

1

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

2

00:00:13,060 --> 00:00:18,370

Good morning, we're going to  
continue with the second tape

3

00:00:18,370 --> 00:00:21,970

of Mr. Henry Landsberg.

4

00:00:21,970 --> 00:00:24,490

5

00:00:24,490 --> 00:00:27,610

Today is Monday, November 28th.

6

00:00:27,610 --> 00:00:31,510

That was quite a pause in  
between the two sections

7

00:00:31,510 --> 00:00:32,650

of the story.

8

00:00:32,650 --> 00:00:39,250

Actually, we did  
continue on November 9th,

9

00:00:39,250 --> 00:00:45,040

which is almost three  
weeks ago, but due

10

00:00:45,040 --> 00:00:49,270

to technical  
problem that came up

11

00:00:49,270 --> 00:00:53,380

we decided that we will go  
ahead with the real second tape

12

00:00:53,380 --> 00:00:54,110

today.

13  
00:00:54,110 --> 00:00:56,920  
And I want to thank  
you for returning.

14  
00:00:56,920 --> 00:01:02,380  
When we were interrupted, as  
we concluded the first tape,

15  
00:01:02,380 --> 00:01:06,760  
you were beginning to tell  
a story about an officer

16  
00:01:06,760 --> 00:01:08,840  
and a rickshaw.

17  
00:01:08,840 --> 00:01:11,080  
I believe it was in Warsaw.

18  
00:01:11,080 --> 00:01:13,540  
That was the Warsaw  
ghetto, almost

19  
00:01:13,540 --> 00:01:15,730  
at the end of the ghetto.

20  
00:01:15,730 --> 00:01:18,220  
But there was nobody around  
anymore in the buildings.

21  
00:01:18,220 --> 00:01:19,615  
That would have been when?

22  
00:01:19,615 --> 00:01:22,771  
1940?

23  
00:01:22,771 --> 00:01:24,650  
That was 1943.

24  
00:01:24,650 --> 00:01:25,510  
1943.

25

00:01:25,510 --> 00:01:27,730

Right.

26

00:01:27,730 --> 00:01:36,770

I was driving a rickshaw,  
and one of officers

27

00:01:36,770 --> 00:01:41,140

that I was driving with,  
I usually wait for him

28

00:01:41,140 --> 00:01:43,650

at the entrance to the ghetto.

29

00:01:43,650 --> 00:01:51,260

And we had a group of people  
that went to the houses

30

00:01:51,260 --> 00:01:56,330

and took everything  
valuable that they--

31

00:01:56,330 --> 00:01:58,610

like furniture or  
jewelry or whatever

32

00:01:58,610 --> 00:02:04,070

they could get out of their  
houses, they sent to Germany.

33

00:02:04,070 --> 00:02:06,500

And that group that  
I was with used

34

00:02:06,500 --> 00:02:11,060

to go to those houses  
with a German soldier

35

00:02:11,060 --> 00:02:16,610

and whatever they pointed out  
we took it down to the court,

36

00:02:16,610 --> 00:02:21,020  
and that was picked up  
later on by somebody else.

37  
00:02:21,020 --> 00:02:25,370  
But our job was to  
just bring it down.

38  
00:02:25,370 --> 00:02:32,600  
Well, we went to  
a letter factory,

39  
00:02:32,600 --> 00:02:35,060  
and people that  
owned that factory

40  
00:02:35,060 --> 00:02:38,700  
lived in the same house.

41  
00:02:38,700 --> 00:02:42,320  
And we were told not  
to take anything.

42  
00:02:42,320 --> 00:02:46,290  
Well, after we  
done with the job,

43  
00:02:46,290 --> 00:02:52,310  
the soldier lined us up  
and searched everybody

44  
00:02:52,310 --> 00:02:54,080  
they didn't take anything.

45  
00:02:54,080 --> 00:02:56,620

46  
00:02:56,620 --> 00:03:00,170  
At that time, I was  
behind my rickshaw

47  
00:03:00,170 --> 00:03:05,840  
where the officer was

sitting, and the soldier

48

00:03:05,840 --> 00:03:08,415

was looking everybody,  
searched his pocket

49

00:03:08,415 --> 00:03:09,290

or whatever they had.

50

00:03:09,290 --> 00:03:12,180

51

00:03:12,180 --> 00:03:19,760

And he approached a guy, and  
the guy was wearing a knapsack.

52

00:03:19,760 --> 00:03:23,900

And in the knapsack he  
had this silver cup,

53

00:03:23,900 --> 00:03:27,530

like a goblet, a  
little silver cup.

54

00:03:27,530 --> 00:03:32,240

Well, without saying  
anything, the the soldier

55

00:03:32,240 --> 00:03:36,450

took his gun out and shot the  
guy in the back of his head.

56

00:03:36,450 --> 00:03:39,560

The guy fell, but  
he didn't kill him,

57

00:03:39,560 --> 00:03:42,260

but the guy was just  
moving around a little bit

58

00:03:42,260 --> 00:03:44,720

on the ground.

59

00:03:44,720 --> 00:03:48,170

So the guy tried to shoot  
again but apparently

60

00:03:48,170 --> 00:03:50,870

he didn't have no more bullets.

61

00:03:50,870 --> 00:03:55,130

So he went to this officer  
that I was standing with

62

00:03:55,130 --> 00:03:56,690

and he asked him for bullets.

63

00:03:56,690 --> 00:03:59,360

So he refused to  
give him anything.

64

00:03:59,360 --> 00:04:02,682

He said no, I don't  
have it, I don't

65

00:04:02,682 --> 00:04:03,890

want to give you or whatever.

66

00:04:03,890 --> 00:04:05,870

I don't remember  
exactly what he said,

67

00:04:05,870 --> 00:04:08,570

but he didn't give me anything.

68

00:04:08,570 --> 00:04:10,400

So the soldier turned  
around and went

69

00:04:10,400 --> 00:04:13,310

inside a door inside the court.

70

00:04:13,310 --> 00:04:15,290

And I don't know  
where he got it from,

71  
00:04:15,290 --> 00:04:23,900  
by he picked up an  
ax, like a hatchet,

72  
00:04:23,900 --> 00:04:26,120  
and he chopped the  
guy's head off--

73  
00:04:26,120 --> 00:04:28,910  
decapitated him.

74  
00:04:28,910 --> 00:04:34,310  
[INAUDIBLE] they left him laid  
there and they just went away.

75  
00:04:34,310 --> 00:04:39,230  
And I took my rickshaw with  
this guy and went away.

76  
00:04:39,230 --> 00:04:41,314  
And this is--

77  
00:04:41,314 --> 00:04:42,170  
Didn't happen--

78  
00:04:42,170 --> 00:04:43,920  
--what you kept on seeing?

79  
00:04:43,920 --> 00:04:46,400  
Yeah, among other things.

80  
00:04:46,400 --> 00:04:49,070

81  
00:04:49,070 --> 00:04:55,340  
Then during the break I  
remember you were telling me

82  
00:04:55,340 --> 00:04:58,340  
something about a  
friend from Warsaw

83  
00:04:58,340 --> 00:05:00,380  
whom you met in Majdanek?

84  
00:05:00,380 --> 00:05:03,080  
Yes, that was when  
I was in Majdanek.

85  
00:05:03,080 --> 00:05:05,030  
They were very bad  
conditions there,

86  
00:05:05,030 --> 00:05:08,730  
and some people were  
getting hurt and whatever.

87  
00:05:08,730 --> 00:05:11,060  
So we had a little  
Red Cross station.

88  
00:05:11,060 --> 00:05:14,230

89  
00:05:14,230 --> 00:05:16,370  
People had diarrhea and  
all that kind of stuff.

90  
00:05:16,370 --> 00:05:23,570  
They're cut or injured,  
very minor things.

91  
00:05:23,570 --> 00:05:25,500  
So one day I went up there--

92  
00:05:25,500 --> 00:05:31,460  
I don't know why, I just thought  
I saw something familiar that

93  
00:05:31,460 --> 00:05:34,220  
works in that little station.

94  
00:05:34,220 --> 00:05:36,650



So good enough the  
guy come out and say

95  
00:05:36,650 --> 00:05:38,075  
hello and this and that.

96  
00:05:38,075 --> 00:05:39,980  
And he took me on the  
side, and he said, now

97  
00:05:39,980 --> 00:05:42,890  
you got to get out of  
here, because they're

98  
00:05:42,890 --> 00:05:45,140  
going to have a segregation.

99  
00:05:45,140 --> 00:05:52,520  
And if you can get to some  
place safe, or volunteer to work

100  
00:05:52,520 --> 00:05:57,170  
or whatever, you don't  
know, you might be safe.

101  
00:05:57,170 --> 00:06:00,590  
Well, I think a couple  
of days later there

102  
00:06:00,590 --> 00:06:07,450  
were some officers came  
over and segregated people.

103  
00:06:07,450 --> 00:06:14,330  
And I volunteer to go with them.

104  
00:06:14,330 --> 00:06:21,630  
So they took about I don't know  
how many guys, how many people,

105  
00:06:21,630 --> 00:06:26,615  
quite a few people that looked  
fairly strong, fairly good

106  
00:06:26,615 --> 00:06:28,020  
at that time.

107  
00:06:28,020 --> 00:06:32,250  
And they took us to Jaworzno--

108  
00:06:32,250 --> 00:06:37,290  
Majdanek-- no,  
Jaworzno from Majdanek.

109  
00:06:37,290 --> 00:06:39,520  
Did you know what you  
were volunteering for?

110  
00:06:39,520 --> 00:06:40,020  
No.

111  
00:06:40,020 --> 00:06:42,800

112  
00:06:42,800 --> 00:06:47,110  
They just were looking  
for people to work.

113  
00:06:47,110 --> 00:06:51,612  
But I didn't know where and  
what and how until we got there,

114  
00:06:51,612 --> 00:06:52,810  
until we got to Jaworzno.

115  
00:06:52,810 --> 00:06:54,880  
All right, let's--

116  
00:06:54,880 --> 00:06:59,980  
I think we ought to  
check on something.

117  
00:06:59,980 --> 00:07:05,350  
The story you told about  
the rickshaw and the officer

118  
00:07:05,350 --> 00:07:06,550  
was in Warsaw?

119  
00:07:06,550 --> 00:07:07,360  
That was in ghetto.

120  
00:07:07,360 --> 00:07:09,370  
That was in spring?

121  
00:07:09,370 --> 00:07:11,710  
The end of the ghetto  
was about April '43?

122  
00:07:11,710 --> 00:07:13,600  
That was end of April, yes.

123  
00:07:13,600 --> 00:07:14,230  
Yeah.

124  
00:07:14,230 --> 00:07:20,050  
Now, according to what  
we were discussing,

125  
00:07:20,050 --> 00:07:22,540  
you were in a number of camps.

126  
00:07:22,540 --> 00:07:26,660  
You were in Birkenau,  
and you got there

127  
00:07:26,660 --> 00:07:29,440  
it seems something  
like in May '43?

128  
00:07:29,440 --> 00:07:30,400  
Right.

129  
00:07:30,400 --> 00:07:35,950  
And you stay there I  
guess about a year or so?

130

00:07:35,950 --> 00:07:37,460

Maybe less than a year, yeah.

131

00:07:37,460 --> 00:07:38,808

So maybe--

132

00:07:38,808 --> 00:07:39,850

I don't remember exactly.

133

00:07:39,850 --> 00:07:45,880

That might have been spring

'44 when you came to Majdanek?

134

00:07:45,880 --> 00:07:47,440

Spring '44?

135

00:07:47,440 --> 00:07:48,160

Right.

136

00:07:48,160 --> 00:07:55,000

All right, so you are in Warsaw  
before going to Birkenau?

137

00:07:55,000 --> 00:07:57,910

Yes, I was in Warsaw till--

138

00:07:57,910 --> 00:07:58,720

Until May '43?

139

00:07:58,720 --> 00:07:59,650

May 5th, 1943.

140

00:07:59,650 --> 00:08:00,280

Yeah.

141

00:08:00,280 --> 00:08:03,940

So this is how-- this is

the development over here.

142

00:08:03,940 --> 00:08:05,990

Actually, from Warsaw

you want to Treblinka.

143

00:08:05,990 --> 00:08:07,270

Treblinka, right.

144

00:08:07,270 --> 00:08:08,740

And then--

145

00:08:08,740 --> 00:08:09,240

That was--

146

00:08:09,240 --> 00:08:10,090

Fortunately, you were able--

147

00:08:10,090 --> 00:08:11,410

Fortunately I was picked up.

