

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,910

2

00:00:06,910 --> 00:00:11,210

Isaac, when does Sam come back?

3

00:00:11,210 --> 00:00:13,820

How long is it, after
you've seen father,

4

00:00:13,820 --> 00:00:15,756

that you know that he's gone?

5

00:00:15,756 --> 00:00:16,256

Right.

6

00:00:16,256 --> 00:00:22,220

May I spend a couple of minutes
to mention what happened to me?

7

00:00:22,220 --> 00:00:30,910

After, in December of '44,
when finally the problem,

8

00:00:30,910 --> 00:00:39,940

the political fighting was over,
our neighborhood was liberated

9

00:00:39,940 --> 00:00:40,870

by German--

10

00:00:40,870 --> 00:00:43,090

I mean not German--

11

00:00:43,090 --> 00:00:47,020

British troops and Greek police.

12

00:00:47,020 --> 00:00:49,540

And I mean, everything
had been closed.

13

00:00:49,540 --> 00:00:54,670

It was-- there'd been no food
other than what one had kept

14

00:00:54,670 --> 00:00:58,800

in before the trouble started.

15

00:00:58,800 --> 00:01:05,810

So the following day, I
went and stood in line

16

00:01:05,810 --> 00:01:10,600

at the grocery store, two
blocks from our apartment,

17

00:01:10,600 --> 00:01:16,430

waiting to get
whatever was available.

18

00:01:16,430 --> 00:01:24,670

And five minutes later after
I started standing in line,

19

00:01:24,670 --> 00:01:28,860

a number of police
officers Gendarmerie come.

20

00:01:28,860 --> 00:01:34,380

And they're going down the
line, "Who is Isaac Nehama?"

21

00:01:34,380 --> 00:01:36,861

So I, it's me.

22

00:01:36,861 --> 00:01:41,950

When they take me, and first
they took me to the apartment.

23

00:01:41,950 --> 00:01:43,610

And I saw my father.

24

00:01:43,610 --> 00:01:47,333

There were other policemen
and Gendarme around,

25
00:01:47,333 --> 00:01:49,250
some of them in civilian
clothes, some of them

26
00:01:49,250 --> 00:01:51,110
in uniform.

27
00:01:51,110 --> 00:01:57,930
And my father is really
half hysterical, half--

28
00:01:57,930 --> 00:02:02,190
not hysterical, I mean,
vocally, but frightened,

29
00:02:02,190 --> 00:02:06,450
but at the same time, also
resolute because they are

30
00:02:06,450 --> 00:02:08,580
doing searches and so forth.

31
00:02:08,580 --> 00:02:12,870
And he had a few gold
sovereigns left on his person.

32
00:02:12,870 --> 00:02:15,937
And they found it.

33
00:02:15,937 --> 00:02:17,520
And for a moment,
he thought that they

34
00:02:17,520 --> 00:02:19,050
were going to grab it away.

35
00:02:19,050 --> 00:02:21,690
And that was the only thing
that we had left to our name.

36

00:02:21,690 --> 00:02:25,730

So he started shouting and
screaming and so forth.

37

00:02:25,730 --> 00:02:28,020

Well, they didn't
take the money.

38

00:02:28,020 --> 00:02:29,120

But they took me away.

39

00:02:29,120 --> 00:02:31,080

They took me to
the police station.

40

00:02:31,080 --> 00:02:36,650

And they began to pummel me
with the butt of the rifles

41

00:02:36,650 --> 00:02:44,750

because they wanted me
to reveal names of EAM--

42

00:02:44,750 --> 00:02:47,660

ELAS people in the neighborhood.

43

00:02:47,660 --> 00:02:50,810

I told them, I hadn't
been in the neighborhood

44

00:02:50,810 --> 00:02:53,370

for over a year.

45

00:02:53,370 --> 00:02:57,110

I was not part of
that before I left.

46

00:02:57,110 --> 00:03:01,770

Yes, I was in ELAS,
but I went to survive,

47

00:03:01,770 --> 00:03:03,620

not for political reasons.

48

00:03:03,620 --> 00:03:05,870

And certainly, I
did not know anyone

49

00:03:05,870 --> 00:03:08,510

in the neighborhood of that.

50

00:03:08,510 --> 00:03:15,260

Well, I was beaten
for quite a time.

51

00:03:15,260 --> 00:03:19,310

But at the end, I
was put in a car

52

00:03:19,310 --> 00:03:23,825

and taken to the place
which ironically,

53

00:03:23,825 --> 00:03:25,790

in the center of Athens,
was the place where

54

00:03:25,790 --> 00:03:29,188

the Gestapo used to
round up their prisoners

55

00:03:29,188 --> 00:03:29,855

in the basement.

56

00:03:29,855 --> 00:03:34,340

It was an office building
had the basement or the place

57

00:03:34,340 --> 00:03:36,030

for the garage.

58

00:03:36,030 --> 00:03:39,420

And by the time I got
there, it was dark.

59

00:03:39,420 --> 00:03:43,800
And I was-- the door opened, and
I was shoved to total darkness,

60

00:03:43,800 --> 00:03:49,010
except you could feel the
smell and the noise of lots

61

00:03:49,010 --> 00:03:49,880
of other people.

