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Mr. Jack Ellis. Mr. Ellis lived in Cologne, Germany before he was--

[VIDEO OUT]

Good evening. My name is Toby Tickton-Beck. I am the director of the Holocaust Resource Center in Buffalo. This evening, we have with us as our guest speaker, Mr. Jack Ellis. Mr. Ellis lived in Cologne, Germany before he was deported.

Jack, could you tell us a little bit about your life in Germany as a child?

As a child, I was 10 years old when my father died. He left us-- my mother and we were three children. I was the oldest, a 10-year-old. We had our own business-- scrap metal-- which were run by people who were employed by my father before he died.

My mother couldn't keep up this business, because she had no experience. And from then on, we lived from what money we had.

You sold the business?

We sold the business. My mother was not able to do any other work or business-- until we grew up a little bit, and we went to school.

You had a normal childhood life?

A normal childhood life, yes. But still, as we grew older, we felt the danger when the Nazi came to power.

How did that disturb your normal life, when the Nazis came into power?

First of all, I could-- when I was employed, I could not be employed anymore. I had to look for employment at Jewish firm.

Oh, you were employed with a non-Jewish firm? And then the Nazis canceled that?

Right. And then, I worked for a Jewish firm since I was-- in the meantime, between the unemployment, and the employment by Jewish firm, I collected unemployment, because I could not find work.

And I think, I remember you told me that you had to leave the gymnasium when you were a teenager, because Jewish children could not attend school? I think we should see a picture of your family now. That will be on the screen, and maybe you can describe the members of your family to us.

My father died in 1934, at the age of 35. I was 10 years old. My sister, Rosa, was at this time about four years old. And my younger sister, Gertrude, was just born-- about a year old, maybe.

Looks like a very happy family. Very beautiful family.

Yes, I like to bring up that my father in 1922, '23, he came to Buffalo, New York.

He came to Buffalo without your family? Just by himself?

To visit his sisters who were living in Buffalo.

Oh, my, and he didn't stay here, obviously.

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That's to my regret.

Do you regret--

He didn't stay here. Because my mother, I presume my mother kept writing him, come back.

If only they had had a--

Because she was alone with three small children.

Now, let's continue with your life in Germany with the Nazis in power. Let's say, shall we bring it to about 1937, '38, what happened to you at that time?

1938, exactly October 28, shall I say?

Give us all the details, yes.

Yes, my parents came from Poland, Lodz, 1914, to Cologne, Germany. And they didn't apply for German citizenship. But during the years, the Nazi years, we applied for the Polish citizenship, which we were--

Did you think it might be safer to have citizenship?

Right. We thought we would be safer having a Polish citizenship. We had Polish citizenship. And at the time, 1938, October 28, all Polish Jews were deported.

This is before Kristallnacht? They were all deported?

Before Crystal Night. You want me to--

Please just fill in the details. What happened to you when you were deported? Where did you go, and who went with you?

We were-- my mother and I, our passports were still valid. And we were deported with all other Polish citizens, Jewish citizen.

Were you able to take all your furnishings?

No, nothing. Two Gestapo-- I received a phone call from my mother at work to let me know I should come home. There were Gestapo at our house. And I came home, and here they were standing and waiting for me and my mother. We were taken to a-- called [NON-ENGLISH], a station where all the Polish Jews were directed.

Gathered-- did you have time to pack suitcases?

No, I had no time to pack everything. We grabbed whatever was handy. And we stuck it in a suitcase, and that's it. We were taken to a [NON-ENGLISH], and with all the other Jewish, Polish Jewish citizens, transported to they called no man's land. It was a border between Germany and Poland.

But was it actually in Germany, or in Poland? It was no man's land.

No man's land. They dropped us off and left us there.

With food?

Nothing, absolutely nothing.

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So who took care of you? How did you manage?

A few hours later, people arrived from Poznan--

Oh, the big city.

They called it then, Posen, Jews from the Polish Jewish community, and they provided us with food, and they took us to Poznan, to the Jewish Federation.

Where did you sleep?

There, the Jewish community collected family-- my mother and I were collected by a Jewish family. They took us over with food and board, and we could stay there for a while.

My mother had some relatives in Lodz, but she did not know the address. So I said, I will go to Lodz, and see if I can locate some of the family. I went to the Jewish-- I went to Lodz.

How long did that take you to go from Poznan to Lodz?

I-- in order to get-- the Jewish Federation provided me with a passage for a delivery truck, which traveled from Posen to Lodz. And there, I sat in the back of the truck and drove with them for quite a few-- all night, till I get to Lodz.

