

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,688
Take six is up.

2
00:00:01,688 --> 00:00:19,280

3
00:00:19,280 --> 00:00:19,850
OK.

4
00:00:19,850 --> 00:00:22,820
Let's go back to that.

5
00:00:22,820 --> 00:00:24,650
Well, I really
think I was lucky.

6
00:00:24,650 --> 00:00:29,450
As I tried to explain, you
didn't know where you go,

7
00:00:29,450 --> 00:00:30,980
which direction is good.

8
00:00:30,980 --> 00:00:33,900

9
00:00:33,900 --> 00:00:35,900
The right could be good,
the left could be good.

10
00:00:35,900 --> 00:00:38,360
We came to this farmer
just by accident.

11
00:00:38,360 --> 00:00:41,640
I mean, it's not a planned
thing or something like that.

12
00:00:41,640 --> 00:00:43,820
So I really say it
was really lucky.

13

00:00:43,820 --> 00:00:48,210

I wasn't that wise, and smart,
and I know what I'm doing.

14

00:00:48,210 --> 00:00:49,560

I didn't know what I'm doing.

15

00:00:49,560 --> 00:00:52,520

I just happened-- we went and
we came to the right place

16

00:00:52,520 --> 00:00:53,570

at the right time.

17

00:00:53,570 --> 00:00:55,550

And that is really
what I was thinking.

18

00:00:55,550 --> 00:00:59,930

It's not that I was smarter
than other people that survived.

19

00:00:59,930 --> 00:01:02,100

The luck was with us.

20

00:01:02,100 --> 00:01:06,640

So you don't think there were
choices that Jews had in those?

21

00:01:06,640 --> 00:01:07,350

No.

22

00:01:07,350 --> 00:01:11,610

No, there was not any choice
because all the people

23

00:01:11,610 --> 00:01:12,990

were already dead.

24

00:01:12,990 --> 00:01:19,740

And the Polish

population, in a way,

25

00:01:19,740 --> 00:01:21,510

they were happy it
happened because a lot

26

00:01:21,510 --> 00:01:27,510

of the Jewish houses they got,
and they were hiding things

27

00:01:27,510 --> 00:01:29,250

from the Jews that
didn't come back.

28

00:01:29,250 --> 00:01:30,760

A matter of fact,
this Friedlander,

29

00:01:30,760 --> 00:01:35,190

there was the one
from the Polish side,

30

00:01:35,190 --> 00:01:37,890

one of the organizers
from the uprising,

31

00:01:37,890 --> 00:01:39,840

he came back after the war.

32

00:01:39,840 --> 00:01:42,600

And a year after
that, he went back

33

00:01:42,600 --> 00:01:44,940

to get the house from
his parents back.

34

00:01:44,940 --> 00:01:46,950

And other people lived there.

35

00:01:46,950 --> 00:01:50,340

They killed him because he
came to pick up the house.

36
00:01:50,340 --> 00:01:55,480
So there was not any
cooperation, any compassion.

37
00:01:55,480 --> 00:01:58,540
It was just, in a way,
some people-- some people,

38
00:01:58,540 --> 00:02:01,480
I don't want to
generalize all of them.

39
00:02:01,480 --> 00:02:05,550
A lot of people were really
happy what happened to the Jews

40
00:02:05,550 --> 00:02:12,570
because they got businesses and
also the changed world anyway.

41
00:02:12,570 --> 00:02:15,810
But anyway, they had
a lot of profit of it,

42
00:02:15,810 --> 00:02:18,017
the houses, all the houses.

43
00:02:18,017 --> 00:02:19,350
You see this in the other movie.

44
00:02:19,350 --> 00:02:21,517
You see how he came back,
he talked with the people.

45
00:02:21,517 --> 00:02:24,420
And what they lived in
the houses of the Jews.

46
00:02:24,420 --> 00:02:28,710
And they're happy
they got the houses.

47

00:02:28,710 --> 00:02:31,770

They didn't get back.

48

00:02:31,770 --> 00:02:36,480

You don't seem like it would
be easy for you to kill, even

49

00:02:36,480 --> 00:02:39,120

that German that you killed.

50

00:02:39,120 --> 00:02:41,130

Tell me how dealt.

51

00:02:41,130 --> 00:02:45,240

Well, it was really
a moment when

52

00:02:45,240 --> 00:02:49,050

they put your knife on your
throat, you do everything.

53

00:02:49,050 --> 00:02:52,680

That really was--
to best prescribe

54

00:02:52,680 --> 00:02:54,810

it is that is the way it is.

55

00:02:54,810 --> 00:02:57,390

There was no choice.

56

00:02:57,390 --> 00:02:58,710

It was a question of survival.