62

00:03:49,880 --> 00:03:54,880
In short, they had been
rounding up people.

63

00:03:54,880 --> 00:03:56,950
And the following day,
they put us in trucks.

64

00:03:56,950 --> 00:04:02,860
They took us to a mini
camp, detention camp

65

00:04:02,860 --> 00:04:08,650
with barbed wire near
the shore in Glyfada

66

00:04:08,650 --> 00:04:13,550
which is a suburb of
Athens, beautiful spot.

67

00:04:13,550 --> 00:04:16,730
And I was kept there
for a day and a half,

68

00:04:16,730 --> 00:04:21,050
and then we were taken and
put on to Pireas, on ships.

69

00:04:21,050 --> 00:04:23,400
We didn't know
where we were going.

70

00:04:23,400 --> 00:04:25,760

And after a traverse
of, I think,

71

00:04:25,760 --> 00:04:30,240

three or four days
and nights, then

72

00:04:30,240 --> 00:04:33,810

also it happens-- in
darkness we were disembarked.

73

00:04:33,810 --> 00:04:37,230

And we found ourselves in
the middle of the desert.

74

00:04:37,230 --> 00:04:39,408

At least it looked
like a desert.

75

00:04:39,408 --> 00:04:41,325

And then subsequently,
I learned it was Libya.

76

00:04:41,325 --> 00:04:44,190

77

00:04:44,190 --> 00:04:46,760

Well, what had
happened, the British

78

00:04:46,760 --> 00:04:49,140

had taken all these
things as prisoners

79

00:04:49,140 --> 00:04:53,550

because the people of ELAS had
taken some British soldiers

80

00:04:53,550 --> 00:04:54,190

as prisoners.

81

00:04:54,190 --> 00:04:58,110
So it was kept as a
kind of bargaining chip.

82
00:04:58,110 --> 00:05:01,950
Fortunately, in the meantime,
my father's frantic efforts,

83
00:05:01,950 --> 00:05:07,340
and a cousin of his knew the
New York Times correspondent

84
00:05:07,340 --> 00:05:13,700
in Athens who knew the
[GREEK], the archbishop who

85
00:05:13,700 --> 00:05:17,690
had become rigid by
that time and told him

86
00:05:17,690 --> 00:05:22,520
about the fate of this Jewish
boy who goes to save himself,

87
00:05:22,520 --> 00:05:27,080
loses most of his
family, and now he's

88
00:05:27,080 --> 00:05:32,350
a prisoner of the British
because two days after I

89
00:05:32,350 --> 00:05:36,730
arrived in Libya,
then once a day,

90
00:05:36,730 --> 00:05:39,070
some British soldier would
come with a clipboard

91
00:05:39,070 --> 00:05:40,870
and mention names.

92

00:05:40,870 --> 00:05:45,550

And somebody said to me,
your name has been called.

93

00:05:45,550 --> 00:05:50,800

So effectively, the war had gone
down, and I was repatriated.

94

00:05:50,800 --> 00:05:54,880

So I think this needs
to have a nice bookend

95

00:05:54,880 --> 00:05:57,955

for my parties, and--

96

00:05:57,955 --> 00:06:02,470

And this lasted for few weeks?

97

00:06:02,470 --> 00:06:06,850

From the time that i was picked
up to the time I returned was,

98

00:06:06,850 --> 00:06:07,990

I think, 15 days.

99

00:06:07,990 --> 00:06:11,280

100

00:06:11,280 --> 00:06:18,948

I came back, I think, the
7th or 8th of January, '45.

101

00:06:18,948 --> 00:06:22,983

And you were-- go ahead.

102

00:06:22,983 --> 00:06:24,400

I think you were
asking me earlier

103

00:06:24,400 --> 00:06:25,400

about when Sam returned.

104

00:06:25,400 --> 00:06:27,050
But let me ask you something.

105
00:06:27,050 --> 00:06:30,500
This is the first time in your
life that you were beaten?

106
00:06:30,500 --> 00:06:34,760
Yes, by supposedly our allies.

107
00:06:34,760 --> 00:06:39,260
Well, look, I can understand
what they were trying to do.

108
00:06:39,260 --> 00:06:41,180
I was beaten by the
British themselves.

109
00:06:41,180 --> 00:06:43,070
I was beaten by the
Greek Gendarmerie,

110
00:06:43,070 --> 00:06:47,510
who were, of course,
doing the bidding of the--

111
00:06:47,510 --> 00:06:51,680
I mean, the British once
I got to the detention

112
00:06:51,680 --> 00:06:54,920
place in Athens
itself and to Glyfada,

113
00:06:54,920 --> 00:07:00,140
once we came under English army
control, we were not beaten

114
00:07:00,140 --> 00:07:01,220
or anything else.

115
00:07:01,220 --> 00:07:03,000
We were wealthy there.

116
00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:06,770
I mean, food was,
there, plentiful.

117
00:07:06,770 --> 00:07:14,180
In Libya, one day a man
came with English uniform.

118
00:07:14,180 --> 00:07:20,910
And I saw in his shoulder, a
patch that said "Palestine."

