

Harry Kamel

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Abstract

Harry Kamel was born Chaim Kamelmacher at birth on July 1, 1925 in Rozyszcze, a large village in Eastern Poland and when he was four, the family moved to Maniewiczze, Poland. There were four other children: his brother, Simcha Wolf born in 1912, Hannah in 1918, and twin brothers, Motel and Mendel in 1930. Harry's father could not read or write and was a tailor. Since there was no electricity in the village, he used a foot pedal. Harry attended public school in the morning and cheder (Hebrew School) in the afternoon. He was able to obtain the Polish newspaper and the 4 Jewish newspapers that arrived at the railroad daily from Warsaw. After completing 7th grade, Harry worked at a job making caps as there were no high schools in Maniewiczze and his father could not afford to send him elsewhere. He wrote President Roosevelt if he could come to the US as he had no future in Poland. When the war started, his area of Poland was given to the Ukraine and Harry was able to attend school. There were shortages for everything and you had to stand to line to buy everything. Those thought to be capitalists were sent to Siberia. In '41 the Ukrainians and Poles robbed the Jewish homes during the four days when the Soviets left and the Germans did not arrive. His brother was mobilized on the 23rd into the Red Army and he does not know what happened to him. Since Harry attended a Russian school, he ran away to Russia when the Germans were coming as they would think he was Communist. Meanwhile in '42, his father was sent to forced labor and the rest of the family were placed in the ghetto. The twins disappeared when they were eleven years old. His sister and her daughter and their mother were shot along with 4,000 Jews. Harry relates his adventures starting with six friends on a cattle train and getting off to work in a cooperative farm near Stalingrad until German planes came, running away to Kazakhstan to work on a cotton farm when he follows a young man to a larger city who steals his clothes and documents, works 2 months for a sugar refinery and loses his bread card, someone gives him a card and he gets caught using it so put into prison for two months including placement in solitary until the trial, freed and works for a sugar refinery where he falls into a coma as he is starving, becomes a beggar and asks the Secretary of the Communist party for help who gets him a job as a shoemaker, and he gets mobilized into the Russian army and they go by train to his hometown. Harry gets shot by the Germans and taken to a Ukrainian hospital. The war ends and he joins a Kibbutz and remains in Germany for six years and studies electronics. His uncle in Kansas City sponsors him and he gets there via a ship to New Orleans and later goes to New York where he meets Trudy and they get married in 1954 and they have four children. After forty years, Trudy dies from breast cancer. Harry visits Poland in 2013.

Summary

- 00:00 Harry Kamel was born Chaim Kamelmacher at birth. He came to the US in '51 to his mother's brother, Izzy Gladstone, in Kansas City, MO. When the family got together, they decided his name was too long and cut off the "macher." Chaim in English is Hymie but thought Harry is a nicer name. He was born July 1, 1925 in Rozyszcze, a large village in Eastern Poland. When he was four, the family moved to Maniewiczze, Poland until 1939. They moved to the smaller village as his father's tailoring business did not do well in Rozysyszcze. Before the war, there were 8,000 people living in Maniewiczze, 4000 were Jews and the rest were Ukrainians and Poles so it was mostly a Jewish town. There were four synagogues and two Polish churches. There were no Ukrainian churches so you had to go four kilometers to a Ukrainian church. Harry spoke Yiddish at home. He attended public school in the morning which was mandatory after 7th grade and cheder in the afternoon. The teacher was a religious Jew and taught Hebrew and Yiddish grammar.
- 05:00 Cheder was only for boys. The movie, "Yentle" shows Barbara Streisand and to become a boy to attend cheder. His family was not very religious. His father was a tailor and it was not acceptable for women to help but to cook and raise children. They were a family with five children so his father worked long hours and they did not live too well. His father was a Socialist and did not work on Saturdays. If he had to perform a small task, he would close his window so the neighbor should not think he was working. It is good he did not work Saturdays or he would have worked seven days. The oldest brother, Simcha Wolf was born in 1912; then came Hannah in 1918, then twin brothers, Motel and Mendel in 1930 and he was the youngest. His father Avram Kamelmacher was born in 1889 in the Ukraine and served in the Tsarist Army and ran away to Propeteprosk (?) in Eastern Ukraine.
- 10:00 Harry wrote for information about his father's service but they had no documentation. His father returned to the Army and was not court-martialed but suffered an injured left leg. His mother, Leah Gladstone (Gladstein) came from Russia and had four siblings. He left her parents before she was sixteen. Her sister lived in Rozyszcze. Her family came to Poland in 1918 when it was Ukraine and it remained Poland until '39. His father had two brothers who died in World War I in the Tsarist Army. He married around 1910. Harry's parents did not know how to read and write. They came from poor families. His father was apprenticed at 12 to learn tailoring but acted as a nanny for the children so learned little tailoring. His mother was given to a gentle landowner when she was 13 and cooked and baked for them.
- 15:00 All the Jews had a big oven to bake cholla and goodies for the Sabbath. Harry was sent to a free public school but he had to pay tuition for cheder. His parents saved on food to send him. His older brother finished public school but did not attend cheder and helped