57

00:02:58,710 --> 00:03:02,310

58

00:03:02,310 --> 00:03:06,760

Nerves and I don't know
what carried me through,

59

00:03:06,760 --> 00:03:08,700
because I'm not the type at all.

60
00:03:08,700 --> 00:03:12,720
But it was just a question of
survival, that's what it is.

61
00:03:12,720 --> 00:03:15,770
So every jab I
gave, I said, that's

62
00:03:15,770 --> 00:03:17,970
for my father, that's
for my brother,

63
00:03:17,970 --> 00:03:22,710
and that is for all the
people Jews people you killed.

64
00:03:22,710 --> 00:03:25,670
And I really don't
know how to tell it.

65
00:03:25,670 --> 00:03:27,420
It is only a
question of survival.

66
00:03:27,420 --> 00:03:31,230
And fear and survival in
a desperate situation,

67
00:03:31,230 --> 00:03:33,050
you do probably everything.

68
00:03:33,050 --> 00:03:36,150
Yeah, I think--
to my imagination,

69
00:03:36,150 --> 00:03:39,720
probably everybody will be may
be able to do the same thing.

70
00:03:39,720 --> 00:03:44,210

71

00:03:44,210 --> 00:03:47,360

How does your
experience make you

72

00:03:47,360 --> 00:03:49,895

feel about humanity in general?

73

00:03:49,895 --> 00:03:52,650

74

00:03:52,650 --> 00:04:00,190

Well, human beings could
be worse than animals.

75

00:04:00,190 --> 00:04:04,805

When I say it I mean because
an animal just it acts--

76

00:04:04,805 --> 00:04:07,660

he is attacked, he
reacts, he kills.

77

00:04:07,660 --> 00:04:14,020

A human being thinks it out,
plans it, is even worse.

78

00:04:14,020 --> 00:04:17,230

Like the Germans, what
they killed so many people.

79

00:04:17,230 --> 00:04:20,620

They just planned it,
make it efficient,

80

00:04:20,620 --> 00:04:24,550

and take advantage of
everything from the clothes,

81

00:04:24,550 --> 00:04:26,750

from the hair from
the women, use it all.

82
00:04:26,750 --> 00:04:29,200
So in my opinion,
it's even worse.

83
00:04:29,200 --> 00:04:33,130
So as far as human
nature concerns,

84
00:04:33,130 --> 00:04:35,830
everybody has a
little animal in him.

85
00:04:35,830 --> 00:04:42,220
It depends the situation
and depends some upbringing.

86
00:04:42,220 --> 00:04:46,780
So I really don't--

87
00:04:46,780 --> 00:04:53,060
I still want to believe most
of people are good people.

88
00:04:53,060 --> 00:04:55,390
But if you take a
nation like the Germans,

89
00:04:55,390 --> 00:05:00,950
has 60 million people, they knew
a lot of them what's going on.

90
00:05:00,950 --> 00:05:03,080
And there was just cooperation.

91
00:05:03,080 --> 00:05:06,610
Very few, really,
were they really felt

92
00:05:06,610 --> 00:05:08,350
something that was not right.

93

00:05:08,350 --> 00:05:09,300
Very few.

94
00:05:09,300 --> 00:05:12,520
Because when we were
on trials in Germany,

95
00:05:12,520 --> 00:05:17,530
we had a welcome
committee from the Germans

96
00:05:17,530 --> 00:05:21,160
in the place where
we were to welcome us

97
00:05:21,160 --> 00:05:22,880
as witnesses to the trial.

98
00:05:22,880 --> 00:05:26,420
They wanted to show some
gratitude or something.

99
00:05:26,420 --> 00:05:28,506
And we met these people,
and matter of fact,

100
00:05:28,506 --> 00:05:30,310
the people were
here in our house,

101
00:05:30,310 --> 00:05:32,020
and we went to their house.

102
00:05:32,020 --> 00:05:35,890
And we get still
letters from them.

103
00:05:35,890 --> 00:05:40,040
But that is only
very few, very few.

104
00:05:40,040 --> 00:05:43,020
So the majority, they can

tell me what they want.

105

00:05:43,020 --> 00:05:44,890

The majority of
the Germans, they

106

00:05:44,890 --> 00:05:48,220

knew what's going on because
so many aware what they did it,

107

00:05:48,220 --> 00:05:50,975

and they came home, they told
their friends and their family,

108

00:05:50,975 --> 00:05:51,850

and things like that.

109

00:05:51,850 --> 00:05:53,290

And they knew what's going on.

110

00:05:53,290 --> 00:05:55,120

There was a part
what didn't know.

111

00:05:55,120 --> 00:05:56,710

I don't want to
generalize anything.

112

00:05:56,710 --> 00:05:58,540

I don't generalize anything.

113

00:05:58,540 --> 00:06:04,210

But the fact shows that a lot
of them knew what's going on.

