

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,390

2  
00:00:06,390 --> 00:00:09,740  
ORT organized schools.

3  
00:00:09,740 --> 00:00:13,220  
Or they organized also schools.

4  
00:00:13,220 --> 00:00:14,610  
And we went there to school.

5  
00:00:14,610 --> 00:00:18,020

6  
00:00:18,020 --> 00:00:23,000  
Then eventually, there  
were Jewish organization,

7  
00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:30,860  
Hashomer Hatzair, and the  
religious organization tried

8  
00:00:30,860 --> 00:00:32,240  
to put us on a Hachsharah.

9  
00:00:32,240 --> 00:00:35,580  
They had Hachsharahs  
there in Switzerland.

10  
00:00:35,580 --> 00:00:40,815  
And they prepare  
us to go to Israel.

11  
00:00:40,815 --> 00:00:42,565  
Did you have any  
thoughts before this time

12  
00:00:42,565 --> 00:00:43,482  
about going to Israel?

13

00:00:43,482 --> 00:00:44,870

About--

14

00:00:44,870 --> 00:00:48,380

Yes, I had the  
thoughts, because there

15

00:00:48,380 --> 00:00:51,500

is no way else I could go.

16

00:00:51,500 --> 00:00:54,710

To Poland, I didn't want to go.

17

00:00:54,710 --> 00:00:58,070

I never dreamed to come  
to the United States,

18

00:00:58,070 --> 00:01:04,400

because I did not have any  
relatives in the United States.

19

00:01:04,400 --> 00:01:05,730

But I came.

20

00:01:05,730 --> 00:01:09,740

So maybe I should say  
how this happened.

21

00:01:09,740 --> 00:01:15,890

The OZ and the Joint published  
the names of the survivors.

22

00:01:15,890 --> 00:01:18,080

And one day in Switzerland,  
I received a letter

23

00:01:18,080 --> 00:01:19,790

from a friend.

24

00:01:19,790 --> 00:01:21,450

Where were you staying  
in Switzerland?

25  
00:01:21,450 --> 00:01:24,380  
What kind of lodging?

26  
00:01:24,380 --> 00:01:26,240  
Was it like an army barracks?

27  
00:01:26,240 --> 00:01:28,370  
Was it a DP camp?

28  
00:01:28,370 --> 00:01:31,835  
Well, no, we lived in  
very nice quarters.

29  
00:01:31,835 --> 00:01:35,120

30  
00:01:35,120 --> 00:01:38,390  
It used to be--

31  
00:01:38,390 --> 00:01:41,090  
I lived in Geneva--

32  
00:01:41,090 --> 00:01:44,840  
used to be, I think,  
it's one of the embassy,

33  
00:01:44,840 --> 00:01:47,750  
because the United  
Nations building is not

34  
00:01:47,750 --> 00:01:50,720  
far from where we  
were in Switzerland.

35  
00:01:50,720 --> 00:01:53,720  
So the United Nations  
wasn't active then.

36  
00:01:53,720 --> 00:01:57,636  
So one of the buildings,  
we lived there.

37  
00:01:57,636 --> 00:02:01,600  
It was very nice quarters.

38  
00:02:01,600 --> 00:02:04,520  
It is just that the  
living was again

39  
00:02:04,520 --> 00:02:08,630  
there as on a style of a camp.

40  
00:02:08,630 --> 00:02:10,610  
We had a house mother.

41  
00:02:10,610 --> 00:02:13,475  
And we had people--

42  
00:02:13,475 --> 00:02:17,420

43  
00:02:17,420 --> 00:02:20,030  
then, we couldn't  
understand why.

44  
00:02:20,030 --> 00:02:27,740  
But, you know, apparently  
people who knew what to expect,

45  
00:02:27,740 --> 00:02:33,610  
that people who lived for  
so many years in camp, there

46  
00:02:33,610 --> 00:02:38,260  
must be something wrong  
with them mentally.

47  
00:02:38,260 --> 00:02:45,640  
Now we hear people who are  
hostages for a week on a plane,

48  
00:02:45,640 --> 00:02:50,920  
they go to certain

debriefing or whatever it is.

49

00:02:50,920 --> 00:02:51,520

Thank God.

50

00:02:51,520 --> 00:02:57,340

I mean, you know, I think

I am halfway normal.