119
00:07:20,910 --> 00:07:23,090
So I took a chance,
and I addressed him

120
00:07:23,090 --> 00:07:31,976
in Hebrew, the only phrase that
I knew, "Do you speak Hebrew?"

121
00:07:31,976 --> 00:07:34,850
And he says, are you--

122
00:07:34,850 --> 00:07:36,140
I didn't know how to--

123
00:07:36,140 --> 00:07:39,330
I didn't know any more
Hebrew other than that.

124
00:07:39,330 --> 00:07:41,830
But I told him my name.

125
00:07:41,830 --> 00:07:45,280
Then he said, OK,
come in the evening.

126
00:07:45,280 --> 00:07:50,800
And in the evening he brought me
a couple of bars of chocolates.

127

00:07:50,800 --> 00:07:54,820
Of course, it wasn't in
his power to let me out,

128
00:07:54,820 --> 00:07:57,670
but I was let out in
a few days anyhow.

129
00:07:57,670 --> 00:08:01,600
Were you very hurt
when they hit you?

130
00:08:01,600 --> 00:08:04,190
I mean, I don't know if
they did it on purpose.

131
00:08:04,190 --> 00:08:10,900
They really pummeled me in
the upper body and the legs.

132
00:08:10,900 --> 00:08:12,505
With the butt of a rifle?

133
00:08:12,505 --> 00:08:13,005
Yes.

134
00:08:13,005 --> 00:08:16,690
And at one point,
the man had this--

135
00:08:16,690 --> 00:08:18,220
even a bayonet fixed.

136
00:08:18,220 --> 00:08:19,240
And he went like this--

137
00:08:19,240 --> 00:08:22,240
I'm sure they--
and because I think

138
00:08:22,240 --> 00:08:26,800
it pierced my overcoat that
famous blue overcoat, which

139
00:08:26,800 --> 00:08:28,015
I mentioned to you.

140
00:08:28,015 --> 00:08:30,470
I had still saved it
from the partisan days.

141
00:08:30,470 --> 00:08:32,848
I had brought it back.

142
00:08:32,848 --> 00:08:40,950
But it was just
a savage beating.

143
00:08:40,950 --> 00:08:43,299
Did that do something to you?

144
00:08:43,299 --> 00:08:45,070
As a human being, did that--

145
00:08:45,070 --> 00:08:49,960
Of course-- well, first of all,
I was really, for one thing,

146
00:08:49,960 --> 00:08:56,410
taken aback that such savagery
was possible and especially

147
00:08:56,410 --> 00:09:00,700
for something that I
had not done or for--

148
00:09:00,700 --> 00:09:03,820
I couldn't fulfill a
request, which in good con--

149
00:09:03,820 --> 00:09:05,650
I wasn't hiding anything.

150
00:09:05,650 --> 00:09:09,850
It wasn't as if they were

asking me the name of my unit

151

00:09:09,850 --> 00:09:11,350

or where are they.

152

00:09:11,350 --> 00:09:15,040

I would have told them, but

there was nothing secret

153

00:09:15,040 --> 00:09:16,240

about that.

154

00:09:16,240 --> 00:09:21,850

But they were-- and I

can see that this was not

155

00:09:21,850 --> 00:09:23,630

done at the request

of the British,

156

00:09:23,630 --> 00:09:27,340

but it was simply on

their own initiative.

157

00:09:27,340 --> 00:09:29,410

It was a horrible thing.

158

00:09:29,410 --> 00:09:32,920

Greece, unfortunately,

is the only country

159

00:09:32,920 --> 00:09:36,470

where the resistance,

which, in spite

160

00:09:36,470 --> 00:09:39,290

of all these horrible

political infighting,

161

00:09:39,290 --> 00:09:43,735

at least did something to shore

up the morale of the people,

162

00:09:43,735 --> 00:09:49,660

inflict losses of the
Germans and the Italians.

163

00:09:49,660 --> 00:09:51,910

It was never
officially recognized

164

00:09:51,910 --> 00:09:57,510

until about 10 years ago, where
finally Papandreou, the Prime

165

00:09:57,510 --> 00:10:03,440

Minister who was dead, rammed
a law through one of the two

166

00:10:03,440 --> 00:10:04,980

houses of parliament.

167

00:10:04,980 --> 00:10:07,520

He didn't even
clear both of them.

168

00:10:07,520 --> 00:10:14,180

And this is the tragedy, the
pity of Greek political life

169

00:10:14,180 --> 00:10:19,160

and affairs, that even
after 50 or more years,

170

00:10:19,160 --> 00:10:22,910

they are not even willing
to say bygones be bygones,

171

00:10:22,910 --> 00:10:25,970

at least recognize the
contribution that was

172

00:10:25,970 --> 00:10:28,700

made of substantial dimensions.

173

00:10:28,700 --> 00:10:31,550

174
00:10:31,550 --> 00:10:34,710
OK, Sam.

175
00:10:34,710 --> 00:10:36,090
All right.

176
00:10:36,090 --> 00:10:40,290
Well, I then resumed
my life in the sense

177
00:10:40,290 --> 00:10:43,170
that I began to prepare myself.

