

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,540

2
00:00:00,540 --> 00:00:06,140
This is sound roll number
one, Wentworth Films,

3
00:00:06,140 --> 00:00:12,431
Holocaust [INAUDIBLE] IPS,
60-cycle sync, March 9, 1992,

4
00:00:12,431 --> 00:00:14,990
in Los Angeles, California.

5
00:00:14,990 --> 00:00:19,310
Camera roll one is up,
sync take one is up.

6
00:00:19,310 --> 00:00:26,120
And the following is interview
with Shony, S-H-O-N-Y, Braun,

7
00:00:26,120 --> 00:00:36,460
B-R-A-U-N. And then the hum that
you hear is just on the slating

8
00:00:36,460 --> 00:00:37,110
mic.

9
00:00:37,110 --> 00:00:38,835
So the height will be the right.

10
00:00:38,835 --> 00:00:44,130

11
00:00:44,130 --> 00:00:48,098
OK Wait a sec, wait a sec.

12
00:00:48,098 --> 00:00:49,410
Are you shy?

13
00:00:49,410 --> 00:00:50,550
Yeah.

14
00:00:50,550 --> 00:00:52,470
I think we can deal with this.

15
00:00:52,470 --> 00:00:54,480
Just after--

16
00:00:54,480 --> 00:00:55,260
False start.

17
00:00:55,260 --> 00:00:56,410
Take two is up.

18
00:00:56,410 --> 00:00:59,050

19
00:00:59,050 --> 00:01:01,165
Actually, we'll keep
one, we'll repeat one.

20
00:01:01,165 --> 00:01:02,561
Yeah, you can hear him.

21
00:01:02,561 --> 00:01:05,930

22
00:01:05,930 --> 00:01:09,560
I want you to describe
the transport and then

23
00:01:09,560 --> 00:01:11,060
the arrival at Auschwitz.

24
00:01:11,060 --> 00:01:12,890
And why don't you,
as you describe it,

25
00:01:12,890 --> 00:01:17,290
give me your age and

who you were with?

26

00:01:17,290 --> 00:01:21,430

Well, the transport was
approximately four days

27

00:01:21,430 --> 00:01:22,850

as we were.

28

00:01:22,850 --> 00:01:25,420

And there were so many.

29

00:01:25,420 --> 00:01:28,390

So many things happened
even before the transport

30

00:01:28,390 --> 00:01:32,140

that probably I will skip it
and go right into what you--

31

00:01:32,140 --> 00:01:33,235

to answer your question.

32

00:01:33,235 --> 00:01:36,630

33

00:01:36,630 --> 00:01:41,780

We had no water, we had very
little food, just the food

34

00:01:41,780 --> 00:01:48,580

which we took from home before
we had to board the cattle car.

35

00:01:48,580 --> 00:01:55,630

And there were a lot
of people died, mainly

36

00:01:55,630 --> 00:01:58,930

children and older people.

37

00:01:58,930 --> 00:02:05,120

For instance, we were so compact, it was like sardines.

38
00:02:05,120 --> 00:02:09,820
If you sat, you couldn't get up.

39
00:02:09,820 --> 00:02:13,270
Or vice-versa.

40
00:02:13,270 --> 00:02:18,370
But on the fourth night,
we arrived to Auschwitz.

41
00:02:18,370 --> 00:02:19,810
And we had to wait.

42
00:02:19,810 --> 00:02:23,430
And the train was waiting.

43
00:02:23,430 --> 00:02:30,790
Then all of a sudden, the
doors opened, slid open,

44
00:02:30,790 --> 00:02:34,330
and we were ordered out.

45
00:02:34,330 --> 00:02:39,510
As we stepped out, head
prisoners, called Kapos,

46
00:02:39,510 --> 00:02:48,580
rushed at us using their
whips, and so did the SS.

47
00:02:48,580 --> 00:02:50,510
They were beating them,
kicking them, hitting

48
00:02:50,510 --> 00:02:53,650
everyone they could reach.

49
00:02:53,650 --> 00:02:57,760

Then we were ordered to
form a line, stand in line.

50
00:02:57,760 --> 00:03:04,820
Men in one, women and small
children in the other.

51
00:03:04,820 --> 00:03:07,130
While the whip, and the
kicking, and the beating

52
00:03:07,130 --> 00:03:11,480
was going on, after
we lined up, I

53
00:03:11,480 --> 00:03:19,960
noticed that a high-ranking
SS officer approached.

54
00:03:19,960 --> 00:03:24,040
That was the infamous
Dr. Josef Mengele,

55
00:03:24,040 --> 00:03:28,980
the Angel of Death, the man
who would decide our fate.

56
00:03:28,980 --> 00:03:33,180
Instant death in a gas
chamber or lingering life

57
00:03:33,180 --> 00:03:36,610
of torture and slavery.

58
00:03:36,610 --> 00:03:37,920
We had to file by him.

59
00:03:37,920 --> 00:03:40,670

60
00:03:40,670 --> 00:03:46,220
As we did, I noticed that
he had a slender stick.

61
00:03:46,220 --> 00:03:48,150
Actually was a
conductor's baton.

62
00:03:48,150 --> 00:03:54,600
Being a musician, even at
13, so I recognized it.

63
00:03:54,600 --> 00:03:59,950
And he was waving it to
the right or to the left.

64
00:03:59,950 --> 00:04:04,690
He was pointing which way each
individual who filed by him

65
00:04:04,690 --> 00:04:07,060
to go.

66
00:04:07,060 --> 00:04:11,970
My mother and younger
sister, Goldie,

67
00:04:11,970 --> 00:04:15,750
who was only nine
years old, she was

68
00:04:15,750 --> 00:04:20,089
motioned to the left
along with my mother.