the father with tailoring. His sister went to public school and then had to leave when the mother had twins as she needed help. In Poland, a Jew was either a tailor, a shoemaker, a barber or a wagon maker. You could not get a city or state job or a government job so education was not important. There were Jews in Maniewiczze who had a small grocery store or were cabinet makers. Working people were not very religious. Some went to services on Saturday and all attended on the High Holidays.

20:00 The small businessmen were a little more religious. Some people got help from the US from a brother or a sister. There were specialists in letter writing who wrote to relatives in the US to get help. An agent from a US insurance company came to Maniewiczze and everyone came to ask if their US relative had a policy with him. It was summertime and he wore a nice summer suit and everyone thought that was the way Jews lived in the US. He came to help people with TB in a nice area with pinewoods. The roads were not paved until two years ago. They held a bazaar every Tuesday to buy items. Farmers came to sell their items. After a rain, the wagons sunk in the mud so you would be late to get to the bazaar.

25:00 The government did not invest in that part of Poland. There was no electricity. There were two parts of the village. A generator plant was built in '37. The railroad was nationalized and wanted a certain kilowatt hours. There was no electricity when Harry left in '39. His father's sewing machine had a foot pedal. Around Purim his father got busy as it was four weeks before Passover and everyone wanted a new suit for Passover. His father's old machine would often need repair so they saved to buy a Singer Sewing Machine. His mother did not buy meat to save money. After four years, they bought a machine around Chanukah and it was an event. His father said he did not know what was a bigger event—Chanukah or buying a Singer sewing machine. His father sewed clothes for the family and Harry got a new suit every Passover. Harry envied Dr. Sokowsky's family. The doctor was good to the people as he visited them even if he did not have money. Harry's father made six pants at a time for the doctor's son. Harry's father was a hard worker. He got up at 6 AM and went to the shed to bring in logs and light the oven and work till late at night. He made his own cigarettes.

30:00 The matches were made of wood so Harry split them in half to save a little. His father made Mahorka (?), the cheapest tobacco. He remembered songs from Rosh Hashanah and sang them to the children. (Harry sings one.) It translates, "G-d gets every name on Rosh Hashanah and you have 10 days to make good." According to scripture, if you sin (eat nonkosher food, etc.), G-d gives you another year to live if you make good. His mother was more religious than his father. Her parents were very religious. Her father, Simcha Wolf, lived in Russia. The Schemona Escrai (means 18) is part of the prayer recited three times a day. A religious Jew stands up during the prayer and does not talk until he finishes reading the 18 pages. They used wood at the time for heating so you must clean the chimney. Once his mother's father was praying and someone knocked on

the door that the chimney was on fire but he did not move. Harry said he is a Socialist and knows a little about Judaism as it was instilled in him when he was small. There was only one bedroom in their house so in the summer, he and his elder brother slept in the shed. Their kitchen table was versatile as his father ironed on it, cut cloth, they ate on it and at night it was his bed, using a straw mattress on it.

