- 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,960 OK. 00:00:00,960 --> 00:00:02,880 Can I speak? 00:00:02,880 --> 00:00:03,840 You got it? 00:00:03,840 --> 00:00:04,830 OK. 5 00:00:04,830 --> 00:00:08,220 This is a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum 6 00:00:08,220 --> 00:00:12,990 interview with Mr. David Wolnerman on May 9, 00:00:12,990 --> 00:00:17,460 2016 in Washington, DC. 00:00:17,460 --> 00:00:22,140 Mr. Wolnerman is the last surviving Auschwitz 00:00:22,140 --> 00:00:25,830 Iowa who has traveled
- former prisoner in
- 10 00:00:25,830 --> 00:00:30,210 from Iowa to be with us today and to share his story.
- 11 00:00:30,210 --> 00:00:34,200 So we're very, very grateful to you that you have done so.
- 12 00:00:34,200 --> 00:00:35,880 And thank you.
- 13 00:00:35,880 --> 00:00:37,710

Welcome to the museum.

14 00:00:37,710 --> 00:00:43,590 And thank you for agreeing to share your story with us today.

15 00:00:43,590 --> 00:00:48,230 I'm going to start with the most basic questions

16 00:00:48,230 --> 00:00:52,620 about your early life, and we'll take things from there.

17 00:00:52,620 --> 00:00:56,030 So can you tell me, what was the date of your birth?

18 00:00:56,030 --> 00:00:58,800

19 00:00:58,800 --> 00:00:59,850 Modzhev, Modrzejów.

20 00:00:59,850 --> 00:01:01,290 That's the town you were born In

21 00:01:01,290 --> 00:01:01,940 Right.

22 00:01:01,940 --> 00:01:02,440 OK.

23 00:01:02,440 --> 00:01:03,100 Modrzejów.

24 00:01:03,100 --> 00:01:05,010 Modrzejów.

25 00:01:05,010 --> 00:01:08,550 We'll talk about that in a minute, Modrzejów.

26 00:01:08,550 --> 00:01:11,400 And tell me when were you born?

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27
```

00:01:11,400 --> 00:01:14,490 May 9, 1927.

28

00:01:14,490 --> 00:01:15,330 May 9--

29

00:01:15,330 --> 00:01:17,620 May 9, 1927.

30

00:01:17,620 --> 00:01:19,040 1927.

31

00:01:19,040 --> 00:01:19,550 Right.

32

00:01:19,550 --> 00:01:20,880 OK.

33

00:01:20,880 --> 00:01:23,640 And you were born in Modrzejów you say?

34

00:01:23,640 --> 00:01:24,420 Right.

35

00:01:24,420 --> 00:01:26,340 And what country is Modrzejów in?

00:01:26,340 --> 00:01:27,050 Poland.

00:01:27,050 --> 00:01:28,090 In Poland.

38

00:01:28,090 --> 00:01:30,000 Close to the German border.

39

00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:32,010 Aha, so on the Western side.

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Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection
00:01:32,010 --> 00:01:32,760
Right.
41
00:01:32,760 --> 00:01:34,000
42
00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:36,720
And what was your name at birth?
43
00:01:36,720 --> 00:01:40,470
When you were born,
what was your name?
44
00:01:40,470 --> 00:01:41,010
David.
45
00:01:41,010 --> 00:01:42,170
The same as today?
46
00:01:42,170 --> 00:01:43,020
It's the same.
47
00:01:43,020 --> 00:01:44,970
Sometimes it's changed
for some people?
48
00:01:44,970 --> 00:01:46,250
I didn't change.
00:01:46,250 --> 00:01:47,460
OK.
50
00:01:47,460 --> 00:01:49,950
So you were David Wolnerman
```

00:01:49,950 --> 00:01:50,520

00:01:50,520 --> 00:01:52,140

when you were born?

51

Right.

In 1927?

00:01:53,510 --> 00:01:54,930 OK. 55 00:01:54,930 --> 00:01:59,320 And can you tell me, did you have brothers and sisters? 56 00:01:59,320 --> 00:02:01,515 I have one brother. 00:02:01,515 --> 00:02:06,300 And once there were four, two brothers and two sisters, 00:02:06,300 --> 00:02:09,660 me and my brother and two sisters. 00:02:09,660 --> 00:02:10,750 And where were you? 60 00:02:10,750 --> 00:02:12,780 Were you the youngest, the oldest? 61 00:02:12,780 --> 00:02:13,980 I was the youngest. 00:02:13,980 --> 00:02:15,750 You were the youngest? 63 00:02:15,750 --> 00:02:18,720 So tell me the names of your brothers and your sisters? 64 00:02:18,720 --> 00:02:20,690 My brother's name was Abraham. 00:02:20,690 --> 00:02:22,220 Mm-hmm. 66

00:02:22,220 --> 00:02:23,145 And your sisters? 67 00:02:23,145 --> 00:02:26,340 And my sister's name was Gertrude.

68 00:02:26,340 --> 00:02:27,870 Gertrude.

69 00:02:27,870 --> 00:02:29,130 And another sister you say?

70 00:02:29,130 --> 00:02:29,810 Bluma.

71 00:02:29,810 --> 00:02:30,390 Bluma?

72 00:02:30,390 --> 00:02:30,890 Yes.

73 00:02:30,890 --> 00:02:33,960 So Abraham, David, Gertrude, and Bluma?

74 00:02:33,960 --> 00:02:38,940 Abraham, Gertrude, Bluma, and Dave.

75 00:02:38,940 --> 00:02:40,060 I was the youngest.

76 00:02:40,060 --> 00:02:40,560 All right.

00:02:40,560 --> 00:02:42,120 So Abraham was the oldest?

78 00:02:42,120 --> 00:02:42,780 Right.

79 00:02:42,780 --> 00:02:45,360 What year was he born? 00:02:45,360 --> 00:02:51,320 You know what, he was born, I think, Second World--

81 00:02:51,320 --> 00:02:53,155 the First World War or something like this.

82 00:02:53,155 --> 00:02:54,030 You know what I mean?

83 00:02:54,030 --> 00:02:54,530 OK.

84 00:02:54,530 --> 00:02:56,910 So in the 1918, 1919?

85 00:02:56,910 --> 00:02:57,780 Something like this.

86 00:02:57,780 --> 00:02:59,250 OK.

87 00:02:59,250 --> 00:03:02,760 And then your sisters were born in the '20s.

88 00:03:02,760 --> 00:03:03,420 Yeah.

89 00:03:03,420 --> 00:03:05,250 OK.

90 00:03:05,250 --> 00:03:10,130 And what were the names of your parents?

91 00:03:10,130 --> 00:03:12,950 My father's name was Pinchas, Pinchas, Pinchas.

92 00:03:12,950 --> 00:03:14,340 Pinchas? 00:03:14,340 --> 00:03:16,440 And my mother's name was Chana.

94

00:03:16,440 --> 00:03:18,720 Chana, OK.

95

00:03:18,720 --> 00:03:22,930 And the town or the place you were born, tell me again?

96

00:03:22,930 --> 00:03:24,070 Modrzejów.

97

00:03:24,070 --> 00:03:24,810 Modrzejów?

98

00:03:24,810 --> 00:03:25,860 Modrzejów.

99

00:03:25,860 --> 00:03:28,380 What kind of a place was Modrzejów?

100

00:03:28,380 --> 00:03:32,950 Very small town, close to the bigger town was Sosnowiec.

101

00:03:32,950 --> 00:03:37,630 Or Będzin, Katowice, Kraków, you know what I mean?

102

00:03:37,630 --> 00:03:39,900 This was a very small town, two streets.

103

00:03:39,900 --> 00:03:40,560 Two streets?

104

00:03:40,560 --> 00:03:41,250 That's it.

105

00:03:41,250 --> 00:03:44,520 One policeman, one doctor, and one car.

106 00:03:44,520 --> 00:03:45,270 One car? 107 00:03:45,270 --> 00:03:45,780 That's it. 108 00:03:45,780 --> 00:03:47,910 You know something, that's a question that I often 109 00:03:47,910 --> 00:03:51,240 ask people from small towns, did they have cars? 110 00:03:51,240 --> 00:03:52,240 Were their cars in the--111 One car. 112

00:03:52,240 --> 00:03:54,270

00:03:54,270 --> 00:03:56,320 Were the roads paved?

113 00:03:56,320 --> 00:03:59,560 Well, we had only one main street, that's all.

114 00:03:59,560 --> 00:04:00,060 OK.

00:04:00,060 --> 00:04:02,040 We had two streets in the whole town.

116 00:04:02,040 --> 00:04:04,980 Did you know everybody in town?

117 00:04:04,980 --> 00:04:07,680 Almost, yes.

118 00:04:07,680 --> 00:04:09,900 About how many people do you think lived in it?

119

00:04:09,900 --> 00:04:17,760 Well, maybe a thousand Jews and a thousand Christians.

120

00:04:17,760 --> 00:04:18,260 OK.

121

00:04:18,260 --> 00:04:19,700 Well, half and half.

122

00:04:19,700 --> 00:04:21,630 It was about half and half?

123

00:04:21,630 --> 00:04:22,860 Yes.

124

00:04:22,860 --> 00:04:23,910 Was there a synagogue?

125

00:04:23,910 --> 00:04:24,810 Pardon me?

126

00:04:24,810 --> 00:04:26,880 Was there a synagogue?

127

00:04:26,880 --> 00:04:27,665 A few.

128

00:04:27,665 --> 00:04:28,490 There were a few.

129

00:04:28,490 --> 00:04:31,490 A small stable.

130

00:04:31,490 --> 00:04:32,760 OK.

131

00:04:32,760 --> 00:04:36,520 And was your family religious?

132

00:04:36,520 --> 00:04:38,200 Yes.

133 00:04:38,200 --> 00:04:41,060 And what, very religious or just sort of? 134 00:04:41,060 --> 00:04:41,980 Religious. 135 00:04:41,980 --> 00:04:42,520 Religious? 136 00:04:42,520 --> 00:04:44,520 Never worked on Saturdays, you know what I mean? 137 00:04:44,520 --> 00:04:45,540 Mm-hmm. 138 00:04:45,540 --> 00:04:49,470 In this town, the Jewish stores were closed. 139 00:04:49,470 --> 00:04:53,190 Nothing was open and everything, you know what I mean? 00:04:53,190 --> 00:04:55,080 Did you go to synagogue every week? 00:04:55,080 --> 00:04:56,850 I used to go--142 00:04:56,850 --> 00:05:01,310 you see my father died six months before the war. 143 00:05:01,310 --> 00:05:02,430 In 1939? 00:05:02,430 --> 00:05:07,260

In 19-- 1939, yes. 145 00:05:07,260 --> 00:05:11,130 So he died six months before the Germans took over.

146

00:05:11,130 --> 00:05:12,310 OK.

147

00:05:12,310 --> 00:05:15,180 We'll talk about that, but let's go back

148

00:05:15,180 --> 00:05:17,865 to when you're still young and a small child.

149

00:05:17,865 --> 00:05:20,670

150

00:05:20,670 --> 00:05:23,385 How did your father and mother support the family?

151

00:05:23,385 --> 00:05:26,490

152

00:05:26,490 --> 00:05:29,260 We were very poor, I mean poor.

153

00:05:29,260 --> 00:05:31,260 We didn't stay and beg on the street,

154

00:05:31,260 --> 00:05:33,230 you know what I mean, but we were poor,

155

00:05:33,230 --> 00:05:35,190 you know what I mean?

156

00:05:35,190 --> 00:05:38,340 So my father barely make a living.

157

00:05:38,340 --> 00:05:39,600

What was he doing?

00:05:39,600 --> 00:05:46,430 He was buying some bags, the bags from floured bags,

159

00:05:46,430 --> 00:05:47,280 and sell it.

160

00:05:47,280 --> 00:05:48,970

161

00:05:48,970 --> 00:05:50,550 So he would buy, and he would--

162

00:05:50,550 --> 00:05:51,475 was he a peddler?

163

00:05:51,475 --> 00:05:52,100 Could one say--

164

00:05:52,100 --> 00:05:53,650 A peddler, yes.

165

00:05:53,650 --> 00:05:55,420 Did he travel or did he--

166

00:05:55,420 --> 00:05:56,750 Walking, not traveling.

167

00:05:56,750 --> 00:05:57,250 Uh-huh.

168

00:05:57,250 --> 00:06:00,430

169

00:06:00,430 --> 00:06:02,500 So he walked around the town?

170

00:06:02,500 --> 00:06:07,130 He walked out the town, too, the bakeries, the stores

171

00:06:07,130 --> 00:06:09,910 with some bags.

172 00:06:09,910 --> 00:06:12,540 That sounds like it was a hard living.

173

00:06:12,540 --> 00:06:13,960 Yes, yes, yes.

174

00:06:13,960 --> 00:06:17,550 Did he come from a large family?

175

00:06:17,550 --> 00:06:19,040 I think so.

176

00:06:19,040 --> 00:06:20,170 I think so.

177

00:06:20,170 --> 00:06:22,760 I didn't know too much because I was young,

178

00:06:22,760 --> 00:06:24,220 you know what I mean?

179

00:06:24,220 --> 00:06:26,770 Did you have grandmothers--grandparents?

180

00:06:26,770 --> 00:06:28,690 One grandma and one grandpa.

181

00:06:28,690 --> 00:06:31,240 From your mother's?

182

00:06:31,240 --> 00:06:33,430 My mother's parents.

183

00:06:33,430 --> 00:06:34,090 OK.

184

00:06:34,090 --> 00:06:36,490 So you didn't know much about your grandfather

00:06:36,490 --> 00:06:38,470 on your father's side?

186

00:06:38,470 --> 00:06:42,522 No, no, no because he didn't live in the same town.

187

00:06:42,522 --> 00:06:43,480 Where had he come from?

188

00:06:43,480 --> 00:06:47,800 I mean, he came from not too far away from Kraków, a small town,

189

00:06:47,800 --> 00:06:49,700 too, you know what I mean?

190

00:06:49,700 --> 00:06:50,410 I see.

191

00:06:50,410 --> 00:06:53,080 Do you know how your parents met?

192

00:06:53,080 --> 00:06:54,170 No.

193

00:06:54,170 --> 00:06:55,120 OK.

194

00:06:55,120 --> 00:07:00,690 In Europe when you're 10 years old, 12 years old,

195

00:07:00,690 --> 00:07:01,920 you don't mix up.

196

00:07:01,920 --> 00:07:03,160 It's not like now in America.

197

00:07:03,160 --> 00:07:04,240 No.

198

00:07:04,240 --> 00:07:07,210

## And then some people told stories and some people

199 00:07:07,210 --> 00:07:10,120 didn't tell stories to their children?

200

00:07:10,120 --> 00:07:18,120 Well, no, they didn't--

201 00:07:18,120 --> 00:07:20,880 no, they didn't talk too much stories.

202

00:07:20,880 --> 00:07:21,550 OK.

203 00:07:21,550 --> 00:07:25,360 Did your father

fight in World War I?

204

00:07:25,360 --> 00:07:27,950 Was he in any army in World War I?

205

00:07:27,950 --> 00:07:29,780 I'll be honest with you, I don't know.

206

00:07:29,780 --> 00:07:31,810 OK, all right.

207

00:07:31,810 --> 00:07:34,895 I know the little town where we lived,

208

00:07:34,895 --> 00:07:37,630 my mother used to say it was always changing,

209

00:07:37,630 --> 00:07:42,400 one time Russian, one time German, one time Polish,

210

00:07:42,400 --> 00:07:44,320

the First World War or something like this.

211

00:07:44,320 --> 00:07:45,010 Yeah

212

00:07:45,010 --> 00:07:50,550 Because my mother speaks fluent German, very little Polish,

213

00:07:50,550 --> 00:07:51,680 and Jewish.

214

00:07:51,680 --> 00:07:52,180 OK.

215

00:07:52,180 --> 00:07:53,920 So it was Yiddish and--

216

00:07:53,920 --> 00:07:54,640 Yiddish, right.

217

00:07:54,640 --> 00:07:57,355 --Yiddish and German, which are not so far from each other.

218

00:07:57,355 --> 00:07:58,760 And a little bit Russian, too.

219

00:07:58,760 --> 00:08:01,575 And a little bit-- well, yeah.

220

00:08:01,575 --> 00:08:05,800 Was this part, I think, of the Austro-Hungarian Empire?

221

00:08:05,800 --> 00:08:06,300 No.

222

00:08:06,300 --> 00:08:07,250 No.

223

00:08:07,250 --> 00:08:08,680 See, over there it was changing.

224 00:08:08,680 --> 00:08:11,270 One time it was Polish, one time it was German,

225 00:08:11,270 --> 00:08:14,110

one time it's Russian.

226 00:08:14,110 --> 00:08:17,710 Finally at the end, it was Polish, Poland.

227 00:08:17,710 --> 00:08:18,430 Got it.

228 00:08:18,430 --> 00:08:19,630 Got it.

229 00:08:19,630 --> 00:08:23,640 And tell me about your mother's family.

230 00:08:23,640 --> 00:08:25,870 Did she have brothers and sisters?

231 00:08:25,870 --> 00:08:30,490 Yes, she had two brothers and one more sister.

232 00:08:30,490 --> 00:08:32,159 OK, so also--

233 00:08:32,159 --> 00:08:34,000 There were two sisters and two brothers.

234 00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:35,240 Like yours?

235 00:08:35,240 --> 00:08:35,890 Yeah.

236 00:08:35,890 --> 00:08:36,760 OK.

237

00:08:36,760 --> 00:08:38,350

And did they live in the same place?

238

00:08:38,350 --> 00:08:39,760

In the same town.

239

00:08:39,760 --> 00:08:41,130

Did you know them much?

240

00:08:41,130 --> 00:08:43,870

Because they live

in the same house.

241

00:08:43,870 --> 00:08:45,790

You see, grandpa had a house.

242

00:08:45,790 --> 00:08:48,040

My grandpa was our mayor over there.

243

00:08:48,040 --> 00:08:48,700

Was he?

244

00:08:48,700 --> 00:08:51,970

Didn't know how to read,

didn't know how to write,

245

00:08:51,970 --> 00:08:53,050

but he knew how to drink?

246

00:08:53,050 --> 00:08:55,080

[LAUGHING]

247

00:08:55,080 --> 00:08:58,840

Sometimes, that's the most

important part of politics.

248

00:08:58,840 --> 00:09:00,850

What can we say?

249

00:09:00,850 --> 00:09:02,110

Did you--

250 00:09:02,110 --> 00:09:05,110 He was collecting taxes, not too much.

251 00:09:05,110 --> 00:09:06,460 [LAUGHING]

252 00:09:06,460 --> 00:09:09,160

253 00:09:09,160 --> 00:09:11,710 So he was the mayor of--

254 00:09:11,710 --> 00:09:13,730 The little town, Modrzejów, yes.

255 00:09:13,730 --> 00:09:15,550 Modrzejów.

256 00:09:15,550 --> 00:09:18,520 And did you know him well, your grandfather?

257 00:09:18,520 --> 00:09:24,640 Well, as long as I lived, yes, I know him.

258 00:09:24,640 --> 00:09:27,550 And you were all in the same house?

259 00:09:27,550 --> 00:09:29,040 Not in the same house.

260 00:09:29,040 --> 00:09:32,695 In the same house was the family, my mother, my brother,

261 00:09:32,695 --> 00:09:34,180 and my uncle.

262 00:09:34,180 --> 00:09:35,710 Uh-huh.

263

00:09:35,710 --> 00:09:38,895

And he had a house himself with his wife.

264

00:09:38,895 --> 00:09:40,190

Oh, your grandfather?

265

00:09:40,190 --> 00:09:40,720

Right.

266

00:09:40,720 --> 00:09:41,470

I see.

267

00:09:41,470 --> 00:09:42,670

I see.

268

00:09:42,670 --> 00:09:44,950

And was he well-off?

269

00:09:44,950 --> 00:09:45,700

Was he well-to-do?

270

00:09:45,700 --> 00:09:46,560

No.

271

00:09:46,560 --> 00:09:47,890

No.

272

00:09:47,890 --> 00:09:50,320

Made a living, not--

273

00:09:50,320 --> 00:09:51,590

but no, no.

274

00:09:51,590 --> 00:09:55,270

OK but aside from

knowing how to drink,

275

00:09:55,270 --> 00:09:57,400

I bet you he had some

other qualities that

276 00:09:57,400 --> 00:10:00,160 made him the mayor? 277 00:10:00,160 --> 00:10:07,510 Well, a small town, you had to have a good name, that's it. 278 00:10:07,510 --> 00:10:09,040 OK. 279 00:10:09,040 --> 00:10:10,780 What was his name? 280 00:10:10,780 --> 00:10:11,710 Abraham. 281 00:10:11,710 --> 00:10:13,300 And his last name? 282 00:10:13,300 --> 00:10:13,990 Nyer. 283 00:10:13,990 --> 00:10:16,260 Nyer, Abraham Nyer. 284 00:10:16,260 --> 00:10:19,420 285 00:10:19,420 --> 00:10:26,850 And how did he made his living, your mother's father? 286 00:10:26,850 --> 00:10:28,400 What do you mean? 287 00:10:28,400 --> 00:10:29,520 Well, he was a mayor.

288 00:10:29,520 --> 00:10:30,020 Yes.

00:10:30,020 --> 00:10:32,992 But is that how he had

## supported his family,

290

00:10:32,992 --> 00:10:34,450

or had he had a professional trade?

291

00:10:34,450 --> 00:10:35,600

No, not from this.

292

00:10:35,600 --> 00:10:37,860

He had a cow, milk.

293

00:10:37,860 --> 00:10:38,400

Got it.

294

00:10:38,400 --> 00:10:39,920

He made butter.

295

00:10:39,920 --> 00:10:41,645

I remember we were

kids, we had to--

296

00:10:41,645 --> 00:10:43,170

You have to do that.

297

00:10:43,170 --> 00:10:45,020

The one, the old-fashioned way.

298

00:10:45,020 --> 00:10:45,830

Yep.

299

00:10:45,830 --> 00:10:47,090

He churned the butter.

300

00:10:47,090 --> 00:10:47,890

Yes.

301

00:10:47,890 --> 00:10:48,680

OK.

302

00:10:48,680 --> 00:10:50,150

He used to do that.

00:10:50,150 --> 00:10:50,650 Really?

304

00:10:50,650 --> 00:10:51,150 Yeah

305

00:10:51,150 --> 00:10:52,640 I bet you it took a long time.

306

00:10:52,640 --> 00:10:54,716 Well, he worked around with his fingers, steal a little bit.

307

00:10:54,716 --> 00:10:55,216 You know.

308

00:10:55,216 --> 00:11:02,090

309

00:11:02,090 --> 00:11:02,802 Yes

310

00:11:02,802 --> 00:11:07,900 Your own family, tell me about your home.

311

00:11:07,900 --> 00:11:11,110 What did it look like, where you lived with your brothers,

312

00:11:11,110 --> 00:11:12,820 and sisters, and parents?

313

00:11:12,820 --> 00:11:14,290 We had two rooms--

314

00:11:14,290 --> 00:11:16,385 Two rooms, OK.

315

00:11:16,385 --> 00:11:17,260 And was it a single--

316

00:11:17,260 --> 00:11:22,240 --a kitchen, and our bedroom,

and a living together.

317 00:11:22,240 --> 00:11:24,290 Living room, kitchen, everything.

318 00:11:24,290 --> 00:11:24,790 All right.

319 00:11:24,790 --> 00:11:26,500 And six people--

320 00:11:26,500 --> 00:11:27,280 Six people.

321 00:11:27,280 --> 00:11:28,390 --in two rooms?

322 00:11:28,390 --> 00:11:29,110 Yes.

323 00:11:29,110 --> 00:11:32,230 Was this part of an apartment building?

324 00:11:32,230 --> 00:11:35,890 No, it was grandpa's building.

325 00:11:35,890 --> 00:11:38,440 And he give us to live over there.

326 00:11:38,440 --> 00:11:39,880 OK.

327 00:11:39,880 --> 00:11:43,690 And were you next to other houses, or did you have--

328 00:11:43,690 --> 00:11:45,010 Yes, oh yeah.

329 00:11:45,010 --> 00:11:46,780 So you lived in the town?

```
330
00:11:46,780 --> 00:11:48,370
Yes.
331
00:11:48,370 --> 00:11:50,080
Did you have any animals?
332
00:11:50,080 --> 00:11:51,560
I mean a cow or
anything like that?
00:11:51,560 --> 00:11:52,060
No?
334
00:11:52,060 --> 00:11:55,960
Did anybody keep
any chickens or--
335
00:11:55,960 --> 00:11:56,730
No.
336
00:11:56,730 --> 00:11:57,230
Not really.
337
00:11:57,230 --> 00:11:58,060
Maybe-- I didn't--
338
00:11:58,060 --> 00:12:00,720
I don't-- I didn't see it.
339
00:12:00,720 --> 00:12:01,600
OK.
340
00:12:01,600 --> 00:12:02,440
OK.
341
00:12:02,440 --> 00:12:05,950
How did you heat the place?
342
00:12:05,950 --> 00:12:08,000
Very, very clean.
00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:08,500
```

344

00:12:08,500 --> 00:12:12,310 My mother worked all the time in the house--

345

00:12:12,310 --> 00:12:13,420 Yeah.

346

00:12:13,420 --> 00:12:16,000 --because we didn't have no electric stoves

347

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:18,700 and all this kind of stuff, you know what I mean?

348

00:12:18,700 --> 00:12:20,540 What did you have?

349

00:12:20,540 --> 00:12:25,930 Oven, with wood or coal, cooked and everything.

350

00:12:25,930 --> 00:12:27,730 OK.

351

00:12:27,730 --> 00:12:31,525 So in the two rooms, no electricity and coal heating?

352

00:12:31,525 --> 00:12:36,250 And electricity we had maybe six months before the war.

353

00:12:36,250 --> 00:12:37,000 Really?

354

00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:38,190 One light bulb.

355

00:12:38,190 --> 00:12:39,670 Oh, this was something.

00:12:39,670 --> 00:12:40,780 Was this a big thing?

357

00:12:40,780 --> 00:12:42,100 Oh!

358

00:12:42,100 --> 00:12:45,700 This was something because you used to have the kerosene.

359

00:12:45,700 --> 00:12:46,770 Uh-huh.

360

00:12:46,770 --> 00:12:49,585 Well, tell us, how do you use kerosene?

361

00:12:49,585 --> 00:12:52,320 What do you have to do in order to make light from kerosene

362

00:12:52,320 --> 00:12:56,446 With kerosene, you just start it.

363

00:12:56,446 --> 00:13:01,290 It's like gasoline, like oil, you know what I mean,

364

00:13:01,290 --> 00:13:03,640 you had to fill it up.

365

00:13:03,640 --> 00:13:06,040 You poured kerosene into something,

366

00:13:06,040 --> 00:13:07,630 and then you light it like a candle?

367

00:13:07,630 --> 00:13:09,040 Right.

368

00:13:09,040 --> 00:13:11,275 Were there fires?

369

00:13:11,275 --> 00:13:12,520

Not too much because--

370

00:13:12,520 --> 00:13:15,200

371

00:13:15,200 --> 00:13:18,485 they always had Christmas trees.

372

00:13:18,485 --> 00:13:21,940

We didn't have no fire department, nothing,

373

00:13:21,940 --> 00:13:25,750 but was no fires because

everybody's into their room,

374

00:13:25,750 --> 00:13:27,160

you know what I mean?

375

00:13:27,160 --> 00:13:28,912

You didn't have no six rooms.

376

00:13:28,912 --> 00:13:30,695

So you [INAUDIBLE].

377

00:13:30,695 --> 00:13:31,570

So you would find it.

378

00:13:31,570 --> 00:13:34,260

If something starts, you find it very fast.

379

00:13:34,260 --> 00:13:35,860

Right.

380

00:13:35,860 --> 00:13:36,490

OK.

381

00:13:36,490 --> 00:13:37,660

Did you have plumbing?

00:13:37,660 --> 00:13:38,530 Pardon me?

383

00:13:38,530 --> 00:13:40,770

Did you have plumbing?

384

00:13:40,770 --> 00:13:42,700

No.

385

00:13:42,700 --> 00:13:43,690

OK.

386

00:13:43,690 --> 00:13:46,470 So where did you get water?

387

00:13:46,470 --> 00:13:47,950

We have to buy water.

388

00:13:47,950 --> 00:13:49,000

You'd have to buy it?

389

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:49,960

Yes.

390

00:13:49,960 --> 00:13:52,920

So it wasn't like you had a well that you could go to?

391

00:13:52,920 --> 00:13:54,430

Well, no.

392

00:13:54,430 --> 00:13:55,180

We have to buy it.

393

00:13:55,180 --> 00:13:59,470

It was like two pennies

a bucket of water.

394

00:13:59,470 --> 00:14:00,460

Really!

395

00:14:00,460 --> 00:14:03,540

This is the first time I heard

that somebody had to buy water.

396 00:14:03,540 --> 00:14:05,360 Right. 397 00:14:05,360 --> 00:14:06,010 Wow! 398 00:14:06,010 --> 00:14:07,940 I used to go. 399 00:14:07,940 --> 00:14:10,110 I couldn't handle a whole one. 400 00:14:10,110 --> 00:14:12,690 I used to buy a half for one penny. 401 00:14:12,690 --> 00:14:15,520 OK. 402 And would that be like a half a bucket? 403 Right.

00:14:15,520 --> 00:14:17,835

00:14:17,835 --> 00:14:19,630

404 00:14:19,630 --> 00:14:23,710 And half a bucket would be about how many gallons do you think?

405 00:14:23,710 --> 00:14:26,080 Maybe three gallons and something like this.

406 00:14:26,080 --> 00:14:28,480 And how many buckets did you need

407 00:14:28,480 --> 00:14:31,790 for a family of six per day?

408 00:14:31,790 --> 00:14:34,480 First of all, you

## didn't took no showers

409

00:14:34,480 --> 00:14:37,180

because you didn't have no shower.

410

00:14:37,180 --> 00:14:39,970

You took a bath you know what I mean?

411

00:14:39,970 --> 00:14:48,082 And the men used to go to the

city every Friday take a bath.

412

00:14:48,082 --> 00:14:49,540

Oh, so there was like a bath house?

413

00:14:49,540 --> 00:14:51,310

And when you don't

need it, you'd--

414

00:14:51,310 --> 00:14:53,250

if you need it or not,

you took our bath.

415

00:14:53,250 --> 00:14:56,320

416

00:14:56,320 --> 00:15:01,780

And what did the

women do, at home?

417

00:15:01,780 --> 00:15:03,170

No showers, no bath houses?

418

00:15:03,170 --> 00:15:03,670

No.

419

00:15:03,670 --> 00:15:04,180

No showers.

420

00:15:04,180 --> 00:15:07,040

421 00:15:07,040 --> 00:15:08,350 OK. 422 00:15:08,350 --> 00:15:11,070 OK. 423 00:15:11,070 --> 00:15:16,540 How many rooms were in this building that you lived in? 424 00:15:16,540 --> 00:15:20,070 The rooms 2, 4, about 6. 425 00:15:20,070 --> 00:15:20,580 OK. 426 00:15:20,580 --> 00:15:22,620 Everybody, three families. 427 00:15:22,620 --> 00:15:23,460 Three families? 428 00:15:23,460 --> 00:15:24,060 Yes. 429 00:15:24,060 --> 00:15:26,150 One lived in the penthouse. 430 00:15:26,150 --> 00:15:28,070 So you couldn't straighten out. 431 00:15:28,070 --> 00:15:31,110 You have to go like this because it was too close. 432 00:15:31,110 --> 00:15:32,000 OK. 433 00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:33,785 And which one did you live in? 434

00:15:33,785 --> 00:15:34,890

The first floor.

435

00:15:34,890 --> 00:15:35,640 The first floor.

436

00:15:35,640 --> 00:15:37,560 That's all we had, two floors.

437

00:15:37,560 --> 00:15:39,555 OK, two floors and a penthouse.

438

00:15:39,555 --> 00:15:43,330 Two and one, one penthouse.

439

00:15:43,330 --> 00:15:47,190 The penthouse was-- when you do tall, you had to--

440

00:15:47,190 --> 00:15:48,750 Who lived there?

441

00:15:48,750 --> 00:15:50,250 Well.

442

00:15:50,250 --> 00:15:50,910 OK.

443

00:15:50,910 --> 00:15:52,860 Did anybody live there in the--

444

00:15:52,860 --> 00:15:54,180 it's the attic space then.

445

00:15:54,180 --> 00:15:55,680 Like an attic space.

446

00:15:55,680 --> 00:15:56,250 OK.

447

00:15:56,250 --> 00:15:57,750 My uncle was living over there.

448

00:15:57,750 --> 00:15:59,100 I see.

449

00:15:59,100 --> 00:16:00,310 OK.

450

00:16:00,310 --> 00:16:00,840

Can we cut?

451

00:16:00,840 --> 00:16:05,840

452

00:16:05,840 --> 00:16:09,170 So we were talking

about where you lived.

453

00:16:09,170 --> 00:16:11,030

Can you describe the house to me?

454

00:16:11,030 --> 00:16:13,100 Was it next to other houses?

455

00:16:13,100 --> 00:16:14,150

Yes.

456

00:16:14,150 --> 00:16:15,970

Was it wooden or of stone?

457

00:16:15,970 --> 00:16:19,090

Stone, but old.

458

00:16:19,090 --> 00:16:19,880

Old.

459

00:16:19,880 --> 00:16:22,955

So you think it was maybe

built in the 19th century?

460

00:16:22,955 --> 00:16:25,490

461

00:16:25,490 --> 00:16:26,540

Maybe before--

00:16:26,540 --> 00:16:28,460 Maybe before, OK.

463

00:16:28,460 --> 00:16:29,630

464

00:16:29,630 --> 00:16:31,750 --because when the time I remember.

465

00:16:31,750 --> 00:16:36,320 You used to put sand by the windows--

466

00:16:36,320 --> 00:16:37,610 Sand?

467

00:16:37,610 --> 00:16:40,370 --so they covered up for the snow,

468

00:16:40,370 --> 00:16:42,050 for the winter and everything.

469

00:16:42,050 --> 00:16:43,650 Oh, I see so that's how you--

470

00:16:43,650 --> 00:16:46,770 The house was not young but older.

471

00:16:46,770 --> 00:16:50,810 Do you remember it being cold inside?

472

00:16:50,810 --> 00:16:56,360 We had a stove, a round one for winter.

473

00:16:56,360 --> 00:16:57,590 Like a cold stove?

474

00:16:57,590 --> 00:16:58,700 Right.

475 00:16:58,700 --> 00:17:01,970 And was it in the corner of the house, or corner of a room, 476 00:17:01,970 --> 00:17:03,700 or in the middle of the room? 00:17:03,700 --> 00:17:04,540 In the house. 478 00:17:04,540 --> 00:17:05,359 I know. 479 00:17:05,359 --> 00:17:06,879 Where was it in the room? 480 00:17:06,879 --> 00:17:08,780 In the middle the house in the living room. 481 00:17:08,780 --> 00:17:11,420 Really, in the middle? 482 00:17:11,420 --> 00:17:14,699 And your mother cooked on a coal or a wood--483 00:17:14,699 --> 00:17:15,440 A stove. 00:17:15,440 --> 00:17:16,380 --stove. 485 00:17:16,380 --> 00:17:18,109 OK. 486 00:17:18,109 --> 00:17:19,339 She didn't bake. 487 00:17:19,339 --> 00:17:21,010 She didn't have for baking. 00:17:21,010 --> 00:17:24,940

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

For baking we used to go every Friday or so to a bakery,

489

00:17:24,940 --> 00:17:28,339 you know what I mean, and bake in the bakery.

490

00:17:28,339 --> 00:17:31,640 So in other words, not only at a bakery could you buy bread,

491

00:17:31,640 --> 00:17:35,240 but you could bake your own bread?

492

00:17:35,240 --> 00:17:37,220 Bread, not too many made it.

493

00:17:37,220 --> 00:17:37,720 OK.

494

00:17:37,720 --> 00:17:41,540 We make challah, you know what I mean, for Friday.

495

00:17:41,540 --> 00:17:42,380 I see.

496

00:17:42,380 --> 00:17:44,480 And would she bake other things?

497

00:17:44,480 --> 00:17:46,310 And a cake sometimes.

498

00:17:46,310 --> 00:17:48,000 OK.

499

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:52,940 Was there a particular food she made that you really liked?

500

00:17:52,940 --> 00:18:00,380 I liked everything, but she cooked for six people a pound

501 00:18:00,380 --> 00:18:02,660 and a have of beef. 502 00:18:02,660 --> 00:18:05,720 So if you get the hone

So if you get the bone, you don't get no meat.

503 00:18:05,720 --> 00:18:08,280 If you get the carrots, you don't get meat

504 00:18:08,280 --> 00:18:12,230 because my father got to get a little piece, my brother

505 00:18:12,230 --> 00:18:14,190 and my sister both, too.

506 00:18:14,190 --> 00:18:20,008 And we were the youngest, so we didn't have too much.

507 00:18:20,008 --> 00:18:20,675 Were you hungry?

508 00:18:20,675 --> 00:18:25,190

509 00:18:25,190 --> 00:18:26,940 Bread we got plenty, you know what I mean?

510 00:18:26,940 --> 00:18:29,250 Mm-hmm

511 00:18:29,250 --> 00:18:30,960 A little bit sugar on top or something,

512 00:18:30,960 --> 00:18:35,970 you know I mean, not butter, once in a while.

513 00:18:35,970 --> 00:18:38,820 So butter you could churn for your grandfather,

514

00:18:38,820 --> 00:18:41,380

but you didn't get much of it at home?

515

00:18:41,380 --> 00:18:45,790

No because he sold it, you know I mean?

516

00:18:45,790 --> 00:18:47,900

And it was different.

517

00:18:47,900 --> 00:18:50,730

Like eggs, you

wanted to the store

518

00:18:50,730 --> 00:18:52,970

to buy two eggs, one eggs, and something

00:18:52,970 --> 00:18:54,210

like this, not a dozen.

520

00:18:54,210 --> 00:18:56,790

521

00:18:56,790 --> 00:18:58,750

Was there only one store you would go to?

522

00:18:58,750 --> 00:19:00,270

No, you had a few stores.

523

00:19:00,270 --> 00:19:00,840

Yeah?

524

00:19:00,840 --> 00:19:02,410

Little stores, you

know what I mean.

525

00:19:02,410 --> 00:19:05,700

And who would do the

shopping, the food shopping?

526 00:19:05,700 --> 00:19:08,280 I go with them my mother or something.

00:19:08,280 --> 00:19:10,970 Most the time for Friday we shopped,

528 00:19:10,970 --> 00:19:12,872 Thursday for Sabbath, you know I mean.

529 00:19:12,872 --> 00:19:13,372 Mm-hmm.

530 00:19:13,372 --> 00:19:16,680

531 00:19:16,680 --> 00:19:19,230 So because you were the youngest,

532 00:19:19,230 --> 00:19:22,020 did you accompany her everywhere?

533 00:19:22,020 --> 00:19:24,650 Did you go with her when she went shopping?

534 00:19:24,650 --> 00:19:26,380 Yeah, sometimes.

535 00:19:26,380 --> 00:19:26,880 OK.

536 00:19:26,880 --> 00:19:27,588 And your sisters?

537 00:19:27,588 --> 00:19:30,120

538 00:19:30,120 --> 00:19:32,540 You have the one sister, the older sister was working,

539

00:19:32,540 --> 00:19:33,410 you know I mean?

540

00:19:33,410 --> 00:19:34,680 What was she doing?

541

00:19:34,680 --> 00:19:37,210 She worked in a printing.

542

00:19:37,210 --> 00:19:40,400 And my brother was the foreman over there.

543

00:19:40,400 --> 00:19:44,240 The foreman made \$25 a week.

544

00:19:44,240 --> 00:19:47,420 Well, it was in Polish money, was it?

545

00:19:47,420 --> 00:19:48,830 In Polish money, right.

546

00:19:48,830 --> 00:19:50,780 And so would it have been 25 zloty?

547

00:19:50,780 --> 00:19:52,470 25 zloty, right.

548

00:19:52,470 --> 00:19:53,210 OK.

549

00:19:53,210 --> 00:19:55,730 Was that considered a lot of money?

550

00:19:55,730 --> 00:19:59,060 He was a foreman already.

55

00:19:59,060 --> 00:20:00,470

And what about--

552 00:20:

00:20:00,470 --> 00:20:03,720 Because it was, I think, cheap because you had no money.

553

00:20:03,720 --> 00:20:05,570 You didn't buy a dozen eggs or something,

554

00:20:05,570 --> 00:20:08,880 you know what I mean?

555

00:20:08,880 --> 00:20:12,480 Which of your siblings were you closest to?

556

00:20:12,480 --> 00:20:16,292

557

00:20:16,292 --> 00:20:17,310 We were together.

558

00:20:17,310 --> 00:20:18,840 We were living close.

559

00:20:18,840 --> 00:20:19,500 All of you?

560

00:20:19,500 --> 00:20:20,320 Yes.

561

00:20:20,320 --> 00:20:20,820 OK.

562

00:20:20,820 --> 00:20:23,070 The mother and father was the tops.

563

00:20:23,070 --> 00:20:24,270 Really?

564

00:20:24,270 --> 00:20:24,862

That's it.

565 00:20:24,862 --> 00:20:25,570 Tell me about it.

566 00:20:25,570 --> 00:20:27,330 We didn't sit down at a table tell

567 00:20:27,330 --> 00:20:30,990 my father and mother was there.

00:20:30,990 --> 00:20:33,615 It sounds like you had a lot of respect.

569 00:20:33,615 --> 00:20:35,640 Nothing but respect.

570 00:20:35,640 --> 00:20:36,990 OK.

571 00:20:36,990 --> 00:20:42,240 Tell me a little bit about your parents' personalities.

572 00:20:42,240 --> 00:20:44,070 What kind of a person was your father?

00:20:44,070 --> 00:20:45,600 Let's start with your father.

574 00:20:45,600 --> 00:20:48,840 Very, very Yiddish, you know I mean.

575 00:20:48,840 --> 00:20:52,800 He had to have a paper every day.

576 00:20:52,800 --> 00:20:53,430 He reads.

577 00:20:53,430 --> 00:20:54,930 He would read the paper every day.

578

00:20:54,930 --> 00:20:56,420

The Jewish paper.

579

00:20:56,420 --> 00:20:57,795

Do you remember the name of the--

580

00:20:57,795 --> 00:20:58,680

The Forverts.

581

00:20:58,680 --> 00:20:59,490

The Forverts.

582

00:20:59,490 --> 00:21:00,260

Right.

583

00:21:00,260 --> 00:21:01,050

OK.

584

00:21:01,050 --> 00:21:05,470

Did it have a political

leaning, The Forverts?

585

00:21:05,470 --> 00:21:06,055

This I don't--

586

00:21:06,055 --> 00:21:06,680

You don't know.

587

00:21:06,680 --> 00:21:07,930

I was too young to--

588

00:21:07,930 --> 00:21:10,120

Because there is a

Forverts in New York City.

589

00:21:10,120 --> 00:21:10,690

Oh, yeah.

590

00:21:10,690 --> 00:21:12,400

And that's a different--

591 00:21:12,400 --> 00:21:13,825 that had a political leaning.

592 00:21:13,825 --> 00:21:17,720 And look, Michael get paper, Forverts, but in English.

593 00:21:17,720 --> 00:21:18,220 Yeah.

594 00:21:18,220 --> 00:21:20,290 You can get it in Yiddish, you can get it

595 00:21:20,290 --> 00:21:24,490 in English, the same thing.

596 00:21:24,490 --> 00:21:26,230 So he would read the paper, which

597 00:21:26,230 --> 00:21:29,090 meant that he went to school, and he knew how to read.

598 00:21:29,090 --> 00:21:29,590 Yes.

599 00:21:29,590 --> 00:21:32,170 Oh, especially Yiddish.

