

**Larry Edelstein**

**Tape 1**

**November 18, 2013**

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### **Abstract**

Larry Edelstein was born in Taish (?), Czechoslovakia (later it became Hungary) to a family with four daughters, two younger and two older than him. He played with the two younger sisters. Daily he attended public school followed by Hebrew School. Larry often came home scratched from fights or from playing soccer. His father consulted frequently with the Rabbi on Larry's behavior and would discipline him when he felt he misbehaved. Also, he would be disciplined by his grandfather who lived next door. Larry was close to his mother who did not discipline him. The family was observant. His father had a stand in the market where he sold fruit and snacks. Larry would help pile the apples and bring feed to a horse the family owned with a partner. Their house had a mud floor and they had an outhouse in the back yard. There was no radio or telephone but the town crier came around with a drum to make announcements. The family spoke Yiddish and folk Russian and Larry spoke Hungarian. In '42 and '43 the Hungarians and Czechs fought nearby. The next year the Germans came to the synagogue and beat up each person as they left. The family (except for the oldest sister, Esther, who was in Budapest) was placed in a ghetto consisting of tents about 8 or 10 miles away. Larry's father was taken by truck every day to work in Romania. After six weeks they were told they were going to a better place and were taken by cattle car to Birkenau where Larry and his father were separated from the rest of the family (gas chamber). His father soon died but Larry was successful in hiding from the selections or making himself appear older. He marched to Mauthausen where he stayed a short time and was liberated at Gunschuchen (?). At liberation, Larry had diphtheria so had to be hospitalized before going home to his aunt. She sent him to Romania to recuperate as people had more food and money there. HIAS arranged for his passage to the US in '49 where he lived with his aunt until he was drafted in '54. After gunnery training he served in Korea for two years and then became a citizen. He got married in '56 and opened a cleaning store where he did some tailoring. He always said that he would treat his two children differently than he was treated and has tried to do so.

### **Summary**

00:00 Larry Edelstein was born in Taish (?), Czechoslovakia to a family with four daughters.

His father did not spoil him as he wanted him to learn Hebrew and attend cheder (Hebrew School). His father attended daily services and would discuss Larry's behavior with the Rabbi. Larry would be disciplined if he did not act according to the Rabbi's rules.

05:00 Sometimes he would be disciplined by having his fingertips hit with a ruler by the Rabbi. His father's business consisted of selling nuts and popcorn in the winter and fruit in the

summer. His father had a stand in the market place with a cover for the roof to protect it from the rain and wind. They would place rags on top of their shoes to keep their feet warm as socks and shoes were not warm enough. His father was at his stand all day so was not in a good mood after work. His grandpa, his mother's dad, lived next door and visited and thought the children were too noisy. He was in his late 70s and wanted the children to sit and behave and if they did not, would report to Larry's father when he came home. Larry's grandmother passed away before the war. Larry was lively and the grandpa spent most of his time in their house. Their business was on the main road next to other businesses. His father paid rental fee for the shack. In the winter, they had little to sell. They would go to apple orchards and buy the apples. They would pick them instead of shaking the trees because the apples would bruise if they fell down.

10:00 All his siblings helped pick the apples. His mother did the laundry in the nearby stream of water that almost froze in the winter so she had to break the ice and pound the clothes with a wooden paddle. She also had to cook for seven people. The children were all in school. Larry attended public school from 8 AM to 2PM and then attended Hebrew School until 6 PM. They would stack the apples up and take some home. His father sold nuts, candy and popcorn in the winter. His father came from another town to get married. He visited Taish (?) once where few Jews were living. He had to walk a distance so the family saw the mother's relatives more frequently. The father has a brother who lives in Israel who retired and sells bottles of water. Larry attended the first grade and then the war broke out.

15:00 His father is Aaron Edelstein and his mother is Ruchel Regenstrief (?) Edelstein. His uncle had five children and shortened his name when he came to the US. It is traditional to record your name exactly as named. Larry was named Yitzchak (?) Lazar. He was seriously ill in the hospital in Radso (?) before the war. He was so sick that the Rabbi gave him an extra name of Chaim. In English he is called Leon but his uncle said "Larry." He was naturalized as Larry Edelstein after he was discharged from the service. He had two younger and two older sisters. The youngest was six years old. The eldest, Esther, survived the war and moved to Israel. Blinchu (?) was younger than her. Alter was next to the youngest.

