

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:03:48,140

2
00:03:48,140 --> 00:03:53,460
Can you just summarize
for me the complexity

3
00:03:53,460 --> 00:03:57,630
of how it was a
situation without choices

4
00:03:57,630 --> 00:04:01,980
for the peasants
who were threatened

5
00:04:01,980 --> 00:04:04,860
and who-- so maybe
they wanted to help.

6
00:04:04,860 --> 00:04:07,420
Maybe some couldn't help.

7
00:04:07,420 --> 00:04:07,920
OK.

8
00:04:07,920 --> 00:04:11,580

9
00:04:11,580 --> 00:04:18,660
After our first mission
against those collaborators,

10
00:04:18,660 --> 00:04:20,940
things had changed.

11
00:04:20,940 --> 00:04:25,170
People were less
afraid to talk to us.

12
00:04:25,170 --> 00:04:31,830
There were some who were

helping us, risking their lives,

13

00:04:31,830 --> 00:04:37,050

keeping our wounded and our
disabled people in bunkers

14

00:04:37,050 --> 00:04:40,110

for the two years
where we existed.

15

00:04:40,110 --> 00:04:45,810

They risked their lives, not
get paid for a penny for it.

16

00:04:45,810 --> 00:04:49,720

And other people who
were really against us

17

00:04:49,720 --> 00:04:54,510

were not any more
open to be against us.

18

00:04:54,510 --> 00:04:57,780

The reason what happened before,
why the situation was created

19

00:04:57,780 --> 00:05:02,760

as such was that there was
no laws against harassing

20

00:05:02,760 --> 00:05:04,590

or killing Jews.

21

00:05:04,590 --> 00:05:06,840

Everything was free.

22

00:05:06,840 --> 00:05:10,410

Those hoodlums, collaborators
jumped on the bandwagon.

23

00:05:10,410 --> 00:05:13,200

Everyone wanted
to be in the act.

24

00:05:13,200 --> 00:05:18,180

What happened [INAUDIBLE] they
became heroes for their people

25

00:05:18,180 --> 00:05:22,920

against unarmed Jewish
people, you understand?

26

00:05:22,920 --> 00:05:25,440

And they were getting
rewards for it.

27

00:05:25,440 --> 00:05:26,907

So there was no threat.

28

00:05:26,907 --> 00:05:27,990

They were getting rewards.

29

00:05:27,990 --> 00:05:30,990

They became heroes So
that's why everything was--

30

00:05:30,990 --> 00:05:34,530

when we came into
being and they saw

31

00:05:34,530 --> 00:05:38,115

that somebody is there
to defend Jewish life,

32

00:05:38,115 --> 00:05:44,320

it became too expensive for them
to go on and do those things.

33

00:05:44,320 --> 00:05:47,370

So they had to pay a
price for their own life.

34

00:05:47,370 --> 00:05:49,050

There was no questions asked.

35

00:05:49,050 --> 00:05:53,050
If somebody killed a Jew, he was
killed, no question about it.

36
00:05:53,050 --> 00:05:55,410
And that's why the
whole situation changed.

37
00:05:55,410 --> 00:05:58,830
Even those who were,
in heart, anti-Semitic,

38
00:05:58,830 --> 00:06:00,810
which mostly where--

39
00:06:00,810 --> 00:06:05,220
they didn't show
because-- it's funny--

40
00:06:05,220 --> 00:06:08,730
let's say several weeks
prior we got firearms.

41
00:06:08,730 --> 00:06:10,440
We used to go to a village.

42
00:06:10,440 --> 00:06:12,850
We were chased like dogs.

43
00:06:12,850 --> 00:06:13,740
We show them money.

44
00:06:13,740 --> 00:06:15,130
We want to buy food.

45
00:06:15,130 --> 00:06:20,730
When we came into some isolated
places and the peasants had

46
00:06:20,730 --> 00:06:22,560
[INAUDIBLE], they sold us food.

47

00:06:22,560 --> 00:06:24,330
Some of them didn't
want to take money.

48
00:06:24,330 --> 00:06:27,360
There were all kind of
people, no question about it.

49
00:06:27,360 --> 00:06:31,650
Without their help, they could
not succeed, let me tell you.

50
00:06:31,650 --> 00:06:34,050
So what happened when we
came into the biggest enemy?