600 00:21:32,170 --> 00:21:33,160 OK.

601 00:21:33,160 --> 00:21:37,150 And your grandfather, the mayor, didn't.

602 00:21:37,150 --> 00:21:39,070 He didn't, no.

603 00:21:39,070 --> 00:21:41,890 Interesting, interesting. 604

00:21:41,890 --> 00:21:44,320

Did he like your father?

605

00:21:44,320 --> 00:21:47,620

My father was very, very--

606

00:21:47,620 --> 00:21:50,440

607

00:21:50,440 --> 00:21:54,650

everything what

he said had to be.

608

00:21:54,650 --> 00:21:55,150

OK.

609

00:21:55,150 --> 00:21:55,692

So he had a--

610

00:21:55,692 --> 00:21:59,280

Very good man, very good father, and the mother, too.

611

00:21:59,280 --> 00:22:00,790

Old-fashioned.

612

00:22:00,790 --> 00:22:05,090

Matter of fact, I am a

little bit with my two boys

613

00:22:05,090 --> 00:22:06,490

the same thing almost.

614

00:22:06,490 --> 00:22:07,070

Really?

615

00:22:07,070 --> 00:22:07,570

Yes.

616

00:22:07,570 --> 00:22:08,487

So you learnt how to--

617

00:22:08,487 --> 00:22:11,410 Because my wife was Polish, too, a survivor, too.

618

00:22:11,410 --> 00:22:12,010 Oh, I see.

619

00:22:12,010 --> 00:22:13,885 She was five years in the concentration camp,

620

00:22:13,885 --> 00:22:16,150 too, but in different camps.

621

00:22:16,150 --> 00:22:17,320 Yeah.

622

00:22:17,320 --> 00:22:20,270 They wanted to write a book from her, too, but a difference.

623

00:22:20,270 --> 00:22:20,770 Yeah.

624

00:22:20,770 --> 00:22:22,670 She had a different story.

625

00:22:22,670 --> 00:22:24,850 But I didn't let her because she was sick.

626

00:22:24,850 --> 00:22:26,052 Yeah.

627

00:22:26,052 --> 00:22:27,760 I can understand that these are not easy.

628

00:22:27,760 --> 00:22:28,990 But they want it badly.

629

00:22:28,990 --> 00:22:33,160 This would be a tremendous book because she was difference. 630 00:22:33,160 --> 00:22:35,110 Do you know her story? 00:22:35,110 --> 00:22:36,400 Yes, a little. 632 00:22:36,400 --> 00:22:39,050 So maybe when we finish talking--633 00:22:39,050 --> 00:22:39,550 Well--634 00:22:39,550 --> 00:22:42,820 --about yours, you can tell us a little bit about her. 635 00:22:42,820 --> 00:22:44,850 --it's too much to talk about it. 00:22:44,850 --> 00:22:45,350 OK. 637 00:22:45,350 --> 00:22:47,860 Well, maybe a little bit private or something I 638 00:22:47,860 --> 00:22:49,430 can give you a little bit. 00:22:49,430 --> 00:22:50,710 OK. 640 00:22:50,710 --> 00:22:54,010 But I know that we're talking now 641 00:22:54,010 --> 00:22:57,250 about your family before the war.

642 00:22:57,250 --> 00:23:02,940 I want to get a sense of, what did you parents--

643

00:23:02,940 --> 00:23:05,460

644

00:23:05,460 --> 00:23:08,160 how did they inspire this kind of respect?

645

00:23:08,160 --> 00:23:11,976 Were they warm people to you?

646

00:23:11,976 --> 00:23:15,570 We were brought up like this, respect.

647

00:23:15,570 --> 00:23:17,160 OK.

648

00:23:17,160 --> 00:23:19,320 My mother used to say, nobody looks

649

00:23:19,320 --> 00:23:22,080 in the stomach what do you eat, but you dressed up

650

00:23:22,080 --> 00:23:24,390 a little bit is difference.

651

00:23:24,390 --> 00:23:26,110 Ah.

652

00:23:26,110 --> 00:23:26,610 That's it.

653

00:23:26,610 --> 00:23:28,370 That you would be presentable?

654

00:23:28,370 --> 00:23:29,160

Yes.

655

00:23:29,160 --> 00:23:30,330

OK.

656 00:23:30,330 --> 00:23:34,500 You wanted to be representable, especially in a small town.

657 00:23:34,500 --> 00:23:36,810 If you neglect, nobody looked on you.

658 00:23:36,810 --> 00:23:41,417

659 00:23:41,417 --> 00:23:42,500 It's different in America.

660 00:23:42,500 --> 00:23:45,920 You don't look who your mother was, who your grandpa,

661 00:23:45,920 --> 00:23:47,795 as long as you're both happy with each other,

662 00:23:47,795 --> 00:23:48,670 you know what I mean?

663 00:23:48,670 --> 00:23:50,470 Over there is difference.

664 00:23:50,470 --> 00:23:53,780 If they asked me, you don't see your name.

665 00:23:53,780 --> 00:23:56,715 I have to say, I'm the son from Pinchas.

666 00:23:56,715 --> 00:24:01,280

667 00:24:01,280 --> 00:24:02,472 So you know it.

668 00:24:02,472 --> 00:24:03,930 Because in a little town, everybody

669

00:24:03,930 --> 00:24:06,420 knows each other, but not a little baby like me,

670

00:24:06,420 --> 00:24:07,500 you know what I mean?

671

00:24:07,500 --> 00:24:10,050 Yeah.

672

00:24:10,050 --> 00:24:12,600 I went to camp when I was 13 years old--

673

00:24:12,600 --> 00:24:14,050 Mm-hmm .

674

00:24:14,050 --> 00:24:17,820 --and I went by myself because they told him,

675

00:24:17,820 --> 00:24:20,916 if you go, your mother going to be saved.

676

00:24:20,916 --> 00:24:23,800 So I said, OK, I'm going.

677

00:24:23,800 --> 00:24:25,390 Wow.

678

00:24:25,390 --> 00:24:26,950 Wow.

679

00:24:26,950 --> 00:24:28,000 We'll come to that.

680

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:29,170 We'll come to that.

681

00:24:29,170 --> 00:24:31,330

We're going to still talk about life prewar.

682

00:24:31,330 --> 00:24:34,780

683

00:24:34,780 --> 00:24:36,880 So your mother kept a very clean house?

684

00:24:36,880 --> 00:24:40,338

685

00:24:40,338 --> 00:24:42,130 It's majestic, again, you know what I mean?

686

00:24:42,130 --> 00:24:43,330 Of course, it's not easy.

687

00:24:43,330 --> 00:24:46,926 No, because we had wooden floors a little bit.

688

00:24:46,926 --> 00:24:49,900 You didn't have no carpets.

689

00:24:49,900 --> 00:24:51,430 But you had wooden floors?

690

00:24:51,430 --> 00:24:52,180 Wooden floors.

691

00:24:52,180 --> 00:24:52,880 Wooden floors.

692

00:24:52,880 --> 00:24:53,770 Pieces.

693

00:24:53,770 --> 00:24:56,110 Some of them we had to fix it, too.

694

00:24:56,110 --> 00:24:58,390

Yeah.

695

00:24:58,390 --> 00:25:00,100

Did you have cousins?

696

00:25:00,100 --> 00:25:01,270

Yes.

697

00:25:01,270 --> 00:25:03,535

Who did you play with the

most when you were little?

698

00:25:03,535 --> 00:25:05,510

The cousins lived

in the same house--

699

00:25:05,510 --> 00:25:06,730

Ah!

700

00:25:06,730 --> 00:25:09,290

--because it was the family.

701

00:25:09,290 --> 00:25:09,940

OK.

702

00:25:09,940 --> 00:25:11,040

Your mother's brother?

703

00:25:11,040 --> 00:25:11,868

Right.

704

00:25:11,868 --> 00:25:14,160

OK.

705

00:25:14,160 --> 00:25:16,560

So was it a happy time

having so many kids?

706

00:25:16,560 --> 00:25:18,820

Yes, yes.

707

00:25:18,820 --> 00:25:21,020

OK.

708 00:25:21,020 --> 00:25:22,860 Did you go to school? 709 00:25:22,860 --> 00:25:24,638 Yes, was only one school. 710 00:25:24,638 --> 00:25:25,430 In the whole place? 711 00:25:25,430 --> 00:25:26,790 In the whole place. 712 00:25:26,790 --> 00:25:27,660 So was it both--713 00:25:27,660 --> 00:25:28,460 For both. 714 00:25:28,460 --> 00:25:30,110 --for both Poles and Jews? 715 00:25:30,110 --> 00:25:33,810 Christian, Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish. 716 00:25:33,810 --> 00:25:34,310 OK. 717 00:25:34,310 --> 00:25:41,250 So we had one hour a week Hebrew or Jewish, and one hour a week 718 00:25:41,250 --> 00:25:44,190 Catholic, and one hour Protestant. 00:25:44,190 --> 00:25:44,690 Oh. 720 00:25:44,690 --> 00:25:46,740 If you wanted, you could stay.

00:25:46,740 --> 00:25:48,920

If not, you don't walk out, you know what I mean.

722

00:25:48,920 --> 00:25:49,880

723

00:25:49,880 --> 00:25:51,890 Did you ever stay for the others?

724

00:25:51,890 --> 00:25:54,110 Sometime I stayed on the Catholic one.

725

00:25:54,110 --> 00:25:54,620 Did you?

726

00:25:54,620 --> 00:25:56,120 I just wanted to know.

727

00:25:56,120 --> 00:25:59,330 Sometime I know sometimes more than some Catholics

728

00:25:59,330 --> 00:26:00,110 in this country.

729

00:26:00,110 --> 00:26:01,210 [INTERVIEWER LAUGHS]

730

00:26:01,210 --> 00:26:01,710

731

00:26:01,710 --> 00:26:05,397 Well, when you get an education like that, then--

732

00:26:05,397 --> 00:26:06,230 what stays with you?

733

00:26:06,230 --> 00:26:08,063 I just wanted to know, you know what I mean,

734

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00:26:08,063 --> 00:26:11,210 not that I'm perfect, everything.

735

00:26:11,210 --> 00:26:14,690

But is there

anything you remember

736

00:26:14,690 --> 00:26:18,350 from any of those lessons?

737

00:26:18,350 --> 00:26:21,260

Not too much because there was that I was

738

00:26:21,260 --> 00:26:23,550 12 years old, 11, 12 years old.

739

00:26:23,550 --> 00:26:24,080

OK.

740

00:26:24,080 --> 00:26:27,560 Did you ever go inside a church?

741

00:26:27,560 --> 00:26:28,710

After the war.

742

00:26:28,710 --> 00:26:29,210 OK.

OI.

743

00:26:29,210 --> 00:26:30,400

Before the war--

744

00:26:30,400 --> 00:26:31,010

No.

745

00:26:31,010 --> 00:26:33,500

--the anti-Semitic was

a little bit in Poland.

746

00:26:33,500 --> 00:26:35,392

It was very, very strong.

747

00:26:35,392 --> 00:26:36,475

I want to talk about that.

# 748

00:26:36,475 --> 00:26:40,190 So you didn't go to the church then, you know what I mean.

#### 749

00:26:40,190 --> 00:26:42,170 OK.

## 750

00:26:42,170 --> 00:26:45,500 So since you were all in school together--

# 751

00:26:45,500 --> 00:26:48,440 In school together, yes, girls and boys together, everything,

## 752

00:26:48,440 --> 00:26:49,670 you know what I mean.

#### 753

00:26:49,670 --> 00:26:54,880 --did you ever have any of the Christian kids make fun of you

## 754

00:26:54,880 --> 00:26:55,645 or tease you?

#### 755

00:26:55,645 --> 00:26:59,305 Well, I tell you one thing, I was lucky.

#### 756

00:26:59,305 --> 00:27:00,740 OK.

# 757

00:27:00,740 --> 00:27:05,065 I had some friends, Gentiles, went to school together

## 758

00:27:05,065 --> 00:27:05,690 and everything.

# 759

00:27:05,690 --> 00:27:06,190 Mm-hmm.

760

00:27:06,190 --> 00:27:09,560

761

00:27:09,560 --> 00:27:12,140 For the age, I was not bad.

762

00:27:12,140 --> 00:27:13,640 I wasn't fighting.

763

00:27:13,640 --> 00:27:15,800 But I act like a big fighter.

764

00:27:15,800 --> 00:27:17,870 I never fight.

765

00:27:17,870 --> 00:27:20,870 I never remember having a fight or something.

766

00:27:20,870 --> 00:27:22,200 OK.

767

00:27:22,200 --> 00:27:26,680 So are you saying that the kids that you knew who were Gentiles

768

00:27:26,680 --> 00:27:27,560 were friends?

769

00:27:27,560 --> 00:27:28,970 Oh yeah, yes.

770

00:27:28,970 --> 00:27:29,810 Not bad?

771

00:27:29,810 --> 00:27:30,890 Everything was OK?

772

00:27:30,890 --> 00:27:33,580 Till-- Hitler took over, it was a different story.

773

00:27:33,580 --> 00:27:36,050 Yeah, of course, of course.

774 00:27:36,050 --> 00:27:39,080 But did your parents or did anybody

775 00:27:39,080 --> 00:27:42,350 you knew experience any kind of discrimination?

776 00:27:42,350 --> 00:27:44,936

777 00:27:44,936 --> 00:27:46,330 They didn't like a Jew.

778 00:27:46,330 --> 00:27:50,560

779 00:27:50,560 --> 00:27:53,490 They like some of me, you know what I mean.

780 00:27:53,490 --> 00:27:57,240 Let's say like my wife, my mother, she had a neighbor,

781 00:27:57,240 --> 00:27:58,260 she loved her.

782 00:27:58,260 --> 00:27:59,730 That's it.

783 00:27:59,730 --> 00:28:02,570 Maybe second Jew, she didn't, you know what I mean.

784 00:28:02,570 --> 00:28:04,470 OK.

785 00:28:04,470 --> 00:28:06,860 So you're saying a neighbor lady who was Gentile--

786 00:28:06,860 --> 00:28:09,480 Some of them, right.

787

00:28:09,480 --> 00:28:12,880 But if your grandfather

was mayor of the town--

788

00:28:12,880 --> 00:28:14,872

Yeah, but--

789

00:28:14,872 --> 00:28:16,080 It doesn't make a difference?

790

00:28:16,080 --> 00:28:19,470 You collect half a dollar tax.

791

00:28:19,470 --> 00:28:20,340

OK.

792

00:28:20,340 --> 00:28:26,755 Well, a tax collector is never popular no matter who they are.

793

00:28:26,755 --> 00:28:27,920

No money--

794

00:28:27,920 --> 00:28:28,710

Yeah.

795

00:28:28,710 --> 00:28:31,140

--a little town like this.

796

00:28:31,140 --> 00:28:32,940

What did the little town-- what was

797

00:28:32,940 --> 00:28:35,335

the main economy in this town?

798

00:28:35,335 --> 00:28:36,690

A coal mine.

799

00:28:36,690 --> 00:28:37,620

There was a coal mine.

800 00:28:37,620 --> 00:28:39,390 There was a coal mine over there, 801 00:28:39,390 --> 00:28:42,170 and owned by the French government. 802 00:28:42,170 --> 00:28:42,680 Really? 803 00:28:42,680 --> 00:28:44,930 Yes, this I remember. 804 00:28:44,930 --> 00:28:46,590 They were talking about this. 805 00:28:46,590 --> 00:28:50,585 But Jews didn't work in the coal mine at all. 806 00:28:50,585 --> 00:28:51,085 Why? 807 00:28:51,085 --> 00:28:54,760 808 00:28:54,760 --> 00:28:57,640 Some of them was a shame. 809 00:28:57,640 --> 00:28:58,140 OK. 810 00:28:58,140 --> 00:28:59,105 So it was dirty work? 811 00:28:59,105 --> 00:29:00,660 See like us, example--812 00:29:00,660 --> 00:29:01,840 Yeah. 813

00:29:01,840 --> 00:29:04,080

--we didn't stay outside and beg for a piece

814

00:29:04,080 --> 00:29:05,070 of bread or something.

815

00:29:05,070 --> 00:29:08,010 We were hungry, but I mean, not to stay on the street

816

00:29:08,010 --> 00:29:15,695 or something because my mother and father had too much shame,

817

00:29:15,695 --> 00:29:16,570 you know what I mean.

818

00:29:16,570 --> 00:29:19,150 They had too much pride to do something like that.

819

00:29:19,150 --> 00:29:20,430 Right.

820

00:29:20,430 --> 00:29:21,070 OK.

821

00:29:21,070 --> 00:29:23,020 So it was mostly--

822

00:29:23,020 --> 00:29:26,380 it was mostly the Gentiles who worked in the coal mine?

823

00:29:26,380 --> 00:29:30,590 Yes, maybe a few Jews and maybe in the office, maybe.

824

00:29:30,590 --> 00:29:34,960 In the war time, all the Jews worked in the coal mine.

825

00:29:34,960 --> 00:29:35,738 OK. 826

00:29:35,738 --> 00:29:37,030 I didn't work in the coal mine.

827

00:29:37,030 --> 00:29:38,290 I was lucky.

828

00:29:38,290 --> 00:29:39,250

829

00:29:39,250 --> 00:29:44,170 My sister, the older one, she was a tough girl,

830

00:29:44,170 --> 00:29:47,080 a good-looking girl.

831

00:29:47,080 --> 00:29:48,820 If you don't let her in from the front,

832

00:29:48,820 --> 00:29:51,810 she come through the windows.

833

00:29:51,810 --> 00:29:53,380 And she got a job for me.

834

00:29:53,380 --> 00:29:57,610 I was an engineer sweeping the street.

835

00:29:57,610 --> 00:29:59,470 This is during the war?

836

00:29:59,470 --> 00:30:01,720 This better than coal mine.

837

00:30:01,720 --> 00:30:03,910 You come out, you know what I mean?

838

00:30:03,910 --> 00:30:05,160 We'll talk about those things.

839

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00:30:05,160 --> 00:30:06,220 So she got me the job.

840

00:30:06,220 --> 00:30:06,720

OK.

841

00:30:06,720 --> 00:30:10,300

842

00:30:10,300 --> 00:30:14,380 So were there people who--was it a farming area as well?

843

00:30:14,380 --> 00:30:16,280 Were there people who had farms?

844

00:30:16,280 --> 00:30:17,500

Farms, yes.

845

00:30:17,500 --> 00:30:19,430 But not so much

as the coal mine?

846

00:30:19,430 --> 00:30:20,370

No.

847

00:30:20,370 --> 00:30:20,870

OK.

848

00:30:20,870 --> 00:30:24,700

849

00:30:24,700 --> 00:30:27,910 You said that electricity,

the first light bulb,

850

00:30:27,910 --> 00:30:32,200

was six months before

the war started.

851

00:30:32,200 --> 00:30:33,628

What about a radio?

852

00:30:33,628 --> 00:30:34,670

Did anybody have a radio?

853

00:30:34,670 --> 00:30:36,520 In my town was one radio.

854

00:30:36,520 --> 00:30:37,240 One radio?

855

00:30:37,240 --> 00:30:37,910 Right.

856

00:30:37,910 --> 00:30:41,710 Because I remember we used to listen to the soccer game

857

00:30:41,710 --> 00:30:44,050 because in Europe, that's all you had.

858

00:30:44,050 --> 00:30:46,870 You didn't know about football, baseball, or something

859

00:30:46,870 --> 00:30:50,010 like this, nothing like this.

860

00:30:50,010 --> 00:30:50,770 OK.

861

00:30:50,770 --> 00:30:53,980 So who owned the radio?

862

00:30:53,980 --> 00:30:57,400 Some-- maybe he was a little bit richer than me.

863

00:30:57,400 --> 00:30:58,810 OK.

864

00:30:58,810 --> 00:31:01,450 So you open the window, and the whole town--

865

00:31:01,450 --> 00:31:01,990

# Really?

866

00:31:01,990 --> 00:31:03,480 --listen to the game--

867

00:31:03,480 --> 00:31:04,930

868

00:31:04,930 --> 00:31:06,780 --the soccer game, football.

869

00:31:06,780 --> 00:31:10,480 Well, tell me, who was the richest person in town?

870

00:31:10,480 --> 00:31:14,320 Not too many, a few over there.

871

00:31:14,320 --> 00:31:16,810 If you need a few dollars, he borrowed you.

872

00:31:16,810 --> 00:31:20,110 But you have to have something, like a piece of silver

873

00:31:20,110 --> 00:31:24,280 or something, gold, for guarantee, you know I mean.

874

00:31:24,280 --> 00:31:25,330 OK.

875

00:31:25,330 --> 00:31:30,070 So it was a business.

876

00:31:30,070 --> 00:31:31,890 Was there a bank?

877

00:31:31,890 --> 00:31:32,830 In my town?

878

00:31:32,830 --> 00:31:34,600 No, no bank. 879

00:31:34,600 --> 00:31:36,790 No bank.

880

00:31:36,790 --> 00:31:39,760 We had a bank for the water.

881

00:31:39,760 --> 00:31:40,690 That kind of a bank.

882

00:31:40,690 --> 00:31:41,780 [LAUGHTER]

883

00:31:41,780 --> 00:31:42,280

884

00:31:42,280 --> 00:31:47,690 That's a time V.I.P. call yourself [INAUDIBLE]

885

00:31:47,690 --> 00:31:49,860 So you used to play big shot.

886

00:31:49,860 --> 00:31:53,320 We used to say, oh, we used to own a bank.

887

00:31:53,320 --> 00:31:55,800 So after that, he say, yes, the bank for the water.

888

00:31:55,800 --> 00:32:00,730

889

00:32:00,730 --> 00:32:05,500 So you had one policeman in the town.

890

00:32:05,500 --> 00:32:07,870 What did you say before, one doctor--

891

00:32:07,870 --> 00:32:10,780

One doctor, one

policeman, and one car.

892

00:32:10,780 --> 00:32:11,620

--and one car.

893

00:32:11,620 --> 00:32:12,940

Who had the car?

894

00:32:12,940 --> 00:32:13,840

The doctor.

895

00:32:13,840 --> 00:32:14,500

The doctor.

896

00:32:14,500 --> 00:32:15,070

That's it.

897

00:32:15,070 --> 00:32:16,540

Was the doctor a Jewish doctor?

898

00:32:16,540 --> 00:32:17,440

No.

899

00:32:17,440 --> 00:32:18,790

Did everybody go to him?

900

00:32:18,790 --> 00:32:19,960

Yes.

901

00:32:19,960 --> 00:32:20,890

What was he like?

902

00:32:20,890 --> 00:32:21,460

Was he--

903

00:32:21,460 --> 00:32:22,120

Very good.

904

00:32:22,120 --> 00:32:23,920

Well, for over there,

he was a good doctor,

905

00:32:23,920 --> 00:32:25,030

you know what I mean.

906

00:32:25,030 --> 00:32:31,040 When you had a headache, they used to put the one their back.

907

00:32:31,040 --> 00:32:32,080 Leeches?

908

00:32:32,080 --> 00:32:33,040 Not leeches.

909

00:32:33,040 --> 00:32:34,660 Oh, these little--

910

00:32:34,660 --> 00:32:35,600 Little--

911

00:32:35,600 --> 00:32:36,100 --cups.

912

00:32:36,100 --> 00:32:37,050 --cups, right.

913

00:32:37,050 --> 00:32:38,572 Now you know.

914

00:32:38,572 --> 00:32:39,564 OK.

915

00:32:39,564 --> 00:32:42,250 But you explain it because many people do not

916

00:32:42,250 --> 00:32:44,270 know what that means.

917

00:32:44,270 --> 00:32:46,097 This is when you had a cold or something.

918

00:32:46,097 --> 00:32:46,930

Yeah, like the flu--

919

00:32:46,930 --> 00:32:49,000

So this takes off--

920

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:51,688

the darker they come out, you know I mean?

921

00:32:51,688 --> 00:32:53,230

This is what they said, you know what

922

00:32:53,230 --> 00:32:55,330 I mean, because no medication.

923

00:32:55,330 --> 00:32:56,305

My father passed away.

924

00:32:56,305 --> 00:32:59,950

He had asthma, no medication.

925

00:32:59,950 --> 00:33:01,930

He was 47 years old.

926

00:33:01,930 --> 00:33:03,460

He was young.

927

00:33:03,460 --> 00:33:04,130

He was young.

928

00:33:04,130 --> 00:33:05,590

That's it.

929

00:33:05,590 --> 00:33:06,890

Tell me about that.

930

00:33:06,890 --> 00:33:08,740

Tell me about your

father's illness.

931

00:33:08,740 --> 00:33:10,032

When did he start getting sick?

932

00:33:10,032 --> 00:33:12,340

He got sick, he was in the hospital.

933

00:33:12,340 --> 00:33:14,350 Every time I come home from school,

934

00:33:14,350 --> 00:33:16,600 my mother used to give me a little bag,

935

00:33:16,600 --> 00:33:21,260 a little jar with soup.

936

00:33:21,260 --> 00:33:23,987 I used to walk four miles in and four miles back--

937

00:33:23,987 --> 00:33:24,945 Where was the hospital?

938

00:33:24,945 --> 00:33:26,870 --at the hospital.

939

00:33:26,870 --> 00:33:27,920 What town was it in?

940

00:33:27,920 --> 00:33:31,110 This was Sosnicowice, a little bigger town the next

941

00:33:31,110 --> 00:33:33,230 to Muenchen.

942

00:33:33,230 --> 00:33:35,340 And how long was your father in the hospital for?

943

00:33:35,340 --> 00:33:37,598 He was maybe six months in the hospital--

944

00:33:37,598 --> 00:33:38,390 That's a long time.

00:33:38,390 --> 00:33:40,440 --and no medication.

## 946

00:33:40,440 --> 00:33:41,600 No medication?

## 947

00:33:41,600 --> 00:33:42,530 He had asthma.

## 948

00:33:42,530 --> 00:33:44,630 Over here, asthma, if you watch yourself,

## 949

00:33:44,630 --> 00:33:48,800 you can live 120 years.

## 950

00:33:48,800 --> 00:33:50,735 And how did he get this?

## 951

00:33:50,735 --> 00:33:53,510 Was it because he was outside all the time in the--

#### 952

00:33:53,510 --> 00:33:55,560 He smoked cigarettes.

## 953

00:33:55,560 --> 00:33:59,420 In Europe, you used to have different kind of cigarettes,

#### 954

00:33:59,420 --> 00:34:00,540 over here, the same thing.

## 955

00:34:00,540 --> 00:34:03,260 You like Lucky, Camels, or something, you know I mean?

## 956

00:34:03,260 --> 00:34:06,415 Over there, you had to have two, three, different kind of price.

## 957

00:34:06,415 --> 00:34:10,179 And he used to buy the cheaper ones because he had no money.

00:34:10,179 --> 00:34:13,340

And he smoked.

959

00:34:13,340 --> 00:34:15,960

And we didn't know it, you know I mean.

960

00:34:15,960 --> 00:34:17,550

Yeah.

961

00:34:17,550 --> 00:34:20,449

So was he in the

hospital when he died?

962

00:34:20,449 --> 00:34:22,685

Six months the last time.

963

00:34:22,685 --> 00:34:24,435

And is that where he died in the hospital?

964

00:34:24,435 --> 00:34:25,820

He died in there, yeah.

965

00:34:25,820 --> 00:34:28,130

Was anybody with him when that happened?

966

00:34:28,130 --> 00:34:29,300

No.

967

00:34:29,300 --> 00:34:33,880

But we had to bring him from

this town to a little town

968

00:34:33,880 --> 00:34:35,170

to us.

969

00:34:35,170 --> 00:34:39,380

The same date was the burial.

970

00:34:39,380 --> 00:34:41,358

The funeral was the same night.

00:34:41,358 --> 00:34:42,650 That must have been very hard--

972

00:34:42,650 --> 00:34:46,500 He was laying in the living room on the floor all day

973

00:34:46,500 --> 00:34:48,260 till they wash him and everything,

974

00:34:48,260 --> 00:34:50,960 you know, the Jewish thing.

975

00:34:50,960 --> 00:34:52,460 And who did that?

976

00:34:52,460 --> 00:34:55,774 Explain to me what the process is

977

00:34:55,774 --> 00:35:00,140 when you have to bury somebody because many people won't know.

978

00:35:00,140 --> 00:35:06,670 How do you bury your father if you do it the proper way?

979

00:35:06,670 --> 00:35:09,500 They had people who worked for this.

980

00:35:09,500 --> 00:35:10,090 OK.

981

00:35:10,090 --> 00:35:13,508 They don't charge from the city, from this synagogue

982

00:35:13,508 --> 00:35:15,050 and everything, you know what I mean.

983 00:35:15,050 --> 00:35:16,765 So it wasn't the family that did this? 984 00:35:16,765 --> 00:35:17,640 It was somebody else? 00:35:17,640 --> 00:35:18,260 No, no. 986 00:35:18,260 --> 00:35:22,029 This was some people who donate this, you know what I mean. 987 00:35:22,029 --> 00:35:23,112 They did it as volunteers. 988 00:35:23,112 --> 00:35:25,450 They used to wash it and everything. 00:35:25,450 --> 00:35:29,610 And they put you in linen, and no suits, no nothing. 00:35:29,610 --> 00:35:32,370 OK. 991 00:35:32,370 --> 00:35:35,310 And the cof-- cof--992 00:35:35,310 --> 00:35:35,900 Coffin? 993 00:35:35,900 --> 00:35:37,100 How you call? 994 00:35:37,100 --> 00:35:38,420 The coffin.

00:35:38,420 --> 00:35:41,180

995

Had to be made

different with no nails.

00:35:41,180 --> 00:35:41,840 Really?

997

00:35:41,840 --> 00:35:42,390 Right.

998

00:35:42,390 --> 00:35:47,660 The real religious one, no nails, no nothing, cheap.

999

00:35:47,660 --> 00:35:49,970 Was your father's done that way as well?

1000

00:35:49,970 --> 00:35:50,540 Yes.

1001

00:35:50,540 --> 00:35:52,130 I was-- yes.

1002

00:35:52,130 --> 00:35:54,860 He was buried.

1003

00:35:54,860 --> 00:35:56,660 But I was there after the war--

1004

00:35:56,660 --> 00:35:59,360

1005

00:35:59,360 --> 00:36:01,840 well, I'm going without question.

1006

00:36:01,840 --> 00:36:03,040 I leave it to the question.

1007

00:36:03,040 --> 00:36:07,750 Later on, I can tell you different things.

1008

00:36:07,750 --> 00:36:12,340 What do you remember most about when that happened,

00:36:12,340 --> 00:36:14,890 when your father passed away?

## 1010

00:36:14,890 --> 00:36:16,180 Where were you in the home?

#### 1011

00:36:16,180 --> 00:36:17,310 Who came and told you?

## 1012

00:36:17,310 --> 00:36:19,970 How did you find out?

## 1013

00:36:19,970 --> 00:36:22,460 It's a small town, you know what I mean.

#### 1014

00:36:22,460 --> 00:36:26,800 They heard it at some place because it was only

#### 1015

00:36:26,800 --> 00:36:30,470 on the post office, one radio, one telephone, that's all.

## 1016

00:36:30,470 --> 00:36:31,780 OK.

## 1017

00:36:31,780 --> 00:36:33,910 So somebody called from the hospital?

## 1018

00:36:33,910 --> 00:36:36,635 Because somebody or somebody was there close or something,

# 1019

00:36:36,635 --> 00:36:37,510 you know what I mean?

## 1020

00:36:37,510 --> 00:36:38,995 Mm-hmm.

## 1021

00:36:38,995 --> 00:36:44,080

And they brought him, not with a car--

00:36:44,080 --> 00:36:45,120 No, no.

1023

00:36:45,120 --> 00:36:50,290 --with a-- they used to have a horse and a buggy.

1024

00:36:50,290 --> 00:36:54,220 Like over here, you're going for sport to look.

1025

00:36:54,220 --> 00:36:57,852 Over there, if you got a few pennies,

1026

00:36:57,852 --> 00:36:59,310 you don't have to take the bus, you

1027

00:36:59,310 --> 00:37:01,480 know what I mean, to go to the little town.

1028

00:37:01,480 --> 00:37:03,760 Did your father have a--

1029

00:37:03,760 --> 00:37:08,812 do you think he knew that he was not going to get better?

1030

00:37:08,812 --> 00:37:09,490 You don't know.

1031

00:37:09,490 --> 00:37:12,880 We didn't have no medication or nothing.

1032

00:37:12,880 --> 00:37:14,650 When you visited him in the hospital,

1033

00:37:14,650 --> 00:37:16,590 did he ever talk to you about anything?

00:37:16,590 --> 00:37:21,040 Yes, the foot, it's swollen.

1035

00:37:21,040 --> 00:37:24,270 Every time before I come, he cover it up

1036

00:37:24,270 --> 00:37:27,247 because my mother always ask him, how is the--

1037

00:37:27,247 --> 00:37:27,955 How are the feet?

1038

00:37:27,955 --> 00:37:29,650 --the swelling, you know what I mean?

1039

00:37:29,650 --> 00:37:32,600 And I think the swelling go to the heart and that's it.

1040

00:37:32,600 --> 00:37:37,730 Because when he died, the mouth was open.

1041

00:37:37,730 --> 00:37:41,155 They had to put a handkerchief to close the mouth,

1042

00:37:41,155 --> 00:37:42,030 you know what I mean.

1043

00:37:42,030 --> 00:37:43,050 Oh, I see.

1044

00:37:43,050 --> 00:37:45,730

1045

00:37:45,730 --> 00:37:47,230 What was the hospital like?

1046

00:37:47,230 --> 00:37:48,950

## What did it look like?

1047 00:37:48,950 --> 00:37:51,110 A regular hospital, cheap, you know what I mean.

1048

00:37:51,110 --> 00:37:52,788 It was nice.

1049

00:37:52,788 --> 00:37:53,830 Was it a wooden building?

1050

00:37:53,830 --> 00:37:54,940 Was it a stone building?

1051

00:37:54,940 --> 00:37:58,240 No, it was a building.

1052

00:37:58,240 --> 00:38:02,230 Did it have-- you see, hospitals in Europe

1053

00:38:02,230 --> 00:38:05,075 are different than hospitals here, and certainly hospitals

1054

00:38:05,075 --> 00:38:05,700 before the war.

1055

00:38:05,700 --> 00:38:08,070 They didn't have no private rooms yet.

1056

00:38:08,070 --> 00:38:11,305 As much rooms they have, bed they can put in.

1057

00:38:11,305 --> 00:38:14,650 Was it a big place?

1058

00:38:14,650 --> 00:38:18,140 For the town, it was nice size, you know what I mean?

00:38:18,140 --> 00:38:19,000 All right.

1060

00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:20,350 Stone building?

1061

00:38:20,350 --> 00:38:21,940 Stone building, yes.

1062

00:38:21,940 --> 00:38:23,810 Two floors, three floors?

1063

00:38:23,810 --> 00:38:25,390 No three floors, no.

1064

00:38:25,390 --> 00:38:28,420 Maybe two floors because no elevators.

1065

00:38:28,420 --> 00:38:30,220 OK.

1066

00:38:30,220 --> 00:38:33,940 And did you visit him every day?

1067

00:38:33,940 --> 00:38:34,690 You mean?

1068

00:38:34,690 --> 00:38:37,240 To his father when, he was in the hospital and you brought

1069

00:38:37,240 --> 00:38:38,930 soup --Right. or something--

1070

00:38:38,930 --> 00:38:39,860 Every day.

1071

00:38:39,860 --> 00:38:44,030 Every day I come up from school, my mother got,

1072

00:38:44,030 --> 00:38:46,270 and I used to walk every day.

00:38:46,270 --> 00:38:49,000

Did they feed him there, or did it mean--

1074

00:38:49,000 --> 00:38:50,110

Well, they feed you.

1075

00:38:50,110 --> 00:38:54,370

But I mean, my mother.

1076

00:38:54,370 --> 00:38:55,690

OK.

1077

00:38:55,690 --> 00:38:57,790

Did any of the other children go with you?

1078

00:38:57,790 --> 00:39:00,125

Because the two older

ones was working,

1079

00:39:00,125 --> 00:39:04,030 you know what I mean because

they were the breadwinner,

1080

00:39:04,030 --> 00:39:07,680 you know what I mean because

we didn't have like over

1081

00:39:07,680 --> 00:39:11,530

here food stamps and

everything like this, nothing,

1082

00:39:11,530 --> 00:39:12,490

no insurance, nothing.

1083

00:39:12,490 --> 00:39:16,040 So when your father wasn't able

to work, it went your brother?

1084

00:39:16,040 --> 00:39:17,900

A little when he was OK.

00:39:17,900 --> 00:39:21,010 So he used to go and buy the bags

1086

00:39:21,010 --> 00:39:23,380 and had to handle by himself, you know what I mean?

1087

00:39:23,380 --> 00:39:25,130 How much can you do, you know what I mean?

1088

00:39:25,130 --> 00:39:25,630 Of course.

1089

00:39:25,630 --> 00:39:29,150 Some of them with a horse, with a wagon,

1090

00:39:29,150 --> 00:39:32,510 so it's a little different, you know what I mean.

1091

00:39:32,510 --> 00:39:34,660 This is just like a car, you know what I mean.

1092

00:39:34,660 --> 00:39:40,500

1093

00:39:40,500 --> 00:39:42,100 So it was a tough life.

1094

00:39:42,100 --> 00:39:45,400 It was a tough life it sounds like for your father.

1095

00:39:45,400 --> 00:39:48,520 Yes, he had a tough life.

1096

00:39:48,520 --> 00:39:54,680 I mean, I never knew how a hot dog could taste in my life

1097

00:39:54,680 --> 00:39:55,180

ever.

1098

00:39:55,180 --> 00:39:57,900

1099

00:39:57,900 --> 00:40:01,270 I never eat a banana, only for the kids, the richer

1100

00:40:01,270 --> 00:40:04,840 people a little bit for the baby a banana.

1101

00:40:04,840 --> 00:40:09,540 Matter of fact, it's true when us [INAUDIBLE] come to this

1102

00:40:09,540 --> 00:40:12,150 country, they eat a banana with the--

1103

00:40:12,150 --> 00:40:13,620 they didn't know how to--

1104

00:40:13,620 --> 00:40:15,020 You eat it with the skin?

1105

00:40:15,020 --> 00:40:15,660 That's right.

1106

00:40:15,660 --> 00:40:18,912

1107

00:40:18,912 --> 00:40:19,412 Yeah.

1108

00:40:19,412 --> 00:40:23,170

1109

00:40:23,170 --> 00:40:25,270 Now I go tell you a little bit story.

1110

00:40:25,270 --> 00:40:25,910

Sure.

## 1111

00:40:25,910 --> 00:40:29,400 I went to the doctor a few months ago for the cataracts

## 1112

00:40:29,400 --> 00:40:32,710 or something in the morning, so the doctor

## 1113

00:40:32,710 --> 00:40:35,920 was a head doctor, nice doctor, nice.

#### 1114

00:40:35,920 --> 00:40:38,650 And he said to me, you cannot take a shower for two or three

## 1115

00:40:38,650 --> 00:40:40,690 days because--

#### 1116

00:40:40,690 --> 00:40:41,810 Of the-- mm-hmm.

#### 1117

00:40:41,810 --> 00:40:46,100 So I say, doctor, I didn't took a shower for five years.

## 1118

00:40:46,100 --> 00:40:48,800 So he got scared to touch me, you know what I mean?

#### 1119

00:40:48,800 --> 00:40:49,390 Yeah.

#### 1120

00:40:49,390 --> 00:40:51,782 So finally, I told him the story, you know what I mean.

## 1121

00:40:51,782 --> 00:40:53,130 Oh, it's different.

# 1122

00:40:53,130 --> 00:40:54,880 And it's true.

00:40:54,880 --> 00:40:56,740 So I didn't took

it for five years.

## 1124

00:40:56,740 --> 00:40:57,490 I can't imagine--

## 1125

00:40:57,490 --> 00:41:00,150 I didn't even know what a shower looks like.

## 1126

00:41:00,150 --> 00:41:02,720

## 1127

00:41:02,720 --> 00:41:04,970 But some people, our people, they

## 1128

00:41:04,970 --> 00:41:06,650 try to show off a little bit more

## 1129

00:41:06,650 --> 00:41:10,010 than that because nobody knows, you know what I mean?

## 1130

00:41:10,010 --> 00:41:14,240 To me, no, I like to eat steak.

## 1131

00:41:14,240 --> 00:41:17,990 Now, you said that earlier that the men would

## 1132

00:41:17,990 --> 00:41:22,970 go every week to a bath house.

## 1133

00:41:22,970 --> 00:41:26,250 And what did that place look like?

## 1134

00:41:26,250 --> 00:41:29,030 Was it like a sauna, like the old-fashioned saunas

00:41:29,030 --> 00:41:30,620 that you'd steam?

1136

00:41:30,620 --> 00:41:32,320 You had the sauna on the steps.

1137

00:41:32,320 --> 00:41:34,400 Uh-huh.

1138

00:41:34,400 --> 00:41:38,210 From the leaves, you handle, you wash.

1139

00:41:38,210 --> 00:41:39,730 So you would hit yourself with--

1140

00:41:39,730 --> 00:41:40,760 Right.

1141

00:41:40,760 --> 00:41:41,760 --a branch or something.

1142

00:41:41,760 --> 00:41:45,670 And you had a shower a little bit, a little bit water coming.

1143

00:41:45,670 --> 00:41:48,660

1144

00:41:48,660 --> 00:41:51,000 So as kids, we go walk in.

1145

00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:54,970 And the end, he let us go in free, you know what I mean.

1146

00:41:54,970 --> 00:41:55,470 Yeah.

1147

00:41:55,470 --> 00:41:58,290

1148

00:41:58,290 --> 00:42:01,300

That's it.

00:42:01,300 --> 00:42:01,840

Now--

1150

00:42:01,840 --> 00:42:05,350

It's unbelievable,

you know what I mean?

1151

00:42:05,350 --> 00:42:05,850

Yeah.

1152

00:42:05,850 --> 00:42:09,060

It's hard for people

like me to imagine it

1153

00:42:09,060 --> 00:42:11,100

because we grew up

in a different way.

1154

00:42:11,100 --> 00:42:15,100

But lots of people,

our people, are.

1155

00:42:15,100 --> 00:42:18,300

They like to show off a little

bit because I could tell you

1156

00:42:18,300 --> 00:42:20,900

I had a factory, you

wouldn't believe it,

1157

00:42:20,900 --> 00:42:22,950

you know what I mean?

1158

00:42:22,950 --> 00:42:24,785

I don't like to do this.

1159

00:42:24,785 --> 00:42:28,980

And I brought up the kids

the same way, only the truth.

1160

00:42:28,980 --> 00:42:34,020

For lying to me was like you

would take a knife and hit me.

00:42:34,020 --> 00:42:35,280 Lying is stealing.

#### 1162

00:42:35,280 --> 00:42:36,960 Stealing is lying.

#### 1163

00:42:36,960 --> 00:42:39,420 If you do both, you can kill.

## 1164

00:42:39,420 --> 00:42:43,230 And to me, this is the worst thing.

## 1165

00:42:43,230 --> 00:42:45,040 Where did you get those values?

#### 1166

00:42:45,040 --> 00:42:45,810 Pardon me?

## 1167

00:42:45,810 --> 00:42:47,580 Where did you get those values?

## 1168

00:42:47,580 --> 00:42:49,530 What do you mean?

## 1169

00:42:49,530 --> 00:42:52,500 These are very important to you, that you taught your children

## 1170

00:42:52,500 --> 00:42:54,180 such a thing.

## 1171

00:42:54,180 --> 00:42:57,730 You know what, I come to this country with--

## 1172

00:42:57,730 --> 00:42:59,430 I don't have no education.

## 1173

00:42:59,430 --> 00:43:01,230 I got three and 1/2--

#### 1174

00:43:01,230 --> 00:43:04,910

I didn't finish third grade regular school.