148

00:08:11,410 --> 00:08:12,640

--to be moved out.

149

00:08:12,640 --> 00:08:15,340

You're one of the people  
whom going to Birkenau

150

00:08:15,340 --> 00:08:17,800

was good, because Treblinka  
was an out and out murder

151

00:08:17,800 --> 00:08:19,120

camp for the people  
coming from Warsaw.

152

00:08:19,120 --> 00:08:20,500

Absolutely, one  
in, you're right.

153

00:08:20,500 --> 00:08:25,030

And you went to Treblinka,  
quickly to Birkenau.

154

00:08:25,030 --> 00:08:26,720

You helped build Birkenau?

155  
00:08:26,720 --> 00:08:27,220  
Right.

156  
00:08:27,220 --> 00:08:31,750  
And when that was finished  
you got yourself transferred

157  
00:08:31,750 --> 00:08:32,500  
to Majdanek?

158  
00:08:32,500 --> 00:08:33,280  
Mm-hmm.

159  
00:08:33,280 --> 00:08:37,840  
And that's about  
the spring of '44.

160  
00:08:37,840 --> 00:08:42,850  
And then you went to Jaworzno.

161  
00:08:42,850 --> 00:08:51,370  
Now, when would you say  
you came to Jaworzno?

162  
00:08:51,370 --> 00:08:55,300

163  
00:08:55,300 --> 00:08:59,080  
If you are in Birkenau till  
about the spring of '44,

164  
00:08:59,080 --> 00:09:00,160  
then you are my Majdanek.

165  
00:09:00,160 --> 00:09:01,750  
How long were you in Majdanek?

166  
00:09:01,750 --> 00:09:03,760  
A couple of months, maybe  
two or three months.

167

00:09:03,760 --> 00:09:10,360

OK, for two or three months,  
and then so we're still in 1944.

168

00:09:10,360 --> 00:09:11,870

Right.

169

00:09:11,870 --> 00:09:14,260

It's either late  
spring or summer?

170

00:09:14,260 --> 00:09:16,930

And you're into Jaworzno?

171

00:09:16,930 --> 00:09:17,680

Where is Jaworzno?

172

00:09:17,680 --> 00:09:20,320

173

00:09:20,320 --> 00:09:32,000

Jaworzno is I would  
say southeast,

174

00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:33,090

I don't know exactly.

175

00:09:33,090 --> 00:09:38,840

I forgot to look it up.

176

00:09:38,840 --> 00:09:44,240

[? in a map ?] but  
it's in Poland.

177

00:09:44,240 --> 00:09:46,250

And you think it's in--

178

00:09:46,250 --> 00:09:48,050

you suspect it's in  
southeastern Poland?

179

00:09:48,050 --> 00:09:50,316

Yeah, southeastern  
Poland, right.

180

00:09:50,316 --> 00:09:51,170

All right.

181

00:09:51,170 --> 00:09:54,620

So what kind of a  
camp was Jaworzno?

182

00:09:54,620 --> 00:09:59,930

Well, just they had a coal mine.

183

00:09:59,930 --> 00:10:01,940

A lot of people work  
in the coal mine.

184

00:10:01,940 --> 00:10:03,720

I was one of them.

185

00:10:03,720 --> 00:10:08,810

I used to go to work  
on the railroad.

186

00:10:08,810 --> 00:10:11,810

I used to lay railroad tracks.

187

00:10:11,810 --> 00:10:18,260

I used to go in the field doing  
all kind of hard labor work.

188

00:10:18,260 --> 00:10:19,600

So you were working?

189

00:10:19,600 --> 00:10:21,100

We were working, right.

190

00:10:21,100 --> 00:10:23,100

And in Majdanek?

191

00:10:23,100 --> 00:10:24,350



Most every people working.

192

00:10:24,350 --> 00:10:25,340

What was Majdanek?

193

00:10:25,340 --> 00:10:30,380

Majdanek just you were working,  
but nothing constructive.

194

00:10:30,380 --> 00:10:32,390

You just chopping up stones.

195

00:10:32,390 --> 00:10:34,070

They bring you  
from place to place

196

00:10:34,070 --> 00:10:35,660

and you just floating around.

197

00:10:35,660 --> 00:10:39,120

198

00:10:39,120 --> 00:10:42,060

They just kept you there and  
they tried to get rid of--

199

00:10:42,060 --> 00:10:44,340

Majdanek was also a murder camp?

200

00:10:44,340 --> 00:10:45,300

Yes.

201

00:10:45,300 --> 00:10:47,580

But Jaworzno was not?

202

00:10:47,580 --> 00:10:51,300

Well, Jaworzno, that was  
almost the end of the war.

203

00:10:51,300 --> 00:10:56,050

People I guess they  
knew what was going on,

204  
00:10:56,050 --> 00:11:01,500  
and they were maybe  
easy on any prisoners.

205  
00:11:01,500 --> 00:11:07,050  
But still they wake you up  
at 5:00 in the morning, 3:00,

206  
00:11:07,050 --> 00:11:08,130  
4:00 in the morning.

207  
00:11:08,130 --> 00:11:11,100  
Any time they want to they push  
you in front of the barracks

208  
00:11:11,100 --> 00:11:14,860  
and you were standing  
there for hours.

209  
00:11:14,860 --> 00:11:18,750  
I remember it was wintertime,  
and people just dying right

210  
00:11:18,750 --> 00:11:19,640  
in front of you.

211  
00:11:19,640 --> 00:11:24,900  
It was cold, you didn't  
have proper clothing on you.

212  
00:11:24,900 --> 00:11:26,730  
And you stayed and  
you wait until they

213  
00:11:26,730 --> 00:11:30,840  
kept on continuing counting  
you, how many people they have.

214  
00:11:30,840 --> 00:11:38,930  
While they count, people people  
were dying just from cold

215

00:11:38,930 --> 00:11:42,300

or not having enough  
food, of weakness.

216

00:11:42,300 --> 00:11:44,520

And I remember I  
was saying to a guy,

217

00:11:44,520 --> 00:11:46,770

I turn around, before I  
know it he was on the floor.

218

00:11:46,770 --> 00:11:49,530

219

00:11:49,530 --> 00:11:53,670

Did you get any  
impression as to who

220

00:11:53,670 --> 00:11:59,040

was able to survive  
the cold and who

221

00:11:59,040 --> 00:12:02,220

keeled over and died because  
of the freezing weather?

222

00:12:02,220 --> 00:12:05,880

Some people were stronger,  
some people were weaker.

223

00:12:05,880 --> 00:12:11,460

Some people-- I really  
can't tell you that.

224

00:12:11,460 --> 00:12:12,360

It just--

225

00:12:12,360 --> 00:12:14,820

It wasn't necessarily age?

226

00:12:14,820 --> 00:12:17,620

No, not age at all.

227

00:12:17,620 --> 00:12:19,410

Everybody were  
young people there.

228

00:12:19,410 --> 00:12:21,240

There was no older  
people in this camp.

229

00:12:21,240 --> 00:12:24,070

All the people  
basically taken out

230

00:12:24,070 --> 00:12:28,830

of the ghettos, all the people--

231

00:12:28,830 --> 00:12:30,480

they were killed.

232

00:12:30,480 --> 00:12:36,230

But the younger people  
that still tried to escape

233

00:12:36,230 --> 00:12:40,450

or his in bunkers  
until the last minute,

234

00:12:40,450 --> 00:12:41,650

they also have young people.

235

00:12:41,650 --> 00:12:44,770

They were segregating,  
continuously segregating

236

00:12:44,770 --> 00:12:47,670

who they can use to work.

237

00:12:47,670 --> 00:12:51,690

The older people were killed.

238

00:12:51,690 --> 00:12:53,070

You are aware of that?

239

00:12:53,070 --> 00:12:54,180

Yes, sure.

240

00:12:54,180 --> 00:12:57,510

241

00:12:57,510 --> 00:12:58,620

Now, how--

242

00:12:58,620 --> 00:12:59,703

There is nothing you can--

243

00:12:59,703 --> 00:13:03,570

--how would you compare the  
three camps that you are

244

00:13:03,570 --> 00:13:07,365

in so far are Birkenau--

245

00:13:07,365 --> 00:13:09,240

we won't count Treblinka  
since you were there

246

00:13:09,240 --> 00:13:10,860

such a short period of time--

247

00:13:10,860 --> 00:13:14,100

Birkenau, Majdanek,  
and Jaworzno.

248

00:13:14,100 --> 00:13:17,010

How would you compare the three?

249

00:13:17,010 --> 00:13:21,990

Well, I would say

Jaworzno was the easiest.

250

00:13:21,990 --> 00:13:24,630

You had a chance to

work, you had a chance

251  
00:13:24,630 --> 00:13:28,440  
to go out of the  
camp, and maybe you

252  
00:13:28,440 --> 00:13:30,660  
could find something to eat.

253  
00:13:30,660 --> 00:13:33,630  
Some people worked  
in the coal mine

254  
00:13:33,630 --> 00:13:36,270  
had deals with the civilian  
people that worked,

255  
00:13:36,270 --> 00:13:39,990  
and somebody used to get a  
piece of bread or whatever.

256  
00:13:39,990 --> 00:13:42,150  
I remember once I was  
in the field working

257  
00:13:42,150 --> 00:13:46,620  
on a railroad there  
was an older soldier,

258  
00:13:46,620 --> 00:13:53,730  
and he knew what was going on,  
and I was pretty close to him.

259  
00:13:53,730 --> 00:13:57,570  
He was having lunch, so  
he had a piece of bread.

260  
00:13:57,570 --> 00:14:04,320  
So he had inside the soft part  
of the bread, and the crust he

261  
00:14:04,320 --> 00:14:07,310  
left on the stone  
that I was sitting on.

262

00:14:07,310 --> 00:14:12,060

So I think he left it for me,  
so when he went away I went over

263

00:14:12,060 --> 00:14:16,350

picked up that piece  
of bread and ate it.

264

00:14:16,350 --> 00:14:19,170

Or we work in the  
field and there

265

00:14:19,170 --> 00:14:21,000

was something growing  
there, something

266

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:22,770

that I picked and ate.

267

00:14:22,770 --> 00:14:24,608

It was very sweet.

268

00:14:24,608 --> 00:14:26,400

I don't know what it  
was, some kind of root

269

00:14:26,400 --> 00:14:28,730

or whatever, I don't  
know what it was.

270

00:14:28,730 --> 00:14:33,405

So they brought in Polish people  
from town to work with you?

271

00:14:33,405 --> 00:14:34,470

No, there was Germans.

272

00:14:34,470 --> 00:14:35,700

Oh, well--

273

00:14:35,700 --> 00:14:36,930

The fellow who left the--

274

00:14:36,930 --> 00:14:42,375  
--in the coal mine they used  
to bring Polish workers.

275

00:14:42,375 --> 00:14:45,600

276

00:14:45,600 --> 00:14:50,430  
That's where like in  
charge of the work.

277

00:14:50,430 --> 00:14:55,970  
But there usually were SS  
men, guards in the coal mine

278

00:14:55,970 --> 00:14:58,200  
and they was watching you.

279

00:14:58,200 --> 00:15:00,630  
You couldn't stop, you  
just had those big shovels.

280

00:15:00,630 --> 00:15:04,830  
You load up the wagons with  
coal and you couldn't stop.

281

00:15:04,830 --> 00:15:07,180  
The fellow who left  
over the crust?

282

00:15:07,180 --> 00:15:07,680  
Yeah.

283

00:15:07,680 --> 00:15:08,340  
Who was he?

284

00:15:08,340 --> 00:15:12,540  
He was a soldier,  
an older soldier.

285



00:15:12,540 --> 00:15:13,140  
A German?

286  
00:15:13,140 --> 00:15:14,880  
A German soldier, right.

287  
00:15:14,880 --> 00:15:19,080  
He wasn't SS or  
whatever, he was just--

288  
00:15:19,080 --> 00:15:27,440  
they had those people watching  
being under construction

289  
00:15:27,440 --> 00:15:30,140  
or whatever as guards.

290  
00:15:30,140 --> 00:15:33,470  
Was this unusual that a  
German soldier would--

291  
00:15:33,470 --> 00:15:34,240  
Very unusual, yes.

292  
00:15:34,240 --> 00:15:35,300  
--help?

293  
00:15:35,300 --> 00:15:38,020  
Very unusual,  
very, very unusual.

294  
00:15:38,020 --> 00:15:40,970

295  
00:15:40,970 --> 00:15:43,730  
But it probably felt  
sorry all the people--

296  
00:15:43,730 --> 00:15:46,960  
they probably felt sorry for us.