114

00:06:04,210 --> 00:06:07,210

So I still have trust
in human beings.

115

00:06:07,210 --> 00:06:11,280

But I'm still reserved, always
with a certain reservation.

116

00:06:11,280 --> 00:06:15,090

117

00:06:15,090 --> 00:06:20,900

Tell me, was there a
deception of the people

118

00:06:20,900 --> 00:06:21,770

in the transports.

119

00:06:21,770 --> 00:06:23,570

Were they given receipts?

120

00:06:23,570 --> 00:06:25,550

I mean, was there a
deception so they didn't

121

00:06:25,550 --> 00:06:27,020

know where they were going?

122

00:06:27,020 --> 00:06:28,070

Yeah.

123

00:06:28,070 --> 00:06:30,800

Well, [INAUDIBLE],, it wasn't
receipts or something.

124

00:06:30,800 --> 00:06:33,050

The deception
was-- first of all,

125

00:06:33,050 --> 00:06:35,840

they came there, somebody
came and told them

126

00:06:35,840 --> 00:06:39,560

that they go to [GERMAN],,
which in German that

127

00:06:39,560 --> 00:06:48,230

means to the disinfect their
clothes, and they go to work,

128
00:06:48,230 --> 00:06:53,040
and they have this baths to
have because it goes cholera

129
00:06:53,040 --> 00:06:55,070
or some sickness around.

130
00:06:55,070 --> 00:06:56,460
So they kept them.

131
00:06:56,460 --> 00:07:00,920
And also what they did is when
people came like from Holland,

132
00:07:00,920 --> 00:07:06,140
they gave him postcards and
to write back to their house

133
00:07:06,140 --> 00:07:08,720
that they arrived
here, and it is nice,

134
00:07:08,720 --> 00:07:11,240
and they go to work here.

135
00:07:11,240 --> 00:07:14,240
To deceive even the people
what didn't come yet

136
00:07:14,240 --> 00:07:15,710
when they get a note like that.

137
00:07:15,710 --> 00:07:18,530
So they had the hope
they come to work here.

138
00:07:18,530 --> 00:07:20,720
So that was a deception.

139
00:07:20,720 --> 00:07:25,230
To the last minute, they kept

us as secret as possible.

140

00:07:25,230 --> 00:07:27,600

So to the last minute, they did.

141

00:07:27,600 --> 00:07:30,735

Whoever didn't know

by then didn't know it

142

00:07:30,735 --> 00:07:33,570

till the last minute.

143

00:07:33,570 --> 00:07:37,080

So there was a

deceiving, really.

144

00:07:37,080 --> 00:07:41,310

And now I want you to tell

me about meeting Selma

145

00:07:41,310 --> 00:07:43,840

and how you got

involved with Selma.

146

00:07:43,840 --> 00:07:45,570

And you can describe

how you met.

147

00:07:45,570 --> 00:07:46,680

Yeah.

148

00:07:46,680 --> 00:07:49,560

Well, when people

in transports came,

149

00:07:49,560 --> 00:07:52,230

some people had with

them instruments,

150

00:07:52,230 --> 00:07:54,240

musical instruments.

151

00:07:54,240 --> 00:07:58,800

And when in the first
night of the second--

152

00:07:58,800 --> 00:08:01,200

it came though the
Germans want to have

153

00:08:01,200 --> 00:08:03,120

some pleasure out of it.

154

00:08:03,120 --> 00:08:05,370

What they did, they
said that we all

155

00:08:05,370 --> 00:08:07,110

have to come together
and the people that

156

00:08:07,110 --> 00:08:09,940

had this musical
instrument to play.

157

00:08:09,940 --> 00:08:12,810

And we have to dance.

158

00:08:12,810 --> 00:08:13,800

We had to dance.

159

00:08:13,800 --> 00:08:17,400

That's to see that there's
some kind of sarcasm.

160

00:08:17,400 --> 00:08:19,710

You know, there burn
the people, the family,

161

00:08:19,710 --> 00:08:21,600

and here, we have to dance.

162

00:08:21,600 --> 00:08:24,390

And everybody had
to ask somebody.

163
00:08:24,390 --> 00:08:26,460
And I happened to ask Selma.

164
00:08:26,460 --> 00:08:27,960
And that's the way I met Selma.

165
00:08:27,960 --> 00:08:31,500
And that is what we stayed
as much as possible together

166
00:08:31,500 --> 00:08:34,020
because where we
lived were quarters.

167
00:08:34,020 --> 00:08:37,770
The quarters where we lived were
barracks where the women lived

168
00:08:37,770 --> 00:08:40,860
and the others
where the men lived.

169
00:08:40,860 --> 00:08:46,560
Now, from about after we ate
till we had to go to bed,

170
00:08:46,560 --> 00:08:52,180
we were free to move around
in this circle where we lived.