20:00 Larry was born in Czechoslovakia and later it became Hungary. He lived in the Jewish neighborhood of Taish but non-Jews also lived there. They owned a horse so were called Balagula (?). His father was partner with another man with the horse and a wagon they used together. The guy was not Jewish and was a farmer. There was a kosher butcher and a barber in the neighborhood. His niece came from Israel. She now has a boyfriend and snuck out to walk with him in town.

25:00 Larry was 13 and played with his two younger sisters. They had soccer games where they played and fought as they had no referee. He came home all scratched. On

Saturday Larry's father would ask him what he learned at Hebrew School. His father spoke folk Russian. The family spoke Yiddish except the parents spoke folk Russian. His sister spoke Czech and he spoke Hungarian which he learned at school. Larry could understand some German which he learned during the war at camp. Yiddish was spoke in his area and spoke differently in other areas. At first Yiddish was spoken in Israel and later Hebrew and English were spoken there. He never spoke Hebrew but can read it.

30:00 His father had to work when he was young so did not get much education. After Larry left the service, would get a football from school but dropped out as was too tired to study after working all day. He studied design and tailoring. His father worked on a farm and had no opportunity to go to school. The girls did not go to Hebrew School. They attended public school. Larry's father wanted him to advance in Hebrew. His father read and understood the Bible.

35:00 Larry preferred playing with his sisters rather than attending school. It was at least a half mile walk to school with no transportation. There were sleds and horses on the main road. He would jump on them and take it to town. The horse would chase you off from the sled. After eating, he would be told to take a nap but he would play basketball and get into fights and came home bloody. There were good times and hard times. His father was strict. He had a big belt and would beat him. His mother would tell him to go to bed and then tell his father that he was asleep. His father came home from synagogue and learned about Larry's behavior. His mother tried to protect him. Larry would stay under the covers and shake like a leaf.

40:00 It was a hard life. The family was observant. They belonged to an orthodox synagogue and attended weekly services. The sisters only attended public school, not Hebrew School. Larry felt he got punished the most as he led his two younger sisters. His sisters helped his mother. There were different chores for women than for men. The two older sisters were by themselves. The younger ones fell behind and he filled in the gap. He played with them, not with the older ones. Esther was four years older, about 19, Bluma was born in 1930 and the younger two were born in 1933 and 1936. His mother was his protector and he loved her. He was separated from her during the war. His mother was friendly and his savior as he went to her with his problems. Larry would walk with his mother when she took home-cooked food to his father. She would squeeze his fingers and said that soon he will marry a nice girl. He brought her a bucket of warm water so she could wash clothes. His mother mopped the floors. They used straw mattresses with covers. His mother never had a day of peace. Larry's grandpa came to the US with his daughter in 1918 and worked on the railroad.

45:00 He had been a blacksmith in Europe. He tried to save enough money to get all his family over. He had five children. The youngest was married and started to go to the boat and changed her mind as she was religious, did not know English and did not want to leave

her friends. His aunt remained her but his grandpa returned and got caught in the war. The four children lived in different parts of Europe. The youngest who was married lived at home and Larry's mother was the next youngest. He does not know how his parents met. At night his parents met in different neighbor's houses to pluck feathers to make dichena (?) (quilts).

50:00 They would tell stories while they were plucking and Larry heard the stories. Sometimes when he was left alone, he would get scared as he had heard ghost stories. His parents would talk about their own lives. They got separated at the camp. The only problems the parents had were problems caused by the children and one or the other parent would be upset. His father would beat him, never by his mother. Larry does not remember his father beating the girls. Maybe he did not think about them. He knew that he did wrong things and suffered the consequences which upset him. He does not know if he was his mother's favorite. His father was strict with him. Larry believes that he was mistreated by his father.

55:00 Larry would tell himself that if he got married and had children, he would never treat them like his dad treated him. So when he had children, he behaved differently as he still recalls his father mistreating him. His children were not angels but he did not want them to go through what he went through. When he was young, he was disappointed that other children were not mistreated like him. The people around him were not well-to-do and had responsibilities. They had to bring up their families and do their best under the circumstances. Since Larry was constantly bad, he was constantly disciplined by his father.