51

00:02:57,340 --> 00:03:03,690

I perform my work.

52

00:03:03,690 --> 00:03:09,900

I brought up two good

children, give them education.

53

00:03:09,900 --> 00:03:13,110

54

00:03:13,110 --> 00:03:19,260

So sometimes I am wondering,

Vietnam veterans-- oh, I

55

00:03:19,260 --> 00:03:22,140

don't begrudge

them, but they have

56

00:03:22,140 --> 00:03:27,250

problems because for the war.

57

00:03:27,250 --> 00:03:35,280

We, my personally, I can say

for four years I was in camp.

58

00:03:35,280 --> 00:03:47,640

I was only 17 when I

went to camp on my own

59

00:03:47,640 --> 00:03:50,340

and lived this through and see--

60

00:03:50,340 --> 00:03:52,950

61  
00:03:52,950 --> 00:04:01,710  
what bothers me right now is  
to think that the people who

62  
00:04:01,710 --> 00:04:04,080  
are responsible  
for what happened,

63  
00:04:04,080 --> 00:04:08,467  
they were helped by  
United States government.

64  
00:04:08,467 --> 00:04:11,670

65  
00:04:11,670 --> 00:04:13,930  
This man who is  
in France in jail,

66  
00:04:13,930 --> 00:04:21,930  
Barbie, we understand  
that CIA knew about it,

67  
00:04:21,930 --> 00:04:25,300  
about his crimes.

68  
00:04:25,300 --> 00:04:29,670  
But we lived through the period  
of time in the United States

69  
00:04:29,670 --> 00:04:38,240  
that the government says he's  
anticommunist was sufficient.

70  
00:04:38,240 --> 00:04:41,550

71  
00:04:41,550 --> 00:04:47,260  
Did not anybody question  
what was he before,

72

00:04:47,260 --> 00:04:52,860

during the war, what  
crimes that he committed.

73

00:04:52,860 --> 00:04:58,560

Even Mengele was helped,  
because it's impossible

74

00:04:58,560 --> 00:05:05,320

if he wouldn't have been helped  
by somebody here that you

75

00:05:05,320 --> 00:05:10,630

would be able to live  
for as many years as he--

76

00:05:10,630 --> 00:05:13,570

first of all, I don't  
believe that he's dead.

77

00:05:13,570 --> 00:05:25,354

But if he saw for 40 years  
he could escape justice,

78

00:05:25,354 --> 00:05:26,851

how's it possible?

79

00:05:26,851 --> 00:05:32,340

80

00:05:32,340 --> 00:05:37,890

So that if there are  
some things would still

81

00:05:37,890 --> 00:05:40,980

bother me is to those things.

82

00:05:40,980 --> 00:05:52,430

That really not many  
people cared previously,

83

00:05:52,430 --> 00:05:55,180

and not many people care  
right now what happened.

84  
00:05:55,180 --> 00:06:01,240

85  
00:06:01,240 --> 00:06:07,010  
And if happened once,  
might happen again.

86  
00:06:07,010 --> 00:06:12,400  
Did you ever think about that  
during your years in camp?

87  
00:06:12,400 --> 00:06:13,930  
It was worth to survive?

88  
00:06:13,930 --> 00:06:15,660  
Where is everybody?

89  
00:06:15,660 --> 00:06:17,110  
Where's the United States?

90  
00:06:17,110 --> 00:06:18,318  
Where's the Jewish community?

91  
00:06:18,318 --> 00:06:22,720  
Oh, yes, many times,  
especially when we marched.

92  
00:06:22,720 --> 00:06:26,470  
This particular march  
from Auschwitz, planes

93  
00:06:26,470 --> 00:06:30,210  
were going over our head.

94  
00:06:30,210 --> 00:06:36,180  
Why don't drop one bomb on one  
transport going to Auschwitz,

95  
00:06:36,180 --> 00:06:37,770



kill the people?

96

00:06:37,770 --> 00:06:40,290

They're going to die  
anyway in the gas chamber,

97

00:06:40,290 --> 00:06:49,260

just to show that somebody knows  
what the Germans are doing.

98

00:06:49,260 --> 00:06:52,710

Oh, yes, we thought about it.