I think we have a picture of you about that age. Is this about the time that you were-- if you look on the screen-- the time that you were in Poland, as a young man?

Yes.

So this--

23.

You still nice and healthy, and life is fairly normal.

Yes.

You're 23 years old, the next clerk, and you're going to try to find relatives in the Lodz. So tell us about that, please.

I found a uncle in Lodz, but he wasn't very happy to see me. And he was not able-- able, I would say--

To take care of you.

To take care of me or my mother. But at this time, there was a Jewish merchant who, at times, owned a big factory, which was not used anymore. And he donated this factory to the Jewish Federation to give it to those refugees which came-- what came to Lodz.

So you went back to get your mother and brought her to Lodz?

To Lodz.

And what-- and the Jewish Federation took care of your food, and your needs, and your housing?

Everything.

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But your life was so disrupted.

We lived in one floor-- men, woman, and child-- in one floor at this factory.

How many of them? How many people were you?

We were, all together in Lodz, I would say, approximately 200, 250.

In a place that would normally accommodate just a few, I presume.

Right. One bed next to the other. And the Jewish Federation provided us with food, and bed linen, and pillows, and so forth. And blankets.

What did you do during the day? Did you work?

No. First of all, I could not speak the language.

That's right.

Then, the time went on, and until 1939, when Germany invaded Poland.

Then, the ghetto--

The ghetto was formed.

Formed.

But Lodz was one of the last ghettos to fall. We read that Chaim Rumkowski made the city very industrial, and got lots of orders from the German government. Were you involved with that?

No.

No, so you weren't involved with that plan.

When my mother and I came to the ghetto, we stayed there, and this was unbelievable the condition got worse and worse.

You were very crowded, and I presume didn't have much to eat?

No, 1940-- then came a call, who wants to go to Germany to work? And I volunteered.

Did your mother volunteer? She was too old?

Just the young men--

Oh, just young men.

Just young men, to volunteer for work back to Germany. And I was hoping to help my mother. I thought I would earn money to send back and help my mother.

It seemed very normal, especially knowing the language, and coming from Germany.

Yes. In 1940, we were sent back to Germany. And we arrived at a called arbeitslager--

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Labor camp.

Labor camp, where they built a autobahn, or the highway--

Superhighway.

Superhighway from Frankfurt on the Oder, to Berlin.

Quite a distance. And you were working on that superhighway?

Every 4 miles was a autobahn camp, which had approximately 400 workers, Jewish workers.

Only Jewish workers?

Only Jewish worker. The foremen were German, or so-called-- all of a sudden, there were German. But before, there were other nationalities, the [GERMAN], Volksdeutsche. And they were murder.

They were very cruel?

They were murder. Killing every day. Food--

What kind of conditions? What kind of food? What kind of living conditions did you have?

Living conditions, you lived in barracks. And conditions, you got a piece of bread, cold soup, and that's it.

That's it? No meat, no other protein?

A little slice of sausage, and that's it.

What happened if you got sick? You didn't have enough to keep you going?

No, then unless there was an emergency, they sent you to Berlin to the Jewish hospital. We had a so-called sanitator-- which called, not a doctor--

They took care of sanitation and general health condition?

Yeah.

Was he a German, or was he--

Pardon?

Was he a German, or was he Jewish?

No, Jewish.

Jew, who took care of that. So most of you were young men in your 20s, and conditions were very severe.

And there, we stayed until the camp was liquidated, because they did not need it anymore. They need people to work in other places. And there, we were sent to Auschwitz.

What year was this?

1942.

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So in other words, you worked in a labor camp for two years.

Two years.

And then, in 1942, you were sent to Auschwitz. Did you know what Auschwitz was?

No.

Did you think it was another labor camp?

We did not know where we were going.

How did you get to Auschwitz?

We were transported in trains.

Was it those cattle cars?

At this-- no, not at this time. From the arbeits camp, we were transported in cattle cars to Auschwitz.

What were the conditions in those cattle cars?

We became either-- or the people in the cattle car had a pound of [NON-ENGLISH], like--

Jams?

What-- kind of food. 1 pound of canned food, that's it.

How many days were you in the train, in the cattle car?

Oh, took us about three days to get to Auschwitz.

And that's all you had for the three days?

Yes, we did not know where we were going.

What was the morale like?

The morale, we did not know-- people who survived two years in Auschwitz camp like what I went through felt they could survive the next camp, too.