60:00 His family owned their own home. They used kerosene lamps since there was no electricity. He does not believe they had taxes to pay on their house. His grandpa owned the house next door. Larry lived in a three-bedroom house with a bedroom upstairs. It was heated with logs and there was an oven to bake bread. Their house was made of mortar and brick and had a mud floor. It was a small house for them as there were only three bedrooms but it was sturdy. The outhouse was in the garden that his grandpa owned. He did some farming and had plum trees. They lived at the edge of town next to the fields. There was farmland behind them. Larry's family owned a goat. His mother raised geese for Passover which she stuffed. Every year she picked a goose for the next year. Sometimes the children could go to the water and have some freedom.

65:00 Sometimes they had insufficient food for the entire family so the first members who grabbed it did not leave enough for the rest. Their horse was kept at the partner's house. After school, Larry took feed over for the horse. He did not have time for other chores. After school on Friday, they prepared for the Sabbath. They swept the front yard and side of the house with a broom made of twigs and cleaned up the area. They would go to the well and drop down the food in a bucket with a rope to keep it fresh. The well had

cold water so it would not spoil. There was lots of work to do. They would take two buckets to the water pump and bring back water as there was none in the house. You had to depend on your neighbor. On Saturday they ate kugel (pudding) or cholent (stew) of beans, barley, onion and potatoes. They went to a neighbor who had a big oven and baked the kugel there. It was left overnight so when they came home from shule (synagogue), it was cooked.

- 70:00 All the children went to school so they were busy during the week and the parents did all the work. There was no radio or car in their town. There was one doctor. If they needed information, they went to the center of town and got news from the people who met at the bakery. There was a man with a big drum who went from street to street and gathered people to give them information and then went off to another street. There were no factories where he lived. His mother made baked potatoes on the wood stove with a cover or took them to the bakery to bake. They had mush or herring for breakfast. They had challah for the Sabbath. His mother prepared it Friday morning and rolled it up. She also made a big brown bread which lasted for a while.
- 75:00 Larry would sneak into town and hear the people talking. There were rumors that armies were advancing but it did not happen. They did not get into war with Germany until 1945. The war started in September 1939 when he was eight but he did not hear about it until 1942. The war was in progress and people started talking. Germany invaded Poland and then in '41 invaded Russia. Life did not change until '43 or '44 when the town talked about what they should do as they heard about the Germans and the events in Poland. Taish (?) was part of Hungary in '44. The Czechs fought the Hungarians in '42 and '43 and the Germans were not involved. There was no German occupation. There were two borders in Taish (?) with blockaded streets.
- 80:00 Larry knew a war was going on but no Germans were involved. There were Hungarians and Czechs fighting in his backyard and bullets flying. Hungary was attacked by Czech soldiers so they fought back. Windows near the borders were shot through and he saw bullet holes but no bodies. The fighting only affected him when he saw the bullet holes. When the Czechs pulled out, the Hungarians were left. One Friday night he was at synagogue with his father when the German soldiers entered and the worshippers ran out and were beaten by the butts of the soldiers' rifles. The Germans swarmed the city.
- 85:00 Hungary was not at war with Germany. Taish (?) was near the Polish border. News did not travel fast since the people had no radio, telephone or TV so the people were not prepared for war. Perhaps they could have protected themselves if they were not surprised. The Jews had to wear a star in late '43. The Germans burned the books and the torahs in the synagogue. The Germans never left the town. The Hungarians let them in. The children could no longer go to school. There was a curfew.