171
00:08:52,180 --> 00:08:54,640
So we met and we
talk to each other.

172
00:08:54,640 --> 00:08:59,340
So that where we met and that
we saw each other, Selma.

173
00:08:59,340 --> 00:09:03,600
That is when I got in love with
Selma and that is till today.

174

00:09:03,600 --> 00:09:06,150

And tell me how you
took care of her

175

00:09:06,150 --> 00:09:11,760

and how you spoke together,
what language you used.

176

00:09:11,760 --> 00:09:16,860

Well, Dutch is a little
similar to German,

177

00:09:16,860 --> 00:09:20,970

and she knows some
German, and I know German,

178

00:09:20,970 --> 00:09:22,560

and I started to learn Dutch.

179

00:09:22,560 --> 00:09:24,660

So we spoke--

180

00:09:24,660 --> 00:09:27,300

German was our language, really.

181

00:09:27,300 --> 00:09:29,250

So that's the way
we communicate.

182

00:09:29,250 --> 00:09:33,000

But [INAUDIBLE], we worked also
very often together because she

183

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:35,452

was sorting clothes,
and I was doing

184

00:09:35,452 --> 00:09:37,410

the same thing, although
not in the same group,

185

00:09:37,410 --> 00:09:38,950

but not far from.

186
00:09:38,950 --> 00:09:41,340
So we could sometimes
talk to each other.

187
00:09:41,340 --> 00:09:46,740
And in the evening, as I
say, we talked to each other.

188
00:09:46,740 --> 00:09:48,350
Did you take care of her?

189
00:09:48,350 --> 00:09:50,160
Well, it was not
much to take care of.

190
00:09:50,160 --> 00:09:52,640
Matter of fact, she took
care sometimes of the things

191
00:09:52,640 --> 00:09:59,570
because she brought some
food cans from the camp.

192
00:09:59,570 --> 00:10:02,040
She was more daring
than I though.

193
00:10:02,040 --> 00:10:03,920
So she took some foods with us.

194
00:10:03,920 --> 00:10:07,883
In the evening, we ate
the cans, whatever.

195
00:10:07,883 --> 00:10:09,800
We couldn't make any
fire or things like that.

196
00:10:09,800 --> 00:10:14,940
But we had cans of meat,
sardines, or whatever,

197
00:10:14,940 --> 00:10:16,440
and some bread,
things like that.

198
00:10:16,440 --> 00:10:18,740
What we could take
with us from the truck.

199
00:10:18,740 --> 00:10:19,790
And she did it.

200
00:10:19,790 --> 00:10:21,710
It was very dangerous
what she did.

201
00:10:21,710 --> 00:10:24,450

202
00:10:24,450 --> 00:10:27,000
But that what we did.

203
00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:30,990
So it wasn't really
taking care of.

204
00:10:30,990 --> 00:10:35,240
You couldn't take care
more than it was there.

205
00:10:35,240 --> 00:10:38,180
Would she have escaped if
you hadn't taken her along?

206
00:10:38,180 --> 00:10:40,110
No, I don't think so.

207
00:10:40,110 --> 00:10:44,790
A matter of fact, I
told her what happened.

208
00:10:44,790 --> 00:10:46,190

And I told her
she is not allowed

209
00:10:46,190 --> 00:10:50,210
to tell none of the people, the
friends, or things like that.

210
00:10:50,210 --> 00:10:54,560
Because we were very afraid that
somebody might talk too much

211
00:10:54,560 --> 00:10:56,870
and the whole thing
can be endangered.

212
00:10:56,870 --> 00:11:00,470
So I told her, you're not
allowed to say anything.

213
00:11:00,470 --> 00:11:05,420
Now, the uprising, I
didn't feel guilty about

214
00:11:05,420 --> 00:11:08,270
because the uprising was
for everybody planned.

215
00:11:08,270 --> 00:11:10,860
It was not two, five, 10 people.

216
00:11:10,860 --> 00:11:13,610
So when the time comes, is
early enough that they know it,

217
00:11:13,610 --> 00:11:15,050
and they can take part in.

218
00:11:15,050 --> 00:11:19,400
Because we couldn't
do more than they did.

219
00:11:19,400 --> 00:11:22,820
We ran all randomly away.

220
00:11:22,820 --> 00:11:25,420
So it was not any.

221
00:11:25,420 --> 00:11:27,410
But the other way if we
would have told them,

222
00:11:27,410 --> 00:11:29,976
we might come out
front on the other.

223
00:11:29,976 --> 00:11:31,310
We're just getting rolling.

224
00:11:31,310 --> 00:11:32,690
OK.

225
00:11:32,690 --> 00:11:37,100
Well, the only thing
I know is we lived

226
00:11:37,100 --> 00:11:41,690
in a small place, [PLACE NAME].