So in other words, you had faith? That's one of the things that kept you alive.

We saw this could not be worse than we were in before.

Oh, so you thought you might even improve your conditions?

Right. Then, when we came to Auschwitz, all of a sudden, our feeling, my feeling, was terrible.

Oh, by the way, I forgot to mention that the fate of my mother-- as long as I was working in the arbeits camp, in Germany, I could write letter once in a while to my mother, and get to her in Lodz.

And you knew it was delivered? Did you get answers?

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I got answer. And then, in '42, before this, I didn't get any answer. And then, I found out from somebody else, who was from Lodz, too, that my mother had died in--

In the ghetto? From malnutrition?

Malnutrition.

That must have been quite a shock for you. How old was your mother when she died?

Pardon?

How old was your mother? Not an old woman, certainly.

In the 50s.

So then, you were in Auschwitz. What was entering Auschwitz like? We have so many different descriptions from different people.

Never forget-- when we arrived in Auschwitz, they told you, move to the left or move to the right.

Was Dr. Mengele there?

I tell you the truth, I can--

You didn't know.

Because our transport was only men. Only male in our transport.

So did most of the males remain alive?

If they were physically able to work-- some were sent to the other side. That means, they were eliminated.

Did they know what was going to happen to them at that point? Those-- nobody knew what was happening?

No, we went through the procedure-- take your clothes off, take a shower. Then get you--

Do you have a number?

Yes, I have a number.

May we see your number? What did you think was happening? What is that number? Maybe the screen-- maybe we can--

142331.

Can you turn your hand over so that-- there, they can get that on the screen. What did you think was happening to you? It's so barbarian. It's like what they do to the animals. You just didn't know what was happening?

You are numb. You go through the motions, what they tell you to do. They shave your hair off, they give you new clothes. And then, for the first few weeks, luckily it was summertime in July, we were taken to a [NON-ENGLISH], a canvas, like a tent, big tent.

And there, we were about 2,000 people.

All men? Young men?

All men, yeah.

And what did you do in that-- did you did they take you out for work each day?

Not the first few days. Until the end-- take your records, and so forth. And then you were--

Very methodical were the Germans.

Oh, yes, very much, very much. Then they put you in barracks with groups, and then, you were assigned to work, work kommando.

Jack, before you tell us about the work, did you have friends from the labor camp that stayed with you in Auschwitz? Did you have anyone that you knew when you got settled in Auschwitz?

I have a friend, he died. He was with me in Auschwitz until we were-- until Auschwitz was liquidated. He went to Buchenwald, and I went to Mauthausen. But I saw him when we were liberated in Belsen. When I came back to Cologne, there I met him.

Is he still alive?

No, he died of a heart attack a few years ago.

Oh, I see.

He came to visit me in Buffalo.

That must have been a happy reunion. Anyway, let's get back to working in Auschwitz. What kind of work did you do?

I was no-- I worked in Buna-- that's for the [NON-ENGLISH].

Oh, yes, what kind of work did you do?

First, digging gravel, everything.

Hard work. Very hard, physical work.

Hard work, hard work.

How many hours a day did you work?

How many hours? 12, 14 hours.

Every day?

Every day.

What kind of food did you get?

In the morning, at 4 o'clock, when you were woken up, you had to run outside to wash yourself. No towels. You had to dry with your jacket, with your striped jacket you wore, you had to use it as a towel.

Then you're running back in your barrack. You got your cold coffee and a piece of bread, and you have to watch it that nobody steals it. And they had to go-- after-- outside, on the appellplatz--

Oh, the roll call?

Roll call. And then you march out to work. You march out of the door with music, and you came in with music.

It's very bizarre, isn't it?

I have a friend who worked in the orchestra, who used to live in Buffalo. He used to play for the Philharmonic.

And that was that person, that man's job?

Yeah.

Did they have to work in between playing?

No, he was lucky. Being a musician, they had to practice in Auschwitz. And they played for the German, for the SS.

So strange.

So he was lucky in this respect.

Did you ever get a change of clothing? Or did you wear that same striped prison uniform?

Once in awhile, yes. You could do business--

Oh, trade?

You could do business if you had enough food, you could trade it with somebody who had some clothes. Don't forget, there were tailor shops, shoemakers shops, everything was in the camp.

But how could you possibly accumulate food to trade if you didn't get enough to begin with?

When you worked outside, and you're lucky to work in a kommando where POW were, like there were quite a few British soldiers there who became the packages from the Red Cross.