- 90:00 Their neighbors were Hungarian and knew who was Jewish and treated them differently. They planned to take over the Jewish homes, businesses and money. If you did not own your home, they would grab it. All the businesses closed and were taken over by the Germans or the Hungarians. His father was in jail and his mother lit the Friday night candles. The window was not sufficiently covered and showed the light. A Hungarian reported it and his mother was put in jail. Perhaps they were expecting bombing so requested blackout. Larry was at home when a Hungarian and a German arrested his father. His mother had a terrible time supervising the five children. They were not permitted to sell their goods to obtain food. Since the people had no refrigeration, they bought little and felt the place would be non-existent soon. The markets were not closed down. His mother needed to sell everything.
- 95:00 After the synagogue event, anyone who had money or jewelry were demanded to bring it to city hall or be punished. Everyone gave in their valuables or they got dragged through town. The cop would take the valuable or tie up the man and drag him to show others so they would be warned. Larry saw a man being dragged. The Germans picked the best houses and clothing. The Germans wanted money and silver. His parents were too poor to save money. Other poor families sent their children out to learn a trade.
- 100:00 Larry's father was in prison for about seven days and released and then picked up by trucks with guards in the morning and taken to build a bridge for the German airfield. He did not last long as soon got weak. He went to Romania at 6 AM with a shovel to build the airfield. He received no food all day long and was returned to the ghetto about 8 to 10 miles away. Larry decided to leave home and took his belongings and did not tell anyone. This was before Passover '44. They were Orthodox so his mother needed a special pot to cook the Passover food. He was told to get the pot so sneaked out of camp and went through the fields and got the pot. It was about eight miles away.
- 105:00 Larry did not understand why the pot was needed. His mother was happy to see it. They stayed in tents in the ghetto and went from the ghetto to the trains. Some people in the ghetto got part of a house. He could have taken brand new clothes but just took his own clothes as he could not carry much. They lived in the tent for about six weeks in early spring. They were there during Passover. The ghetto area was closed off with few homes. They were surrounded by dogs and Germans. People did not know where they would be going and did not know where else to go. When Larry's father was in jail, he was 12 and wanted to run away. His two younger sisters wanted to join him. He thought another town would be better. He walked through the fields to Bichtener (?) and got halfway there when Hungarians captured him. .
- 110:00 He told them that he did not tell his mother where he was going and they said that it was not permitted and he had to return. His mother was waiting for him at city hall and she was crying. He explained that he was looking for a better place to live and they all went

home. He had no money for a train and could not walk far. His sister, Faigel or Faigela (little bird) was at home with Alter, the next oldest. Esther was 16 or 17 and in Budapest. She lived with their aunt while learning to be a seamstress.

115:00 Blima or Blmache was the next to the oldest. Esther had learned Czech at school and spoke Yiddish, Hungarian, folk Russian and had learned Czech in school. They lived in the tent for a month or six weeks. It was cool in the evening and nice during the day. They had to stay in the ghetto area during that time. They could visit friends and relatives but there was no work. Suddenly the Germans told them, "Arbeit Mach Frei" (Work makes you free) so you will work and better your life. They were gathered together and marched quite a distance to the train station. There were cattle cars and they were pushed in and butt you with their guns if you did not move. Some people were happy to remain and did not want to leave but others entered as were promised a better life.

120:00 They did not know that they were going to be pushed in. They could stay with their family on the train if they arrived together. If separated, they would be pushed into another car. Larry's grandpa, the uncle's family and Larry's family were all pushed in together. It was a wooden car with a covering over the roof for rain protection. They only had food they brought as were not given any. The train left and you could not get off. They sat on the floor. There were no beds or seats for sick people. They were pushed together like cattle. They pushed in as many people as could fill up a car. The people did not know where they were going. His parents said don't hope for a new king as you know what the old king is like. Some were eager to find the better life and, if not, they could not get out as were locked in.

125:00 Their cattle train was the only one on the track at Taish (?). There was no toilet, no water and no food. They did not know their destination. It was difficult for the sick as sometimes they had to stand and there were no facilities to care for them. They loaded up in the morning and arrived at their destination around 2PM. They did not know if they arrived in Germany or in Poland. They could eliminate the sick and the weak. If one camp was full, they had another one ready. They separated the young and strong from the weak. When they opened the door of the train, they saw a nice front yard with flowers and a nice house. It looked like a beautiful camp from the outside, not a place to be poisoned, gassed, shot or buried. The house and flowers were beautiful but you could not see what was behind.