- 35:00 He was close to both parents evenly. It still hurts him to remember how his parents lived compared to how he now lives; many others lived the same difficult life. They lived on a small street with two Jewish families and a Ukrainian family. Jews did not eat meat all week but had a nice meal on the Sabbath when they burned lamps, the father became king, the table was covered, they had two challahs and his mother lit the candles. The Ukrainians walked in one Sabbath and were surprised how the Jews lived. The Ukrainians spent their money on whisky. They envied the Jews. All the Jews had to meet at a certain location to form the Ghetto. For a pound of sugar or two pounds of salt, the Ukrainians would tell where the Jews lived. This was a small town but things might be different in a city. Before the war, all was fine between the Ukrainians and the Jews. The Ukrainians invited them for Christmas and they would sing songs together. They helped his mother when she was in the Ghetto. He spoke to the neighbor's daughter, Lucy, after Perestroika. They did not have a Polish neighbor but there was a Polish grocery that sold non-kosher food
- 40:00 Some non-religious Jews patronized them. It was peaceful before the war. They spoke Polish before the war. Harry learned Ukrainian later when he attended a Ukrainian School. The doctor was Polish and was good to all people regardless of nationality or religion. His father did tailoring for them and Harry's older brother carried it to them and got a tip. It was usually a zloty (\$1) or two but only the doctor gave a tip, not the wife. It was called "whisky" money. In '39 there was a shortage of everything. Party members bought anything that was available in the stores such as a tallit and made a dress out of it. Harenka, (?) the doctor's wife, decided to leave as she would not wear the same dress as the Ukrainian Inn Keeper so went to the German side.
- 45:00 In '37 they bought a radio that needed two batteries. It used tubes so the batteries needed to be charged. When the area became Ukrainian, all radios had to be turned in so they only had it for two years. They would listen to all kinds of songs including Czech songs. He understood a little German and listened to German songs. They got newspapers every morning from Warsaw. One Jew went to the train station daily to get them. There was the Gazette Polski, the Polish paper and four Jewish papers published in Warsaw. He got the Polish paper and the Yiddish paper and he and his older brother read them and told the parents what they read. Before Germany attacked Poland, the paper said they would never attack Poland as they do not have enough oil. His 6th grade teacher taught them Polish and said to read two newspapers to learn the truth. In Poland, education was at a higher level than the US. In 6th grade geography, he knew five continents and most of the

countries. Most of his father's clients were Jewish. There were some Poles but few Ukrainians as they wore special clothing that his father did not make. His father made suits. His mother and sister bought some of their clothes and his father made some of them.

50:00 He knew when Hitler came to power. German Jews left Germany and came to town. During the summer, his father worked in the kitchen while his mother and sister fixed the living room and painted the floor red. In the winter, his father could not work in the kitchen as it was very cold so he worked in the living room. In '39 Poland was divided between Germany and the Soviet Union so many Jews came in from the Soviet side. Someone from Poland asked to have his suit ironed so waited in his underwear in the living room. He asked if he could sleep in the living room and did so for two weeks. Many Jews on the Soviet side had relatives on the German side and asked to cross over. The Russians said, "Anyone not with us is against us," so deported them to Siberia. Harry had a Soviet passport and survived the war. Those who wound up in Siberia had a different experience. In '33 Hitler came to power and at the beginning, it did not affect him. When the Jews left Germany and could not bring their belongings with them, they heard of Hitler. He did not meet any German Jews. In '39 Poland was divided and he liked it as he could go to high school.

55:00 His territory became part of the Ukraine. Government people came from Kiev and they had children so they opened a high school and Harry could continue his education. Just before that, in '38, his father worked on his new Singer machine. Harry did not want to be a tailor. He worked at a job making caps after completing 7th grade. He could not go to high school as there were none in Maniewiczze and his father could not afford to send him to a bigger city and pay for tuition, room and board. In '37, Harry wrote to President Roosevelt to the White House in Washington, DC, USA. It cost 55 groszy so he posted 11 five cent stamps. He said he was Jewish and has no future in Poland and wants to immigrate to the US. His older brother got a response from the American Consulate in Warsaw which indicated there is a recession in the US. Harry wanted to go anyway. Harry obtained papers to take to City Hall and have his photo taken. In Poland, there were special people who wrote letters so he had Mr. Kleinman fill it out and Harry received a postcard which said he got quota number 87,000. He was in DP Camps after the war and did not have the postcard so it was of no help.

60:00 His mother had four brothers in the US. His father's two brothers were killed. Harry always did what he liked. He complained to his parents that he should not have been born if he cannot get an education. A Jewish girl who was not good in geography said that Mexico is two million square miles. She attended Gymnasium and came to synagogue on a holiday in her uniform but he can't attend school. He is good with his hands. Harry was home when the Germans attacked. He heard on the radio in Polish that the Germans were crowding the border and bombing Poland. Harry did not understand

that when they said 44 came meant the military took over. He was scared what the Germans would do to them.

65:00 Maniewiczze was a wall town and the railroad was important as you went through town to get from Berlin to Moscow or to get to Kiev. Therefore, the Germans bombed the station the first day and it resulted in a crater near their house. A horizontal board on the house fell and you could see through to the outside. His mother remembered the Germans from the First World War when they were good to the civilians but bad to the Jews now so did not know what to expect. On the 18th of September the Russian Army took over the area. (Harry speaks Russian) The Red Army crossed the border and took over part of Ukraine and Byelorussia as the Polish government did not exist. From then on there was exploitation of man against man. The Jews said SSSR – S for “It did not happen,” S for “Nothing there.” S for “would not be” and R for “Don’t even think of it.”