1175

00:43:04,910 --> 00:43:10,230 I am very good with a pencil, very good, better than college.

1176

00:43:10,230 --> 00:43:12,180 I don't have no computers.

1177

00:43:12,180 --> 00:43:13,860 I could have lots of computers.

1178

00:43:13,860 --> 00:43:16,050 The kids wanted to give me.

1179

00:43:16,050 --> 00:43:21,250 I got two boys, one of the best in the world.

1180

00:43:21,250 --> 00:43:27,222 Especially Michael, you cannot find better than this.

1181

00:43:27,222 --> 00:43:27,930 That's wonderful.

1182

00:43:27,930 --> 00:43:29,760 Especially for the mother.

1183

00:43:29,760 --> 00:43:33,660 I just lost my wife four months ago.

1184

00:43:33,660 --> 00:43:34,770 I'm so sorry.

1185

00:43:34,770 --> 00:43:40,650 She was a-- she was really, really a good woman

1186

00:43:40,650 --> 00:43:43,230 to everybody.

00:43:43,230 --> 00:43:45,030 We live that time in Gary, Indiana.

1188

00:43:45,030 --> 00:43:48,180

1189

00:43:48,180 --> 00:43:53,100 Gary, Indiana was the first black mayor in America

1190

00:43:53,100 --> 00:43:54,810 was Gary, Indiana.

1191

00:43:54,810 --> 00:43:57,780 And my wife made it for him for the ladies

1192

00:43:57,780 --> 00:44:01,950 to come in for the election and everything.

1193

00:44:01,950 --> 00:44:02,980 He got elected.

1194

00:44:02,980 --> 00:44:05,250 Every day, he used to call.

1195

00:44:05,250 --> 00:44:06,900 Ma, you need something?

1196

00:44:06,900 --> 00:44:07,980 Can I help you something?

1197

00:44:07,980 --> 00:44:10,010 Can I bring you something?

1198

00:44:10,010 --> 00:44:14,545 Every day, the mayor never forgot

1199

00:44:14,545 --> 00:44:15,420 That means something.

00:44:15,420 --> 00:44:18,000 --because my wife didn't care.

1201

00:44:18,000 --> 00:44:21,330 She didn't know color or something like this.

1202

00:44:21,330 --> 00:44:24,960 She used to bake sponge cake, the real one, professional one.

1203

00:44:24,960 --> 00:44:30,010 Everybody know it, the whole town because she always

1204

00:44:30,010 --> 00:44:31,360 made for everybody.

1205

00:44:31,360 --> 00:44:32,350 Even she don't know it.

1206

00:44:32,350 --> 00:44:35,410 Somebody pass her way, she baked this.

1207

00:44:35,410 --> 00:44:39,150 This how kind person she was.

1208

00:44:39,150 --> 00:44:41,020 I was married 67 years.

1209

00:44:41,020 --> 00:44:44,030

1210

00:44:44,030 --> 00:44:45,120 A lifetime.

1211

00:44:45,120 --> 00:44:47,260 I married in 1949.

1212

00:44:47,260 --> 00:44:47,760 Wow.

1213

00:44:47,760 --> 00:44:50,730

00:44:50,730 --> 00:44:52,920 Thank you for sharing that.

1215

00:44:52,920 --> 00:44:55,350 I can't imagine how difficult it must

1216

00:44:55,350 --> 00:45:00,830 be after so many years and such a life together.

1217

00:45:00,830 --> 00:45:03,320 Yes.

1218

00:45:03,320 --> 00:45:04,420 Old-fashioned mother.

1219

00:45:04,420 --> 00:45:08,060

1220

00:45:08,060 --> 00:45:13,610 Let's go back to your town before the war

1221

00:45:13,610 --> 00:45:14,900 in the late '30s.

1222

00:45:14,900 --> 00:45:16,640 You don't mind a little bit louder.

1223

00:45:16,640 --> 00:45:20,150 OK, I'll speak a little bit louder.

1224

00:45:20,150 --> 00:45:22,850 I'd like to find out how much people

1225

00:45:22,850 --> 00:45:29,840 knew in this town of what was going on in Poland politically.

00:45:29,840 --> 00:45:34,220 Did you know about Pilsudski, about his death in 1935?

## 1227

00:45:34,220 --> 00:45:36,710 You mean about the concentration camps or just the people?

## 1228

00:45:36,710 --> 00:45:39,980 I'm talking just about Poland before the war.

## 1229

00:45:39,980 --> 00:45:41,810 Anti-Semitic.

## 1230

00:45:41,810 --> 00:45:43,417 OK, in what way?

## 1231

00:45:43,417 --> 00:45:44,250 Tell me in what way.

## 1232

00:45:44,250 --> 00:45:48,410 Well, Jewish especially because they

#### 1233

00:45:48,410 --> 00:45:50,720 didn't have no black people--

## 1234

00:45:50,720 --> 00:45:51,260 OK.

## 1235

00:45:51,260 --> 00:45:54,230 --you know what I mean?

## 1236

00:45:54,230 --> 00:45:56,030 If they were to have black people,

## 1237

00:45:56,030 --> 00:45:58,730 maybe it would be different, you know what I mean, a little bit.

# 1238

00:45:58,730 --> 00:46:01,020 Mm-hmm.

00:46:01,020 --> 00:46:05,250 So the only one is the Jews.

1240

00:46:05,250 --> 00:46:06,360 I understand.

1241

00:46:06,360 --> 00:46:12,930 But I'd like to find out how this showed up in your life,

1242

00:46:12,930 --> 00:46:13,860 and how you see--

1243

00:46:13,860 --> 00:46:16,670 In my life, I was too young, you know what I mean?

1244

00:46:16,670 --> 00:46:17,580 OK.

1245

00:46:17,580 --> 00:46:19,460 So I didn't--

1246

00:46:19,460 --> 00:46:21,730 In my parents' lives, did they experience--

1247

00:46:21,730 --> 00:46:27,030 I didn't-- I mean, having real close friends, Gentiles, no.

1248

00:46:27,030 --> 00:46:30,140 Friendly from school, going together, you know what I mean?

1249

00:46:30,140 --> 00:46:32,610 OK.

1250

00:46:32,610 --> 00:46:37,410 But to say I come to his house, and he come to my house, no.

1251

00:46:37,410 --> 00:46:42,240

In school, everything fine to some people,

1252

00:46:42,240 --> 00:46:43,510 you know what I mean.

1253

00:46:43,510 --> 00:46:44,690 What about teachers?

1254

00:46:44,690 --> 00:46:45,440 How did teachers--

1255

00:46:45,440 --> 00:46:50,130 The teachers, we didn't have no Jewish teachers.

1256

00:46:50,130 --> 00:46:51,780 Mm-hmm.

1257

00:46:51,780 --> 00:46:55,007 Well, if you're good, you're good.

1258

00:46:55,007 --> 00:46:55,590 Were you good?

1259

00:46:55,590 --> 00:46:58,338

1260

00:46:58,338 --> 00:46:59,880 They were nice, you know what I mean.

1261

00:46:59,880 --> 00:47:01,338 Some of them, you know what I mean.

1262

00:47:01,338 --> 00:47:02,880 I was lucky.

1263

00:47:02,880 --> 00:47:06,950 I had a teacher, she used to like me.

00:47:06,950 --> 00:47:08,690 Do you remember her name?

1265

00:47:08,690 --> 00:47:09,190

1266

00:47:09,190 --> 00:47:12,080

1267

00:47:12,080 --> 00:47:13,650 OK

1268

00:47:13,650 --> 00:47:17,250 In that small town, you don't have no name.

1269

00:47:17,250 --> 00:47:22,380 In a small town, you have to tell you my father's name, this

1270

00:47:22,380 --> 00:47:23,490 how they know.

1271

00:47:23,490 --> 00:47:26,580 Oh, I am Pinchas' son, you know what I mean?

1272

00:47:26,580 --> 00:47:28,770 That's it.

1273

00:47:28,770 --> 00:47:32,280 Do you remember how many people came to his funeral?

1274

00:47:32,280 --> 00:47:33,210 To this what?

1275

00:47:33,210 --> 00:47:35,760 Your father, when he died, did many people

1276

00:47:35,760 --> 00:47:37,440

come to the funeral?

00:47:37,440 --> 00:47:38,232 A couple hundred.

1278

00:47:38,232 --> 00:47:38,732 Wow!

1279

00:47:38,732 --> 00:47:44,100 Almost the whole-- because a small town, and my father

1280

00:47:44,100 --> 00:47:46,800 was very likable, you know what I mean?

1281

00:47:46,800 --> 00:47:50,940 He was religious, but not so crazy, you know what I mean?

1282

00:47:50,940 --> 00:47:54,300 Not a big beard, no payos, nothing, a little bit.

1283

00:47:54,300 --> 00:47:56,220 He didn't shave, you know what I mean.

1284

00:47:56,220 --> 00:48:00,900 But I mean-- and he wore the Jewish hat, but I mean,

1285

00:48:00,900 --> 00:48:01,770 he was modern.

1286

00:48:01,770 --> 00:48:03,780 He was modern.

1287

00:48:03,780 --> 00:48:06,410 Compared to over here, he was modern.

1288

00:48:06,410 --> 00:48:07,770 Got it.

1289

00:48:07,770 --> 00:48:09,930 Over here like this, he would have been big,

1290

00:48:09,930 --> 00:48:12,390 you know what I mean, Jewish.

1291

00:48:12,390 --> 00:48:17,380 I got a grandson a rabbi in Canada.

1292

00:48:17,380 --> 00:48:19,840 Ah!

1293

00:48:19,840 --> 00:48:24,340 So when you went--

1294

00:48:24,340 --> 00:48:27,310 he read the newspaper, The Forverts,

1295

00:48:27,310 --> 00:48:30,440 and you listened to the radio for the soccer games.

1296

00:48:30,440 --> 00:48:31,480 Only soccer games.

1297

00:48:31,480 --> 00:48:34,300 Only soccer games.

1298

00:48:34,300 --> 00:48:35,650 That's all we had over there.

1299

00:48:35,650 --> 00:48:36,400 You never had no--

1300

00:48:36,400 --> 00:48:39,160 Did you ever hear of a person named Hitler

1301

00:48:39,160 --> 00:48:42,480 when you were growing up?

1302

00:48:42,480 --> 00:48:43,360

Person what?

00:48:43,360 --> 00:48:44,400

Named Hitler?

1304

00:48:44,400 --> 00:48:44,940

Hitler?

1305

00:48:44,940 --> 00:48:45,580

Yeah.

1306

00:48:45,580 --> 00:48:46,790

We know of Hitler.

1307

00:48:46,790 --> 00:48:50,140

But we didn't know about

Auschwitz, about Birkenau.

1308

00:48:50,140 --> 00:48:52,870

I lived five miles

from Auschwitz.

1309

00:48:52,870 --> 00:48:54,160

Nobody knew it.

1310

00:48:54,160 --> 00:48:57,310

Nothing, nothing.

1311

00:48:57,310 --> 00:49:02,810

Was there talk-- when your

father was dying in 1939,

1312

00:49:02,810 --> 00:49:05,800

it was the last year of peace.

1313

00:49:05,800 --> 00:49:10,540

Was there talk in the town

that things aren't very stable,

1314

00:49:10,540 --> 00:49:11,485

there will be a war?

1315

00:49:11,485 --> 00:49:14,390

00:49:14,390 --> 00:49:17,082 The town was too poor.

## 1317

00:49:17,082 --> 00:49:19,165 You didn't have money to go to Israel or someplace

## 1318

00:49:19,165 --> 00:49:20,860 or to America.

## 1319

00:49:20,860 --> 00:49:23,980 To America, if you had family, maybe.

## 1320

00:49:23,980 --> 00:49:26,200 This why it took me almost five years

## 1321

00:49:26,200 --> 00:49:28,720 till I could come over here because I

## 1322

00:49:28,720 --> 00:49:29,740 didn't have no family.

## 1323

00:49:29,740 --> 00:49:32,472 Maybe if you had, but I did not know, you know what I mean?

## 1324

00:49:32,472 --> 00:49:32,972 OK.

## 1325

00:49:32,972 --> 00:49:35,350 And my older brother and older sister,

## 1326

00:49:35,350 --> 00:49:38,170 maybe they would know it, so they passed away.

## 1327

00:49:38,170 --> 00:49:44,020 My sister died two weeks before in Auschwitz before liberation.

00:49:44,020 --> 00:49:45,280 Oh!

1329

00:49:45,280 --> 00:49:47,350 Two weeks before.

1330

00:49:47,350 --> 00:49:50,560 She had diarrhea and everything and that's it.

1331

00:49:50,560 --> 00:49:51,520 Your older sister?

1332

00:49:51,520 --> 00:49:52,560 Right.

1333

00:49:52,560 --> 00:49:53,650 Gerta, was it?

1334

00:49:53,650 --> 00:49:54,700 What was her name?

1335

00:49:54,700 --> 00:49:55,340 Gertrude.

1336

00:49:55,340 --> 00:49:55,840 Gertrude.

1337

00:49:55,840 --> 00:49:59,274 Gutshe.

1338

00:49:59,274 --> 00:50:09,420 She educate herself, intelligent, good looking,

1339

00:50:09,420 --> 00:50:12,210 dressed up nice because my mother always say,

1340

00:50:12,210 --> 00:50:13,530 food is not important.

1341

00:50:13,530 --> 00:50:16,410 It's important, but this--

00:50:16,410 --> 00:50:19,650 I want my dress for, you know.

1343

00:50:19,650 --> 00:50:20,710 Do you have pride--

1344

00:50:20,710 --> 00:50:21,930 In a small town--

1345

00:50:21,930 --> 00:50:23,370

1346

00:50:23,370 --> 00:50:26,610 --they look a little bit different than a big town.

1347

00:50:26,610 --> 00:50:28,770 Especially like in America, they don't

1348

00:50:28,770 --> 00:50:31,290 care who you are as long as they love each other,

1349

00:50:31,290 --> 00:50:32,476 you know what I mean?

1350

00:50:32,476 --> 00:50:32,976 Yeah.

1351

00:50:32,976 --> 00:50:34,400 Over there, it's different.

1352

00:50:34,400 --> 00:50:37,530 Sometimes you get married, you don't know to who you marry.

1353

00:50:37,530 --> 00:50:40,860 Was your parents' an arranged marriage?

1354

00:50:40,860 --> 00:50:44,520 Was your mother and father's

marriage an arranged marriage?

1355

00:50:44,520 --> 00:50:47,454 I think so because that's all they had.

1356

00:50:47,454 --> 00:50:49,110 OK.

1357

00:50:49,110 --> 00:50:53,040 So let's go now, again, to 1939.

1358

00:50:53,040 --> 00:50:55,920 You knew that there was someone named Hitler.

1359

00:50:55,920 --> 00:50:57,240 Oh, yeah.

1360

00:50:57,240 --> 00:50:58,920 How did you find out about him?

1361

00:50:58,920 --> 00:51:01,320 Well, they were talking.

1362

00:51:01,320 --> 00:51:07,440 Hitler was one of the best speakers in the world, the best

1363

00:51:07,440 --> 00:51:09,930 one speaker in the world.

1364

00:51:09,930 --> 00:51:13,590 Same thing like Dr. Mengele, one of the best doctors

1365

00:51:13,590 --> 00:51:18,030 in the world, not just in Germany or something.

1366

00:51:18,030 --> 00:51:21,580 But you see what he did.

1367

00:51:21,580 --> 00:51:26,140

Mengele, 21 million people went to him dead

1368

00:51:26,140 --> 00:51:28,400 because only six Jews, and the rest

1369

00:51:28,400 --> 00:51:33,780 was Gentiles, not just Gentiles, Protestants,

1370

00:51:33,780 --> 00:51:37,875 six different sections, different--

1371

00:51:37,875 --> 00:51:39,857 all kind of people, different kind.

1372

00:51:39,857 --> 00:51:41,940 You're talking about the experiments that he made?

1373

00:51:41,940 --> 00:51:42,990 Right.

1374

00:51:42,990 --> 00:51:45,450 But I'm talking beforehand.

1375

00:51:45,450 --> 00:51:48,450 Did you ever hear Hitler's speeches over that radio?

1376

00:51:48,450 --> 00:51:52,000

1377

00:51:52,000 --> 00:51:58,030 I saw him personally when I was in camp, the first camp.

1378

00:51:58,030 --> 00:52:05,320 They was making the snow for the soccer game clean, clear.

1379

00:52:05,320 --> 00:52:06,760

He was up sitting over there.

## 1380

00:52:06,760 --> 00:52:10,780 I couldn't go close to him, you know what I mean, but far away.

## 1381

00:52:10,780 --> 00:52:11,920 You saw Hitler?

## 1382

00:52:11,920 --> 00:52:12,530 Yes--

## 1383

00:52:12,530 --> 00:52:13,030 Wow.

## 1384

00:52:13,030 --> 00:52:15,190 --because we cleaned up for the game.

## 1385

00:52:15,190 --> 00:52:16,360 And what camp was this?

## 1386

00:52:16,360 --> 00:52:20,185 This was not too far away, a small camp.

## 1387

00:52:20,185 --> 00:52:22,210 What was it called?

## 1388

00:52:22,210 --> 00:52:23,970 This was in Oberschlesien.

## 1389

00:52:23,970 --> 00:52:24,830 Oberschlesien?

## 1390

00:52:24,830 --> 00:52:26,950 Yes, a small camp.

## 1391

00:52:26,950 --> 00:52:29,895 I was maybe in 10, 12 camps.

## 1392

00:52:29,895 --> 00:52:30,520

Oh my goodness!

00:52:30,520 --> 00:52:32,025

I was all over.

1394

00:52:32,025 --> 00:52:32,650

Oh my goodness.

1395

00:52:32,650 --> 00:52:39,940 I was in Dachau, Birkenau,

Auschwitz, Theresienstadt

1396

00:52:39,940 --> 00:52:41,380

and lots of smaller ones.

1397

00:52:41,380 --> 00:52:45,560

1398

00:52:45,560 --> 00:52:46,760

We'll come to these.

1399

00:52:46,760 --> 00:52:49,700

And I will want to

talk about them.

1400

00:52:49,700 --> 00:52:53,450

I'd like to find out

now, what was that time

1401

00:52:53,450 --> 00:52:57,560

like before the war starts?

1402

00:52:57,560 --> 00:53:00,650

And were there

people in your town

1403

00:53:00,650 --> 00:53:03,980

saying, we're going to leave,

we're going to go to America,

1404

00:53:03,980 --> 00:53:05,990

we're going to try to get away?

1405

00:53:05,990 --> 00:53:08,630

Or was it pretty much

nobody had the belief

00:53:08,630 --> 00:53:13,200 that there's anything that's going to change in 1939?

# 1407

00:53:13,200 --> 00:53:15,480

# 1408

00:53:15,480 --> 00:53:19,490 I never believe I will be freed someday.

# 1409

00:53:19,490 --> 00:53:22,580 In 1939, the war hadn't started.

#### 1410

00:53:22,580 --> 00:53:28,700 Did you ever-- was there talk going on of things happening?

#### 1411

00:53:28,700 --> 00:53:31,760 Nobody knew it about so bad, you know what I mean?

#### 1412

00:53:31,760 --> 00:53:34,575 Maybe the older people thought a little bit more,

#### 1413

00:53:34,575 --> 00:53:35,450 you know what I mean?

#### 1414

00:53:35,450 --> 00:53:36,740 But the young ones--

#### 1415

00:53:36,740 --> 00:53:38,300 OK.

# 1416

00:53:38,300 --> 00:53:41,540 Do you remember where you were when you learned

# 1417

00:53:41,540 --> 00:53:43,430 that the war is starting?

#### 1418

00:53:43,430 --> 00:53:44,900

It was September 1.

1419

00:53:44,900 --> 00:53:45,740 Yes.

1420

00:53:45,740 --> 00:53:50,050 I was home-- not home.

1421

00:53:50,050 --> 00:53:52,480 We used to go in a different town, you know what I mean?

1422

00:53:52,480 --> 00:53:56,590 They thought maybe over there it's going to be better,

1423

00:53:56,590 --> 00:53:58,280 but it just--

1424

00:53:58,280 --> 00:54:00,890 What, you had left your own home to go somewhere else?

1425

00:54:00,890 --> 00:54:02,890 You left this town to go a different town,

1426

00:54:02,890 --> 00:54:05,200 maybe it's going to get better or something.

1427

00:54:05,200 --> 00:54:07,640 We didn't know, you know what I mean.

1428

00:54:07,640 --> 00:54:09,490 Do you remember where you went to?

1429

00:54:09,490 --> 00:54:11,420 It was in a small town, too.

1430

00:54:11,420 --> 00:54:13,820 I don't remember even.

00:54:13,820 --> 00:54:16,070 And your whole family had left, that is, your mother--

## 1432

00:54:16,070 --> 00:54:16,820 Yes.

# 1433

00:54:16,820 --> 00:54:17,840 We want, you know.

# 1434

00:54:17,840 --> 00:54:18,770 OK.

#### 1435

00:54:18,770 --> 00:54:21,230 What month did your father die?

#### 1436

00:54:21,230 --> 00:54:23,780 He died six months before.

# 1437

00:54:23,780 --> 00:54:25,430 So he died in April?

#### 1438

00:54:25,430 --> 00:54:26,640 Something like this.

#### 1439

00:54:26,640 --> 00:54:39,060 This was-- this was after Yom Kippur, Sukkot,

#### 1440

00:54:39,060 --> 00:54:41,370 something like this, in that time--

#### 1441

00:54:41,370 --> 00:54:43,050 OK.

#### 1442

00:54:43,050 --> 00:54:45,130 --he died.

# 1443

00:54:45,130 --> 00:54:45,910 So who was left?

#### 1444

00:54:45,910 --> 00:54:50,480

Your older brother, Abraham, your mother, Hannah--

1445

00:54:50,480 --> 00:54:52,220 And Gutshe.

1446

00:54:52,220 --> 00:54:54,105 They both worked there.

1447

00:54:54,105 --> 00:54:58,080 And they give us the few dollars to live because we didn't

1448

00:54:58,080 --> 00:55:00,600 have over there Medicare.

1449

00:55:00,600 --> 00:55:02,750 You don't have nothing or something like this.

1450

00:55:02,750 --> 00:55:05,190 Nothing, nothing, nothing.

1451

00:55:05,190 --> 00:55:08,330 You could be brains like Einstein,

1452

00:55:08,330 --> 00:55:10,680 but you wouldn't have no money to go to the college,

1453

00:55:10,680 --> 00:55:11,630 you couldn't go.

1454

00:55:11,630 --> 00:55:12,600 Yeah.

1455

00:55:12,600 --> 00:55:13,900 Yeah.

1456

00:55:13,900 --> 00:55:17,310 From my town, I remember one went to college.

1457

00:55:17,310 --> 00:55:18,210 One person?

1458

00:55:18,210 --> 00:55:21,150 One person because he had a little bit of money.

1459

00:55:21,150 --> 00:55:23,760

1460

00:55:23,760 --> 00:55:27,420 My mother, my father, my brother, and my sister

1461

00:55:27,420 --> 00:55:30,840 was very, very smart, very intelligent,

1462

00:55:30,840 --> 00:55:32,955 but no money to go to college.

1463

00:55:32,955 --> 00:55:34,260 OK.

1464

00:55:34,260 --> 00:55:39,052 You could be Einstein, but if you don't have no money--

1465

00:55:39,052 --> 00:55:40,260 You don't have possibilities.

1466

00:55:40,260 --> 00:55:42,910 No.

1467

00:55:42,910 --> 00:55:46,890 So, did you come back home from that town that you had run to

1468

00:55:46,890 --> 00:55:49,140 or gone to?

1469

00:55:49,140 --> 00:55:51,600 When the war started, you were not in your own town.

00:55:51,600 --> 00:55:55,090 You were someplace else.

1471

00:55:55,090 --> 00:55:56,110 What do you mean?

1472

00:55:56,110 --> 00:56:00,230 I mean, the war started on September 1, 1939.

1473

00:56:00,230 --> 00:56:01,660 Right.

1474

00:56:01,660 --> 00:56:04,080 And you said you were in another place.

1475

00:56:04,080 --> 00:56:05,590 Later on we come back--

1476

00:56:05,590 --> 00:56:07,180 To your own town?

1477

00:56:07,180 --> 00:56:10,310 --because he come all over, you know what I mean?

1478

00:56:10,310 --> 00:56:11,430 Mm-hmm.

1479

00:56:11,430 --> 00:56:14,860 We thought he wouldn't come over here and not over there.

1480

00:56:14,860 --> 00:56:16,242 OK.

1481

00:56:16,242 --> 00:56:17,950 And what did you find when you came back?

1482

00:56:17,950 --> 00:56:22,050

And I stayed over there at home till--

# 1483 00:56:22,050 --> 00:56:22,630 Till when? 1484 00:56:22,630 --> 00:56:25,330 --he come in and say, if you go to work, 1485 00:56:25,330 --> 00:56:27,130 you're mother' going to be saved. 1486 00:56:27,130 --> 00:56:32,950 Well, before that, I want to get a sense of, 1487 00:56:32,950 --> 00:56:36,430 when was the first time you saw a German soldier? 1488 00:56:36,430 --> 00:56:37,840 The first time I saw what? 1489 00:56:37,840 --> 00:56:39,400 A German soldier. 1490 00:56:39,400 --> 00:56:40,920 In 1939--1491 00:56:40,920 --> 00:56:41,830 OK. 1492 00:56:41,830 --> 00:56:42,645 And--1493 00:56:42,645 --> 00:56:44,740 --on their motorcycles and everything. 1494 00:56:44,740 --> 00:56:48,310

# On the motorcycles, they drove through town?

00:56:48,310 --> 00:56:49,540

Did they stay?

1496

00:56:49,540 --> 00:56:51,660 Some of them stayed over there, too.

1497

00:56:51,660 --> 00:56:53,520 And they had a dog, too.

1498

00:56:53,520 --> 00:56:55,165 They had a German shepherd.

1499

00:56:55,165 --> 00:56:58,450 The German shepherd killed a dozen people right away.

1500

00:56:58,450 --> 00:56:59,320 Really!

1501

00:56:59,320 --> 00:57:01,930 Yes because Saturday you couldn't

1502

00:57:01,930 --> 00:57:06,970 go to the synagogues, no churches, nothing.

1503

00:57:06,970 --> 00:57:12,020 So the Jews went private, they found out.

1504

00:57:12,020 --> 00:57:15,010 So they brought the dog, they took of the leash,

1505

00:57:15,010 --> 00:57:21,830 and the dog killed all of them, all of them, all 12, 15 people.

1506

00:57:21,830 --> 00:57:23,250 Who had gathered together?

1507

00:57:23,250 --> 00:57:24,590 Right.

1508 00:57:24,590 --> 00:57:29,168 And this was somebody who would become the administrator,

1509

00:57:29,168 --> 00:57:30,210 the German administrator?

1510

00:57:30,210 --> 00:57:35,600 The dog, with Kommando, with the soldier.

1511

00:57:35,600 --> 00:57:36,440 I see.

1512

00:57:36,440 --> 00:57:40,250 So that means there was a curfew established?

1513

00:57:40,250 --> 00:57:41,330 I guess.

1514

00:57:41,330 --> 00:57:43,170 Yes, yes.

1515

00:57:43,170 --> 00:57:44,420 OK.

1516

00:57:44,420 --> 00:57:47,490 Did you continue going to school?

1517

00:57:47,490 --> 00:57:48,380 No.

1518

00:57:48,380 --> 00:57:50,570 No school?

1519

00:57:50,570 --> 00:57:53,040 The minute they come in, no school.

1520

00:57:53,040 --> 00:57:53,540 OK.

00:57:53,540 --> 00:57:55,460 What else changed the minute they came in?

1522

00:57:55,460 --> 00:57:58,400

1523

00:57:58,400 --> 00:58:02,300 You see, I left to concentration camp right after the war,

1524

00:58:02,300 --> 00:58:04,580 not too far out long the war.

1525

00:58:04,580 --> 00:58:05,940 After the war starts?

1526

00:58:05,940 --> 00:58:09,440 In 1939, I was in camp already, in a small camp.

1527

00:58:09,440 --> 00:58:13,090

1528

00:58:13,090 --> 00:58:18,160 So let me get a sense of this.

1529

00:58:18,160 --> 00:58:24,840 The war starts, soldiers drive through on motorcycles,

1530

00:58:24,840 --> 00:58:26,800 there are German shepherd dogs that are

1531

00:58:26,800 --> 00:58:30,580 used to attack and kill people.

1532

00:58:30,580 --> 00:58:33,540

1533

00:58:33,540 --> 00:58:42,060 And does your brother continue working in the printing office?

00:58:42,060 --> 00:58:44,630 Well, he worked for a while.

1535

00:58:44,630 --> 00:58:46,140 OK.

1536

00:58:46,140 --> 00:58:47,490 For a while.

1537

00:58:47,490 --> 00:58:51,060 And he want to camp, too.

1538

00:58:51,060 --> 00:58:55,970 So tell me about this, does something--

1539

00:58:55,970 --> 00:58:59,520 it's something that's not very clear to me.

1540

00:58:59,520 --> 00:59:04,540 The Germans come, they establish themselves,

1541

00:59:04,540 --> 00:59:08,140 at least the army does and so on.

1542

00:59:08,140 --> 00:59:12,280 What happens to most of the Jews in town?

1543

00:59:12,280 --> 00:59:15,460 The ones who could go to work, I mean,

1544

00:59:15,460 --> 00:59:20,320 older or something, they took them to work.

1545

00:59:20,320 --> 00:59:22,900 He left home, took him to work.

1546

00:59:22,900 --> 00:59:23,680 OK.

1547

00:59:23,680 --> 00:59:26,800 In the coal mine?

1548

00:59:26,800 --> 00:59:28,720 Sometimes to the coal mine.

1549

00:59:28,720 --> 00:59:31,400 So you stayed home, and you went to the coal mine.

1550

00:59:31,400 --> 00:59:31,900 Got it.

1551

00:59:31,900 --> 00:59:36,500 My sister worked, but she worked in printing.

1552

00:59:36,500 --> 00:59:39,450 And the Germans owned that.

1553

00:59:39,450 --> 00:59:41,680 So she stayed over there, and she worked over there.

1554

00:59:41,680 --> 00:59:44,830 But she was going home and back all the time,

1555

00:59:44,830 --> 00:59:45,790 you know what I mean?

1556

00:59:45,790 --> 00:59:48,520 She was lucky to have the job for a while,

1557

00:59:48,520 --> 00:59:52,000 until it was Judenrein, take away,

1558

00:59:52,000 --> 00:59:53,260 and everything was different.

1559 00:59:53,260 --> 00:59:54,310 OK.

1560 00:59:54,3

00:59:54,310 --> 00:59:58,390 I was the last one

because they come down,

1561

00:59:58,390 --> 01:00:01,690 they say, we need to so many people, hundred or something.

1562

01:00:01,690 --> 01:00:05,370 If you go by yourself, your mother going to be saved.

1563

01:00:05,370 --> 01:00:08,080 I said, OK, I am going.

1564

01:00:08,080 --> 01:00:09,440 What happened with Bluma?

1565

01:00:09,440 --> 01:00:11,900 Where was Bluma?

1566

01:00:11,900 --> 01:00:15,070 Bluma was in camp already.

1567

01:00:15,070 --> 01:00:17,140 I was the only one left at home.

1568

01:00:17,140 --> 01:00:17,710 OK.

1569

01:00:17,710 --> 01:00:20,310 So when you're at home, it's your mother--

1570

01:00:20,310 --> 01:00:20,920 Right.

1571

01:00:20,920 --> 01:00:23,230 --your sister is working in the printing place--

01:00:23,230 --> 01:00:23,980 Right.

### 1573

01:00:23,980 --> 01:00:25,240 --Abraham is--

### 1574

01:00:25,240 --> 01:00:26,260 In a camp already.

## 1575

01:00:26,260 --> 01:00:28,480 --in a camp already.

# 1576

01:00:28,480 --> 01:00:31,220 And Bluma just got to be in a camp, too.

#### 1577

01:00:31,220 --> 01:00:31,720 OK.

# 1578

01:00:31,720 --> 01:00:35,590 And so why-- did they volunteer to go,

#### 1579

01:00:35,590 --> 01:00:38,560 or were they forced to go?

#### 1580

01:00:38,560 --> 01:00:40,670 How did this happen?

# 1581

01:00:40,670 --> 01:00:42,780 Sometimes they went by themselves.

#### 1582

01:00:42,780 --> 01:00:45,400 They promise them, you know what I mean, if you go,

#### 1583

01:00:45,400 --> 01:00:48,580 your parents are going to be safe, and everything, and this

#### 1584

01:00:48,580 --> 01:00:50,500 and this.

# 1585 01:00:50,500 --> 01:00:54,320 So you wanted to try to save the parents because we 1586 01:00:54,320 --> 01:00:58,840 thought eventually we're going to come home. 1587 01:00:58,840 --> 01:00:59,510 Got it. 1588 01:00:59,510 --> 01:01:01,240 OK. 1589 01:01:01,240 --> 01:01:03,730 So does this mean this was the last time--1590 01:01:03,730 --> 01:01:05,920 when you left to go to a camp, it 1591 01:01:05,920 --> 01:01:08,050 was the last time you saw your mother? 1592 01:01:08,050 --> 01:01:09,580 That's it. 1593 01:01:09,580 --> 01:01:11,770 What about Abraham and Bluma? 1594 01:01:11,770 --> 01:01:13,000 Did you ever see them again? 1595 01:01:13,000 --> 01:01:13,730 I did not.

1596 01:01:13,730 --> 01:01:16,810 With Abraham, with my brother, I couldn't find out at all.

1597 01:01:16,810 --> 01:01:18,116 He died in camp.

01:01:18,116 --> 01:01:19,740 OK.

1599

01:01:19,740 --> 01:01:23,950 Bluma, she made it through the camp.

1600

01:01:23,950 --> 01:01:26,912 Gutshe, she died two weeks before the Russians

1601

01:01:26,912 --> 01:01:27,745 took over Auschwitz.

1602

01:01:27,745 --> 01:01:28,690 Got it.

1603

01:01:28,690 --> 01:01:31,150 Auschwitz was occupied by Russian

1604

01:01:31,150 --> 01:01:37,030 because Auschwitz was Poland, and the Russians come in.

1605

01:01:37,030 --> 01:01:39,640 So she had diarrhea and everything.

1606

01:01:39,640 --> 01:01:41,170 How did I find out?

1607

01:01:41,170 --> 01:01:46,510 Some friend of hers could make it through.

1608

01:01:46,510 --> 01:01:50,500 And I saw him, and he told me.

1609

01:01:50,500 --> 01:01:52,950 And did you ever find out what happened to your mother?

1610

01:01:52,950 --> 01:01:53,530 Pardon me?

1611

01:01:53,530 --> 01:01:56,480 Did you ever find out what happened to your mother?

1612

01:01:56,480 --> 01:02:00,090 My mother right away, want to take to the oven right away

1613

01:02:00,090 --> 01:02:02,080 because she wasn't--

1614

01:02:02,080 --> 01:02:04,270 they looked, and wouldn't go for work.

1615

01:02:04,270 --> 01:02:06,400 She couldn't go to work, you know what I mean.

1616

01:02:06,400 --> 01:02:09,160 She was 47, 48 years old.

1617

01:02:09,160 --> 01:02:13,270 For them, she was too old for them, you know what I mean?

1618

01:02:13,270 --> 01:02:16,660 Same thing with me, if I were to say I'm 13 years old,

1619

01:02:16,660 --> 01:02:21,325 I would go right straight to the oven because--

1620

01:02:21,325 --> 01:02:23,070 How old did you say you were?

1621

01:02:23,070 --> 01:02:26,530 And I was 13, but I say I was 18.

1622

01:02:26,530 --> 01:02:29,000

Mengele asks me, how old are you?

1623

01:02:29,000 --> 01:02:32,590 So I lied to him, and I say 18.

1624

01:02:32,590 --> 01:02:34,330 Why did I say 18?

1625

01:02:34,330 --> 01:02:35,590 I don't know.

1626

01:02:35,590 --> 01:02:37,600 God had to give me some brains to say

1627

01:02:37,600 --> 01:02:45,470 it, that's all, because I wasn't so smart to think, to tell him,

1628

01:02:45,470 --> 01:02:46,360 you know what I mean.

1629

01:02:46,360 --> 01:02:49,330 So from your life, Abraham disappeared?

1630

01:02:49,330 --> 01:02:50,050 Right.

1631

01:02:50,050 --> 01:02:54,070 And you never really found out what happened to him?

1632

01:02:54,070 --> 01:02:57,700 And your mother disappears?

1633

01:02:57,700 --> 01:03:00,125 We found out right away she went to the gas chamber,

1634

01:03:00,125 --> 01:03:01,000 you know what I mean.

1635

01:03:01,000 --> 01:03:03,070 Yeah.

1636

01:03:03,070 --> 01:03:08,065 So when you left,

where were you taken?

1637

01:03:08,065 --> 01:03:11,560

1638

01:03:11,560 --> 01:03:14,170 At that time, I

was in Auschwitz.

1639

01:03:14,170 --> 01:03:15,880 The very first place you were taken?

1640

01:03:15,880 --> 01:03:16,480 No, no, no.

1641

01:03:16,480 --> 01:03:18,890 I was before in smaller camps.

1642

01:03:18,890 --> 01:03:19,630 OK.

1643

01:03:19,630 --> 01:03:21,220 I'd like to find out--

1644

01:03:21,220 --> 01:03:25,740 do you remember what month you were taken to the camps?

1645

01:03:25,740 --> 01:03:29,190 In 1939, end of the months, you know what I mean, maybe

1646

01:03:29,190 --> 01:03:30,835 two months before.

1647

01:03:30,835 --> 01:03:33,240

So, it would have been like November, October?

01:03:33,240 --> 01:03:34,210

Something like that.

# 1649

01:03:34,210 --> 01:03:35,180

Something like that?

#### 1650

01:03:35,180 --> 01:03:35,680

Yes.

## 1651

01:03:35,680 --> 01:03:36,890

I went early.

# 1652

01:03:36,890 --> 01:03:37,990

OK.

#### 1653

01:03:37,990 --> 01:03:39,970

And so, which is the small camp?

#### 1654

01:03:39,970 --> 01:03:42,530

Do you remember the name of it?

# 1655

01:03:42,530 --> 01:03:46,255

Oberschlesien in Germany,

close, you know what I mean.

# 1656

01:03:46,255 --> 01:03:46,885

Oberschlesien--

# 1657

01:03:46,885 --> 01:03:50,270

Breslau, like this.

# 1658

01:03:50,270 --> 01:03:50,770

OK.

# 1659

01:03:50,770 --> 01:03:52,740

So it's further north.

# 1660

01:03:52,740 --> 01:03:55,040

It's still between Germany

and Poland, that area,

#### 1661

01:03:55,040 --> 01:03:57,100

but it's further north.

1662 01:03:57,100 --> 01:03:59,060 Not too far away from Auschwitz.

1663 01:03:59,060 --> 01:04:01,500 But Auschwitz, nobody knows.

1664 01:04:01,500 --> 01:04:02,080 Of course.

1665 01:04:02,080 --> 01:04:02,920 I didn't know it.

1666 01:04:02,920 --> 01:04:04,728 Maybe some older people, maybe they

1667 01:04:04,728 --> 01:04:06,770 were thinking or something, you know what I mean.

1668 01:04:06,770 --> 01:04:10,650 Well, the first camp that you went to,

1669 01:04:10,650 --> 01:04:13,630 do you remember how long you stayed there?

1670 01:04:13,630 --> 01:04:14,260 In Auschwitz?

1671 01:04:14,260 --> 01:04:15,040 No, no, no.

1672 01:04:15,040 --> 01:04:17,020 The very first place in Oberschlesien?

1673 01:04:17,020 --> 01:04:18,940 Maybe I stayed six months or something.

1674 01:04:18,940 --> 01:04:21,820 It was 120 people, the whole camp.

1675

01:04:21,820 --> 01:04:22,480 So not many.

1676

01:04:22,480 --> 01:04:23,020 No.

1677

01:04:23,020 --> 01:04:23,520 Not many.

1678

01:04:23,520 --> 01:04:25,760 So later on, he didn't want it.

1679

01:04:25,760 --> 01:04:28,320 So he put us in a different camp,

1680

01:04:28,320 --> 01:04:30,070 a little bit bigger, you know what I mean.

1681

01:04:30,070 --> 01:04:31,487 What did you do in the first camp?

1682

01:04:31,487 --> 01:04:33,890 And finally, he put us to Auschwitz.

1683

01:04:33,890 --> 01:04:34,390 OK.

1684

01:04:34,390 --> 01:04:35,135 We'll get to Auschwitz.

1685

01:04:35,135 --> 01:04:35,720 Yes.

1686

01:04:35,720 --> 01:04:38,820 But in the first camp, what were you doing?

1687

01:04:38,820 --> 01:04:43,398 Work, labor, make holes for protection

1688

01:04:43,398 --> 01:04:45,565 for the soldiers or something, you know what I mean.

1689

01:04:45,565 --> 01:04:47,200 You were digging trenches?

1690

01:04:47,200 --> 01:04:48,940 Right.

1691

01:04:48,940 --> 01:04:53,650 Some of them said I am a shoemaker or something,

1692

01:04:53,650 --> 01:04:54,645 you know what I mean.

1693

01:04:54,645 --> 01:04:57,700 So he could get a little bit different work.

1694

01:04:57,700 --> 01:05:01,240 I didn't-- first of all, I didn't know how to lie,

1695

01:05:01,240 --> 01:05:03,800 and I didn't know, you know what I mean?

1696

01:05:03,800 --> 01:05:06,790 So--

1697

01:05:06,790 --> 01:05:09,770 So I didn't say nothing.

1698

01:05:09,770 --> 01:05:12,340 To Mengele, I lied.

1699

01:05:12,340 --> 01:05:13,390 I wouldn't lie.

01:05:13,390 --> 01:05:17,020 But something God give me to lie because I

1701

01:05:17,020 --> 01:05:19,000 wasn't so bright, so smart.

1702

01:05:19,000 --> 01:05:21,865

1703

01:05:21,865 --> 01:05:25,090 In that first camp, how were you treated?

1704

01:05:25,090 --> 01:05:27,850 In the very first camp in Oberschlesien,

1705

01:05:27,850 --> 01:05:29,800 how were you treated?

1706

01:05:29,800 --> 01:05:30,530 How many people?

1707

01:05:30,530 --> 01:05:31,030 No.

1708

01:05:31,030 --> 01:05:32,050 How were you treated?

1709

01:05:32,050 --> 01:05:34,600

1710

01:05:34,600 --> 01:05:36,650 A little bit better than Auschwitz and big,

1711

01:05:36,650 --> 01:05:37,840 you know what I mean.

1712

01:05:37,840 --> 01:05:39,820 Not too much better, you know what I mean.

# 1713 01:05:39,820 --> 01:05:40,810 Were you fed?

1714 01:05:40,810 --> 01:05:44,200 You didn't get three meals a day, you know what I mean.

1715 01:05:44,200 --> 01:05:47,800 You was getting the same thing almost, maybe

1716 01:05:47,800 --> 01:05:49,370 a little piece of bread--

1717 01:05:49,370 --> 01:05:52,930 a little bigger piece of bread or something, not too much, no.

1718 01:05:52,930 --> 01:05:55,180 Did it feel like prison?

1719 01:05:55,180 --> 01:05:55,810 Prison?

1720 01:05:55,810 --> 01:05:57,940 Did it feel like a prison in that camp?

1721 01:05:57,940 --> 01:06:02,380 It was, not like a regular prison, but barracks.

1722 01:06:02,380 --> 01:06:02,880 Mm-hmm.

1723 01:06:02,880 --> 01:06:04,600 Could you leave it if you wanted to?

1724 01:06:04,600 --> 01:06:05,530 No.

1725 01:06:05,530 --> 01:06:07,330 No, OK.

01:06:07,330 --> 01:06:09,550 OK.