99

00:06:52,710 --> 00:07:01,400

But, you see, during  
the time in camp,

100

00:07:01,400 --> 00:07:05,000

it wasn't very healthy  
to think too much.

101

00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:13,060

Because if you're going to  
think, you will go to the wires

102

00:07:13,060 --> 00:07:15,605

and get killed.

103

00:07:15,605 --> 00:07:16,865

You know, you want to die.

104

00:07:16,865 --> 00:07:21,220

105

00:07:21,220 --> 00:07:23,140

There were immediate  
things what you

106

00:07:23,140 --> 00:07:26,590

had to think-- how to survive  
the next five minutes.

107

00:07:26,590 --> 00:07:29,680

You cannot think what's  
going to be tomorrow.

108

00:07:29,680 --> 00:07:34,660

Next five minutes, you  
have immediate situation

109

00:07:34,660 --> 00:07:40,740

you have to try to  
prevent to be killed.

110

00:07:40,740 --> 00:07:46,330

In Auschwitz, we  
had selections too.

111

00:07:46,330 --> 00:07:50,860

I mean not that  
we were selected,

112

00:07:50,860 --> 00:07:53,560

but there were selection.

113

00:07:53,560 --> 00:07:58,060

Every day we were  
on the Appellplatz.

114

00:07:58,060 --> 00:08:03,970

And the Germans march,  
and Czech people.

115

00:08:03,970 --> 00:08:06,340

Thank God, I--

116

00:08:06,340 --> 00:08:10,450

But I mean, you know, when  
I said before about Rabka,

117

00:08:10,450 --> 00:08:18,140

there in the bigger camps at  
least, it was not so direct.

118

00:08:18,140 --> 00:08:20,050

It wasn't as personalized.

119

00:08:20,050 --> 00:08:21,640

Yes, it wasn't personalized.

120

00:08:21,640 --> 00:08:27,550

Because in the small, in  
Rabka, I was there and he was--

121

00:08:27,550 --> 00:08:30,830

all the time, lived  
with him, more or less.

122

00:08:30,830 --> 00:08:31,590

The commandant.

123

00:08:31,590 --> 00:08:33,549

The commandant.

124

00:08:33,549 --> 00:08:40,030

There was not one minute  
when the men decided he

125

00:08:40,030 --> 00:08:43,299

going to take vacation, that  
we had vacation, because he

126

00:08:43,299 --> 00:08:44,740

left for a week or two weeks.

127

00:08:44,740 --> 00:08:51,490

128

00:08:51,490 --> 00:08:54,160

If there are  
thoughts in my mind,

129

00:08:54,160 --> 00:08:58,060

how a man, anyone,  
this commandant,

130

00:08:58,060 --> 00:09:00,175

the other commandant in Krakow--

131

00:09:00,175 --> 00:09:02,780

132

00:09:02,780 --> 00:09:06,020

he had a family--

133

00:09:06,020 --> 00:09:14,660

how a man can be cruel  
to other group of people

134

00:09:14,660 --> 00:09:18,890

and go home and play  
with the children,

135

00:09:18,890 --> 00:09:21,080

make love to his wife.

136

00:09:21,080 --> 00:09:26,610

I mean, it's unbelievable.

137

00:09:26,610 --> 00:09:29,700

138

00:09:29,700 --> 00:09:42,420

Because at least in the big  
camps, I take their excuse

139

00:09:42,420 --> 00:09:43,650

they took orders.

140

00:09:43,650 --> 00:09:48,180

They have orders always from  
somebody to do certain things.

141

00:09:48,180 --> 00:09:53,820

But in the smaller  
camp, in Rabka, the man

142

00:09:53,820 --> 00:10:01,390

did not have to be

responsible to anybody.

143

00:10:01,390 --> 00:10:03,660

He did not have to kill.

144

00:10:03,660 --> 00:10:08,370

He did not have to be  
cruel to the inmates.

145

00:10:08,370 --> 00:10:11,030

146

00:10:11,030 --> 00:10:15,730

What kind man can it be?

147

00:10:15,730 --> 00:10:18,540

148

00:10:18,540 --> 00:10:32,890

Can anybody be like this?

149

00:10:32,890 --> 00:10:37,210

What were your first thoughts  
when you saw him in the trial

150

00:10:37,210 --> 00:10:38,230

in Germany?