69
00:04:20,089 --> 00:04:24,610
My older sister, Violet, was
motion to the opposite side,

70
00:04:24,610 --> 00:04:26,890
to the right.

71
00:04:26,890 --> 00:04:32,690
My brother, Zoltan, who
was 15, and my father--

72

00:04:32,690 --> 00:04:36,310

they next were in
line, they were also

73

00:04:36,310 --> 00:04:40,960

motioned to the same side
where Violet, my older sister.

74

00:04:40,960 --> 00:04:42,430

By the way, Violet was 18.

75

00:04:42,430 --> 00:04:46,870

I don't know if you had
mentioned it or not.

76

00:04:46,870 --> 00:04:50,140

When my turn came,
to my great surprise,

77

00:04:50,140 --> 00:04:53,110

Mengele stopped me,
motioned to stop.

78

00:04:53,110 --> 00:04:57,950

And he says, tell me,
little boy, how old are you?

79

00:04:57,950 --> 00:05:00,710

I'm 13, I replied.

80

00:05:00,710 --> 00:05:06,440

Previously coached to say more
than I was because this way,

81

00:05:06,440 --> 00:05:10,100

I had a better chance to
survive and being sent to work,

82

00:05:10,100 --> 00:05:12,940

rather than being sent
immediately to the gas chamber.

83

00:05:12,940 --> 00:05:20,180

84

00:05:20,180 --> 00:05:24,230

Mengele was sort of looking
at me with a suspicion,

85

00:05:24,230 --> 00:05:26,420

suspiciously.

86

00:05:26,420 --> 00:05:28,580

Because I really didn't look--

87

00:05:28,580 --> 00:05:30,600

not even 13.

88

00:05:30,600 --> 00:05:34,860

My frail body and pale.

89

00:05:34,860 --> 00:05:37,230

You know, I didn't go
out to play football,

90

00:05:37,230 --> 00:05:45,540

soccer with the boys, but I was
always practicing the violin.

91

00:05:45,540 --> 00:05:49,320

But miraculously,
he was motioning me

92

00:05:49,320 --> 00:05:53,950

to the group where my
father and brothers were.

93

00:05:53,950 --> 00:06:00,590

After the selection was over,
my mother, my younger sister,

94

00:06:00,590 --> 00:06:03,860

and the group that they
were in were led away.

95

00:06:03,860 --> 00:06:06,460

96

00:06:06,460 --> 00:06:10,060

I didn't know that I've
seen them the last time.

97

00:06:10,060 --> 00:06:13,410

They were taking direct
to the gas chamber.

98

00:06:13,410 --> 00:06:20,510

And they were told that
you have to take a shower.

99

00:06:20,510 --> 00:06:24,050

In order to camouflage really
what they wanted to do,

100

00:06:24,050 --> 00:06:28,400

the SS will issue a
towel and a bar of soap.

101

00:06:28,400 --> 00:06:31,170

102

00:06:31,170 --> 00:06:33,450

We've got to stop for the siren.

103

00:06:33,450 --> 00:06:33,950

Sorry.

104

00:06:33,950 --> 00:06:40,560

105

00:06:40,560 --> 00:06:45,090

After the selections were over,
my mother, my younger sister,

106

00:06:45,090 --> 00:06:48,210

and the group they
were in were led away.

107
00:06:48,210 --> 00:06:53,210
I didn't know that I have
seen them for the last time.

108
00:06:53,210 --> 00:06:57,030
They were taken directly
to the gas chamber.

109
00:06:57,030 --> 00:07:04,340
There was actually a house where
was written the words [GERMAN],,

110
00:07:04,340 --> 00:07:06,540
means bath.

111
00:07:06,540 --> 00:07:11,760
And each one of them were issued
a bar of soap and a towel.

112
00:07:11,760 --> 00:07:16,920
And then they said, you have to
go in there and take a shower.

113
00:07:16,920 --> 00:07:20,650
But in reality, that was
the gas chamber room.

114
00:07:20,650 --> 00:07:26,530
As soon as they went in, the
doors were locked behind them.

115
00:07:26,530 --> 00:07:31,820
And then the gas was flowing.

116
00:07:31,820 --> 00:07:35,120
And everybody in it died.

117
00:07:35,120 --> 00:07:42,490
The terrible thing, maybe to
add to that, I should say,

118

00:07:42,490 --> 00:07:48,770
was that then the SS
would send some of us

119
00:07:48,770 --> 00:07:53,180
prisoners to go and pick up the
dead bodies and cart them away.

120
00:07:53,180 --> 00:07:56,890

121
00:07:56,890 --> 00:08:06,230
When we were just getting
to ourselves what happened,

122
00:08:06,230 --> 00:08:09,380
we were taken to
another barrack,

123
00:08:09,380 --> 00:08:14,550
we were stripped completely,
and had to take a real shower.

124
00:08:14,550 --> 00:08:21,330
And the very same gas chamber
where these wonderful people

125
00:08:21,330 --> 00:08:28,400
and the poor, poor children
were taken and were gassed,

126
00:08:28,400 --> 00:08:29,990
we really took a shower.

127
00:08:29,990 --> 00:08:33,260
While the gas where they're
flowing through the pipes,

128
00:08:33,260 --> 00:08:36,890
now, they let water through.

129
00:08:36,890 --> 00:08:42,990
I know because I was in it

also to shower in reality.

130
00:08:42,990 --> 00:08:46,960
Then we were assigned
to a barrack.

131
00:08:46,960 --> 00:08:49,990
We managed somehow
to stay together.