130:00 They got off the train and a couple of Polish Jews took off the luggage. Two of them told him in Yiddish that if he wants to live, he should let go of his mother's hand and go to his father. He felt that in order to live, he had to go with Satan. He separated and looked back and saw his mother, Bluma and grandpa standing. It was the last time he saw them. When he got closer to the pretty house, he saw long chimneys with gauze bags hanging

down from them. Poison gas was in the bags and they were dropped down the chimneys which would kill you unless you had a gas mask. Larry went with his father and they each landed up in different camps. The first place had no barbed wire. It was a beautiful setting where life would end. Then they went to Birkenau which was a prison. There were the young who were capable of working. Her father had beckoned him.

135:00 In Birkenau, Larry went on a potato detail. He was hooked up like a horse to a wagon. In Birkenau, he was given a place to stay and was given striped prison clothes. He had no personal items. Only soldiers, officers and prisoners were there. He was in a barracks with his father. The barracks was long with double beds and a chimney divided the barracks with beds on both sides. They had no mattress or linens. The barracks was similar to a double bed. It was sturdy and they were one on top of the other. You picked a spot for your head. Supper consisting of a loaf of bread and moldy cheese was eaten in your corner. There was no breakfast or lunch. There were about 40 people in his barracks with 20 on each side. They made selections. They would place markers on a goal post to measure your height.

140:00 If you were not tall enough, you would be put on the side with the weak and the sick. Every week people committed suicide by electrocuting themselves on the voltage wires that surrounded the camp. The wires were to prevent prisoners from getting out. They were very high. From two feet away, they would draw you and burn you. During the night, he heard the people taken away to the crematory and dead bodies being carried after poisoning to be burned. You could easily kill yourself as you did not have to stand close to the wire. You would get stuck to the wire until someone knocked you off with a pole. At the first selection, Larry was placed on the healthy side even though he was not tall enough. At the second selection, the same officer was surprised that he was in line again. He stood up on his toes and the officer said, "Fafluten Yid" (messed up Jew) and placed him in the weak side. He got out of it but does not remember how.

145:00 There were rumors of a next selection but no announcement and he hid in the toilet room which consisted of 20 holes on a board. He hid under the dirt and when he heard the whistle that the selection was over, he washed himself and went to work on the potato battalion. When the whistle was blown, it meant the selection was over so people came out of hiding. The selection was announced so the prisoners prepared by trying to look strong enough to work. The battalion consisted of 12 people from his town and soldiers with guns on each side. Young people were selected for the gas, even boys his age. There were 200 left but all were killed by one selection after another. You had to fight for your life. He hid in the toilet because he felt his time to be selected had come as the guards went through each barracks to assure they were empty.

150:00 He was the only one hiding in the toilet. He was worried that someone would smell him when he came out. His clothes were dirty and he does not remember what he did to clean



them. At that time, his father was working at Auschwitz. When Larry arrived at Auschwitz with the Kartoffle (potato) battalion, his father was working.

155:00 A couple of nights before, his father was weak with stomach problems. He gave Larry his bread as he was not going to eat it. He thought Larry was young and be able to live. Larry could not believe what his father said. They did not have a close relationship. When Larry came back, a neighbor told him his father had died. His father was young, only 42 so Larry thought he would live. One person told him that his father was beaten to death and another said it had something to do with work. Larry realized that his father made up his mind to die.

160:00 At that time, they were separated as they were working in different areas. Larry only went to Auschwitz with the potato battalion. He and three others were tied to the wagon to deliver the potatoes. When he did not see his father, he talked to him in his head. He felt his father was too strict but the situation changed. Time changes people. Larry worked in an area near his older sisters who were near the wire in the field. They talked and kept working so no one would know it. They could not hug because of the wire and the guard. The next to the oldest was strong and could survive Bergen-Belsen. The oldest one, Esther, was weak and died soon after the war. Larry's father died about a month after they arrived at Birkenau.