178
00:10:43,170 --> 00:10:48,510
Now it's beginning of the year
of '45 for taking the entrance

179
00:10:48,510 --> 00:10:51,990
examinations at the
Polytechnic Institute in--

180
00:10:51,990 --> 00:10:53,690
The same place you
were going to go to--

181
00:10:53,690 --> 00:10:55,140
In September, right.

182
00:10:55,140 --> 00:10:57,920
But it needs preparation.

183
00:10:57,920 --> 00:11:00,820
Well, of course the World War
is still raging in Europe--

184
00:11:00,820 --> 00:11:03,150
I mean, still going on.

185
00:11:03,150 --> 00:11:09,310

And finally, it ends at
the end of April of '45.

186
00:11:09,310 --> 00:11:14,710
And soon thereafter, the
story's first trickle

187
00:11:14,710 --> 00:11:19,150
then becomes a torrent, both
in the newspaper stories

188
00:11:19,150 --> 00:11:27,055
as well as the newsreels to
see the emaciated, the things

189
00:11:27,055 --> 00:11:28,480
in the extermination camps--

190
00:11:28,480 --> 00:11:34,966
the crematoria, the piles of
corpses, and all this horror.

191
00:11:34,966 --> 00:11:38,220
Well, what can one do but--

192
00:11:38,220 --> 00:11:46,790
without any trace of
where our loved ones are?

193
00:11:46,790 --> 00:11:53,000
And it was not until, I think,
beginning of August of '45

194
00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:59,600
that first, on the radio,
at the time of news,

195
00:11:59,600 --> 00:12:01,640
they didn't have the
things as bulletins.

196
00:12:01,640 --> 00:12:06,200
For the time of news, it

would be an extended time

197

00:12:06,200 --> 00:12:12,260

that it took to recite

names because as news began

198

00:12:12,260 --> 00:12:17,630

to trickle down, come down

from Europe of prisoners

199

00:12:17,630 --> 00:12:22,730

from the concentration

camps, in some cases,

200

00:12:22,730 --> 00:12:25,430

Greeks themselves,

political prisoners who

201

00:12:25,430 --> 00:12:29,390

were in Dachau, then there

was also news from contingents

202

00:12:29,390 --> 00:12:33,530

of Greeks that had gone, some

of them forcibly, some of them

203

00:12:33,530 --> 00:12:36,770

voluntarily, to work

in German factories.

204

00:12:36,770 --> 00:12:40,220

But they got-- of

course, also caught

205

00:12:40,220 --> 00:12:44,270

by the fighting of the war.

206

00:12:44,270 --> 00:12:46,310

Some of them never returned.

207

00:12:46,310 --> 00:12:50,460

And so they also

had to be enlisted.

208
00:12:50,460 --> 00:12:54,930
And then one day in the
beginning of August of '45,

209
00:12:54,930 --> 00:12:57,930
a neighbor called me and
told me that she heard

210
00:12:57,930 --> 00:13:01,960
my brother's name mentioned.

211
00:13:01,960 --> 00:13:04,780
But because I didn't
know whether she

212
00:13:04,780 --> 00:13:06,520
had heard correctly,
whether she made

213
00:13:06,520 --> 00:13:08,620
a mistake or the
possibility of there

214
00:13:08,620 --> 00:13:16,240
being another person of the same
name, I didn't tell my father.

215
00:13:16,240 --> 00:13:20,110
And I immediately came down-- it
was very early in the morning--

216
00:13:20,110 --> 00:13:26,890
and I ran to the offices, the
nearest office of a newspaper.

217
00:13:26,890 --> 00:13:29,790
And I went to the [INAUDIBLE],,
and I told them what I wanted.

218
00:13:29,790 --> 00:13:34,090
And they had the list
that was going to appear

219
00:13:34,090 --> 00:13:35,290
in the afternoon paper.

220
00:13:35,290 --> 00:13:41,140
And then I saw Sam
Nehama, comma Athens.

221
00:13:41,140 --> 00:13:44,830
So I was confident because
I knew that we were

222
00:13:44,830 --> 00:13:47,170
the only Nehamas in Athens.

223
00:13:47,170 --> 00:13:50,470
So I then brought
this thing with me

224
00:13:50,470 --> 00:13:52,380
and showed it to my father.

225
00:13:52,380 --> 00:13:54,250
And now there is no waw--

226
00:13:54,250 --> 00:13:58,160
I mean, I asked at
the newspaper office,

227
00:13:58,160 --> 00:13:59,620
how can one get in touch?

228
00:13:59,620 --> 00:14:02,680
Because usually this
information came

229
00:14:02,680 --> 00:14:07,960
via UNRRA, who was the
relief organization that

230
00:14:07,960 --> 00:14:14,080
shepherded all these DPs in

their displaced persons camps.

231

00:14:14,080 --> 00:14:15,650
But there was nothing tangible.

232

00:14:15,650 --> 00:14:17,690
But while we are fretting--

233

00:14:17,690 --> 00:14:19,690
I mean, when are
we going to hear?

234

00:14:19,690 --> 00:14:21,070
When is it he going to come?