132
00:08:49,990 --> 00:08:55,010
My father, my brother
Zoltan, and me.

133
00:08:55,010 --> 00:09:00,380
And one night, as we were
standing in line to be

134
00:09:00,380 --> 00:09:03,130
counted-- that was
the final count--

135
00:09:03,130 --> 00:09:06,490
a Kapo, which means
head prisoner--

136
00:09:06,490 --> 00:09:10,360
I'm going to refer
from now on as a Kapo--

137
00:09:10,360 --> 00:09:11,620
came to our line.

138
00:09:11,620 --> 00:09:16,270
And he was speaking
business for what

139
00:09:16,270 --> 00:09:18,570
they call a Sonderkommando.

140
00:09:18,570 --> 00:09:23,290
And among other prisoners,
he picked me, too.

141
00:09:23,290 --> 00:09:27,370
A Sonderkommando had
to go around the camp

142
00:09:27,370 --> 00:09:31,830
and pick up the dead
or nearly dead bodies

143
00:09:31,830 --> 00:09:34,950
and cart them up
to the crematorium.

144
00:09:34,950 --> 00:09:37,470
Now, being in the
Sonderkommando,

145
00:09:37,470 --> 00:09:41,190
that meant separation from
my father and brother.

146
00:09:41,190 --> 00:09:43,080
I was assigned to a
different barrack.

147
00:09:43,080 --> 00:09:46,060

148
00:09:46,060 --> 00:09:52,010
And one occasion, as I
was picking up a body,

149
00:09:52,010 --> 00:09:57,490
I noticed that this man
was not dead at all.

150
00:09:57,490 --> 00:10:01,330
And I turned to the
Kapo, and I said,

151
00:10:01,330 --> 00:10:08,410
Herr Kapo, if we would give a
little food or a little water,

152
00:10:08,410 --> 00:10:10,810
this man would survive.

153
00:10:10,810 --> 00:10:13,570

154
00:10:13,570 --> 00:10:18,850
And then he turned around and
hit me with his fist in my face

155
00:10:18,850 --> 00:10:20,710
so hard that I fell over.

156
00:10:20,710 --> 00:10:27,260
And he said, you are not here
to tell me who would survive.

157
00:10:27,260 --> 00:10:30,500
We're not here to
make people survive.

158
00:10:30,500 --> 00:10:35,300
Now, if you not going
to keep your mouth shut,

159
00:10:35,300 --> 00:10:38,960
I am going to put you
in the crematorium also.

160
00:10:38,960 --> 00:10:42,380
Now pick up that
body and put him up.

161
00:10:42,380 --> 00:10:43,490
And we did it.

162
00:10:43,490 --> 00:10:46,910
I didn't say no more anything.

163
00:10:46,910 --> 00:10:52,980
But all my life, even today,

even as I am telling you this,

164
00:10:52,980 --> 00:10:56,960
I have the most awful
feeling that I really

165
00:10:56,960 --> 00:11:02,350
had to burn my fellow
prisoners, had to go

166
00:11:02,350 --> 00:11:04,490
and cart them off
to the crematorium

167
00:11:04,490 --> 00:11:05,950
so that they would be burned.

168
00:11:05,950 --> 00:11:06,785
And they were alive.

169
00:11:06,785 --> 00:11:10,140

170
00:11:10,140 --> 00:11:17,670
So we were doing this for
about oh, maybe six days.

171
00:11:17,670 --> 00:11:21,910
Now, in that group where I was
working, the Sonderkommando,

172
00:11:21,910 --> 00:11:26,010
there was another Kommando,
a father, who had--

173
00:11:26,010 --> 00:11:27,690
Now, we do have to reload.

174
00:11:27,690 --> 00:11:29,660
Yeah.

175
00:11:29,660 --> 00:11:31,354

That's a good stopping place.

176
00:11:31,354 --> 00:11:32,670
We'll just back and forth.

177
00:11:32,670 --> 00:11:35,000
You have to forgive
me if I am not so--

178
00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:41,331

179
00:11:41,331 --> 00:11:43,530
but to my great
surprise, Mengele

180
00:11:43,530 --> 00:11:47,740
stopped me and talked to me.

181
00:11:47,740 --> 00:11:52,400
And he was asking, tell me,
little boy, how old are you?

182
00:11:52,400 --> 00:11:55,020
I said, I'm 16 and
I can prove it.

183
00:11:55,020 --> 00:11:57,890
And I was gesturing
to go into my pocket

184
00:11:57,890 --> 00:12:00,990
because I had this
birth certificate,

185
00:12:00,990 --> 00:12:02,900
of a falsified
birth certificate.

186
00:12:02,900 --> 00:12:05,960
Because previously, my father,
when we were still home--

187

00:12:05,960 --> 00:12:09,980

I have to qualify
that we were told

188

00:12:09,980 --> 00:12:16,730

that unless you do your minor
children, like I was 13,

189

00:12:16,730 --> 00:12:19,960

before coming, before
we're taken, you know.

190

00:12:19,960 --> 00:12:22,780

And my sister was
nine years old.

191

00:12:22,780 --> 00:12:27,290

So unless he's getting a
different birth certificates,

192

00:12:27,290 --> 00:12:28,460

we're not going to survive.

193

00:12:28,460 --> 00:12:32,340

Now, we children didn't know
about it, but our father did.

194

00:12:32,340 --> 00:12:34,800

So paid a lot of money for that.

195

00:12:34,800 --> 00:12:36,190

But we did get the certificate.

196

00:12:36,190 --> 00:12:38,250

So I pulled out.

197

00:12:38,250 --> 00:12:40,890

But he was looking at me.