70:00 The Red Army came in on the 22nd at the Ukrainian Church. It was a big event for him as he was Socialist. All the working people thought the Soviet Union was heaven, not knowing that all is secret. After 1917, they thought all are equal so a Jew could work for the government. Half the people were waiting to greet them. The Soviets had no uniforms, no hats but had a hammer and sickle and the people came to kiss them and hear speeches. They announced that the US has silk stockings to provoke prostitution as women sold their body to buy the stockings. Horowitz, a Jew with a mansion of 150 room villa where the Polish plie got together gave his key to the Russians so he did not go to Siberia though all capitalists were usually sent. A few civilian Russians came and many Jews who were Communists (his sister’s husband) attended. The Polish government would arrest them and deport them to the German area. The Germans came and let them out and they became part of the new Soviet government. Soon Ukrainians from Kiev were sent to rule them.

75:00 Everything was nationalized. There was no private initiative. Poland was capitalistic and there never was a shortage of bread and butter, the daily necessities. When they became part of the Ukraine, everything had shortage. Jews with a small grocery hid everything. His father was paid with food for tailoring. No Poles greeted the Red Army but some Ukrainians did. Their neighbor had a son, Grisha. In small towns, once a year, you must join the Police to be a patrolman. In ’39 Grisha was with a policeman whey they arrested two Ukrainians who they thought were Communists. The Soviets found out and sent Grisha to Siberia and he was never heard from again.

80:00 Grisha’s mother told Harry’s mother that when the Ukrainians come, Harry’s mother would be like her mother as she borrowed sugar from her. When the neighbor’s son disappeared, she felt different. Harry’s brother-in-law was part of the structure temporarily until Ukraine arrived. He was the cashier to pay 300 workers of a company with parquet floors owned by two Belgium families. Everything was nationalized so the

two families ran for their lives. In 1941 the brother-in-law ran to the Soviet Union as he was a Communist. All the Communists left before the government came. In '41 the Jews had a terrible time as the Ukrainians and Poles robbed their homes during the four days when the Soviets left and the Germans did not arrive. Even doors were taken. Ukrainians and Poles came from 50 miles away. Kiev replaced the last authorities. Everyone had to get a passport and state religion and occupation. The best passport would indicate "son of a worker." His father had one employer so was thought of as a capitalist. Someone who made parts of a pencil was a capitalist so ran away. Everyone had to get in line to buy everything.

85:00 His father liked the new regime but there was a shortage of everything so he could not buy anything. A neighbor had relatives in Baltimore and had a small grocery where he did not make a living. The relative was considered rich and one was a teacher so Harry thought it great that a Jew could hold such an occupation. When the Russians came, the grocer could not get help from the relative. There was a line for sugar and the neighbor was pulled out of line as thought a capitalist. If you needed soil for the Sabbath, the grocer would just write down the amount in his book as he was good to the poor. Harry's family helped him. Harry started school in fall '39. He went with five friends who thought they could not afford high school and here is a chance for education. It was held in the same building as the Polish school had been.

90:00 The principal was Kutcheuk (?), a Ukrainian and the chemistry teacher was his wife, Olana. In '41 Germany attacked Russia and Harry was afraid to remain as the Germans would consider him a Communist as he attended a Communist school so he decided to leave his parents. His mother told him that if he is not lazy, he would survive. Later he was a tailor and shoemaker. His school was run by Ukrainians and the language used was Russian. They studied Ukrainian literature, chemistry, math, geometry, history and politics to become a good Soviet citizen. In play, they acted like members of the Red Army and officers with the use of snow balls. The other students were mostly Ukrainians, a few Jews and some Poles.

95:00 There was some Ukrainian tension. When the Germans came in '41, they recruited Ukrainian policemen and they seemed worse than the Germans in the Ghetto. A friend became a policeman and was terrible as he hit the Jews for their gold (watch fob). They did not trust the Poles but some anti-Semitic Poles volunteered to find Jews. The Germans were cowards. They knew many hid in the wooded area but they did not search whereas they were boss in the city where they carried a big gun. After the war, Germany was divided by the big four. The occupation should have lasted longer. Only the Soviet sector lasted longer. France, US and Great Britain occupied Germany for a short time so the Germans did not suffer enough. Now, Germany is the most well-off country in Europe. Twelve million Russians died in the war.