235

00:14:21,070 --> 00:14:26,850
The following day, he
called on the phone.

236

00:14:26,850 --> 00:14:31,240
Now, on the phone, he told
us that he was in Bari.

237

00:14:31,240 --> 00:14:32,830
So, all right,
that meant that he

238

00:14:32,830 --> 00:14:36,460
was going to take the ferry,
which takes about a day

239

00:14:36,460 --> 00:14:37,210
to get to Corinth.

240

00:14:37,210 --> 00:14:40,640

241

00:14:40,640 --> 00:14:46,980
And then-- so we thought it was
going to be a few days more.

242

00:14:46,980 --> 00:14:51,550

And then about half an hour
later, the phone rang again.

243
00:14:51,550 --> 00:14:53,070
Remember, he was
at the neighbors.

244
00:14:53,070 --> 00:14:54,750
I had to run upstairs.

245
00:14:54,750 --> 00:14:55,910
And it was Sam again.

246
00:14:55,910 --> 00:15:00,840
He says, I called
you from Corinth.

247
00:15:00,840 --> 00:15:05,207
I didn't want to break the
news so suddenly upon you

248
00:15:05,207 --> 00:15:05,790
that I'm here.

249
00:15:05,790 --> 00:15:07,230
I'm not in Bari.

250
00:15:07,230 --> 00:15:10,500
I'm already in Greek territory.

251
00:15:10,500 --> 00:15:13,750
I'm in Corinth, which
is an hour and a half.

252
00:15:13,750 --> 00:15:17,612
So I told my
father, Sam is here.

253
00:15:17,612 --> 00:15:18,570
He couldn't believe it.

254
00:15:18,570 --> 00:15:21,600

Of course, he couldn't come.

255

00:15:21,600 --> 00:15:24,810

I ran to the radio station.

256

00:15:24,810 --> 00:15:29,950

And he came off--

it was a whole--

257

00:15:29,950 --> 00:15:33,370

hundreds, literally,

of people returning

258

00:15:33,370 --> 00:15:36,270

from Germany and Europe.

259

00:15:36,270 --> 00:15:44,930

And he had on a short

corduroy, brown corduroy pants

260

00:15:44,930 --> 00:15:47,780

in the manner of

lederhosen, which

261

00:15:47,780 --> 00:15:50,550

I'm sure he must have

gotten in Germany from one

262

00:15:50,550 --> 00:15:53,010

agency or the other.

263

00:15:53,010 --> 00:15:58,640

And of course, first of all,

what impressed me was his size.

264

00:15:58,640 --> 00:16:07,080

He was a grown man and

certainly he was not thin.

265

00:16:07,080 --> 00:16:13,615

He looked rather very,

very healthy and well-fed.

266

00:16:13,615 --> 00:16:14,115

And--

267

00:16:14,115 --> 00:16:15,540

And how old was he now?

268

00:16:15,540 --> 00:16:17,850

You were nine-- you were--

269

00:16:17,850 --> 00:16:20,820

At the moment, we are
talking about our reunion.

270

00:16:20,820 --> 00:16:22,500

OK, he was 15 years old.

271

00:16:22,500 --> 00:16:24,860

And he's a grown
man in your mind

272

00:16:24,860 --> 00:16:26,840

because of what
he's looking like.

273

00:16:26,840 --> 00:16:32,870

No, no, he's still
has a youthful face,

274

00:16:32,870 --> 00:16:35,050

but he has the stature
of a grown man.

275

00:16:35,050 --> 00:16:39,470

He was not the little short
boy that I had left before.

276

00:16:39,470 --> 00:16:45,080

And let alone that, in my mind's
eye, having seen the newsreels

277

00:16:45,080 --> 00:16:48,650

and read the stories, and

when I knew that he was also

278

00:16:48,650 --> 00:16:56,710
liberated, I thought I was going
to see a broken individual,

279

00:16:56,710 --> 00:17:01,390
if not emaciated or
a skeleton with skin,

280

00:17:01,390 --> 00:17:05,380
but certainly, even with
premature gray hair.

281

00:17:05,380 --> 00:17:10,810
Fortunately, none of that
had touched Sam, which

282

00:17:10,810 --> 00:17:15,800
I'm very, very happy for him.

283

00:17:15,800 --> 00:17:20,638
I think, in contrast, I think
I had been much more affected

284

00:17:20,638 --> 00:17:27,780
by the war, though I do not
see the horrors that he did,

285

00:17:27,780 --> 00:17:32,160
but by the separation,
because I was at an age

286

00:17:32,160 --> 00:17:36,840
where I could begin to think
about things like these

287

00:17:36,840 --> 00:17:38,400
and internalize them.

288

00:17:38,400 --> 00:17:41,340

289

00:17:41,340 --> 00:17:44,460

It's interesting because one
would assume, theoretically,

290

00:17:44,460 --> 00:17:47,790

that a young boy who
went through Auschwitz

291

00:17:47,790 --> 00:17:50,662

would be more affected than a
boy who was in the resistance.

292

00:17:50,662 --> 00:17:51,385

Sure.

293

00:17:51,385 --> 00:17:53,660

Yes?