227
00:11:41,690 --> 00:11:46,490
And one day we had that the
Partisans-- how I got to know,

228
00:11:46,490 --> 00:11:47,450
I don't know--

229
00:11:47,450 --> 00:11:50,750
they planned to kill
the Jews at the night.

230
00:11:50,750 --> 00:11:57,650
So I took Selma and we
went, we took on a--

231
00:11:57,650 --> 00:12:02,990
somehow I got an auto, a big

auto or something that took us.

232

00:12:02,990 --> 00:12:04,500

And we went to Lublin.

233

00:12:04,500 --> 00:12:06,290

We ran away.

234

00:12:06,290 --> 00:12:08,660

We thought that would happen.

235

00:12:08,660 --> 00:12:09,470

And it happened.

236

00:12:09,470 --> 00:12:12,470

When we went away,
they killed the Jews.

237

00:12:12,470 --> 00:12:12,995

The Polish?

238

00:12:12,995 --> 00:12:14,870

The Partisans, Polish Partisans.

239

00:12:14,870 --> 00:12:16,460

They were very antisemitic.

240

00:12:16,460 --> 00:12:17,490

They didn't tell you.

241

00:12:17,490 --> 00:12:19,730

They take the Jews
so quickly in.

242

00:12:19,730 --> 00:12:22,580

So you see that there
was although they

243

00:12:22,580 --> 00:12:26,150

were in the same thing
against the Germans,

244

00:12:26,150 --> 00:12:28,190
but not for the Jews.

245

00:12:28,190 --> 00:12:32,060
So the only thing I know is
of what I said in this paper,

246

00:12:32,060 --> 00:12:35,300
that we heard they to
go to kill the Jews,

247

00:12:35,300 --> 00:12:37,070
and we ran away the same day.

248

00:12:37,070 --> 00:12:41,330
And we went to Lublin to find
other people that were there.

249

00:12:41,330 --> 00:12:44,590
That's all I can tell you about.

250

00:12:44,590 --> 00:12:51,560
Now I want to ask you generally
about age in the camps

251

00:12:51,560 --> 00:12:58,010
and whether it helped
to be a young person.

252

00:12:58,010 --> 00:13:00,660
Definitely, it helped so far.

253

00:13:00,660 --> 00:13:05,870
First of all, you think
differently when younger.

254

00:13:05,870 --> 00:13:10,220
You have more hope,
you dream to something.

255

00:13:10,220 --> 00:13:13,640
Inadvertently, you dream about

something as a younger person.

256

00:13:13,640 --> 00:13:16,700

When you are in a jam
like that, you think,

257

00:13:16,700 --> 00:13:19,070

I might come out
what I thought of it.

258

00:13:19,070 --> 00:13:24,200

Also, it was very unrealistic
to think that you would come out

259

00:13:24,200 --> 00:13:24,980

of that.

260

00:13:24,980 --> 00:13:27,510

But somehow because
you are young,

261

00:13:27,510 --> 00:13:30,320

you had a whole life before
you, so you're thinking

262

00:13:30,320 --> 00:13:32,290

I will come out on that.

263

00:13:32,290 --> 00:13:36,220

It's just unimaginable
to think even like that.

264

00:13:36,220 --> 00:13:39,760

So that was help, probably,
when somebody is young.

265

00:13:39,760 --> 00:13:42,190

When I said the people,
some people in the uprising

266

00:13:42,190 --> 00:13:45,610

was didn't want to go,
mostly was it older people

267
00:13:45,610 --> 00:13:47,000
because they gave up on life.

268
00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:49,300
They had some life and
they were enough of it.

269
00:13:49,300 --> 00:13:51,340
So they just didn't
want to try it anymore.

270
00:13:51,340 --> 00:13:52,840
We were young, we still tried.

271
00:13:52,840 --> 00:13:53,920
We ran away.

272
00:13:53,920 --> 00:13:55,720
And that is mostly
what had helped.

273
00:13:55,720 --> 00:13:58,420
It helped much to be younger.

274
00:13:58,420 --> 00:13:58,920
Yeah.

275
00:13:58,920 --> 00:14:04,900

276
00:14:04,900 --> 00:14:08,850
Do you have something
particular that you

277
00:14:08,850 --> 00:14:12,830
want to say, that you want to
add, that's your own feelings?

278
00:14:12,830 --> 00:14:15,480
Well, what I would
like to add only

279

00:14:15,480 --> 00:14:22,460

is that Hitler didn't
start to be big in one day.

280

00:14:22,460 --> 00:14:24,830

It started very small.

281

00:14:24,830 --> 00:14:29,120

And things can
grow and be bigger.

282

00:14:29,120 --> 00:14:32,180

So never, never
ignore when you see

283

00:14:32,180 --> 00:14:35,150

some bigotry or
prejudice, whether it's

284

00:14:35,150 --> 00:14:36,710

against Jews and the others.