So they would share?

Share it. Now, in Auschwitz, as soon-- you received packages, too, but not the Jews. So the German who were in concentration camp, they received packages. The Polish inmates received packages from Poland.

So if you were lucky, you made a friend who gave you something.

That's right. Then, for a short while, I was lucky to have a job in a parcel-- in the post office.

In Auschwitz?

In Auschwitz.

And that was his softer job?

This was a job where you open up packages. Gave it out to the barracks, the barracks olders-- who was in charge of the barrack, came every day, collect the mails or the packages for the inmates, who had packages coming. And mostly,

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Polish inmates, they received packages, bread, butter.

And naturally, if a inmate died--

The package remained.

The package got lost.

Quote, I see.

And this was all locked in.

It was interesting that they would put Jewish prisoners to work in the post office. That sounds like a job that many people would have wanted.

Wanted-- this was a gravy job.

A gravy job. How long did you work in the post office?

The post office I worked about half a year. And that's where I could help my friend who came to visit me in camp. He was a so-called Muselmann, they call them Muselmann.

Maybe you could explain that.

Right, he was ready to die, no food whatsoever. And I helped him with soup, extra piece of bread. And he survived Auschwitz, too, and Buchenwald. And I met him in Cologne.

Thanks to you. So after the post office job, what kind of job did you do?

Then, I went back to labor.

To hard physical labor. Were the German officers fairly fair with the workers?

See, I had, in my case in Auschwitz, I had a little bit luck. Because there were a German who was from Cologne, too. An SS man. And by-- at work, when he supervised us, he could hear my--

Your accent?

--accent, that I was from the same city. But he didn't let it be known by somebody else. So yeah, I got a break, too.

You were probably among the few prisoners who knew German, I presume.

No.

Oh, that's right, there were so many that had been taken to Poland and brought back.

In the work camp, from '40 to '42--

When you were taken from Poland.

I was the only one.

Who knew German. So this brings us-- you're in Auschwitz from 1942 until what year?

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'45--

Three years you were in Auschwitz?

From '42 to '45, January, beginning of '45.

And the Russians are coming.

And the Russian came close, we could feel it. We could feel it. The air, for us, when the bombs were falling, it didn't bother us. The Germans, they were running to hide themselves for us. It was--

You felt freedom approaching?

Right.

That's interesting. So we hear that many, many prisoners were evacuated from Auschwitz. Were you among those prisoners?

Yes.

And what happened?

Auschwitz was evacuated in '45 from us. And we marched Gleiwitz.

Before you talk about your march, what about the crematoria? Did you know anything about the gas chambers?

Well, just to come back to the arrival of Auschwitz--

In 1942.

'42. The first day when the roll call was, we saw on the open area, five gallows standing there. We looked at it, we didn't know what it was. Then, when the roll call came, and then they brought five Jewish inmates out, and they were hanged.

This was my--

That was your entrance to Auschwitz?

Entrance.

Right then and there, do you know why they were hung?

Runaway, stealing, whatever. No reason were given-- they didn't need a reason.

So you thought that the labor camp that you were coming to, that was better.

Better, yeah. But this one was worse.

Was mirage. And about the gas can-- about the crematoria?

I personally did not see it, because I was in Buna. It was too far.

How far away was Buna?

From Auschwitz? I would say about 5 miles, maybe.

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And you were housed there?

But the chimneys were visible and the smoke was visible. And you could smell it.

And did you know what was happening? Did the prisoners know what was--

Well, those who were there before me, or the new ones who came in, were transferred, you found out what's going on. And then, you found out, every day were-- they took people, sick people away. And they never return.

So as long as you stayed there, you found out more and more what's going on there.

Meantime, you were just trying to survive and keep alive. That was hard enough. So you left Auschwitz, and where did you go from there?

We marched to Gleiwitz, from Auschwitz to Gleiwitz. From Gleiwitz, we were in open feed train-- cattle.

Cattle cars?

In January--

So this is the middle of the winter, January 1945.

By the way, my birthday, too.

Oh, you left on your birthday?

Yes.

Something you won't forget.

And there, an open cattle wagon, one after another, with no food--

No food at all?

For two weeks.

Two weeks you were in an open cattle car with that-- how many of you went and how many of you survived?

We went-- I think, I don't actually know the exact amount. But approximately 5,000 of our transport, we came out to Nordhausen, finally. About 1,500, the rest died.

This was my worst experience.

Those two weeks.

