

-TITLE- MAURICE MARKHEIM
-I_DATE-
-SOURCE- UCLA HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTARY ARCHIVES
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY- EXCELLENT
-IMAGE_QUALITY- EXCELLENT
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
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2:1:56 Born in Kraków in 1923. When war broke out he was still a student in school. On September 1, 1939 everything stopped. The school closed. Poland was divided. He was from a family of seven, and he was the only survivor. His brothers followed the army
3:36 When the Germans came in, he thought they were English but they weren't. At that point he already knew about discrimination. The year before his parents had to pick up refugees who had been kicked out of Germany. His father could not explain what had happened

5:41 They would pick up these people and they would sometimes stay with them for a while. Then, the community center would put them into an apartment. He didn't understand their language at first. Many of these people had been told to leave Germany in the middle of the night. A few months later, now November 1939, Maurice was picked up in town by the Nazis while visiting a friend.

9:13 He was loaded onto a truck and along with others and taken out of the city. There were SS in black uniforms. He told them he wanted to go home and they slapped him. Twenty-four hours later he was in the forest 120 K from home. He was beaten. He had to work to get food and clothes. There was already a camp surrounded by barbed wire. He went into the barracks and it was locked-- there was no food and no water.

12:15 Went from camp to build foundations for barracks. There were other people from town who were working at the camp. For lunch they had water. They had three ounces of bread in the morning. A guy told him that his uncle had passed a message that his mother and his sister knew where he was, and that they were looking for a way to get him out. Later, the same man told him about the SS officer who had been bribed to help him escape and get back to town.

15:25 He had to hide and not go into the forest to work so he could be picked up and escape. He lay down on concrete as a sick man and just avoided everybody. Another German caught him and made him unload a truck of potatoes. The German who was supposed to help him beat him, causing him to fall off the truck and then escape to his uncle's house.

19:23 He was very close to his mother. The family was split. Some did not have permission to stay in the ghetto.

23:15 A section of the area was surrounded and a group of young people were taken to a labor camp. A Polish policeman picked him and his brother up at the house. The group was taken to a school. He knew the janitor, and the janitor helped him to escape. He went home, but his brothers were in a labor camp near Kraków.

26:31 Worked at another city for Germans, laying cables under railroad tracks. Once, on the job, he was working across the street from the ghetto and he knew his mother was in there.. He was dying to see his mother and his father. He sent a message through a smuggler that he was working across the street.

31:19 Soon after that, he saw his mother walk out and she waved. She wasn't looking that good. She waved. He cried. A German led him to the outside wall of the ghetto and let him talk to his mother for 1/2 hour. He thinks the German had been bribed. They talked about what it was like in the ghetto. She cried. She told him that his older brother was very sick. She said she didn't think they would see each other again. She said that if I survived to tell everybody how it went. And she said, remember wherever you are to wear a nice clean shirt and make a nice appearance. If somebody throws rocks on us, throw bread. He never saw her again.

38:40 His sister went to the mother when she was taken away so that she would not go alone. A cousin told him years later that his father had been shot in the street in the ghetto.

44:14 They were told that they had to move to another town or they would be shot. He and his brother moved to the designated town. His sister and her baby went to Cracow. In Vinichlea(sp)(the town) kids or peasants were thrown in trucks on top of bodies. They were transported and locked in barracks for three days. During the day, they would go into the forest and dig mass graves . The next day , they would fill the graves with bodies that were shot.

49:38 There was no ghetto there, there were two shifts working in the cemetery. He was taken to another camp - to Plasha - with 100 men. Commandant was Miller. It was a well established camp. Some Typhus and little food. They were building roads and barracks. They were trained in a cable factory. They were taken there by Police.

54:00 Maurice requested a pass from the commandant so that he could work out of the factory. The commandant said, " Wait one minute, I have to kill someone first". Then he signed the pass. This was 1944-45.

3:1:59 That was when he first realized that a human life was like a fly-- no value.

Worked in a cable factory under Borman(director). They were helpers in training. Were making electrical instruments and parts for submarines and cables. He was working amongst the Poles.

5:01 Worked 12 hour shift and went back to camp. Conditions were awful. They were being beaten. Soup was grass and water. Maurice told Borman about the living conditions at the camp and he did not like it. Borman told them that he had made room in the ghetto for them, and they did not have to go back to the camp. His older brother was there. He helped him survive. He fed him.

9:43 They were provided for so ghetto residents took them in and fed them. Mother had put all of their possessions into the apartment of the janitor before they moved into the ghetto. They were building main camp in Plaskov on an old cemetery. People were being moved there.

13:58 Armand Gett became the commander of the camp. They hanged two of Maurice's friends at role call. He said he could not describe what it is like to see a friend hanged for the first time. He begged and kissed his feet to be saved.

17:30 Conditions became bad and they complained again to the Germans. Outside factory, the Germans had barracks built and they took the workers out and had them live on factory premises. Maurice said that they survived because some people had connections and could communicate with the outside.

20:50 When Germans built the barracks, there were three hundred people, 1/2 men, 1/2 women. They had to go to main camp for food supplies on a wagon which they pulled. At the gate of the camp, they wouldn't let them in. Later, Maurice got into the camp and he saw his brother.

23:24 There was a truck loaded up with Poles. They were handcuffed. They were saying that they should have helped the Jews because the Poles were next. They were then taken to a hill where all executions were done. Maurice then heard machine gun bullets. The truck left the camp and then they were let in.

26:00 A critical point -- The cable workers had to dig up graves. When they saw the heads a German would be called and he would pull out the gold teeth.

In November 1944, went to Schinller(sp), felt he was a Zombie. At first, he could not sleep in barracks. Says he won't be able to sleep tonight because he was talking about it today and he didn't even tell the details.

30:58 It was an act of God that I got to Schinller. I knew the end was close. At that point, I did not believe in God. How could he let this happen?
.END.