297  
00:15:46,960 --> 00:15:49,000

And they couldn't  
do much about it,

298  
00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:52,270  
because if they tried  
to do something for it

299  
00:15:52,270 --> 00:15:54,070  
they were killed.

300  
00:15:54,070 --> 00:15:56,650  
Those SS men were  
watching like hawks,

301  
00:15:56,650 --> 00:15:58,840  
you couldn't do anything.

302  
00:15:58,840 --> 00:16:03,050  
There were some soldiers  
that wanted to do something,

303  
00:16:03,050 --> 00:16:04,180  
but just they couldn't.

304  
00:16:04,180 --> 00:16:07,430

305  
00:16:07,430 --> 00:16:11,180  
Now, you were moved  
so far three times.

306  
00:16:11,180 --> 00:16:14,100  
You were moved from  
Warsaw to Treblinka.

307  
00:16:14,100 --> 00:16:14,600  
Right.

308  
00:16:14,600 --> 00:16:18,920  
From Treblinka to Birkenau  
is the second time,

309

00:16:18,920 --> 00:16:23,315  
and from Birkenau to  
Majdanek is the third time.

310  
00:16:23,315 --> 00:16:28,160  
So to Treblinka once, to  
Birkenau the second time,

311  
00:16:28,160 --> 00:16:31,820  
to Majdanek the third time,  
and it's four-- and to Jaworzno

312  
00:16:31,820 --> 00:16:32,490  
the fourth time.

313  
00:16:32,490 --> 00:16:32,990  
Yes.

314  
00:16:32,990 --> 00:16:33,770  
And then to--

315  
00:16:33,770 --> 00:16:35,560  
How did you get moved  
all those times?

316  
00:16:35,560 --> 00:16:39,530  
Well, sometimes we walked.

317  
00:16:39,530 --> 00:16:46,940  
Sometimes we rode on  
trucks, and sometimes they

318  
00:16:46,940 --> 00:16:49,458  
put us on trains-- box trains.

319  
00:16:49,458 --> 00:16:51,470  
OK, let's take it one at a time.

320  
00:16:51,470 --> 00:16:54,020  
From Warsaw to Treblinka,  
how did you get there?

321

00:16:54,020 --> 00:16:56,620

322

00:16:56,620 --> 00:17:00,540

In the trains, in the box  
trains, those cattle trains.

323

00:17:00,540 --> 00:17:01,620

The cattle cars?

324

00:17:01,620 --> 00:17:03,870

How long did the trip take?

325

00:17:03,870 --> 00:17:04,680

To Treblinka?

326

00:17:04,680 --> 00:17:08,010

327

00:17:08,010 --> 00:17:10,950

Quite a few hours.

328

00:17:10,950 --> 00:17:14,640

And what were the  
conditions in the train?

329

00:17:14,640 --> 00:17:17,099

The people were  
packed like sardines.

330

00:17:17,099 --> 00:17:20,779

They were so against each other  
that they couldn't breathe.

331

00:17:20,779 --> 00:17:25,109

There were little kids that  
people were just passing out.

332

00:17:25,109 --> 00:17:27,668

333

00:17:27,668 --> 00:17:30,210

So this was a real cattle car  
that you keep on talking about?

334  
00:17:30,210 --> 00:17:31,580  
That was a real  
cattle car, right.

335  
00:17:31,580 --> 00:17:32,420  
Terrible conditions.

336  
00:17:32,420 --> 00:17:35,415  
With no plumbing  
facilities, no water?

337  
00:17:35,415 --> 00:17:36,040  
Nothing at all.

338  
00:17:36,040 --> 00:17:36,540  
Nothing.

339  
00:17:36,540 --> 00:17:39,440

340  
00:17:39,440 --> 00:17:45,140  
And how did the people conduct  
themselves in the cattle car?

341  
00:17:45,140 --> 00:17:51,290  
They were crying, carry  
on, and it didn't--

342  
00:17:51,290 --> 00:17:55,850  
there was a terrible,  
terrible scene.

343  
00:17:55,850 --> 00:17:58,160  
It was awful.

344  
00:17:58,160 --> 00:17:59,160  
People couldn't breathe.

345  
00:17:59,160 --> 00:18:03,280

We were trying to reach that  
little window on the top,

346  
00:18:03,280 --> 00:18:05,530  
but the window was small.

347  
00:18:05,530 --> 00:18:08,200  
And then they had wires.

348  
00:18:08,200 --> 00:18:14,800  
Some people tried to get  
out, but it was impossible.

349  
00:18:14,800 --> 00:18:17,590  
And how long were  
you in Treblinka?

350  
00:18:17,590 --> 00:18:23,820  
I would say maybe two hours.

351  
00:18:23,820 --> 00:18:25,000  
Quickly they moved you?

352  
00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:25,500  
Yeah.

353  
00:18:25,500 --> 00:18:26,880  
They--

354  
00:18:26,880 --> 00:18:29,770  
How many did they move with you?

355  
00:18:29,770 --> 00:18:34,890  
I think there was a  
few hundred people.

356  
00:18:34,890 --> 00:18:37,010  
And they were  
strong, young people?

357  
00:18:37,010 --> 00:18:39,190  
Well, they picked the

youngest and the strongest

358

00:18:39,190 --> 00:18:41,390

people, young men, yeah.

359

00:18:41,390 --> 00:18:45,850

So you came-- how did you move  
from Treblinka to Birkenau?

360

00:18:45,850 --> 00:18:47,540

The same wagon, same cars.

361

00:18:47,540 --> 00:18:48,940

The same cattle car?

362

00:18:48,940 --> 00:18:49,950

Yeah, same cattle car.

363

00:18:49,950 --> 00:18:52,490

And the conditions?

364

00:18:52,490 --> 00:18:54,200

Well, the conditions  
were not that bad

365

00:18:54,200 --> 00:19:00,920

because there was only  
20, 30 people in the car.

366

00:19:00,920 --> 00:19:07,340

So we could sit down, sit  
against the on the floor,

367

00:19:07,340 --> 00:19:09,320

and just relax a little bit.

368

00:19:09,320 --> 00:19:10,460

And how long was that trip?

369

00:19:10,460 --> 00:19:13,830

370

00:19:13,830 --> 00:19:16,890

I think we drove overnight.

371

00:19:16,890 --> 00:19:17,970

Drove in the train?

372

00:19:17,970 --> 00:19:20,280

We rode in the train

overnight, yeah.

373

00:19:20,280 --> 00:19:20,880

Overnight?

374

00:19:20,880 --> 00:19:22,383

But it really isn't

that long a trip

375

00:19:22,383 --> 00:19:23,800

that it should

take you overnight?

376

00:19:23,800 --> 00:19:25,270

No, no.

377

00:19:25,270 --> 00:19:26,645

But all the time

that was spent--

378

00:19:26,645 --> 00:19:32,550

Because Treblinka from Warsaw is

on the way to Birkenau, really.

379

00:19:32,550 --> 00:19:35,040

You're moving in the

direction of Warsaw

380

00:19:35,040 --> 00:19:37,650

to Birkenau to begin with.

381

00:19:37,650 --> 00:19:39,240

Direction of Warsaw?



382

00:19:39,240 --> 00:19:44,100

Yeah, in other words

Birkenau is near Krakow.

383

00:19:44,100 --> 00:19:44,730

Right.

384

00:19:44,730 --> 00:19:50,130

And Treblinka is

not far from Warsaw.

385

00:19:50,130 --> 00:19:53,508

So you weren't out of the

way really when you went--

386

00:19:53,508 --> 00:19:54,300

No, not really, no.

387

00:19:54,300 --> 00:19:56,670

Everything was kind of close.

388

00:19:56,670 --> 00:19:57,930

Yeah.

389

00:19:57,930 --> 00:19:59,790

Everything was still in Poland.

390

00:19:59,790 --> 00:20:04,710

Now, the trip from Birkenau to  
Majdanek is longer, I believe?

391

00:20:04,710 --> 00:20:05,700

It's longer, right.

392

00:20:05,700 --> 00:20:08,820

Yeah, how did you  
make that trip?

393

00:20:08,820 --> 00:20:14,000

I think we're partially  
on trucks and partially

394

00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:15,450  
on the train.

395

00:20:15,450 --> 00:20:17,100  
And what were the  
conditions then?

396

00:20:17,100 --> 00:20:19,120  
But there wasn't a train.

397

00:20:19,120 --> 00:20:21,510  
They weren't those  
cattle boxes, they

398

00:20:21,510 --> 00:20:23,085  
were I think regular trains.

399

00:20:23,085 --> 00:20:26,170

400

00:20:26,170 --> 00:20:28,330  
And these were people  
they wanted for work?

401

00:20:28,330 --> 00:20:31,210  
They wanted for work, right.

402

00:20:31,210 --> 00:20:34,040  
So that trip you don't remember  
as being such a terrible trip?

403

00:20:34,040 --> 00:20:36,040  
No, no, no.

404

00:20:36,040 --> 00:20:40,530  
The worst trip was from  
Warsaw to Treblinka.

405

00:20:40,530 --> 00:20:41,030  
That was--

406

00:20:41,030 --> 00:20:42,100  
When they had everybody?

407  
00:20:42,100 --> 00:20:43,630  
That was the worst.

408  
00:20:43,630 --> 00:20:47,320  
That was unbelievable.

409  
00:20:47,320 --> 00:20:51,350  
All right, now, now what  
about the trip from Birkenau

410  
00:20:51,350 --> 00:20:53,990  
to Majdanek, the longer trip?

411  
00:20:53,990 --> 00:20:56,300  
That was with trucks, you say?

412  
00:20:56,300 --> 00:20:59,450  
That was partially trucks  
and partially trains.

413  
00:20:59,450 --> 00:21:04,160  
Yeah, and now Majdanek to  
Jaworzno, what kind of a trip

414  
00:21:04,160 --> 00:21:04,790  
is that?

415  
00:21:04,790 --> 00:21:06,200  
How long is that?

416  
00:21:06,200 --> 00:21:07,550  
I don't remember.

417  
00:21:07,550 --> 00:21:09,190  
I just don't remember.

418  
00:21:09,190 --> 00:21:12,320

419

00:21:12,320 --> 00:21:13,910

Do you remember how  
you made the trip?

420

00:21:13,910 --> 00:21:20,640

421

00:21:20,640 --> 00:21:22,890

That's the trip you  
volunteered for?

422

00:21:22,890 --> 00:21:25,645

Yeah, I volunteered to  
every time I had a chance--

423

00:21:25,645 --> 00:21:26,770

Every time you got changed?

424

00:21:26,770 --> 00:21:27,930

--to volunteer, right.

425

00:21:27,930 --> 00:21:31,680

And in retrospect you think  
that was a good action?

426

00:21:31,680 --> 00:21:35,280

I think so, because people  
that they couldn't work,

427

00:21:35,280 --> 00:21:40,950

that were left in the  
camp, they got rid of them.

428

00:21:40,950 --> 00:21:47,250

You don't recall at all  
Jaworzno Majdanek to Jaworzno?

429

00:21:47,250 --> 00:21:49,620

Majdanek to Jaworzno, how  
did you make the trip?

430

00:21:49,620 --> 00:21:50,328

You don't recall.

431  
00:21:50,328 --> 00:21:51,203  
Oh, I don't remember.

432  
00:21:51,203 --> 00:21:52,830  
I think it was by  
trucks and the train.

433  
00:21:52,830 --> 00:21:54,450  
Yeah.

434  
00:21:54,450 --> 00:21:54,950  
I just--

435  
00:21:54,950 --> 00:21:56,760  
All right, now comes--

436  
00:21:56,760 --> 00:22:04,950  
now we're at a time  
in the war when

437  
00:22:04,950 --> 00:22:08,760  
things are going very  
poorly, very seriously wrong

438  
00:22:08,760 --> 00:22:10,240  
for the Germans, right?

439  
00:22:10,240 --> 00:22:11,580  
They're losing the war.

440  
00:22:11,580 --> 00:22:13,740  
That's when you got  
out of Jaworzno?

441  
00:22:13,740 --> 00:22:14,640  
Right.

442  
00:22:14,640 --> 00:22:16,950  
When did you leave  
Jaworzno, do you recall?

443  
00:22:16,950 --> 00:22:18,390  
Yes, in January.

444  
00:22:18,390 --> 00:22:19,920  
January '45?

445  
00:22:19,920 --> 00:22:20,970  
'45, right.