165:00 At first they were together and the father worked on the canal and Larry worked on the road. They met at night at their barracks and talked about how hard the harvest was at home, how they prepared for the holidays and how good it was to eat with the family. It was like a get-together, hamish, (warm and friendly). Larry got sick at the end of the war. It was hard to get sick in a camp as you could not get medicine. He had diphtheria. Gunsuchen (?) Camp had no cooking facility as it was just being built. There were no doctors and they did not know what was wrong. Friends lay down next to each other to keep warm and they died. There was nothing to be done; they did not want to die. His sisters were supposed to come home. From the hospital, Larry took a train home and met someone who said they were glad his sisters were coming home to their aunt, the meeting place. They knew his sisters from home. Larry stayed with his aunt to await their arrival and she wanted to send him to Romania. There were seven in the family and five were gone. Larry never returned to Europe as he had bad memories of the way he was treated. Many people like to return to the place of their but he did not. Blume said that Esther died in her hands.

170:00 She died a couple of days after liberation. The Kartoffle (Potato) Brigade had work for four strong people to transport potatoes to another camp. Each was hooked up like a horse and they were given orders on how many bags of potatoes to drop at certain places. Larry was lucky to get the job at Birkenau so he was considered capable of work. He worked for six months until the Russians came February 1, 1944. He had been separated

from his mother and two younger sisters at the train. When he got to Birkenau, he found out about the chimneys and the crematory. In the middle of the night, he looked out the window and saw flames coming out of the chimneys, lighting up the sky. His father was with him. Larry wondered how long it would last. Later they buried people in straw and covered them up with kerosene. When he got to Germany, Larry found out that people don't always have a chance to live. Every night he heard screams and in the morning, he would see the fire from the chimneys. The area with the train tracks was cleaned out.

175:00 Before they left the camp, the Germans wanted to make the area look like nothing happened. He saw rain tracks with two cars for bodies that were shipped to the ovens. He did not know about that or that he would have to fight for his survival. He just dreamed about growing up and about the holidays. People said they were already sentenced. He knew some Jews went to market with tefillin on and did business which is a sin but insufficient to be punished in this manner. Some of the children who attended his public school disappeared. He did not know anything so it was hard for him to be big himself. He was disappointed that only his youngest sister lives. His entire family is gone. His grandpa died when he was 80 which makes sense.

180:00 They started moving people out of Birkenau when the Russians came closer as did not want them to see the crematorium. They cleaned out the area and were marched to Mauthausen. The people walked day and night and often dropped dead while they were walking. They did not know where they were going. The Russians advancing determined the Germans cleaning up. Five countries were advancing including enemies and allies. There are memorials with some names but not everyone's name. People may forget or don't want the agony of remembering. Larry came to the US in '49 and went to the Chief Rabbi in NY and said he was guilty. He said that all the bad things you did before age 13 should be cleared of sin. His sister was six years old. Larry asked the Rabbi how she could have been so sinful to deserve such a death. He had no answer. Larry spent a couple of nights thinking of the Holocaust and it drove him crazy. He does not want to think of it as it makes him hurt all over. It would take him a long time to give his life history. He has friends, some in Canada.

185:00 Last year a lost friend from England came with him. Larry had lived with him in a shelter in England. It was a big building with lots of boys and girls from the Holocaust and he made a good friend. They were friends forever and he lived in New Jersey and they frequently visited until the friend couldn't drive. His wife called that he had passed away. He was a couple of years older than him. They had lived in groups with other boys. They lost contact. Friendship is good when you can do things together. They would walk up and down the boardwalk and have fun but things got rough and they couldn't see each other for a couple of years and he passed away. Larry tells about some good experiences. One time he was traveling on a German road in a truck with 10 or 12 people when they were suddenly stopped by German officers. The Germans said, "Raus,

raus” (Get off the truck.) They were prisoners and the German officer came and said, “Kum her (Come here.) and stand by the truck and remove your t-shirts so I can see you.”

190:00 He examined all of them and one officer told him “This is Dr. Mengele” and he asked why he is here. Dr. Mengele had studied with a Jewish professor. He saw him a few times. Larry had marks on his back from when he was in the hospital. Now he was eating pretty good and trying to keep up his strength. Dr. Mengele was the top man and told Larry that he could go. He did not know if he was truly Dr. Mengele. Another time he was going through Germany from the ghetto and the train stopped and German women gave them food. The Germans announced that anybody who gives food to the prisoners will get shot. These women were halfway decent and could enter the area between the tracks to get to them. Larry did not meet too many Germans volunteering like them; it was the only time someone showed kindness. Larry worked in the garment industry in New York where a German employee said that the Holocaust was not their fault. Larry asked why the people said, “Sieg Heil” and the man replied that maybe his grandpa was there but he was too young. Larry said that everyone raised their hands but it was not the Jews. His niece came here in the ‘60s and asked why the Jews did not put up a fight and he replied that they had no weapons, no dogs and were not trained to fight.