198

00:12:40,890 --> 00:12:43,950

And miraculously, he
waved me to the group

199

00:12:43,950 --> 00:12:47,370

where my father and
my brother were.

200

00:12:47,370 --> 00:12:49,170

Now, in the
Sonderkommando, there

201

00:12:49,170 --> 00:12:53,820

was a man who was about
the same age as my father.

202

00:12:53,820 --> 00:12:59,340

And he had a son who
was in the same barracks

203

00:12:59,340 --> 00:13:01,410

where my father
and brother were.

204

00:13:01,410 --> 00:13:04,740

And his son was about the same
age, maybe a year or two older

205

00:13:04,740 --> 00:13:06,260

than I.

206

00:13:06,260 --> 00:13:11,760

And he heard-- word came
to him that the very same

207

00:13:11,760 --> 00:13:18,480

barrack where his son
was going to be evacuated

208

00:13:18,480 --> 00:13:22,710

and they're going to go to
France the very next day.

209

00:13:22,710 --> 00:13:25,020

So he contrived
an ingenious plan,

210
00:13:25,020 --> 00:13:30,030
and he says, listen,
I tell you what.

211
00:13:30,030 --> 00:13:33,690
Because you like to be with
your father and brother,

212
00:13:33,690 --> 00:13:36,270
and I certainly love
to be with my son,

213
00:13:36,270 --> 00:13:40,410
now, when you see that all
these prisoners running

214
00:13:40,410 --> 00:13:46,800
from every direction to regroup
the final count in the evening,

215
00:13:46,800 --> 00:13:50,310
go into the line
where my son is.

216
00:13:50,310 --> 00:13:54,030
And my son is going to
take, get into this line,

217
00:13:54,030 --> 00:13:56,430
where this barrack line is.

218
00:13:56,430 --> 00:13:58,920
And nobody the wiser.

219
00:13:58,920 --> 00:14:02,170
Because we were only numbers.

220
00:14:02,170 --> 00:14:05,100
So the plan worked.

221
00:14:05,100 --> 00:14:10,290

He was reunited with his son
and I got back in the barrack

222

00:14:10,290 --> 00:14:13,320
where my father
and brother were.

223

00:14:13,320 --> 00:14:19,320
Next morning, next day,
we were off to France.

224

00:14:19,320 --> 00:14:24,320
I found out later that
the very same day when

225

00:14:24,320 --> 00:14:28,130
we were transported to France,
that all the Sonderkommandos

226

00:14:28,130 --> 00:14:34,520
were killed because the SS
feared if one of the Kommandos

227

00:14:34,520 --> 00:14:35,195
were not--

228

00:14:35,195 --> 00:14:37,790
and specifically the Kommandos--

229

00:14:37,790 --> 00:14:43,900
would escape, would tell
the world of the atrocities,

230

00:14:43,900 --> 00:14:49,690
of the terrible things which
the SS did to humanity.

231

00:14:49,690 --> 00:14:57,930
Because we were more
witnesses to their machine,

232

00:14:57,930 --> 00:15:01,350
you know, death machine,

than any other prisoners.

233

00:15:01,350 --> 00:15:04,830

Because we were the ones who
were picking up dead bodies and

234

00:15:04,830 --> 00:15:09,770

took them and burned
them on their order.

235

00:15:09,770 --> 00:15:19,027

And I tell you, the image
of this father and son

236

00:15:19,027 --> 00:15:20,610

will haunt me for
the rest of my life.

237

00:15:20,610 --> 00:15:23,390

238

00:15:23,390 --> 00:15:26,180

Now, even when we
arrived in France,

239

00:15:26,180 --> 00:15:32,770

I was put to work in
an ammunition factory.

240

00:15:32,770 --> 00:15:37,330

And in that factory,
they were making--

241

00:15:37,330 --> 00:15:40,790

it was being built a--

242

00:15:40,790 --> 00:15:44,100

I don't know exactly
if the V2 rocket.

243

00:15:44,100 --> 00:15:49,280

But a rocket which was
designed specifically

244
00:15:49,280 --> 00:15:53,550
to shoot airplanes.

245
00:15:53,550 --> 00:15:58,810
And of course, mainly the
Americans and the Russians.

246
00:15:58,810 --> 00:16:03,880
And that was such
a tremendous force.

247
00:16:03,880 --> 00:16:09,510
They would all the
airplane, if it's

248
00:16:09,510 --> 00:16:15,930
got a contact with a rocket,
it would be torn to pieces.

249
00:16:15,930 --> 00:16:20,520
I was scouting past
to that rocket.

250
00:16:20,520 --> 00:16:25,410
Then later, I was
put to a machine

251
00:16:25,410 --> 00:16:29,700
which automatically
filled explosive capsules

252
00:16:29,700 --> 00:16:32,670
with gunpowder.

253
00:16:32,670 --> 00:16:40,700
One day, a French prisoner
approached me and he says,

254
00:16:40,700 --> 00:16:44,800
what would you do to
stop Hitler's madness?

255

00:16:44,800 --> 00:16:48,070

Would you give up your life?

256

00:16:48,070 --> 00:16:49,690

Without hesitation, I said yes.

257

00:16:49,690 --> 00:16:52,380

258

00:16:52,380 --> 00:16:58,950

Now, I was operating a
machine at that point,

259

00:16:58,950 --> 00:17:01,050

as I think I mentioned that.

260

00:17:01,050 --> 00:17:09,930

Which beside filling
with gunpowder--

261

00:17:09,930 --> 00:17:12,460

we have to go back
to that, I'm sorry.

262

00:17:12,460 --> 00:17:13,050

OK.

263

00:17:13,050 --> 00:17:14,500

We're going to have to go back.