446  
00:22:20,970 --> 00:22:24,210  
Now, as everybody is  
running for safety.

447  
00:22:24,210 --> 00:22:27,360  
Everybody is running-- one  
night they took us out,

448  
00:22:27,360 --> 00:22:33,300  
and they gave us a loaf  
of bread and a blanket.

449  
00:22:33,300 --> 00:22:40,080  
They put you in line, and  
then we start marching.

450  
00:22:40,080 --> 00:22:41,500  
This was the death march?

451  
00:22:41,500 --> 00:22:43,980  
That was the death march, right.

452  
00:22:43,980 --> 00:22:47,610  
What do you recall  
of the death march?

453  
00:22:47,610 --> 00:22:49,680  
Well, I recall right  
at the beginning

454  
00:22:49,680 --> 00:23:00,210  
of the march I was at the end of

the column that I was marching.

455

00:23:00,210 --> 00:23:12,090

And one of the soldiers called  
me, and he had his bicycle.

456

00:23:12,090 --> 00:23:22,130

And there was a lot of suitcases  
hanging on his bicycle.

457

00:23:22,130 --> 00:23:28,105

And he asked me to carry this  
bicycle with all this luggage.

458

00:23:28,105 --> 00:23:30,830

There was a lot of  
snow on the ground,

459

00:23:30,830 --> 00:23:36,500

and I could hardly walk myself.

460

00:23:36,500 --> 00:23:38,570

So I carried his bicycle  
for a little while,

461

00:23:38,570 --> 00:23:43,010

and then I noticed  
that he went up front.

462

00:23:43,010 --> 00:23:51,090

And as soon as I lost him,  
I couldn't see him anymore,

463

00:23:51,090 --> 00:23:55,790

I dumped the bicycle in a  
ditch and put the blanket

464

00:23:55,790 --> 00:24:00,740

over my head and went  
through the column up front.

465

00:24:00,740 --> 00:24:03,860

I just took that chance.

466  
00:24:03,860 --> 00:24:06,392  
I couldn't carry the bicycle.

467  
00:24:06,392 --> 00:24:08,280  
He couldn't find--  
he never saw--

468  
00:24:08,280 --> 00:24:11,190  
If you would have  
remained with the bicycle

469  
00:24:11,190 --> 00:24:13,770  
what would have happened?

470  
00:24:13,770 --> 00:24:15,570  
I would probably stay  
behind the column

471  
00:24:15,570 --> 00:24:18,290  
and probably somebody else would  
probably come over and kill me.

472  
00:24:18,290 --> 00:24:21,910

473  
00:24:21,910 --> 00:24:23,000  
I couldn't carry that.

474  
00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:25,540  
And you were the only person  
who was honored with carrying

475  
00:24:25,540 --> 00:24:27,390  
a bicycle with suitcases?

476  
00:24:27,390 --> 00:24:30,550  
Yeah, of the few hundred  
people, maybe 1,000 people,

477  
00:24:30,550 --> 00:24:33,540  
he picked me.



478  
00:24:33,540 --> 00:24:35,700  
It was unbelievable.

479  
00:24:35,700 --> 00:24:39,930  
Maybe because I was  
at the end and I

480  
00:24:39,930 --> 00:24:44,310  
look more capable of carrying  
this bicycle for him.

481  
00:24:44,310 --> 00:24:48,660  
So I never saw him  
again, he never saw me.

482  
00:24:48,660 --> 00:24:52,350

483  
00:24:52,350 --> 00:24:53,520  
That was January though?

484  
00:24:53,520 --> 00:24:54,260  
That was January.

485  
00:24:54,260 --> 00:24:54,610  
It was winter, it was cold.

486  
00:24:54,610 --> 00:24:56,010  
Was there snow on the ground?

487  
00:24:56,010 --> 00:24:57,040  
Snow on the ground.

488  
00:24:57,040 --> 00:25:00,265  
How much snow was on the ground?

489  
00:25:00,265 --> 00:25:06,260  
There was enough snow to build  
your wood shows up with snow.

490

00:25:06,260 --> 00:25:07,310  
You could hardly walk.

491  
00:25:07,310 --> 00:25:12,260  
You had to every  
so so long you had

492  
00:25:12,260 --> 00:25:18,020  
to scrub the snow off  
the soles of your shoes.

493  
00:25:18,020 --> 00:25:20,900  
As a matter of fact, some  
people used to lose their shoes.

494  
00:25:20,900 --> 00:25:31,290  
They put rags around their  
feet so they road could work.

495  
00:25:31,290 --> 00:25:33,350  
So a lot of people  
died on that march.

496  
00:25:33,350 --> 00:25:35,810  
A lot of people they died  
because they were weak,

497  
00:25:35,810 --> 00:25:37,280  
they couldn't walk.

498  
00:25:37,280 --> 00:25:39,545  
Or they were killed because  
they were standing behind.

499  
00:25:39,545 --> 00:25:44,110

500  
00:25:44,110 --> 00:25:48,940  
But the people were all  
reasonably young in years?

501  
00:25:48,940 --> 00:25:52,600  
They were reasonable young

in years, but they were weak.

502

00:25:52,600 --> 00:25:55,690

503

00:25:55,690 --> 00:25:58,300

You see the people that were  
there it's unbelievable.

504

00:25:58,300 --> 00:26:02,530

All they were just  
skin on their bones.

505

00:26:02,530 --> 00:26:03,410

Including you?

506

00:26:03,410 --> 00:26:05,770

Including me.

507

00:26:05,770 --> 00:26:09,820

I was liberated at  
about 90 pounds.

508

00:26:09,820 --> 00:26:13,030

And what did you have--

509

00:26:13,030 --> 00:26:16,390

did you have anything to  
protect you against that cold?

510

00:26:16,390 --> 00:26:22,420

Well, we were in regular stripes  
and some underwear and a shirt

511

00:26:22,420 --> 00:26:24,940

and a jacket and a blanket.

512

00:26:24,940 --> 00:26:26,560

What kind of a jacket?

513

00:26:26,560 --> 00:26:30,940

A striped jacket.

514  
00:26:30,940 --> 00:26:32,470  
Well, what kind  
of weather was it?

515  
00:26:32,470 --> 00:26:35,080  
They didn't care what  
kind of weather was it.

516  
00:26:35,080 --> 00:26:37,160  
What they have they  
give you, that's it.

517  
00:26:37,160 --> 00:26:42,265  
It would seem to me in spring  
it might still be cold.

518  
00:26:42,265 --> 00:26:43,750  
In spring was still cold.

519  
00:26:43,750 --> 00:26:45,460  
Yeah, but what did they care?

520  
00:26:45,460 --> 00:26:47,893  
In a bitter winter?

521  
00:26:47,893 --> 00:26:49,310  
There was no  
difference with them.

522  
00:26:49,310 --> 00:26:50,770  
Winter, what they--

523  
00:26:50,770 --> 00:26:52,390  
I remember I worked  
in the coal mine.

524  
00:26:52,390 --> 00:26:55,000

525  
00:26:55,000 --> 00:26:59,230  
We were chained, we

had a big rod going

526

00:26:59,230 --> 00:27:02,650  
across about 12 people chained  
to that rod on each side,

527

00:27:02,650 --> 00:27:03,910  
and we worked.

528

00:27:03,910 --> 00:27:06,160  
Rock, did you say a rock?

529

00:27:06,160 --> 00:27:07,360  
We work.

530

00:27:07,360 --> 00:27:09,790  
Yeah, with a chain?

531

00:27:09,790 --> 00:27:11,380  
Yeah.

532

00:27:11,380 --> 00:27:14,770  
There was a chain in the center  
and each side of this big rod.

533

00:27:14,770 --> 00:27:15,820  
There was a rod.

534

00:27:15,820 --> 00:27:21,340  
And we were chained with  
one wrist to this rod.

535

00:27:21,340 --> 00:27:22,030  
Rock?

536

00:27:22,030 --> 00:27:23,530  
To the rod, the medal rod.

537

00:27:23,530 --> 00:27:26,530  
Rod, oh, yeah.

538

00:27:26,530 --> 00:27:29,605

That's the way we walked to  
the coal mine, to the coal mine

539

00:27:29,605 --> 00:27:31,960

and back from the  
coal mine, chained.

540

00:27:31,960 --> 00:27:35,650

Yeah, and the purpose of  
the being chained was?

541

00:27:35,650 --> 00:27:39,220

So nobody would run away.

542

00:27:39,220 --> 00:27:43,150

It was very difficult to  
walk because like I said,

543

00:27:43,150 --> 00:27:48,160

we wore those wooden soled shoes  
and the snow was piling up.

544

00:27:48,160 --> 00:27:52,030

Sometimes when one of the  
guys tripped the rest of them

545

00:27:52,030 --> 00:27:57,280

that were behind him fell  
right on the top of him.

546

00:27:57,280 --> 00:27:57,900

On him?

547

00:27:57,900 --> 00:27:58,210

On him, yeah.

548

00:27:58,210 --> 00:27:59,260

And he was on the snow?

549

00:27:59,260 --> 00:28:01,840

He was yeah-- we all  
were on the snow.

550  
00:28:01,840 --> 00:28:04,090  
And then the guard  
came over and start

551  
00:28:04,090 --> 00:28:09,295  
to whip you to get up  
quick, quick, quick.

552  
00:28:09,295 --> 00:28:12,540  
It wasn't pleasant.

553  
00:28:12,540 --> 00:28:15,920  
Did you ever figure out  
why they marched you back?

554  
00:28:15,920 --> 00:28:18,310  
They could have left you over?

555  
00:28:18,310 --> 00:28:19,920  
Left you where?

556  
00:28:19,920 --> 00:28:21,960  
In Poland., in Jaworzno.

557  
00:28:21,960 --> 00:28:23,310  
They wanted to get--

558  
00:28:23,310 --> 00:28:25,110  
What did they gain  
by taking you?

559  
00:28:25,110 --> 00:28:29,180  
The purpose of everything  
was to get rid of you.

560  
00:28:29,180 --> 00:28:33,390  
Any way they couldn't kill  
you the way they used to

561  
00:28:33,390 --> 00:28:35,040  
because it was the end the war.

562

00:28:35,040 --> 00:28:39,270

People were a little afraid  
or whatever, the Germans.

563

00:28:39,270 --> 00:28:43,350

They didn't burn you anymore,  
but when you were dead

564

00:28:43,350 --> 00:28:45,450

they put you in a  
grave, in a ditch.

565

00:28:45,450 --> 00:28:48,650

566

00:28:48,650 --> 00:29:00,000

I remember in Mauthausen  
one evening the soldiers

567

00:29:00,000 --> 00:29:01,740

came into the  
barracks where I was,

568

00:29:01,740 --> 00:29:06,420

and they took out  
about 12 or 15 people.

569

00:29:06,420 --> 00:29:10,080

They gave them these rubber  
boots and some gloves,

570

00:29:10,080 --> 00:29:12,510

and they took you out.

571

00:29:12,510 --> 00:29:17,310

And you marched  
maybe a mile or so.

572

00:29:17,310 --> 00:29:22,350

And there was this  
big tremendous



573

00:29:22,350 --> 00:29:28,020

like a grave, big hole  
in the ground was about,

574

00:29:28,020 --> 00:29:31,620

I would say, I don't know,  
about 100 feet by 60 feet.

575

00:29:31,620 --> 00:29:34,830

There were dead  
people in it piled up.

576

00:29:34,830 --> 00:29:37,320

Because the workers  
used to come out,

577

00:29:37,320 --> 00:29:40,890

dump the people in the ditch.

578

00:29:40,890 --> 00:29:43,850

There was a big pile.

579

00:29:43,850 --> 00:29:48,810

So all those people that they  
took out of this barracks,

580

00:29:48,810 --> 00:29:52,310

me included, we had to  
go down into the ditch

581

00:29:52,310 --> 00:29:56,750

and try to straighten  
the pile, make it even.

582

00:29:56,750 --> 00:30:04,340

Put the people in one grade,  
grade it out, make it straight.

583

00:30:04,340 --> 00:30:09,430

And then after that they  
put some lime on the layer

584

00:30:09,430 --> 00:30:11,180  
and they put another  
layer on top of that,

585  
00:30:11,180 --> 00:30:12,580  
and just keep on  
going and going.

586  
00:30:12,580 --> 00:30:15,630

587  
00:30:15,630 --> 00:30:18,650  
It was awful.

588  
00:30:18,650 --> 00:30:23,270  
Some of the guys, when you  
walk on the dead people

589  
00:30:23,270 --> 00:30:24,300  
you walk all over them.