294

00:17:53,660 --> 00:17:56,780

Originally when I
was told that you

295

00:17:56,780 --> 00:17:59,360

were interested in
interviewing me,

296

00:17:59,360 --> 00:18:04,370

I told Sharon [? Mueller ?]
that I have nothing

297

00:18:04,370 --> 00:18:08,880

to say compared to
what Sam went through.

298

00:18:08,880 --> 00:18:12,270

But Sharon is a
wise lady, and she

299

00:18:12,270 --> 00:18:16,230

said the invitation is not
proportional to the travail

300

00:18:16,230 --> 00:18:20,650
that one has undergone,
but what one has to say.

301
00:18:20,650 --> 00:18:24,540
So that persuaded me to
come and talk with you.

302
00:18:24,540 --> 00:18:29,490
But I always think that
compared to what he saw

303
00:18:29,490 --> 00:18:35,720
and what he went
through, mine really

304
00:18:35,720 --> 00:18:39,220
paled to practical
insignificance,

305
00:18:39,220 --> 00:18:42,700
except the things that--
the way the affected me.

306
00:18:42,700 --> 00:18:43,540
Affected you, yeah.

307
00:18:43,540 --> 00:18:45,640
I would-- perhaps
I would have felt,

308
00:18:45,640 --> 00:18:48,460
and I've had the same kind of--

309
00:18:48,460 --> 00:18:55,410
even if I was in hiding
because I was at an--

310
00:18:55,410 --> 00:18:57,340
even two or three years
made a difference.

311
00:18:57,340 --> 00:19:00,740

And maybe my own
inclination [INAUDIBLE]

312
00:19:00,740 --> 00:19:03,930
was to think about these things.

313
00:19:03,930 --> 00:19:06,710
And I thought a lot about them.

314
00:19:06,710 --> 00:19:15,730
And the pain of not
finding them, seeing them

315
00:19:15,730 --> 00:19:18,730
in newsreels, what had
gone on, and seeing

316
00:19:18,730 --> 00:19:23,210
the enormity of these
things, all of those things

317
00:19:23,210 --> 00:19:30,210
then combine to very quickly
leave, at least in me,

318
00:19:30,210 --> 00:19:31,350
what I perceive--

319
00:19:31,350 --> 00:19:36,510
I cannot, obviously, speak for
Sam and what is deep in his

320
00:19:36,510 --> 00:19:38,096
mind.

321
00:19:38,096 --> 00:19:41,320
But I had a much more--

322
00:19:41,320 --> 00:19:46,660
I felt it, I think,
more than he did.

323

00:19:46,660 --> 00:19:48,880
I think that I did.

324
00:19:48,880 --> 00:19:53,110
I'm not sure that
that's true objectively.

325
00:19:53,110 --> 00:19:56,530
But you also, in terms of being
with the partisans, and maybe

326
00:19:56,530 --> 00:19:59,560
this makes a difference--
not only were you older,

327
00:19:59,560 --> 00:20:01,285
but you had time
to think about it.

328
00:20:01,285 --> 00:20:03,120
You had time to--

329
00:20:03,120 --> 00:20:04,150
Yes.

330
00:20:04,150 --> 00:20:06,910
Although, in both
cases, there was always

331
00:20:06,910 --> 00:20:08,590
the question of survival.

332
00:20:08,590 --> 00:20:13,660
But can you imagine when
he retells in his tape

333
00:20:13,660 --> 00:20:19,330
the death march from Auschwitz
to only a rail head, which

334
00:20:19,330 --> 00:20:21,910
is less than 50
kilometers away, and it

335
00:20:21,910 --> 00:20:24,790
took three days, and no sleep.

336
00:20:24,790 --> 00:20:27,087
And you don't dare
fall by the wayside

337
00:20:27,087 --> 00:20:28,420
because you're going to be shot.

338
00:20:28,420 --> 00:20:31,432

339
00:20:31,432 --> 00:20:37,040
I think a minute of that is more
than the entire year of what

340
00:20:37,040 --> 00:20:37,700
I went through.

341
00:20:37,700 --> 00:20:40,400

342
00:20:40,400 --> 00:20:42,620
My suspicion is,
but I don't know,

343
00:20:42,620 --> 00:20:46,410
is you didn't ask him
immediately what happened.

344
00:20:46,410 --> 00:20:48,200
You waited until-- or did you?

345
00:20:48,200 --> 00:20:52,870
Did you go alone before you
went to see your father?

346
00:20:52,870 --> 00:20:54,430
No, no, I didn't-- no.

347

00:20:54,430 --> 00:20:57,940

I knew that my father
was waiting and anxious.

348

00:20:57,940 --> 00:21:00,940

I wouldn't have dared
take Sam and say, let's go

349

00:21:00,940 --> 00:21:03,160

and have a chat.

350

00:21:03,160 --> 00:21:04,360

So no, we went.

351

00:21:04,360 --> 00:21:09,680

But even in the subsequent
days, because I did not know,

352

00:21:09,680 --> 00:21:13,055

numbe one, seeing the
horrors in the newsreels

353

00:21:13,055 --> 00:21:17,660

and not knowing yet how
much they had affected him.