Those two weeks.

And in the meantime, you were in the midst of the bombing, I presume?

This doesn't bother us. The train was going, because the train did not know where to go. The train goes, went, went. Finally--

Were you watched by German officers?

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Yes.

You couldn't jump?

No. A few tried. Few tried.

You had no blankets, no-- all you had was your zebra stripe suit. No food. I was huddled between two legs by a person who served a life sentence for murder-- a Gentile, a German Gentile, and he kept me warm. Without food.

We grabbed snow, and we ate snow. What I saw on this train, what happened on this train, I cannot describe.

You don't care to--

Because would you believe if I tell you, if you see people for thirst, drank the urine from somebody else?

Just to stay alive.

Or a person half dead, dying, get eaten by somebody else.

Are you talking about cannibalism, too? Survival.

And sometimes, if I think very oddly-- I simply, I think, I did not go through this.

You think it's a dream. It was just too unbelievable. Do you dream about it, or think about it?

Once in a while.

You try to block it out, I presume.

Sometimes when my two daughters ask some question, I try to avoid it. Because I cannot believe that it happened.

So impossible. So you got to Nordhausen, which is in Germany.

In Germany, in the Harz-- Nordhausen am Harz. There, where they-- we were underground. there, I think they made V-1, V-2 bombs, which they used against England.

And did you work in this area?

No. We were isolated there.

Did you get food, finally?

Food, yeah, we got some food there. But there again, the same ration like we had in Auschwitz--

Barely enough to keep you--

Barely-- nothing compared what you normally would eat.

What's the morale like there?

You did not know what's going to happen. We didn't stay long in Nordhausen. Then, we were taken to Belsen, finally. And in Belsen was the first time that I saw a little bit food from somebody else. And in Belsen, itself, I didn't stay long.

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They moved you again?

No, in Belsen, close, the British came.

You were liberated by the British. Do you remember that day when you were--

Yes.

I guess it's a day you will never forget. What day was it?

Because they tried to give us so much food, that in the porridge, English porridge, they gave us. And quite a few could not take it, and they died.

That's what we hear. People just could not assimilate what was given to them.

They could not take the food.

What day were you liberated? April?

April, yeah, when-- April, May.

1945. Can you describe that liberation day?

We looked out, and we saw British. You could tell-- the German did not bother you.

Where were the German guards?

The German guards were still home.

But they didn't bother you?

They didn't bother us.

You didn't have to go out for roll call or anything?

No, no, they didn't bother us.

The British soldiers came into the camp?

Yeah.

And that must have been a revelation for them, as well.

Well, they grabbed quite a few-- the Germans were in half-- the inmates tried to kill some German soldiers, because now they saw the British, that they were free. They were restrained. The British took some prisoner.

It is funny-- you are in a daze. You don't know what to do. You don't know what is going to happen to you. Here you are, standing there, all of a sudden, you can do what you want.

And you don't know what to do. Of course, you're so weakened by malnutrition, you can't think straight.

Yes, I went out-- to show you the mentality-- I went out of the camp, and we-- we walked-- the inmates, we walked to the village. And we knocked on the door, and we asked for some food and clothing. And they would not give us.

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Even then, even at liberation time.

They would not give us. You felt like what happened was-- they saw the war is over.

Where's civilization?

Yes.

What happened after liberation? Did you try to find your relatives? Did you stay in a DP camp? What happened to you?

Yes. The British took us to a DP camp in Westfalen, in Halden, Westfalen. There's a funny story. There, the British commandant was a major by the name of Rosenthal, a Jew.

Ah.

And when I talked to him, I said, I'm Jewish, born in Germany. The first thing he said, you cannot stay here. But this only for refugees who were not born in Germany. This refugee camp.

Even though you were Jewish.

Yeah. But he said, I can give you the burgermeister from this village. You know what a burgermeister is?

Yeah, sure.

And he called the burgermeister, and the burgermeister came and he offered me his house. I could stay with him.

Did you?

But he said, here in this village is living a Jew, and I presume you would prefer to live with him. I said, certainly. Then he told me that this Jew was a blind man married to a German woman-- a World War I veteran. So he didn't take him to Auschwitz, or whatever concentration camp. They didn't bother with him.

First, he was married to a Jewish woman. So I stayed with this couple for six weeks. When I came back from-- when I was liberated in Bergen-Belsen, my weight was about 90 pounds.

90 pounds? Almost skeletal.

He fed me well.

Took care of you?

He took care of me.