590  
00:30:24,300 --> 00:30:26,420  
And sometimes you  
step on a stomach

591  
00:30:26,420 --> 00:30:28,120  
and this sound comes out--

592  
00:30:28,120 --> 00:30:33,710  
that was scary,  
very, very scary.

593  
00:30:33,710 --> 00:30:39,400  
The reflecter all around you  
so they can see where you are,

594  
00:30:39,400 --> 00:30:42,140  
what are you doing.

595  
00:30:42,140 --> 00:30:46,340  
And like I said, those wagons  
came over and a couple of guys

596

00:30:46,340 --> 00:30:48,890

dumped the bodies  
in the ditch, and we

597

00:30:48,890 --> 00:30:53,540

had to pick it up and lay it  
out like sardines in a can.

598

00:30:53,540 --> 00:30:58,010

This was on the death march?

599

00:30:58,010 --> 00:30:59,450

That was after the death march.

600

00:30:59,450 --> 00:31:00,283

That was Mauthausen?

601

00:31:00,283 --> 00:31:03,020

That was Mauthausen, yeah.

602

00:31:03,020 --> 00:31:04,730

That was in Mauthausen.

603

00:31:04,730 --> 00:31:09,060

You arrived in Mauthausen  
then in January '45?

604

00:31:09,060 --> 00:31:10,280

Yes.

605

00:31:10,280 --> 00:31:13,680

And what did you do then?

606

00:31:13,680 --> 00:31:17,580

In Mauthausen we  
didn't do anything.

607

00:31:17,580 --> 00:31:20,930

Some people used to  
work like I worked.

608

00:31:20,930 --> 00:31:27,050

We just hang out, just sit  
there and we didn't do much.

609

00:31:27,050 --> 00:31:30,440

There was nothing  
to do at that point.

610

00:31:30,440 --> 00:31:32,630

Do you have any  
idea how many people

611

00:31:32,630 --> 00:31:34,100

started on the death march?

612

00:31:34,100 --> 00:31:38,390

613

00:31:38,390 --> 00:31:42,020

I would say maybe  
around 1,000 people.

614

00:31:42,020 --> 00:31:42,750

1,000?

615

00:31:42,750 --> 00:31:44,000

Yeah, just about 1,000 people.

616

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:45,365

So it wasn't that many?

617

00:31:45,365 --> 00:31:46,250

Pardon me?

618

00:31:46,250 --> 00:31:47,525

It wasn't that many?

619

00:31:47,525 --> 00:31:51,320

I mean, I imagine some of  
the others had bigger crowds.

620

00:31:51,320 --> 00:31:52,670

Yeah, but maybe more.

621  
00:31:52,670 --> 00:31:55,160  
Do you have any idea how  
many arrived in Mauthausen?

622  
00:31:55,160 --> 00:31:56,000  
Mauthausen?

623  
00:31:56,000 --> 00:31:59,370

624  
00:31:59,370 --> 00:32:04,840  
I would say about a  
couple hundred people.

625  
00:32:04,840 --> 00:32:08,792

626  
00:32:08,792 --> 00:32:09,500  
A couple hundred?

627  
00:32:09,500 --> 00:32:11,420  
Does that mean 200?

628  
00:32:11,420 --> 00:32:14,540  
200, just about 200  
maybe, or maybe less.

629  
00:32:14,540 --> 00:32:18,320  
You mean they got rid  
of 800 out of the 1,000?

630  
00:32:18,320 --> 00:32:19,790  
People were dying.

631  
00:32:19,790 --> 00:32:20,690  
People would die.

632  
00:32:20,690 --> 00:32:24,380  
Trying to escape they were shot.

633

00:32:24,380 --> 00:32:34,390

Just there was--  
the purpose of this

634

00:32:34,390 --> 00:32:36,760

was just to get  
rid of the people.

635

00:32:36,760 --> 00:32:40,300

What were the conditions  
that you found in Mauthausen?

636

00:32:40,300 --> 00:32:44,710

637

00:32:44,710 --> 00:32:48,140

Well, like I said, we  
didn't do anything.

638

00:32:48,140 --> 00:32:49,900

We just hang out.

639

00:32:49,900 --> 00:32:53,410

They give you some food,  
give you a piece of bread

640

00:32:53,410 --> 00:32:55,030

and some kind of  
soup that was just

641

00:32:55,030 --> 00:32:57,340

some water and  
some lettuce in it.

642

00:32:57,340 --> 00:33:00,730

I don't know what  
it was in there.

643

00:33:00,730 --> 00:33:01,925

You just exist.

644

00:33:01,925 --> 00:33:08,940

645

00:33:08,940 --> 00:33:11,270

And then there was  
still no rhyme or reason

646

00:33:11,270 --> 00:33:14,270

to what the Germans were doing?

647

00:33:14,270 --> 00:33:14,920

Reasons?

648

00:33:14,920 --> 00:33:19,550

They didn't-- they wanted  
to get rid of the Jews.

649

00:33:19,550 --> 00:33:20,780

That was their idea.

650

00:33:20,780 --> 00:33:23,660

There were some  
non-Jews there too?

651

00:33:23,660 --> 00:33:24,500

Yes.

652

00:33:24,500 --> 00:33:29,480

There was in Jaworzno there  
was a lot of non-Jews.

653

00:33:29,480 --> 00:33:31,670

Was there a difference in  
the treatment of the Jews

654

00:33:31,670 --> 00:33:32,628

as compred to non-Jews?

655

00:33:32,628 --> 00:33:35,270

No, it's same treatment.

656

00:33:35,270 --> 00:33:39,140

Well, I would say, there

was a better treatment

657

00:33:39,140 --> 00:33:42,050

because some of  
the non-Jewish used

658

00:33:42,050 --> 00:33:46,790

to receive packages  
from their families,

659

00:33:46,790 --> 00:33:51,080

where the Jews didn't have  
nobody to receive from.

660

00:33:51,080 --> 00:33:53,850

Well, they were in  
Poland at the time?

661

00:33:53,850 --> 00:33:56,330

Yeah, Jaworzno was in Poland.

662

00:33:56,330 --> 00:33:57,860

So they could get from Poland.

663

00:33:57,860 --> 00:33:59,867

Now, when you were  
in Mauthausen,

664

00:33:59,867 --> 00:34:01,700

there was a difference  
between the treatment

665

00:34:01,700 --> 00:34:02,908

of the Jews and the non-Jews?

666

00:34:02,908 --> 00:34:06,380

667

00:34:06,380 --> 00:34:09,020

No, I don't think so.

668

00:34:09,020 --> 00:34:12,133



I wasn't in the main camp.

669

00:34:12,133 --> 00:34:20,150

There was a second camp  
built out of tents--

670

00:34:20,150 --> 00:34:22,360

canvas tents.

671

00:34:22,360 --> 00:34:24,000

That's where we were.

672

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:27,710

So I don't know what was  
going on in the upper camp.

673

00:34:27,710 --> 00:34:29,670

And where you were  
was only Jews?

674

00:34:29,670 --> 00:34:32,360

Yes.

675

00:34:32,360 --> 00:34:35,739

And you were there how long?

676

00:34:35,739 --> 00:34:44,449

Until I was liberated May 5th.

677

00:34:44,449 --> 00:34:50,460

So we were there till  
about end of April,

678

00:34:50,460 --> 00:34:53,070

and then they took  
us to Gunskirchen,

679

00:34:53,070 --> 00:34:56,489

which was another camp  
only a couple of miles

680

00:34:56,489 --> 00:34:59,600

away from Mauthausen.

681  
00:34:59,600 --> 00:35:00,665  
What was the purpose--

682  
00:35:00,665 --> 00:35:00,920  
The reason--

683  
00:35:00,920 --> 00:35:01,600  
--of that move?

684  
00:35:01,600 --> 00:35:06,230

685  
00:35:06,230 --> 00:35:09,890  
That was the last  
stage of the people

686  
00:35:09,890 --> 00:35:11,900  
that they thought  
that in that camp

687  
00:35:11,900 --> 00:35:16,610  
they might get rid  
of some more people.

688  
00:35:16,610 --> 00:35:18,500  
You mean that they  
should perish?

689  
00:35:18,500 --> 00:35:19,700  
Perish, right.

690  
00:35:19,700 --> 00:35:24,048  
So you think that the  
people who were moved--

691  
00:35:24,048 --> 00:35:26,090  
I think they had a gas  
chamber there or whatever.

692  
00:35:26,090 --> 00:35:26,632

I don't know.

693

00:35:26,632 --> 00:35:27,700

Where was a gas chamber?

694

00:35:27,700 --> 00:35:29,670

In Gunskirchen.

695

00:35:29,670 --> 00:35:35,390

Yeah, but you thought that  
the purpose of moving people

696

00:35:35,390 --> 00:35:42,050

from Mauthausen to Gunskirchen  
was to get rid of those people?

697

00:35:42,050 --> 00:35:45,740

I think that they get rid  
of these people, yeah.

698

00:35:45,740 --> 00:35:50,480

Because I think the people  
that were in the barracks,

699

00:35:50,480 --> 00:35:52,230

they were still there.

700

00:35:52,230 --> 00:35:53,720

That was my impression.

701

00:35:53,720 --> 00:35:54,633

They were still were?

702

00:35:54,633 --> 00:35:56,550

They were still in the  
barracks in Mauthausen.

703

00:35:56,550 --> 00:35:57,092

In what camp?

704

00:35:57,092 --> 00:35:57,950

In Mauthausen.

705  
00:35:57,950 --> 00:35:58,970  
Still Mauthausen, yeah.

706  
00:35:58,970 --> 00:35:59,970  
Where were you?

707  
00:35:59,970 --> 00:36:02,600  
I was also Mauthausen,  
but a different area.

708  
00:36:02,600 --> 00:36:03,860  
Oh, you were in a tent, not--

709  
00:36:03,860 --> 00:36:04,800  
In a tent, right.

710  
00:36:04,800 --> 00:36:07,220  
Not in the barracks, right.

711  
00:36:07,220 --> 00:36:09,570  
So they moved the people  
who were in the tents?

712  
00:36:09,570 --> 00:36:10,070  
Right.

713  
00:36:10,070 --> 00:36:12,780

714  
00:36:12,780 --> 00:36:16,710  
That was the worst part  
of the whole thing,

715  
00:36:16,710 --> 00:36:19,710  
because really there's  
nothing there to do.

716  
00:36:19,710 --> 00:36:22,620  
Just people were laying  
on the ground and dying.

717

00:36:22,620 --> 00:36:23,500

In Mauthausen?

718

00:36:23,500 --> 00:36:24,900

In Gunskirchen.

719

00:36:24,900 --> 00:36:27,262

Oh, in Gunskirchen, Gunskirchen  
was the worst place?

720

00:36:27,262 --> 00:36:28,470

It was the worst place, yeah.

721

00:36:28,470 --> 00:36:33,048

Well, you didn't do anything.

722

00:36:33,048 --> 00:36:34,590

You didn't have no  
help from anybody.

723

00:36:34,590 --> 00:36:37,050

It was almost the  
end of the war.

724

00:36:37,050 --> 00:36:39,570

We knew it, we expected that.

725

00:36:39,570 --> 00:36:48,690

As a matter of fact, a Red Cross  
truck came up with some food,

726

00:36:48,690 --> 00:36:52,110

but very, very few  
people could get to it.

727

00:36:52,110 --> 00:36:56,820

Because the strongest  
people that could--

728

00:36:56,820 --> 00:37:00,120

some guys in charge  
they went up there first

729  
00:37:00,120 --> 00:37:02,000  
and they took  
whatever they wanted.

730  
00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:06,210  
When I got there there  
was nothing left.

731  
00:37:06,210 --> 00:37:08,220  
But next morning there  
was end of the war.

732  
00:37:08,220 --> 00:37:11,340

733  
00:37:11,340 --> 00:37:15,480  
You were in Gunskirchen just a  
few days before the war ended?

734  
00:37:15,480 --> 00:37:16,170  
In Gunskirchen?

735  
00:37:16,170 --> 00:37:17,680  
Yeah, only a few days.

736  
00:37:17,680 --> 00:37:20,237  
How did you find out  
that the war ended?

737  
00:37:20,237 --> 00:37:21,570  
Well, we got up in the morning--

738  
00:37:21,570 --> 00:37:22,780  
Did somebody come  
in and announce it?

739  
00:37:22,780 --> 00:37:23,280  
Huh?

740  
00:37:23,280 --> 00:37:25,064  
Did somebody come

in and announce it?