1727

01:06:09,550 --> 01:06:11,340 So it was guarded.

1728

01:06:11,340 --> 01:06:12,270 Of course.

1729

01:06:12,270 --> 01:06:14,170 All right.

1730

01:06:14,170 --> 01:06:15,760 And you say from this camp, where

1731

01:06:15,760 --> 01:06:19,270 they were about 120 people, you're

1732

01:06:19,270 --> 01:06:21,040 then moved to another one.

1733

01:06:21,040 --> 01:06:22,300 Not everybody moved.

1734

01:06:22,300 --> 01:06:25,860 Some of them went right straight to Auschwitz to the crematorium

1735

01:06:25,860 --> 01:06:27,730 or something because the small camps

1736

01:06:27,730 --> 01:06:29,070 didn't have no crematoriums--

1737

01:06:29,070 --> 01:06:29,570 OK.

1738

01:06:29,570 --> 01:06:30,670 --you know what I mean.

01:06:30,670 --> 01:06:32,740 Were there older people in these first camps?

#### 1740

01:06:32,740 --> 01:06:34,480 Sometimes older, sometimes younger.

#### 1741

01:06:34,480 --> 01:06:35,700 They look.

#### 1742

01:06:35,700 --> 01:06:40,090 Mengele said if they like you, God have to be with you.

# 1743

01:06:40,090 --> 01:06:41,510 This is the only thing.

#### 1744

01:06:41,510 --> 01:06:42,010 Right.

#### 1745

01:06:42,010 --> 01:06:44,410 Before we get to Auschwitz, in the small camp

# 1746

01:06:44,410 --> 01:06:46,840 in Oberschlesien, were there are people

# 1747

01:06:46,840 --> 01:06:48,910 who were dying in the camp?

# 1748

01:06:48,910 --> 01:06:50,564 Of course.

#### 1749

01:06:50,564 --> 01:06:51,560 OK.

#### 1750

01:06:51,560 --> 01:06:55,740 Some people, a little bit richer people,

# 1751

01:06:55,740 --> 01:07:01,640 they die like flies because they

wasn't used to it like this.

1752 01:07:01,640 --> 01:07:03,560 I didn't have too much soup in home.

1753 01:07:03,560 --> 01:07:06,290 I didn't have too much that I can eat.

1754 01:07:06,290 --> 01:07:10,950 Like I told you, I never know how a hot dog taste.

1755 01:07:10,950 --> 01:07:11,810 Yeah.

1756 01:07:11,810 --> 01:07:13,520 Yeah.

1757 01:07:13,520 --> 01:07:15,530 So these kind of people--

1758 01:07:15,530 --> 01:07:20,510 like I was in camp with Italian Jews, French Jews, Holland

1759 01:07:20,510 --> 01:07:23,840 Jews, they were not used to the cold weather and something,

1760 01:07:23,840 --> 01:07:24,720 you know what I mean.

1761 01:07:24,720 --> 01:07:27,540 So they sit in a little bed, and they died--

1762 01:07:27,540 --> 01:07:28,220 Yeah.

1763 01:07:28,220 --> 01:07:31,996 --not laying down, sitting like this. 1764 01:07:31,996 --> 01:07:34,850 Well, the Polish ones, we always had winter time.

1765 01:07:34,850 --> 01:07:42,220 We tried to work a little bit, and God, that's it.

1766 01:07:42,220 --> 01:07:43,034 Got it.

1767 01:07:43,034 --> 01:07:44,850 Got it.

1768 01:07:44,850 --> 01:07:50,640 So from the first camp, you went to a second one, not Auschwitz.

1769 01:07:50,640 --> 01:07:51,690 No.

1770 01:07:51,690 --> 01:07:53,570 And where was this place?

1771 01:07:53,570 --> 01:07:55,037 In Oberschlesien .

1772 01:07:55,037 --> 01:07:56,620 Again, another place in Oberschlesien?

1773 01:07:56,620 --> 01:07:58,180 Yes, yes.

1774 01:07:58,180 --> 01:08:00,230 They had lots in small places.

1775 01:08:00,230 --> 01:08:05,290 But later on, they make it a little bit together.

1776 01:08:05,290 --> 01:08:08,850 And so when you went to the second camp,

01:08:08,850 --> 01:08:11,490

was the work different?

1778

01:08:11,490 --> 01:08:13,140

Same thing.

1779

01:08:13,140 --> 01:08:17,235

In Auschwitz I used to work by the oven.

1780

01:08:17,235 --> 01:08:18,960

But we're not talking

about Auschwitz.

1781

01:08:18,960 --> 01:08:21,740

I'm talking about before Auschwitz.

1782

01:08:21,740 --> 01:08:25,529

Labor, labor work, streets, something, give water,

1783

01:08:25,529 --> 01:08:28,880

give sand, something, stones.

1784

01:08:28,880 --> 01:08:32,350

So lifting, carrying

stones, and bringing water.

1785

01:08:32,350 --> 01:08:33,590

Right.

1786

01:08:33,590 --> 01:08:37,590

Labor camp, nothing special, you know what I mean.

1787

01:08:37,590 --> 01:08:39,120

You had to be no--

1788

01:08:39,120 --> 01:08:42,120

you didn't have

to be intelligent.

1789

01:08:42,120 --> 01:08:44,640 But the manual labor is what you were doing?

1790

01:08:44,640 --> 01:08:46,200 Right.

1791

01:08:46,200 --> 01:08:49,540 And you were 13 years old?

1792

01:08:49,540 --> 01:08:50,750 13, 14.

1793

01:08:50,750 --> 01:08:51,689 OK.

1794

01:08:51,689 --> 01:08:55,120 13 years old, yeah, before leaving.

1795

01:08:55,120 --> 01:09:01,830 And from the second camp in Oberschlesien,

1796

01:09:01,830 --> 01:09:03,779 where were you taken from there?

1797

01:09:03,779 --> 01:09:05,100 I was in Breslau.

1798

01:09:05,100 --> 01:09:06,720 This was already--

1799

01:09:06,720 --> 01:09:09,600 German took over.

1800

01:09:09,600 --> 01:09:10,800 Now it's Poland.

1801

01:09:10,800 --> 01:09:12,670 What's it called in Polish?

1802

01:09:12,670 --> 01:09:14,109 Breslau.

01:09:14,109 --> 01:09:14,880 Uh-huh.

1804

01:09:14,880 --> 01:09:15,569 OK.

1805

01:09:15,569 --> 01:09:18,120 Does it have a Polish name, too?

1806

01:09:18,120 --> 01:09:20,420 Everybody know Breslau, that's all.

1807

01:09:20,420 --> 01:09:21,750 OK.

1808

01:09:21,750 --> 01:09:26,609 And in the city of Breslau or outside?

1809

01:09:26,609 --> 01:09:27,390 A little outside.

1810

01:09:27,390 --> 01:09:30,870

1811

01:09:30,870 --> 01:09:33,359 And how long did you stay there?

1812

01:09:33,359 --> 01:09:36,140 Maybe a year or so, and later on again.

1813

01:09:36,140 --> 01:09:40,130

1814

01:09:40,130 --> 01:09:43,680 And from Breslau, where were you taken?

1815

01:09:43,680 --> 01:09:52,229

From Breslau I was taken to Oberammergau,

1816 01:09:52,229 --> 01:09:54,120 a small town in Germany.

1817 01:09:54,120 --> 01:09:56,150 OK

1818 01:09:56,150 --> 01:09:59,130 Oberammergau, I believe, is in Bavaria.

1819 01:09:59,130 --> 01:10:00,410 Bavaria, yes.

1820 01:10:00,410 --> 01:10:00,910 OK.

1821 01:10:00,910 --> 01:10:03,180 Everything was in Bavaria.

1822 01:10:03,180 --> 01:10:07,050 Later on, they took me to Theresienstadt.

1823 01:10:07,050 --> 01:10:08,647 This was close to Czechoslovakia.

1824 01:10:08,647 --> 01:10:09,855 Yeah, it's in Czechoslovakia.

1825 01:10:09,855 --> 01:10:11,260 Right.

1826 01:10:11,260 --> 01:10:15,730 And I was in lots of different camps.

1827 01:10:15,730 --> 01:10:17,820 I don't even remember the names.

1828 01:10:17,820 --> 01:10:20,040 I was at least 10, 12 camps different kind.

01:10:20,040 --> 01:10:21,070 That's amazing.

1830

01:10:21,070 --> 01:10:21,630 Yes.

1831

01:10:21,630 --> 01:10:24,255 That's amazing that you went so many.

1832

01:10:24,255 --> 01:10:27,420 I had typhus.

1833

01:10:27,420 --> 01:10:28,770 Where did you have typhus?

1834

01:10:28,770 --> 01:10:30,990 In one camp.

1835

01:10:30,990 --> 01:10:32,340 Do you remember which one?

1836

01:10:32,340 --> 01:10:34,080 In Warsaw.

1837

01:10:34,080 --> 01:10:40,410 Warsaw was uptight long, how you say, from Auschwitz.

1838

01:10:40,410 --> 01:10:43,410 It was within--

1839

01:10:43,410 --> 01:10:46,150 Auschwitz had like a part of its campus--

1840

01:10:46,150 --> 01:10:47,525 Warsaw belonged to our Auschwitz,

1841

01:10:47,525 --> 01:10:48,880 you know what I mean?

1842 01:10:48,880 --> 01:10:50,670 Though it's very far away over Auschwitz.

1843 01:10:50,670 --> 01:10:53,670 Over there, we had lice, from lice.

1844 01:10:53,670 --> 01:10:56,790 You see, typhus, there's two kinds of typhus,

1845 01:10:56,790 --> 01:10:59,810 high fever and stomach.

1846 01:10:59,810 --> 01:11:00,660 OK.

1847 01:11:00,660 --> 01:11:03,720 We had high fever from the lice.

1848 01:11:03,720 --> 01:11:05,230 We had lice.

1849 01:11:05,230 --> 01:11:07,740 We just throw it, not just one lice.

1850 01:11:07,740 --> 01:11:08,240 OK.

1851 01:11:08,240 --> 01:11:13,220

1852 01:11:13,220 --> 01:11:16,610 And was that in all of the camps, that they were lice?

1853 01:11:16,610 --> 01:11:23,780 Even SS got sick, too, with lice because it was terrible camp.

1854 01:11:23,780 --> 01:11:26,780 Not too much water to wash, a little bit.

1855 01:11:26,780 --> 01:11:29,080 I don't mean a shower or something, just

1856

01:11:29,080 --> 01:11:30,710 [INAUDIBLE] a little bit.

1857

01:11:30,710 --> 01:11:32,300 No, no.

1858

01:11:32,300 --> 01:11:35,060 This was after they bombed the ghetto.

1859

01:11:35,060 --> 01:11:37,700 We were there to clean up.

1860

01:11:37,700 --> 01:11:41,225 So this is after the uprising, the Warsaw uprising--

1861

01:11:41,225 --> 01:11:41,870 Right.

1862

01:11:41,870 --> 01:11:42,810 --ghetto uprising?

1863

01:11:42,810 --> 01:11:43,310 Right.

1864

01:11:43,310 --> 01:11:45,144 So that would have been 1940--

1865

01:11:45,144 --> 01:11:46,520 '43, 42.

1866

01:11:46,520 --> 01:11:48,770 Right, '43 I think it was.

1867

01:11:48,770 --> 01:11:51,560

And later on from

Auschwitz, they took us--

1868 01:11:51,560 --> 01:11:54,360 from Warsaw, they took us back to Auschwitz.

1869 01:11:54,360 --> 01:11:54,860 OK.

1870 01:11:54,860 --> 01:11:56,660 But let's talk about this a little bit.

1871 01:11:56,660 --> 01:12:03,650 And from Auschwitz, I went to Dachau, Germany, Munich.

1872 01:12:03,650 --> 01:12:04,530 Yeah.

1873 01:12:04,530 --> 01:12:07,520 And this was already '44, '45.

1874 01:12:07,520 --> 01:12:09,440 OK.

1875 01:12:09,440 --> 01:12:15,270 But you say that it was in Warsaw that you got typhus?

1876 01:12:15,270 --> 01:12:16,490 Right.

1877 01:12:16,490 --> 01:12:22,590 And is this after you were cleaning up the ghetto?

1878 01:12:22,590 --> 01:12:27,380 This was after the cleanup the ghettos, the steel, stones,

1879 01:12:27,380 --> 01:12:28,870 something like this.

1880 01:12:28,870 --> 01:12:29,370 All right.

1881

01:12:29,370 --> 01:12:33,570 Tell me when you were taken to Warsaw,

1882

01:12:33,570 --> 01:12:35,760 and it was to clean up this ghetto--

1883

01:12:35,760 --> 01:12:37,240 We didn't know nothing.

1884

01:12:37,240 --> 01:12:37,910 OK.

1885

01:12:37,910 --> 01:12:41,330 We going to Warsaw, we didn't know what kind of work.

1886

01:12:41,330 --> 01:12:44,100 But it was a labor camp, that's all.

1887

01:12:44,100 --> 01:12:49,110 So when you got to Warsaw and they put you to work, tell me,

1888

01:12:49,110 --> 01:12:52,080 what did you see?

1889

01:12:52,080 --> 01:12:54,570 Nothing too much.

1890

01:12:54,570 --> 01:12:56,890 This was in the place where the ghetto had been?

1891

01:12:56,890 --> 01:12:58,830 Right, everything, yes.

1892

01:12:58,830 --> 01:13:00,450 Were there still buildings standing?

# 1893 01:13:00,450 --> 01:13:02,370 Nothing pothing

Nothing, nothing, nothing.

# 1894

01:13:02,370 --> 01:13:04,920 One building, the jail.

#### 1895

01:13:04,920 --> 01:13:05,620 That stood?

# 1896

01:13:05,620 --> 01:13:06,480 Sent.

# 1897

01:13:06,480 --> 01:13:12,690 They went over there to the jail once a week

#### 1898

01:13:12,690 --> 01:13:15,430 to clean up the lice, I remember.

# 1899

01:13:15,430 --> 01:13:20,820 Used to put us some stuff, burning and everything,

# 1900

01:13:20,820 --> 01:13:21,390 once a week.

# 1901

01:13:21,390 --> 01:13:23,950 But it was to take the lice off of you?

# 1902

01:13:23,950 --> 01:13:26,340 To kill the lice or something, but didn't

# 1903

01:13:26,340 --> 01:13:29,730 help too much because it was so many, you know what I mean.

# 1904

01:13:29,730 --> 01:13:31,770 You didn't have no one lice or something,

# 1905

01:13:31,770 --> 01:13:36,310

you had pick it up, throw it away.

1906

01:13:36,310 --> 01:13:39,960 And what were you supposed to do in this bombed-out ghetto?

1907

01:13:39,960 --> 01:13:42,007 What was supposed to be done by the prisoners?

1908

01:13:42,007 --> 01:13:43,590 This was after they bombed the ghetto.

1909

01:13:43,590 --> 01:13:44,700 OK.

1910

01:13:44,700 --> 01:13:47,990 And so afterwards, what were you supposed to do there?

1911

01:13:47,990 --> 01:13:50,890 We cleaned up the buildings half way,

1912

01:13:50,890 --> 01:13:53,240 you know what I mean, separate the stones,

1913

01:13:53,240 --> 01:13:56,580 separate the steels, something like this.

1914

01:13:56,580 --> 01:13:57,750 I see, the rubble.

1915

01:13:57,750 --> 01:14:02,280 Basically you put the rubble in one pile and the steel

1916

01:14:02,280 --> 01:14:03,145 in another pile.

1917

01:14:03,145 --> 01:14:04,180

Right.

1918 01:14:04,180 --> 01:14:07,070 Labor, real labor, you know what I mean.

1919

01:14:07,070 --> 01:14:08,580 Did you see anything else?

1920

01:14:08,580 --> 01:14:09,840 Were there furniture?

1921

01:14:09,840 --> 01:14:11,150 Was there--

1922

01:14:11,150 --> 01:14:14,880 We had a few people who was hiding.

1923

01:14:14,880 --> 01:14:17,280 And it was cold.

1924

01:14:17,280 --> 01:14:19,200 And the chimney was out.

1925

01:14:19,200 --> 01:14:22,250 That's how they found out they were hiding over there.

1926

01:14:22,250 --> 01:14:25,450 So they took him out from the hiding

1927

01:14:25,450 --> 01:14:29,005 and hang him or something, or they send him away.

1928

01:14:29,005 --> 01:14:30,630 Did you ever see anybody who had been--

1929

01:14:30,630 --> 01:14:32,365 I saw them taking out, but I don't

# 1930

01:14:32,365 --> 01:14:34,740 know what they did with the people, you know what I mean.

# 1931

01:14:34,740 --> 01:14:36,390 Maybe they send them to Auschwitz,

# 1932

01:14:36,390 --> 01:14:39,510 or maybe they killed him over there.

# 1933

01:14:39,510 --> 01:14:40,800 OK.

# 1934

01:14:40,800 --> 01:14:44,730 So whether or not these had been people hiding in the ghetto

#### 1935

01:14:44,730 --> 01:14:47,190 or they were other people who came into the ghetto

#### 1936

01:14:47,190 --> 01:14:48,070 we don't know.

### 1937

01:14:48,070 --> 01:14:50,490 Well, this was the people who used to live in the ghetto.

#### 1938

01:14:50,490 --> 01:14:51,590 Oh, so it was Jews?

## 1939

01:14:51,590 --> 01:14:52,170 Jews.

# 1940

01:14:52,170 --> 01:14:52,830 It was Jews.

#### 1941

01:14:52,830 --> 01:14:55,110 Jews, Jews, only Jews.

#### 1942

01:14:55,110 --> 01:15:00,570 OK I worked with Pollacks.

1943 01:15:00,570 --> 01:15:04,350 The Polish people, they used to come to work from home,

1944

01:15:04,350 --> 01:15:06,750 you know what I mean.

1945

01:15:06,750 --> 01:15:07,560 In Warsaw?

1946

01:15:07,560 --> 01:15:08,550 In Warsaw.

1947

01:15:08,550 --> 01:15:12,000 But they didn't give you nothing.

1948

01:15:12,000 --> 01:15:14,940 I asked him to give me a piece of bread, they asked me,

1949

01:15:14,940 --> 01:15:16,530 you've got blood?

1950

01:15:16,530 --> 01:15:18,040 I say, what do you mean blood?

1951

01:15:18,040 --> 01:15:19,140 You got gold?

1952

01:15:19,140 --> 01:15:23,250 I didn't even know if I find a piece of gold the difference

1953

01:15:23,250 --> 01:15:26,100 because I don't know nothing about gold or something

1954

01:15:26,100 --> 01:15:30,060 like this, no.

1955

01:15:30,060 --> 01:15:33,870 And I speak Polish because in Warsaw, they

1956 01:15:33,870 --> 01:15:36,160 had Jews over there from all over the world--

1957

01:15:36,160 --> 01:15:39,460 Italian Jews, French Jews, Holland Jews, because they

1958

01:15:39,460 --> 01:15:41,680 didn't want the Polish Jews--

1959

01:15:41,680 --> 01:15:46,120 some of them maybe hide or go another way or something.

1960

01:15:46,120 --> 01:15:49,040 But they need a hundred people or more.

1961

01:15:49,040 --> 01:15:52,870 And we went over there.

1962

01:15:52,870 --> 01:15:53,370 OK.

1963

01:15:53,370 --> 01:15:54,620 I didn't understand that part.

1964

01:15:54,620 --> 01:15:57,485 They took the Polish just to make the--

1965

01:15:57,485 --> 01:16:00,240 because they had to have a thousand, and they had 900.

1966

01:16:00,240 --> 01:16:01,080 Ah, I see.

1967

01:16:01,080 --> 01:16:03,068 And they were short 100 people, so they took--

1968 01:16:03,068 --> 01:16:05,360 They took Polish Jews, even though they didn't want to.

1969

01:16:05,360 --> 01:16:05,950 Right.

1970

01:16:05,950 --> 01:16:06,820 Got it.

1971

01:16:06,820 --> 01:16:07,830 Got it.

1972

01:16:07,830 --> 01:16:09,205 So it was about a thousand people

1973

01:16:09,205 --> 01:16:10,180 who were sent from Auschwitz--

1974

01:16:10,180 --> 01:16:11,330 Oh yeah, this is nothing.

1975

01:16:11,330 --> 01:16:12,623 --to clean up the ghetto.

1976

01:16:12,623 --> 01:16:14,290 And Auschwitz had thousands of thousands

1977 01:16:14,290 --> 01:16:16,290 of people, Birkenau and everything.

1978 01:16:16,290 --> 01:16:18,210 OK.

1979 01:16:18,210 --> 01:16:20,920 And as you were cleaning up the ghetto,

1980 01:16:20,920 --> 01:16:25,290 about how long did you do this job of cleaning up?

# 1981 01:16:25,290 --> 01:16:28,650 Till the Russians come closer to Warsaw. 1982 01:16:28,650 --> 01:16:29,560

Yeah. 1983

01:16:29,560 --> 01:16:33,070 So we worked three days back to Auschwitz.

1984

01:16:33,070 --> 01:16:33,810 By foot?

1985

01:16:33,810 --> 01:16:36,435 And we worked a few years in Auschwitz.

1986 01:16:36,435 --> 01:16:39,670 Later, the Russians

Later, the Russians come and close it.

1987 01:16:39,670 --> 01:16:43,083 We went back to Germany, Munich.

1988 01:16:43,083 --> 01:16:43,750 We'll get there.

1989 01:16:43,750 --> 01:16:45,580 Yes.

1990 01:16:45,580 --> 01:16:51,610 Let me think more about the ghetto in Warsaw.

1991 01:16:51,610 --> 01:16:56,110 Did you ever find dead people when you

1992 01:16:56,110 --> 01:16:59,620 were cleaning up the ghetto?

1993 01:16:59,620 --> 01:17:00,520 No.

1994

01:17:00,520 --> 01:17:04,890

So all the bodies

had been taken away?

1995

01:17:04,890 --> 01:17:06,000

No skeletons?

1996

01:17:06,000 --> 01:17:08,460

No, no, no.

1997

01:17:08,460 --> 01:17:09,690

No goods in other words?

1998

01:17:09,690 --> 01:17:10,590

No.

1999

01:17:10,590 --> 01:17:12,810

Some people found

maybe a piece of gold

2000

01:17:12,810 --> 01:17:16,245

where they hide it in the

basements or something,

2001

01:17:16,245 --> 01:17:17,220

you know what I mean.

2002

01:17:17,220 --> 01:17:20,100

To me, even if I saw it, I

wouldn't know what it is--

2003

01:17:20,100 --> 01:17:20,600

I see.

2004

01:17:20,600 --> 01:17:21,600

--you know what I mean.

2005

01:17:21,600 --> 01:17:25,281

The one thing, even if I see,

I wouldn't know what to do,

2006

01:17:25,281 --> 01:17:26,156

you know what I mean.

2007

01:17:26,156 --> 01:17:29,160 OK So it's just hard for me to picture

2008

01:17:29,160 --> 01:17:32,820 that when it's bombed out that all that is left

2009

01:17:32,820 --> 01:17:36,130 is bricks and steel.

2010

01:17:36,130 --> 01:17:37,710 Only the ghetto--

2011

01:17:37,710 --> 01:17:38,210 OK.

2012

01:17:38,210 --> 01:17:40,850

2013

01:17:40,850 --> 01:17:43,210 --not the rest, you know what I mean.

2014

01:17:43,210 --> 01:17:46,790 And lucky to be the [INAUDIBLE],, the Auschwitz--

2015

01:17:46,790 --> 01:17:51,140 I mean, in Warsaw is the jail, the big jail

2016

01:17:51,140 --> 01:17:52,460 in the ghetto site.

2017

01:17:52,460 --> 01:17:55,260 But they didn't bomb to ghetto.

2018

01:17:55,260 --> 01:17:55,760 OK.

2019

01:17:55,760 --> 01:17:56,900

They didn't bomb that jail.

2020

01:17:56,900 --> 01:17:57,730 This jail, no.

2021

01:17:57,730 --> 01:17:58,700 OK

2022

01:17:58,700 --> 01:18:01,400 But you got sick in Warsaw.

2023

01:18:01,400 --> 01:18:02,510 Because of the lice.

2024

01:18:02,510 --> 01:18:03,890 Because of the lice.

2025

01:18:03,890 --> 01:18:08,150 And so what happened to you?

2026

01:18:08,150 --> 01:18:09,590 Did you go to an infirmary?

2027

01:18:09,590 --> 01:18:13,550 Well, they took us-- and that's supposed to be like a hospital.

2028

01:18:13,550 --> 01:18:16,970 First of all, they took away the straws.

2029

01:18:16,970 --> 01:18:19,670 We had straws, no mattresses.

2030

01:18:19,670 --> 01:18:21,180 Because in the straws--

2031

01:18:21,180 --> 01:18:22,340 There's the lice.

2032

01:18:22,340 --> 01:18:23,450 --too much lice.

01:18:23,450 --> 01:18:25,960 And they had small--

2034

01:18:25,960 --> 01:18:29,720 two in a bed, the small ones.

2035

01:18:29,720 --> 01:18:32,760 If I had to turn, he had to turn.

2036

01:18:32,760 --> 01:18:34,985 If he turned, I had to turn.

2037

01:18:34,985 --> 01:18:36,120 That small.

2038

01:18:36,120 --> 01:18:39,020 And he had typhus, I had typhus.

2039

01:18:39,020 --> 01:18:43,880 No medication, no water, no medication, no bread, nothing,

2040

01:18:43,880 --> 01:18:46,080 nothing at all.

2041

01:18:46,080 --> 01:18:48,140 So it sounds like he was just left to die.

2042

01:18:48,140 --> 01:18:50,010 Nothing at all.

2043

01:18:50,010 --> 01:18:52,640 The only thing we had is God.

2044

01:18:52,640 --> 01:18:55,497 Matter of fact, he was dead two weeks,

2045

01:18:55,497 --> 01:18:57,080 I didn't know if he was sleeping or he

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

01:18:57,080 --> 01:18:59,213 thought because the Kommando, they throw him out

2047

01:18:59,213 --> 01:19:00,005 through the window.

2048

01:19:00,005 --> 01:19:05,330

2049

01:19:05,330 --> 01:19:07,810 When I come out, I couldn't walk.

2050

01:19:07,810 --> 01:19:08,950 I was like a baby.

2051

01:19:08,950 --> 01:19:12,590 Like a little step, I couldn't go.

2052

01:19:12,590 --> 01:19:18,910 I had to just like a baby, I had to lay down and go to step.

2053

01:19:18,910 --> 01:19:22,320 It's unbelievable.

2054

01:19:22,320 --> 01:19:23,750 It's a miracle, that's it.

2055

01:19:23,750 --> 01:19:25,760 Was this an infirmary?

2056

01:19:25,760 --> 01:19:26,600 Pardon me?

2057

01:19:26,600 --> 01:19:28,625

Was this an infirmary?

2058

01:19:28,625 --> 01:19:30,620

Was this in Warsaw?

2059

01:19:30,620 --> 01:19:32,010

This is in Warsaw.

2060

01:19:32,010 --> 01:19:34,760 So, it wasn't in

the ghetto, and it

2061

01:19:34,760 --> 01:19:36,770 wasn't in the police station.

2062

01:19:36,770 --> 01:19:37,790

Well, where were you?

2063

01:19:37,790 --> 01:19:38,600

When you got sick--

2064

01:19:38,600 --> 01:19:40,100

I was in the camp.

2065

01:19:40,100 --> 01:19:44,900

They had a barrack only for

the sick people, for dying.

2066

01:19:44,900 --> 01:19:46,100

Yeah, for dying.

2067

01:19:46,100 --> 01:19:49,220

They didn't want-- because

the mayor from over there

2068

01:19:49,220 --> 01:19:53,000

didn't allow them to kill

nobody if they don't have to.

2069

01:19:53,000 --> 01:19:56,300

If they die, they die,

you know what I mean.

2070

01:19:56,300 --> 01:20:00,350

Because they wanted to

kill everybody, so he said,

2071

01:20:00,350 --> 01:20:03,470

no, you can take them out.

01:20:03,470 --> 01:20:06,200 But don't kill him over here because he knows already

2073

01:20:06,200 --> 01:20:09,465 that Russia was close, so he didn't want to be the bad man,

2074

01:20:09,465 --> 01:20:10,340 you know what I mean.

2075

01:20:10,340 --> 01:20:10,765 Was this in Germany?

2076

01:20:10,765 --> 01:20:12,050 Later on, they found out.

2077

01:20:12,050 --> 01:20:15,350 They didn't know right away.

2078

01:20:15,350 --> 01:20:18,610 So nothing happened, but they die on the work.

2079

01:20:18,610 --> 01:20:21,220 We had to work three days.

2080

01:20:21,220 --> 01:20:28,915 Less than half died, you know what I mean, no water, nothing.

2081

01:20:28,915 --> 01:20:31,880 I saw what I never believed it.

2082

01:20:31,880 --> 01:20:32,600 What did you see?

2083

01:20:32,600 --> 01:20:39,310 They were drinking their own urine for water because--

2084

01:20:39,310 --> 01:20:41,190 There was none.

01:20:41,190 --> 01:20:42,640 Oh yey.

2086

01:20:42,640 --> 01:20:44,460 Oh yey.

2087

01:20:44,460 --> 01:20:46,800 It's unbelievable, you know what I mean.

2088

01:20:46,800 --> 01:20:47,482 Oh yey.

2089

01:20:47,482 --> 01:20:51,100

2090

01:20:51,100 --> 01:20:52,800 I want to pause here just for a second.

2091

01:20:52,800 --> 01:20:55,702

2092

01:20:55,702 --> 01:20:56,202 OK.

2093

01:20:56,202 --> 01:20:59,120 OK.

2094

01:20:59,120 --> 01:21:00,770 You were all alone.

2095

01:21:00,770 --> 01:21:04,490 Once you left home and you go to the first camp

2096

01:21:04,490 --> 01:21:07,250 in Oberschlesien, and then the second one,

2097

01:21:07,250 --> 01:21:14,600 and then after that, did you make any friends along the way?

01:21:14,600 --> 01:21:18,120 You see, we can talk about friends.

2099

01:21:18,120 --> 01:21:19,890 OK, I give you the example.

2100

01:21:19,890 --> 01:21:20,870

2101

01:21:20,870 --> 01:21:24,050 Wiesenthal-- what's the name?

2102

01:21:24,050 --> 01:21:27,860 Not Wiesenthal, the one who--

2103

01:21:27,860 --> 01:21:30,230 I know who you mean.

2104

01:21:30,230 --> 01:21:34,040 Blitz-- not I was with Blitzer, you know,

2105

01:21:34,040 --> 01:21:37,900 John [=Wolf] Blitzer from the television?

2106

01:21:37,900 --> 01:21:38,470 No.

2107

01:21:38,470 --> 01:21:40,455 With his father I was in camp, too.

2108

01:21:40,455 --> 01:21:40,955 Mm-hmm.

2109

01:21:40,955 --> 01:21:46,510

2110

01:21:46,510 --> 01:21:48,000 No friends.

2111

01:21:48,000 --> 01:21:50,550

Hello, hello, or something, but everybody

2112

01:21:50,550 --> 01:21:52,100 got their own problem.

2113

01:21:52,100 --> 01:21:54,827 Bread, bread, bread, that's it.

2114

01:21:54,827 --> 01:21:56,160 By friend I mean something else.

2115

01:21:56,160 --> 01:22:00,050 Never talked about being free someday, never, never.

2116

01:22:00,050 --> 01:22:01,010 Really?

2117

01:22:01,010 --> 01:22:03,840 The brains was like a cow.

2118

01:22:03,840 --> 01:22:05,190 Your brain was like a cow?

2119

01:22:05,190 --> 01:22:08,100 Nothing, nothing, no brains, nothing, nothing.

2120

01:22:08,100 --> 01:22:10,370 Didn't talk about the father, and mother, politics.

2121

01:22:10,370 --> 01:22:11,760 We didn't nothing, nothing.

2122

01:22:11,760 --> 01:22:14,220 People said, well, we didn't know what day.

2123

01:22:14,220 --> 01:22:16,880 We never saw a paper and never saw nothing,

01:22:16,880 --> 01:22:19,230 you know what I mean.

2125

01:22:19,230 --> 01:22:21,600 So it was survival mode?

2126

01:22:21,600 --> 01:22:23,400 That's it.

2127

01:22:23,400 --> 01:22:26,790 Nobody thought everybody survived.

2128

01:22:26,790 --> 01:22:30,600

2129

01:22:30,600 --> 01:22:32,610 When did you first get that sense

2130

01:22:32,610 --> 01:22:38,020 that I may not survive, from the first camp or from before?

2131

01:22:38,020 --> 01:22:41,830 We didn't see nothing, you know what I mean.

2132

01:22:41,830 --> 01:22:44,180 We didn't see nothing.

2133

01:22:44,180 --> 01:22:50,224 Same thing, get up, go, wait for the little piece of bread.

2134

01:22:50,224 --> 01:22:50,724 Mm-hmm.

2135

01:22:50,724 --> 01:22:54,063

2136

01:22:54,063 --> 01:22:55,920

You have to hide it so they don't steal it,

# 2137

01:22:55,920 --> 01:22:58,420 too, your own people.

#### 2138

01:22:58,420 --> 01:23:01,780

#### 2139

01:23:01,780 --> 01:23:06,850 It's difficult-- many times I've heard that the way a person

#### 2140

01:23:06,850 --> 01:23:13,660 survived in a camp was when they had someone close by, that is,

#### 2141

01:23:13,660 --> 01:23:17,890 either a brother, or a sister, or even a cousin,

#### 2142

01:23:17,890 --> 01:23:21,340 or somebody where you would watch out for one another.

# 2143

01:23:21,340 --> 01:23:24,370 You'd help one another try and survive.

### 2144

01:23:24,370 --> 01:23:26,650 Did you ever have someone like that?

#### 2145

01:23:26,650 --> 01:23:32,140 I tell you what, when you was in camp, you didn't have--

#### 2146

01:23:32,140 --> 01:23:33,490 you don't have nothing to help.

#### 2147

01:23:33,490 --> 01:23:37,420 Even if you wanted to help him, you didn't have nothing.

# 2148

01:23:37,420 --> 01:23:40,540 If you wasn't some older smart one 2149 01:23:40,540 --> 01:23:43,350 who was a little bit in camp before, jails or something

2150

01:23:43,350 --> 01:23:46,420 so that you know a little bit how to run, how to hide,

2151

01:23:46,420 --> 01:23:48,670 how to do, you couldn't help him.

2152

01:23:48,670 --> 01:23:50,860 You didn't have nothing to help them.

2153

01:23:50,860 --> 01:23:52,630 You had a little piece of bread.

2154

01:23:52,630 --> 01:23:53,860 You couldn't give them--

2155

01:23:53,860 --> 01:23:54,520 That's right.

2156

01:23:54,520 --> 01:23:55,882 --your own.

2157

01:23:55,882 --> 01:23:57,690 OK.

2158

01:23:57,690 --> 01:24:01,240 So there was nothing.

2159

01:24:01,240 --> 01:24:04,350

2160

01:24:04,350 --> 01:24:10,110 But it's amazing that you went through so many of them

2161

01:24:10,110 --> 01:24:13,210 and you survived them.

2162

01:24:13,210 --> 01:24:15,490 It's unbelievable.

2163

01:24:15,490 --> 01:24:18,210

But we didn't think about nothing.

2164

01:24:18,210 --> 01:24:20,610 He didn't think about the

mother, about the father,

2165

01:24:20,610 --> 01:24:24,300 about the brother, about this, nothing, nada, nothing,

2166

01:24:24,300 --> 01:24:26,260 nothing, nothing, nothing.

2167

01:24:26,260 --> 01:24:31,252 Never talk about ending the war or something.

2168

01:24:31,252 --> 01:24:33,700 We didn't know what it was, nothing, nothing.

2169

01:24:33,700 --> 01:24:34,930 OK.

2170

01:24:34,930 --> 01:24:37,070 Did you speak German?

2171

01:24:37,070 --> 01:24:37,810 Yeah.

2172

01:24:37,810 --> 01:24:38,640

I had to speak.

2173

01:24:38,640 --> 01:24:40,200

I speak fluent--

2174

01:24:40,200 --> 01:24:41,060

OK.

2175 01:24:41,060 --> 01:24:41,560 Bayerisch.

2176 01:24:41,560 --> 01:24:44,220 I learned it because most of them--

2177 01:24:44,220 --> 01:24:46,380 Muenchen close.

2178 01:24:46,380 --> 01:24:48,340 And Frankfort the different dialect

2179 01:24:48,340 --> 01:24:50,320 and Muenchen a different dialect.

2180 01:24:50,320 --> 01:24:51,290 Yeah.

2181 01:24:51,290 --> 01:24:55,470 Bavarian is a difficult dialect to understand.

2182 01:24:55,470 --> 01:24:57,460 Well, you learn.

2183 01:24:57,460 --> 01:25:00,030 Now you forget, you know what I mean, after so many years.

2184 01:25:00,030 --> 01:25:02,220 Yeah.

2185 01:25:02,220 --> 01:25:05,900 Were you in Oberammergau before you got to Auschwitz?

2186 01:25:05,900 --> 01:25:06,400 Yes.

2187 01:25:06,400 --> 01:25:07,970 Were you there before Auschwitz? 2188 01:25:07,970 --> 01:25:12,890 Before, Oberammergau was Oberschlesien, very close.

2189 01:25:12,890 --> 01:25:13,390 Uh-huh.

2190 01:25:13,390 --> 01:25:15,080 A small camp.

2191 01:25:15,080 --> 01:25:15,580 OK.

2192 01:25:15,580 --> 01:25:17,970 And do you remember what that place looked like,

2193 01:25:17,970 --> 01:25:19,660 that small camp?

2194 01:25:19,660 --> 01:25:22,600 Was no good.

2195 01:25:22,600 --> 01:25:26,020 I mean, they didn't kill you like in the big ones,

2196 01:25:26,020 --> 01:25:27,740 you know what I mean.

2197 01:25:27,740 --> 01:25:33,640 You didn't see no furnaces, no gas chambers, nothing,

2198 01:25:33,640 --> 01:25:34,967 you know what I mean.

2199 01:25:34,967 --> 01:25:36,550 You just watch yourself that you don't

2200 01:25:36,550 --> 01:25:40,020 do nothing wrong to the watchers, the SS,

2201

01:25:40,020 --> 01:25:42,406 they don't hit you,

you know what I mean.

2202

01:25:42,406 --> 01:25:44,560 And this what I was

watching very close

2203

01:25:44,560 --> 01:25:49,300 not to get hurt because if you get hurt, not too good.

2204

01:25:49,300 --> 01:25:51,370 Three days later, you're dead.

2205

01:25:51,370 --> 01:25:55,600 You die because you forget, you don't want to wash yourself,

2206

01:25:55,600 --> 01:25:57,090 you didn't care.

2207

01:25:57,090 --> 01:25:58,590 You could see, you know what I mean.

2208

01:25:58,590 --> 01:25:59,480 OK.

2209

01:25:59,480 --> 01:26:01,034 Three days.

2210

01:26:01,034 --> 01:26:03,250 OK.

2211

01:26:03,250 --> 01:26:06,550 Was the work different in Oberammergau?

2212

01:26:06,550 --> 01:26:08,230 The work is everything labor.

01:26:08,230 --> 01:26:10,010 It was nothing, you know what I mean.

2214

01:26:10,010 --> 01:26:10,722 OK.

2215

01:26:10,722 --> 01:26:12,910 All right.

2216

01:26:12,910 --> 01:26:15,010 This was the labor camp, you know what I mean.

2217

01:26:15,010 --> 01:26:16,300 These are labor camps.

2218

01:26:16,300 --> 01:26:17,060 Right.

2219

01:26:17,060 --> 01:26:19,210 See, there's a difference between labor camps

2220

01:26:19,210 --> 01:26:20,520 and concentration camps.

2221

01:26:20,520 --> 01:26:21,060 Right.

2222

01:26:21,060 --> 01:26:24,220 Because after labor camps were the concentration camp

2223

01:26:24,220 --> 01:26:27,100 come in because they got bigger, no more

2224

01:26:27,100 --> 01:26:28,660 the small ones and everything.

2225

01:26:28,660 --> 01:26:29,920 OK.

01:26:29,920 --> 01:26:35,120 So at first you were sent to labor camps in Oberschlesien

2227

01:26:35,120 --> 01:26:39,080 near Breslau, Oberammergau, and so on.

2228

01:26:39,080 --> 01:26:41,470 But these aren't concentration camps.

2229

01:26:41,470 --> 01:26:43,360 These are for work.

2230

01:26:43,360 --> 01:26:45,520 This was all--right, labor camp.

2231

01:26:45,520 --> 01:26:48,610 Do you know was it for a particular industry

2232

01:26:48,610 --> 01:26:51,080 that you were working in Oberammergau?

2233

01:26:51,080 --> 01:26:51,580 No.

2234

01:26:51,580 --> 01:26:54,250 People on the street outside, you know what I mean,

2235

01:26:54,250 --> 01:26:57,990 loading the little train, loading the little thing,

2236

01:26:57,990 --> 01:27:02,860 the small trains with the sand, or stones, or something,

2237

01:27:02,860 --> 01:27:03,850 you know what I mean.

01:27:03,850 --> 01:27:04,943 Everything labor camp.

2239

01:27:04,943 --> 01:27:05,860 Everything labor camp.

2240

01:27:05,860 --> 01:27:06,910 OK.

2241

01:27:06,910 --> 01:27:09,160 Now in the places before Auschwitz,

2242

01:27:09,160 --> 01:27:12,400 did you meet Jews from different countries?

2243

01:27:12,400 --> 01:27:14,310 Even in Auschwitz, yeah.

2244

01:27:14,310 --> 01:27:17,470 All over I've met different people,

2245

01:27:17,470 --> 01:27:22,680 homosexuals and everything, [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH],,

2246

01:27:22,680 --> 01:27:30,750 mafias and everything, gypsies, Jehovah's Witness, everything,

2247

01:27:30,750 --> 01:27:33,710 Catholic priests, rabbis, everything, everything,

2248

01:27:33,710 --> 01:27:37,590 everything because you always had a different thing,

2249

01:27:37,590 --> 01:27:40,620 you know what I mean, a little--

2250

01:27:40,620 --> 01:27:42,090 You had a different label.

2251 01:27:42,090 --> 01:27:43,740 Not a label, the name of something,

2252 01:27:43,740 --> 01:27:45,870 but a little picture like this so you

2253 01:27:45,870 --> 01:27:50,425 can see if he is a mafia, or he is a this, or he is this,

2254 01:27:50,425 --> 01:27:51,300 you know what I mean.

2255 01:27:51,300 --> 01:27:52,680 What did you have on yours?

2256 01:27:52,680 --> 01:27:54,120 I think blue and white, something

2257 01:27:54,120 --> 01:27:57,350 like Jewish or something because I was too--

2258 01:27:57,350 --> 01:27:59,580 OK.

2259 01:27:59,580 --> 01:28:05,620 Did you ever feel afraid of other prisoners?

2260 01:28:05,620 --> 01:28:06,745 Afraid for other prisoners?

2261 01:28:06,745 --> 01:28:08,120 No, of other prisoners.

2262 01:28:08,120 --> 01:28:10,457 You mean the kapos, for the kapos?

01:28:10,457 --> 01:28:11,040 Well, for you.

2264

01:28:11,040 --> 01:28:12,160 They're called the kapos?

2265

01:28:12,160 --> 01:28:14,130 Yeah, tell me about them.

2266

01:28:14,130 --> 01:28:18,570 The kapos, you see, you had to be a big man,

2267

01:28:18,570 --> 01:28:21,510 first of all, strong.

2268

01:28:21,510 --> 01:28:29,340 And if you took it, you had to be sometimes tough because they

2269

01:28:29,340 --> 01:28:31,280 had to show it, you know what I mean.

2270

01:28:31,280 --> 01:28:34,530 So they got a little bit more food and everything.