195:00 Even young people in their 20s did not attack anyone. They did not know what was coming. His niece thought they were equipped to fight but they were not. They did not have weapons like people have here. They could not fight with trained soldiers. He walked to Mauthausen. Jack Farkus (?) came with him. Jack was born in '29 so was two years older than Larry. Larry was tempted to say he was older but when he was asked for his name and address in the camp, he did not say he was older. He only tried to make himself look older to get a job to stay alive. A book indicated that he died in the ward in Mauthausen. A lady had no money for him at the time but said she will give survivors money when she get some. His parents said he was born in January '31. He was at Mauthausen a short time. People marched in from all over. The allies were circling the camp and getting closer.

200:00 Larry thought he would be with the Russians but the Americans came. Gunschuchen (?) was liberated and he was taken to the hospital because he had diphtheria. They were surrounded by German soldiers and dogs so could not get out of the camp. At night the Americans came closer. Everyone wanted to leave the camp but some were too sick and lay on the ground waiting for help. When the Americans came in, the prisoners ran out and some got shot by the Germans outside. Larry was sick and could not move so he was picked up and taken to the First Aide Shelter and from there to the hospital for a month. He was liberated and left for home after the hospital but he did not know where home was. He left the hospital in May 1945 as he was able to travel as got some strength back. Larry has a photo of himself in a uniform with a German cap and a machine gun. It was

not an officer's cap, just a soldier's cap. He was ready to go to his aunt's home in Budapest. She had a lot of children and later immigrated to Israel. She supported the eldest sister. His sister was not home for a long time as she took a long time to learn a trade.

205:00 Larry met his aunt in Budapest who arranged for him to go to Romania as the Jews who survived were given help there. He lived with a family who sold things and had a son and a daughter about 18 or 19. They told him to register and buy anything he wanted. They wanted to give hope to the survivors and a vacation so they could heal. It was a good family. Larry went dancing with the son who was his age. They gave him a lot of good food and were very nice to him. He is sorry that he never thanked them properly. They spoke Yiddish to him. He wrote Yiddish but now forgot it. Larry's oldest sister returned and did not wait for him to return from Romania. He saw his uncle who returned from camp and settled in Czechoslovakia. His sister got married and moved near the uncle on a German farm. Larry never cared for farming. They talked of going to Israel while Larry wanted to go to the US as he has an aunt who can get him immigration papers.

210:00 He waited a few years to come here. His sister went to Cyprus and then to Israel. From Romania, Larry went to Ustin Lab Lublin (?), Czechoslovakia as he wanted to make up with his sister. He was never told that she was engaged. He stayed with his uncle who arranged that he talk with his older sister and get his papers. He obtained them in '49 and left. He took a train through Germany, Holland, and France and the ferry to England. The German border was closed but he was able to get on the train which went through the border. He traveled with a group of boys and girls. HIAS (Hebrew Immigrants Aid Society?) had arranged for them to go to Canada or the US. Larry was born in Taish (?) and went to Hungarian schools so he presumed he was a Hungarian citizen. He did not need a passport to go to the US but needed someone to co-sign for him to be responsible so that the State does not have to support him.

215:00 In Birkenau he was tattoos with the number B14627 in blue ink so would be identified if he ran away and got caught by the German police. Larry feels his doctor is a comedienne as said he would him a big favor by removing his numbers but Larry did not want them removed as he has them since '44 and as a part of him. He has the tattoo around 70 years. He came to his aunt on Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn and remained there until he was drafted in 1952. When he arrived by boat he stayed with friends. He played cards with them and had different jobs. He hasn't heard from anyone; perhaps they passed away. They were roofers, watch makers, butchers. He visited his friend Jack in New York in '52 and he went to Rockaway Beach rather than visit with him.