741  
00:37:25,064 --> 00:37:27,870  
No, usually you saw  
guards walking around.

742  
00:37:27,870 --> 00:37:30,270  
We didn't see nobody else.

743  
00:37:30,270 --> 00:37:34,170  
And somebody came up, he said,  
well, there's nobody here,

744  
00:37:34,170 --> 00:37:36,930  
the war is over.

745  
00:37:36,930 --> 00:37:41,790  
Everybody went out, there  
was no guards, no anything.

746  
00:37:41,790 --> 00:37:48,150  
You didn't see anybody,  
just us prisoners there.

747  
00:37:48,150 --> 00:37:50,460  
And then people start to  
walk different directions.

748  
00:37:50,460 --> 00:37:53,460  
Let's go this way, go that way.

749  
00:37:53,460 --> 00:37:57,920  
My friends and me  
went on a highway.

750  
00:37:57,920 --> 00:38:00,750  
We didn't know where  
to go, we just went.

751  
00:38:00,750 --> 00:38:01,890  
This is Austria?

752

00:38:01,890 --> 00:38:03,790  
That was Austria, yeah.

753  
00:38:03,790 --> 00:38:06,450  
So what did you do?

754  
00:38:06,450 --> 00:38:12,427  
Was there anything-- did you  
have a feeling of feeling good?

755  
00:38:12,427 --> 00:38:13,260  
Well, we felt good--

756  
00:38:13,260 --> 00:38:13,885  
Of celebrating?

757  
00:38:13,885 --> 00:38:17,370  
--because we knew  
that the war is over.

758  
00:38:17,370 --> 00:38:24,960  
And now what we want  
to do is just live,

759  
00:38:24,960 --> 00:38:27,720  
just get something to eat.

760  
00:38:27,720 --> 00:38:29,770  
Food was always in the mind?

761  
00:38:29,770 --> 00:38:32,400  
Well, yes, you  
were always hungry.

762  
00:38:32,400 --> 00:38:35,220  
You were like a skeleton.

763  
00:38:35,220 --> 00:38:36,720  
You were hungry for a few years?

764  
00:38:36,720 --> 00:38:40,680  
I was hungry for quite



a few years, yes.

765  
00:38:40,680 --> 00:38:42,960  
That was the--

766  
00:38:42,960 --> 00:38:46,380  
I don't know, was that the  
worst part of the experience?

767  
00:38:46,380 --> 00:38:48,120  
The hunger?

768  
00:38:48,120 --> 00:38:48,930  
The cold also.

769  
00:38:48,930 --> 00:38:52,710  
The hunger and the  
afraid of being killed.

770  
00:38:52,710 --> 00:38:55,890  
You had that in mind all  
the time, all the time.

771  
00:38:55,890 --> 00:38:56,910  
What about the cold?

772  
00:38:56,910 --> 00:39:00,440

773  
00:39:00,440 --> 00:39:02,090  
It was cold, but  
what could you do?

774  
00:39:02,090 --> 00:39:04,390  
Somebody could take it,  
somebody couldn't take it.

775  
00:39:04,390 --> 00:39:08,710

776  
00:39:08,710 --> 00:39:13,920  
I remember on the way

from the coal mine

777

00:39:13,920 --> 00:39:17,985

you went to your barracks  
and your clothes were stiff.

778

00:39:17,985 --> 00:39:20,190

You couldn't even take it off.

779

00:39:20,190 --> 00:39:23,140

It was raining, and  
snowing, and freezing.

780

00:39:23,140 --> 00:39:24,680

So it was ice?

781

00:39:24,680 --> 00:39:26,310

Ice, so it was all iced up.

782

00:39:26,310 --> 00:39:28,620

You put in we had a  
little stove there

783

00:39:28,620 --> 00:39:31,350

in the center of the  
barrack, and we put that in.

784

00:39:31,350 --> 00:39:32,730

It was standing up.

785

00:39:32,730 --> 00:39:37,020

We put it in front of that  
oven to melt the uniform.

786

00:39:37,020 --> 00:39:38,450

The next morning  
you had to work.

787

00:39:38,450 --> 00:39:41,240

788

00:39:41,240 --> 00:39:43,040

People died from that.

789  
00:39:43,040 --> 00:39:46,110  
So what happened to  
you and your friends

790  
00:39:46,110 --> 00:39:49,380  
after you discovered  
the war was over?

791  
00:39:49,380 --> 00:39:51,270  
Well, we started  
walking on a highway

792  
00:39:51,270 --> 00:39:54,600  
and asking some  
people that lived off

793  
00:39:54,600 --> 00:39:55,830  
the highway for some food.

794  
00:39:55,830 --> 00:39:59,790  
Some give us food, some  
said they don't have it.

795  
00:39:59,790 --> 00:40:11,100  
I remember once as we were  
walking we approached a villa,

796  
00:40:11,100 --> 00:40:14,340  
and there was a guard  
on it, American soldier

797  
00:40:14,340 --> 00:40:15,660  
was there already.

798  
00:40:15,660 --> 00:40:20,960  
And we ask if we can  
go in, take a shower,

799  
00:40:20,960 --> 00:40:22,800  
or dressed, find something to--

800

00:40:22,800 --> 00:40:23,700

The American soldier?

801

00:40:23,700 --> 00:40:25,025

The American soldier, right.

802

00:40:25,025 --> 00:40:27,250

They say yeah, go ahead, do it.

803

00:40:27,250 --> 00:40:29,520

So we went to this  
house which must

804

00:40:29,520 --> 00:40:32,730

be very rich people lived there,  
because a lot of clothing.

805

00:40:32,730 --> 00:40:34,900

So we all changed  
clothes, put shirts on.

806

00:40:34,900 --> 00:40:38,490

And whatever we find,  
a suit whatever.

807

00:40:38,490 --> 00:40:41,580

There was nobody there,  
absolutely nobody.

808

00:40:41,580 --> 00:40:45,450

We took showers, clean  
ourselves up a little bit.

809

00:40:45,450 --> 00:40:49,650

We got some clothing  
on and we walked out.

810

00:40:49,650 --> 00:40:53,310

We thank the soldier  
for letting us go in.

811

00:40:53,310 --> 00:40:56,705

He said all right,  
OK, whatever he said.

812  
00:40:56,705 --> 00:40:58,080  
How did you speak  
to the soldier?

813  
00:40:58,080 --> 00:40:59,400  
What language?

814  
00:40:59,400 --> 00:41:00,400  
There's no language.

815  
00:41:00,400 --> 00:41:04,410  
Just thank you, said in English  
or everybody knew a little bit.

816  
00:41:04,410 --> 00:41:07,230

817  
00:41:07,230 --> 00:41:09,040  
So we kept going.

818  
00:41:09,040 --> 00:41:15,540  
We walked about, I would  
say, about 100, 200 feet.

819  
00:41:15,540 --> 00:41:19,140  
And there was a  
lady and a couple

820  
00:41:19,140 --> 00:41:22,890  
of sons walking  
against us, right,

821  
00:41:22,890 --> 00:41:24,340  
in a different direction.

822  
00:41:24,340 --> 00:41:28,170  
And one of the kids says,  
hey mom, look at it,

823

00:41:28,170 --> 00:41:35,140  
it's my father's jacket  
and pants or whatever.

824  
00:41:35,140 --> 00:41:42,260  
So this woman start raising hell  
that we stole their clothing

825  
00:41:42,260 --> 00:41:43,860  
and all that.

826  
00:41:43,860 --> 00:41:50,370  
And so the soldier came over and  
told her to shut up get away,

827  
00:41:50,370 --> 00:41:53,700  
and told us to keep on  
going where we want to go.

828  
00:41:53,700 --> 00:41:55,620  
That was one of--

829  
00:41:55,620 --> 00:41:59,355  
this how we got rid of our  
dirty clothing, the stripes

830  
00:41:59,355 --> 00:42:00,880  
and all that.

831  
00:42:00,880 --> 00:42:04,680  
How long did you  
wear this clothing?

832  
00:42:04,680 --> 00:42:07,440  
Well, we wore it  
for quite a bit,

833  
00:42:07,440 --> 00:42:11,070  
because we didn't have  
nothing else to wear,

834  
00:42:11,070 --> 00:42:13,860  
and that was pretty good stuff.

835  
00:42:13,860 --> 00:42:17,010  
And we kept on going.

836  
00:42:17,010 --> 00:42:21,090  
We came upon some  
farms here and there,

837  
00:42:21,090 --> 00:42:25,720  
and we asked the farmers  
we can stay there.

838  
00:42:25,720 --> 00:42:30,600  
Some of them didn't have the  
room, they had small houses.

839  
00:42:30,600 --> 00:42:34,700  
We came up one that had  
a pretty nice house.

840  
00:42:34,700 --> 00:42:36,750  
We asked him if we  
can stay in the house.

841  
00:42:36,750 --> 00:42:39,330  
He said no, he  
hasn't got no room,

842  
00:42:39,330 --> 00:42:41,550  
but he said he has a big barn.

843  
00:42:41,550 --> 00:42:45,660  
If we want to use the  
barn, we welcome to use it.

844  
00:42:45,660 --> 00:42:48,840  
So all four of us  
went into this barn

845  
00:42:48,840 --> 00:42:53,430  
and make ourselves comfortable,  
and relax a little bit,

846

00:42:53,430 --> 00:42:58,140

And he didn't have much  
food, but he gave us

847

00:42:58,140 --> 00:42:59,490

potatoes, whatever he could.

848

00:42:59,490 --> 00:43:03,300

He was a pretty nice guy.

849

00:43:03,300 --> 00:43:08,130

But usually we used to  
separate, the four guys.

850

00:43:08,130 --> 00:43:10,470

Everybody used to go  
a different direction

851

00:43:10,470 --> 00:43:13,620

and ask for food from the  
farmers and people that

852

00:43:13,620 --> 00:43:14,790

were around.

853

00:43:14,790 --> 00:43:18,540

So we had enough food,  
we ate very good.

854

00:43:18,540 --> 00:43:22,170

We took good, we had some  
of the guys had diarrhea,

855

00:43:22,170 --> 00:43:23,490

I had diarrhea.

856

00:43:23,490 --> 00:43:30,015

But it took a lot of time to get  
adjusted to this better food.

857

00:43:30,015 --> 00:43:34,840



858  
00:43:34,840 --> 00:43:36,160  
How long did this go on?

859  
00:43:36,160 --> 00:43:39,670

860  
00:43:39,670 --> 00:43:47,840  
This went on for a couple  
of months, I think.

861  
00:43:47,840 --> 00:43:51,580  
Maybe half a year,  
a little less.

862  
00:43:51,580 --> 00:43:54,300  
So you had no plan of  
action yet at this point?

863  
00:43:54,300 --> 00:43:58,730  
Well, no, we didn't know  
what to do, where to go.

864  
00:43:58,730 --> 00:44:03,753  
Then we find out  
that there is a--

865  
00:44:03,753 --> 00:44:06,620

866  
00:44:06,620 --> 00:44:11,930  
what happened is I met  
the American soldier,

867  
00:44:11,930 --> 00:44:17,840  
an officer, that was in  
charge of a motorpool.

868  
00:44:17,840 --> 00:44:25,250  
And he was Polish, his  
parents are Polish,

869

00:44:25,250 --> 00:44:28,340  
but he was born in  
the United States.

870  
00:44:28,340 --> 00:44:31,023  
His mother was writing  
letters to him.

871  
00:44:31,023 --> 00:44:31,940  
He couldn't answer it.

872  
00:44:31,940 --> 00:44:33,710  
He had a pile of letters.

873  
00:44:33,710 --> 00:44:35,390  
His mother wrote from  
the United States?

874  
00:44:35,390 --> 00:44:40,130  
Right, I think they were  
in California someplace.

875  
00:44:40,130 --> 00:44:41,590  
So she wrote him in Polish?

876  
00:44:41,590 --> 00:44:42,590  
She wrote him in Polish.

877  
00:44:42,590 --> 00:44:49,880  
And I met this soldier, I  
talked to him a little bit.

878  
00:44:49,880 --> 00:44:55,550  
And he talked Polish a  
little bit, not much.

879  
00:44:55,550 --> 00:44:58,300  
So he asked me if I can  
translate the letters for him,

880  
00:44:58,300 --> 00:44:59,270  
and I did.

881

00:44:59,270 --> 00:45:00,937

And I wrote letters  
back to his parents.

882

00:45:00,937 --> 00:45:03,050

How did you translate it?

883

00:45:03,050 --> 00:45:04,820

Into what language  
did you translate it?