285

00:14:36,710 --> 00:14:38,600

You never know how
much that can grow.

286

00:14:38,600 --> 00:14:41,660

There is hatred in
a lot of people,

287

00:14:41,660 --> 00:14:43,250

more than we know about.

288

00:14:43,250 --> 00:14:44,830

And you have to be very careful.

289

00:14:44,830 --> 00:14:46,320

You can not ignore it.

290

00:14:46,320 --> 00:14:49,850

You have to act when you see it.

291
00:14:49,850 --> 00:14:51,170
How is react?

292
00:14:51,170 --> 00:14:53,360
You shouldn't take
it for granted.

293
00:14:53,360 --> 00:14:57,530
You should think about
there could be a danger

294
00:14:57,530 --> 00:15:02,370
and then apply what you can
to help for the situation.

295
00:15:02,370 --> 00:15:04,250
And that's a matter
of fact the reason

296
00:15:04,250 --> 00:15:05,990
that we go and talk about.

297
00:15:05,990 --> 00:15:09,500
Because we are still around,
survivors, that people believe

298
00:15:09,500 --> 00:15:11,360
and see what really can happen.

299
00:15:11,360 --> 00:15:13,550
Because the story
is unbelievable,

300
00:15:13,550 --> 00:15:15,620
but that is really
what happened.

301
00:15:15,620 --> 00:15:17,630
That people got
to slaughterhouse

302

00:15:17,630 --> 00:15:20,630
and got slaughtered
like cows, like animals.

303
00:15:20,630 --> 00:15:24,020
And that human
beings can do that.

304
00:15:24,020 --> 00:15:29,750
And I don't think people
changed now from 50 years ago.

305
00:15:29,750 --> 00:15:32,000
The right people
do the right thing.

306
00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:33,990
The wrong people
do the wrong thing.

307
00:15:33,990 --> 00:15:37,250
So you cannot ignore that
if you see things like that.

308
00:15:37,250 --> 00:15:38,520
You have to be sensitive.

309
00:15:38,520 --> 00:15:41,930
You couldn't say, ah, this
one, the Ku Klux Klan,

310
00:15:41,930 --> 00:15:43,700
ah, what can they do?

311
00:15:43,700 --> 00:15:45,200
You never know.

312
00:15:45,200 --> 00:15:48,920
So you have to be very
alert about and react to it.

313
00:15:48,920 --> 00:15:50,180
That is what I would say.

314
00:15:50,180 --> 00:15:52,850
That we hope nothing
like that can happen.

315
00:15:52,850 --> 00:15:54,840
But believe, me it can happen.

316
00:15:54,840 --> 00:15:56,990
It's not the first
time a story in history

317
00:15:56,990 --> 00:15:58,850
that things like that happen.

318
00:15:58,850 --> 00:16:00,290
So they can happen.

319
00:16:00,290 --> 00:16:03,820
So you cannot just ignore it.

320
00:16:03,820 --> 00:16:07,030
And can you talk
about how difficult

321
00:16:07,030 --> 00:16:11,200
it is to describe in
words these things?

322
00:16:11,200 --> 00:16:14,470
Well, I don't think they
found the right words

323
00:16:14,470 --> 00:16:17,290
in any language,
or a human being

324
00:16:17,290 --> 00:16:20,830
is able to tell
exactly what happened.

325
00:16:20,830 --> 00:16:24,190

The only one understands
what really happened

326
00:16:24,190 --> 00:16:26,740
is the man what experienced it.

327
00:16:26,740 --> 00:16:30,010
He lived by himself
through that and can.

328
00:16:30,010 --> 00:16:33,640
But it's impossible to
tell what that really is.

329
00:16:33,640 --> 00:16:35,530
The words have not
the same meaning

330
00:16:35,530 --> 00:16:38,140
what the one what tells
the story wants to tell it.

331
00:16:38,140 --> 00:16:40,810
Because that's a
life experience.

332
00:16:40,810 --> 00:16:43,255
Only the one what
really experienced

333
00:16:43,255 --> 00:16:46,140
this can judge about.

334
00:16:46,140 --> 00:16:51,025
So I don't think anybody
can put it in words.

335
00:16:51,025 --> 00:16:52,680
Even if you read
it, that has not

336
00:16:52,680 --> 00:16:55,050
the same meaning

for the one what

337

00:16:55,050 --> 00:16:57,720

survived of-- experienced
this and the one what

338

00:16:57,720 --> 00:16:59,470

listens to the story.

339

00:16:59,470 --> 00:17:03,320

The word has probably
a different meaning.

340

00:17:03,320 --> 00:17:04,550

That what I think, really.

341

00:17:04,550 --> 00:17:06,440

It is impossible
to tell the story.