- 100:00 The US forces held back and let the Russians take Berlin. They knew it was not safe to talk in Russia. The only good thing in Communist Russia is that a Jew could say he will be a doctor, or an engineer which could never happen in Poland. When the Russians came they had shortages like they were an Island in a sea of capitalists who want to destroy them so they spent money on defense. The so-called capitalists were picked up. Radios were taken away but not his father's sewing machine so his father could work. Harry was a little disillusioned as daily life was harder as you had to go on line for everything. People bought things they did not need as it might not be available when needed.
- 105:00 There was no competition. Everyone received the same salary so why work harder if everyone gets paid the same? People paid his father in rubles. Readymade clothes could be bought in an atelier. There were 20 tailors who made clothing for the stores so the work was imperfect as there was no competition. Some Jews thought equality is good to get jobs. In June '41 he and his friend were hired to look out for German airplanes and signals. Ribbentrop and Molotov met and decided to divide Poland between them.
- 110:00 Germany knew the Soviet Union was not ready for war. The Germans gained oil. Stalin was ready to give Hitler what he wanted. Germany hated the Soviets as they were not cultured. Germany wanted to buy time and get what they wanted from the Soviet Union. Hitler decided to take what he wanted. He underestimated Russia concerning the vastness and the climate. A Russian would pee on his bread to soften it. Therefore, he was used to hardship and does not give in which the Germans did not realize. At first the Ukrainians liked the Germans as they promised the Ukraine would be independent. The Germans took cattle from the Ukraine for the Army's food so Ukraine did not care for them as much.
- 115:00 Harry was told to watch out for the Germans as they probably thought they would attack. German planes flew low and you could see their faces so he and his friend almost got killed so they ran home. The Ukrainian farmers were told to wear white when tilling the earth so they won't be shot at. In '41, the bombing created a crater near his home. The Soviet Union was not ready for a new border. The Germans will reach the old Polish/Russian border, they'll be ready. When the Germans reached it, they kept going toward Moscow so it was easier for him to leave. Harry left home alone as he went to school. War broke out on the 22nd. The Soviet Union was not ready for war as they had no leaders and the Italians were afraid of their charisma. His brother was mobilized on the 23rd into the Red Army and he does not know what happened to him.
- 120:00 His sister's husband was a Communist and escaped alone to the Soviet Union. He does not know why his sister was alone and lived with the parents with her baby girl. The Ghetto was organized a few months later. In '41 the first group was shot. His father was taken to work with 80 people so his mother was on her own and taken to the Ghetto. His

neighbor's daughter said the twins were not in the Ghetto. Harry thinks the Police Chief who was anti-Semitic, saw the twins had food so shot them. Or, possibly people gave their children to non-Jews and they became Poles. They were eleven years old and he does not know what happened to them. His sister and her daughter were shot in '42 with 4,000 Jews.

125:00 He returned in 2013 with his son and a grandson and they said Kaddish. An elderly lady who knew Harry in public school and remembered their principal and teacher was there. She said that in '41 the population was told to stay home and the 4,000 Jews were two miles from home. The old lady did not stay home but went and looked to see five Germans and 20 Ukrainians and Poles. A grave was dug and the Jews undressed and were shot in back of their head. She was seen and was chased home as was not Jewish. Many Jews were buried alive as she saw movement. His mother, sister and her daughter were killed there. It was unbelievable. Where was the world when six million innocent Jews were killed? He returned to Maniewiczze 72 years later.

130:00 Harry learned the details in the Yiskeh book. There have been no Jews there since '41. When Harry visited, they placed a Ukrainian with a gun to guard him as there were Nationalists there. He made a speech near the library. The guard was with him all day. Maniewiczze is still part of the Ukraine. Jews greeted the Russians but there were only a few to greet them. Pesutsky (?) was the first Jewish Marshall who marched to Poland and sang a Polish song. It was important to take the capital in order to become an independent country. He marched from Krakow to Warsaw by saying "We'll get there if we keep doing it." After he died and Hitler came into power, anti-Semitism increased in Central Europe, even in Maniewiczze.

135:00 Hooligans might cut off Jews' beards. His Jewish neighbor was beat up. They took him to a hospital in a bigger town and he lost an eye. It was a relief for Jews when the Russians took over as it became safe for Jews to walk at night. The Poles did not like the Jews favoring the Russians but they could not show it as they lost the Eastern part of Poland. The Germans were against the Communists and the Jews. Harry ran east the day before the German occupation. His mother cried on the 26th and he walked and took a cattle train to the old Polish border. Some document was needed to cross the border so he stopped. There were thousands of Red Army soldiers. He went to the Russian Army office and spoke Russian and they said everyone must fight for the Motherland. Harry said, "OK" and was taken to fight. A train with bullet holes stopped and he got on and it took him to the suburbs of Stalingrad.