51
00:06:34,050 --> 00:06:35,850
We knew who the enemy is now.

52
00:06:35,850 --> 00:06:39,765
The only way why we succeeded
in doing all those things

53
00:06:39,765 --> 00:06:45,090
and protecting ourselves is
we knew exactly who is what.

54
00:06:45,090 --> 00:06:46,530
We did our homework.

55
00:06:46,530 --> 00:06:52,110
So we came into the biggest
anti-Semite, said good evening.

56
00:06:52,110 --> 00:06:55,590
They took us in and gave us
royalty, everything we wanted.

57
00:06:55,590 --> 00:06:57,930
They asked us, and
they gave us food.

58
00:06:57,930 --> 00:06:59,350

They gave us shelter.

59

00:06:59,350 --> 00:07:02,100

Later on, what they did--

60

00:07:02,100 --> 00:07:07,830

they saw a way not to give their
quarters or the contribution

61

00:07:07,830 --> 00:07:10,080

to the Germans

because every farmer

62

00:07:10,080 --> 00:07:13,440

had to give some percentage
of their farm products

63

00:07:13,440 --> 00:07:14,670

to the Germans.

64

00:07:14,670 --> 00:07:19,020

So we gave them receipts
that we took so and so,

65

00:07:19,020 --> 00:07:21,990

and they showed to the Germans
they were killing themselves

66

00:07:21,990 --> 00:07:25,900

pigs, cows and selling
things on the black market.

67

00:07:25,900 --> 00:07:26,850

They gained on that.

68

00:07:26,850 --> 00:07:29,280

We really did not
eat their food.

69

00:07:29,280 --> 00:07:30,990

We ate the food from the--

70

00:07:30,990 --> 00:07:32,850
it belonged to the Germans.

71
00:07:32,850 --> 00:07:35,340
And that's how things
got organized that even

72
00:07:35,340 --> 00:07:37,380
those fascists got used to it.

73
00:07:37,380 --> 00:07:39,600
They didn't want to listen
anymore to their leaders

74
00:07:39,600 --> 00:07:45,240
because their leaders had
mind to kill everyone, Jew,

75
00:07:45,240 --> 00:07:48,330
not to stay alive, not to
be able to testify like I

76
00:07:48,330 --> 00:07:51,150
have to say testimony today.

77
00:07:51,150 --> 00:07:56,797
They got orders from London,
from their government in exile

78
00:07:56,797 --> 00:07:58,380
because when they
caught some of them,

79
00:07:58,380 --> 00:08:01,350
they told us the
truth what happening.

80
00:08:01,350 --> 00:08:04,060
So later on, they saw
they can do nothing.

81
00:08:04,060 --> 00:08:08,190
They tried to liquidate

us, but they couldn't.

82

00:08:08,190 --> 00:08:12,210

They wanted to get us in
one place where they could--

83

00:08:12,210 --> 00:08:14,850

and they had the means.

84

00:08:14,850 --> 00:08:16,860

We were outgunned
and outnumbered.

85

00:08:16,860 --> 00:08:21,963

Every peasant had arms, and
they knew how to use it.

86

00:08:21,963 --> 00:08:23,130

And let me tell you a story.

87

00:08:23,130 --> 00:08:30,450

Once in May or June 1943, I
went with a friend of mine--

88

00:08:30,450 --> 00:08:40,510

we went to a estate named Lukov,
and this wonderful estate--

89

00:08:40,510 --> 00:08:42,120

what do you call-- the baron--

90

00:08:42,120 --> 00:08:45,120

we call it [NON-ENGLISH].

91

00:08:45,120 --> 00:08:46,860

He used to give us
money every month

92

00:08:46,860 --> 00:08:51,090

for the wounded to buy
medicine, things like that.

93

00:08:51,090 --> 00:08:52,200

And we came in.

94

00:08:52,200 --> 00:08:55,510

We announced who we are, and
my friend of mine who I went--

95

00:08:55,510 --> 00:08:59,160

he was a commander for another
Jewish group from [? Kushov. ?]

96

00:08:59,160 --> 00:09:03,420

His name was
[? Issa ?] Eisenberg--

97

00:09:03,420 --> 00:09:05,310

no, Rosenberg.

98

00:09:05,310 --> 00:09:08,880

And there was a--

99

00:09:08,880 --> 00:09:10,995

what you call-- a doorman.