151

00:10:38,230 --> 00:10:39,400

I'd be very honest.

152

00:10:39,400 --> 00:10:41,450

I was scared a little bit.

153

00:10:41,450 --> 00:10:52,500

I was scared, because, first  
of all, you're in Germany.

154

00:10:52,500 --> 00:10:54,030

I know, it was free Germany.

155

00:10:54,030 --> 00:10:55,590  
And I still--

156  
00:10:55,590 --> 00:10:57,810  
I cannot say--

157  
00:10:57,810 --> 00:11:01,770  
I was treated by the German  
people were very nice.

158  
00:11:01,770 --> 00:11:05,940  
When we came there, there was  
a special representative there

159  
00:11:05,940 --> 00:11:08,760  
who met us, took us to a hotel.

160  
00:11:08,760 --> 00:11:11,490  
They gave us nice facilities.

161  
00:11:11,490 --> 00:11:16,650  
And steady, every time, as long  
as we were there for a week,

162  
00:11:16,650 --> 00:11:19,905  
we had two young  
ladies, German women--

163  
00:11:19,905 --> 00:11:24,690  
as matter of fact, not  
long ago, they wrote to me.

164  
00:11:24,690 --> 00:11:31,410  
And so the young  
generation Germany,

165  
00:11:31,410 --> 00:11:36,100  
they're trying, not repent.

166  
00:11:36,100 --> 00:11:42,010  
But, I mean, I don't hold them  
responsible for their parents.

167

00:11:42,010 --> 00:11:46,210

And I suppose they  
have also problems.

168

00:11:46,210 --> 00:11:50,740

Those young people  
that go home, and they

169

00:11:50,740 --> 00:11:53,050

think about their parents.

170

00:11:53,050 --> 00:11:55,000

Where were you during the war?

171

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:57,280

If they know they  
were during the war,

172

00:11:57,280 --> 00:12:00,720

would they believed the parents  
if the parents tell them

173

00:12:00,720 --> 00:12:02,290

they didn't know  
anything about it?

174

00:12:02,290 --> 00:12:06,700

Like when we were  
liberated in Buchenwald,

175

00:12:06,700 --> 00:12:10,450

the American army rounded  
up the Weimar population

176

00:12:10,450 --> 00:12:12,490

and brought them  
with to the camp

177

00:12:12,490 --> 00:12:14,800

and they show him what happened.

178

00:12:14,800 --> 00:12:16,160

Nobody knew.

179

00:12:16,160 --> 00:12:17,230

Nobody knew.

180

00:12:17,230 --> 00:12:18,970

We didn't know what happened.

181

00:12:18,970 --> 00:12:20,020

And I don't believe it.

182

00:12:20,020 --> 00:12:25,910

It's not possible to  
not know, because there

183

00:12:25,910 --> 00:12:32,570

were people who work in  
the camps, not only guards,

184

00:12:32,570 --> 00:12:35,790

but cleaning streets  
and all the things.

185

00:12:35,790 --> 00:12:38,300

And they went home every day.

186

00:12:38,300 --> 00:12:42,810

They could not keep  
everything so secret.

187

00:12:42,810 --> 00:12:46,460

But that's it.

188

00:12:46,460 --> 00:12:50,230

189

00:12:50,230 --> 00:12:52,610

So the Germans right  
now, they have also

190

00:12:52,610 --> 00:13:02,150

problems with the guilt. But--



191  
00:13:02,150 --> 00:13:03,860  
I couldn't find a word before.

192  
00:13:03,860 --> 00:13:09,650  
Can anybody be conditioned  
to be so cruel?

193  
00:13:09,650 --> 00:13:14,420  
Was it ever a study  
made that you take a man

194  
00:13:14,420 --> 00:13:19,760  
and we want to condition him  
to be cruel to his fellow man?

195  
00:13:19,760 --> 00:13:21,680  
Is it possible?

196  
00:13:21,680 --> 00:13:24,788  
Then the world is going  
in the wrong direction.

197  
00:13:24,788 --> 00:13:28,058

198  
00:13:28,058 --> 00:13:29,600  
There have been a  
lot of studies on--

199  
00:13:29,600 --> 00:13:31,670  
In universities, right--

200  
00:13:31,670 --> 00:13:34,250  
Obedience to authority,  
to what extent

201  
00:13:34,250 --> 00:13:43,237  
a person will go in order to  
be obedient to the authority.