140:00 Two representatives from a collective farm came and suggested they come to the farm to rest and work. Harry was with six friends. He had a Soviet passport. They had to pledge allegiance to the Soviet Union. It took a day to get to Stalingrad. People who did not want to remain in Poland under German rule filled the train but their car was fairly

empty. All six went to the collective farm. It was the wrong thing to do as the farm was 70 kilometers from a railway station so it would not make for an easy escape. They were placed in two old cars to get to the farm. Three weeks later German planes flew over and he was worried and told the office they must leave.

145:00 The collective farm officers were angry as the husbands were at war and Harry and his friends were needed to help. There was no public transportation with only an oil supplier for the tractors and combines and it was small. The supplier was afraid that he would get into trouble as the Soviets were at war. To get a railroad ticket, you needed to be sent by an official and Harry did not have permission. He still had a good suit and a shirt which was more than the Soviets had. The supplier said he could only take two of them and it would be at 4 AM. The two should wait four days for the others but they waited six days and the rest of the friends did not appear. They saw a cattle car going to Tashkent in Central Asia and figures that would be good for them. It took a week or so to get there as the military had priority. They were not let off the train until they reached a Soviet farm after Tashkent. In Kazakhstan they specialized in cotton where they water the roots when there is no rain. Then they collect the cotton and divide the money evenly.

150:00 This differs from the Collective where they sell the cotton to the government and obtain produce. Harry was given a little room at the farm and lost his friend. One of Harry's jobs on the Collective Farm was to take the grain to the elevator in the church with an oxen. The church had frescoes. A few ladies spread the wheat while an elderly lady looked at the frescoes and crossed herself. Therefore, a guard kicked her. Another Russian helped Harry enter the bags of wheat which made him itchy. He went to the hospital and was questioned whether he was a member of the Komsomol. If he was a member, they had space for him but he was not a member. Harry obtained a prescription for the itching that was available in the next Soviet Republic and used the liquid for three months and showered. He returned and was alone. He would arise at 7:30, get coffee and a slice of bread, and, sometimes fruit for breakfast. It was a long field and had all kinds of colors when the cotton bloomed but it does not all bloom at the same time.

155:00 He picked the cotton and put it in his bag. For lunch, he had soup (sometimes blue) and, occasionally, a piece of meat. The water was yellow and was also used for irrigation as there was no supply of drinking water. The gong rang at 5 PM and they were given bread, coffee and sometimes fruit. There was a medical person who was between a nurse and a physician who could not write a prescription but gave him a note indicating he was sick. The medical person remembered the Tsar and sometimes acted silly. The KGB was there so Harry could have told them the medical person was against the Soviets and be sent to Siberia. The man had a sewing machine and two grandsons and Harry made a suit and coat for them. They always had enough food. He would have to trade a chicken or something for food. Harry remained at the farm for two years. In 1943 Sakorsky, a Polish General was with the Polish government in exile. He went to Stalin and told him

to free the Poles and form a Polish division who will fight for you. One young Jewish man from Warsaw was released and came to the farm and Harry gave him pants and a shirt. The young man wanted Harry's belongings

160:00 The young man did not want to join the Army and told Harry to join him and they would go to a bigger city. First they stopped in another city. It was very warm but it gets cool at night. They slept near the hospital and Harry picked up yogurt, a drink and something like bread. When Harry returned, the young man was gone and had taken his belongings and returned to the Soviet farm. Harry had a photo of his family and his passport so went to the police and reported the missing items.

165:00 He got a newspaper and covered himself up at night and returned to the Police Station. The first policeman did not collaborate that his belongings were stolen. Harry had no food or drink for two days. Instead of prison, they moved the sugar refinery to a safe area. Harry got a hard job there carrying six or seven bricks in a harness up to the third floor. Instead of the routine 400 grams of bread, they were given 600 grams since it was such hard work. He worked there two months when he lost his bread card. People would cut their card in three parts so if they lost one part, they still had the rest. Harry lost the card on the second of the month.