354

00:21:17,660 --> 00:21:22,040

Now, arguably, he's fine.

355

00:21:22,040 --> 00:21:24,175

But I wanted to be careful.

356

00:21:24,175 --> 00:21:26,930

So I did not broach
things like this.

357

00:21:26,930 --> 00:21:30,380

And really, even things
like, when did you

358

00:21:30,380 --> 00:21:31,880

arrive in Auschwitz?

359
00:21:31,880 --> 00:21:35,240
Even I asked him a few
years ago, because then,

360
00:21:35,240 --> 00:21:37,580
I wanted to find the exact date.

361
00:21:37,580 --> 00:21:41,060
He said, I can give it to
you within four or five days.

362
00:21:41,060 --> 00:21:43,520
When I went to the Holocaust
museum, I went to library,

363
00:21:43,520 --> 00:21:47,420
found the famous Auschwitz
Chronicles of Danuta.

364
00:21:47,420 --> 00:21:49,460
And what do I see?

365
00:21:49,460 --> 00:21:54,035
17th of August, an entry
that a contingent is expected

366
00:21:54,035 --> 00:21:57,620
tomorrow, of 20 odd thousand--

367
00:21:57,620 --> 00:22:02,000
2,100 Jews from Rhodes.

368
00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:04,550
Was a mistake-- they didn't
include the Athenians.

369
00:22:04,550 --> 00:22:08,030
And then he says,
X number of males

370
00:22:08,030 --> 00:22:12,350

were given numbers starting
from B something to B--

371
00:22:12,350 --> 00:22:16,490
and I know Sam's
number is B7464,

372
00:22:16,490 --> 00:22:20,250
so it was right smack in
the middle of that range.

373
00:22:20,250 --> 00:22:27,100
So I know now that
they got to Auschwitz.

374
00:22:27,100 --> 00:22:33,090
Now, I asked Sam,
what time of day?

375
00:22:33,090 --> 00:22:36,390
And he told me it was
still dawn almost, just

376
00:22:36,390 --> 00:22:41,450
before dawn, because
I try to think,

377
00:22:41,450 --> 00:22:44,230
when did my mother and father--

378
00:22:44,230 --> 00:22:46,534
my mother and brother die?

379
00:22:46,534 --> 00:22:49,950

380
00:22:49,950 --> 00:22:54,210
Nobody knows, but
from Sam, I know

381
00:22:54,210 --> 00:22:58,640
it was either the same day, or
the latest, the following day.

382
00:22:58,640 --> 00:23:00,965
They didn't keep them.

383
00:23:00,965 --> 00:23:02,990
They had no place to--

384
00:23:02,990 --> 00:23:05,360
they had to dispose of them.

385
00:23:05,360 --> 00:23:12,460
So at least I have narrowed
the day of my mother's

386
00:23:12,460 --> 00:23:15,310
and brother's death.

387
00:23:15,310 --> 00:23:19,840
But his coming-- his coming
back was confirmation

388
00:23:19,840 --> 00:23:22,192
that no one else
was coming back.

389
00:23:22,192 --> 00:23:24,952

390
00:23:24,952 --> 00:23:25,660
And how did you--

391
00:23:25,660 --> 00:23:29,290
First of all, I
didn't know whether he

392
00:23:29,290 --> 00:23:32,980
was coming back given
his age and seeing

393
00:23:32,980 --> 00:23:40,230
that at the time of the arrival,
the very young, the very old,

394

00:23:40,230 --> 00:23:44,430
or women who were very young,
regardless of their own ability

395

00:23:44,430 --> 00:23:48,780
to work or not, the
flick of a finger--

396

00:23:48,780 --> 00:23:51,930
I mean, who do you expect--
how do you expect that--

397

00:23:51,930 --> 00:23:58,660
what expectation do you
have that a 14-year boy

398

00:23:58,660 --> 00:24:04,210
will appear capable of
concentration camp labor?

399

00:24:04,210 --> 00:24:07,120
So I mean, only the
darkest thoughts existed.

400

00:24:07,120 --> 00:24:11,680
And it's a miracle that I
think he survived because he

401

00:24:11,680 --> 00:24:14,840
was bigger for his
stature, for his age,

402

00:24:14,840 --> 00:24:19,540
plus that thing that he did in
the great concentration camp.

403

00:24:19,540 --> 00:24:23,050
I think he's
responsible for his not

404

00:24:23,050 --> 00:24:26,835
being chosen to go

the other direction.

405

00:24:26,835 --> 00:24:30,410

What did he do in the
concentration camp?

406

00:24:30,410 --> 00:24:32,680

Because anyone who's
watching this will not

407

00:24:32,680 --> 00:24:33,930

know what you're referring to.

408

00:24:33,930 --> 00:24:36,630

Well, Sam is very
good about that.

409

00:24:36,630 --> 00:24:38,470

He said, well,
first of all, he had

410

00:24:38,470 --> 00:24:43,870

to undergo quarantine that
lasted for several weeks

411

00:24:43,870 --> 00:24:45,820

where there was very
little to be done.