2271

01:28:34,530 --> 01:28:37,620 But after the war, sometimes the kapos got killed.

2272

01:28:37,620 --> 01:28:40,050 We killed him ourselves because they

2273

01:28:40,050 --> 01:28:45,060 were no good because he thought the same thing,

2274

01:28:45,060 --> 01:28:46,690 he will never be free.

2275

01:28:46,690 --> 01:28:51,120 Now in the meantime, he got

a little bit food to eat.

2276 01:28:51,120 --> 01:28:55,290 So for that, he agrees to become a kapo.

2277

01:28:55,290 --> 01:29:00,445 Did you ever feel danger from other normal prisoners, not

2278

01:29:00,445 --> 01:29:00,945 kapos?

2279

01:29:00,945 --> 01:29:03,660

2280

01:29:03,660 --> 01:29:06,760 No, because he was the same, you know what I mean.

2281

01:29:06,760 --> 01:29:07,260 OK.

2282

01:29:07,260 --> 01:29:09,752 He didn't have no business to do something,

2283

01:29:09,752 --> 01:29:12,210 you know what I mean, if he didn't steal the piece of bread

2284

01:29:12,210 --> 01:29:14,970 from somebody else.

2285

01:29:14,970 --> 01:29:18,720 Stealing bread was death, your own death.

2286

01:29:18,720 --> 01:29:21,620

2287

01:29:21,620 --> 01:29:24,650 I was there in a camp, the father 2288 01:29:24,650 --> 01:29:27,950 stole from his son, the father from his son

2289

01:29:27,950 --> 01:29:31,070 the piece of bread, and he found out.

2290

01:29:31,070 --> 01:29:31,930 They killed him.

2291

01:29:31,930 --> 01:29:32,880 You know how?

2292

01:29:32,880 --> 01:29:36,060 You take a pieces from the shovel,

2293

01:29:36,060 --> 01:29:41,645 they put it over here, one on this side, one on this side.

2294

01:29:41,645 --> 01:29:47,730 And if you still alive, they do it one more time, our people.

2295

01:29:47,730 --> 01:29:53,570 This was death because you take away the piece of bread, this,

2296

01:29:53,570 --> 01:29:54,636 you know what I mean.

2297

01:29:54,636 --> 01:29:56,004 Wow.

2298

01:29:56,004 --> 01:29:59,375 This is unbelievable.

2299

01:29:59,375 --> 01:29:59,875 Wow.

2300

01:29:59,875 --> 01:30:07,420

### 2301

01:30:07,420 --> 01:30:11,260 How did things change when you went from a labor camp

# 2302

01:30:11,260 --> 01:30:15,450 to a concentration camp?

# 2303

01:30:15,450 --> 01:30:20,230 We didn't know too much before, you know what I mean.

# 2304

01:30:20,230 --> 01:30:23,320 And was different.

#### 2305

01:30:23,320 --> 01:30:26,882 You come into Auschwitz in the music.

#### 2306

01:30:26,882 --> 01:30:29,000 Really?

#### 2307

01:30:29,000 --> 01:30:29,500 OK.

# 2308

01:30:29,500 --> 01:30:32,220 You're going to want to work with the music.

#### 2309

01:30:32,220 --> 01:30:36,240 And to be in the music, you had a good job.

## 2310

01:30:36,240 --> 01:30:38,980 You had a piece of bread more, you had a little soup more,

#### 2311

01:30:38,980 --> 01:30:39,930 you know what I mean.

# 2312

01:30:39,930 --> 01:30:41,860 You was like a big shot, you know what I mean.

01:30:41,860 --> 01:30:42,740 If you play music?

2314

01:30:42,740 --> 01:30:43,240

2315

01:30:43,240 --> 01:30:44,573 But you had to know how to play.

2316

01:30:44,573 --> 01:30:47,410

2317

01:30:47,410 --> 01:30:48,310 Yes.

2318

01:30:48,310 --> 01:30:52,510 So when you got to Auschwitz, did you already know

2319

01:30:52,510 --> 01:30:53,630 what Auschwitz was?

2320

01:30:53,630 --> 01:30:58,780 No, nothing at all, nothing at all.

2321

01:30:58,780 --> 01:31:02,167 Did you know that people were being gassed there?

2322

01:31:02,167 --> 01:31:03,620 No.

2323

01:31:03,620 --> 01:31:07,760 When I was in Auschwitz, you didn't

2324

01:31:07,760 --> 01:31:12,710 know how to hide a little bit of something, so I went to work.

2325

01:31:12,710 --> 01:31:14,470 Where did I want to work?

01:31:14,470 --> 01:31:15,250 To Birkenau.

2327

01:31:15,250 --> 01:31:18,360 This was a four-kilometer walk and everything.

2328

01:31:18,360 --> 01:31:21,560 Birkenau was the biggest one, the ovens and everything.

2329

01:31:21,560 --> 01:31:23,110 And I worked by the ovens.

2330

01:31:23,110 --> 01:31:26,740 First of all, I had the wooden shoes, like Holland does.

2331

01:31:26,740 --> 01:31:28,590 Yeah.

2332

01:31:28,590 --> 01:31:33,100 I come over there to Birkenau, was a big pile of dead people.

2333

01:31:33,100 --> 01:31:36,610 I took a jacket because we had the pajama stripes.

2334

01:31:36,610 --> 01:31:40,530 It took a jacket, I took a pair of shoes from the dead.

2335

01:31:40,530 --> 01:31:42,130 But it didn't take long till I come

2336

01:31:42,130 --> 01:31:46,270 to the camp they took it away.

2337

01:31:46,270 --> 01:31:52,300 I saw Russians cut pieces, meat from the dead,

2338

01:31:52,300 --> 01:31:53,860

took it home to cook and eat.

2339

01:31:53,860 --> 01:31:57,010

2340

01:31:57,010 --> 01:31:59,430 Being in Auschwitz, in Dachau--

2341

01:31:59,430 --> 01:32:03,880 Birkenau, our group from number 10 walked out,

2342

01:32:03,880 --> 01:32:08,316 was maybe a dozen boys, big ones.

2343

01:32:08,316 --> 01:32:10,420 And one was my brother's friend.

2344

01:32:10,420 --> 01:32:12,100 He recognized me.

2345

01:32:12,100 --> 01:32:13,480 I wouldn't recognize him.

2346

01:32:13,480 --> 01:32:16,030 He recognized me as a baby.

2347

01:32:16,030 --> 01:32:18,530 So he told me they castrate me.

2348

01:32:18,530 --> 01:32:20,080 I didn't know what it is.

2349

01:32:20,080 --> 01:32:21,683 I didn't understand.

2350

01:32:21,683 --> 01:32:23,350 He had to tell me the old fashioned way.

2351

01:32:23,350 --> 01:32:25,930

01:32:25,930 --> 01:32:27,790

Oh my goodness!

2353

01:32:27,790 --> 01:32:29,710

He had been castrated?

2354

01:32:29,710 --> 01:32:31,400

Yes.

2355

01:32:31,400 --> 01:32:36,652

He made out no shots, no

extra thing, everything.

2356

01:32:36,652 --> 01:32:39,860

And he did the ladies

the same thing.

2357

01:32:39,860 --> 01:32:46,430

But you had to be beautiful,

tall, and everything.

2358

01:32:46,430 --> 01:32:48,690

Was this medical

experimentation?

2359

01:32:48,690 --> 01:32:49,190

Right.

2360

01:32:49,190 --> 01:32:52,370

This was him, with Dr.

Mengele experience, right.

2361

01:32:52,370 --> 01:32:55,860

2362

01:32:55,860 --> 01:32:58,200

Oh my goodness.

2363

01:32:58,200 --> 01:33:00,930

Well, this was in the

papers, too, and everything,

2364

01:33:00,930 --> 01:33:02,100

you know what I mean.

2365 01:33:02,100 --> 01:33:06,810 But lots of time wasn't in the paper if they were, let's say,

2366 01:33:06,810 --> 01:33:10,580 blonde and blue eyes, but he was Jewish.

2367 01:33:10,580 --> 01:33:14,100 So there's lots of time you had to take off the pants

2368 01:33:14,100 --> 01:33:16,920 because most the Jews were circumcised.

2369 01:33:16,920 --> 01:33:19,530

2370 01:33:19,530 --> 01:33:23,635 But they don't see this in papers too much.

2371 01:33:23,635 --> 01:33:24,135 Yeah.

2372 01:33:24,135 --> 01:33:28,410

2373 01:33:28,410 --> 01:33:32,490 When you got to Auschwitz, what was the very first image

2374 01:33:32,490 --> 01:33:34,465 you had of the place?

2375 01:33:34,465 --> 01:33:36,090 What was the first thing that your eyes

2376 01:33:36,090 --> 01:33:37,530 saw when the train opened?

01:33:37,530 --> 01:33:41,350 The first thing I saw, the big stack of dead people.

2378 01:33:41,350 --> 01:33:44,875 It didn't bother me because you get used to it,

2379 01:33:44,875 --> 01:33:45,750 you know what I mean.

2380 01:33:45,750 --> 01:33:50,310 So I went over there, I picked up a jacket

2381 01:33:50,310 --> 01:33:52,500 from the dead people, I pick up a pair of shoes

2382 01:33:52,500 --> 01:33:56,760 from the people, and I walked.

2383 01:33:56,760 --> 01:33:58,950 I thought I can get by.

2384 01:33:58,950 --> 01:34:02,160 So when I came to Auschwitz from Birkenau, they took it away,

2385 01:34:02,160 --> 01:34:03,510 you know what I mean.

2386 01:34:03,510 --> 01:34:07,420 You cannot be different than somebody else.

2387 01:34:07,420 --> 01:34:09,730 The train that takes you to Auschwitz

2388 01:34:09,730 --> 01:34:12,550 stops when you're going there.

2389 01:34:12,550 --> 01:34:15,180 It lets you out at Birkenau.

01:34:15,180 --> 01:34:19,420 You're at Birkenau, you see a pile of corpses,

2391

01:34:19,420 --> 01:34:24,880 you take the jacket, you take the shoes, and you go--

2392

01:34:24,880 --> 01:34:27,400 was there a selection taking place

2393

01:34:27,400 --> 01:34:29,550 when you got off the train?

2394

01:34:29,550 --> 01:34:33,250 At that time already I was in Auschwitz and Birkenau.

2395

01:34:33,250 --> 01:34:34,750 OK, you had already been there.

2396

01:34:34,750 --> 01:34:35,770 I had been there.

2397

01:34:35,770 --> 01:34:43,030 So it was news for me to have been there because first I

2398

01:34:43,030 --> 01:34:45,350 was there in Auschwitz when they put the number on.

2399

01:34:45,350 --> 01:34:45,850 OK.

2400

01:34:45,850 --> 01:34:47,890 I want to go from the very beginning.

2401

01:34:47,890 --> 01:34:52,330 When you first get to Auschwitz before coming to Birkenau, 2402 01:34:52,330 --> 01:34:53,890 what's the first thing that happens

2403

01:34:53,890 --> 01:34:55,660 when you get off the train?

2404

01:34:55,660 --> 01:35:00,580 When we get off, I told you, we were invited with music.

2405

01:35:00,580 --> 01:35:01,380 Right.

2406

01:35:01,380 --> 01:35:03,750 So this was something that I never saw it.

2407

01:35:03,750 --> 01:35:04,250 I say--

2408

01:35:04,250 --> 01:35:04,750 Of course.

2409

01:35:04,750 --> 01:35:06,770 --it had to be good.

2410

01:35:06,770 --> 01:35:10,298 So what happens-- the music is playing, you get off,

2411

01:35:10,298 --> 01:35:10,840 what happens?

2412

01:35:10,840 --> 01:35:13,890

2413

01:35:13,890 --> 01:35:18,620 So I was not lucky enough, I didn't know how to hide this.

2414

01:35:18,620 --> 01:35:21,290

They took me to work to Birkenau.

# 2415 01:35:21,290 --> 01:35:23,110 So in other words, you were in a selection.

2416

01:35:23,110 --> 01:35:24,152 A selection had happened.

2417

01:35:24,152 --> 01:35:27,740 The selection, I was already-this was to the selection.

2418

01:35:27,740 --> 01:35:28,593 OK.

2419

01:35:28,593 --> 01:35:29,510 Before the selection--

2420

01:35:29,510 --> 01:35:31,350 I had gone through Mengele.

2421

01:35:31,350 --> 01:35:31,900 OK.

2422

01:35:31,900 --> 01:35:34,720 So did you know it was Mengele?

2423

01:35:34,720 --> 01:35:38,770 Because later on they told me this was Mengele

2424

01:35:38,770 --> 01:35:41,815 because he was there, and he told you, left or right,

2425

01:35:41,815 --> 01:35:42,760 you know what I mean.

2426

01:35:42,760 --> 01:35:45,230 And who told you this was Mengele, in the camp?

2427

01:35:45,230 --> 01:35:47,140 In the camp later

## on because I told

### 2428

01:35:47,140 --> 01:35:50,080 them, the one who was there longer at the camp,

### 2429

01:35:50,080 --> 01:35:51,400 so they know a little bit more.

### 2430

01:35:51,400 --> 01:35:52,660 Oh, OK.

## 2431

01:35:52,660 --> 01:35:53,860 I didn't know it--

## 2432

01:35:53,860 --> 01:35:54,943 You didn't know who he was

## 2433

01:35:54,943 --> 01:35:57,975 --the doctor came till after the selection, Dr. Mengele,

### 2434

01:35:57,975 --> 01:35:58,890 you know what I mean.

## 2435

01:35:58,890 --> 01:35:59,620 OK.

### 2436

01:35:59,620 --> 01:36:01,750 After coming-- when after I got free,

# 2437

01:36:01,750 --> 01:36:04,750 you know what I mean because we didn't think about it,

### 2438

01:36:04,750 --> 01:36:05,870 you know what I mean.

## 2439

01:36:05,870 --> 01:36:08,960 So at the selection, he asks you how old you are.

## 2440

01:36:08,960 --> 01:36:09,460

Right.

2441

01:36:09,460 --> 01:36:11,760 And that's when you say, I'm 18.

2442

01:36:11,760 --> 01:36:12,760 Right.

2443

01:36:12,760 --> 01:36:14,000 And you were really how old?

2444

01:36:14,000 --> 01:36:21,160 Because I saw it going left was all the people, some of them

2445

01:36:21,160 --> 01:36:24,920 a little bit not fast, nothing.

2446

01:36:24,920 --> 01:36:28,270 So I saw everything goes straight to the oven.

2447

01:36:28,270 --> 01:36:30,210 Did you know it was the oven?

2448

01:36:30,210 --> 01:36:32,440 Well, we know it was no good.

2449

01:36:32,440 --> 01:36:34,000 We didn't know exactly the oven.

2450

01:36:34,000 --> 01:36:35,470 We didn't know.

2451

01:36:35,470 --> 01:36:41,285 So finally he asked me, and I told him 18.

2452

01:36:41,285 --> 01:36:42,160 And you were really--

2453

01:36:42,160 --> 01:36:47,440 But why, I didn't think I was so smart to say it.

01:36:47,440 --> 01:36:51,520 So to me, it had to be God.

2455

01:36:51,520 --> 01:36:53,710 And how old were you really?

2456

01:36:53,710 --> 01:36:55,960 And I was that time 13 years old.

2457

01:36:55,960 --> 01:36:57,920 My goodness!

2458

01:36:57,920 --> 01:36:59,080 So this is early on.

2459

01:36:59,080 --> 01:37:05,035 This is in 1940 that you were in Auschwitz is in 1940.

2460

01:37:05,035 --> 01:37:06,960 And this was 1940?

2461

01:37:06,960 --> 01:37:08,620 Yeah, yeah.

2462

01:37:08,620 --> 01:37:09,430 OK.

2463

01:37:09,430 --> 01:37:12,880 So the other camps you had been to,

2464

01:37:12,880 --> 01:37:15,270 you hadn't stayed there for more than a year.

2465

01:37:15,270 --> 01:37:18,260 This they didn't ask too much, you know what I mean--

2466

01:37:18,260 --> 01:37:18,880 OK.

01:37:18,880 --> 01:37:20,672 --because it was small ones and everything,

## 2468

01:37:20,672 --> 01:37:23,350 you know what I mean, you can get by a little bit.

### 2469

01:37:23,350 --> 01:37:24,070 But this one?

## 2470

01:37:24,070 --> 01:37:27,520

## 2471

01:37:27,520 --> 01:37:31,835 Did you look older than your years do you think?

### 2472

01:37:31,835 --> 01:37:32,930 I don't know.

### 2473

01:37:32,930 --> 01:37:33,650 OK.

## 2474

01:37:33,650 --> 01:37:36,880 I think I was a little bit taller maybe,

#### 2475

01:37:36,880 --> 01:37:38,410 you know what I mean.

## 2476

01:37:38,410 --> 01:37:42,070 Now I'm going down.

### 2477

01:37:42,070 --> 01:37:45,270 So you got into the line of younger people.

## 2478

01:37:45,270 --> 01:37:47,530 No between different kind.

#### 2479

01:37:47,530 --> 01:37:48,050 OK.

01:37:48,050 --> 01:37:49,790 Was different, all the--

2481

01:37:49,790 --> 01:37:52,780 not all the girls, woman, everything together,

2482

01:37:52,780 --> 01:37:54,500 everything together.

2483

01:37:54,500 --> 01:37:57,940 And after you were in this line that got selected,

2484

01:37:57,940 --> 01:38:00,540 what happened to you then?

2485

01:38:00,540 --> 01:38:02,900 To dress went to work--

2486

01:38:02,900 --> 01:38:03,440 Right away.

2487

01:38:03,440 --> 01:38:06,010 --different places or something, you know what I mean.

2488

01:38:06,010 --> 01:38:07,450 And you got sent to Birkenau?

2489

01:38:07,450 --> 01:38:08,170 Right.

2490

01:38:08,170 --> 01:38:10,570 And that's when you went to Birkenau?

2491

01:38:10,570 --> 01:38:12,550 And what was your job in Birkenau?

2492

01:38:12,550 --> 01:38:15,130 Job at the Birkenau

was a tough one.

2493

01:38:15,130 --> 01:38:16,000 What was it?

2494

01:38:16,000 --> 01:38:21,730 I used to stay by the oven and one side and on the other side

2495

01:38:21,730 --> 01:38:22,900 to push in.

2496

01:38:22,900 --> 01:38:24,160 Oh my!

2497

01:38:24,160 --> 01:38:28,390 The worst thing was that next to me on the other side

2498

01:38:28,390 --> 01:38:30,930 was Konos' father and mother.

2499

01:38:30,930 --> 01:38:33,320 And he had to do this to the father and mother.

2500

01:38:33,320 --> 01:38:36,080 Oh my!

2501

01:38:36,080 --> 01:38:38,310 This is the worst thing I saw.

2502

01:38:38,310 --> 01:38:42,400 Plus when I met my brother's friend, when he told me

2503

01:38:42,400 --> 01:38:45,360 about castrating, because I thought maybe

2504

01:38:45,360 --> 01:38:49,090 they could do it everybody like this, something like this.

01:38:49,090 --> 01:38:49,590 Yeah.

2506

01:38:49,590 --> 01:38:53,070

2507

01:38:53,070 --> 01:38:55,040 This was the shake-up a little bit.

2508

01:38:55,040 --> 01:38:57,130 Of course.

2509

01:38:57,130 --> 01:39:02,420 So your job in Birkenau was to take the corpses

2510

01:39:02,420 --> 01:39:05,435 and shove them into the crematorium?

2511

01:39:05,435 --> 01:39:07,220 This was the worst job I ever did.

2512

01:39:07,220 --> 01:39:11,480

2513

01:39:11,480 --> 01:39:15,820 So by this point, you must realize that people are being

2514

01:39:15,820 --> 01:39:18,355 killed, they're being gassed.

2515

01:39:18,355 --> 01:39:21,000

2516

01:39:21,000 --> 01:39:26,640 So your sent to Birkenau as your first job in Auschwitz?

2517

01:39:26,640 --> 01:39:29,895

This was the job, the worst one what I can say,

2518 01:39:29,895 --> 01:39:32,610 you know what I mean, something to do something like this.

2519 01:39:32,610 --> 01:39:37,410 Special when my next one labor on the other side, who

2520 01:39:37,410 --> 01:39:41,790 works with me, his father and mother come.

2521 01:39:41,790 --> 01:39:42,750 What did he do?

2522 01:39:42,750 --> 01:39:44,160 The throw them in.

2523 01:39:44,160 --> 01:39:45,016 He went through.

2524 01:39:45,016 --> 01:39:46,141 He had to push everything--

2525 01:39:46,141 --> 01:39:48,240 Did he say this is my father, this is my mother.

2526 01:39:48,240 --> 01:39:50,172 No, he had to push them in.

2527 01:39:50,172 --> 01:39:50,880 How did you know?

2528 01:39:50,880 --> 01:39:51,547 Did he tell you?

2529 01:39:51,547 --> 01:39:53,610 Because he told me.

2530 01:39:53,610 --> 01:39:55,950 He talked.

# 2531 01:39:55,950 --> 01:40:01,630 The same thing with my brother's friend who they castrate.

2532 01:40:01,630 --> 01:40:03,190 I didn't know what it is.

2533 01:40:03,190 --> 01:40:06,130 I didn't know it, you know what I mean.

2534 01:40:06,130 --> 01:40:06,630 Yeah.

2535 01:40:06,630 --> 01:40:09,570

2536 01:40:09,570 --> 01:40:12,030 How long were you doing this?

2537 01:40:12,030 --> 01:40:15,630 How long were you doing this in Birkenau?

2538 01:40:15,630 --> 01:40:18,200 This was only medical stuff, you know what I mean.

2539 01:40:18,200 --> 01:40:19,490 The did it to the women, too.

2540 01:40:19,490 --> 01:40:23,790 No, I'm talking about your job, when you were pushing corpses

2541 01:40:23,790 --> 01:40:27,570 into the ovens, was it for half a year, was it a year,

2542 01:40:27,570 --> 01:40:29,330 was it for three years?

2543 01:40:29,330 --> 01:40:29,830 No, no, no. 2544 01:40:29,830 --> 01:40:32,980 This was sometimes it took a few days.

2545 01:40:32,980 --> 01:40:35,000 It depends what you do, you know what I mean,

2546 01:40:35,000 --> 01:40:36,420 what they tell you to do.

2547 01:40:36,420 --> 01:40:37,770 So they switched you around?

2548 01:40:37,770 --> 01:40:39,030 Right.

2549 01:40:39,030 --> 01:40:42,490 So this wasn't the job that you did all the time.

2550 01:40:42,490 --> 01:40:44,370 This wasn't all the time the job--

2551 01:40:44,370 --> 01:40:45,510 OK.

2552 01:40:45,510 --> 01:40:46,965 --a few weeks, a few months.

2553 01:40:46,965 --> 01:40:50,020

2554 01:40:50,020 --> 01:40:54,220 But after a while, you don't mind.

2555 01:40:54,220 --> 01:40:56,274 You don't think about it anymore.

2556 01:40:56,274 --> 01:41:06,648 2557 01:41:06,648 --> 01:41:08,130 Something will bring you there.

2558 01:41:08,130 --> 01:41:08,630 OK.

2559 01:41:08,630 --> 01:41:13,520

2560 01:41:13,520 --> 01:41:17,690 What are some of the other jobs that you had at Auschwitz?

2561 01:41:17,690 --> 01:41:23,530 In Auschwitz, same thing, streets, he was making stones.

2562 01:41:23,530 --> 01:41:24,030 Streets?

2563 01:41:24,030 --> 01:41:27,010 Oh, cobblestones for the streets?

2564 01:41:27,010 --> 01:41:28,730 This is one time this, something,

2565 01:41:28,730 --> 01:41:32,480 and loading trucks with cement.

2566 01:41:32,480 --> 01:41:35,080 So you would-- like cement bags onto trucks?

2567 01:41:35,080 --> 01:41:35,840 Right.

2568 01:41:35,840 --> 01:41:38,250 This why I got a little bit--

2569 01:41:38,250 --> 01:41:39,780 Uh-huh.

2570 01:41:39,780 --> 01:41:41,890 --because I thought this was going to be easier.

2571 01:41:41,890 --> 01:41:46,115 In the meantime, it wasn't so easy.

2572 01:41:46,115 --> 01:41:49,460 It was easier a little bit then walking and going back.

2573 01:41:49,460 --> 01:41:50,360 Yeah.

2574 01:41:50,360 --> 01:41:53,750 But I couldn't straighten out.

2575 01:41:53,750 --> 01:41:54,410 Yeah.

2576 01:41:54,410 --> 01:41:58,715 Well, heavy bags all the time, that would do it.

2577 01:41:58,715 --> 01:42:01,160 This kind of job I did lots of time.

2578 01:42:01,160 --> 01:42:02,330 OK.

2579 01:42:02,330 --> 01:42:04,550 So it was loading bags onto trucks?

2580 01:42:04,550 --> 01:42:05,450 And loading--

2581 01:42:05,450 --> 01:42:06,290 Unloading.

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

01:42:06,290 --> 01:42:09,810 --you have to put on top, somebody is working--

2583

01:42:09,810 --> 01:42:11,780 OK.

2584

01:42:11,780 --> 01:42:16,550 --because I thought maybe it going to be easier, but.

2585

01:42:16,550 --> 01:42:20,690 Did you ever have any choice in any of the jobs that you did?

2586

01:42:20,690 --> 01:42:21,957 Not too much.

2587

01:42:21,957 --> 01:42:23,420 OK.

2588

01:42:23,420 --> 01:42:24,920 What was your uniform?

2589

01:42:24,920 --> 01:42:28,620 Describe to me how you got your uniform?

2590

01:42:28,620 --> 01:42:29,280 The uniforms?

2591

01:42:29,280 --> 01:42:31,160 Mm-hmm.

2592

01:42:31,160 --> 01:42:34,800 You had to take off completely everything.

2593

01:42:34,800 --> 01:42:36,110 And they give you a uniform.

2594

01:42:36,110 --> 01:42:44,101 Sometimes they give a big tall men shorts, short men, tall.

01:42:44,101 --> 01:42:46,120 And you had to wear it.

2596

01:42:46,120 --> 01:42:50,510 They give you a pajama with the head and everything.

2597

01:42:50,510 --> 01:42:52,640 And I made one mistake.

2598

01:42:52,640 --> 01:42:54,008 I should have saved it.

2599

01:42:54,008 --> 01:42:56,400 Ah.

2600

01:42:56,400 --> 01:42:59,510 Did you have the same uniform the whole time?

2601

01:42:59,510 --> 01:43:01,050 It depends.

2602

01:43:01,050 --> 01:43:03,000 But it's always something.

2603

01:43:03,000 --> 01:43:07,191 Matter of fact, they used to put a stripe in the middle.

2604

01:43:07,191 --> 01:43:08,140 A stripe?

2605

01:43:08,140 --> 01:43:09,380 They shaved it.

2606

01:43:09,380 --> 01:43:09,880 Really?

2607

01:43:09,880 --> 01:43:13,398 You didn't have no hair, but I mean, life for me,

01:43:13,398 --> 01:43:14,190 they didn't had to.

2609

01:43:14,190 --> 01:43:17,730 But, I mean, some of them in case you run away--

2610

01:43:17,730 --> 01:43:20,260

2611

01:43:20,260 --> 01:43:21,240 OK.

2612

01:43:21,240 --> 01:43:22,900 --you can see it, too.

2613

01:43:22,900 --> 01:43:26,124 And did you get a number?

2614

01:43:26,124 --> 01:43:27,850 I got a number.

2615

01:43:27,850 --> 01:43:31,660 Do you know what your number is?

2616

01:43:31,660 --> 01:43:33,130 Can we focus on this?

2617

01:43:33,130 --> 01:43:38,010

2618

01:43:38,010 --> 01:43:42,045 Elie Wiesel got a number 18, and I got a number 18.

2619

01:43:42,045 --> 01:43:43,340 Uh-huh.

2620

01:43:43,340 --> 01:43:45,720 But there's more to your numbers.

2621

01:43:45,720 --> 01:43:46,430

What is it?

2622 01:43:46,430 --> 01:43:50,870 So it's-- let me see here.

2623 01:43:50,870 --> 01:43:52,580 I see 1-6-0-3-4-4.

2624 01:43:52,580 --> 01:43:55,430

2625 01:43:55,430 --> 01:43:57,020 Are we able to focus in on?

2626 01:43:57,020 --> 01:44:00,860 7, 10, 14, 18.

2627 01:44:00,860 --> 01:44:03,380 Well, your number has 1-6-0-3-4-4.

2628 01:44:03,380 --> 01:44:07,630

2629 01:44:07,630 --> 01:44:08,500 I counted.

2630 01:44:08,500 --> 01:44:10,068 1 and 6 is 7.

2631 01:44:10,068 --> 01:44:10,610 You're right.

2632 01:44:10,610 --> 01:44:12,600 7 and 3 is 10.

2633 01:44:12,600 --> 01:44:14,480 10 and 4 is 14.

2634 01:44:14,480 --> 01:44:16,250 14 and 4 is 18.

2635 01:44:16,250 --> 01:44:17,840 That's how you to 18. 2636 01:44:17,840 --> 01:44:20,690 For 47 years, I didn't know the number.

2637

01:44:20,690 --> 01:44:23,350

2638

01:44:23,350 --> 01:44:25,090 I thought this is it.

2639

01:44:25,090 --> 01:44:28,080 So everybody asks me, what is the number?

2640

01:44:28,080 --> 01:44:31,510 I used to tell them this is my girlfriend's telephone number

2641

01:44:31,510 --> 01:44:33,490 because I got tired to tell them everything,

2642

01:44:33,490 --> 01:44:35,170 you know what I mean.

2643

01:44:35,170 --> 01:44:36,820 I didn't know it for 47 years--

2644

01:44:36,820 --> 01:44:39,192

2645

01:44:39,192 --> 01:44:40,900 So you didn't counted up that way before.

2646

01:44:40,900 --> 01:44:45,580 --because I didn't have the brains to figure ti out.

2647

01:44:45,580 --> 01:44:47,230 I wouldn't have thought it either.

01:44:47,230 --> 01:44:49,570 I would have just read the numbers as the numbers.

2649

01:44:49,570 --> 01:44:53,650 Well, if I were to tell you twice, you would've found it.

2650

01:44:53,650 --> 01:44:56,710 But at that time, you could've told me 10 times,

2651

01:44:56,710 --> 01:45:01,480 I wouldn't think because the brains wasn't there.

2652

01:45:01,480 --> 01:45:02,860 So Elie Wiesel's--

2653

01:45:02,860 --> 01:45:05,020 Elie Wiesel, different number, but 18.

2654

01:45:05,020 --> 01:45:06,820 It comes to 18.

2655

01:45:06,820 --> 01:45:08,170 Only two numbers.

2656

01:45:08,170 --> 01:45:11,400 I was in camp with him and his father.

2657

01:45:11,400 --> 01:45:13,690 And did you know Elie Wiesel?

2658

01:45:13,690 --> 01:45:16,630 Just we know each other, hello, something,

2659

01:45:16,630 --> 01:45:17,560 you know what I mean.

2660

01:45:17,560 --> 01:45:18,060 Yeah.

01:45:18,060 --> 01:45:21,240 But I didn't know he was so smart and so

2662

01:45:21,240 --> 01:45:24,100 intelligent and everything because I was nothing.

2663

01:45:24,100 --> 01:45:26,910

2664

01:45:26,910 --> 01:45:29,140 Well, I think everybody there felt like they

2665

01:45:29,140 --> 01:45:32,800 were nothing in those camps.

2666

01:45:32,800 --> 01:45:36,970 Now, were your barracks segregated?

2667

01:45:36,970 --> 01:45:40,860 Was it men segregated from women?

2668

01:45:40,860 --> 01:45:41,650 Right.

2669

01:45:41,650 --> 01:45:42,490 OK.

2670

01:45:42,490 --> 01:45:44,920 We used to different camps, different barracks.

2671

01:45:44,920 --> 01:45:48,910 Sometimes was maybe the wire everything

2672

01:45:48,910 --> 01:45:50,740 separated from the women or something

2673 01:45:50,740 --> 01:45:53,530 but you couldn't go

close or something.

2674

01:45:53,530 --> 01:45:56,000 First of all, it was electric wires.

2675

01:45:56,000 --> 01:45:59,720 If you go close, you die, you know what I mean.

2676

01:45:59,720 --> 01:46:02,900 In Auschwitz, Birkenau, it was electric wires.

2677

01:46:02,900 --> 01:46:03,745 Yeah.

2678

01:46:03,745 --> 01:46:05,620 Were there some people who committed suicide?

2679

01:46:05,620 --> 01:46:08,970 Some of them did suicide, yes.

2680

01:46:08,970 --> 01:46:12,530

2681

01:46:12,530 --> 01:46:17,630 When did you find out about what happened to your mother?

2682

01:46:17,630 --> 01:46:23,690 Well, because everybody know this kind of people,

2683

01:46:23,690 --> 01:46:26,675 like my mother and everything, if they come to the camp,

2684

01:46:26,675 --> 01:46:28,990 they don't have a chance--

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

01:46:28,990 --> 01:46:29,815 OK.

2686

01:46:29,815 --> 01:46:31,440 --because they were looking for younger

2687

01:46:31,440 --> 01:46:33,150 ones to work and everything.

2688

01:46:33,150 --> 01:46:35,960 OK.

2689

01:46:35,960 --> 01:46:38,960 When you got to Auschwitz, did you

2690

01:46:38,960 --> 01:46:42,995 realize that you were not so far away from your home?

2691

01:46:42,995 --> 01:46:43,495 After.

2692

01:46:43,495 --> 01:46:48,320

2693

01:46:48,320 --> 01:46:50,210 After I found out because I didn't

2694

01:46:50,210 --> 01:46:54,292 think that this is all so close or something,

2695

01:46:54,292 --> 01:46:55,167 you know what I mean.

2696

01:46:55,167 --> 01:46:58,370

2697

01:46:58,370 --> 01:47:03,290 And did your sister help you get some kind of job?

01:47:03,290 --> 01:47:07,430 Earlier you mentioned to me that your sister was

2699

01:47:07,430 --> 01:47:12,980 smart and forceful Gertrude.

2700

01:47:12,980 --> 01:47:15,320 And you said that she helped you get a kind of job.

2701

01:47:15,320 --> 01:47:19,290 And I'm not very clear about that.

2702

01:47:19,290 --> 01:47:21,890 This was before she went to camps and everything.

2703

01:47:21,890 --> 01:47:22,940 Oh, OK.

2704

01:47:22,940 --> 01:47:24,360 I thought it was about--

2705

01:47:24,360 --> 01:47:24,860 No.

2706

01:47:24,860 --> 01:47:28,070 So you had started working in the printing--

2707

01:47:28,070 --> 01:47:30,380 A few weeks or something on the street.

2708

01:47:30,380 --> 01:47:32,540 And some of the work in the coal mine.

2709

01:47:32,540 --> 01:47:34,672 But she got me a job.

2710

01:47:34,672 --> 01:47:35,630

This was for the city--

2711

01:47:35,630 --> 01:47:37,370

2712

01:47:37,370 --> 01:47:40,650

--to sweep the

floors, I mean, the--

2713

01:47:40,650 --> 01:47:42,200

To sweep the street

or the floors?

2714

01:47:42,200 --> 01:47:42,950

The streets.

2715

01:47:42,950 --> 01:47:44,500

The streets.

2716

01:47:44,500 --> 01:47:45,560

Oh, so I see.

2717

01:47:45,560 --> 01:47:48,230

So this was still

back in the hometown.

2718

01:47:48,230 --> 01:47:51,500

This was the home not too

long, you know what I mean.

2719

01:47:51,500 --> 01:47:54,080

Now, had she been

sent to Auschwitz?

2720

01:47:54,080 --> 01:47:58,340

She was in the Auschwitz because

when she come to Auschwitz,

2721

01:47:58,340 --> 01:48:00,750

this was already Judenrein.

2722

01:48:00,750 --> 01:48:03,870

This was the end already almost.

01:48:03,870 --> 01:48:04,820 OK.

2724

01:48:04,820 --> 01:48:08,210 I mean, a few years, but the end.

2725

01:48:08,210 --> 01:48:10,850 How many years were you in Auschwitz?

2726

01:48:10,850 --> 01:48:14,600 I was in Auschwitz maybe a year and a half to two years.

2727

01:48:14,600 --> 01:48:16,970 So till 1942 or '43?

2728

01:48:16,970 --> 01:48:21,920 And later on, I got transferred to Dachau because--

2729

01:48:21,920 --> 01:48:23,420 Was that your last camp?

2730

01:48:23,420 --> 01:48:24,720 This was the last camp.

2731

01:48:24,720 --> 01:48:27,000 And General Eisenhower liberated me.

2732

01:48:27,000 --> 01:48:27,500 OK.

2733

01:48:27,500 --> 01:48:30,890 We'll talk about that later after lunch.

2734

01:48:30,890 --> 01:48:32,140 I got pictures, too.

2735

01:48:32,140 --> 01:48:32,640 OK.

01:48:32,640 --> 01:48:36,170 Not with me, but I have some pictures.

# 2737

01:48:36,170 --> 01:48:41,530 But did you ever know that your sister was in Auschwitz

### 2738

01:48:41,530 --> 01:48:43,870 when you were-- did you ever meet her in Auschwitz?

### 2739

01:48:43,870 --> 01:48:46,060 I knew she was in Auschwitz.

## 2740

01:48:46,060 --> 01:48:50,140 And I thought she will make it sooner than anybody

### 2741

01:48:50,140 --> 01:48:54,820 because she was different, stronger, speak

### 2742

01:48:54,820 --> 01:48:57,145 perfect German, good looking.

### 2743

01:48:57,145 --> 01:49:01,105

## 2744

01:49:01,105 --> 01:49:03,290 If she come into the door, you don't let her in,

## 2745

01:49:03,290 --> 01:49:04,630 she come to the window.

### 2746

01:49:04,630 --> 01:49:06,070 She has to, you know what I mean.

## 2747

01:49:06,070 --> 01:49:06,870 She was a--

### 2748

01:49:06,870 --> 01:49:08,050

That kind of person.

2749 01:49:08,050 --> 01:49:09,460 --this kind of people.

2750 01:49:09,460 --> 01:49:12,080 I thought if somebody's going to make it,

2751 01:49:12,080 --> 01:49:14,350 she's going to make it for sure.

2752 01:49:14,350 --> 01:49:17,770 But she got sick.

2753 01:49:17,770 --> 01:49:18,340 I know.

2754 01:49:18,340 --> 01:49:21,585 My question is, when you were in Auschwitz,

2755 01:49:21,585 --> 01:49:23,210 did you know that she was in Auschwitz?

2756 01:49:23,210 --> 01:49:25,130 No.

2757 01:49:25,130 --> 01:49:25,630 OK.

2758 01:49:25,630 --> 01:49:35,170

2759 01:49:35,170 --> 01:49:35,670 Did you--

2760 01:49:35,670 --> 01:49:36,170 OK.

2761 01:49:36,170 --> 01:49:37,540 All right, we are rolling.

01:49:37,540 --> 01:49:38,040 Yeah?

## 2763

01:49:38,040 --> 01:49:39,600 Mm-hmm.

### 2764

01:49:39,600 --> 01:49:41,160

### 2765

01:49:41,160 --> 01:49:43,770 Mr. Wolnerman, before the break, we

## 2766

01:49:43,770 --> 01:49:49,350 were talking about your various experiences in the labor camps

## 2767

01:49:49,350 --> 01:49:55,180 and in also Auschwitz as a concentration camp.

### 2768

01:49:55,180 --> 01:49:57,030 There were a couple of things that came up

#### 2/69

01:49:57,030 --> 01:49:58,950 while we were off camera that I wanted

#### 2770

01:49:58,950 --> 01:50:03,570 to make sure we found out about and explored in more depth.

### 2771

01:50:03,570 --> 01:50:06,000 One of them was that you mentioned

## 2772

01:50:06,000 --> 01:50:09,930 that when you were in Warsaw, after the ghetto uprising

### 2773

01:50:09,930 --> 01:50:13,470 and cleaning up the rubble, that part of your work

01:50:13,470 --> 01:50:16,990 took place in the

Jewish cemetery.

2775

01:50:16,990 --> 01:50:18,600

You want to know the street name?

2776

01:50:18,600 --> 01:50:19,440

Yes.

2777

01:50:19,440 --> 01:50:20,120

Gęsia.

2778

01:50:20,120 --> 01:50:20,620

Gęsia?

2779

01:50:20,620 --> 01:50:21,840

Gęsia.

2780

01:50:21,840 --> 01:50:22,890

OK.

2781

01:50:22,890 --> 01:50:24,720

Can you tell me what the cemetery

2782

01:50:24,720 --> 01:50:26,990

looked like when you got there?

2783

01:50:26,990 --> 01:50:31,200

Beat up, lots of thing.

2784

01:50:31,200 --> 01:50:32,600

Were there headstones still?

2785

01:50:32,600 --> 01:50:35,345

Headstones, some of them

missing, lots of them missing.

2786

01:50:35,345 --> 01:50:36,220

Lots of them missing.

01:50:36,220 --> 01:50:37,620 Lots of them missing.

2788

01:50:37,620 --> 01:50:39,750 Were they bombed out or just taken away?

2789

01:50:39,750 --> 01:50:41,970 They took it away because they made it

2790

01:50:41,970 --> 01:50:51,330 more for storage, like stones, steel, flames, and so on.

2791

01:50:51,330 --> 01:50:54,750 Does that mean that if you walked into the area

2792

01:50:54,750 --> 01:50:58,050 you would be able to recognize it was a cemetery?

2793

01:50:58,050 --> 01:51:00,150 Yes, yes, you still could have.

2794

01:51:00,150 --> 01:51:01,230 OK.

2795

01:51:01,230 --> 01:51:06,580 Could you still see stones with Hebraic writing on it?

2796

01:51:06,580 --> 01:51:09,300 Some of them, yes.

2797

01:51:09,300 --> 01:51:10,620 OK.

2798

01:51:10,620 --> 01:51:14,640 And are you saying it was used as a place where

2799

01:51:14,640 --> 01:51:15,633 people would store--

01:51:15,633 --> 01:51:17,550 where the authorities, the German authorities,

2801

01:51:17,550 --> 01:51:20,670 were storing things?

2802

01:51:20,670 --> 01:51:22,250 Well, I don't know what kind else

2803

01:51:22,250 --> 01:51:25,230 they did, but this, the storage of the stones,

2804

01:51:25,230 --> 01:51:28,240 and the steel things, and everything.

2805

01:51:28,240 --> 01:51:33,840 So the cemetery plots weren't kept clean.

2806

01:51:33,840 --> 01:51:37,170 And I guess what I wanted to get a sense

2807

01:51:37,170 --> 01:51:39,600 of is, what did it look like when you walked into this--

2808

01:51:39,600 --> 01:51:40,980 Like a warehouse.

2809

01:51:40,980 --> 01:51:42,870 Like a warehouse.

2810

01:51:42,870 --> 01:51:43,770 OK.

2811

01:51:43,770 --> 01:51:46,500 And your job in the cemetery?

2812

01:51:46,500 --> 01:51:49,260 Just to straighten out as much as I could,

2813

01:51:49,260 --> 01:51:50,210 you know what I mean.

2814

01:51:50,210 --> 01:51:52,050 Mm-hmm.

2815

01:51:52,050 --> 01:51:53,250 Was it a large--

2816

01:51:53,250 --> 01:51:55,530 was it a large area?

2817

01:51:55,530 --> 01:51:58,950 Pretty good, pretty good, yeah because some of them

2818

01:51:58,950 --> 01:52:02,608 still left stones the way they were.

2819

01:52:02,608 --> 01:52:03,108 OK.

2820

01:52:03,108 --> 01:52:07,240

2821

01:52:07,240 --> 01:52:11,230 In Auschwitz-- you also mentioned something off camera

2822

01:52:11,230 --> 01:52:15,340 about where your barracks were located.