264

00:17:14,500 --> 00:17:15,390

Yeah?

265

00:17:15,390 --> 00:17:16,290

Can I do that now?

266

00:17:16,290 --> 00:17:19,460

Yeah, yeah.

267

00:17:19,460 --> 00:17:22,490

This French

captain-- forgive me.

268

00:17:22,490 --> 00:17:26,089

This French man, as I forgot
to tell what his rank was,

269

00:17:26,089 --> 00:17:32,780

he was actually a captain in
the underground resistance

270

00:17:32,780 --> 00:17:37,910

movement who was smuggled
among us as a prisoner.

271

00:17:37,910 --> 00:17:41,960

And he organized a
sabotage movement.

272

00:17:41,960 --> 00:17:43,930

So this is how he approached me.

273

00:17:43,930 --> 00:17:46,870

And if I would be--
because to him,

274

00:17:46,870 --> 00:17:51,490

I was the most important
person by working

275

00:17:51,490 --> 00:17:55,090

on that machine which
filled gunpowder,

276

00:17:55,090 --> 00:17:57,530

the capsules with gunpowder.

277

00:17:57,530 --> 00:18:02,990

And he said to me, I tell you
what, you see those civilians?

278

00:18:02,990 --> 00:18:06,110

Those are all
Frenchmen, electricians.

279

00:18:06,110 --> 00:18:09,970

They were working around
the ammunition factory.

280

00:18:09,970 --> 00:18:12,670

And he says, I tell
you what you do.

281

00:18:12,670 --> 00:18:17,530

Now, these men will
supply you sand.

282

00:18:17,530 --> 00:18:20,400

And I want you to put
in this capsule which

283

00:18:20,400 --> 00:18:26,740

you're filling with gunpowder
sand and very little gunpowder.

284

00:18:26,740 --> 00:18:28,660

So the machine
that I was working

285

00:18:28,660 --> 00:18:33,130

would be filling the gunpowder
automatically, as I just told.

286

00:18:33,130 --> 00:18:35,560

All I have to do
just pull the arm.

287

00:18:35,560 --> 00:18:41,460

But now, I had to put sand
and mix it with the gunpowder.

288

00:18:41,460 --> 00:18:42,730

And it worked.

289

00:18:42,730 --> 00:18:46,560

I mean, it was fantastic how
easy it really was to do that.

290
00:18:46,560 --> 00:18:49,270

291
00:18:49,270 --> 00:18:55,180
One day, some new transport
came with new prisoners.

292
00:18:55,180 --> 00:19:00,910
And another prisoner was put in
that very near me, the machine,

293
00:19:00,910 --> 00:19:04,370
working cutting parts.

294
00:19:04,370 --> 00:19:09,950
And it turned out that
that was an SS spy.

295
00:19:09,950 --> 00:19:11,060
Wanted to know.

296
00:19:11,060 --> 00:19:13,700
They already detected,
they found out

297
00:19:13,700 --> 00:19:19,640
that this weapon, the second
stage and impact did not work.

298
00:19:19,640 --> 00:19:21,150
And that was the idea.

299
00:19:21,150 --> 00:19:21,980
I didn't know that.

300
00:19:21,980 --> 00:19:29,798
I found out later that
the sand was needed to

301
00:19:29,798 --> 00:19:30,590
how can I say that?

302
00:19:30,590 --> 00:19:34,880
To stop the second
stage from exploding.

303
00:19:34,880 --> 00:19:42,670
And our leader was identified,
this French captain.

304
00:19:42,670 --> 00:19:44,650
He was hanged.

305
00:19:44,650 --> 00:19:53,100
And all of us who were around
that area had to watch him die.

306
00:19:53,100 --> 00:19:56,000
And we were not allowed to
avert our eyes from him,

307
00:19:56,000 --> 00:19:57,560
nor move away.

308
00:19:57,560 --> 00:20:04,400
After that, about 60 of us
were put in a horizontal line

309
00:20:04,400 --> 00:20:06,920
and asked to stand still.

310
00:20:06,920 --> 00:20:09,810
Order was [GERMAN].

311
00:20:09,810 --> 00:20:13,770
Or stand in attention,
maybe, in English.

312
00:20:13,770 --> 00:20:17,520
And an SS officer was
going down the line,

313
00:20:17,520 --> 00:20:21,270

picking prisoners at random.

314
00:20:21,270 --> 00:20:23,160
He passed me.

315
00:20:23,160 --> 00:20:26,800
And then was coming back
and passed me again.

316
00:20:26,800 --> 00:20:29,400
And picked right
the one next to me.

317
00:20:29,400 --> 00:20:32,880
And a third time, he
still went down the line,

318
00:20:32,880 --> 00:20:40,210
just looking at prisoners which
he sort of wanted to kill,

319
00:20:40,210 --> 00:20:42,490
and passed me again.

320
00:20:42,490 --> 00:20:47,960
Three times, I was to be
taken to be shot to death,

321
00:20:47,960 --> 00:20:51,320
and all three times,
I was passed by.

322
00:20:51,320 --> 00:20:54,740
Now, the ones that were chosen,
they had to step out of line.

323
00:20:54,740 --> 00:20:59,143
They were taken out of the
camp and shot to death.

324
00:20:59,143 --> 00:21:00,560
We were sent back
to the barracks.

325
00:21:00,560 --> 00:21:02,060
And then we were
sent some couples.

326
00:21:02,060 --> 00:21:08,530
And we had a beating
that I can't tell you.

327
00:21:08,530 --> 00:21:15,020
Our face and body
were puffed up.

328
00:21:15,020 --> 00:21:19,460
And many of them, their
ribs were broken in.