884

00:45:04,820 --> 00:45:05,450

To Polish.

885

00:45:05,450 --> 00:45:06,680

Into Polish?

886

00:45:06,680 --> 00:45:10,700

From Polish into--  
yeah, in broken English.

887

00:45:10,700 --> 00:45:12,480

So you knew some English?

888

00:45:12,480 --> 00:45:13,257

A little bit, yes.

889

00:45:13,257 --> 00:45:14,090

I knew some English.

890

00:45:14,090 --> 00:45:19,040

I don't know how I picked  
it up, but I picked it up.

891

00:45:19,040 --> 00:45:23,930

And then I was telling  
him what the mother

892

00:45:23,930 --> 00:45:25,070

writes, this and that.

893

00:45:25,070 --> 00:45:29,150  
She used to send him socks,  
warm socks and shirts.

894  
00:45:29,150 --> 00:45:31,655  
But he was wearing uniforms.

895  
00:45:31,655 --> 00:45:33,040  
We became very friendly.

896  
00:45:33,040 --> 00:45:36,170

897  
00:45:36,170 --> 00:45:40,202  
As a matter of fact, my  
friends that was a camp,

898  
00:45:40,202 --> 00:45:41,660  
we found out there  
was a camp where

899  
00:45:41,660 --> 00:45:45,620  
there was a lot of guys  
concentrated there,

900  
00:45:45,620 --> 00:45:50,580  
a lot of guys that left  
the concentration camp.

901  
00:45:50,580 --> 00:45:56,000  
And they made provisions for  
them, barracks and all that.

902  
00:45:56,000 --> 00:45:57,570  
Which town was this?

903  
00:45:57,570 --> 00:46:00,290  
That was in Wels.

904  
00:46:00,290 --> 00:46:05,390  
And they went over there,  
and I felt very comfortable

905

00:46:05,390 --> 00:46:07,550  
with this officer.

906

00:46:07,550 --> 00:46:11,420  
So I didn't want to go to  
the camp, I had enough camps.

907

00:46:11,420 --> 00:46:13,610  
And I was there for a while.

908

00:46:13,610 --> 00:46:16,370  
It was quite a few months  
I was there with him.

909

00:46:16,370 --> 00:46:19,520  
And we had good times.

910

00:46:19,520 --> 00:46:21,650  
I remember we used to  
take trucks loaded up

911

00:46:21,650 --> 00:46:24,155  
with gasoline, go to the  
farms in exchange for whiskey

912

00:46:24,155 --> 00:46:24,980  
all that.

913

00:46:24,980 --> 00:46:30,220

914

00:46:30,220 --> 00:46:36,180  
Then one day I decided  
to visit my friends.

915

00:46:36,180 --> 00:46:41,420  
I went to the camps,  
and I stayed there.

916

00:46:41,420 --> 00:46:46,080  
I went there Friday, I  
stayed over the weekend.

917  
00:46:46,080 --> 00:46:49,560  
Then I came back  
to this motorpool,

918  
00:46:49,560 --> 00:46:52,410  
but there was nobody there.

919  
00:46:52,410 --> 00:46:55,680  
They disappeared, they went  
away to a different location,

920  
00:46:55,680 --> 00:46:59,580  
and I didn't know where  
they are or what they do,

921  
00:46:59,580 --> 00:47:02,590  
how to get in touch with them.

922  
00:47:02,590 --> 00:47:04,450  
Just that was the end.

923  
00:47:04,450 --> 00:47:05,460  
That was the end.

924  
00:47:05,460 --> 00:47:06,670  
That was the end.

925  
00:47:06,670 --> 00:47:10,170  
So how long were you in  
Austria, and when did you

926  
00:47:10,170 --> 00:47:11,510  
come to the United States?

927  
00:47:11,510 --> 00:47:13,020  
How did that take place?

928  
00:47:13,020 --> 00:47:19,080  
OK, from this place in  
Wels we went to Linz.

929

00:47:19,080 --> 00:47:24,160

There was an area called  
Bindermichel in Linz,

930

00:47:24,160 --> 00:47:26,082

and we were there.

931

00:47:26,082 --> 00:47:30,600

There was a complex  
of a lot of buildings

932

00:47:30,600 --> 00:47:36,830

that the soldiers used to  
live there, and we had rooms.

933

00:47:36,830 --> 00:47:42,810

Now, my friends and I  
had a pretty big room

934

00:47:42,810 --> 00:47:44,340

with four beds in it.

935

00:47:44,340 --> 00:47:45,480

We lived there.

936

00:47:45,480 --> 00:47:49,590

We used to get food from UNRAA.

937

00:47:49,590 --> 00:47:58,645

And I was there till '46.

938

00:47:58,645 --> 00:48:02,340

939

00:48:02,340 --> 00:48:05,970

At that time I was told  
that my brother was killed,

940

00:48:05,970 --> 00:48:08,110

my father was killed,  
I have nobody.

941

00:48:08,110 --> 00:48:11,340

As a matter of fact, right  
after the war I went to Poland,

942

00:48:11,340 --> 00:48:14,226

see if anybody is left there.

943

00:48:14,226 --> 00:48:15,630

I couldn't find anybody.

944

00:48:15,630 --> 00:48:18,750

I went back to  
Germany to Linz again,

945

00:48:18,750 --> 00:48:21,540

and I walked down  
the street once

946

00:48:21,540 --> 00:48:25,680

and somebody came over and  
say oh, Joe, what are you

947

00:48:25,680 --> 00:48:26,300

doing here?

948

00:48:26,300 --> 00:48:29,430

And this and that,  
they saw me in Warsaw.

949

00:48:29,430 --> 00:48:32,020

And I said, hey, is  
something wrong here?

950

00:48:32,020 --> 00:48:34,160

So he said aren't you Joe?

951

00:48:34,160 --> 00:48:36,420

I said no, I'm Henry.

952

00:48:36,420 --> 00:48:40,345

They said, well, I  
just saw your brother.



953  
00:48:40,345 --> 00:48:42,510  
What a story.

954  
00:48:42,510 --> 00:48:44,110  
That was unbelievable.

955  
00:48:44,110 --> 00:48:46,230  
I said you sure, and I  
start asking questions.

956  
00:48:46,230 --> 00:48:53,400  
He said, yeah, I saw him in the  
Jewish center asking for you.

957  
00:48:53,400 --> 00:48:55,170  
There was a letter  
for you, whatever.

958  
00:48:55,170 --> 00:48:56,670  
He's in Bindermichel?

959  
00:48:56,670 --> 00:48:57,990  
That was in Bindermichel, yeah.

960  
00:48:57,990 --> 00:49:00,720

961  
00:49:00,720 --> 00:49:02,610  
So I went to Poland again.

962  
00:49:02,610 --> 00:49:03,670  
Oh, to Poland.

963  
00:49:03,670 --> 00:49:06,270  
Yeah I went to Poland again.

964  
00:49:06,270 --> 00:49:07,450  
That guy was in Bindermichel

965  
00:49:07,450 --> 00:49:08,032

966  
00:49:08,032 --> 00:49:09,990  
Yeah, uh, yeah, and your  
brother was in Poland?

967  
00:49:09,990 --> 00:49:12,550  
My brother was in Poland.

968  
00:49:12,550 --> 00:49:13,650  
So I went to Poland.

969  
00:49:13,650 --> 00:49:14,760  
I couldn't find him.

970  
00:49:14,760 --> 00:49:20,760  
They were telling me that  
he signed out in a kibbutz

971  
00:49:20,760 --> 00:49:24,840  
to go to Israel, because he  
didn't know that I'm alive.

972  
00:49:24,840 --> 00:49:27,180  
So I looked for him  
practically all night

973  
00:49:27,180 --> 00:49:30,270  
until I came to a  
kibbutz and they told me

974  
00:49:30,270 --> 00:49:36,210  
that two hours ago he  
left on the way to Israel.

975  
00:49:36,210 --> 00:49:39,270  
They were smuggling  
people from Warsaw

976  
00:49:39,270 --> 00:49:42,570  
whoever came back or  
whatever to Israel.

977

00:49:42,570 --> 00:49:49,070

Now that I know that he's alive

I went back to Austria again.

978

00:49:49,070 --> 00:49:52,260

979

00:49:52,260 --> 00:50:03,360

And I met my wife there.

980

00:50:03,360 --> 00:50:04,710

She was on her way from--

981

00:50:04,710 --> 00:50:05,658

In?

982

00:50:05,658 --> 00:50:07,080

In Bindermichel.

983

00:50:07,080 --> 00:50:11,750

She was on her way to

Poland from Germany.

984

00:50:11,750 --> 00:50:13,350

She worked in Germany.

985

00:50:13,350 --> 00:50:15,930

986

00:50:15,930 --> 00:50:21,030

She was sent by a

Polish friend of theirs

987

00:50:21,030 --> 00:50:28,890

to work in the German

town Mecklenburg

988

00:50:28,890 --> 00:50:29,970

or whatever like that.

989

00:50:29,970 --> 00:50:30,900

I don't remember  
exactly the name.

990  
00:50:30,900 --> 00:50:31,410  
Mecklenburg.

991  
00:50:31,410 --> 00:50:33,060  
Mecklenburg, right.

992  
00:50:33,060 --> 00:50:35,670  
And she was working the fields.

993  
00:50:35,670 --> 00:50:40,350  
And there was a  
big mansion where

994  
00:50:40,350 --> 00:50:43,770  
retired officers used to live.

995  
00:50:43,770 --> 00:50:46,060  
She was in the field  
for a couple of weeks,

996  
00:50:46,060 --> 00:50:51,820  
and the lady in church  
picked her up because my wife

997  
00:50:51,820 --> 00:50:53,960  
was a very beautiful girl.

998  
00:50:53,960 --> 00:50:57,900  
She never looked-- they  
didn't know that she's Jewish.

999  
00:50:57,900 --> 00:51:02,040  
And the lady took her  
in and another girl,

1000  
00:51:02,040 --> 00:51:06,150  
and they had very good--

1001  
00:51:06,150 --> 00:51:08,090

they had clean  
clothing and all that.

1002  
00:51:08,090 --> 00:51:11,700  
They were like chambermaids.

1003  
00:51:11,700 --> 00:51:15,060  
They were cleaning the  
rooms after the soldiers.

1004  
00:51:15,060 --> 00:51:20,580  
And they at mealtimes used to  
serve them food and clean up.

1005  
00:51:20,580 --> 00:51:22,710  
She was pretty good.

1006  
00:51:22,710 --> 00:51:25,020  
So the Russians liberated.

1007  
00:51:25,020 --> 00:51:29,850

1008  
00:51:29,850 --> 00:51:31,080  
And they end up in Bavaria.

1009  
00:51:31,080 --> 00:51:32,130  
So you met her?

1010  
00:51:32,130 --> 00:51:34,200  
I met her, right.

1011  
00:51:34,200 --> 00:51:36,540  
And eventually you married her?

1012  
00:51:36,540 --> 00:51:37,590  
Where did you marry her?

1013  
00:51:37,590 --> 00:51:39,570  
In Bavaria, Regensburg.

1014

00:51:39,570 --> 00:51:41,540  
And what year?

1015  
00:51:41,540 --> 00:51:43,320  
1948.

1016  
00:51:43,320 --> 00:51:46,440  
But you met her in what year?

1017  
00:51:46,440 --> 00:51:47,760  
This is about 1946?

1018  
00:51:47,760 --> 00:51:48,540  
1946.

1019  
00:51:48,540 --> 00:51:49,260  
Yeah.

1020  
00:51:49,260 --> 00:51:50,692  
What happened with your brother?

1021  
00:51:50,692 --> 00:51:51,900  
How did you meet up with him?

1022  
00:51:51,900 --> 00:51:54,960

1023  
00:51:54,960 --> 00:51:58,550  
When we were in  
the United States.

1024  
00:51:58,550 --> 00:52:00,000  
We came to the United States.

1025  
00:52:00,000 --> 00:52:00,850  
He was here?

1026  
00:52:00,850 --> 00:52:02,370  
No, he was in Israel.

1027  
00:52:02,370 --> 00:52:03,120

Yeah.

1028

00:52:03,120 --> 00:52:04,490

Oh, but you kept being in touch?

1029

00:52:04,490 --> 00:52:05,490

I came to United States.

1030

00:52:05,490 --> 00:52:08,760

Yes, after I came to  
the United States.

1031

00:52:08,760 --> 00:52:12,030

How did you find him?

1032

00:52:12,030 --> 00:52:21,130

Well, my wife's  
brother that survived

1033

00:52:21,130 --> 00:52:23,390

he was in the Polish army.