2823

01:52:15,340 --> 01:52:18,520 You said that your barracks were located near a gallows.

2824

01:52:18,520 --> 01:52:21,160

2825 01:52:21,160 --> 01:52:22,400 It was a house--

2826 01:52:22,400 --> 01:52:23,195 OK.

2827 01:52:23,195 --> 01:52:26,200 --right across in the same place where they were hanging people.

2828 01:52:26,200 --> 01:52:28,910

2829 01:52:28,910 --> 01:52:30,500 Did that happen a lot?

2830 01:52:30,500 --> 01:52:36,290 Well, it happened not every day, you know what I mean,

2831 01:52:36,290 --> 01:52:39,405 because every day they had the fire going all the time,

2832 01:52:39,405 --> 01:52:40,280 you know what I mean.

2833 01:52:40,280 --> 01:52:42,530 The smoke was going all the time.

2834 01:52:42,530 --> 01:52:46,580 But this sometimes they used to hang.

2835 01:52:46,580 --> 01:52:48,500 Were you forced to watch these things?

2836 01:52:48,500 --> 01:52:51,320 Yes because they didn't give us the breakfast--

2837 01:52:51,320 --> 01:52:56,090 I mean, the black chicory coffee, you know what I mean,

2838

01:52:56,090 --> 01:52:59,300 till you go over there first to see everything.

2839

01:52:59,300 --> 01:53:02,960 And he was hanging at least 24 hours.

2840

01:53:02,960 --> 01:53:04,192 I see.

2841

01:53:04,192 --> 01:53:06,160 So that was the procedure?

2842

01:53:06,160 --> 01:53:06,920 Yes.

2843

01:53:06,920 --> 01:53:08,670 So before you get to eat--

2844

01:53:08,670 --> 01:53:13,670 Some of them who tried to run away or something, they get

2845

01:53:13,670 --> 01:53:17,780 caught or something, this how they do it.

2846

01:53:17,780 --> 01:53:23,930 Did anyone you ever know end up being so unlucky?

2847

01:53:23,930 --> 01:53:24,980 He wasn't kin with me.

2848

01:53:24,980 --> 01:53:32,600 He was from Greek, from Greece, good-looking guy.

2849

01:53:32,600 --> 01:53:36,295 And a Polish lady, Polish girl, fall in love with him. 2850 01:53:36,295 --> 01:53:41,230 And she tried to get him out, and they caught him.

2851 01:53:41,230 --> 01:53:45,710 So the best thing for them to show the rest of us

2852 01:53:45,710 --> 01:53:48,660 if you would try what can happen to you.

2853 01:53:48,660 --> 01:53:50,780 So they wanted everybody to see.

2854 01:53:50,780 --> 01:53:53,060 They didn't serve you the food, the coffee, nothing.

2855 01:53:53,060 --> 01:53:56,420 You have to get out and stay outside to watch

2856 01:53:56,420 --> 01:53:58,390 and everything.

2857 01:53:58,390 --> 01:53:59,870 Were they both hung?

2858 01:53:59,870 --> 01:54:00,370 Pardon me?

2859 01:54:00,370 --> 01:54:02,580 Were they both hung, the lady and the man?

2860 01:54:02,580 --> 01:54:03,080 No.

2861 01:54:03,080 --> 01:54:04,565 The lady was not caught.

2862 01:54:04,565 --> 01:54:06,362 They didn't catch her.

2863

01:54:06,362 --> 01:54:07,590 Oh, they didn't catch her?

2864

01:54:07,590 --> 01:54:08,637

2865

01:54:08,637 --> 01:54:09,470 But they caught him?

2866

01:54:09,470 --> 01:54:14,130

2867

01:54:14,130 --> 01:54:17,280 And was this within Auschwitz?

2868

01:54:17,280 --> 01:54:19,601 This was in Warsaw, but--

2869

01:54:19,601 --> 01:54:21,900 Ah, this was in Warsaw?

2870

01:54:21,900 --> 01:54:24,595 This was in Warsaw after the ghetto.

2871

01:54:24,595 --> 01:54:25,470 you know what I mean.

2872

01:54:25,470 --> 01:54:27,072 After the ghetto.

2873

01:54:27,072 --> 01:54:30,060 I see.

2874

01:54:30,060 --> 01:54:32,310 I was in Auschwitz, I saw people hanging,

2875

01:54:32,310 --> 01:54:35,020 but I didn't know the people, you know what I mean.

01:54:35,020 --> 01:54:35,550 Yeah.

2877

01:54:35,550 --> 01:54:38,640

But where you were housed in Warsaw

2878

01:54:38,640 --> 01:54:40,140 was right next to it, huh?

2879

01:54:40,140 --> 01:54:41,160

This was next to it.

2880

01:54:41,160 --> 01:54:47,320 And I was housed next to the hanging in Auschwitz, too.

2881

01:54:47,320 --> 01:54:47,820 Really?

2882

01:54:47,820 --> 01:54:49,710 Just happened.

2883

01:54:49,710 --> 01:54:51,480 What a charming location.

2884

01:54:51,480 --> 01:54:53,610 Yeah.

2885

01:54:53,610 --> 01:54:55,710 Tell me a little bit about what your barracks

2886

01:54:55,710 --> 01:54:57,140 looked like in Auschwitz.

2887

01:54:57,140 --> 01:55:00,902 In Auschwitz, very poor, you know what I mean--

2888

01:55:00,902 --> 01:55:01,860 How many people would--

2889

01:55:01,860 --> 01:55:03,420 --not like the rest of them.

2890

01:55:03,420 --> 01:55:06,780 It was brick homes, you know what

2891

01:55:06,780 --> 01:55:11,400 I mean, a little bit different, a little bit

2892

01:55:11,400 --> 01:55:17,130 because I used to be in the big one, too, for the horses.

2893

01:55:17,130 --> 01:55:18,550 It was two or four stages--

2894

01:55:18,550 --> 01:55:19,050 Levels.

2895

01:55:19,050 --> 01:55:22,080 --levels high.

2896

01:55:22,080 --> 01:55:25,020 Most of the time, I used to live on the top.

2897

01:55:25,020 --> 01:55:26,490 Which was the better location?

2898

01:55:26,490 --> 01:55:28,920 Was it the top of the bottom location?

2899

01:55:28,920 --> 01:55:32,340 Well, you didn't have nothing to say.

2900

01:55:32,340 --> 01:55:33,330 OK.

2901

01:55:33,330 --> 01:55:35,010

But was there a place that people--

01:55:35,010 --> 01:55:36,060

They tell you--

2903

01:55:36,060 --> 01:55:36,780

Where to go.

2904

01:55:36,780 --> 01:55:37,550

That's it.

2905

01:55:37,550 --> 01:55:38,050

OK.

2906

01:55:38,050 --> 01:55:41,970 They didn't ask you where you're

wanted, you know what I mean.

2907

01:55:41,970 --> 01:55:44,550

Was there a particular

location that people

2908

01:55:44,550 --> 01:55:45,870

would have preferred?

2909

01:55:45,870 --> 01:55:48,905

Well, the top one was a

little bit more secure,

2910

01:55:48,905 --> 01:55:52,810

you know what I mean, with

the stealing, your own people,

2911

01:55:52,810 --> 01:55:54,690

the piece of bread,

you know what I mean.

2912

01:55:54,690 --> 01:55:58,620

Lots of time, you used to take the bread between the clothes,

2913

01:55:58,620 --> 01:56:00,120

you know what I mean.

2914

01:56:00,120 --> 01:56:02,490

And then they steel it, too, while sleeping,

2915

01:56:02,490 --> 01:56:03,930 you know what I mean.

2916

01:56:03,930 --> 01:56:05,550 You didn't feel it.

2917

01:56:05,550 --> 01:56:08,430 Did anyone ever steal from you?

2918

01:56:08,430 --> 01:56:11,318 I was lucky, no.

2919

01:56:11,318 --> 01:56:13,230 OK.

2920

01:56:13,230 --> 01:56:17,580 I was very, very careful not to get hurt.

2921

01:56:17,580 --> 01:56:19,800 This was my only thing.

2922

01:56:19,800 --> 01:56:22,960 I didn't try to steal, I didn't try to run away,

2923

01:56:22,960 --> 01:56:25,110 I didn't try no little things.

2924

01:56:25,110 --> 01:56:29,930 I was straight listening, you know what I mean.

2925

01:56:29,930 --> 01:56:37,530 And I figured maybe I will get by, not live or something,

2926

01:56:37,530 --> 01:56:40,500 but I get by, you know what I mean.

2927

01:56:40,500 --> 01:56:43,650 What do you think--

2928

01:56:43,650 --> 01:56:46,770 why do you think you survived?

2929

01:56:46,770 --> 01:56:54,260 Only God want me to, this is the only one,

2930

01:56:54,260 --> 01:56:59,090 because like I told you, no medication, no food, no water,

2931

01:56:59,090 --> 01:57:01,940 high fever, nothing.

2932

01:57:01,940 --> 01:57:03,610 You're talking when you had typhus?

2933

01:57:03,610 --> 01:57:04,110 Right.

2934

01:57:04,110 --> 01:57:08,110

2935

01:57:08,110 --> 01:57:12,930 So, did you get better being in that place?

2936

01:57:12,930 --> 01:57:13,960 I had to get better.

2937

01:57:13,960 --> 01:57:16,210 I am here.

2938

01:57:16,210 --> 01:57:18,580 Yeah.

2939

01:57:18,580 --> 01:57:20,860 The first when I got out, I was like a baby.

2940

01:57:20,860 --> 01:57:23,440 I couldn't go on steps even.

### 2941

01:57:23,440 --> 01:57:25,100 I couldn't walk on the steps.

# 2942

01:57:25,100 --> 01:57:29,950 I had to crawl, you know what I mean, for a while.

# 2943

01:57:29,950 --> 01:57:33,100 And they still kept you, that is, as a worker?

#### 2944

01:57:33,100 --> 01:57:35,355 Yes.

### 2945

01:57:35,355 --> 01:57:44,490 I tried-- they away a little bit, the kapos, the foremen,

# 2946

01:57:44,490 --> 01:57:47,880 because they couldn't make me die in an hour,

# 2947

01:57:47,880 --> 01:57:49,900 you know what I mean.

### 2948

01:57:49,900 --> 01:57:51,630 This was in the place in Warsaw where

### 2949

01:57:51,630 --> 01:57:54,960 you said the mayor didn't want to have

#### 2950

01:57:54,960 --> 01:57:56,860 anybody outright killed?

### 2951

01:57:56,860 --> 01:57:57,360 Right.

# 2952

01:57:57,360 --> 01:57:59,460 The mayor didn't want nothing to happen

01:57:59,460 --> 01:58:05,530 to us because if we were dead then the Russian came closer--

# 2954

01:58:05,530 --> 01:58:09,070 we were outside for three days, no food, no water,

# 2955

01:58:09,070 --> 01:58:12,600 nothing to make us very tired, not to fight

#### 2956

01:58:12,600 --> 01:58:16,680 or something like this because they thought maybe

# 2957

01:58:16,680 --> 01:58:19,470 we go fight because the Russians are coming closer,

#### 2958

01:58:19,470 --> 01:58:21,450 we might fight.

# 2959

01:58:21,450 --> 01:58:25,020 So the mayor from the city knew it.

### 2960

01:58:25,020 --> 01:58:29,800 He say, I will not allow nobody to do nothing to them, to shoot

# 2961

01:58:29,800 --> 01:58:31,680 them, kill him, or something.

### 2962

01:58:31,680 --> 01:58:33,480 Was this a Polish mayor?

### 2963

01:58:33,480 --> 01:58:35,040 I don't know if he was Polish or not.

### 2964

01:58:35,040 --> 01:58:36,490 OK.

01:58:36,490 --> 01:58:40,560 He could probably German--

2966

01:58:40,560 --> 01:58:41,450 Yeah.

2967

01:58:41,450 --> 01:58:44,490 --because a Pollack wouldn't take a chance

2968

01:58:44,490 --> 01:58:47,110 because they could kill him, too, you know what I mean.

2969

01:58:47,110 --> 01:58:48,260 Yeah.

2970

01:58:48,260 --> 01:58:50,900 And he was looking for the future a little bit.

2971

01:58:50,900 --> 01:58:54,120

2972

01:58:54,120 --> 01:58:59,610 So actually you were there before the Polish uprising.

2973

01:58:59,610 --> 01:59:01,130 He was there before, right.

2974

01:59:01,130 --> 01:59:01,950 Yeah.

2975

01:59:01,950 --> 01:59:08,030 The uprising was-- when we left, we heard it.

2976

01:59:08,030 --> 01:59:10,560 The Pollacks made the uprising because the Russians

2977

01:59:10,560 --> 01:59:11,270 were closer.

01:59:11,270 --> 01:59:12,050

That's right.

2979

01:59:12,050 --> 01:59:14,502

But the Russians were very mad on the Pollacks

2980

01:59:14,502 --> 01:59:15,960 because the Russians

wanted to come

2981

01:59:15,960 --> 01:59:23,980 before to go through Poland when

they occupied Czechoslovakia.

2982

01:59:23,980 --> 01:59:26,050

So the Pollacks say, no.

2983

01:59:26,050 --> 01:59:28,050

So the Russians were

very mad on them.

2984

01:59:28,050 --> 01:59:34,080

So when they make the

uprising, the Russians

2985

01:59:34,080 --> 01:59:35,760

moved back a little bit.

2986

01:59:35,760 --> 01:59:42,530

And the rumors were that maybe

100,000 Pollacks got killed.

2987

01:59:42,530 --> 01:59:43,815

It was pretty brutal.

2988

01:59:43,815 --> 01:59:44,690

It was pretty brutal.

2989

01:59:44,690 --> 01:59:45,780

This is what I heard.

01:59:45,780 --> 01:59:47,280

We didn't see nothing, you know what

2991

01:59:47,280 --> 01:59:49,230 I mean because we walked already a few ways.

2992

01:59:49,230 --> 01:59:52,560 So when you left Warsaw, how did you get back

2993

01:59:52,560 --> 01:59:55,450 to the actual Auschwitz camp?

2994

01:59:55,450 --> 01:59:58,290 With the trains, a hundred people on the--

2995

01:59:58,290 --> 01:59:59,430 In a cattle car?

2996

01:59:59,430 --> 02:00:01,065 On the cattle cars, right.

2997

02:00:01,065 --> 02:00:02,070 OK.

2998

02:00:02,070 --> 02:00:07,200 This is the time when I saw people drinking their own urine

2999

02:00:07,200 --> 02:00:09,465 because no water, nothing, hot.

3000

02:00:09,465 --> 02:00:13,530 And when you die, you couldn't lay because everybody has

3001

02:00:13,530 --> 02:00:15,950 to stand, you know what I mean.

3002

02:00:15,950 --> 02:00:18,060

The more died, a little bit more room you have.

02:00:18,060 --> 02:00:19,810 They throw them out, you know what I mean.

3004

02:00:19,810 --> 02:00:23,970

3005

02:00:23,970 --> 02:00:25,455 How long did it take?

3006

02:00:25,455 --> 02:00:28,020 It took us maybe three days.

3007

02:00:28,020 --> 02:00:31,050 The train goes slowly, it stops and everything.

3008

02:00:31,050 --> 02:00:33,870 Were the doors open or closed?

3009

02:00:33,870 --> 02:00:36,910 The doors, it was--

3010

02:00:36,910 --> 02:00:39,750 nobody run away, that's the one thing.

3011

02:00:39,750 --> 02:00:41,295 But to throw out a body?

3012

02:00:41,295 --> 02:00:42,717 They throw it away, right.

3013

02:00:42,717 --> 02:00:43,217 OK.

3014

02:00:43,217 --> 02:00:46,560

3015

02:00:46,560 --> 02:00:50,220 And had it been only young men or men who were in the--

3016

02:00:50,220 --> 02:00:50,930 Only men.

3017

02:00:50,930 --> 02:00:52,416 Only men, OK.

3018

02:00:52,416 --> 02:00:55,140

3019

02:00:55,140 --> 02:00:58,380 So when you get back to Auschwitz itself,

3020

02:00:58,380 --> 02:01:04,110 it's already the late summer, early fall of '44

3021

02:01:04,110 --> 02:01:07,230 because that's when the Warsaw uprising happened

3022

02:01:07,230 --> 02:01:12,978 is early August of 1944.

3023

02:01:12,978 --> 02:01:16,350 Well, we didn't know nothing about the day, the month,

3024

02:01:16,350 --> 02:01:19,000 the year, or nothing, you know what I mean.

3025

02:01:19,000 --> 02:01:22,370 You don't had no control because you never had a paper.

3026

02:01:22,370 --> 02:01:27,800 You never saw a paper, nothing.

3027

02:01:27,800 --> 02:01:31,680 Was there a very active rumor mill?

3028

02:01:31,680 --> 02:01:33,770 How did you get information?

02:01:33,770 --> 02:01:36,000 Not too much information--

3030

02:01:36,000 --> 02:01:36,980 OK.

3031

02:01:36,980 --> 02:01:39,870 --because we didn't never talk to each other.

3032

02:01:39,870 --> 02:01:42,530 We only talked between us.

3033

02:01:42,530 --> 02:01:47,660 Like example, we were 10 kids, and one was the oldest one.

3034

02:01:47,660 --> 02:01:49,880 He was maybe 10, 15 years older.

3035

02:01:49,880 --> 02:01:51,020 So he was like the father.

3036

02:01:51,020 --> 02:01:53,150 If he say, sit, sit, walk, walk.

3037

02:01:53,150 --> 02:01:55,190 Everything, we listened to him.

3038

02:01:55,190 --> 02:01:57,850 So we sit one together, if he talked.

3039

02:01:57,850 --> 02:01:59,600 And one get up, and he say, what would you

3040

02:01:59,600 --> 02:02:02,270 do if the SS come to you and give you

3041

02:02:02,270 --> 02:02:05,000

all the bread he wanted

and he shoots you?

3042

02:02:05,000 --> 02:02:05,750 What do you think?

3043

02:02:05,750 --> 02:02:06,583

What if you want it?

3044

02:02:06,583 --> 02:02:09,090

3045

02:02:09,090 --> 02:02:12,770 Everybody say, give me the bread and he shoot me.

3046

02:02:12,770 --> 02:02:16,320 Not bread and butter, or steak, or something, just bread,

3047

02:02:16,320 --> 02:02:18,000 enough.

3048

02:02:18,000 --> 02:02:21,180 Nobody, not even the one say no or something,

3049

02:02:21,180 --> 02:02:24,280 you know what I mean, nothing.

3050

02:02:24,280 --> 02:02:26,580 And this is true.

3051

02:02:26,580 --> 02:02:28,600 And this is the one--

3052

02:02:28,600 --> 02:02:32,560 I met him 47 years later.

3053

02:02:32,560 --> 02:02:33,700 I didn't know where he was.

3054

02:02:33,700 --> 02:02:35,110

He left.

3055 02:02:35,110 --> 02:02:38,380 After we got liberated, a week later, he said,

3056

02:02:38,380 --> 02:02:40,150 you know what, I'm going.

3057

02:02:40,150 --> 02:02:41,710 I say, where you're going?

3058

02:02:41,710 --> 02:02:45,310 Maybe I find my mother, my father, my brother, my sister

3059

02:02:45,310 --> 02:02:47,860 because he was 15 years older, you know what I mean.

3060

02:02:47,860 --> 02:02:50,680 I was afraid to walk out, you know what I mean.

3061

02:02:50,680 --> 02:02:52,440 So he left.

3062

02:02:52,440 --> 02:02:54,530 And I always used to tell my wife when

3063

02:02:54,530 --> 02:02:56,950 we got married and everything, I wish

3064

02:02:56,950 --> 02:02:58,520 I knew what happened to him.

3065

02:02:58,520 --> 02:03:02,640

3066

02:03:02,640 --> 02:03:05,130 Two weeks later, a friend of ours

3067

02:03:05,130 --> 02:03:09,420

made a luncheon in Florida, and I was invited.

3068

02:03:09,420 --> 02:03:14,350 And one man comes in, a tall man with a yarmulke and everything,

3069

02:03:14,350 --> 02:03:15,320 and he say--

3070

02:03:15,320 --> 02:03:16,980 he shakes, hello, hello.

3071

02:03:16,980 --> 02:03:18,450 I think your name is Dave.

3072

02:03:18,450 --> 02:03:21,455 I say, yeah, my name is Dave.

3073

02:03:21,455 --> 02:03:23,580 And he started to talk a little bit and everything.

3074

02:03:23,580 --> 02:03:25,250 I say, it was nice to meet you.

3075

02:03:25,250 --> 02:03:26,370 I wanted to go.

3076

02:03:26,370 --> 02:03:29,130 He said, no, don't walk away because I want to talk to you.

3077

02:03:29,130 --> 02:03:30,990 I say, yes, OK, we talked.

3078

02:03:30,990 --> 02:03:32,040 He talked.

3079

02:03:32,040 --> 02:03:36,590 Again, I tried to walk away.

3080

02:03:36,590 --> 02:03:41,100

So he say, let me talk

a little bit more.

3081 02:03:41,100 --> 02:03:44,250 First of all, you got a number 18.

3082 02:03:44,250 --> 02:03:48,510 I say, Mister, I got a number 16344.

3083 02:03:48,510 --> 02:03:50,770 You got a mistake, you know what I mean.

3084 02:03:50,770 --> 02:03:51,840 And this happened.

3085 02:03:51,840 --> 02:03:54,390 You're going to have a mistake, you know what I mean.

3086 02:03:54,390 --> 02:03:56,820 So I say, it was nice to meet you.

3087 02:03:56,820 --> 02:03:59,040 He say, no stay right here.

3088 02:03:59,040 --> 02:04:01,710 He started to talk to me and everything.

3089 02:04:01,710 --> 02:04:04,358 And he explained to me the numbers

3090 02:04:04,358 --> 02:04:05,400 because I didn't know it.

3091 02:04:05,400 --> 02:04:08,220 I didn't have the brains to figure, you know what I mean.

3092 02:04:08,220 --> 02:04:11,620 I always used to say after the

# deliberation to everybody who

3093

02:04:11,620 --> 02:04:14,010 asked me, I say, this is my girlfriend's telephone number

3094

02:04:14,010 --> 02:04:18,540 so I don't forget because I didn't--

3095

02:04:18,540 --> 02:04:21,310 first of all, I didn't know the number.

3096

02:04:21,310 --> 02:04:22,660 So he told me the number.

3097

02:04:22,660 --> 02:04:24,660 So just when he told me the number,

3098

02:04:24,660 --> 02:04:28,510 I tried to understand that this was him.

3099

02:04:28,510 --> 02:04:31,200 And I didn't see him for 47 years.

3100

02:04:31,200 --> 02:04:33,210 What was his name?

3101

02:04:33,210 --> 02:04:35,170 Abraham.

3102

02:04:35,170 --> 02:04:37,920 I don't remember the second name, you know what I mean.

3103

02:04:37,920 --> 02:04:40,810 And he lived in Canada.

3104

02:04:40,810 --> 02:04:44,310

And he had a kosher butcher shop because he

02:04:44,310 --> 02:04:47,380 wear a yarmulke and everything.

3106

02:04:47,380 --> 02:04:50,850 And so then you finally recognized that he was--

3107

02:04:50,850 --> 02:04:52,890 I asked him, how did you recognize me?

3108

02:04:52,890 --> 02:04:53,400 The voice.

3109

02:04:53,400 --> 02:04:58,560 Is it possible that the voice can make you?

3110

02:04:58,560 --> 02:05:00,440 That's what he told me.

3111

02:05:00,440 --> 02:05:02,490 It was your voice?

3112

02:05:02,490 --> 02:05:03,450 Wow.

3113

02:05:03,450 --> 02:05:04,800 Well, I don't know.

3114

02:05:04,800 --> 02:05:07,740 I didn't recognize him at all.

3115

02:05:07,740 --> 02:05:09,360 And he explained to you--

3116

02:05:09,360 --> 02:05:11,670 But he explained me the number, and he explained me

3117

02:05:11,670 --> 02:05:15,640 later on about the lady who we live on the attic

02:05:15,640 --> 02:05:20,490 when we got sick, and the Catholics nuns saved a life

3119

02:05:20,490 --> 02:05:24,810 because they took us over because they got lots of food

3120

02:05:24,810 --> 02:05:27,760 from the American soldiers, the beef and everything.

3121

02:05:27,760 --> 02:05:30,145 And we got-- and this was the--

3122

02:05:30,145 --> 02:05:33,080 and we were on the attic by farmer.

3123

02:05:33,080 --> 02:05:34,560 And it was up and down.

3124

02:05:34,560 --> 02:05:36,300 It was going all night.

3125

02:05:36,300 --> 02:05:40,080 So we were laying in very bad.

3126

02:05:40,080 --> 02:05:42,840 And we didn't have no hospital with that small town.

3127

02:05:42,840 --> 02:05:47,370 So he had nuns big place, Catholic nuns.

3128

02:05:47,370 --> 02:05:50,540 You're talking about Feldafing, or you're talking about Dachau?

3129

02:05:50,540 --> 02:05:53,210 This was already

Dissen am Ammersee.

3130 02:05:53,210 --> 02:05:54,395 "Amadazay."

3131 02:05:54,395 --> 02:05:57,450 This is already when I got liberated, the same day,

3132 02:05:57,450 --> 02:05:58,310 the next day.

3133 02:05:58,310 --> 02:05:58,810 OK.

3134 02:05:58,810 --> 02:06:03,430 Later on we went to Feldafing to get married to get everything.

3135 02:06:03,430 --> 02:06:07,140 So after liberation, you were in a place called "Amazay?"

3136 02:06:07,140 --> 02:06:09,010 Dissen am Ammersee.

3137 02:06:09,010 --> 02:06:09,510 This was--

3138 02:06:09,510 --> 02:06:09,948 Dissen?

3139 02:06:09,948 --> 02:06:10,448 Dissen.

3140 02:06:10,448 --> 02:06:11,262 Dissen.

3141 02:06:11,262 --> 02:06:12,570 Dissen am Ammersee.

3142 02:06:12,570 --> 02:06:15,440 This was maybe 30 miles from Munich.

3143

02:06:15,440 --> 02:06:16,920 Uh-huh.

3144

02:06:16,920 --> 02:06:18,440 So we stayed over there.

3145

02:06:18,440 --> 02:06:20,210 They took us in.

3146

02:06:20,210 --> 02:06:21,390 They cleaned us up.

3147

02:06:21,390 --> 02:06:22,830 These are Germans?

3148

02:06:22,830 --> 02:06:24,500 In Germany, the nuns.

3149

02:06:24,500 --> 02:06:25,448 The nuns, I see.

3150

02:06:25,448 --> 02:06:26,490 So this was a monastery--

3151

02:06:26,490 --> 02:06:28,133 A monastery, right

3152

02:06:28,133 --> 02:06:29,550 --a convent, excuse me, a convent.

3153

02:06:29,550 --> 02:06:34,050 Right, with the hat, very strong, very, very, very, very

3154

02:06:34,050 --> 02:06:35,620 strong, the religion.

3155

02:06:35,620 --> 02:06:36,120 OK.

3156

02:06:36,120 --> 02:06:38,850

And they give us, the first day I remember,

02:06:38,850 --> 02:06:42,080 was five spoons of oatmeal.

3158

02:06:42,080 --> 02:06:44,760 And I say, sister, how about a loaf of bread?

3159

02:06:44,760 --> 02:06:46,680 No, no, nothing.

3160

02:06:46,680 --> 02:06:48,850 The next day, one more spoon.

3161

02:06:48,850 --> 02:06:50,880 Third day, another spoon.

3162

02:06:50,880 --> 02:06:53,620 Finally they give us one slice of bread.

3163

02:06:53,620 --> 02:06:56,850 So I say, give me at least a half a loaf of bread, sister.

3164

02:06:56,850 --> 02:06:58,620 No.

3165

02:06:58,620 --> 02:07:02,250 But later on, I got better and everything.

3166

02:07:02,250 --> 02:07:04,410 I used to go over there every day.

3167

02:07:04,410 --> 02:07:06,790 If I didn't go, they was looking for me--

3168

02:07:06,790 --> 02:07:07,290 Really?

Really

3169 02:07:07,290 --> 02:07:08,213 --for Dave.

3170 02:07:08,213 --> 02:07:10,972 First of all, I know a few young ones.

3171 02:07:10,972 --> 02:07:12,430 They asked me for a few cigarettes,

3172 02:07:12,430 --> 02:07:13,920 you know what I mean.

3173 02:07:13,920 --> 02:07:16,380 And they trust me a little bit.

3174 02:07:16,380 --> 02:07:17,800 And they were very strong.

3175 02:07:17,800 --> 02:07:20,100 They told me, they cannot sleep.

3176 02:07:20,100 --> 02:07:22,626 The hens have to be out.

3177 02:07:22,626 --> 02:07:26,880 They cannot sleep with the hens underneath.

3178 02:07:26,880 --> 02:07:28,890 So they were very strict in their habits.

3179 02:07:28,890 --> 02:07:33,090 Very strict, but I mean, very good to me, very good.

3180 02:07:33,090 --> 02:07:36,288 For five years, I used to go in every day

3181 02:07:36,288 --> 02:07:38,580 sometimes for breakfast, sometimes for lunch, sometimes 3182 02:07:38,580 --> 02:07:39,980 for dinner.

3183 02:07:39,980 --> 02:07:43,260 When they saw me coming, oh, David is coming.

3184 02:07:43,260 --> 02:07:46,510 The table was full with food, full,

3185 02:07:46,510 --> 02:07:49,470 because they know me for so long.

3186 02:07:49,470 --> 02:07:50,610 And I lived over there.

3187 02:07:50,610 --> 02:07:51,510 Everybody know me.

3188 02:07:51,510 --> 02:07:52,930 I got married over there.

3189 02:07:52,930 --> 02:07:54,450 So Dissen am "Amazay?"

3190 02:07:54,450 --> 02:07:55,940 Dissen am Ammersee.

3191 02:07:55,940 --> 02:07:57,780 Do you know what kind of nuns they were,

3192 02:07:57,780 --> 02:08:00,750 what order they belonged to?

3193 02:08:00,750 --> 02:08:03,710 They always had the white hats and everything.

3194 02:08:03,710 --> 02:08:04,310 Uh-huh.

02:08:04,310 --> 02:08:06,436 Very strict, very strict--

3196

02:08:06,436 --> 02:08:07,330 OK.

3197

02:08:07,330 --> 02:08:09,562 --because was a couple young ones,

3198

02:08:09,562 --> 02:08:11,895 they were cheating a little bit, a couple of cigarettes,

3199

02:08:11,895 --> 02:08:14,610 you know what I mean.

3200

02:08:14,610 --> 02:08:17,940 So in other words, they nursed you back to health

3201

02:08:17,940 --> 02:08:20,030 after you were liberated.

3202

02:08:20,030 --> 02:08:21,960 They saved our life.

3203

02:08:21,960 --> 02:08:22,665 OK.

3204

02:08:22,665 --> 02:08:29,160 And I have now nuns who come in Florida.

3205

02:08:29,160 --> 02:08:29,840 They come over.

3206

02:08:29,840 --> 02:08:31,650 Oh, really?

3207

02:08:31,650 --> 02:08:36,900 The Catholics used from Africa, but they speak English.

02:08:36,900 --> 02:08:42,290 And the head nurse from the hospice brought them over.

3209

02:08:42,290 --> 02:08:43,840 It was three nuns.

3210

02:08:43,840 --> 02:08:45,780 And we were so close.

3211

02:08:45,780 --> 02:08:48,570 After a meal, everybody sat up and prayed

3212

02:08:48,570 --> 02:08:49,950 for us and everything.

3213

02:08:49,950 --> 02:08:54,830 Every Friday, they used to call me and wish me happy--

3214

02:08:54,830 --> 02:08:56,170 Sabbath?

3215

02:08:56,170 --> 02:08:58,260 Saturday, yeah, Shabbat.

3216

02:08:58,260 --> 02:08:59,182 Shabbat, uh-huh.

3217

02:08:59,182 --> 02:09:00,420 Right.

3218

02:09:00,420 --> 02:09:01,600 And this is in Florida?

3219

02:09:01,600 --> 02:09:02,100 Yes.

3220

02:09:02,100 --> 02:09:04,050 Yes, in Florida.

3221

02:09:04,050 --> 02:09:06,000

I still got the pictures.

3222

02:09:06,000 --> 02:09:06,540 OK.

3223

02:09:06,540 --> 02:09:10,170 So that means when your wife and yourself retired to Florida

3224

02:09:10,170 --> 02:09:11,580 some time ago.

3225

02:09:11,580 --> 02:09:14,725 Because I used to live in Des Moines.

3226

02:09:14,725 --> 02:09:19,420 But it was cold, you're getting older, so I moved to Florida.

3227

02:09:19,420 --> 02:09:22,800 And I live 20 years in Florida, a condominium.

3228

02:09:22,800 --> 02:09:26,400 I just sold it not too long ago because Michael

3229

02:09:26,400 --> 02:09:28,470 got us a condominium.

3230

02:09:28,470 --> 02:09:33,120 He fixed up extra one bedroom for the nurse and everything

3231

02:09:33,120 --> 02:09:34,305 because my wife--

3232

02:09:34,305 --> 02:09:35,180 She needed some help.

3233

02:09:35,180 --> 02:09:40,020 --for a while, I pushed it away.

3234

02:09:40,020 --> 02:09:41,580 Now I realize.

3235

02:09:41,580 --> 02:09:43,960 It took a couple of years.

3236

02:09:43,960 --> 02:09:45,300 We used to walk.

3237

02:09:45,300 --> 02:09:47,250 She used to walk four or five miles a day.

3238

02:09:47,250 --> 02:09:47,940 Wow!

3239

02:09:47,940 --> 02:09:50,070 Lately she walked a little bit.

3240

02:09:50,070 --> 02:09:51,690 Let's sit down.

3241

02:09:51,690 --> 02:09:54,990 She put my head on it, start to sleep.

3242

02:09:54,990 --> 02:09:59,100 I say, Jennie-- in Polish, Yanka, Yanka--

3243

02:09:59,100 --> 02:10:03,090 people go through, they go see, I'm ashamed.

3244

02:10:03,090 --> 02:10:04,650 But she couldn't.

3245

02:10:04,650 --> 02:10:05,520 She was tired.

3246

02:10:05,520 --> 02:10:09,830 And I was pushing away the--

3247

02:10:09,830 --> 02:10:12,400

You were pushing away that she was not well?

3248

02:10:12,400 --> 02:10:16,050 --because I saw it going down, you know what I mean.

3249

02:10:16,050 --> 02:10:19,630 How they call, not the Alzheimer's, before

3250

02:10:19,630 --> 02:10:20,950 Alzheimer's?

3251

02:10:20,950 --> 02:10:21,850 Dementia?

3252

02:10:21,850 --> 02:10:22,750 Dementia, yeah.

3253

02:10:22,750 --> 02:10:25,780 Dementia, yeah.

3254

02:10:25,780 --> 02:10:28,110 Not easy, not easy for anybody.

3255

02:10:28,110 --> 02:10:29,920 Yes, yes.

3256

02:10:29,920 --> 02:10:35,560 Yes, I was six months in a home with her feeding her

3257

02:10:35,560 --> 02:10:38,050 three meals a day.

3258

02:10:38,050 --> 02:10:43,240 I was there three months all days from 7:00

3259

02:10:43,240 --> 02:10:44,600 till 8:00 at night.

3260

02:10:44,600 --> 02:10:45,400

Hard.

3261 02:10:45,400 --> 02:10:50,521 I feed her breakfast, lunch, and dinner, three months.

3262 02:10:

02:10:50,521 --> 02:10:55,330 And finally, Michael said, no, come on.

3263

02:10:55,330 --> 02:10:56,560 Yeah.

3264

02:10:56,560 --> 02:10:57,500 It's hard.

3265

02:10:57,500 --> 02:10:58,600 It's very hard.

3266

02:10:58,600 --> 02:11:02,650 He took a plane, a private plane, he took us over there.

3267

02:11:02,650 --> 02:11:05,320 He got fixed up the condominium special

3268

02:11:05,320 --> 02:11:08,990 for the maid for night, a special room with a bed

3269

02:11:08,990 --> 02:11:11,320 to take it outside from the wall.

3270

02:11:11,320 --> 02:11:12,280 Yeah.

3271

02:11:12,280 --> 02:11:16,300 No, only one Michael in the world.

3272

02:11:16,300 --> 02:11:17,600 You're very proud of your son.

3273 02:11:17,600 --> 02:11:19,252 Well, I give him hell, too, sometimes. 3274 02:11:19,252 --> 02:11:20,710 Well, that's what children are for. 3275 02:11:20,710 --> 02:11:22,510 [LAUGHTER] 3276 02:11:22,510 --> 02:11:23,010 3277 02:11:23,010 --> 02:11:24,460 He giving me, too. 3278 02:11:24,460 --> 02:11:26,290 That's also what parents are for. 3279 02:11:26,290 --> 02:11:27,532 [LAUGHTER] 3280 02:11:27,532 --> 02:11:28,360 3281 02:11:28,360 --> 02:11:31,180 So let's go back a little bit to Europe. 3282 02:11:31,180 --> 02:11:33,280 OK. 3283 02:11:33,280 --> 02:11:40,390 And in Auschwitz, when you will returned after the Warsaw 3284 02:11:40,390 --> 02:11:42,370 uprising-- well, during the first days,

3285 02:11:42,370 --> 02:11:45,730 you already noticed that the Russians are not so far away,

3286

02:11:45,730 --> 02:11:47,110 and the uprising--

3287

02:11:47,110 --> 02:11:48,970 We saw the airplanes, too, already.

3288

02:11:48,970 --> 02:11:50,740 OK.

3289

02:11:50,740 --> 02:11:53,470 So you all returned to Auschwitz.

3290

02:11:53,470 --> 02:11:56,540 And that becomes-- even though you don't know the dates,

3291

02:11:56,540 --> 02:12:00,740 it is the fall of 1944.

3292

02:12:00,740 --> 02:12:03,430 And I remember reading at some point

3293

02:12:03,430 --> 02:12:06,550 that sometime in November, there was

3294

02:12:06,550 --> 02:12:11,680 a kind of a revolt in Auschwitz against--

3295

02:12:11,680 --> 02:12:12,580 We left already.

3296

02:12:12,580 --> 02:12:14,710 I heard it, that they burned down

3297

02:12:14,710 --> 02:12:16,790 a little bit and everything.

02:12:16,790 --> 02:12:21,363 But they did it a little bit too early.

3299

02:12:21,363 --> 02:12:22,030 They got killed.

3300

02:12:22,030 --> 02:12:23,390 Lots of people got killed.

3301

02:12:23,390 --> 02:12:23,890 All right.

3302

02:12:23,890 --> 02:12:25,865 So when did you leave then?

3303

02:12:25,865 --> 02:12:26,740 You left in the fall?

3304

02:12:26,740 --> 02:12:28,430 Maybe a day or two before.

3305

02:12:28,430 --> 02:12:30,190 Uh-huh.

3306

02:12:30,190 --> 02:12:30,820 OK.

3307

02:12:30,820 --> 02:12:33,010 We was walking for three days.

3308

02:12:33,010 --> 02:12:35,740 So you were taken out and marched out.

3309

02:12:35,740 --> 02:12:40,500 And after three days, we got on the trains and go over there.

3310

02:12:40,500 --> 02:12:45,790 When the Russians come in closer, we went back to Munich.

02:12:45,790 --> 02:12:50,700 And over there, we got liberated by General Eisenhower.

3312

02:12:50,700 --> 02:12:51,310 OK.

3313

02:12:51,310 --> 02:12:56,212 But that still leaves half a year.

3314

02:12:56,212 --> 02:13:00,130 You leave Auschwitz sometime in the fall, October, November,

3315

02:13:00,130 --> 02:13:03,790 whenever, a few days before whatever this revolt was.

3316

02:13:03,790 --> 02:13:05,440 Because I remember someone telling me

3317

02:13:05,440 --> 02:13:07,510 they no longer stamped arms after

3318

02:13:07,510 --> 02:13:10,660 that revolt. Whoever was then brought to Auschwitz

3319

02:13:10,660 --> 02:13:13,600 no longer got a number because they stopped it.

3320

02:13:13,600 --> 02:13:16,310 Well, maybe this is possible, yes.

3321

02:13:16,310 --> 02:13:19,540 And lots of camps, they didn't give no numbers either.

3322

02:13:19,540 --> 02:13:21,733 Like my wife, she didn't have no number. 3323 02:13:21,733 --> 02:13:22,480 OK.

3324

02:13:22,480 --> 02:13:23,590 But you did?

3325

02:13:23,590 --> 02:13:24,240 I have.

3326

02:13:24,240 --> 02:13:26,350 Yeah

3327

02:13:26,350 --> 02:13:27,310 You saw it.

3328

02:13:27,310 --> 02:13:28,047 Yeah.

3329

02:13:28,047 --> 02:13:28,630 You showed it.

3330

02:13:28,630 --> 02:13:29,750 My telephone number.

3331

02:13:29,750 --> 02:13:32,900 Your telephone number, which adds up to 18.

3332

02:13:32,900 --> 02:13:33,575 18, right.

3333

02:13:33,575 --> 02:13:34,075 Yeah.

3334

02:13:34,075 --> 02:13:35,320 And you know it by heart.

3335

02:13:35,320 --> 02:13:36,112 How about the book?

3336

02:13:36,112 --> 02:13:37,240

Did you read the book?

02:13:37,240 --> 02:13:38,380

3338

02:13:38,380 --> 02:13:39,130 You have the book?

3339

02:13:39,130 --> 02:13:40,160 Yes, I do.

3340

02:13:40,160 --> 02:13:40,660 Yes, I do.

3341

02:13:40,660 --> 02:13:43,480 The book is tremendous.

3342

02:13:43,480 --> 02:13:46,270 When we were in Texas, we sold it right away,

3343

02:13:46,270 --> 02:13:51,010 a few hundred or something books charging \$16 a book.

3344

02:13:51,010 --> 02:13:52,300 My goodness.

3345

02:13:52,300 --> 02:13:52,860 My goodness.

3346

02:13:52,860 --> 02:13:56,450

3347

02:13:56,450 --> 02:14:00,080 So you're taken out in the fall, and you're

3348

02:14:00,080 --> 02:14:05,480 marched for three days, and then you're put on a train,

3349

02:14:05,480 --> 02:14:08,270 and then you're taken to Dachau, which

3350 02:14:08,270 --> 02:14:11,750 is where you spend the next several months, which

3351 02:14:11,750 --> 02:14:15,720 would take us through the winter of 1945, when it's cold.

3352 02:14:15,720 --> 02:14:17,740 We got liberated in April--

3353 02:14:17,740 --> 02:14:18,290 OK.

3354 02:14:18,290 --> 02:14:20,180 --27, 28.

3355 02:14:20,180 --> 02:14:24,226 So tell me about before liberation in Dachau,

3356 02:14:24,226 --> 02:14:26,270 how different was it from Auschwitz?

3357 02:14:26,270 --> 02:14:29,510 Well, it was a little bit different

3358 02:14:29,510 --> 02:14:34,750 because, first of all, it was not so big a crematorium

3359 02:14:34,750 --> 02:14:38,310 like in Auschwitz and then Birkenau

3360 02:14:38,310 --> 02:14:41,450 because Dachau was the first concentration

3361 02:14:41,450 --> 02:14:45,950 camp in the world in Germany because this was made

02:14:45,950 --> 02:14:52,040 for Germans, for the mafia, for the rest of them, homosexuals,

3363

02:14:52,040 --> 02:14:53,310 and so on.

3364

02:14:53,310 --> 02:14:56,270 Also for people who were political prisoners, people

3365

02:14:56,270 --> 02:14:58,280 who were different.

3366

02:14:58,280 --> 02:15:01,475 Have to be not everything political,

3367

02:15:01,475 --> 02:15:03,064 you know what I mean.