329
00:21:19,460 --> 00:21:22,130
Because we were
around that area.

330
00:21:22,130 --> 00:21:23,300
Now, I was a saboteur.

331
00:21:23,300 --> 00:21:29,690
And I got a sort of a
form like a half circle

332
00:21:29,690 --> 00:21:33,680
written on my back, saboteur.

333
00:21:33,680 --> 00:21:40,590

334
00:21:40,590 --> 00:21:42,270
And the captain, also.

335
00:21:42,270 --> 00:21:45,080
Everybody was from there.

336
00:21:45,080 --> 00:21:47,290
No, if you can just start

with I was a saboteur.

337

00:21:47,290 --> 00:21:47,998

I was a saboteur.

338

00:21:47,998 --> 00:21:51,230

339

00:21:51,230 --> 00:21:52,820

And then go on from there.

340

00:21:52,820 --> 00:21:54,530

Go ahead.

341

00:21:54,530 --> 00:21:57,380

So I was a saboteur.

342

00:21:57,380 --> 00:22:04,500

And I was marked as such
in the jacket on my back.

343

00:22:04,500 --> 00:22:09,480

And every time a
couple would pass by me

344

00:22:09,480 --> 00:22:15,210

or an SS officer or SS guard
either would spit at me,

345

00:22:15,210 --> 00:22:18,960

spit on me, or kick me.

346

00:22:18,960 --> 00:22:24,560

So I believe in God because God
saved my life so many times.

347

00:22:24,560 --> 00:22:28,560

That I was not picked yet, in
spite of all the three times

348

00:22:28,560 --> 00:22:33,540

that SS went by picking people

at random and passed me by.

349

00:22:33,540 --> 00:22:35,790

I don't believe that
was a coincidence.

350

00:22:35,790 --> 00:22:41,430

And it was God's way
of protecting me.

351

00:22:41,430 --> 00:22:46,770

At any rate, about
two weeks later

352

00:22:46,770 --> 00:22:51,000

that I had that saboteur
jacket, all the jackets

353

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:53,880

were taken from everybody.

354

00:22:53,880 --> 00:22:56,950

And for that, I
couldn't believe it.

355

00:22:56,950 --> 00:23:02,380

We had back new jackets,
which was cleaned.

356

00:23:02,380 --> 00:23:11,230

And the word saboteur
disappeared from my jacket.

357

00:23:11,230 --> 00:23:16,990

So I was again not molested
anymore as a saboteur,

358

00:23:16,990 --> 00:23:22,250

but freely could walk back and
forth or where I was working.

359

00:23:22,250 --> 00:23:27,910

So I also give credit

to God for that.

360

00:23:27,910 --> 00:23:31,930

Now, I must tell you something
is extremely interesting.

361

00:23:31,930 --> 00:23:36,070

And maybe one of the million, or
10 million, or 100 million that

362

00:23:36,070 --> 00:23:37,150

can happen.

363

00:23:37,150 --> 00:23:41,140

I have to go to Cleveland,
Ohio for a second

364

00:23:41,140 --> 00:23:46,330

because we are still
with the sabotage things.

365

00:23:46,330 --> 00:23:51,040

When I was in Cleveland in
1950, early, about 1950,

366

00:23:51,040 --> 00:23:54,460

I was studying in
the university.

367

00:23:54,460 --> 00:23:58,180

And one of my colleagues
gave me a check.

368

00:23:58,180 --> 00:23:59,770

Now, he was an American.

369

00:23:59,770 --> 00:24:02,160

Hungarian and
Jewish, like myself,

370

00:24:02,160 --> 00:24:04,810

except I was not
American, unfortunately.

371
00:24:04,810 --> 00:24:08,560
And he gave me a check
to pay up a debt, which

372
00:24:08,560 --> 00:24:12,700
I had been paying, paying,
and never got smaller.

373
00:24:12,700 --> 00:24:17,320
So he says, go in
any bank and cash it.

374
00:24:17,320 --> 00:24:22,230
But you see, he didn't have
an account in that bank

375
00:24:22,230 --> 00:24:24,510
or any bank in that area.

376
00:24:24,510 --> 00:24:30,070
And I didn't have an account
anywhere at any bank.

377
00:24:30,070 --> 00:24:33,730
So in fact, I didn't
even speak English.

378
00:24:33,730 --> 00:24:35,140
Very little.

379
00:24:35,140 --> 00:24:37,970
And I said to him,
now, how do I do this?

380
00:24:37,970 --> 00:24:39,130
I mean.

381
00:24:39,130 --> 00:24:40,750
Oh, no, he says,
it's very simple.

382

00:24:40,750 --> 00:24:46,330
Here's the check, all you do, go
up to the teller, and just say,

383
00:24:46,330 --> 00:24:50,148
cash, cash, give me cash.

384
00:24:50,148 --> 00:24:50,940
I said, that's all?

385
00:24:50,940 --> 00:24:53,040
He says, yeah.

386
00:24:53,040 --> 00:24:56,760
Now, I ran into a-- looked
around, where is a bank?

387
00:24:56,760 --> 00:24:59,400
And I'm coming from around
lunchtime, you know.

388
00:24:59,400 --> 00:25:02,400
And I had certainly had to go
back to school in the afternoon

389
00:25:02,400 --> 00:25:04,440
classes.

390
00:25:04,440 --> 00:25:06,630
So I saw a bank.

391
00:25:06,630 --> 00:25:08,160
So I go in there.

392
00:25:08,160 --> 00:25:11,950
Cleveland Trust, I remember now.

393
00:25:11,950 --> 00:25:15,130
And I went up to--
waited in line

394
00:25:15,130 --> 00:25:17,880

and went up to where
was the teller.