1034

00:52:23,390 --> 00:52:26,520

1035

00:52:26,520 --> 00:52:30,210

And he was an artist, a painter.

1036

00:52:30,210 --> 00:52:33,150

And he went to Israel,  
he was in Egypt,

1037

00:52:33,150 --> 00:52:35,670

he had exhibitions all over.

1038

00:52:35,670 --> 00:52:40,020

And my wife knew where he is.

1039

00:52:40,020 --> 00:52:45,630

So she wrote him letters,  
go find Yosef Landsberg.

1040

00:52:45,630 --> 00:52:46,620

And he did?

1041

00:52:46,620 --> 00:52:48,750

He did.

1042

00:52:48,750 --> 00:52:53,130

He find his address and  
he walked up to his room.

1043

00:52:53,130 --> 00:52:56,430

He opened the door, and he  
said he saw this soldier

1044

00:52:56,430 --> 00:53:01,250

MP with a white thing with  
a gun, and he was afraid.

1045

00:53:01,250 --> 00:53:05,760

He turned around, he  
wanted to go back.

1046

00:53:05,760 --> 00:53:07,450

But they start up  
a conversation,

1047

00:53:07,450 --> 00:53:11,600

and my brother-in-law  
told him that I am alive,

1048

00:53:11,600 --> 00:53:13,320

that I'm in the United States.

1049

00:53:13,320 --> 00:53:14,700

Your brother told him?

1050

00:53:14,700 --> 00:53:16,387

No he's my brother-in-law.

1051

00:53:16,387 --> 00:53:18,720

Your brother-in-law told your  
brother that you're alive?



1052  
00:53:18,720 --> 00:53:19,560  
Told him that we're  
in the United States.

1053  
00:53:19,560 --> 00:53:21,750  
OK, so he got the  
two of you together.

1054  
00:53:21,750 --> 00:53:22,920  
Two of you together.

1055  
00:53:22,920 --> 00:53:24,600  
Now, let me ask you  
a few questions,

1056  
00:53:24,600 --> 00:53:27,660  
because I think we're  
running out of time.

1057  
00:53:27,660 --> 00:53:31,170  
When you came to the United  
States where did you settle?

1058  
00:53:31,170 --> 00:53:33,430  
In Newark, New Jersey.

1059  
00:53:33,430 --> 00:53:35,100  
What brought you to Newark?

1060  
00:53:35,100 --> 00:53:37,920  
A friend that we  
had in Regensburg.

1061  
00:53:37,920 --> 00:53:41,040  
He had family in United States,  
family brought him over.

1062  
00:53:41,040 --> 00:53:43,260  
And he said-- we're  
very close friends.

1063

00:53:43,260 --> 00:53:46,050

He said, when I go  
to the United States

1064

00:53:46,050 --> 00:53:50,490

I see if I can bring you  
over, my wife and me.

1065

00:53:50,490 --> 00:53:54,480

I said, fine, in meantime,  
we sign up applications

1066

00:53:54,480 --> 00:53:57,450

to come to the  
United States anyway.

1067

00:53:57,450 --> 00:54:04,140

Happens that his papers and the  
papers from the Jewish council

1068

00:54:04,140 --> 00:54:05,530

came together.

1069

00:54:05,530 --> 00:54:10,215

So we went on his papers, and he  
had the room for us in Newark.

1070

00:54:10,215 --> 00:54:13,080

And then we end up in Newark.

1071

00:54:13,080 --> 00:54:15,390

And you became an  
electrician right away?

1072

00:54:15,390 --> 00:54:18,270

Well, I wasn't  
electrician, but it

1073

00:54:18,270 --> 00:54:22,050

took very-- it was  
a matter of few days

1074

00:54:22,050 --> 00:54:26,310

that my wife got a job in  
a sewing machine factory.

1075

00:54:26,310 --> 00:54:31,380

And the boss was interested  
in what she's doing,

1076

00:54:31,380 --> 00:54:33,570

was she's married,  
this and that.

1077

00:54:33,570 --> 00:54:35,280

He asked questions,  
and my wife said

1078

00:54:35,280 --> 00:54:37,080

I'm an electrician  
looking for work.

1079

00:54:37,080 --> 00:54:40,230

He said, well, I know  
somebody that could use you.

1080

00:54:40,230 --> 00:54:42,150

And that's how I start to work.

1081

00:54:42,150 --> 00:54:43,560

You adjusted rather quickly?

1082

00:54:43,560 --> 00:54:45,715

I adjusted very quick, yes.

1083

00:54:45,715 --> 00:54:46,830

Well, that was very good.

1084

00:54:46,830 --> 00:54:50,210

Now, I understand that  
you have two children?

1085

00:54:50,210 --> 00:54:51,510

Yes.

1086

00:54:51,510 --> 00:54:52,230  
My oldest son--

1087  
00:54:52,230 --> 00:54:53,910  
Where do they live?

1088  
00:54:53,910 --> 00:54:56,340  
My oldest son lives in  
West Orange, where I live.

1089  
00:54:56,340 --> 00:54:58,320  
It's only a couple minutes away.

1090  
00:54:58,320 --> 00:55:00,960  
My youngest son  
lives in the city.

1091  
00:55:00,960 --> 00:55:01,920  
In New York?

1092  
00:55:01,920 --> 00:55:02,580  
About 35 minutes  
away in New York.

1093  
00:55:02,580 --> 00:55:03,300  
In Manhattan?

1094  
00:55:03,300 --> 00:55:04,770  
In Manhattan, right.

1095  
00:55:04,770 --> 00:55:07,330  
The one who lives in West  
Orange, what does he do?

1096  
00:55:07,330 --> 00:55:14,470  
He's a industrial consultant  
and what do you call it--

1097  
00:55:14,470 --> 00:55:18,390

1098  
00:55:18,390 --> 00:55:21,360

job replacement.

1099

00:55:21,360 --> 00:55:25,380

And the one who  
lives in Manhattan?

1100

00:55:25,380 --> 00:55:31,830

The one who lives in Manhattan  
works for a advertising agency.

1101

00:55:31,830 --> 00:55:33,210

He's a copywriter.

1102

00:55:33,210 --> 00:55:34,170

Are they married?

1103

00:55:34,170 --> 00:55:35,280

Yes, both married.

1104

00:55:35,280 --> 00:55:39,960

The oldest son has twin boys,  
and my youngest son has a girl.

1105

00:55:39,960 --> 00:55:41,250

Very nice.

1106

00:55:41,250 --> 00:55:44,790

So you adopted a new country.

1107

00:55:44,790 --> 00:55:48,370

Absolutely, I'm very happy,  
and everybody is successful.

1108

00:55:48,370 --> 00:55:53,620

We made a good living here  
and we love this country.

1109

00:55:53,620 --> 00:55:55,590

I have to ask you  
a few questions

1110

00:55:55,590 --> 00:55:59,880

to conclude, as long  
as we have time.

1111  
00:55:59,880 --> 00:56:04,260  
When did you start talking about  
the Holocaust and with whom?

1112  
00:56:04,260 --> 00:56:08,130  
Well, we start right away with  
people that lived through it.

1113  
00:56:08,130 --> 00:56:11,250  
It was never finished,  
we still talk about it.

1114  
00:56:11,250 --> 00:56:12,780  
To your children?

1115  
00:56:12,780 --> 00:56:14,860  
Sure, my children know a lot.

1116  
00:56:14,860 --> 00:56:16,390  
Your grandchildren?

1117  
00:56:16,390 --> 00:56:18,930  
Well, my grandboys are  
three-and-a-half years old--

1118  
00:56:18,930 --> 00:56:19,680  
They're too young?

1119  
00:56:19,680 --> 00:56:21,060  
Yeah, they're on the young side.

1120  
00:56:21,060 --> 00:56:24,780  
All right, how has the  
Holocaust affected your outlook

1121  
00:56:24,780 --> 00:56:27,970  
on life and your  
understanding of human nature?

1122

00:56:27,970 --> 00:56:31,470

In other words, when you  
saw such terrible things

1123

00:56:31,470 --> 00:56:35,010

that people did to other people.

1124

00:56:35,010 --> 00:56:40,400

Does that have anything to  
say to you about human nature?

1125

00:56:40,400 --> 00:56:44,460

Well, there are different  
kind of people in this world.

1126

00:56:44,460 --> 00:56:49,830

Some people that care about  
other people, some people

1127

00:56:49,830 --> 00:56:52,380

don't care about other people.

1128

00:56:52,380 --> 00:56:59,350

And I don't know  
what to tell you.

1129

00:56:59,350 --> 00:56:59,860

It just--

1130

00:56:59,860 --> 00:57:02,800

But can you understand  
the hatred and the hurting

1131

00:57:02,800 --> 00:57:03,850

of other people?

1132

00:57:03,850 --> 00:57:06,370

There's a lot of  
hatred in this country.

1133

00:57:06,370 --> 00:57:08,830

That I'm very surprised a  
country like United States,

1134  
00:57:08,830 --> 00:57:10,780  
they shouldn't have that.

1135  
00:57:10,780 --> 00:57:15,970  
I think they should teach  
people and kids in schools

1136  
00:57:15,970 --> 00:57:18,220  
what happened about  
the Holocaust,

1137  
00:57:18,220 --> 00:57:22,600  
and make them understand  
about racist problem

1138  
00:57:22,600 --> 00:57:26,170  
and hatred, anti-Semitism.

1139  
00:57:26,170 --> 00:57:30,340  
And try to wipe it up somehow.

1140  
00:57:30,340 --> 00:57:33,910  
The last question, has the  
Holocaust affected your faith

1141  
00:57:33,910 --> 00:57:37,090  
and religious observance?

1142  
00:57:37,090 --> 00:57:41,500  
No, not me, but my wife  
lost her faith in god.

1143  
00:57:41,500 --> 00:57:45,040  
Because she lost a lot  
of people in her family,

1144  
00:57:45,040 --> 00:57:49,930  
and they were good people,  
and they're religious people.

1145  
00:57:49,930 --> 00:57:51,970



And she just lost faith in it.

1146  
00:57:51,970 --> 00:57:57,370  
Me, we were a regular  
Jewish family.

1147  
00:57:57,370 --> 00:58:00,100

1148  
00:58:00,100 --> 00:58:04,600  
My mother used to light  
candles on a Friday night,

1149  
00:58:04,600 --> 00:58:08,500  
but we weren't Orthodox.

1150  
00:58:08,500 --> 00:58:11,320  
We didn't have a kosher kitchen.

1151  
00:58:11,320 --> 00:58:13,980  
And we believe,  
of course, in god.

1152  
00:58:13,980 --> 00:58:16,600  
And holidays we used  
to go to synagogue.

1153  
00:58:16,600 --> 00:58:19,640  
But otherwise, we  
just normal people.

1154  
00:58:19,640 --> 00:58:22,580  
I believed in god all my life.

1155  
00:58:22,580 --> 00:58:31,000  
I don't know, I think god  
helped me to live this through.

1156  
00:58:31,000 --> 00:58:35,440  
I still believe in god, and  
I think it thanks to god

1157

00:58:35,440 --> 00:58:37,790  
I'm here.

1158  
00:58:37,790 --> 00:58:41,110  
What I went through,  
all my experience,

1159  
00:58:41,110 --> 00:58:42,610  
they were just unbelievable.

1160  
00:58:42,610 --> 00:58:45,280  
I was shot at.

1161  
00:58:45,280 --> 00:58:48,930  
I mean, it's ridiculous,  
I saw dead in the front

1162  
00:58:48,930 --> 00:58:51,790  
my eyes hundreds of times.

1163  
00:58:51,790 --> 00:58:53,650  
But somehow I survived.

1164  
00:58:53,650 --> 00:58:57,220  
Your testimony today  
and three weeks ago

1165  
00:58:57,220 --> 00:59:00,040  
is very important to  
us, and I'm sure it's

1166  
00:59:00,040 --> 00:59:01,420  
important to your family.

1167  
00:59:01,420 --> 00:59:02,320  
Very important, yes.

1168  
00:59:02,320 --> 00:59:04,870  
You will have it, and  
we want to thank you

1169  
00:59:04,870 --> 00:59:07,932

for coming down and telling  
us about your experiences.

1170  
00:59:07,932 --> 00:59:09,140  
Thank you for having me here.

1171  
00:59:09,140 --> 00:59:09,973  
Thank you very much.

1172  
00:59:09,973 --> 00:59:11,760  
Thank you, Doctor.

1173  
00:59:11,760 --> 00:59:26,063