170:00 Bread was expensive on the black market so he needed the card. For forty people they had a low bed on boards with some straw and an old cover. One neighbor asked Harry if he wanted bread. If someone left the city, you could take over his card. Another neighbor saw Harry being given the card. Harry went to the assigned bakery and submitted the card and was stopped by the guard who asked him where he got the card. The guard called the police who hit him hard on the head. Harry indicated that he had a witness that a neighbor gave him the card but the witness makes believe he is sleeping. Harry told him to wake up and the witness admits he saw the neighbor give Harry the bread card. The witness is allowed to leave. The neighbor and Harry are taken in an old car to prison and placed in a cell.

175:00 Their belts and what was in their pockets were taken away. The barber shaved their heads so they would have no lice. They were placed in a room with 100 people with bare cement and no mattress. The other prisoners did not care for them as they were in for such a small crime. For lunch, a little door opened and he was given a metal container for soup and bread and, later, a small dinner with soup, a cube of sugar and coffee. A few prisoners were educated. Harry was there for three months until the trial. The prisoners slept close like sardines.

180:00 At night they had a barrel and cover to use for their personal needs. Some slept around the overflowing barrel so when he needed to use it, he peed in his bowl and placed it on top of the barrel. At 6 AM the guard removed the barrel and asked whose bowl was it

and Harry responded that it was his so was placed in solitary for three days as it was not good hygiene. He was put in a dark cubbyhole and was given coffee and told to pee on the floor so he stood in it all night. In the morning he was given a pail and a rag to clean up. Now he realized that if there was a fire, he could not get out. After the three days, he was taken out and he could not see anything. The other prisoners felt sorry for him and gave him bread. His shirt got full of holes. One guy gave him a shirt for two pieces of bread. Harry was taken to court where there were pictures of Lenin, Marx with a red cover and Stalin. The other prisoners charged were present and there were some secretaries. Harry asked for his witness and the secretary knew him. Harry's sandals were worn out and the floor was cobble stone.

185:00 They gave the witness the stand and the criminal got three years for stealing cards and three years for using extra cards as this prevents others from eating a piece of bread. The witness took Harry to where he worked. A co-worker lost something and he was named. Harry got a job in the sugar refinery. He did not get sufficient food and fell on the cobblestone and taken to the hospital where fell into a coma. Another young man in the hospital had a visit from his parents. When Harry awoke from the coma, the other man had died. Harry saw the criminal who got six years was placed in the hospital and got the six years nullified. Harry returned to the cotton field but he did not have a passport so could not get a job. He became a begger, was dirty and did not shave. He smoked a used cigarette butt, using a needle to get smoke. He knew he was dying but could not steal. His father was a Socialist so he spoke to the Secretary of the Communist party. Each town had a Secretary. Harry was barefoot and the guard asked him what he is doing.

190:00 The door was open and the Secretary heard him and the guard described him and he was admitted. The Secretary gave him a cigarette and offered him vodka. Harry told the officer that he made a mistake by going to a larger city and wanted to know what to do. He told the Officer that he was a shoemaker. The Secretary called a shoemaker to get Harry a job and gave him a bread card. He would get paid 15 rubles a day. Harry got a low chair and worked near the sidewalk. He bought clothes and looked good.

195:00 Harry obtained another passport. He was mobilized with the Red Army. They traveled for six weeks by train and disembarked after 2500 kilometers in the town where he was born. Ukraine had taken it back from Germany. Harry helped free the towns. He injured his right leg and was in the hospital for six months. He had been in the Infantry, in the Artillery, the 370th Infantry Division 1,232 Brigade. There is an Army Museum in Siberia and he corresponds with them about his service. First he was in a Field Hospital. He had been in the trenches. The men ran toward the German trenches and he was shot in the left femur and fell face down. Blood was gushing and flies were around him but he waited three hours as he heard Germans talking. He lay still so they would think him dead. Finally, he was found and taken to a Ukrainian farmer and a horse and buggy was requisitioned and they made a tourniquet. It was a bumpy road to the Field Hospital.

200:00 He lay on the floor and thought he saw his mother with gray hair and wearing a white dress. She said, "Chaim, you will be OK." He opened his eyes and saw the other soldiers laying there. When he was assigned a Division, he asked the Lieutenant if he could visit his aunt who lived nearby to find out about his family. A Tartar with a rifle went with him to the town. This was '44. They had not seen Russian soldiers for three years. It was a few miles to town. There was a lady selling candles, cigarettes and soup. She said that someone from the Partisans was in town. Harry visited him and found out he had attended the Polish Public School with him and said his family was not alive. No one was in Rozyszcze as it had burned. Harry was discharged from the hospital on crutches. He thought he would return to Kazakhstan as Jews from Poland and Romania knew him and could help him until he became a shoemaker. The Polish representative came and told him that the war ended and as a Polish citizen he is entitled to return to Poland on the next train. Harry did not want to return there as no one was alive there. He had Russian friends, songs, language and a girlfriend worked for the KGB.