3368

02:15:03,064 --> 02:15:05,230 Yeah.

3369

02:15:05,230 --> 02:15:07,610 Sometimes you had brown hair, black hair, or something

3370

02:15:07,610 --> 02:15:10,480 like this, you was going to, you know what I mean.

3371

02:15:10,480 --> 02:15:11,660 Yeah.

3372

02:15:11,660 --> 02:15:14,960 But was most of them for German.

3373

02:15:14,960 --> 02:15:16,600 Dachau was the first one.

3374

02:15:16,600 --> 02:15:18,350 Yeah.

3375 02:15:18,350 --> 02:15:20,810 So when you got to the

So when you got to the camp, were the conditions

3376

02:15:20,810 --> 02:15:22,750 different than in Auschwitz?

3377

02:15:22,750 --> 02:15:24,050 A little bit different.

3378

02:15:24,050 --> 02:15:24,950 In what way?

3379

02:15:24,950 --> 02:15:29,450 Because, first of all, you didn't have the ovens so big.

3380

02:15:29,450 --> 02:15:30,890 You didn't have nothing like this.

3381

02:15:30,890 --> 02:15:34,550

3382

02:15:34,550 --> 02:15:36,940 Did you have the same job to put--

3383

02:15:36,940 --> 02:15:38,570 No, no.

3384

02:15:38,570 --> 02:15:40,780 I didn't have no job.

3385

02:15:40,780 --> 02:15:42,620 Any kind of job was for me.

3386

02:15:42,620 --> 02:15:45,620 Because some of them said, they are shoemakers,

3387

02:15:45,620 --> 02:15:48,345 or one is a sewing machines, or something,

3388 02:15:48,345 --> 02:15:49,220 you know what I mean.

3389 02:15:49,220 --> 02:15:50,660 Mm-hmm.

3390 02:15:50,660 --> 02:15:53,715 I couldn't tell him I'm somebody because I don't know nothing,

3391 02:15:53,715 --> 02:15:54,590 you know what I mean.

3392 02:15:54,590 --> 02:15:56,390 I couldn't say I'm an electrician.

3393 02:15:56,390 --> 02:15:56,990 Yeah.

3394 02:15:56,990 --> 02:16:00,260 Maybe somebody who know a little bit, he could get by,

3395 02:16:00,260 --> 02:16:01,280 you know what I mean.

3396 02:16:01,280 --> 02:16:01,780 Yeah.

3397 02:16:01,780 --> 02:16:05,750 But for me, I couldn't do nothing.

3398 02:16:05,750 --> 02:16:09,440 But what I meant is, were you put

3399 02:16:09,440 --> 02:16:14,450 to work feeding corpses into a crematoria in Dachau

3400 02:16:14,450 --> 02:16:16,070 like you were in Auschwitz?

3401

02:16:16,070 --> 02:16:17,210 No, no.

3402

02:16:17,210 --> 02:16:17,710 OK

3403

02:16:17,710 --> 02:16:19,520 In Dachau, I worked different jobs.

3404

02:16:19,520 --> 02:16:20,520 What did you do?

3405

02:16:20,520 --> 02:16:23,500 I worked a little bit farther from Dachau in Muehldorf.

3406

02:16:23,500 --> 02:16:24,000 Muehldorf?

3407

02:16:24,000 --> 02:16:25,660 So you were outside the camp?

3408

02:16:25,660 --> 02:16:27,290 Muehldorf, not too far away.

3409

02:16:27,290 --> 02:16:28,130 Muehldorf?

3410

02:16:28,130 --> 02:16:28,770 Right.

3411

02:16:28,770 --> 02:16:32,030 But we used to go to Dachau to sleep and everything.

3412

02:16:32,030 --> 02:16:36,860 And we had sometime like bunkers.

3413

02:16:36,860 --> 02:16:40,408 We lived in the down, you know what I mean.

## 3414

02:16:40,408 --> 02:16:41,950 Oh, you lived in bunkers underground?

## 3415

02:16:41,950 --> 02:16:43,274 In bunkers like this, too.

### 3416

02:16:43,274 --> 02:16:45,139 Uh-huh.

### 3417

02:16:45,139 --> 02:16:48,770 And the bunkers were within Dachau, within the camp?

### 3418

02:16:48,770 --> 02:16:51,379 Around Dachau.

### 3419

02:16:51,379 --> 02:16:52,760 Not in the camp itself?

## 3420

02:16:52,760 --> 02:16:54,405 No, no, because in Dachau, the camps,

### 3421

02:16:54,405 --> 02:16:57,184 we had big buildings and everything,

### 3422

02:16:57,184 --> 02:16:58,059 you know what I mean.

### 3423

02:16:58,059 --> 02:16:59,059 Yeah.

### 3424

02:16:59,059 --> 02:17:02,120 So in Muehldorf, what were you doing there?

## 3425

02:17:02,120 --> 02:17:05,510 Same thing, on the railroads, and sometimes working

02:17:05,510 --> 02:17:06,440 in the streets--

3427

02:17:06,440 --> 02:17:08,650 Mm-hmm.

3428

02:17:08,650 --> 02:17:09,760 --this kind of work.

3429

02:17:09,760 --> 02:17:10,590 OK.

3430

02:17:10,590 --> 02:17:13,559 No proficient, no special or something.

3431

02:17:13,559 --> 02:17:16,549 Did you have a different kind of uniform on?

3432

02:17:16,549 --> 02:17:18,410 Same thing, stripes.

3433

02:17:18,410 --> 02:17:19,790 OK.

3434

02:17:19,790 --> 02:17:22,330 Stripes and the same clothes that you

3435

02:17:22,330 --> 02:17:23,330 had gotten in Auschwitz?

3436

02:17:23,330 --> 02:17:23,920 Some of them.

3437

02:17:23,920 --> 02:17:25,503 And if not, they give you another one,

3438

02:17:25,503 --> 02:17:26,424 you know what I mean.

3439

02:17:26,424 --> 02:17:29,180

02:17:29,180 --> 02:17:31,309

Still the wooden shoes?

3441

02:17:31,309 --> 02:17:33,139 Still the wooden shoes, right.

3442

02:17:33,139 --> 02:17:36,540 Well, they wooden shoes was not bad, especially in wintertime.

3443

02:17:36,540 --> 02:17:37,496 Mm-hmm.

3444

02:17:37,496 --> 02:17:39,469 OK.

3445

02:17:39,469 --> 02:17:42,680 You get used to walking in them, huh?

3446

02:17:42,680 --> 02:17:45,690 You get used to everything.

3447

02:17:45,690 --> 02:17:49,549 Same like Russian, was cutting from their people pieces

3448

02:17:49,549 --> 02:17:51,370 to cook, to eat.

3449

02:17:51,370 --> 02:17:55,570 But I never thought in my life something like this,

3450

02:17:55,570 --> 02:17:59,930 and I saw it myself, he was cutting.

3451

02:17:59,930 --> 02:18:01,770 Did you ever have something like that?

02:18:01,770 --> 02:18:02,270 Pardon me?

3453

02:18:02,270 --> 02:18:04,459 Did you ever do anything like that?

3454

02:18:04,459 --> 02:18:05,010 No.

3455

02:18:05,010 --> 02:18:05,510 No.

3456

02:18:05,510 --> 02:18:08,299 This was something think--

3457

02:18:08,299 --> 02:18:11,900 of course, this is unbelievable.

3458

02:18:11,900 --> 02:18:13,760 I don't think they even wrote too much

3459

02:18:13,760 --> 02:18:14,930 in the papers like this.

3460

02:18:14,930 --> 02:18:15,559 Yeah.

3461

02:18:15,559 --> 02:18:16,700 But this was.

3462

02:18:16,700 --> 02:18:19,580 But only the Russian did it.

3463

02:18:19,580 --> 02:18:21,440 I see.

3464

02:18:21,440 --> 02:18:25,549 In Auschwitz, going back to Auschwitz,

3465

02:18:25,549 --> 02:18:27,230 in the time that

you were there--

## 3466

02:18:27,230 --> 02:18:29,480 because you were there a couple of years, weren't you?

### 3467

02:18:29,480 --> 02:18:30,799 Right, all together.

### 3468

02:18:30,799 --> 02:18:34,610 All together a couple of years.

### 3469

02:18:34,610 --> 02:18:38,090 That work that you did at the crematorium,

#### 3470

02:18:38,090 --> 02:18:42,394 did that happen until the time you left off and on?

# 3471

02:18:42,394 --> 02:18:44,170 Off and on, right.

#### 3472

02:18:44,170 --> 02:18:45,020 OK.

### 3473

02:18:45,020 --> 02:18:47,690 So it wasn't one time at the beginning and never again?

### 3474

02:18:47,690 --> 02:18:50,240 No, no, no.

## 3475

02:18:50,240 --> 02:18:53,120 Well, sometime how you used to work over there, people

## 3476

02:18:53,120 --> 02:18:56,190 who used to work over there, the next day, they want by himself.

### 3477

02:18:56,190 --> 02:18:57,750 They throw him, too.

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

02:18:57,750 --> 02:19:01,059 They don't want them to know too much, in case.

3479

02:19:01,059 --> 02:19:03,040 Yeah.

3480

02:19:03,040 --> 02:19:04,270 Yeah.

3481

02:19:04,270 --> 02:19:05,780 There was that danger.

3482

02:19:05,780 --> 02:19:06,280

3483

02:19:06,280 --> 02:19:11,910

3484

02:19:11,910 --> 02:19:16,680 By the time you're in Dachau, and it's winter, and it's cold,

3485

02:19:16,680 --> 02:19:19,709 and it's a little bit different, you're in Muehldorf,

3486

02:19:19,709 --> 02:19:23,070 and so, are people getting the sense of-- in the prison,

3487

02:19:23,070 --> 02:19:25,320 in the camp, are they getting the sense

3488

02:19:25,320 --> 02:19:27,180 that the end of the war is near?

3489

02:19:27,180 --> 02:19:27,959 No.

3490

02:19:27,959 --> 02:19:31,469 The only thing happened, when we saw it,

02:19:31,469 --> 02:19:37,500 the soldiers tried to

the soldiers tried to run away a little bit.

## 3492

02:19:37,500 --> 02:19:40,540 So we started to run away, too.

## 3493

02:19:40,540 --> 02:19:42,990 But this was three days too early.

#### 3494

02:19:42,990 --> 02:19:44,250 So they had to catch us.

### 3495

02:19:44,250 --> 02:19:48,510 We had to get back to the camp for three more days.

## 3496

02:19:48,510 --> 02:19:50,910 So this is in April, close to liberation.

## 3497

02:19:50,910 --> 02:19:52,770 Right, right.

## 3498

02:19:52,770 --> 02:19:55,590 So German soldiers are running away--

### 3499

02:19:55,590 --> 02:19:57,370 Because-- right.

## 3500

02:19:57,370 --> 02:19:59,610 So we'd run away, too, you know what I mean.

## 3501

02:19:59,610 --> 02:20:04,650 But we had to go back because they caught us back.

## 3502

02:20:04,650 --> 02:20:07,380 And some of them there was a fight.

02:20:07,380 --> 02:20:10,050 They was afraid, so they went back.

3504

02:20:10,050 --> 02:20:11,560 Like me, I had to go--

3505

02:20:11,560 --> 02:20:13,980 I went back by myself because I was by myself,

3506

02:20:13,980 --> 02:20:15,030 you know what I mean.

3507

02:20:15,030 --> 02:20:17,250 I didn't know what to do.

3508

02:20:17,250 --> 02:20:19,080 OK.

3509

02:20:19,080 --> 02:20:20,610 Were you afraid that you might be

3510

02:20:20,610 --> 02:20:22,610 hung just like the people in Auschwitz had been?

3511

02:20:22,610 --> 02:20:24,450 Well, I thought maybe--

3512

02:20:24,450 --> 02:20:26,640 we thought already different things.

3513

02:20:26,640 --> 02:20:27,960 Maybe I could be free.

3514

02:20:27,960 --> 02:20:28,830 I wanted to be free.

3515

02:20:28,830 --> 02:20:30,872 I don't want to get killed, you know what I mean.

02:20:30,872 --> 02:20:32,370 Right.

3517

02:20:32,370 --> 02:20:35,910 So later on, three days

later, American soldiers

3518

02:20:35,910 --> 02:20:37,530 took over and everything.

3519

02:20:37,530 --> 02:20:39,720 And you were in the camp itself when they came?

3520

02:20:39,720 --> 02:20:43,710 This was out of the camp on the trains

3521

02:20:43,710 --> 02:20:46,692 going up and down, up and down, you know what I mean.

3522

02:20:46,692 --> 02:20:47,400 Explain to me it.

3523

02:20:47,400 --> 02:20:52,020 --because not too far away was like Garmisch-Partenkirchen,

3524

02:20:52,020 --> 02:20:53,447 the skiing and everything.

3525

02:20:53,447 --> 02:20:54,780 That's right, the Garmisch area.

3526

02:20:54,780 --> 02:20:55,770 Yes.

3527

02:20:55,770 --> 02:20:58,718 So you were outside the camp when you saw Americans

3528

02:20:58,718 --> 02:20:59,510

for the first time?

3529 02:20:59,510 --> 02:21:01,140 Right, right.

3530 02:21:01,140 --> 02:21:04,020 Matter of fact, they were the first ones

3531 02:21:04,020 --> 02:21:06,750 we saw coming into the little town.

3532 02:21:06,750 --> 02:21:08,380 So they wasn't the--

3533 02:21:08,380 --> 02:21:09,670 they had the Jeeps open.

3534 02:21:09,670 --> 02:21:10,170 Yeah.

3535 02:21:10,170 --> 02:21:12,360 And they had the cans stored up, everything.

3536 02:21:12,360 --> 02:21:13,480 We didn't ask no question.

3537 02:21:13,480 --> 02:21:14,820 We were just running over there.

3538 02:21:14,820 --> 02:21:17,370 We took it out, and we took it and everything.

3539 02:21:17,370 --> 02:21:20,370 So they stopped the whole thing, and they come over

3540 02:21:20,370 --> 02:21:26,280 with guns and everything, and they took everything away.

3541 02:21:26,280 --> 02:21:29,100 So everybody started to cuss in her language,

3542

02:21:29,100 --> 02:21:34,510 Yiddish, and German, and Italian, French, everything.

3543

02:21:34,510 --> 02:21:38,616 So finally was over there one Jewish captain.

3544

02:21:38,616 --> 02:21:44,250 And he heard Jewish, Hebrew talking, a little bit.

3545

02:21:44,250 --> 02:21:46,770 So I still got the Chai.

3546

02:21:46,770 --> 02:21:48,780 I wear it, even.

3547

02:21:48,780 --> 02:21:51,000 So he asked me--

3548

02:21:51,000 --> 02:21:52,920 he took it out, and he say, you Jewish?

3549

02:21:52,920 --> 02:21:53,910 Yes.

3550

02:21:53,910 --> 02:21:54,690 So he read it.

3551

02:21:54,690 --> 02:21:56,190 I told him, it's a Chai.

3552

02:21:56,190 --> 02:21:57,010 What's a Chai?

3553

02:21:57,010 --> 02:22:00,190 A Chai, this mean like--

3554

02:22:00,190 --> 02:22:01,090

let me show you.

3555

02:22:01,090 --> 02:22:14,012

3556

02:22:14,012 --> 02:22:16,000 You know you're going to ask him about that?

3557

02:22:16,000 --> 02:22:16,994 OK, hold on.

3558

02:22:16,994 --> 02:22:25,980

3559

02:22:25,980 --> 02:22:27,950 It's like a Jesus, something like this.

3560

02:22:27,950 --> 02:22:32,810 But if we can, we can cut for a second.

3561

02:22:32,810 --> 02:22:34,327 I see-- well, on the book you can--

3562

02:22:34,327 --> 02:22:34,910 --[INAUDIBLE].

3563

02:22:34,910 --> 02:22:35,860 Leave it out for right now.

3564

02:22:35,860 --> 02:22:37,370 We're going to have to put it on record.

3565

02:22:37,370 --> 02:22:37,880 Yeah.

3566

02:22:37,880 --> 02:22:38,770 We're going to-- all right.

3567

02:22:38,770 --> 02:22:38,940

Sorry.

3568

02:22:38,940 --> 02:22:40,070

I'm glad we got to that.

3569

02:22:40,070 --> 02:22:40,827

OK.

3570

02:22:40,827 --> 02:22:41,410

We're rolling?

3571

02:22:41,410 --> 02:22:42,770

Yes, we are.

3572

02:22:42,770 --> 02:22:43,790

OK.

3573

02:22:43,790 --> 02:22:47,000

So let's talk

about this incident

3574

02:22:47,000 --> 02:22:50,240

again because I didn't

fully understand it.

3575

02:22:50,240 --> 02:22:52,100

I'll repeat what I

think I understood,

3576

02:22:52,100 --> 02:22:55,430

and you tell me if I'm right.

3577

02:22:55,430 --> 02:22:58,080

You are all former

prisoners-- you're prisoners.

3578

02:22:58,080 --> 02:22:58,580

Right.

3579

02:22:58,580 --> 02:23:00,980

And the first Americans

that you see--

3580

02:23:00,980 --> 02:23:01,520

Right.

3581

02:23:01,520 --> 02:23:07,010 --are riding on a Jeep through town, through the small town

3582

02:23:07,010 --> 02:23:08,540 you're in.

3583

02:23:08,540 --> 02:23:12,080 And that's close to the camp of Dachau but not in it.

3584

02:23:12,080 --> 02:23:13,070 No, right, right.

3585

02:23:13,070 --> 02:23:13,890 It's not in it.

3586

02:23:13,890 --> 02:23:14,660 Right.

3587

02:23:14,660 --> 02:23:17,630 And you see because they have open trucks--

3588

02:23:17,630 --> 02:23:20,990 Because the Jeeps-- It was summer or April.

3589

02:23:20,990 --> 02:23:22,020 Yeah, it's April.

3590

02:23:22,020 --> 02:23:24,110 And we saw the cans.

3591

02:23:24,110 --> 02:23:25,250 You saw cans of food?

3592

02:23:25,250 --> 02:23:26,110 Food and everything.

3593

02:23:26,110 --> 02:23:28,010 So we didn't ask no questions.

3594 02:23:28,010 --> 02:23:30,800 We just went there, and grabbed it, and everything.

3595 02:23:30,800 --> 02:23:32,450 OK.

3596 02:23:32,450 --> 02:23:35,455 So they stopped the whole thing.

3597 02:23:35,455 --> 02:23:36,330 The soldiers stopped?

3598 02:23:36,330 --> 02:23:40,760 Stopped and they had over there a general and everything.

3599 02:23:40,760 --> 02:23:43,670 And he come over to our group, soldiers,

3600 02:23:43,670 --> 02:23:46,520 and they took everything away from us

3601 02:23:46,520 --> 02:23:48,250 because they didn't know who we are.

3602 02:23:48,250 --> 02:23:49,760 Right.

3603 02:23:49,760 --> 02:23:52,070 So finally, the captain, the Jewish captain,

3604 02:23:52,070 --> 02:23:54,590 explained it to the general and everything.

3605 02:23:54,590 --> 02:23:57,240 So they brought everything back and more. 3606 02:23:57,240 --> 02:23:57,740 OK.

3607 02:23:57,740 --> 02:24:01,400 So before we get there, this Jewish captain

3608 02:24:01,400 --> 02:24:03,240 hears you cursing in Yiddish?

3609 02:24:03,240 --> 02:24:04,610 Right.

3610 02:24:04,610 --> 02:24:07,365 Because everybody cursed in different languages

3611 02:24:07,365 --> 02:24:08,490 because they took it away--

3612 02:24:08,490 --> 02:24:08,760 Yeah.

3613 02:24:08,760 --> 02:24:09,718 --you know what I mean.

3614 02:24:09,718 --> 02:24:11,030 What did he do?

3615 02:24:11,030 --> 02:24:13,700 After he heard you cursing, but before he spoke to you,

3616 02:24:13,700 --> 02:24:14,690 what did he do?

3617 02:24:14,690 --> 02:24:15,720 He didn't say nothing.

3618 02:24:15,720 --> 02:24:16,880 He just went.

3619 02:24:16,880 --> 02:24:20,840 He came back and he say, you are Jewish?

3620

02:24:20,840 --> 02:24:22,202 I say, yeah.

3621

02:24:22,202 --> 02:24:25,430 And so he took this out, and I say, read it.

3622

02:24:25,430 --> 02:24:27,470 I say it's a Chai.

3623

02:24:27,470 --> 02:24:30,650 So he say, I am coming from Austria.

3624

02:24:30,650 --> 02:24:33,830 I never saw no Jews or nobody.

3625

02:24:33,830 --> 02:24:37,070 You guys are the first ones that I see.

3626

02:24:37,070 --> 02:24:40,080 And he went back to the general and he talked to them

3627

02:24:40,080 --> 02:24:40,940 and told him.

3628

02:24:40,940 --> 02:24:42,270 So the general come over.

3629

02:24:42,270 --> 02:24:44,353 And with the soldiers, they brought all this stuff

3630

02:24:44,353 --> 02:24:48,500 back and more to eat, you know what I mean.

3631

02:24:48,500 --> 02:24:50,210 And did people start eating?

02:24:50,210 --> 02:24:51,560 And we start to eating.

3633

02:24:51,560 --> 02:24:56,450 And I found out later maybe 100,000 of our people

3634

02:24:56,450 --> 02:25:01,070 died from this food because we was not used to it.

3635

02:25:01,070 --> 02:25:02,210 Yeah.

3636

02:25:02,210 --> 02:25:05,020 We was getting diarrhea from the front and back.

3637

02:25:05,020 --> 02:25:05,930 Yeah.

3638

02:25:05,930 --> 02:25:09,950 All night we was vomiting and doing something else--

3639

02:25:09,950 --> 02:25:11,480 Yeah.

3640

02:25:11,480 --> 02:25:15,500 --because we got-- over there, it was curfew time.

3641

02:25:15,500 --> 02:25:17,750 So we went to a farmer, and he give us

3642

02:25:17,750 --> 02:25:21,086 the farm upstairs on the attic, you know what I mean.

3643

02:25:21,086 --> 02:25:25,130 With the Chai, the straw was over there.

02:25:25,130 --> 02:25:30,050 So in other words, at that moment when the Jeeps come in,

3645

02:25:30,050 --> 02:25:32,200 you realize that you're free--

3646

02:25:32,200 --> 02:25:32,700 Right.

3647

02:25:32,700 --> 02:25:35,810 --because the Germans are no longer in control?

3648

02:25:35,810 --> 02:25:36,680 Right.

3649

02:25:36,680 --> 02:25:37,580 OK.

3650

02:25:37,580 --> 02:25:41,150 And so the first thing is is that you find this--

3651

02:25:41,150 --> 02:25:44,900 that you have this contact with this soldier.

3652

02:25:44,900 --> 02:25:49,130 And what you're showing me now, is that your

3653

02:25:49,130 --> 02:25:50,975 own Chai, or is that from him?

3654

02:25:50,975 --> 02:25:53,360 From him, this is from him.

3655

02:25:53,360 --> 02:25:54,590 This is from him.

3656

02:25:54,590 --> 02:25:55,490

This is from him?

02:25:55,490 --> 02:25:56,030 Right.

3658

02:25:56,030 --> 02:25:56,780 So what did he do?

3659

02:25:56,780 --> 02:25:57,800 He took it off his neck?

3660

02:25:57,800 --> 02:26:00,290 From his neck and give it to me.

3661

02:26:00,290 --> 02:26:02,360 Do you ever-- oh my goodness!

3662

02:26:02,360 --> 02:26:04,670 And you've carried it around all this time?

3663

02:26:04,670 --> 02:26:08,360 Since 1945.

3664

02:26:08,360 --> 02:26:11,750 So you've worn in around your own neck for over 70 years?

3665

02:26:11,750 --> 02:26:13,760 Right.

3666

02:26:13,760 --> 02:26:15,590 Wow.

3667

02:26:15,590 --> 02:26:18,140 Did you ever learn his name?

3668

02:26:18,140 --> 02:26:21,770 Well, I tell you one thing, I didn't think about it.

3669

02:26:21,770 --> 02:26:23,870 Later on, I worked for the soldiers

3670

02:26:23,870 --> 02:26:26,810

after a few months liberation.

## 3671

02:26:26,810 --> 02:26:28,640 I used to work for the soldiers.

## 3672

02:26:28,640 --> 02:26:33,190 I used to go around and give the food, breakfast, lunch, water,

### 3673

02:26:33,190 --> 02:26:35,470 extra water, water.

### 3674

02:26:35,470 --> 02:26:37,310 So I got some pictures with their soldiers

### 3675

02:26:37,310 --> 02:26:39,350 when they took it, you know what I mean.

# 3676

02:26:39,350 --> 02:26:42,740 And they told me the name, but I didn't took that full name.

### 3677

02:26:42,740 --> 02:26:44,550 I didn't take-- they told me they

### 3678

02:26:44,550 --> 02:26:48,260 are from Indiana or something.

#### 3679

02:26:48,260 --> 02:26:48,830 OK.

### 3680

02:26:48,830 --> 02:26:49,790 I didn't have no brain.

## 3681

02:26:49,790 --> 02:26:51,450 I didn't think about it.

## 3682

02:26:51,450 --> 02:26:51,950 OK.

### 3683

02:26:51,950 --> 02:26:55,290

So at one point, you knew, but it didn't register with you.

3684

02:26:55,290 --> 02:26:55,842 No, no.

3685

02:26:55,842 --> 02:26:56,800 I didn't stay with you.

3686

02:26:56,800 --> 02:26:57,890 No, it didn't register.

3687

02:26:57,890 --> 02:26:58,670 But the Chai did?

3688

02:26:58,670 --> 02:26:59,170 Right.

3689

02:26:59,170 --> 02:26:59,990 The Chai did.

3690

02:26:59,990 --> 02:27:00,680 Right.

3691

02:27:00,680 --> 02:27:03,050 And for those of us who aren't Jewish,

3692

02:27:03,050 --> 02:27:05,260 explain to me what is a Chai.

3693

02:27:05,260 --> 02:27:08,817 A "Chai" means 18 to life.

3694

02:27:08,817 --> 02:27:11,300 Ah, OK.

3695

02:27:11,300 --> 02:27:15,020 And is it a symbol that men often wear?

3696

02:27:15,020 --> 02:27:16,130 Right.

02:27:16,130 --> 02:27:17,420 And the ladies, too.

3698

02:27:17,420 --> 02:27:18,450 And ladies, too.

3699

02:27:18,450 --> 02:27:19,190 To life.

3700

02:27:19,190 --> 02:27:19,940 To life.

3701

02:27:19,940 --> 02:27:20,520 Yes

3702

02:27:20,520 --> 02:27:21,890 OK.

3703

02:27:21,890 --> 02:27:25,080 In the book where they wrote it, it's the page,

3704

02:27:25,080 --> 02:27:27,060 the first page is this, everything.

3705

02:27:27,060 --> 02:27:27,625 Yeah.

3706

02:27:27,625 --> 02:27:30,650 The number and telling everything what it is.

3707

02:27:30,650 --> 02:27:35,370 The Chai is-- liberation, the whole explanation,

3708

02:27:35,370 --> 02:27:36,870 you got in the book.

3709

02:27:36,870 --> 02:27:38,190 Thank you for showing me.

02:27:38,190 --> 02:27:39,330 Thank you for sharing that.

3711

02:27:39,330 --> 02:27:40,950 You still need that?

3712

02:27:40,950 --> 02:27:41,730 Pardon?

3713

02:27:41,730 --> 02:27:44,070 No, no.

3714

02:27:44,070 --> 02:27:45,270 We can put it away.

3715

02:27:45,270 --> 02:27:48,440 But thank you so much.

3716

02:27:48,440 --> 02:27:50,730 I tell you one thing, I'll be honest with you,

3717

02:27:50,730 --> 02:27:53,430 I don't show this not too many people

3718

02:27:53,430 --> 02:27:57,720 because, well, it's too much.

3719

02:27:57,720 --> 02:27:58,530 Of course.

3720

02:27:58,530 --> 02:27:59,610 Of course.

3721

02:27:59,610 --> 02:28:01,027 I believe in one thing now.

3722

02:28:01,027 --> 02:28:01,527 Mm-hmm.

3723

02:28:01,527 --> 02:28:09,330

02:28:09,330 --> 02:28:12,200 Believe, but don't forget.

### 3725

02:28:12,200 --> 02:28:15,190 Forgive, but don't forget.

#### 3726

02:28:15,190 --> 02:28:20,450 Because the SS who was, they are not alive anymore.

## 3727

02:28:20,450 --> 02:28:24,100 They had to be older than me, at least a year or two older,

#### 3728

02:28:24,100 --> 02:28:25,630 you know what I mean.

#### 3729

02:28:25,630 --> 02:28:28,330 So, not too many live longer than that,

## 3730

02:28:28,330 --> 02:28:30,640 you know what I mean.

## 3731

02:28:30,640 --> 02:28:35,140 So my philosophy is forgive, but don't forget.

#### 3732

02:28:35,140 --> 02:28:38,680 Lots of them from my people would hate me

## 3733

02:28:38,680 --> 02:28:42,940 for this saying because, how can you forget something like this?

#### 3734

02:28:42,940 --> 02:28:45,700 How can you forgive something like this?

## 3735

02:28:45,700 --> 02:28:48,970 But I am different.

#### 3736

02:28:48,970 --> 02:28:51,270

Were you able to forgive?

3737

02:28:51,270 --> 02:28:51,910

Pardon me?

3738

02:28:51,910 --> 02:28:53,065

Were you able to forgive?

3739

02:28:53,065 --> 02:28:55,750

3740

02:28:55,750 --> 02:29:00,510

I am thinking, because

the people who was,

3741

02:29:00,510 --> 02:29:02,340

they are not alive anymore.

3742

02:29:02,340 --> 02:29:04,570

And the younger ones--

3743

02:29:04,570 --> 02:29:07,510

you could see today, I bet

you had lots of Germans

3744

02:29:07,510 --> 02:29:10,810

over there so they're visiting and everything.

3745

02:29:10,810 --> 02:29:13,600

And the Germans now,

everything, Germany

3746

02:29:13,600 --> 02:29:16,355

is very close friends

with Israel, very close.

3747

02:29:16,355 --> 02:29:20,790

3748

02:29:20,790 --> 02:29:25,350

So some I don't blame them

if you don't believe it.

02:29:25,350 --> 02:29:28,260 I don't blame them if they believe it.

3750

02:29:28,260 --> 02:29:33,090 You mean about what happened, or if they believe in what?

3751

02:29:33,090 --> 02:29:34,750 I mean if they're forgiven.

3752

02:29:34,750 --> 02:29:35,460 I see.

3753

02:29:35,460 --> 02:29:37,166 I see.

3754

02:29:37,166 --> 02:29:40,508 I say forgive, but don't forget.

3755

02:29:40,508 --> 02:29:41,780 OK.

3756

02:29:41,780 --> 02:29:43,170 It's a huge thing.

3757

02:29:43,170 --> 02:29:50,220 Once a person has been injured to such a degree,

3758

02:29:50,220 --> 02:29:55,380 once a people has been wiped out to such a degree,

3759

02:29:55,380 --> 02:29:58,360 it's a huge challenge to be able to do this.

3760

02:29:58,360 --> 02:29:59,880 Right, right.

3761

02:29:59,880 --> 02:30:02,980 Like I told you, I bet you lots of from our people 3762 02:30:02,980 --> 02:30:05,570 who may be alive now, they would hate me

3763

02:30:05,570 --> 02:30:08,760 for saying this because I told you,

3764

02:30:08,760 --> 02:30:12,060 with a religious, my brother's friend,

3765

02:30:12,060 --> 02:30:15,870 he was one of the top believing in everything.

3766

02:30:15,870 --> 02:30:17,610 Tell me about this incident again

3767

02:30:17,610 --> 02:30:20,550 because when we spoke about it, it was off camera.

3768

02:30:20,550 --> 02:30:22,830 So tell me, this was after the war?

3769

02:30:22,830 --> 02:30:24,940 This was after the war in Munich.

3770

02:30:24,940 --> 02:30:25,740 OK, what happened?

3771

02:30:25,740 --> 02:30:28,830 Happened to be I was in Munich, and he was walking,

3772

02:30:28,830 --> 02:30:30,630 and he lived in Munich or something.

3773

02:30:30,630 --> 02:30:32,790 I didn't know about him at all.

02:30:32,790 --> 02:30:34,280

I just met him now.

3775

02:30:34,280 --> 02:30:36,240

I knew him before the war that he

3776

02:30:36,240 --> 02:30:38,055 was my older brother's friend.

3777

02:30:38,055 --> 02:30:38,710

OK.

3778

02:30:38,710 --> 02:30:42,720

So I was at that time

10, 12 years old.

3779

02:30:42,720 --> 02:30:44,580

OK.

3780

02:30:44,580 --> 02:30:45,120

I saw him.

3781

02:30:45,120 --> 02:30:47,670

He recognized me, I

recognized him a little bit.

3782

02:30:47,670 --> 02:30:48,670

On the street?

3783

02:30:48,670 --> 02:30:49,790

On the street.

3784

02:30:49,790 --> 02:30:51,960

And he was dressed

up with a nice suit,

3785

02:30:51,960 --> 02:30:53,790

with a tie and everything.

3786

02:30:53,790 --> 02:30:57,510

And at home, he was dressed

up with the black thing,

02:30:57,510 --> 02:31:01,440 like the real Jewish rabbi or something.

3788

02:31:01,440 --> 02:31:02,940 Like somebody who was Hasidic?

3789

02:31:02,940 --> 02:31:04,060 Right.

3790

02:31:04,060 --> 02:31:06,720 he was like a rabbi or something.

3791

02:31:06,720 --> 02:31:10,560 And so I say to him, what's happened?

3792

02:31:10,560 --> 02:31:11,970 He said, I don't believe in God.

3793

02:31:11,970 --> 02:31:13,040 You don't believe in God?

3794

02:31:13,040 --> 02:31:14,790 He was such a believer.

3795

02:31:14,790 --> 02:31:18,120 He was like God to us and everything.

3796

02:31:18,120 --> 02:31:22,440 He say, where was God when they throw in the kids?

3797

02:31:22,440 --> 02:31:26,430 They throw my parents in, your parents in, maybe they can say,

3798

02:31:26,430 --> 02:31:28,980 we was against Hitler, maybe it was a communist,

02:31:28,980 --> 02:31:30,630 maybe it was that, maybe it was that.

3800

02:31:30,630 --> 02:31:32,160 How about the young kids?

3801

02:31:32,160 --> 02:31:35,100 How about the two months, three months, one year, two years?

3802

02:31:35,100 --> 02:31:36,480 What did they do wrong?

3803

02:31:36,480 --> 02:31:37,740 Yeah.

3804

02:31:37,740 --> 02:31:40,110 So he asked me, how about you?

3805

02:31:40,110 --> 02:31:42,915 I said, I believe God more than I ever did.

3806

02:31:42,915 --> 02:31:44,655 And did you tell him why?

3807

02:31:44,655 --> 02:31:50,460 Because I had typhus with no medication, with no nothing,

3808

02:31:50,460 --> 02:31:53,610 no medication, no food, no water, high fever,

3809

02:31:53,610 --> 02:31:57,330 no water at all, and I am alive.

3810

02:31:57,330 --> 02:31:58,732 So, who was it?

3811

02:31:58,732 --> 02:31:59,232 Yeah.

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02:31:59,232 --> 02:32:03,500
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02:32:03,500 --> 02:32:10,370 So your answer to him was, you believed in God because you

3814

02:32:10,370 --> 02:32:11,810 got better from this typhus.

3815

02:32:11,810 --> 02:32:13,100 Because this was a miracle.

3816

02:32:13,100 --> 02:32:15,875 Yes, mm-hmm.

3817

02:32:15,875 --> 02:32:18,800 And did you ever meet him again?

3818

02:32:18,800 --> 02:32:19,920 No.

3819

02:32:19,920 --> 02:32:21,290 So this was just on the street?

3820

02:32:21,290 --> 02:32:21,790 Yeah.

3821

02:32:21,790 --> 02:32:22,290 OK.

3822

02:32:22,290 --> 02:32:24,850

3823

02:32:24,850 --> 02:32:25,350 All right.

3824

02:32:25,350 --> 02:32:29,580 So I'm going to go back now a little bit chronologically.

3825

02:32:29,580 --> 02:32:33,960

That first time that you see these American soldiers,

3826 02:32:33,960 --> 02:32:37,530 when you get the food-you get some food,

3827 02:32:37,530 --> 02:32:40,890 but you didn't get sick from it, did you,

3828 02:32:40,890 --> 02:32:44,280 from the food that they gave you?

3829 02:32:44,280 --> 02:32:48,670 Well, we eat maybe too much and too fast.

3830 02:32:48,670 --> 02:32:49,950 It's not normal.

3831 02:32:49,950 --> 02:32:51,040 Of course not.

3832 02:32:51,040 --> 02:32:53,340 But what happened to you when you ate it?

3833 02:32:53,340 --> 02:32:54,570 I was sick like a dog.

3834 02:32:54,570 --> 02:32:57,105 Ah.

3835 02:32:57,105 --> 02:33:01,500 I didn't think we ever going to make it.

3836 02:33:01,500 --> 02:33:05,040 And that evening, did you go back and sleep in the camp?

3837 02:33:05,040 --> 02:33:05,652 No.

02:33:05,652 --> 02:33:06,360 Where did you go?

3839

02:33:06,360 --> 02:33:07,500 I was free.

3840

02:33:07,500 --> 02:33:09,990 I was over there by the nuns.

3841

02:33:09,990 --> 02:33:13,830 I stayed over there a week in like a hospital or something

3842

02:33:13,830 --> 02:33:18,150 until finally they let me go, and IO lived private.

3843

02:33:18,150 --> 02:33:21,030 But I used to go everyday to them over there.

3844

02:33:21,030 --> 02:33:23,310 You had mentioned when the Jeep was still there

3845

02:33:23,310 --> 02:33:26,100 that there was some farmers that you went to,

3846

02:33:26,100 --> 02:33:29,670 or did I misunderstand that, that the first night you spent

3847

02:33:29,670 --> 02:33:31,230 with a farmer up in the attic?

3848

02:33:31,230 --> 02:33:33,884 Because it was curfew time.

3849

02:33:33,884 --> 02:33:34,830 Ah, OK.

3850

02:33:34,830 --> 02:33:36,750 So we had to have something.

3851 02:33:36,750 --> 02:33:38,520 And the farmers let you in?

3852 02:33:38,520 --> 02:33:41,035 The farmers had to let you in because the soldiers--

3853 02:33:41,035 --> 02:33:41,660 Forced them to?

3854 02:33:41,660 --> 02:33:44,035 --told us, you cannot stay in the street because you have

3855 02:33:44,035 --> 02:33:45,435 to go, you know.

3856 02:33:45,435 --> 02:33:49,290 So they put us on the attic, you know what I mean.

3857 02:33:49,290 --> 02:33:51,270 OK.

3858 02:33:51,270 --> 02:33:54,330 And they knew who you were, these German farmers.

3859 02:33:54,330 --> 02:33:55,680 Of course.

3860 02:33:55,680 --> 02:33:59,850 And what was their manner like to you?

3861 02:33:59,850 --> 02:34:01,990 No, they didn't say nothing.

3862 02:34:01,990 --> 02:34:04,440 They were nice.

3863 02:34:04,440 --> 02:34:05,940 They did it because they were afraid

02:34:05,940 --> 02:34:08,190 or something from the soldiers, and they had to do it.

3865

02:34:08,190 --> 02:34:09,380 OK.

3866

02:34:09,380 --> 02:34:11,060 And the second day is when you end up

3867

02:34:11,060 --> 02:34:12,940 with the nuns in the convent?

3868

02:34:12,940 --> 02:34:15,800 We stayed over there maybe a week in there--

3869

02:34:15,800 --> 02:34:16,520 With this farmer?

3870

02:34:16,520 --> 02:34:21,550 --till we got a little bit back to normal a little bit.

3871

02:34:21,550 --> 02:34:22,430 OK.

3872

02:34:22,430 --> 02:34:28,820 And then that's when you went to where the nuns convent was?

3873

02:34:28,820 --> 02:34:32,810 Yes, I got very close with them.

3874

02:34:32,810 --> 02:34:33,590 OK.

3875

02:34:33,590 --> 02:34:35,880 They got very close with me.

3876

02:34:35,880 --> 02:34:37,380 If I didn't come

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one day over there,

3877

02:34:37,380 --> 02:34:38,422 they were looking for me.

3878

02:34:38,422 --> 02:34:41,150

3879

02:34:41,150 --> 02:34:45,350 When you left the convent, where did you go live?

3880

02:34:45,350 --> 02:34:46,520 When I left the country?

3881

02:34:46,520 --> 02:34:47,420 No, no, no.

3882

02:34:47,420 --> 02:34:49,760 The nuns, when you left the nuns,

3883

02:34:49,760 --> 02:34:50,960 you said you lived nearby.

3884

02:34:50,960 --> 02:34:53,020 So the government, the German government,

3885

02:34:53,020 --> 02:34:54,846 give us an apartment.

3886

02:34:54,846 --> 02:34:57,340 Ah, OK.

3887

02:34:57,340 --> 02:35:00,080 So we stayed over there by ourselves.

3888

02:35:00,080 --> 02:35:01,130 OK.

3889

02:35:01,130 --> 02:35:02,990 And who did you live with?

3890 02:35:02,990 --> 02:35:05,810 With a few boys from where we got liberated.

3891 02:35:05,810 --> 02:35:06,320 OK.

3892 02:35:06,320 --> 02:35:08,810 Also from Dachau?

3893 02:35:08,810 --> 02:35:11,090 This was from Dachau, yes.

3894 02:35:11,090 --> 02:35:15,730 And the apartment was in what town?

3895 02:35:15,730 --> 02:35:16,920 In Dissen am Ammersee

3896 02:35:16,920 --> 02:35:20,180 Ah-ha, close to the convent, Dissen am Ammersee.

3897 02:35:20,180 --> 02:35:21,110 Close to Munich.

3898 02:35:21,110 --> 02:35:21,980 Yeah.

3899 02:35:21,980 --> 02:35:23,725 How long did you stay there?

3900 02:35:23,725 --> 02:35:25,100 I stayed five years in this town.

3901 02:35:25,100 --> 02:35:26,460 In that same apartment?

3902 02:35:26,460 --> 02:35:29,140 In the same apartment, maybe four years.

02:35:29,140 --> 02:35:30,080 OK.

3904

02:35:30,080 --> 02:35:35,030 And was the apartment part of the Feldafing camp?

3905

02:35:35,030 --> 02:35:39,675 Well, they had rooms where they let us use it,

3906

02:35:39,675 --> 02:35:40,550 you know what I mean.

3907

02:35:40,550 --> 02:35:42,305 Maybe they got paid from the government,

3908

02:35:42,305 --> 02:35:43,430 from the German government.

3909

02:35:43,430 --> 02:35:44,480 I don't know.

3910

02:35:44,480 --> 02:35:48,530 But my question to you is, did you ever end up in a DP camp,

3911

02:35:48,530 --> 02:35:50,480 in a displaced persons camp?

3912

02:35:50,480 --> 02:35:52,470 I used to come visit Feldafing.

3913

02:35:52,470 --> 02:35:54,920 Ah, OK.

3914

02:35:54,920 --> 02:35:57,200 But you were never living in the camp?

3915

02:35:57,200 --> 02:35:58,550 No, I didn't live too much.

3916 02:35:58,550 --> 02:36:00,450 My sister lived over there for a while,

3917

02:36:00,450 --> 02:36:04,170 before I met because I didn't know her.

3918

02:36:04,170 --> 02:36:04,670 OK.

3919

02:36:04,670 --> 02:36:08,990 So tell me when is the first time you met your sister?

3920

02:36:08,990 --> 02:36:13,730 I met my sister maybe after--

3921

02:36:13,730 --> 02:36:16,580 maybe a year after liberation.

3922

02:36:16,580 --> 02:36:18,350 And how did you get to know--

3923

02:36:18,350 --> 02:36:19,520 how did you find each other?

3924

02:36:19,520 --> 02:36:22,850 Because everybody's--we either saw somebody.

3925

02:36:22,850 --> 02:36:23,870 Did you see my sister?

3926

02:36:23,870 --> 02:36:24,830 Did you this?

3927

02:36:24,830 --> 02:36:30,010 Somebody saw her, and talked to her, and they told me.

3928

02:36:30,010 --> 02:36:33,380 And I got a hold of her, and this how I know it.

3929

02:36:33,380 --> 02:36:36,870 And where was she living

when you found out about her?

3930

02:36:36,870 --> 02:36:38,390

She was living in Feldafing.

3931

02:36:38,390 --> 02:36:40,910

Oh, so, she wasn't

that far away?

3932

02:36:40,910 --> 02:36:42,140

But we did know it.

3933

02:36:42,140 --> 02:36:43,140

Yeah, OK.

3934

02:36:43,140 --> 02:36:47,720

It was a couple

thousand people or more.

3935

02:36:47,720 --> 02:36:51,170

And what camps had she gone through?

sile gorie

02:36:51,170 --> 02:36:53,600

She was in different

from my camp.

3937

3936

02:36:53,600 --> 02:36:55,410

OK.

3938

02:36:55,410 --> 02:36:58,700

Did she tell you much of

what she had gone through?

3939

02:36:58,700 --> 02:37:02,150

She had not too bad.

3940

02:37:02,150 --> 02:37:04,155

Some of them, not too bad.

02:37:04,155 --> 02:37:05,780 Well, what does that mean, not too bad?

3942

02:37:05,780 --> 02:37:07,080 She worked over there.

3943

02:37:07,080 --> 02:37:10,004 They were treated a little bit nicer.

3944

02:37:10,004 --> 02:37:14,510 And she worked in a factory who make the clothes--

3945

02:37:14,510 --> 02:37:17,150 not clothes, the material, you know what I mean.

3946

02:37:17,150 --> 02:37:18,200 Oh, textiles?

3947

02:37:18,200 --> 02:37:18,815 Right.

3948

02:37:18,815 --> 02:37:20,570 OK.

3949

02:37:20,570 --> 02:37:22,430 And was she in Germany?

3950

02:37:22,430 --> 02:37:24,650 This was in Germany.

3951 02:37:24,650 --> 02:37:26,510 OK.

3952

02:37:26,510 --> 02:37:29,360 And did she know what had happened to your older sister?

3953

02:37:29,360 --> 02:37:30,448 No.

02:37:30,448 --> 02:37:31,115 Or your brother?

3955

02:37:31,115 --> 02:37:32,330

3956

02:37:32,330 --> 02:37:33,440

Or your mother?

3957

02:37:33,440 --> 02:37:35,830

140.

3958

02:37:35,830 --> 02:37:36,330

OK.

3959

02:37:36,330 --> 02:37:42,350

3960

02:37:42,350 --> 02:37:45,320 Did you think of going back to Poland at that time?

3961

02:37:45,320 --> 02:37:46,280 No.

3962

02:37:46,280 --> 02:37:47,360

Why not?

3963

02:37:47,360 --> 02:37:51,440

Because, first of all, all

the big concentration camps

3964

02:37:51,440 --> 02:38:00,750

was in Poland,

Auschwitz, Birkenau,

3965

02:38:00,750 --> 02:38:02,970

all the big ones anyway.

3966

02:38:02,970 --> 02:38:06,075 Lots of big ones was in Poland.

3967

02:38:06,075 --> 02:38:07,950

And you didn't want to

be anywhere near them.

3968

02:38:07,950 --> 02:38:09,300 And I didn't want to go back.

3969

02:38:09,300 --> 02:38:11,180 I didn't have nothing to lose over there.

3970

02:38:11,180 --> 02:38:11,680 Yeah

3971

02:38:11,680 --> 02:38:16,010

3972

02:38:16,010 --> 02:38:18,410 Were you thinking about where you should go,

3973

02:38:18,410 --> 02:38:19,850 where you should move to?

3974

02:38:19,850 --> 02:38:22,530

3975

02:38:22,530 --> 02:38:26,530 Once you were free, where did you want to go from there?

3976

02:38:26,530 --> 02:38:30,180 Well, when I got free, we were thinking

3977

02:38:30,180 --> 02:38:34,660 to go to Israel, America, and Australia--

3978

02:38:34,660 --> 02:38:35,230 OK.

3979

02:38:35,230 --> 02:38:36,408 --them three.

3980

02:38:36,408 --> 02:38:37,200

# Those three places?

3981

02:38:37,200 --> 02:38:37,700 Right.

3982

02:38:37,700 --> 02:38:39,390

3983

02:38:39,390 --> 02:38:45,870 So Israel was coming late, Australia late,

3984

02:38:45,870 --> 02:38:48,870 and America come before.

3985

02:38:48,870 --> 02:38:50,335 So we went to America.

3986

02:38:50,335 --> 02:38:53,100 So when you say they came late--

3987

02:38:53,100 --> 02:38:55,670 Because you had to wait.

3988

02:38:55,670 --> 02:38:59,230 With the Jewish Federation, you had to wait in the line.

3989

02:38:59,230 --> 02:39:02,100 It's not like Mexico, come over.

3990

02:39:02,100 --> 02:39:03,930 So tell me, what was the process?

3991

02:39:03,930 --> 02:39:05,850 Explain to me what the process is.

3992

02:39:05,850 --> 02:39:09,620 First of all, you had to be the true what you are--

3993

02:39:09,620 --> 02:39:10,685

OK.

3994 02:39:10,685 --> 02:39:12,910 --telling the truth what you are.

3995

02:39:12,910 --> 02:39:16,200 Secondly, they thought maybe you've got relatives.

3996

02:39:16,200 --> 02:39:18,320 So the relatives can be--

3997

02:39:18,320 --> 02:39:21,520 they were afraid if you come to this country, you get sick.

3998

02:39:21,520 --> 02:39:26,130 So the government have to pay because we didn't have nobody.

3999

02:39:26,130 --> 02:39:30,090 So they were looking for something who will be for you.

4000

02:39:30,090 --> 02:39:31,326 OK.

4001

02:39:31,326 --> 02:39:32,560 So you had to find sponsors?

4002

02:39:32,560 --> 02:39:33,060 Right.

4003

02:39:33,060 --> 02:39:35,850 And I didn't find nothing because maybe we

4004

02:39:35,850 --> 02:39:39,166 had some relatives because I was too young to know.

4005

02:39:39,166 --> 02:39:41,430 OK. 4006 02:39:41,430 --> 02:39:44,580 What about during those years when you were waiting, 4007 02:39:44,580 --> 02:39:46,530 did you go to school? 4008 02:39:46,530 --> 02:39:48,670 What do you mean, after? 4009 02:39:48,670 --> 02:39:49,620 After the war? 4010 02:39:49,620 --> 02:39:51,690 No. 4011 02:39:51,690 --> 02:39:57,360 Because you say you finished three grades of schooling 4012 before the war. 4013 First of all, in Germany,

02:39:57,360 --> 02:39:59,250

02:39:59,250 --> 02:40:02,670 took maybe a year

4014 02:40:02,670 --> 02:40:04,830 before they opened up the schools.

4015 02:40:04,830 --> 02:40:06,415 OK.

4016 02:40:06,415 --> 02:40:07,770 You couldn't go to school.

4017 02:40:07,770 --> 02:40:12,630 And secondly, you didn't think about it yet.

4018 02:40:12,630 --> 02:40:14,070 OK.

02:40:14,070 --> 02:40:19,500 Well, your life-- these events all

4020

02:40:19,500 --> 02:40:23,850 happened at very crucial parts of your life.

4021

02:40:23,850 --> 02:40:27,220 The war started when you were 12 years old.

4022

02:40:27,220 --> 02:40:29,580 You're not even a teenager.

4023

02:40:29,580 --> 02:40:35,180 And six years later, you were already a young man.

4024

02:40:35,180 --> 02:40:38,700 It starts out as a kid, and then when it ends,

4025

02:40:38,700 --> 02:40:40,740 you're 18 or 19 years old.

4026

02:40:40,740 --> 02:40:43,626

4027

02:40:43,626 --> 02:40:53,000 Well, I remember I was reading a paper after the war, doctors

4028

02:40:53,000 --> 02:40:56,220 from all over the world come out,

4029

02:40:56,220 --> 02:40:59,840 if anybody who was more than a year in concentration camp,

4030

02:40:59,840 --> 02:41:03,200 had to be something wrong with him.

4031 02:41:03,200 --> 02:41:06,650 You will never be the same like he was.

4032 02:41:06,650 --> 02:41:09,500 And I think he was right.

4033 02:41:09,500 --> 02:41:12,950 I am not the same like I was.

4034 02:41:12,950 --> 02:41:15,480 How were you before, and what changed?

4035 02:41:15,480 --> 02:41:17,240 Well, I give you the example.

4036 02:41:17,240 --> 02:41:19,370 For 42 years, I never had a vacation.

4037 02:41:19,370 --> 02:41:22,170 I didn't even know about the vacation, a day or something

4038 02:41:22,170 --> 02:41:22,670 off.

4039 02:41:22,670 --> 02:41:25,430

4040 02:41:25,430 --> 02:41:27,300 So you tell me I was normal?

4041 02:41:27,300 --> 02:41:30,540

4042 02:41:30,540 --> 02:41:33,550 And did you eventually have a vacation?

4043 02:41:33,550 --> 02:41:38,060 Not too much because my vacation was

02:41:38,060 --> 02:41:41,193

I wanted my boys to have education.

4045

02:41:41,193 --> 02:41:41,693

Mm-hmm.

4046

02:41:41,693 --> 02:41:45,390

4047

02:41:45,390 --> 02:41:46,740

I was the old-fashioned me.

4048

02:41:46,740 --> 02:41:49,320

4049

02:41:49,320 --> 02:41:53,130 What kind of a person would--

what kind of a young child

4050

02:41:53,130 --> 02:41:55,800

were you before the war started?

4051

02:41:55,800 --> 02:41:59,000

How would you describe yourself?

4052

02:41:59,000 --> 02:42:04,860

Well, I can tell you, I know

we got respect for the mother

4053

02:42:04,860 --> 02:42:06,558

and father all the way.

4054

02:42:06,558 --> 02:42:09,250

OK.

4055

02:42:09,250 --> 02:42:13,200

We never talked about the table

something like over here, sex

4056

02:42:13,200 --> 02:42:15,520

and this or this,

nothing, nothing, nothing.

02:42:15,520 --> 02:42:17,186 Nothing happened.

4058

02:42:17,186 --> 02:42:19,940 OK

4059

02:42:19,940 --> 02:42:23,390 By the way, did you learn about such things in the camps?

4060

02:42:23,390 --> 02:42:24,650 No.

4061

02:42:24,650 --> 02:42:26,840 No?

4062

02:42:26,840 --> 02:42:28,070 We wasn't ready for this.

4063

02:42:28,070 --> 02:42:32,880

4064

02:42:32,880 --> 02:42:41,460 And then afterwards, when it's all over, in 1945,

4065

02:42:41,460 --> 02:42:45,040 how had this all changed you?

4066

02:42:45,040 --> 02:42:46,860 Well, it took a little bit, a while.

4067

02:42:46,860 --> 02:42:52,075 It took us time to get a little bit back to normal.

4068

02:42:52,075 --> 02:42:53,350 OK.

4069

02:42:53,350 --> 02:42:54,730 Can you explain that a bit?

02:42:54,730 --> 02:42:56,600

What does that mean?

4071

02:42:56,600 --> 02:42:58,540

Did you have nightmares?

4072

02:42:58,540 --> 02:43:04,870

Well, normal, we

never be normal.

4073

02:43:04,870 --> 02:43:06,940

But it's better, you

know what I mean.

4074

02:43:06,940 --> 02:43:11,680

4075

02:43:11,680 --> 02:43:14,860

How did you meet your wife?

4076

02:43:14,860 --> 02:43:15,400

Pardon me?

4077

02:43:15,400 --> 02:43:17,390

How did you meet your wife?

4078

02:43:17,390 --> 02:43:22,744

I met her in the DP

camp in Feldafing.

4079

02:43:22,744 --> 02:43:24,160

OK.

4080

02:43:24,160 --> 02:43:25,420

And in what way?

4081

02:43:25,420 --> 02:43:26,620

Who brought you together?

4082

02:43:26,620 --> 02:43:29,967

No, just we were there,

something, together.

02:43:29,967 --> 02:43:30,550 We were young.

4084

02:43:30,550 --> 02:43:34,580

4085

02:43:34,580 --> 02:43:37,280 And how long did you know each other before you--

4086

02:43:37,280 --> 02:43:38,300 Six months.

4087

02:43:38,300 --> 02:43:39,080 Six months?

4088

02:43:39,080 --> 02:43:42,390

4089

02:43:42,390 --> 02:43:44,130 Can you tell me a little bit about what

4090

02:43:44,130 --> 02:43:46,780 her experiences were?

4091

02:43:46,780 --> 02:43:47,280 Hers?

4092

02:43:47,280 --> 02:43:48,930 Mm-hmm.

4093

02:43:48,930 --> 02:43:51,960 Well, she was in camp.

4094

02:43:51,960 --> 02:43:53,505 She got one place.

4095

02:43:53,505 --> 02:43:56,420

4096

02:43:56,420 --> 02:44:00,220

The head German from the company, I mean,

02:44:00,220 --> 02:44:04,520 the real big one, she liked her.

4098

02:44:04,520 --> 02:44:07,070 She loved my wife.

4099

02:44:07,070 --> 02:44:12,200 She used to bring her everyday soup and a sandwich every day.

4100

02:44:12,200 --> 02:44:15,750 She took her life in the end, you know what I mean.

4101

02:44:15,750 --> 02:44:19,750 And she wanted her to take out from concentration camp.

4102

02:44:19,750 --> 02:44:24,020 In Germany, you've been there, every second one

4103

02:44:24,020 --> 02:44:24,890 has got a bike.

4104

02:44:24,890 --> 02:44:27,230 Everything is bikes over there.

4105

02:44:27,230 --> 02:44:30,540 And she brought a bike for her to take her out and everything.

4106

02:44:30,540 --> 02:44:32,930 And she said, I don't want to go because I

4107

02:44:32,930 --> 02:44:35,120 don't want to leave my friends.

4108

02:44:35,120 --> 02:44:36,300 Your wife said that?

4109

02:44:36,300 --> 02:44:39,230

He want to take her out from the concentration camp,

4110

02:44:39,230 --> 02:44:39,980 take a chance.

4111

02:44:39,980 --> 02:44:42,080 Mm-hmm.

4112

02:44:42,080 --> 02:44:44,210 And she didn't go.

4113

02:44:44,210 --> 02:44:47,310 Secondly, they were walking, too.

4114

02:44:47,310 --> 02:44:52,460 So the soldier had like a bag to put the bread

4115

02:44:52,460 --> 02:44:54,410 in for them and everything.

4116

02:44:54,410 --> 02:44:57,052 So she say to the soldier, to the German,

4117

02:44:57,052 --> 02:44:58,010 it's too heavy for you.

4118

02:44:58,010 --> 02:44:59,660 Let me carry for you.

4119

02:44:59,660 --> 02:45:01,410 So he give it to her.

4120

02:45:01,410 --> 02:45:03,930 And they open up, and she eat with the friend

4121

02:45:03,930 --> 02:45:08,710 the whole thing, the bread with the lunch, everything.

02:45:08,710 --> 02:45:11,675 And she give it back to him, he say,

4123

02:45:11,675 --> 02:45:13,130 you finished up everything.

4124

02:45:13,130 --> 02:45:17,810 You know I could shoot you, but I will not do it.

4125

02:45:17,810 --> 02:45:21,580 If you've got guts and take a chance to do this,

4126

02:45:21,580 --> 02:45:23,240 I let you go by.

4127

02:45:23,240 --> 02:45:24,750 Wow!

4128

02:45:24,750 --> 02:45:25,460 Wow!

4129

02:45:25,460 --> 02:45:28,760 She would've been dead.

4130

02:45:28,760 --> 02:45:31,460 So these are some of her experiences?

4131

02:45:31,460 --> 02:45:34,560

4132

02:45:34,560 --> 02:45:37,980 She took a chance, and he took a chance, too.

4133

02:45:37,980 --> 02:45:41,370

4134

02:45:41,370 --> 02:45:45,070 Did you talk much to one another about these things?

02:45:45,070 --> 02:45:47,956 Sometimes.

4136

02:45:47,956 --> 02:45:49,440 Mm-hmm.

4137

02:45:49,440 --> 02:45:51,450 Do you think she understood you better

4138

02:45:51,450 --> 02:45:55,180 because she had been through these same things herself?

4139

02:45:55,180 --> 02:45:57,120 Well, she understand.

4140

02:45:57,120 --> 02:45:58,410 Yeah?

4141

02:45:58,410 --> 02:46:00,990 What was your wife's name?

4142

02:46:00,990 --> 02:46:02,620 What was your wife's name?

4143

02:46:02,620 --> 02:46:03,830 Yanka in Polish.

4144

02:46:03,830 --> 02:46:04,330 Yanka.

4145

02:46:04,330 --> 02:46:06,360 Jennie in English.

4146

02:46:06,360 --> 02:46:08,160 And what was her maiden name?

4147

02:46:08,160 --> 02:46:08,970 Nyer.

4148

02:46:08,970 --> 02:46:11,250

Nyer.

02:46:11,250 --> 02:46:14,080

And what town was she from in Poland?

4150

02:46:14,080 --> 02:46:18,540

She is maybe eight kilometers from where I

4151

02:46:18,540 --> 02:46:20,670 used to live in a bigger town.

4152

02:46:20,670 --> 02:46:21,660

Really?

4153

02:46:21,660 --> 02:46:23,130

So close.

4154

02:46:23,130 --> 02:46:25,170

So close.

4155

02:46:25,170 --> 02:46:26,420

What was the name of her town?

4156

02:46:26,420 --> 02:46:27,087

Do you remember?

4157

02:46:27,087 --> 02:46:27,640

Bingen.

4158

02:46:27,640 --> 02:46:31,443

Bingen, she was from Bingen.

4159

02:46:31,443 --> 02:46:32,610

Close to Oberschlesien, too.

4160

02:46:32,610 --> 02:46:34,980

OK.

4161

02:46:34,980 --> 02:46:40,650

So in these years after the war

when you spent them in Germany,

02:46:40,650 --> 02:46:42,750 did you start working someplace?

4163

02:46:42,750 --> 02:46:47,330 Did you do anything to earn some money?

4164

02:46:47,330 --> 02:46:51,960 Or how were you supported?

4165

02:46:51,960 --> 02:46:53,520 I worked.

4166

02:46:53,520 --> 02:46:54,450 OK.

4167

02:46:54,450 --> 02:46:55,577 What did you do?

4168

02:46:55,577 --> 02:46:56,535 Work with the soldiers.

4169

02:46:56,535 --> 02:47:01,260

4170

02:47:01,260 --> 02:47:04,840 And they pay me not with money, but they give me

4171

02:47:04,840 --> 02:47:07,220 half the ration what the soldiers were getting.

4172

02:47:07,220 --> 02:47:07,720 OK.

4173

02:47:07,720 --> 02:47:11,890

4174

02:47:11,890 --> 02:47:17,200 And were you able to sell some of this to make some money?

4175

02:47:17,200 --> 02:47:18,200

Right.

4176

02:47:18,200 --> 02:47:18,790 OK.

4177

02:47:18,790 --> 02:47:19,930 On the black market.

4178

02:47:19,930 --> 02:47:21,670 I used to get a carton of cigarettes.

4179

02:47:21,670 --> 02:47:23,440 They used to get two cartons, and I

4180

02:47:23,440 --> 02:47:25,330 used to get the one carton.

4181

02:47:25,330 --> 02:47:27,460 And a carton of cigarettes was lots of money.

4182

02:47:27,460 --> 02:47:29,110 Yeah, yeah.

4183

02:47:29,110 --> 02:47:33,630 Well, I mean, the black market was thriving after the war.

4184

02:47:33,630 --> 02:47:36,610 And is this how you were able to support yourself?

4185

02:47:36,610 --> 02:47:38,050 Right.

4186

02:47:38,050 --> 02:47:40,420 Did you get any kind of financial support

4187

02:47:40,420 --> 02:47:44,080 from UNWRA or from--

02:47:44,080 --> 02:47:45,365 No, no, no.

4189

02:47:45,365 --> 02:47:45,865 Nothing?

4190

02:47:45,865 --> 02:47:48,730 At that time, they didn't pay nothing yet.

4191

02:47:48,730 --> 02:47:50,080 Huh.

4192

02:47:50,080 --> 02:47:51,430 Uh-huh.

4193

02:47:51,430 --> 02:47:56,080 But I worked, my wife worked.

4194

02:47:56,080 --> 02:47:58,310 What year did you get married?

4195

02:47:58,310 --> 02:48:01,810 In 1949, six months before I came to this country.

4196

02:48:01,810 --> 02:48:02,650 OK.

4197

02:48:02,650 --> 02:48:05,950 What's your wedding date?

4198

02:48:05,950 --> 02:48:11,440 This was before Yom Kippur, October or something like this.

4199

02:48:11,440 --> 02:48:16,690

4200

02:48:16,690 --> 02:48:17,970 You can ask me some questions.

4201

02:48:17,970 --> 02:48:18,870 OK.

4202

02:48:18,870 --> 02:48:19,890 A little bit louder

4203

02:48:19,890 --> 02:48:21,030 I will try.

4204

02:48:21,030 --> 02:48:22,515 Sometimes my voice is too soft.

4205

02:48:22,515 --> 02:48:25,650

4206

02:48:25,650 --> 02:48:30,070 So I wanted to get a sense of what kind of training,

4207

02:48:30,070 --> 02:48:32,280 what kind of work did you do in Germany

4208

02:48:32,280 --> 02:48:36,300 while you were waiting to get permission to come either here,

4209

02:48:36,300 --> 02:48:38,460 or to Australia, or wherever?

4210

02:48:38,460 --> 02:48:41,640 I talked to coming to America to a tiny place.

4211

02:48:41,640 --> 02:48:43,550 I have to have something to--

4212

02:48:43,550 --> 02:48:47,310 I have to have something to do, you know what I mean.

4213

02:48:47,310 --> 02:48:53,130 So I had a friend who took over from the big Germans a factory,

4214

02:48:53,130 --> 02:48:54,530

a printing factory.

4215

02:48:54,530 --> 02:48:58,350 And the printing factory was 2,500 people working,

4216

02:48:58,350 --> 02:49:00,938 a little publishing company in Cleveland.

4217

02:49:00,938 --> 02:49:01,980 Oh, this is in Cleveland.

4218

02:49:01,980 --> 02:49:02,480 Right.

4219

02:49:02,480 --> 02:49:03,810 I'm talking still in Germany.

4220

02:49:03,810 --> 02:49:09,420 Oh, well, in Germany, was a big company, too--

4221

02:49:09,420 --> 02:49:11,110 OK.

4222

02:49:11,110 --> 02:49:13,890 --in printing, Hubert Printing Company.

4223

02:49:13,890 --> 02:49:14,987 Hubert?

4224

02:49:14,987 --> 02:49:15,570 Hubert, right.

4225

02:49:15,570 --> 02:49:18,360

4226

02:49:18,360 --> 02:49:19,750 And this was my friend.

4227

02:49:19,750 --> 02:49:21,540 He was the Treuhändler.

4228 02:49:21 540

02:49:21,540 --> 02:49:24,510 He just took over because a Nazi used to own.

4229

02:49:24,510 --> 02:49:25,200 I see.

4230

02:49:25,200 --> 02:49:27,210 And he was liberated.

4231

02:49:27,210 --> 02:49:31,770 And he used to speak English, speak very fluent English

4232

02:49:31,770 --> 02:49:35,520 already at that time, a very intelligent man.

4233

02:49:35,520 --> 02:49:36,390 So he took over.

4234

02:49:36,390 --> 02:49:40,070 I go to him, and I say, listen, I wanted to be a pressman,

4235

02:49:40,070 --> 02:49:43,990 but I mean, I want you-- in Europe, when you start to work,

4236

02:49:43,990 --> 02:49:46,407 they let you take out the bucket first because the toilet,

4237

02:49:46,407 --> 02:49:48,365 you don't have no toilet, you know what I mean.

4238

02:49:48,365 --> 02:49:49,810 And I say, I don't want it.

4239

02:49:49,810 --> 02:49:50,500 I want this.

02:49:50,500 --> 02:49:52,125 So he talked to the foreman over there.

4241

02:49:52,125 --> 02:49:55,090 He say, Dave coming, teach him.

4242

02:49:55,090 --> 02:49:58,620 Don't tell him to sweep the floor first or something.

4243

02:49:58,620 --> 02:50:01,590 And I worked over there, and I learned this job.

4244

02:50:01,590 --> 02:50:03,570 And the job was what kind of job?

4245

02:50:03,570 --> 02:50:04,290 Printing.

4246

02:50:04,290 --> 02:50:04,860 Printing?

4247

02:50:04,860 --> 02:50:07,440 Yes, a little publishing company,

4248

02:50:07,440 --> 02:50:10,500 one of the famous company.

4249

02:50:10,500 --> 02:50:14,070 Is it's still in business now, do you think?

4250

02:50:14,070 --> 02:50:14,990 I worked over there.

4251

02:50:14,990 --> 02:50:15,490 OK

4252

02:50:15,490 --> 02:50:17,440 And they paid a little bit.

4253 02:50:17,440 --> 02:50:17,940 OK.

4254 02:50:17,940 --> 02:50:19,440 So you learned how to be a pressman?

4255 02:50:19,440 --> 02:50:20,910 A pressman, right.

4256 02:50:20,910 --> 02:50:23,520 And when you came to the United States,

4257 02:50:23,520 --> 02:50:25,950 and you lived in Cleveland at first,

4258 02:50:25,950 --> 02:50:28,380 and you went and found a job there,

4259 02:50:28,380 --> 02:50:30,790 was it the same technology?

4260 02:50:30,790 --> 02:50:34,116 Well, this one over here was a little bit more modern.

4261 02:50:34,116 --> 02:50:35,340 Ah, OK.

4262 02:50:35,340 --> 02:50:38,280 They had bigger presses, bigger everything.

4263 02:50:38,280 --> 02:50:41,070 But I had the experience already.

4264 02:50:41,070 --> 02:50:41,620 OK.

4265 02:50:41,620 --> 02:50:43,380 And I learned quick.

4266

02:50:43,380 --> 02:50:44,383 OK.

4267

02:50:44,383 --> 02:50:45,800 And so you already had something--

4268

02:50:45,800 --> 02:50:46,890 And I had a good job.

4269

02:50:46,890 --> 02:50:53,410

4270

02:50:53,410 --> 02:50:59,550 How was-- I want to talk about DP life a little bit.

4271

02:50:59,550 --> 02:51:03,960 In this town where Feldafing was so close by,

4272

02:51:03,960 --> 02:51:07,350 was it a very large camp?

4273

02:51:07,350 --> 02:51:09,020 You mean in Dissen?

4274

02:51:09,020 --> 02:51:10,050 In Dissen, yeah.

4275

02:51:10,050 --> 02:51:10,710 A small town.

4276

02:51:10,710 --> 02:51:11,610 A small town.

4277

02:51:11,610 --> 02:51:14,715 But what about the Feldafing, was that close to Dissen?

4278

02:51:14,715 --> 02:51:15,720 Feldafing? 4279 02:51:15,720 --> 02:51:16,890 Yeah. 4280 02:51:16,890 --> 02:51:18,550 Maybe 10, 12 miles. 4281 02:51:18,550 --> 02:51:19,650 OK. 4282 02:51:19,650 --> 02:51:23,550 And how long did that camp exist? 4283 02:51:23,550 --> 02:51:24,540 The DP camp? 4284 02:51:24,540 --> 02:51:25,110 Yeah. 4285 02:51:25,110 --> 02:51:26,170 This was quite a few--4286 No? 4287 OK. 4288

02:51:26,170 --> 02:51:26,670

02:51:26,670 --> 02:51:28,110

02:51:28,110 --> 02:51:28,950 All right.

4289 02:51:28,950 --> 02:51:30,560 He's tired of looking at me.

4290 02:51:30,560 --> 02:51:31,060 No.

4291 02:51:31,060 --> 02:51:32,710 [INTERVIEWER LAUGHING]

4292 02:51:32,710 --> 02:51:33,210 All right.

4293

02:51:33,210 --> 02:51:36,420

4294

02:51:36,420 --> 02:51:39,810 Was Feldafing basically a Jewish DP camp,

4295

02:51:39,810 --> 02:51:42,940 or were there other nationalities there?

4296

02:51:42,940 --> 02:51:44,220 In the DP camp?

4297

02:51:44,220 --> 02:51:45,540 Yeah.

4298

02:51:45,540 --> 02:51:47,240 Different nationalities too.

4299

02:51:47,240 --> 02:51:47,840 OK.

4300

02:51:47,840 --> 02:51:49,110 Most of them Jewish.

4301

02:51:49,110 --> 02:51:50,340 Most of them Jewish.

4302

02:51:50,340 --> 02:51:51,570 OK.

4303

02:51:51,570 --> 02:51:57,750 And you're in Germany for quite a few years after the war.

4304

02:51:57,750 --> 02:51:59,940 How did it feel right after the war

4305

02:51:59,940 --> 02:52:03,130 being in a place that had been--

4306 02:52:03,130 --> 02:52:06,750 was the place where, in a part of a country

4307 02:52:06,750 --> 02:52:10,740 that was the aggressor country that had made war on the Jews?

4308 02:52:10,740 --> 02:52:12,510 How did it feel being amongst Germans?

4309 02:52:12,510 --> 02:52:16,170

4310 02:52:16,170 --> 02:52:18,570 Well, it goes both ways.

4311 02:52:18,570 --> 02:52:20,520 OK.

4312 02:52:20,520 --> 02:52:24,230 You have the same thing like being in the business.

4313 02:52:24,230 --> 02:52:25,710 I took over business, I didn't have

4314 02:52:25,710 --> 02:52:28,020 no knowledge from business.

4315 02:52:28,020 --> 02:52:30,650 But I was kind to the customers.

4316 02:52:30,650 --> 02:52:35,330 I treat them like they would be the top.

4317 02:52:35,330 --> 02:52:35,900 OK.

4318 02:52:35,900 --> 02:52:37,870 And this how I made it. 4319 02:52:37,870 --> 02:52:38,370 OK.

4320

02:52:38,370 --> 02:52:40,740 Same thing over there.

4321 02:52:40,740 --> 02:52:43,770 I had good neighbors, they treat me nice,

4322 02:52:43,770 --> 02:52:45,340 so I treat them nice, too.

4323 02:52:45,340 --> 02:52:49,150 And we were friends for five years living over there.

4324 02:52:49,150 --> 02:52:52,070 So in other words, you didn't hold it against all Germans.

4325 02:52:52,070 --> 02:52:54,190 Not too much, no.

4326 02:52:54,190 --> 02:52:54,981 OK.

4327 02:52:54,981 --> 02:52:58,070 All right.

4328 02:52:58,070 --> 02:53:01,820 That is also something that not everybody was able to do.

4329 02:53:01,820 --> 02:53:05,060 I told you before, some people, my own people

4330 02:53:05,060 --> 02:53:06,530 would hate this what I say.

4331 02:53:06,530 --> 02:53:07,660 Yeah. 4332

02:53:07,660 --> 02:53:09,440 Forgive, but don't forget--

4333

02:53:09,440 --> 02:53:10,670 That's your motto.

4334

02:53:10,670 --> 02:53:12,890 That's your motto

4335

02:53:12,890 --> 02:53:14,650 --because how can you forget?

4336

02:53:14,650 --> 02:53:15,550 Yeah.

4337

02:53:15,550 --> 02:53:16,460 How can you forgive?

4338

02:53:16,460 --> 02:53:18,980

4339

02:53:18,980 --> 02:53:21,290 But you have to do it.

4340

02:53:21,290 --> 02:53:23,900 This is my opinion.

4341

02:53:23,900 --> 02:53:28,670 Did you talk much after the war about all of the experiences

4342

02:53:28,670 --> 02:53:29,630 that you had?

4343

02:53:29,630 --> 02:53:31,640 No, not too much.

4344

02:53:31,640 --> 02:53:33,510 As your children were growing up?

4345

02:53:33,510 --> 02:53:39,170

Well, my children, they were too young to tell it.

4346

02:53:39,170 --> 02:53:41,570 If I tell them something, they were laughing.

4347

02:53:41,570 --> 02:53:42,120 Really?

4348

02:53:42,120 --> 02:53:44,450 They couldn't believe.

4349

02:53:44,450 --> 02:53:47,030 When did they start believing?

4350

02:53:47,030 --> 02:53:51,560 When they got older a little bit they got to believe.

4351

02:53:51,560 --> 02:53:55,260 Did you wait until they started asking questions?

4352

02:53:55,260 --> 02:53:56,690 Well, not quite.

4353

02:53:56,690 --> 02:53:57,350 No.

4354

02:53:57,350 --> 02:54:00,482 You shared what you had known before that, huh?

4355

02:54:00,482 --> 02:54:01,630 Right.

4356

02:54:01,630 --> 02:54:03,050 OK.

4357

02:54:03,050 --> 02:54:05,450 I mean, that's something also that people are different.

02:54:05,450 --> 02:54:08,480 And some people never told their children anything

4359

02:54:08,480 --> 02:54:13,130 because they wanted to spare them the knowledge.

4360

02:54:13,130 --> 02:54:16,110 And other people felt that it's important.

4361

02:54:16,110 --> 02:54:22,850 Well, I think the kids should know because our people

4362

02:54:22,850 --> 02:54:25,310 in 10 years, not even 10 years, you

4363

02:54:25,310 --> 02:54:28,220 will have no Holocaust survivor anymore.

4364

02:54:28,220 --> 02:54:28,720 Mm-hmm.

4365

02:54:28,720 --> 02:54:31,770

4366

02:54:31,770 --> 02:54:36,530 So the second generation should remember more than this.

4367

02:54:36,530 --> 02:54:38,799 If not, it's going to be finished completely.

4368

02:54:38,799 --> 02:54:43,290

4369

02:54:43,290 --> 02:54:47,800 Tell me again how many children you have.

02:54:47,800 --> 02:54:48,420 Pardon me?

4371

02:54:48,420 --> 02:54:50,290 How many children do you have?

4372

02:54:50,290 --> 02:54:51,060 How many I have?

4373

02:54:51,060 --> 02:54:51,990 Yes.

4374

02:54:51,990 --> 02:54:53,790 I have two boys.

4375

02:54:53,790 --> 02:54:56,820 And who is the older and who's the younger?

4376

02:54:56,820 --> 02:54:58,040 The name of the older.

4377

02:54:58,040 --> 02:54:59,890 The other one is Allen.

4378

02:54:59,890 --> 02:55:00,390 Allen.

4379

02:55:00,390 --> 02:55:01,380 And the younger son?

4380

02:55:01,380 --> 02:55:02,520 Is Michael.

4381

02:55:02,520 --> 02:55:03,690 OK.

4382

02:55:03,690 --> 02:55:05,370 10 years younger than the older one.

4383

02:55:05,370 --> 02:55:07,110 All right.

4384 02:55:07,110 --> 02:55:09,040 And they were both born in the United States?

4385

02:55:09,040 --> 02:55:10,710 Right.

4386

02:55:10,710 --> 02:55:13,480 Have you ever been back to Poland with them?

4387

02:55:13,480 --> 02:55:14,490 To Poland with them?

4388

02:55:14,490 --> 02:55:15,060 No.

4389

02:55:15,060 --> 02:55:17,780 Have you ever been back to Poland?

4390

02:55:17,780 --> 02:55:19,890 I was back one time.

4391

02:55:19,890 --> 02:55:20,490 OK.

4392

02:55:20,490 --> 02:55:22,830 How many years after the war was that?

4393

02:55:22,830 --> 02:55:27,270 Oh, at least maybe 20 years or more.

4394

02:55:27,270 --> 02:55:28,650 OK.

4395

02:55:28,650 --> 02:55:30,420 And this was already--

4396

02:55:30,420 --> 02:55:33,900 I went only because of the neighbors and my wife--

4397

02:55:33,900 --> 02:55:34,740

They wanted to go.

4398

02:55:34,740 --> 02:55:38,430 --because they want a chaperone

because they was never

4399

02:55:38,430 --> 02:55:40,720 in Auschwitz and Birkenau.

4400

02:55:40,720 --> 02:55:42,600

And they wanted to see it.

4401

02:55:42,600 --> 02:55:44,360

So they took me.

4402

02:55:44,360 --> 02:55:47,070 And so we stopped already in the town where I lived.

4403

02:55:47,070 --> 02:55:50,220

It took us five

minutes in the town.

4404

4405

02:55:50,220 --> 02:55:53,170

Now, your grandfather's name was Nyer, too,

02:55:53,170 --> 02:55:56,820

wasn't it, who was the

mayor of your town?

4406

02:55:56,820 --> 02:55:58,500

Wasn't his last name Nyer?

4407

02:55:58,500 --> 02:55:59,370

Nyer, yes.

4408

02:55:59,370 --> 02:56:01,480

And your wife's

maiden name was Nyer.

4409

02:56:01,480 --> 02:56:02,940

# Right.

### 4410

02:56:02,940 --> 02:56:06,080 And she was only eight kilometers away from your town

# 4411

02:56:06,080 --> 02:56:09,600 in Bingen. Was there a relationship there?

# 4412

02:56:09,600 --> 02:56:13,410 Was this a family relative of some kind?

#### 4413

02:56:13,410 --> 02:56:15,640 Maybe.

#### 4414

02:56:15,640 --> 02:56:16,380 OK.

## 4415

02:56:16,380 --> 02:56:17,700 But you'd never were able to--

#### 4416

02:56:17,700 --> 02:56:18,200 No.

### 4417

02:56:18,200 --> 02:56:19,010 --establish it?

#### 4418

02:56:19,010 --> 02:56:21,000 OK.

# 4419

02:56:21,000 --> 02:56:27,600 Well, I've come to pretty much the end of our interview.

## 4420

02:56:27,600 --> 02:56:29,220 Are there other things that you would

# 4421

02:56:29,220 --> 02:56:33,150 want to add that you think people should know about,

02:56:33,150 --> 02:56:35,040 things that you've thought about,

4423

02:56:35,040 --> 02:56:40,770 as well as the story that we have explored today,

4424

02:56:40,770 --> 02:56:44,090 things you'd like to say?

4425

02:56:44,090 --> 02:56:50,440 Well, I don't have nothing bad to say about this country.

4426

02:56:50,440 --> 02:56:51,475 About the United States?

4427

02:56:51,475 --> 02:56:53,350 Right.

4428

02:56:53,350 --> 02:56:57,970 I only have good things to say because what's

4429

02:56:57,970 --> 02:57:01,060 happened to me and my family, this could never

4430

02:57:01,060 --> 02:57:04,290 happen no place in the world--

4431

02:57:04,290 --> 02:57:05,330 OK.

4432

02:57:05,330 --> 02:57:08,650 --to being good friends with the generals,

4433

02:57:08,650 --> 02:57:12,730 good friend with the governors, good friends with senators.

4434

02:57:12,730 --> 02:57:17,020 This can only happen

# in America in a town

4435

02:57:17,020 --> 02:57:21,060 like I live in Des Moines, in Iowa.

4436

02:57:21,060 --> 02:57:21,560 OK.

4437

02:57:21,560 --> 02:57:24,400

4438

02:57:24,400 --> 02:57:27,610 Well, it's also very heartening to know

4439

02:57:27,610 --> 02:57:33,940 that they find what you have to tell them important,

4440

02:57:33,940 --> 02:57:37,570 that they need to know and want to know about your experiences.

4441

02:57:37,570 --> 02:57:40,520

4442

02:57:40,520 --> 02:57:44,170 I understand you also go to school sometimes

4443

02:57:44,170 --> 02:57:45,670 to talk to children?

4444

02:57:45,670 --> 02:57:46,860 I do this.

4445

02:57:46,860 --> 02:57:48,400 OK.

4446

02:57:48,400 --> 02:57:51,550 What are the kinds of questions that they ask you?

02:57:51,550 --> 02:57:55,030 Sometimes yes, not quite like you,

4448

02:57:55,030 --> 02:57:57,738 but yes, very good questions, too.

4449

02:57:57,738 --> 02:57:58,530 What do you think--

4450

02:57:58,530 --> 02:58:01,210 Their questions a little bit different.

4451

02:58:01,210 --> 02:58:04,610 How was your food, and how was this, how was--

4452

02:58:04,610 --> 02:58:07,930 a little bit more kids stuff.

4453

02:58:07,930 --> 02:58:09,670 Well, kids are interested in that way.

4454

02:58:09,670 --> 02:58:12,232 I mean, they have their own important things

4455

02:58:12,232 --> 02:58:13,190 that they want to know.

4456

02:58:13,190 --> 02:58:13,910 Right.

4457

02:58:13,910 --> 02:58:15,490 OK.

4458

02:58:15,490 --> 02:58:19,710 I went to churches, and they donate over \$200

4459

02:58:19,710 --> 02:58:25,970 to this Jewish

thing, their money.

4460

02:58:25,970 --> 02:58:27,610 They donate to which Jewish--

4461

02:58:27,610 --> 02:58:29,440 a charity?

4462

02:58:29,440 --> 02:58:30,140 To this.

4463

02:58:30,140 --> 02:58:30,730 To this?

4464

02:58:30,730 --> 02:58:31,680 Our museum?

4465

02:58:31,680 --> 02:58:33,830 Right.

4466

02:58:33,830 --> 02:58:37,030 Well, thank you very much for that, for the work on behalf

4467

02:58:37,030 --> 02:58:39,260 of the museum.

4468

02:58:39,260 --> 02:58:41,920 I have over 200 letters at home when

4469

02:58:41,920 --> 02:58:44,710 my wife used to go to schools.

4470

02:58:44,710 --> 02:58:46,240 I didn't go to schools before.

4471

02:58:46,240 --> 02:58:48,850 My wife used to go more than me.

4472

02:58:48,850 --> 02:58:50,906 When did you start going?

02:58:50,906 --> 02:58:53,692 I started going maybe a few years ago.

4474

02:58:53,692 --> 02:58:55,660 Uh-huh.

4475

02:58:55,660 --> 02:59:00,230 Was it difficult at first to talk about these things?

4476

02:59:00,230 --> 02:59:03,475 Well, because I'm not a good speaker.

4477

02:59:03,475 --> 02:59:05,548 Well, I think you've done wonderfully.

4478

02:59:05,548 --> 02:59:08,620

4479

02:59:08,620 --> 02:59:11,472 But I am an honest figure is the only thing.

4480

02:59:11,472 --> 02:59:14,190 Yeah.

4481

02:59:14,190 --> 02:59:22,680 Well, Mr Wolnerman, I would like to thank you

4482

02:59:22,680 --> 02:59:27,930 for speaking with us today, for sharing all of your stories

4483

02:59:27,930 --> 02:59:33,670 with us today, for answering all my questions,

4484

02:59:33,670 --> 02:59:39,540 and once more, for making the journey from Iowa to here

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

02:59:39,540 --> 02:59:42,360 in Washington, DC.

## 4486

02:59:42,360 --> 02:59:47,040 And with that, I will say this concludes the United States

## 4487

02:59:47,040 --> 02:59:50,880 Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Mr. David

## 4488

02:59:50,880 --> 02:59:56,190 Wolnerman on May 9, 2016.

## 4489

02:59:56,190 --> 02:59:58,560 Thank you again.

# 4490

02:59:58,560 --> 03:00:02,500 I hope I have decent job.

# 4491

03:00:02,500 --> 03:00:05,080 You did a wonderful job, a wonderful job.

## 4492

03:00:05,080 --> 03:00:06,990 Thank you.