395
00:25:17,880 --> 00:25:18,480
Put down.

396
00:25:18,480 --> 00:25:20,790
And I said, cash, cash.

397
00:25:20,790 --> 00:25:22,535
And he looked at me.

398
00:25:22,535 --> 00:25:24,330
Saw that it was--

399
00:25:24,330 --> 00:25:25,950
we couldn't communicate.

400
00:25:25,950 --> 00:25:29,830
So he was a compassionate man,
he said, OK, just a second.

401
00:25:29,830 --> 00:25:34,920
He came from his
window and escorted me

402
00:25:34,920 --> 00:25:36,300
to the president's office.

403
00:25:36,300 --> 00:25:38,460
Now, he spoke several languages.

404
00:25:38,460 --> 00:25:43,680
Now, we're going to find out
what this foreigner wants,

405
00:25:43,680 --> 00:25:45,270
he thought, probably.

406
00:25:45,270 --> 00:25:47,130
So I started with--

407

00:25:47,130 --> 00:25:55,150

I spoke to the president of
the bank, and I said, [FRENCH],,

408

00:25:55,150 --> 00:25:59,680

[GERMAN],, [HUNGARIAN],,
in Hungarian.

409

00:25:59,680 --> 00:26:04,660

He says, [GERMAN],,
I speak German.

410

00:26:04,660 --> 00:26:06,130

Thank god.

411

00:26:06,130 --> 00:26:08,720

So we start.

412

00:26:08,720 --> 00:26:10,820

We waited a little
because the teller

413

00:26:10,820 --> 00:26:15,290

had to find out if there
is money on this account.

414

00:26:15,290 --> 00:26:19,580

And he says to me, well, why did
you ask me if I speak French?

415

00:26:19,580 --> 00:26:20,840

Are you French?

416

00:26:20,840 --> 00:26:24,110

I said no, I'm a Transylvanian.

417

00:26:24,110 --> 00:26:25,280

But I was in France.

418

00:26:25,280 --> 00:26:29,170

And they're looking at my
violin case being next to me.

419
00:26:29,170 --> 00:26:32,590
He says, did you
study music there?

420
00:26:32,590 --> 00:26:34,270
I said, no.

421
00:26:34,270 --> 00:26:36,790
But then I related what
I was doing in France,

422
00:26:36,790 --> 00:26:40,810
that I was doing sabotage
and putting sand instead of--

423
00:26:40,810 --> 00:26:43,300
filling up with sand,
you know, the gunpowder.

424
00:26:43,300 --> 00:26:49,790
And when actually,
one of these planes,

425
00:26:49,790 --> 00:26:53,830
how the plane would
be obliterated.

426
00:26:53,830 --> 00:26:57,160
And he stood from--

427
00:26:57,160 --> 00:27:03,910
he sprang up from his chair,
ran to me, grabbed my hand,

428
00:27:03,910 --> 00:27:05,060
god bless you.

429
00:27:05,060 --> 00:27:06,610
God bless you.

430
00:27:06,610 --> 00:27:08,270

I said, thank you.

431
00:27:08,270 --> 00:27:09,310
Thank you.

432
00:27:09,310 --> 00:27:11,380
I mean, blessing
comes always well.

433
00:27:11,380 --> 00:27:12,502
So I thank you for it.

434
00:27:12,502 --> 00:27:13,210
Says, no, please.

435
00:27:13,210 --> 00:27:14,590
He saw my puzzled face.

436
00:27:14,590 --> 00:27:17,740
He says please, let me explain.

437
00:27:17,740 --> 00:27:20,780
My son and nine crew--

438
00:27:20,780 --> 00:27:23,350
he was a captain over
nine crew and they

439
00:27:23,350 --> 00:27:25,090
were bombing around
that area where

440
00:27:25,090 --> 00:27:28,420
the ammunition factory was.

441
00:27:28,420 --> 00:27:31,510
And they were shot with
one of these rockets, which

442
00:27:31,510 --> 00:27:34,670
penetrated the airplane,
but did not explode.

443
00:27:34,670 --> 00:27:41,010
I think they were caught in the
wing or in the tail, whatever.

444
00:27:41,010 --> 00:27:46,190
And when they got back to
their bases, very carefully,

445
00:27:46,190 --> 00:27:49,670
they took that weapon
that broke it apart

446
00:27:49,670 --> 00:27:52,070
to see why it did not explode.

447
00:27:52,070 --> 00:27:57,050
They found sand in the capsule.

448
00:27:57,050 --> 00:28:01,050
So we both hugged
and started to cry.

449
00:28:01,050 --> 00:28:08,260
And I knew then that if I would
have been killed and died,

450
00:28:08,260 --> 00:28:10,090
it would not be in vain.

451
00:28:10,090 --> 00:28:13,750
Because I knew that at
least 10 people or nine,

452
00:28:13,750 --> 00:28:15,820
plus the captain--

453
00:28:15,820 --> 00:28:20,860
10 lives were saved
because of my sabotage.

454
00:28:20,860 --> 00:28:24,940

I want to jump to the
incident in the salt mine.

455
00:28:24,940 --> 00:28:25,720
Yes.

456
00:28:25,720 --> 00:28:26,373
OK.

457
00:28:26,373 --> 00:28:27,040
About my father?

458
00:28:27,040 --> 00:28:30,670
And cutting the electric wire,
that resistance incident,

459
00:28:30,670 --> 00:28:32,840
before we run out.

460
00:28:32,840 --> 00:28:33,400
OK.

461
00:28:33,400 --> 00:28:33,900
Go ahead.