205:00 He saw everyone leaving. Some parents arranged fictitious wedding as he is Polish. The Russian girl could leave and decided she would do so. Harry took the train and almost reached Ukraine. There were Russian and Polish representatives on the train. The Russian said that Harry is illegal. Harry said he is a Russian citizen in the Red Army and is not going to Poland but to Ukraine, his home. He reached the new Polish/Russian border and went from the end to the beginning of the train. He was in the 2nd car and it was getting dark.

210:00 He said, "Dash va donya" and got into the last car where they already checked documents. He reached Pranav, near Krakow and stood at the door. A young girl and a young man asked if he was Yiddish (Jewish) and he said, "Yes." They were from the Joint Distribution enter (JDC) and have a kibbutz for 40 boys and girls. He went with them and they had a kitchen and he had a great time. He learned about Palestine, got clean clothes and could shave. After six weeks, they went in Polish trucks across the Czech border to a Jewish "Y" and took on 100 people. This was 1945. Everything was paid by American Jewish money and some Ukrainian. They went to Ebenzee in Austria which was a concentration camp. 1,000 Poles were gassed there. There were ovens and tremendous cries. The US Army was in charge of them. Harry was given powder to prevent disease and a tiny piece of bread. He stole cards. They had telephone books of big cities in US. He knew that he had an uncle in Kansas City and got his address and wrote to him. They went to Chemsee (?), Germany and every morning a truck with bread went to Wentzler in the US Zone.

215:00 It was near Lenca caverna, Vossalatranker Lechhburg and Ransburg DP camps. Harry sent 90 photos to get into the University of Munich and gave to the Holocaust Museum. He took up electronics through ORT, the Organization for Rehabilitation and Training that teaches Jews a trade from all over the world. He was in Germany for six years. He

had a chance to go to India or Australia but not enough women there. His mother had his brother and one is still alive. He had to go through a physical with German doctors and he passed. There were 300 Jews from Lenzburg to the Port of Bremerhaven in the US zone. They took the General McQuay to New Orleans as Kansas City where his uncle lived is more south. The ship continued on to NY. He arrived in January '51. He had to get a special visa for those who have nowhere to go or do not want to return home. His uncle was a successful tailor and had his own fabrics though he could not read or write. A black man did the cleaning and reading for him. He had five children. The uncle sponsored him. First HIAS, the Hebrew Immigration Association sponsored him but it was not necessary when they found his uncle.

220:00 Harry's cousin got married and Harry got his room; it was all red. The address was 400 East 63rd Terrace. The uncle bought a house in the best area of Kansas City and rented to a banker without children. Harry went to school to learn English four times a week and went to the movies on the weekend. In the morning he had cake and orange juice for breakfast. Then he moved to a furnished room at 2660 Woodland Avenue. He got fired from his job but got another job fixing car radios. After a year and a half, he was entitled to a week's vacation. If he did not return, he would lose his job. He went to New York and remained there after his vacation. He got a furnished room with people from Germany. On Saturday night, Zena Jack returned and said Trudy's (Gitel) father passed. After two months they got married in 1954. After forty years, Trudy died from breast cancer. They had four children: Allen, whose son Mathew teaches in California and daughter, Elizabeth graduated from college, Perry, Lisa and Julie.

225:00 In 2013 Harry returned to his hometown. He corresponded with a Ukrainian lady after Perestroika but was afraid to return as there were no Jews there. Allen wanted to go but Trudy got ill so they did not go. On the internet, they contacted his friend Susil, a Partisan. In 2013 Harry's son said to return and Perry said the grandson, Jonathan said they would join them. They went to Maniewiczze and a lady came to the museum and read his letter. He wrote to the railroad and she was working there so received the letter. He said he would like to return and sent a picture and a newspaper. She said to fly to Lvov and go east or fly to Kiev and go west by train. He mailed \$3 but got no response but later got a big package of information and they corresponded. Valentina, the daughter of a neighbor, was alive and told her what happened to his parents.

230:00 After 72 years, Harry visited his town and it was much worse as all the Jews' houses were burned but he recognized the railroad station, the Polish Church and the building where Dr. Sakowsky had his office. The houses that replaced the burned houses were not as nice. The streets were paved and there was a hotel. It is important that future generations have information of their ancestors.

231:00