100

00:09:10,995 --> 00:09:13,200

A [NON-ENGLISH],,
we they called it.

101

00:09:13,200 --> 00:09:17,610

He went to announce us
to the [NON-ENGLISH]..

102

00:09:17,610 --> 00:09:18,930

He asked who we are.

103

00:09:18,930 --> 00:09:19,530

He came in.

104

00:09:19,530 --> 00:09:20,280

He knew him.

105

00:09:20,280 --> 00:09:23,250

He says, oh, hello, clapped
him on his hand, come on in.

106
00:09:23,250 --> 00:09:25,680
And he says, I have
a surprise for you.

107
00:09:25,680 --> 00:09:30,720
When we came in, there were
about 24 from the AK group.

108
00:09:30,720 --> 00:09:34,470
Three were officers
dressed in Polish uniform.

109
00:09:34,470 --> 00:09:37,410
They were sitting at
nice dining room table,

110
00:09:37,410 --> 00:09:40,560
and they invited us, oh,
hello, how are you, boys?

111
00:09:40,560 --> 00:09:42,060
We were looking for you.

112
00:09:42,060 --> 00:09:43,482
We want to help you.

113
00:09:43,482 --> 00:09:44,940
We heard that you're
good fighters,

114
00:09:44,940 --> 00:09:46,680
you're doing a good job.

115
00:09:46,680 --> 00:09:49,200
So we had a few
drinks with them.

116
00:09:49,200 --> 00:09:50,730
They tried to make
contacts to make

117
00:09:50,730 --> 00:09:54,210
us believe that they
are friend of us

118
00:09:54,210 --> 00:09:56,010
and tried to take
us in one time.

119
00:09:56,010 --> 00:09:58,830
If they could liquidate
us, they would do it.

120
00:09:58,830 --> 00:10:03,900
But the way we had a plan
worked out to protect ourselves,

121
00:10:03,900 --> 00:10:07,800
we never went, the whole
group, in one place, one time.

122
00:10:07,800 --> 00:10:08,670
We split it up.

123
00:10:08,670 --> 00:10:12,030
And they knew that the
group who stayed behind

124
00:10:12,030 --> 00:10:15,180
knows where we going
and will take revenge,

125
00:10:15,180 --> 00:10:17,830
and this was all about--

126
00:10:17,830 --> 00:10:20,840
and-- what's the
name-- the owner,

127
00:10:20,840 --> 00:10:24,990
the [NON-ENGLISH] gave us
money in front of them,

128

00:10:24,990 --> 00:10:27,060
100,000 zlotys [INAUDIBLE].

129

00:10:27,060 --> 00:10:30,630
We were not afraid of that
because we needed the money.

130

00:10:30,630 --> 00:10:33,690
And later on, they tried
very hard to try to get us

131

00:10:33,690 --> 00:10:39,270
in somehow, to make peace,
and we knew a place was called

132

00:10:39,270 --> 00:10:40,440
Bor³w.

133

00:10:40,440 --> 00:10:42,600
It was south of Lublin.

134

00:10:42,600 --> 00:10:47,070
In 1943, there were a
Jewish partisan group.

135

00:10:47,070 --> 00:10:50,460
26 Jewish boys were in
contact with the AK,

136

00:10:50,460 --> 00:10:51,585
and they were naive.

137

00:10:51,585 --> 00:10:53,580
And they trusted them.

138

00:10:53,580 --> 00:10:56,430
So they were in good
conditions with them.

139

00:10:56,430 --> 00:10:59,610
One day, they came throwing
grenades to their bunkers

140
00:10:59,610 --> 00:11:00,960
and killed them all.

141
00:11:00,960 --> 00:11:02,520
There was even a song that time.

142
00:11:02,520 --> 00:11:05,340

143
00:11:05,340 --> 00:11:08,640
The AL the People's Army,
made a song in Polish

144
00:11:08,640 --> 00:11:10,470
about this story.

145
00:11:10,470 --> 00:11:14,700
Really, the way we
operated is, luckily,

146
00:11:14,700 --> 00:11:17,790
that we did not trust nobody.

147
00:11:17,790 --> 00:11:22,130
To us, they were all
enemies, even the friends.

148
00:11:22,130 --> 00:11:25,000