462
00:28:33,900 --> 00:28:36,410

463
00:28:36,410 --> 00:28:40,280
In September, we were
transferred from France

464
00:28:40,280 --> 00:28:44,180
into Kochendorf, which
was a large salt mine.

465
00:28:44,180 --> 00:28:47,350
And it was a terrible,
grueling work.

466
00:28:47,350 --> 00:28:52,360
And the day of Yom

Kippur, all of a sudden,

467

00:28:52,360 --> 00:28:57,520
the whole area of the salt mine
became dark, completely dark.

468

00:28:57,520 --> 00:29:05,050
And we put our hammers down
and sat down immediately.

469

00:29:05,050 --> 00:29:08,290
A little rest, at
least a little rest.

470

00:29:08,290 --> 00:29:11,350
We thought it was God's will.

471

00:29:11,350 --> 00:29:15,760
Get on Yom Kippur, at
least, sending us something,

472

00:29:15,760 --> 00:29:18,070
darkness, that we can rest.

473

00:29:18,070 --> 00:29:27,380
And one of the prisoners
started chanting the Kol Nidre.

474

00:29:27,380 --> 00:29:29,950
And honestly, I can hear it.

475

00:29:29,950 --> 00:29:31,250
I can hear it now.

476

00:29:31,250 --> 00:29:35,240
Like then the other
one got in, too.

477

00:29:35,240 --> 00:29:37,340
And then another one.

478

00:29:37,340 --> 00:29:42,410

We were also about 60 to
80 persons around there.

479
00:29:42,410 --> 00:29:43,520
And we're sitting.

480
00:29:43,520 --> 00:29:47,690
And then even those who
did not know the words,

481
00:29:47,690 --> 00:29:50,900
and they did not probably
even know the melody,

482
00:29:50,900 --> 00:29:54,170
but they were humming along.

483
00:29:54,170 --> 00:29:58,580
And in a minute or
two, the entire section

484
00:29:58,580 --> 00:30:06,580
was full of the Kol Nidre,
the song of the Yom Kippur.

485
00:30:06,580 --> 00:30:09,250
We didn't know that the SS--

486
00:30:09,250 --> 00:30:12,960
we were not aware of it
that SS were listening in.

487
00:30:12,960 --> 00:30:18,750
Within 10 minutes, the whole
problem was found, restored,

488
00:30:18,750 --> 00:30:21,940
and the light came on.

489
00:30:21,940 --> 00:30:27,740
Then we found out what was
the source of the darkness.

490

00:30:27,740 --> 00:30:32,660
One of us, in fact, he was which
I did not put in my booklet,

491

00:30:32,660 --> 00:30:37,490
was a Hungarian Jew
who used to show--

492

00:30:37,490 --> 00:30:43,530
he had secretly hidden his wives
and his little son's picture.

493

00:30:43,530 --> 00:30:49,080
And that gave him a little
bit of will of living.

494

00:30:49,080 --> 00:30:51,090
Because constantly,
we had to talk him

495

00:30:51,090 --> 00:30:53,640
out of committing
suicide, constantly.

496

00:30:53,640 --> 00:30:56,370
And my father was the one
who always says, no, you

497

00:30:56,370 --> 00:30:58,300
see, you going to survive.

498

00:30:58,300 --> 00:30:59,190
And you know.

499

00:30:59,190 --> 00:31:02,470
But he couldn't
stand it any longer.

500

00:31:02,470 --> 00:31:07,350
And he went and cut the wire
with a spoon made into--

501

00:31:07,350 --> 00:31:11,710
sharpened it like--
it was like a knife.

502
00:31:11,710 --> 00:31:16,660
He was beaten severely,
until he fell unconscious.

503
00:31:16,660 --> 00:31:21,560
Then we had to form
another line, exactly

504
00:31:21,560 --> 00:31:24,850
like it was in France.

505
00:31:24,850 --> 00:31:29,270
And one was picked, the
other one was let go,

506
00:31:29,270 --> 00:31:32,230
then he passed,
the SS passed two,

507
00:31:32,230 --> 00:31:34,870
then picked the third one,
the fourth, then again.

508
00:31:34,870 --> 00:31:38,650
So here, half of them
were picked, taken out,

509
00:31:38,650 --> 00:31:39,550
and shot to death.

510
00:31:39,550 --> 00:31:42,470
I also, again, was bypassed.

511
00:31:42,470 --> 00:31:45,240

512
00:31:45,240 --> 00:31:52,780
So you have to puzzle,
you have to think,

513
00:31:52,780 --> 00:31:59,420
how come I was saved
one day before I would

514
00:31:59,420 --> 00:32:02,600
be killed as Sonderkommando?

515
00:32:02,600 --> 00:32:08,130
Then in France, I was
bypassed three times.

516
00:32:08,130 --> 00:32:09,870
Now, again.

517
00:32:09,870 --> 00:32:12,740
Coincidences, maybe.

518
00:32:12,740 --> 00:32:14,240
Who knows?

519
00:32:14,240 --> 00:32:17,250
I believe differently.

520
00:32:17,250 --> 00:32:21,440
So we were severely beaten.

521
00:32:21,440 --> 00:32:22,820
The ones that we
were not picked.

522
00:32:22,820 --> 00:32:26,190

523
00:32:26,190 --> 00:32:32,110
Still in Kochendorf, in
February, my father turned 42.

524
00:32:32,110 --> 00:32:34,930

525

00:32:34,930 --> 00:32:35,430

Wait.

526

00:32:35,430 --> 00:32:37,050

We are going to run out.

527

00:32:37,050 --> 00:32:40,910

And we should just

start this on a new--

528

00:32:40,910 --> 00:32:45,440