220:00 From '49 to '52 he lived with his aunt and lived with the boys. He worked as a tailor which he learned from his work in England where he made women's pocketbooks. It

was handwork there but machine work here so he went into tailoring. He had his own cleaning store and repaired clothes. Business was good sometimes. He got married in '56 and opened the cleaning store. Larry was in the Army from '52 to '54. Draft was in full swing then. He was surprised to get a draft notice as he was not a citizen. He passed the test and went for training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma for gunnery. Larry was familiar with cooking so cooked or drove trucks according to need. When his camp was liberated they drafted the prisoners to fight the Japanese and they acquired citizenship if they got an honorable discharge. He was too small and too weak at the time. Larry got trained for the big guns used for hills and canyons but ended up cooking and serving officers. He used a towel over his hand and would ask the officers, "What would you like, sir?"

225:00 They had a choice of fresh food. He was discharged in '54 and met a guy who told him that the sergeant who would take them out on the coldest night if they messed up, had passed away. The sergeant would take a shave in the morning and look at the mirror and if he got mad, would stay mad all day. Larry took basic training in Oklahoma and then reported to Oakland, California where he took a ship to Seoul, Korea. He was at the casualty center in Korea where he had a friend, Matt. On TV you saw soldiers from World War II and Vietnam but not from Korea as it was a police action. Nevertheless a lot of soldiers got killed or froze to death there and it should be mentioned and have a memorial.

230:00 Larry served 106 pound bullets for a cannon to a truck to ship them and it was noisy. He served every position but not on the front line. He took care of automobiles when they came in. They never train you for one thing and just keep you for that one thing but have you do many things. He got discharged from Camp Kilmer where they tried to get him to re-up and promised him that if he signed up for two years, he could make it a 20-year career. He said that he was not cut out for that and wanted to be discharged as he served his time. They said that he would get a pension but you would be sent wherever they wanted. When he arrived in England, his sister asked him to go to Israel but he wanted to go to the US. All the boys were handed weapons upon arrival in Israel but he was drafted so served in the Army anyway. Larry was looking to have a family life and relive his youth but it did not happen. His children did not cooperate as he was not going to treat them like his father treated him. Being scared of his father was his mistake as he should have spoken up. For his Bar Mitzvah, he got a glass of schnapps (whisky) and leibe kuchen (honey cake). Richard is his youngest son. His boss is John and his father bought him a car for graduation so he asked for a car and Larry replied, "You will get the same as I got."

235:00 People in Europe were different. One was a hunchback. Larry wanted children and would have sufficient money for housing and expenses. He wanted a family life so they could sit at the table and talk and have conversation. Several years ago at Pesach, the oldest son asked for a new story when Larry was reading the Haggadah. Larry asked him

if he wanted to hear about his camp days and the son was quiet. He taught his children when they were young and wanted someone else to do it. Larry felt his children should automatically listen to him but they did not. He could either be nice and people would think him weak or be cruel and beat them. His grandson thinks that he can do anything without being disciplined. His kids would fight over such matters as who should cut the grass and they would say they were either too young or too old so he would end up cutting the grass.

240:00 Larry's niece was here for seven days and he tried to teach her certain things. She was 14 and had a chaperone and he gave her accordion lessons. She does not play anymore as does not like it. Things change. You try your best and if you change you are in trouble or people say you are old-fashioned. Some things you can help yourself and some things you cannot do anything about it. Larry finds it difficult to have lived during the changes such as now there are such big building which are strange to him. He was brought up simply. Children live differently than he did. He brought the Holocaust story so they would understand but children do not understand how he and his parents lived.

245:00 To hand down generation to generation, the next generation should get certain values. When his sister was alive, he went to Israel and his niece, Rachel, would ask him to take off his hat as he should not wear a hat in the house. Larry said he dresses the way he wants to. When he played, a non-Jewish family told him to take off his hat and he would not remove his hat in anyone's house. He is not used to being without one except at the doctor's office. Larry is different from his doctor. His sister, Esther, gave an interview years ago and was happy to be here and hoped it did good and would try to come again. He does not drive so he waits for Johnny or Richard to bring him. Larry complimented the interviewer on doing a great job and hope he has been a help and did not want to be sick and be a bother.

250:00 Larry is sorry he gets sick at times as he is emotional.