

00:25:08,750 --> 00:25:16,430

I mean, On hindsight
it's difficult to say.

424

00:25:16,430 --> 00:25:23,510

I, for myself, I could not take
on my conscience somebody else

425

00:25:23,510 --> 00:25:25,490

that'd be responsible for me.

426

00:25:25,490 --> 00:25:27,530

And not only that.

427

00:25:27,530 --> 00:25:33,340

It is hard to imagine escape.

428

00:25:33,340 --> 00:25:36,880

Escape where?

429

00:25:36,880 --> 00:25:40,000

Poland was occupied
by the Germans.

430

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:44,880

431

00:25:44,880 --> 00:25:49,510

You go live in a forest,
how long can you live?

432

00:25:49,510 --> 00:25:52,340

433

00:25:52,340 --> 00:25:54,770

We hoped that the war
will not last so long.

434

00:25:54,770 --> 00:26:02,320

But I can only say one thing.

435

00:26:02,320 --> 00:26:06,370

If knowing what
I know, I still--

436

00:26:06,370 --> 00:26:08,800

if this would happen
again, I still

437

00:26:08,800 --> 00:26:11,650

would not try to
escape because--

438

00:26:11,650 --> 00:26:18,990

it's not the cowardness, but if
you have a chance, if there is

439

00:26:18,990 --> 00:26:22,860

a slight chance, you're trying.

440

00:26:22,860 --> 00:26:30,350

But it's people, your friends,
are responsible for you.

441

00:26:30,350 --> 00:26:36,090

If you escape, they're going
to be paying, brutalized.

442

00:26:36,090 --> 00:26:42,650

And then you still don't have
no chance to live through.

443

00:26:42,650 --> 00:26:45,590

444

00:26:45,590 --> 00:26:49,040

Quite honestly, I cannot say.

445

00:26:49,040 --> 00:26:54,020

Many people say, well,
I escaped, I escaped.

446

00:26:54,020 --> 00:26:56,030

But if you really--

447

00:26:56,030 --> 00:26:58,580

if I talk with them, then--

448

00:26:58,580 --> 00:27:01,170

449

00:27:01,170 --> 00:27:05,130

like this friend of mine, the
cousin who married cousin--

450

00:27:05,130 --> 00:27:11,970

he lived-- His father also
had a long [NON-ENGLISH] in--

451

00:27:11,970 --> 00:27:12,987

I knew him from home.

452

00:27:12,987 --> 00:27:14,070

I went to school with him.

453

00:27:14,070 --> 00:27:16,710

454

00:27:16,710 --> 00:27:20,910

He lived for three years.

455

00:27:20,910 --> 00:27:26,160

He dug a hole in the
ground and lived there.

456

00:27:26,160 --> 00:27:30,090
And he told me
that many times, he

457
00:27:30,090 --> 00:27:35,800
wanted to kill
himself because food--

458
00:27:35,800 --> 00:27:37,900
he stole the food
from the peasants

459
00:27:37,900 --> 00:27:40,690
because in the
villages, in some,

460
00:27:40,690 --> 00:27:44,180
you have fruit in the
fields, so he stole it.

461
00:27:44,180 --> 00:27:47,710
But to live by yourself
for so many years--

462
00:27:47,710 --> 00:27:50,940
and he is not well right now.

463
00:27:50,940 --> 00:27:55,780
So I don't know.

464
00:27:55,780 --> 00:27:58,960

465
00:27:58,960 --> 00:28:05,230
Let me take you back
to December in 1940.

466
00:28:05,230 --> 00:28:06,880
Is that when you left Rabka?

467
00:28:06,880 --> 00:28:10,805
I was sent from Rabka to
Krakow, Krakow-Plaszow.

468
00:28:10,805 --> 00:28:14,250

469
00:28:14,250 --> 00:28:17,295
First, it was a ghetto.

470
00:28:17,295 --> 00:28:18,420
So you lived in the ghetto?

471
00:28:18,420 --> 00:28:21,060

472
00:28:21,060 --> 00:28:22,350
Yes.

473
00:28:22,350 --> 00:28:26,070
We live in the ghetto
for a very short time.

474
00:28:26,070 --> 00:28:32,070
We were there because we
had the experience with SS

475
00:28:32,070 --> 00:28:35,360
how to build their barracks
and all those things.

476
00:28:35,360 --> 00:28:38,010

477
00:28:38,010 --> 00:28:39,960
I was on the second transport.

478
00:28:39,960 --> 00:28:43,590
Old Rabka was evacuated
to Krakow eventually.

479
00:28:43,590 --> 00:28:46,660
We prepared the camps.

480

00:28:46,660 --> 00:28:49,500
The German authority
knew that they were going

481
00:28:49,500 --> 00:28:51,900
to build a camp in Krakow.

482
00:28:51,900 --> 00:28:53,760
And we
[? were the vanguard ?] there.

483
00:28:53,760 --> 00:28:55,500
We built the camp.

484
00:28:55,500 --> 00:29:00,540

485
00:29:00,540 --> 00:29:04,640
We came to live in the
ghetto for a very short time.

486
00:29:04,640 --> 00:29:08,270

487
00:29:08,270 --> 00:29:11,870
I lived there for
about only two months,

488
00:29:11,870 --> 00:29:18,730
and then we were moved to the
place where we built the camp.

489
00:29:18,730 --> 00:29:21,430

490
00:29:21,430 --> 00:29:28,960
Originally, it was
only about 200 inmates.

491
00:29:28,960 --> 00:29:31,180
We built the barracks.

492

00:29:31,180 --> 00:29:33,010

What was the name of that camp?

493

00:29:33,010 --> 00:29:35,500

Krakow-Plaszow.

494

00:29:35,500 --> 00:29:36,460

OK, I'm sorry.

495

00:29:36,460 --> 00:29:38,500

You said for two months,
you were in the--

496

00:29:38,500 --> 00:29:39,910

Krakow Ghetto.

497

00:29:39,910 --> 00:29:40,480

Right.

498

00:29:40,480 --> 00:29:41,500

OK.

499

00:29:41,500 --> 00:29:43,720

And then after the
two months, you--

500

00:29:43,720 --> 00:29:49,450

We walked every day from
the ghetto to, oh, about 3,

501

00:29:49,450 --> 00:29:52,540

4 kilometers to the place.