342

00:17:06,440 --> 00:17:09,500

You do your best, you come
with the best words through.

343

00:17:09,500 --> 00:17:12,500

Even if your language is very
good and you have all the words

344

00:17:12,500 --> 00:17:15,890

possible, you still cannot
tell what really happened.

345

00:17:15,890 --> 00:17:18,230

It also depends to the listener.

346

00:17:18,230 --> 00:17:22,890

If the listener is sensitive
and wants ready to feel,

347

00:17:22,890 --> 00:17:26,630

to get the feeling of it,
will understand more about it.

348

00:17:26,630 --> 00:17:30,530

But still not to the degree that
they fully can understand what

349

00:17:30,530 --> 00:17:32,250

the one what experienced it.

350

00:17:32,250 --> 00:17:34,880

So it is really so tragic,
there's not words for it.

351

00:17:34,880 --> 00:17:37,690

352

00:17:37,690 --> 00:17:44,680

And can you talk to me a
little bit about heroism?

353

00:17:44,680 --> 00:17:46,975

Do you feel that that
uprising was heroic?

354

00:17:46,975 --> 00:17:50,080

355

00:17:50,080 --> 00:17:52,670

No, I don't think it was heroic.

356

00:17:52,670 --> 00:17:55,210

It was a question of survival.

357

00:17:55,210 --> 00:17:59,290

And some people have
more courage than others.

358

00:17:59,290 --> 00:18:01,040

If I would have been
the one to plan,

359

00:18:01,040 --> 00:18:02,840

I would never have
come something of it.

360
00:18:02,840 --> 00:18:04,960
I'm not courageous like that.

361
00:18:04,960 --> 00:18:07,910
Which the others
was very courageous,

362
00:18:07,910 --> 00:18:11,780
I could take
partially part in it.

363
00:18:11,780 --> 00:18:15,340
So there are people who are more
daring, and courageous more,

364
00:18:15,340 --> 00:18:18,790
and determined more, and there.

365
00:18:18,790 --> 00:18:22,780
But I don't think
what you call heroism.

366
00:18:22,780 --> 00:18:24,530
That was a question of survival.

367
00:18:24,530 --> 00:18:28,430
So you do think some people are
able to do more than others.

368
00:18:28,430 --> 00:18:32,240
So I don't think it is heroism.

369
00:18:32,240 --> 00:18:34,920
And now, can we just
go to before the war

370
00:18:34,920 --> 00:18:36,560
and how you ended up getting--

371
00:18:36,560 --> 00:18:39,210
how you ended up in Sobibor?

372

00:18:39,210 --> 00:18:45,220
Well, when the war broke out in
Poland, I was a Polish soldier.

373

00:18:45,220 --> 00:18:49,130
And it was mandatory
service for 1 and 1/2 year.

374

00:18:49,130 --> 00:18:51,260
And I supposed to be--

375

00:18:51,260 --> 00:18:54,620
everything would have normal
on September the 15th,

376

00:18:54,620 --> 00:18:59,090
I would have been
released from the service.

377

00:18:59,090 --> 00:19:01,160
The war broke out
September the 1st,

378

00:19:01,160 --> 00:19:03,770
so I was just in the
middle of the war.

379

00:19:03,770 --> 00:19:04,850
I was for three weeks.

380

00:19:04,850 --> 00:19:07,430
As long as the war
lasted, I was a soldier,

381

00:19:07,430 --> 00:19:11,210
till they caught me
as a prisoner of war.

382

00:19:11,210 --> 00:19:13,190
And all the Jewish
prisoners of war--

383

00:19:13,190 --> 00:19:18,260

all the prisoners of war sent
to Germany to work there.

384

00:19:18,260 --> 00:19:21,350

We cleaned the
streets in Germany,

385

00:19:21,350 --> 00:19:26,490

in Leipzig, and all kind
of odd work what we did.

386

00:19:26,490 --> 00:19:30,260

And then they decided all
the Jewish prisoners of war

387

00:19:30,260 --> 00:19:32,600

to send back to Poland.

388

00:19:32,600 --> 00:19:35,480

So I figured the Jews to go
anyway to a concentration camp,

389

00:19:35,480 --> 00:19:37,970

why should they keep them
for prisoners of war?

390

00:19:37,970 --> 00:19:38,870

When I came back--

391

00:19:38,870 --> 00:19:41,690

I came originally from
Lodz, I lived before the war

392

00:19:41,690 --> 00:19:44,270

in Lodz, a big city in Poland.

393

00:19:44,270 --> 00:19:46,610

And when I came back,
my parents were already

394

00:19:46,610 --> 00:19:48,740

driven out of their
house, just with what

395
00:19:48,740 --> 00:19:50,780
that they could carry.

396
00:19:50,780 --> 00:19:55,730
So somehow, I found out
they were brought to Lublin.