What did you do when you left him? Where did you go?

Now, there's another story. While I was there-- can we make a little--

Yes, we still have time.

You want me to go on?

Yes, please, tell us the story.

While I was there in Halden, Westfalen, at this Jewish man, I was walking one day on the street, and I saw a big lorry,

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British lorry, with some refugees. And the lorry going towards the camp, DP camp. On the ride back, I saw three girls standing there, and they looked Jewish to me.

And I asked them, [NON-ENGLISH]? They said, yes.

Our people.

Where you come from? They said, from Cologne. I said, wait a minute, you come from Cologne? Do you know any Leo Zachs? Yes, we just saw him.

This Leo Zachs was the fellow who was with me in Auschwitz.

Oh, your friend?

And I saved his life a little bit. And they told me, they're going back to Cologne. So I told them, I told those girls, when they go back to see Leo Zachs in Cologne, tell them that I'm alive and living in Halden.

Oh, that's how you got the message through?

And it didn't take long. Then, one day, a car drove up, and here was Leo Zachs. And he took me back to Cologne.

And how long did you live in Cologne before you came to America?

I lived in Cologne till my paper were ready to leave Cologne, '48.

In '48, you came to Buffalo?

In '49, yeah.

Came to Buffalo then?

'49, yes.

Oh, Jack, before we forget, you had shown me a picture of your sister and brother-in-law. Perhaps we can get that on the screen now, and this is one of your two sisters. Maybe you could tell us what happened to your sisters.

Yes, my sister Rosa, who left Germany before-- in 1977-- went to Holland--

In 1937, '37.

To Holland, and married my cousin's brother. So two brothers were married to two cousins.

And this is your older sister? This is Rosa. And what happened to Rosa? And this is her husband.

And my younger sister, after we were deported from Germany, my younger sister got to Holland. So she smuggled over the border, because Cologne is not far from the Dutch border. And she lived with my sister. And there, she, her sister, Rosa, her husband and their child, came to Auschwitz. When, I don't know.

Do you know they did not survive? Do you have proof of this?

Yes.

How did you get the proof?

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My cousin, who lived in Amsterdam, Holland, who were hidden by a Dutch family, told them when they came back that nobody survived.

And nobody of that particular group survived. So you are the only survivor of your immediate family?

Yes.

Aside from these cousins, do have other family that survived?

Yeah, now, I only--

The other cousin?

The other cousin in New York, who survived, too.

So that was very hard-- as a young man, you came to Buffalo without any family at all.

Any family at all.

I see. Do you tell your children these stories about what happened to you during the Nazi years? Do you tell your children and your wife the story?

Yes, yes. In the beginning, yes. But now, it's-- one forgets single incident which were-- which cannot be told, actually. I mean, I could tell them, but sometimes I don't believe it really happened to me.

Because it's just so impossible. Have you been back to Germany?

Once, yes.

What took you to Germany, and what were your reactions?

My wife, who is also from Germany, her parents, who lived in Germany, had a housemaid who was still alive. And she wrote to her, she wrote to us. And she invited us and my wife visit them, of the invitation.

And I went back to Cologne, the same time.

To the house where you lived?

It's not there, anymore.

It was bombed out?

Yes. I visited the grave of my father, which still there. And I went to the Jewish Federation, which still has some friends there, which know me before the war.

Was that a difficult trip for you, going back to Germany?

Yes, I don't have any desire going back again. Nothing. The feeling--

That's all right.

The feeling is there that even I cannot understand that people think this has never happened.

It's hard for you to believe that, having experienced it, isn't it.

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Yes.

And yet, there are a group of people calling themselves the revisionists, who come out very strongly saying that, these stories are made up.

Yes.

And that's why it's so important to tell them. And why we're very appreciative that you tell the story, even though it's difficult. Do you get reparations monies from Germany?

Yes, I got what I lost, and this is a long time ago.

Oh, you don't get it on a steady basis?

No.

And that doesn't make any difference. You don't have the family.

Money cannot give you back what you went through and what you lost. Your family.

Your family, and a normal way of life.

Yes.

We thank you very, very much, Jack Ellis, and we know it's very hard for you to tell these stories. But it's very important for you to tell the stories.

I'm sorry I cannot give you exact details, because the many years, and you forget the exact dates and incidents, the punishment I take-- I took--

I think what you've told us is very graphic. And it proves the point that it happened.

I hope that my telling you this will help a little bit to convince people this really has happened.

Thank you very much.

You're welcome.

Thank you.