202  
00:13:43,237 --> 00:13:44,820

Can you tell me a  
little bit about how

203  
00:13:44,820 --> 00:13:47,640  
you came to the United  
States from Switzerland.

204  
00:13:47,640 --> 00:13:51,370  
The Jewish  
organization published

205  
00:13:51,370 --> 00:13:54,150  
by the names of the survivors.

206  
00:13:54,150 --> 00:13:59,395  
And one day I received a letter  
from a friend of my parents.

207  
00:13:59,395 --> 00:14:01,020  
If I want to come to  
the United States,

208  
00:14:01,020 --> 00:14:03,520  
he will send me affidavit.

209  
00:14:03,520 --> 00:14:05,370  
And I jumped at it.

210  
00:14:05,370 --> 00:14:06,600  
Somebody from New York?

211  
00:14:06,600 --> 00:14:10,770  
Somebody from  
Irvington, New Jersey.

212  
00:14:10,770 --> 00:14:11,970  
And I came here.

213  
00:14:11,970 --> 00:14:12,900  
He send me papers.

214  
00:14:12,900 --> 00:14:14,600

And I came here.

215

00:14:14,600 --> 00:14:18,540

And what did you do  
when you came here?

216

00:14:18,540 --> 00:14:23,970

Well, when I came here, it's  
like previously I told you,

217

00:14:23,970 --> 00:14:26,560

I could do what  
I knew how to do.

218

00:14:26,560 --> 00:14:32,160

I started working as a  
carpenter and started working.

219

00:14:32,160 --> 00:14:33,910

You got married here  
in the United States?

220

00:14:33,910 --> 00:14:35,410

Yes, I married in  
the United States.

221

00:14:35,410 --> 00:14:37,980

I marry an American woman, girl.

222

00:14:37,980 --> 00:14:40,670

223

00:14:40,670 --> 00:14:44,070

But I started working  
as a carpenter.

224

00:14:44,070 --> 00:14:50,600

But the things were not  
as well as I thought.

225

00:14:50,600 --> 00:14:54,120

I lived in a furnished room.

226

00:14:54,120 --> 00:14:56,450

I was by myself.

227

00:14:56,450 --> 00:15:01,790

So I found a job in a restaurant  
as a cook, or a baker rather.

228

00:15:01,790 --> 00:15:04,263

At least I had my food.

229

00:15:04,263 --> 00:15:05,930

You know, I didn't  
have to prepare food.

230

00:15:05,930 --> 00:15:09,240

I ate there.

231

00:15:09,240 --> 00:15:11,190

And it was easy.

232

00:15:11,190 --> 00:15:17,490

But eventually, night work,  
I couldn't work at night.

233

00:15:17,490 --> 00:15:18,540

So I changed back.

234

00:15:18,540 --> 00:15:21,630

And I'm building housing.

235

00:15:21,630 --> 00:15:23,800

Did any Jewish agency  
help you once you

236

00:15:23,800 --> 00:15:26,670

were in the United States?

237

00:15:26,670 --> 00:15:34,320

Well, to this extent only,  
as I went to evening school.

238

00:15:34,320 --> 00:15:37,090

239

00:15:37,090 --> 00:15:39,860

I did not ask for help.

240

00:15:39,860 --> 00:15:42,530

I did not want any help no more.

241

00:15:42,530 --> 00:15:47,170

I had enough that I was  
in the United States.

242

00:15:47,170 --> 00:15:51,835

And I wanted to do on my own.

243

00:15:51,835 --> 00:15:56,640

244

00:15:56,640 --> 00:15:58,770

From the Y, I had the--

245

00:15:58,770 --> 00:16:05,070

they gave me that I could use  
the facilities for a while.

246

00:16:05,070 --> 00:16:08,010

And that's about all.

247

00:16:08,010 --> 00:16:29,922

248

00:16:29,922 --> 00:16:31,460

That's it.

249

00:16:31,460 --> 00:16:32,872

Thank you.

250

00:16:32,872 --> 00:16:33,864

Thank you.

251

00:16:33,864 --> 00:16:40,820

252

00:16:40,820 --> 00:16:42,370

Charlie.

253

00:16:42,370 --> 00:17:10,000