412

00:24:45,820 --> 00:24:49,490

Then he was taken into--

413

00:24:49,490 --> 00:24:52,030

there was a neighboring camp--

414

00:24:52,030 --> 00:24:53,320

actually, a farm.

415

00:24:53,320 --> 00:24:58,450

It was about 10 kilometers
from the main Birkenau

416

00:24:58,450 --> 00:25:03,940
camp called Budy, which was
a farm or a farm complex.

417
00:25:03,940 --> 00:25:10,180
And young kids were doing
farm work, picking things up

418
00:25:10,180 --> 00:25:11,500
and things like that.

419
00:25:11,500 --> 00:25:18,820
And that's from where he
eventually had to do the march

420
00:25:18,820 --> 00:25:20,140
and get to Buchenwald.

421
00:25:20,140 --> 00:25:22,870
And I think the
interrogator asked him

422
00:25:22,870 --> 00:25:24,880
what he did in Buchenwald.

423
00:25:24,880 --> 00:25:29,100
Without missing a
beat, he says "nothing"

424
00:25:29,100 --> 00:25:31,770
because Buchenwald was
not that kind of a camp.

425
00:25:31,770 --> 00:25:34,005
It was not a labor camp.

426
00:25:34,005 --> 00:25:36,900

427
00:25:36,900 --> 00:25:39,150
How did your father--

428

00:25:39,150 --> 00:25:43,395
when he met Sam, it must have
been that he was extremely

429
00:25:43,395 --> 00:25:48,400
torn with joy at seeing
one of his children

430
00:25:48,400 --> 00:25:50,950
and the loss of his wife,
and the youngest boy.

431
00:25:50,950 --> 00:25:53,150
Right.

432
00:25:53,150 --> 00:25:55,780
I can see the scene.

433
00:25:55,780 --> 00:26:00,210
You know, he was crying.

434
00:26:00,210 --> 00:26:11,571
Well-- but I think both he and
I, without even discussing it,

435
00:26:11,571 --> 00:26:13,100
we took it easy.

436
00:26:13,100 --> 00:26:17,720
We didn't pry Sam
with lots of questions

437
00:26:17,720 --> 00:26:19,650
right in the beginning.

438
00:26:19,650 --> 00:26:23,600
And in fact, some of
the details, which

439
00:26:23,600 --> 00:26:29,600
he relays on the tape,
in particular the beating

440

00:26:29,600 --> 00:26:34,840

that they received at the
hands of the German police,

441

00:26:34,840 --> 00:26:37,525

I only heard it for the first
time, myself, on the tape.

442

00:26:37,525 --> 00:26:40,760

443

00:26:40,760 --> 00:26:46,180

So I-- because we
do not know what

444

00:26:46,180 --> 00:26:50,080

effect this kind of
questioning would have on him.

445

00:26:50,080 --> 00:26:54,820

It would certainly would open
up wounds that, perhaps, ought

446

00:26:54,820 --> 00:26:57,560

to be left to heal for a bit.

447

00:26:57,560 --> 00:26:59,410

So we're very, very careful.

448

00:26:59,410 --> 00:27:06,430

Plus, unfortunately,
I don't know,

449

00:27:06,430 --> 00:27:12,410

you realize that although
you want to know,

450

00:27:12,410 --> 00:27:14,270

you're hungry for
that, but it isn't

451

00:27:14,270 --> 00:27:15,650

going to change the outcome.

452

00:27:15,650 --> 00:27:20,740

So waiting a little bit longer--

453

00:27:20,740 --> 00:27:24,540

I don't want to say that
didn't want to know.

454

00:27:24,540 --> 00:27:28,320

What I think was much
more operative was,

455

00:27:28,320 --> 00:27:33,990

we wanted to tread very
carefully because we do not

456

00:27:33,990 --> 00:27:37,283

know what this might do to Sam.

457

00:27:37,283 --> 00:27:38,700

In the same way,
I think that even

458

00:27:38,700 --> 00:27:44,975

my father did not pry me
with very pressing questions

459

00:27:44,975 --> 00:27:47,790

continuously about my
experiences in the camp.

460

00:27:47,790 --> 00:27:49,040

I mean, I thought I told him--

461

00:27:49,040 --> 00:27:51,050

I mean, not the camp--

462

00:27:51,050 --> 00:27:52,580

in the mountains.

463

00:27:52,580 --> 00:27:57,680

After I told him of traversing,
the bus trip, and then

464
00:27:57,680 --> 00:28:01,740
getting to Karditsa, and then
how, finally, I got there,

465
00:28:01,740 --> 00:28:04,677
from then on out, from time
to time, I would tell him

466
00:28:04,677 --> 00:28:06,510
a few things have
happened in the mountains.

467
00:28:06,510 --> 00:28:11,450
But he didn't need to press.

468
00:28:11,450 --> 00:28:14,310
I think that if I
had stayed longer,

469
00:28:14,310 --> 00:28:16,007
we would have exchanged stories.

470
00:28:16,007 --> 00:28:18,215
He would have told me things
about his own childhood.

471
00:28:18,215 --> 00:28:25,060
And I would have told him
about my mountain experiences.

472
00:28:25,060 --> 00:28:34,000