502

00:29:52,540 --> 00:29:53,260

To Płaszów.

503

00:29:53,260 --> 00:29:55,210

To Płaszów.

504

00:29:55,210 --> 00:29:59,920

Eventually, we built a couple
barracks for ourselves.

505
00:29:59,920 --> 00:30:03,820
And then we lived there
and built barracks

506
00:30:03,820 --> 00:30:05,050
for the future camp.

507
00:30:05,050 --> 00:30:09,300

508
00:30:09,300 --> 00:30:20,680
In the high times, where
PÅ,aszÃ³w was really a big--

509
00:30:20,680 --> 00:30:29,310
It was a work camp also because
they had three designations

510
00:30:29,310 --> 00:30:30,720
at work camp.

511
00:30:30,720 --> 00:30:39,490
And, like, Auschwitz was
a [NON-ENGLISH] camp.

512
00:30:39,490 --> 00:30:45,110
In PÅ,aszÃ³w I spent
one and a half years.

513
00:30:45,110 --> 00:30:48,672

514
00:30:48,672 --> 00:30:51,130
Can you describe what took
place during the year and a half

515
00:30:51,130 --> 00:30:51,690
in PÅ,aszÃ³w?

516
00:30:51,690 --> 00:30:55,410

517
00:30:55,410 --> 00:30:58,680
We built the camp up.

518
00:30:58,680 --> 00:31:03,380
Right now, I'm in construction,
and I built houses.

519
00:31:03,380 --> 00:31:08,850

520
00:31:08,850 --> 00:31:12,660
When we dig foundation,
there's a shovel, a big shovel,

521
00:31:12,660 --> 00:31:14,550
that's there.

522
00:31:14,550 --> 00:31:19,590
And in the beginning, I had a
very hard time to adjust to it

523
00:31:19,590 --> 00:31:25,850
because the shovel was killing
people and burying people

524
00:31:25,850 --> 00:31:27,380
in PÅ,asZÅ³w.

525
00:31:27,380 --> 00:31:31,400
That's how this
particular Lagerkommandant

526
00:31:31,400 --> 00:31:36,181
decides that's the
easiest way to destroy.

527
00:31:36,181 --> 00:31:42,560
We worked, and the shovel
came, and dig a big hole,

528
00:31:42,560 --> 00:31:47,690

and pushed people, just alive
or half dead, whatever it was.

529
00:31:47,690 --> 00:31:58,100

530
00:31:58,100 --> 00:32:06,463
In PÅ,aszÃ³w, I mostly worked
with the carpenters to build

531
00:32:06,463 --> 00:32:07,005
the barracks.

532
00:32:07,005 --> 00:32:13,370

533
00:32:13,370 --> 00:32:16,470
There was a night and day shift.

534
00:32:16,470 --> 00:32:20,670
If you worked on the day
shift, you were more secure.

535
00:32:20,670 --> 00:32:22,430
You knew that you're
staying there.

536
00:32:22,430 --> 00:32:28,540

537
00:32:28,540 --> 00:32:32,290
I don't feel there's too
much point on those describe,

538
00:32:32,290 --> 00:32:38,740
because every camp is
the same situation.

539
00:32:38,740 --> 00:32:47,240
We worked there, and I did
not find that the work was

540

00:32:47,240 --> 00:32:48,640
any useful either.

541
00:32:48,640 --> 00:32:53,650
We just built barracks
to bring more people who

542
00:32:53,650 --> 00:32:57,100
eventually were killed anyway.

543
00:32:57,100 --> 00:33:03,400
So we did not create
anything, constructed.

544
00:33:03,400 --> 00:33:06,340
In Auschwitz-- I mean,
I'm going through--

545
00:33:06,340 --> 00:33:09,972
in Krakow--

546
00:33:09,972 --> 00:33:12,430
Did you know what had happened
to your family at this time?

547
00:33:12,430 --> 00:33:13,840
Yes.

548
00:33:13,840 --> 00:33:20,140
We had communication
because, we, in Krakow--

549
00:33:20,140 --> 00:33:23,290
I knew already in Rabka.

550
00:33:23,290 --> 00:33:29,860
We had worked with Poles who
were masons, bricklayers,

551
00:33:29,860 --> 00:33:31,420
and all those things.

552

00:33:31,420 --> 00:33:37,810
And for money, they
went to the places

553
00:33:37,810 --> 00:33:46,510
from where we came and tried
to discover what happened.

554
00:33:46,510 --> 00:33:52,530
According to their
report, my parents

555
00:33:52,530 --> 00:33:55,350
were taken to Treblinka.

556
00:33:55,350 --> 00:34:02,250
That was a camp where,
just from Ghetto--

557
00:34:02,250 --> 00:34:06,150
eventually, the old Jews were
put in one ghetto someplace--

558
00:34:06,150 --> 00:34:08,110
[PLACE NAME] and
Krakow or whatever.

559
00:34:08,110 --> 00:34:09,400
I didn't see them in Krakow.

560
00:34:09,400 --> 00:34:13,139
It is very possible that maybe
my parents were in Krakow

561
00:34:13,139 --> 00:34:17,580
because it was too many
people, and I did not

562
00:34:17,580 --> 00:34:21,989
have no chance to search.

563
00:34:21,989 --> 00:34:23,370
We did the best we could.

564
00:34:23,370 --> 00:34:27,480

565
00:34:27,480 --> 00:34:29,739
Well, I'm rambling
back and forth.

566
00:34:29,739 --> 00:34:33,270
Now, you were told
that your parents

567
00:34:33,270 --> 00:34:35,250
had been taken to Treblinka.

568
00:34:35,250 --> 00:34:37,230
And I know what Treblinka was.

569
00:34:37,230 --> 00:34:38,460
And your sisters and brother?

570
00:34:38,460 --> 00:34:40,650
Everybody.

571
00:34:40,650 --> 00:34:45,420
Either they came to Treblinka,
or they died in the transport

572
00:34:45,420 --> 00:34:48,923
to Treblinka, but they
were taken to Treblinka.

573
00:34:48,923 --> 00:34:54,909

574
00:34:54,909 --> 00:35:06,770
From PÅ,aszÃ³w, in December,
it was, I think, '41 or '42--

575
00:35:06,770 --> 00:35:09,050
it's not clear to me--

576

00:35:09,050 --> 00:35:15,620

I was taken to Auschwitz, again,
as a specialist in building.

577

00:35:15,620 --> 00:35:20,060

578

00:35:20,060 --> 00:35:22,640

To my knowledge,
no other transport

579

00:35:22,640 --> 00:35:25,430

came to Auschwitz
directly to Auschwitz.

580

00:35:25,430 --> 00:35:27,020

We came directly to Auschwitz.

581

00:35:27,020 --> 00:35:29,720

All other transport
from any place else

582

00:35:29,720 --> 00:35:35,180

came to Birkenau, where,
in Birkenau, was selection.

583

00:35:35,180 --> 00:35:41,150

People who were healthy went
to work in certain designated

584

00:35:41,150 --> 00:35:43,130

places.

585

00:35:43,130 --> 00:35:46,400

This Krakow transport
of carpenters

586

00:35:46,400 --> 00:35:53,030

were taken directly to
[INAUDIBLE] Auschwitz.

587

00:35:53,030 --> 00:35:55,790

And we were tattooed
and went back

588
00:35:55,790 --> 00:35:59,870
and went immediately in
three days back to work.

589
00:35:59,870 --> 00:36:04,040

590
00:36:04,040 --> 00:36:07,420
How large was this
transport of carpenters?

591
00:36:07,420 --> 00:36:09,470
200.

592
00:36:09,470 --> 00:36:11,060
Small transport-- pretty small.

593
00:36:11,060 --> 00:36:16,040

594
00:36:16,040 --> 00:36:17,300
When you got to Auschwitz--

595
00:36:17,300 --> 00:36:22,700
When we got to Auschwitz,
that's the first time

596
00:36:22,700 --> 00:36:23,930
we heard about it.

597
00:36:23,930 --> 00:36:37,060
We got the-- taking the
clothes, went showers,

598
00:36:37,060 --> 00:36:39,970
shave our heads and
everything else, tattoo,

599
00:36:39,970 --> 00:36:44,180

and gave us the striped clothes.

600

00:36:44,180 --> 00:36:48,410

Because in the other camps we
wore civilian clothes, just

601

00:36:48,410 --> 00:36:49,580

with the yellow stripes.

602

00:36:49,580 --> 00:36:55,470

603

00:36:55,470 --> 00:36:58,495

That's where my luck
changed, in Auschwitz.

604

00:36:58,495 --> 00:37:01,020

605

00:37:01,020 --> 00:37:08,850

That's why I survived, because
I met a young Polish man

606

00:37:08,850 --> 00:37:12,930

from the same village as I
was, went to school with him.

607

00:37:12,930 --> 00:37:17,760

And he was there to
block [? Schreiber. ?]

608

00:37:17,760 --> 00:37:19,020

He was there for a long time.

609

00:37:19,020 --> 00:37:20,350

He was a political--

610

00:37:20,350 --> 00:37:21,390

Political prisoner.

611

00:37:21,390 --> 00:37:22,440

--political prisoner.

612
00:37:22,440 --> 00:37:28,790
s And he helped me a lot
because I was already ready to,

613
00:37:28,790 --> 00:37:29,490
you know.

614
00:37:29,490 --> 00:37:34,430

615
00:37:34,430 --> 00:37:37,140
Auschwitz-- I don't
have to describe.

616
00:37:37,140 --> 00:37:39,380
Everybody knows Auschwitz was.

617
00:37:39,380 --> 00:37:44,370
But I worked in the center camp.

618
00:37:44,370 --> 00:37:46,460
I didn't go out from camp.

619
00:37:46,460 --> 00:37:49,380
I work there.

620
00:37:49,380 --> 00:37:50,370
I had enough food.

621
00:37:50,370 --> 00:37:55,600

622
00:37:55,600 --> 00:37:58,000
That's because of your
special relationship to this--

623
00:37:58,000 --> 00:37:59,710
To this man, yes.

624
00:37:59,710 --> 00:38:01,990

Any other carpenters,
for example, did--

625
00:38:01,990 --> 00:38:04,330
Well, the carpenters work.

626
00:38:04,330 --> 00:38:08,440
Everybody found
somebody who tried to--

627
00:38:08,440 --> 00:38:17,570
see, because the transport
came directly to Auschwitz

628
00:38:17,570 --> 00:38:24,930
and we were not
in Birkenau there,

629
00:38:24,930 --> 00:38:32,070
as new transport came and the
selection, all those things.

630
00:38:32,070 --> 00:38:38,180
So we were brought immediately
to work and to help.

631
00:38:38,180 --> 00:38:39,230
I got there.

632
00:38:39,230 --> 00:38:47,470
And, you know,
it's also to the--

633
00:38:47,470 --> 00:38:51,450
the longer you're in camp,
you know what to look for.

634
00:38:51,450 --> 00:38:54,990
People who did not know
what to look for, what--

635
00:38:54,990 --> 00:38:59,880
there are always

certain things--

636

00:38:59,880 --> 00:39:04,290
if you don't know what to look
for, then you're in danger.

637

00:39:04,290 --> 00:39:10,200
And this particular man helped
me a lot because many times,

638

00:39:10,200 --> 00:39:15,390
if I didn't feel good,
I stood in the barrack,

639

00:39:15,390 --> 00:39:20,580
and he was in charge of
them, of this whole unit.

640

00:39:20,580 --> 00:39:27,770

641

00:39:27,770 --> 00:39:34,640
In December, again--
happens, like always--

642

00:39:34,640 --> 00:39:36,770
Auschwitz was evacuated.

643

00:39:36,770 --> 00:39:39,590
In 1940--

644

00:39:39,590 --> 00:39:41,450
In 1944.

645

00:39:41,450 --> 00:39:43,490
So you were in Auschwitz from--

646

00:39:43,490 --> 00:39:44,240
Two years.

647

00:39:44,240 --> 00:39:44,790
Two years.

648
00:39:44,790 --> 00:39:45,290
Yes.

649
00:39:45,290 --> 00:39:53,750

650
00:39:53,750 --> 00:40:01,355
In '42, the Russian army
was very close to Auschwitz.

651
00:40:01,355 --> 00:40:04,470

652
00:40:04,470 --> 00:40:17,020
And the authorities felt that
won't be very good for them

653
00:40:17,020 --> 00:40:19,720
to leave the camp
intact, so they

654
00:40:19,720 --> 00:40:23,890
start to evacuate the
camp, take all the inmates,

655
00:40:23,890 --> 00:40:27,685
and we march from
Auschwitz to Gleiwitz.

656
00:40:27,685 --> 00:40:34,970

657
00:40:34,970 --> 00:40:38,120
I know whoever's going
to listen to this--

658
00:40:38,120 --> 00:40:40,700
because I don't believe
myself that it's possible--

659
00:40:40,700 --> 00:40:41,360

Tell me again.

660

00:40:41,360 --> 00:40:44,620

This is December, 1940--

661

00:40:44,620 --> 00:40:46,274

'42 or '44.

662

00:40:46,274 --> 00:40:47,250

'44.

663

00:40:47,250 --> 00:40:47,750

'44.

664

00:40:47,750 --> 00:40:51,490

665

00:40:51,490 --> 00:40:53,670

The Russians came to the camp.

666

00:40:53,670 --> 00:40:54,730

Well, near the camp.

667

00:40:54,730 --> 00:41:02,980

We had many, many times in
the [INAUDIBLE] and all.

668

00:41:02,980 --> 00:41:06,760

So the German authorities
felt that would be the best

669

00:41:06,760 --> 00:41:08,960

thing-- to evacuate the camp.

670

00:41:08,960 --> 00:41:11,860

So the Germans left?

671

00:41:11,860 --> 00:41:15,610

The Germans marched with
us because they could not

672

00:41:15,610 --> 00:41:17,270
let us go by ourselves.

673
00:41:17,270 --> 00:41:17,770
Correct.

674
00:41:17,770 --> 00:41:20,830

675
00:41:20,830 --> 00:41:22,720
Still, it's hard
for me to believe--

676
00:41:22,720 --> 00:41:25,450
and I don't think anybody
else can believe it--

677
00:41:25,450 --> 00:41:27,760
that for seven days
and seven nights,

678
00:41:27,760 --> 00:41:34,060
it is possible to walk
without food, just

679
00:41:34,060 --> 00:41:41,250
to have snow, lick the snow
and survive a march like this.

680
00:41:41,250 --> 00:41:45,160
But I'm here, so apparently.

681
00:41:45,160 --> 00:41:50,890
We came to Gleiwitz, and
we were put on the trains

682
00:41:50,890 --> 00:41:53,230
and put to Buchenwald.

683
00:41:53,230 --> 00:41:56,310

684

00:41:56,310 --> 00:42:00,720
I arrived in Buchenwald
someplace in December.

685
00:42:00,720 --> 00:42:05,165
I was immediately taken
to the so-called hospital.

686
00:42:05,165 --> 00:42:10,010

687
00:42:10,010 --> 00:42:12,170
Do you have any idea how
many people were on the--

688
00:42:12,170 --> 00:42:13,520
How many people arrived?

689
00:42:13,520 --> 00:42:16,235
--were on that march for
seven days and seven nights?

690
00:42:16,235 --> 00:42:19,380

691
00:42:19,380 --> 00:42:23,280
On this particular march,
there were thousands of people.

692
00:42:23,280 --> 00:42:29,730
We have just seen every
few feet, people dropping,

693
00:42:29,730 --> 00:42:31,610
and they were shot or whatever.

694
00:42:31,610 --> 00:42:41,300

695
00:42:41,300 --> 00:42:50,350
I don't know how long I was
in the hospital in Buchenwald,

696

00:42:50,350 --> 00:42:58,840

but I know it was winter, and
it was January or February.

697

00:42:58,840 --> 00:43:02,170

I was released
from the hospital.

698

00:43:02,170 --> 00:43:07,645

And Buchenwald, in this
time, was already--

699

00:43:07,645 --> 00:43:11,290

700

00:43:11,290 --> 00:43:12,460

we didn't do anything.

701

00:43:12,460 --> 00:43:14,780

We were not required
to do anything.

702

00:43:14,780 --> 00:43:21,070

It was just that brought people
from all over, and just masses

703

00:43:21,070 --> 00:43:22,130

of people.

704

00:43:22,130 --> 00:43:25,660

Buchenwald was the old camp,
and they built a new camp.

705

00:43:25,660 --> 00:43:27,100

We were in the old camp.

706

00:43:27,100 --> 00:43:35,280

In the old camp, the
French ruled the camp--

707

00:43:35,280 --> 00:43:39,590

because every camp, like

Auschwitz was a Polish camp.

708

00:43:39,590 --> 00:43:43,610

The Poles, the political
Poles, have the power

709

00:43:43,610 --> 00:43:47,420

there with the
Germans, naturally.

710

00:43:47,420 --> 00:43:51,940

Buchenwald was a German camp--

711

00:43:51,940 --> 00:43:53,020

I mean a French camp.

712

00:43:53,020 --> 00:43:59,800

713

00:43:59,800 --> 00:44:02,770

I don't know what
the reason is, but I

714

00:44:02,770 --> 00:44:09,220

suspect that all the camps where
the most people were killed

715

00:44:09,220 --> 00:44:17,910

was on the Polish territory
because in Auschwitz, in one

716

00:44:17,910 --> 00:44:21,000

day, there were
more people killed

717

00:44:21,000 --> 00:44:25,650

than, let's say, in Buchenwald
or Mauthausen in one month.

718

00:44:25,650 --> 00:44:28,290

719

00:44:28,290 --> 00:44:37,610

So apparently, the Germans knew
that on a Polish territory,

720

00:44:37,610 --> 00:44:45,920

with the Poles, they can
handle much easier the--

721

00:44:45,920 --> 00:44:46,760

how should I say?

722

00:44:46,760 --> 00:44:49,610

Secrecy, what's going on
in camp, or whatever it is.

723

00:44:49,610 --> 00:44:55,540

724

00:44:55,540 --> 00:44:57,910

What happened to your Polish
friend from Auschwitz?

725

00:44:57,910 --> 00:44:59,830

Did he go with you on
the march to Buchenwald?

726

00:44:59,830 --> 00:45:00,730

No.

727

00:45:00,730 --> 00:45:01,525

No.

728

00:45:01,525 --> 00:45:02,650

Did you ever see him again?

729

00:45:02,650 --> 00:45:03,280

No.

730

00:45:03,280 --> 00:45:04,160

He's dead.

731

00:45:04,160 --> 00:45:07,260

He was killed in Auschwitz.

732
00:45:07,260 --> 00:45:09,480
Apparently, what he tried--

733
00:45:09,480 --> 00:45:10,740
he was there for a long time.

734
00:45:10,740 --> 00:45:13,170
He was there from '39.

735
00:45:13,170 --> 00:45:18,615
Sometimes, as I tried
to say to you before,

736
00:45:18,615 --> 00:45:20,040
the longer you're
in camp, you're

737
00:45:20,040 --> 00:45:23,670
trying to know everything.

738
00:45:23,670 --> 00:45:28,470
I mean, he was Polish, and he
saw that the Russians are near.

739
00:45:28,470 --> 00:45:35,190
Apparently, he tried to go back
home or go to the underground.

740
00:45:35,190 --> 00:45:38,050
But that is the first time.

741
00:45:38,050 --> 00:45:41,610
First thing after
I was liberated,

742
00:45:41,610 --> 00:45:46,590
I wrote a letter to
the town to inquire.

743
00:45:46,590 --> 00:45:47,520

I inquired.

744

00:45:47,520 --> 00:45:53,100

It was liberated in the
11th of April in 1945.

745

00:45:53,100 --> 00:45:56,610

And I received
from his parents--

746

00:45:56,610 --> 00:46:01,460

sometimes he mailed a letter
to Switzerland that he--

747

00:46:01,460 --> 00:46:06,306

they don't know when, but he
never came back from Auschwitz.

748

00:46:06,306 --> 00:46:12,140

749

00:46:12,140 --> 00:46:17,030

You were in Buchenwald from
December, January 1944--

750

00:46:17,030 --> 00:46:18,470

To April.

751

00:46:18,470 --> 00:46:19,590

Through April.

752

00:46:19,590 --> 00:46:20,090

Yeah.

753

00:46:20,090 --> 00:46:23,700

And you were in the infirmary,
you said, till January.

754

00:46:23,700 --> 00:46:24,200

Yes

755

00:46:24,200 --> 00:46:27,980

--February-- OK--

756
00:46:27,980 --> 00:46:29,720
March, April.

757
00:46:29,720 --> 00:46:33,380
And when you got out of
the infirmary, you just--

758
00:46:33,380 --> 00:46:35,120
Just wandered around the camp.

759
00:46:35,120 --> 00:46:35,990
There was no work.

760
00:46:35,990 --> 00:46:36,800
There was nothing.

761
00:46:36,800 --> 00:46:41,930
Just we were given, every day,
a ration of bread and a soup.

762
00:46:41,930 --> 00:46:43,490
And there was nothing.

763
00:46:43,490 --> 00:46:46,630

764
00:46:46,630 --> 00:46:54,190
Almost to the end,
in April, we knew

765
00:46:54,190 --> 00:46:59,095
that the either English or
American army are close.

766
00:46:59,095 --> 00:47:02,020

767
00:47:02,020 --> 00:47:16,220
And I was on the block,
the barrack for young boys.

768
00:47:16,220 --> 00:47:19,250

769
00:47:19,250 --> 00:47:22,820
The block became very
famous now after the war

770
00:47:22,820 --> 00:47:26,470
because Elie Wiesel was
on the same block with me.

771
00:47:26,470 --> 00:47:30,770

772
00:47:30,770 --> 00:47:31,943
Did you know him then?

773
00:47:31,943 --> 00:47:32,690
Then?

774
00:47:32,690 --> 00:47:33,900
No.

775
00:47:33,900 --> 00:47:34,400
No.

776
00:47:34,400 --> 00:47:37,500

777
00:47:37,500 --> 00:47:41,150
First time I knew
about Elie Wiesel

778
00:47:41,150 --> 00:47:45,080
when he wrote the book Night.

779
00:47:45,080 --> 00:47:48,380
And he speaks there
about the camp, when

780

00:47:48,380 --> 00:47:53,540
he came to Buchenwald,
how his father dies,

781
00:47:53,540 --> 00:47:56,675
and he's on the young boys--

782
00:47:56,675 --> 00:48:02,270

783
00:48:02,270 --> 00:48:05,030
lager-- I mean, the block.

784
00:48:05,030 --> 00:48:06,860
And he didn't speak
very favorably

785
00:48:06,860 --> 00:48:09,110
about the man who
was in charge there.

786
00:48:09,110 --> 00:48:11,330
His name was Gustav.

787
00:48:11,330 --> 00:48:16,890
So the first time I
met Elie, I asked him

788
00:48:16,890 --> 00:48:20,130
because I thought that
he did an injustice,

789
00:48:20,130 --> 00:48:23,790
put him in a very
unfavorable thing.

790
00:48:23,790 --> 00:48:24,540
Gustav?

791
00:48:24,540 --> 00:48:26,472
Gustav, yes.

792

00:48:26,472 --> 00:48:34,620

So after many years, Elie
got a little bit wiser.

793

00:48:34,620 --> 00:48:38,370

And he says he tried
Gustav is dead now too.

794

00:48:38,370 --> 00:48:41,890

He tried to contact Gustav
too-- he was in France--

795

00:48:41,890 --> 00:48:44,310

Elie was in France too--

796

00:48:44,310 --> 00:48:52,120

and tried to because,
you know, sometimes, we

797

00:48:52,120 --> 00:48:59,290

judge people a little
harshly, our people.

798

00:48:59,290 --> 00:49:00,370

Who was Gustav?

799

00:49:00,370 --> 00:49:07,460

Gustav was a Jew from France who
were in camp for a long time.

800

00:49:07,460 --> 00:49:11,770

And he was the same thing
as my Polish friend,

801

00:49:11,770 --> 00:49:17,020

a Blockälteste or Blockschreiber
on the camp, on the block.

802

00:49:17,020 --> 00:49:19,940

He was in charge of the block.

803

00:49:19,940 --> 00:49:24,040

If there was anything wrong,

the Germans came to him,

804

00:49:24,040 --> 00:49:26,590

and he was responsible
that every day,

805

00:49:26,590 --> 00:49:31,100

if there were 700 kids there,
that the 700 children stand

806

00:49:31,100 --> 00:49:33,070

there on the upper plot.

807

00:49:33,070 --> 00:49:37,810

And if there are some sick,
sometimes they take his word

808

00:49:37,810 --> 00:49:40,600

that they're sick, and sometimes
they went on the barracks

809

00:49:40,600 --> 00:49:41,340

and checked it.

810

00:49:41,340 --> 00:49:44,020

811

00:49:44,020 --> 00:49:46,090

If they really feel
that somebody's sick,

812

00:49:46,090 --> 00:49:47,440

they shoot them.

813

00:49:47,440 --> 00:49:57,220

So sometimes people put
too much responsibility

814

00:49:57,220 --> 00:50:03,560

on a man who tried to do the
best under the circumstances.

815

00:50:03,560 --> 00:50:07,450

So I always feel you
try to put yourself

816

00:50:07,450 --> 00:50:09,230

in somebody else's shoes.

817

00:50:09,230 --> 00:50:13,810

Don't judge too harshly.

818

00:50:13,810 --> 00:50:18,730

What would you do if you
would be in his position?

819

00:50:18,730 --> 00:50:19,630

Would you be better?

820

00:50:19,630 --> 00:50:28,270

821

00:50:28,270 --> 00:50:36,600

The American army liberated
us on April, 11 in 1945.

822

00:50:36,600 --> 00:50:42,180

April 12, President
Roosevelt died.

823

00:50:42,180 --> 00:50:44,200

That's why I know when
he died because it

824

00:50:44,200 --> 00:50:46,140

was on the second day.

825

00:50:46,140 --> 00:50:47,490

Can you describe the liberation?

826

00:50:47,490 --> 00:50:48,490

Do you remember the day?

827

00:50:48,490 --> 00:50:49,990

I mean, I know you
remember the day.

828
00:50:49,990 --> 00:50:51,330
I remember the day, yes.

829
00:50:51,330 --> 00:50:52,165
But the--

830
00:50:52,165 --> 00:50:52,665
Yes.

831
00:50:52,665 --> 00:50:55,270

832
00:50:55,270 --> 00:50:59,280
A couple days
previously, we didn't

833
00:50:59,280 --> 00:51:00,600
have any food for a week.

834
00:51:00,600 --> 00:51:03,770
There was no food--
no more left.

835
00:51:03,770 --> 00:51:11,010
So the guards says, if
you want some food--

836
00:51:11,010 --> 00:51:14,600
they also tried to
evacuate Buchenwald,

837
00:51:14,600 --> 00:51:17,390
tried to take the camp.

838
00:51:17,390 --> 00:51:22,180
We found out from
the Americans, who

839
00:51:22,180 --> 00:51:25,525

came a little sooner than the
Germans, suspected the camp

840
00:51:25,525 --> 00:51:26,200
was mined.

841
00:51:26,200 --> 00:51:29,210

842
00:51:29,210 --> 00:51:35,960
After the Americans came,
they round up the guards,

843
00:51:35,960 --> 00:51:38,720
they took their [INAUDIBLE]
off, and they put them

844
00:51:38,720 --> 00:51:39,926
in the bunker.

845
00:51:39,926 --> 00:51:46,830

846
00:51:46,830 --> 00:51:53,010
The guards tried to tell the
inmates, if you want some food,

847
00:51:53,010 --> 00:51:57,240
you have to go out of the camp,
and you go on to another camp,

848
00:51:57,240 --> 00:52:03,523
then you're going to get
food for the transport.

849
00:52:03,523 --> 00:52:04,940
This is before the
Americans came.

850
00:52:04,940 --> 00:52:06,023
Before the Americans came.

851

00:52:06,023 --> 00:52:07,760
Right.

852
00:52:07,760 --> 00:52:12,200
There were some who are so
desperate that they went.

853
00:52:12,200 --> 00:52:16,700
And right after they passed
the gates of the camp--

854
00:52:16,700 --> 00:52:17,540
They were killed.

855
00:52:17,540 --> 00:52:18,290
They were killed.

856
00:52:18,290 --> 00:52:22,860

857
00:52:22,860 --> 00:52:29,980
This time, that was already--

858
00:52:29,980 --> 00:52:34,210
most of us in Buchenwald
at this particular time

859
00:52:34,210 --> 00:52:36,220
were tired already.

860
00:52:36,220 --> 00:52:39,850
There was no fight anymore left.

861
00:52:39,850 --> 00:52:46,390
Just one thing we always
have in our mind--

862
00:52:46,390 --> 00:52:49,570
somebody-- somebody
has to survive

863
00:52:49,570 --> 00:52:56,610

this to tell the world
what happened because I was

864
00:52:56,610 --> 00:52:59,160
moved already from three camps.

865
00:52:59,160 --> 00:53:09,860
And I knew that if there
is no evidence left, then

866
00:53:09,860 --> 00:53:13,880
they're going to
try it after the--

867
00:53:13,880 --> 00:53:16,760
we knew they were going to
lose the war for some reason.

868
00:53:16,760 --> 00:53:18,050
I don't know, because the--

869
00:53:18,050 --> 00:53:22,820

870
00:53:22,820 --> 00:53:24,830
but still.

871
00:53:24,830 --> 00:53:30,560
So we huddled there in this
one particular barrack.

872
00:53:30,560 --> 00:53:34,620
I'm sure that other barracks--
people did the same thing.

873
00:53:34,620 --> 00:53:36,990
And we waited.

874
00:53:36,990 --> 00:53:41,000
10:00 in the morning,
we heard the siren.

875

00:53:41,000 --> 00:53:46,730
And suddenly, we heard
shots from the old camp

876
00:53:46,730 --> 00:53:50,330
where the French on the
ground was already dead.

877
00:53:50,330 --> 00:53:54,020
They had apparently gone
for a long time someplace

878
00:53:54,020 --> 00:53:55,700
because they were
long time in camp,

879
00:53:55,700 --> 00:53:58,190
and they knew the situation.

880
00:53:58,190 --> 00:54:00,650
And they started
shooting at their selves,

881
00:54:00,650 --> 00:54:03,290
and then the American
army came, and they shot,

882
00:54:03,290 --> 00:54:10,070
and they surrounded the
camp, and the Lagerkommandant

883
00:54:10,070 --> 00:54:10,990
gave himself up.

884
00:54:10,990 --> 00:54:16,120

885
00:54:16,120 --> 00:54:19,440
And it was all over.

886
00:54:19,440 --> 00:54:26,140
And then's when most people died
because the American army could

887
00:54:26,140 --> 00:54:27,450
not--

888
00:54:27,450 --> 00:54:31,800
those people could not
imagine what was there.

889
00:54:31,800 --> 00:54:34,740
The first thing--
they went to Weimar.

890
00:54:34,740 --> 00:54:40,970
That's about 6 kilometers
from Buchenwald.

891
00:54:40,970 --> 00:54:46,370
And they brought pigs, chicken,
food, milk, everything.

892
00:54:46,370 --> 00:54:48,000
And they give us to eat.

893
00:54:48,000 --> 00:54:53,520
We didn't eat for a week,
and people got sick from this

894
00:54:53,520 --> 00:54:58,220
because we ate
and ate like pigs.

895
00:54:58,220 --> 00:54:59,350
And people got sick.

896
00:54:59,350 --> 00:55:03,680

897
00:55:03,680 --> 00:55:06,350
Even people who survived--

898
00:55:06,350 --> 00:55:11,980
many died from diarrhea

and these infect--

899

00:55:11,980 --> 00:55:12,880

all diseases.

900

00:55:12,880 --> 00:55:17,120

901

00:55:17,120 --> 00:55:21,530

I was in Buchenwald

only three weeks.

902

00:55:21,530 --> 00:55:25,130

The first man who we've seen--

903

00:55:25,130 --> 00:55:26,610

I never will forget--

904

00:55:26,610 --> 00:55:32,415

was a colored man and a Rabbi.

905

00:55:32,415 --> 00:55:36,960

906

00:55:36,960 --> 00:55:39,800

He came to us.

907

00:55:39,800 --> 00:55:41,190

A rabbi, a chaplain in the army?

908

00:55:41,190 --> 00:55:41,690

Chaplain.

909

00:55:41,690 --> 00:55:44,861

Chaplain in the American

army, Rabbi Schachter.

910

00:55:44,861 --> 00:55:48,160

911

00:55:48,160 --> 00:55:51,440

He saw what happened.

912
00:55:51,440 --> 00:55:55,340
He organized-- first of all,
he took the young people,

913
00:55:55,340 --> 00:55:58,380
made two transports.

914
00:55:58,380 --> 00:56:00,410
One went to France.

915
00:56:00,410 --> 00:56:02,210
The first went to France.

916
00:56:02,210 --> 00:56:05,090
I think that's where Elie
went with the first passport

917
00:56:05,090 --> 00:56:07,555
to France.

918
00:56:07,555 --> 00:56:09,680
And eventually, they were
supposed to go to Israel.

919
00:56:09,680 --> 00:56:13,760
The second transport-- he
took us with the Red Cross and

920
00:56:13,760 --> 00:56:16,500
sent us to Switzerland.

921
00:56:16,500 --> 00:56:18,440
I was in Switzerland
for two years.

922
00:56:18,440 --> 00:56:20,970

923
00:56:20,970 --> 00:56:22,808
The man is still alive.

924
00:56:22,808 --> 00:56:23,850
I'm in contact with him--

925
00:56:23,850 --> 00:56:25,792
Rabbi Schacter.

926
00:56:25,792 --> 00:56:26,750
What is his first name?

927
00:56:26,750 --> 00:56:30,332

928
00:56:30,332 --> 00:56:31,790
He lives here in
the United States?

929
00:56:31,790 --> 00:56:32,750
He lives in Brooklyn.

930
00:56:32,750 --> 00:56:36,940

931
00:56:36,940 --> 00:56:40,040
Yes, he lives in Brooklyn.

932
00:56:40,040 --> 00:56:42,710
He was acting as a
representative of the United

933
00:56:42,710 --> 00:56:43,370
States army?

934
00:56:43,370 --> 00:56:45,050
Yeah, he was in the army.

935
00:56:45,050 --> 00:56:45,600
He's in army.

936
00:56:45,600 --> 00:56:46,430
He was in the army.

937
00:56:46,430 --> 00:56:49,430

938
00:56:49,430 --> 00:56:52,010
And the Red Cross was
working in conjunction?

939
00:56:52,010 --> 00:56:53,960
Red Cross worked in
conjunction with this.

940
00:56:53,960 --> 00:57:00,420

941
00:57:00,420 --> 00:57:02,700
What about Joint, UNRRA?

942
00:57:02,700 --> 00:57:03,330
UNRRA.

943
00:57:03,330 --> 00:57:05,220
Oh, he worked with UNRRA--

944
00:57:05,220 --> 00:57:06,310
UNRRA and Joint, yes.

945
00:57:06,310 --> 00:57:09,250

946
00:57:09,250 --> 00:57:10,480
Did people have a choice?

947
00:57:10,480 --> 00:57:14,120
Did you have a choice of going
to France or to Switzerland?

948
00:57:14,120 --> 00:57:17,060
Well, choice-- yes, we had a--

949
00:57:17,060 --> 00:57:18,665

not really a choice.

950

00:57:18,665 --> 00:57:20,660

It didn't make any
difference where you go.

951

00:57:20,660 --> 00:57:21,890

Just go.

952

00:57:21,890 --> 00:57:26,440

I personally didn't want
to go back to Poland.

953

00:57:26,440 --> 00:57:29,230

So I had to go someplace.

954

00:57:29,230 --> 00:57:30,520

Stay in Germany--

955

00:57:30,520 --> 00:57:32,680

I didn't-- really,
I didn't really want

956

00:57:32,680 --> 00:57:44,780

to because the memories,
and then I was sick.

957

00:57:44,780 --> 00:57:49,840

So I didn't really
care what's going

958

00:57:49,840 --> 00:57:51,580

to happen with me, as long--

959

00:57:51,580 --> 00:57:54,400

I knew that this man, rabbi--

960

00:57:54,400 --> 00:57:55,990

going to trust him.

961

00:57:55,990 --> 00:57:58,982

Did you have any friends, any

close friends at the time when

962

00:57:58,982 --> 00:58:00,940
you were liberated,
anybody that you went with,

963

00:58:00,940 --> 00:58:01,710
anybody that you--

964

00:58:01,710 --> 00:58:06,430
--yes, the, same people who
lived through the whole thing.

965

00:58:06,430 --> 00:58:12,850
I had three, from the beginning,
well, we always stood together.

966

00:58:12,850 --> 00:58:18,240
And from camp to camp,
and we were together.

967

00:58:18,240 --> 00:58:25,120
And one lived in Union here,
and one lives in Moorestown.

968

00:58:25,120 --> 00:58:27,465
I'm with them.

969

00:58:27,465 --> 00:58:29,340
And they were with you
the entire time from--

970

00:58:29,340 --> 00:58:30,572
The entire time.

971

00:58:30,572 --> 00:58:38,750

972

00:58:38,750 --> 00:58:45,310
What were your feelings on the
day that you were liberated?

973

00:58:45,310 --> 00:58:48,340
Did you have feelings?

974
00:58:48,340 --> 00:58:49,120
Very mixed.

975
00:58:49,120 --> 00:58:53,350

976
00:58:53,350 --> 00:58:57,040
I wanted to be liberated.

977
00:58:57,040 --> 00:59:05,350
By another hand, you know,
we were still treated--

978
00:59:05,350 --> 00:59:07,070
I mean, no, I can see it.

979
00:59:07,070 --> 00:59:08,440
That was right.

980
00:59:08,440 --> 00:59:13,640
As the same thing as in the
camp, we were told what to do,

981
00:59:13,640 --> 00:59:17,470
when to do, and how to do.

982
00:59:17,470 --> 00:59:21,760
I mean, I will give
you a little example.

983
00:59:21,760 --> 00:59:25,165
We didn't have any clothes,
and the American army--

984
00:59:25,165 --> 00:59:28,010

985
00:59:28,010 --> 00:59:32,930
it was after two, three weeks

after we were in Buchenwald--

986

00:59:32,930 --> 00:59:35,810
there were a lot of clothes from
the Germans, from everybody,

987

00:59:35,810 --> 00:59:41,000
you know, they had confiscated.

988

00:59:41,000 --> 00:59:46,340
I remember one time we went
there, we broke a warehouse,

989

00:59:46,340 --> 00:59:48,620
and I took a pair of shoes.

990

00:59:48,620 --> 00:59:51,290
I got beaten by the
American soldiers

991

00:59:51,290 --> 00:59:52,580
because I stole the shoes.

992

00:59:52,580 --> 00:59:55,870

993

00:59:55,870 --> 01:00:00,970
So I can see right
now that the men--

994

01:00:00,970 --> 01:00:03,970
I mean, you know, that was
his job to watch the shoes.

995

01:00:03,970 --> 01:00:09,160
But they did not
have the compassion

996

01:00:09,160 --> 01:00:12,422
to see that those
people lost everything,

997

01:00:12,422 --> 01:00:14,130
and they are entitled
to a pair of shoes.

998
01:00:14,130 --> 01:00:22,670

999
01:00:22,670 --> 01:00:25,490
People have described
to me in the past

1000
01:00:25,490 --> 01:00:28,100
that, when you started
telling me about the shoes,

1001
01:00:28,100 --> 01:00:30,740
how some of the clothing
that they were provided,

1002
01:00:30,740 --> 01:00:34,423
a person may have been
5 foot 6 inches tall,

1003
01:00:34,423 --> 01:00:35,840
and the clothing
that they got was

1004
01:00:35,840 --> 01:00:38,987
for a person who was 6 foot 2.

1005
01:00:38,987 --> 01:00:40,820
Is that the kind of
experience you also had?

1006
01:00:40,820 --> 01:00:45,320
Yes, but, you see,
there is another thing.

1007
01:00:45,320 --> 01:00:47,180
It is very possible.

1008
01:00:47,180 --> 01:00:53,450
It is maybe after

so many years living

1009

01:00:53,450 --> 01:00:59,210

that you are told
what to do, I could

1010

01:00:59,210 --> 01:01:07,070

have very easily go to the
village, go to a German family,

1011

01:01:07,070 --> 01:01:09,140

and say, give me.

1012

01:01:09,140 --> 01:01:14,960

But I could not make myself to
do this because it wasn't mine.

1013

01:01:14,960 --> 01:01:17,400

I mean, I don't know if
you can understand this.

1014

01:01:17,400 --> 01:01:18,638

No, I understand.

1015

01:01:18,638 --> 01:01:33,797

1016

01:01:33,797 --> 01:01:37,320

What happened when you
came to Switzerland?

1017

01:01:37,320 --> 01:01:41,130

When we came to Switzerland, we
were directly on the Red Cross.

1018

01:01:41,130 --> 01:01:44,610

1019

01:01:44,610 --> 01:01:46,650

Originally, we
went to Switzerland

1020

01:01:46,650 --> 01:01:48,570
for the same purpose,
that eventually, we're

1021
01:01:48,570 --> 01:01:50,210
going to go to Israel.

1022
01:01:50,210 --> 01:01:53,880
But meanwhile, the world broke
up there, and there was--

1023
01:01:53,880 --> 01:01:56,460
so the Red Cross, Swiss
Red Cross, took care of us

1024
01:01:56,460 --> 01:01:59,700
with conjunction with
the Jewish organizations.

1025
01:01:59,700 --> 01:02:08,930
And we went to school, or
had a school day in Geneva.

1026
01:02:08,930 --> 01:02:10,910
[INAUDIBLE]

1027
01:02:10,910 --> 01:02:12,340
OK.

1028
01:02:12,340 --> 01:02:12,840
OK.

1029
01:02:12,840 --> 01:02:14,298
Did you put it on
a half-hour tape?

1030
01:02:14,298 --> 01:02:21,650

1031
01:02:21,650 --> 01:02:22,270
Oh, that's me?

1032

01:02:22,270 --> 01:02:22,490
That's you.

1033
01:02:22,490 --> 01:02:23,870
Did you want to continue
or do you want to stop?

1034
01:02:23,870 --> 01:02:25,412
Yeah, can we put on
a half-hour tape?

1035
01:02:25,412 --> 01:02:26,160
No problem.

1036
01:02:26,160 --> 01:02:27,660
Do you want to take a break,
or you want to continue?

1037
01:02:27,660 --> 01:02:28,360
No, that's OK.

1038
01:02:28,360 --> 01:02:29,870
It's OK, if I'm--

1039
01:02:29,870 --> 01:02:31,420
Sure.

1040
01:02:31,420 --> 01:02:33,000