397
00:19:55,730 --> 00:20:01,340
Lublin is not far from the
concentration camp for us.

398
00:20:01,340 --> 00:20:05,270
And they were-- they didn't
take anything with them,

399
00:20:05,270 --> 00:20:06,830
just what they could carry.

400
00:20:06,830 --> 00:20:09,170
And so they had a
very, very hard time.

401
00:20:09,170 --> 00:20:15,150
When I came there, I
took a job with a farmer

402
00:20:15,150 --> 00:20:18,150
and I worked at a farm,
where they gave me

403
00:20:18,150 --> 00:20:21,150
food and shelter
and also something

404
00:20:21,150 --> 00:20:23,490
I could help my parents there.

405
00:20:23,490 --> 00:20:26,280
And then my brother
got also a job.

406

00:20:26,280 --> 00:20:29,070

Then one day, came all the Jews.

407

00:20:29,070 --> 00:20:31,320

Farmers that could
work, they were not

408

00:20:31,320 --> 00:20:32,400

allowed to do other jobs.

409

00:20:32,400 --> 00:20:33,610

So farmers, there still was--

410

00:20:33,610 --> 00:20:36,300

411

00:20:36,300 --> 00:20:38,590

they were very late they
could work as a farmer.

412

00:20:38,590 --> 00:20:40,530

That's the reason I
could work as a farmer.

413

00:20:40,530 --> 00:20:42,630

And then it came
that all the Jews

414

00:20:42,630 --> 00:20:45,300

have to come to concentrate
in the city, come back

415

00:20:45,300 --> 00:20:46,560

to the city.

416

00:20:46,560 --> 00:20:48,870

They took them to send
them to concentration camp,

417

00:20:48,870 --> 00:20:50,650

to the death camp.

418
00:20:50,650 --> 00:20:53,940
So I with a friend of mine,
and my brother, and myself,

419
00:20:53,940 --> 00:21:00,530
we decided we don't go to this
city, and we ran to the woods.

420
00:21:00,530 --> 00:21:02,330
But we couldn't get any food.

421
00:21:02,330 --> 00:21:04,130
We were for three days there.

422
00:21:04,130 --> 00:21:07,160
No any food, no shelter, the
people, the Polish people

423
00:21:07,160 --> 00:21:09,460
didn't do it.

424
00:21:09,460 --> 00:21:12,310
So we said, we have to go
back again to some place

425
00:21:12,310 --> 00:21:14,460
where still are Jews.

426
00:21:14,460 --> 00:21:19,340
And then we end up
in a place, Izbica.

427
00:21:19,340 --> 00:21:20,850
There were still
some Jews there.

428
00:21:20,850 --> 00:21:22,400
And we came in the evening.

429
00:21:22,400 --> 00:21:25,320
And we went some Jewish people.

430
00:21:25,320 --> 00:21:26,990
They took us in.

431
00:21:26,990 --> 00:21:30,260
And the same night,
all the Jews--

432
00:21:30,260 --> 00:21:32,720
drove all the Jews
out of the houses

433
00:21:32,720 --> 00:21:35,990
and concentrate them in
the center of the city.

434
00:21:35,990 --> 00:21:39,710
And they took them to the camp.

435
00:21:39,710 --> 00:21:41,660
But we were hiding
out in the attics.

436
00:21:41,660 --> 00:21:44,300
We hoped they might--

437
00:21:44,300 --> 00:21:48,200
the Germans came and they would
go, and then we could come out.

438
00:21:48,200 --> 00:21:49,380
But they didn't go.

439
00:21:49,380 --> 00:21:51,240
And we didn't have any food.

440
00:21:51,240 --> 00:21:53,570
So for two, three days,
we were hidden there.

441
00:21:53,570 --> 00:21:54,800
So we had to come out.

442
00:21:54,800 --> 00:21:57,890
And then more people were
hiding so they come out, too.

443
00:21:57,890 --> 00:21:59,990
So they took us to the trains.

444
00:21:59,990 --> 00:22:02,108
And that was to Sobibor.

445
00:22:02,108 --> 00:22:09,400
That was the brief story
that how we came to Sobibor.

446
00:22:09,400 --> 00:22:09,940
Thank you.

447
00:22:09,940 --> 00:22:12,990

448
00:22:12,990 --> 00:22:13,490
That's it?

449
00:22:13,490 --> 00:22:14,834
That's it.

450
00:22:14,834 --> 00:22:15,780
Fabulous.

451
00:22:15,780 --> 00:22:16,280
Thank you.

452
00:22:16,280 --> 00:22:18,040
Kurt, room tone.

453
00:22:18,040 --> 00:22:21,880
Following is 30 seconds of
room tone for Chaim Engel.

454
00:22:21,880 --> 00:22:29,000

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection