

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,590

2  
00:00:01,590 --> 00:00:03,150  
Changing film to camera four.

3  
00:00:03,150 --> 00:00:06,752

4  
00:00:06,752 --> 00:00:08,280  
Scene, take five.

5  
00:00:08,280 --> 00:00:18,430

6  
00:00:18,430 --> 00:00:22,210  
OK, One of you start.

7  
00:00:22,210 --> 00:00:26,088  
And the German doctor--

8  
00:00:26,088 --> 00:00:26,880  
I mean, excuse me--

9  
00:00:26,880 --> 00:00:32,310  
the Jewish doctor, he  
read the card twice

10  
00:00:32,310 --> 00:00:36,120  
because he could not  
question whether I'm

11  
00:00:36,120 --> 00:00:39,270  
from there or there,  
only what he saw there,

12  
00:00:39,270 --> 00:00:42,420  
because the German  
doctor was alongside him.

13

00:00:42,420 --> 00:00:45,570  
He asked me again whether I  
come from that particular town

14  
00:00:45,570 --> 00:00:47,540  
[GERMAN].

15  
00:00:47,540 --> 00:00:50,110  
It was just in code language.

16  
00:00:50,110 --> 00:00:57,670  
And we were, to great surprise,  
not taken to the gas chambers,

17  
00:00:57,670 --> 00:01:01,435  
nor we not cremated, but put  
into another block, which

18  
00:01:01,435 --> 00:01:06,850  
we found out this was the first  
Saturday afternoon and Sunday

19  
00:01:06,850 --> 00:01:10,560  
that the gas chambers  
were not functioning,

20  
00:01:10,560 --> 00:01:12,960  
nor the crematoria.

21  
00:01:12,960 --> 00:01:17,460  
And I have later  
visited with a general,

22  
00:01:17,460 --> 00:01:23,940  
one who was a survivor-- who  
was a liberated of Auschwitz--

23  
00:01:23,940 --> 00:01:28,810  
I was also visiting at  
the Pentagon in Moscow.

24  
00:01:28,810 --> 00:01:32,920  
And they still couldn't

give a very clear answer

25

00:01:32,920 --> 00:01:34,846  
what has happened there.

26

00:01:34,846 --> 00:01:38,650  
As a matter of fact when  
the general was here

27

00:01:38,650 --> 00:01:44,580  
to a Yom HaShoah event.

28

00:01:44,580 --> 00:01:48,630  
And I asked him, I says, tell  
me, how come the Germans were,

29

00:01:48,630 --> 00:01:52,080  
in the last two weeks, gone  
a few times and came back,

30

00:01:52,080 --> 00:01:54,960  
why didn't you-- and  
we heard your cannons--

31

00:01:54,960 --> 00:01:57,270  
why didn't you come in and  
liberate the camp sooner?

32

00:01:57,270 --> 00:02:00,240  
And he suddenly lashed  
out and me and says,

33

00:02:00,240 --> 00:02:03,930  
the American liberators  
accused us of not caring,

34

00:02:03,930 --> 00:02:06,480  
but it was one of the  
hardest battles we had.

35

00:02:06,480 --> 00:02:11,670  
And to justify their  
reluctance, he says,

36

00:02:11,670 --> 00:02:15,540

we lost the finest Jewish  
generals at Auschwitz battle,

37

00:02:15,540 --> 00:02:19,440

which I still to this  
very day don't believe.

38

00:02:19,440 --> 00:02:23,820

But the crematory  
did not function.

39

00:02:23,820 --> 00:02:26,450

So we were put in  
the holding barrack

40

00:02:26,450 --> 00:02:29,570

to be there till Monday,  
when the crematory will

41

00:02:29,570 --> 00:02:31,460

be functioning again.

42

00:02:31,460 --> 00:02:34,850

But that night-- this was  
Saturday when we came,

43

00:02:34,850 --> 00:02:39,990

January 6th, exactly three  
weeks before being liberated

44

00:02:39,990 --> 00:02:41,430

at Birkenau--

45

00:02:41,430 --> 00:02:44,030

came the Jewish doctor.

46

00:02:44,030 --> 00:02:49,130

As you probably know,  
the curfew was 8 o'clock.

47

00:02:49,130 --> 00:02:50,900  
Nobody could was even  
allowed to open up

48  
00:02:50,900 --> 00:02:53,390  
the door of the barracks,  
not to step out.

49  
00:02:53,390 --> 00:02:56,240  
Not anybody allowed in the camp.

50  
00:02:56,240 --> 00:03:02,800  
And the searchlights were  
going on all the time.

51  
00:03:02,800 --> 00:03:04,440  
Here comes the German doctor--

52  
00:03:04,440 --> 00:03:08,010  
the Jewish doctor, which  
we later learned his name

53  
00:03:08,010 --> 00:03:10,480  
was Professor  
Epstein from Prague.

54  
00:03:10,480 --> 00:03:12,060  
And he calls my  
name at the door.

55  
00:03:12,060 --> 00:03:12,560  
I came out.

56  
00:03:12,560 --> 00:03:13,500  
I say, yes.

57  
00:03:13,500 --> 00:03:17,160  
He says, Stern, at  
roll call, which

58  
00:03:17,160 --> 00:03:20,130  
6 o'clock there  
was roll call, you

59

00:03:20,130 --> 00:03:21,550  
sneak into working Kommando.

60

00:03:21,550 --> 00:03:23,730  
Don't come back to the barrack.

61

00:03:23,730 --> 00:03:25,710  
And everything had to  
go with seconds there.

62

00:03:25,710 --> 00:03:28,290  
There was no time for  
dilly dallying around.

63

00:03:28,290 --> 00:03:29,790  
And I asked, can I  
tell it to others

64

00:03:29,790 --> 00:03:34,060  
if they are capable to  
walk, to go to work?

65

00:03:34,060 --> 00:03:36,420  
This is what I did.

66

00:03:36,420 --> 00:03:40,290  
And I ended up in  
a working Kommando.

67

00:03:40,290 --> 00:03:44,250  
And consequently, I was  
liberated in Auschwitz

68

00:03:44,250 --> 00:03:46,710  
three weeks later.

69

00:03:46,710 --> 00:03:54,700  
And I was starting--  
we arrived--

70

00:03:54,700 --> 00:03:59,590

so hope-- anyway, we  
arrived in Auschwitz

71  
00:03:59,590 --> 00:04:01,300  
and went to the  
working Kommando,

72  
00:04:01,300 --> 00:04:05,315  
we already knew that  
things are very shaky here,

73  
00:04:05,315 --> 00:04:06,690  
that something's  
going to happen.

74  
00:04:06,690 --> 00:04:10,100  
How can we have a  
chance to survive

75  
00:04:10,100 --> 00:04:12,183  
and not being killed by them.

76  
00:04:12,183 --> 00:04:13,600  
So there were some  
thought that we

77  
00:04:13,600 --> 00:04:19,029  
should blow up some  
sentries-- blow up with what?

78  
00:04:19,029 --> 00:04:22,390  
And we should do this and that.

79  
00:04:22,390 --> 00:04:26,075  
By the way, when the Germans  
moved the first time,

80  
00:04:26,075 --> 00:04:27,950  
we found out that they  
are not in the center,

81  
00:04:27,950 --> 00:04:32,060  
they have disappeared,

we have burned down

82  
00:04:32,060 --> 00:04:35,510  
everything possible so that  
if they should come back

83  
00:04:35,510 --> 00:04:38,060  
they don't have  
where to go back.

84  
00:04:38,060 --> 00:04:42,170  
But, of course, we did it,  
but it did not help us.

85  
00:04:42,170 --> 00:04:45,030  
They came back.

86  
00:04:45,030 --> 00:04:51,090  
And at one point, we succeeded  
to kill a few Germans.

87  
00:04:51,090 --> 00:04:55,300  
I was not involved in  
that particular group.

88  
00:04:55,300 --> 00:04:59,950  
And, of course, it  
didn't do us any good,

89  
00:04:59,950 --> 00:05:04,030  
because they didn't shy  
away that they ran away.

90  
00:05:04,030 --> 00:05:08,590  
And we had a few things that  
we could do to discourage them.

91  
00:05:08,590 --> 00:05:10,060  
But it didn't matter.

92  
00:05:10,060 --> 00:05:13,270  
Because in the  
long run, they won.



93  
00:05:13,270 --> 00:05:15,580  
There were the death marches.

94  
00:05:15,580 --> 00:05:20,560  
And when they came  
back, they always

95  
00:05:20,560 --> 00:05:26,110  
moved, transported large groups.

96  
00:05:26,110 --> 00:05:30,810  
Until four days  
before our liberation,

97  
00:05:30,810 --> 00:05:33,690  
for five days before the  
liberation, they came back.

98  
00:05:33,690 --> 00:05:37,170  
And they said every Jew,  
without any exception,

99  
00:05:37,170 --> 00:05:42,260  
get ready for death march.

100  
00:05:42,260 --> 00:05:46,020  
Actually, that's where  
the death march came from.

101  
00:05:46,020 --> 00:05:50,740  
And I don't know how and what,  
where I got the strength,

102  
00:05:50,740 --> 00:05:56,810  
but I succeeded to  
remain in the camps.

103  
00:05:56,810 --> 00:05:58,190  
I mean, that simply, it was not.

104  
00:05:58,190 --> 00:06:01,680

When they came  
back the last time,

105  
00:06:01,680 --> 00:06:04,480  
we were on those shelves  
sleeping in the barracks,

106  
00:06:04,480 --> 00:06:08,560  
there was either saw dust  
we slept on or straw.

107  
00:06:08,560 --> 00:06:14,140  
They did not ask  
one of the inmates

108  
00:06:14,140 --> 00:06:18,520  
to move up, to shake up  
the straw, the sawdust,

109  
00:06:18,520 --> 00:06:23,240  
but German's themselves, they  
did this, the Gestapo, the SS.

110  
00:06:23,240 --> 00:06:24,770  
And here, the high  
ranking officers

111  
00:06:24,770 --> 00:06:29,510  
were with strong  
flashlights in one hand.

112  
00:06:29,510 --> 00:06:34,330  
And the pistol in the other  
hand, to be sure that nobody

113  
00:06:34,330 --> 00:06:36,010  
stays on.

114  
00:06:36,010 --> 00:06:41,290  
And it was by the greatest  
miracle that I survived.

115  
00:06:41,290 --> 00:06:46,450

There was-- every barrack  
had a little cabin

116  
00:06:46,450 --> 00:06:48,400  
in the front, which  
was separation where

117  
00:06:48,400 --> 00:06:50,710  
the Blockaelteste-- the  
Blockaelteste meant he

118  
00:06:50,710 --> 00:06:54,550  
was the chief of the barrack.

119  
00:06:54,550 --> 00:06:59,460  
And every such cabin  
had all the breadbox,

120  
00:06:59,460 --> 00:07:03,290  
where the bread was supplied,  
brought in, with a box,

121  
00:07:03,290 --> 00:07:03,860  
with a lock.

122  
00:07:03,860 --> 00:07:06,920  
And nobody could get to it.

123  
00:07:06,920 --> 00:07:11,420  
That door, the hinge of the  
box, was already torn off.

124  
00:07:11,420 --> 00:07:15,380  
And I was hiding in  
that box upside down.

125  
00:07:15,380 --> 00:07:17,960  
Here, he comes into search.

126  
00:07:17,960 --> 00:07:19,460  
He even kicks it.

127

00:07:19,460 --> 00:07:21,170  
But luckily, it gave.

128  
00:07:21,170 --> 00:07:23,810  
He was so skinny, it gave.

129  
00:07:23,810 --> 00:07:26,990  
I could see the-- and I  
was sure that this is it.

130  
00:07:26,990 --> 00:07:30,050  
This is how I remained alive.

131  
00:07:30,050 --> 00:07:33,380  
But when they already left,  
the Germans, about an hour,

132  
00:07:33,380 --> 00:07:35,900  
they left, there was  
no sign of Germans.

133  
00:07:35,900 --> 00:07:38,030  
I wanted to go back  
to the barracks.

134  
00:07:38,030 --> 00:07:41,570  
But the Poles and the Ukrainians  
who were not taken on the death

135  
00:07:41,570 --> 00:07:45,410  
march, they wouldn't let me.

136  
00:07:45,410 --> 00:07:49,880  
So I was hiding out in  
the heap of dead bodies.

137  
00:07:49,880 --> 00:07:52,640  
Because in the last  
week, when the crematoria

138  
00:07:52,640 --> 00:07:54,680  
didn't function  
at all, the bodies

139  
00:07:54,680 --> 00:07:59,540  
were just building  
up higher and higher.

140  
00:07:59,540 --> 00:08:01,520  
And I sneaked into  
among those dead bodies,

141  
00:08:01,520 --> 00:08:03,890  
because I was afraid they'd  
come back or something.

142  
00:08:03,890 --> 00:08:05,240  
So there I was at nighttime.

143  
00:08:05,240 --> 00:08:07,820  
In the daytime, I was  
roaming around in the camp.

144  
00:08:07,820 --> 00:08:10,080  
And this is where I  
actually survived.

145  
00:08:10,080 --> 00:08:13,580  
January 27th, I was  
one of the very first--

146  
00:08:13,580 --> 00:08:17,920  
Birkenau was one of the  
very first being liberated.

147  
00:08:17,920 --> 00:08:24,130  
This was why my survival chance.

148  
00:08:24,130 --> 00:08:29,660  
Tell me how support systems  
among inmates worked.

149  
00:08:29,660 --> 00:08:31,720  
Did people help each other?

150

00:08:31,720 --> 00:08:35,200  
Did the young help the older  
people, or the older help

151  
00:08:35,200 --> 00:08:36,220  
the younger people?

152  
00:08:36,220 --> 00:08:39,970  
I can give you one  
particular incident that I

153  
00:08:39,970 --> 00:08:42,650  
have repeated many times.

154  
00:08:42,650 --> 00:08:46,210  
We were working in a Kommando.

155  
00:08:46,210 --> 00:08:49,240  
And three of us stuck  
together closer.

156  
00:08:49,240 --> 00:08:52,820

157  
00:08:52,820 --> 00:08:57,300  
And there was also another  
person who always said,

158  
00:08:57,300 --> 00:09:01,410  
that's it, which meant he  
was going to do something

159  
00:09:01,410 --> 00:09:05,920  
to commit suicide or getting  
into something to get killed.

160  
00:09:05,920 --> 00:09:07,170  
We would always encourage him.

161  
00:09:07,170 --> 00:09:12,480  
Of course, I was  
17 and somebody who

162

00:09:12,480 --> 00:09:15,420  
was 30 was already an old man.

163

00:09:15,420 --> 00:09:19,940  
He was with very old.

164

00:09:19,940 --> 00:09:24,010  
And we always used to tell  
him, don't, things are better,

165

00:09:24,010 --> 00:09:26,540  
we heard the planes,  
we heard this.

166

00:09:26,540 --> 00:09:29,300  
I mean, we always  
nurtured ourselves

167

00:09:29,300 --> 00:09:31,790  
on some of these hopes as well.

168

00:09:31,790 --> 00:09:40,950  
And, of course, the people there  
are more religious background.

169

00:09:40,950 --> 00:09:43,080  
So we had hope God will help.

170

00:09:43,080 --> 00:09:46,810  
Didn't give up so fast.

171

00:09:46,810 --> 00:09:49,410  
And we said, listen, God  
will help, you will see,

172

00:09:49,410 --> 00:09:51,820  
and so on, so on.

173

00:09:51,820 --> 00:09:53,650  
This man just couldn't take it.

174

00:09:53,650 --> 00:09:54,680  
Nobody could take it.

175  
00:09:54,680 --> 00:09:58,620  
But some had more  
strength than others.

176  
00:09:58,620 --> 00:10:02,010  
One day, after exhausted  
day, and especially hot day I

177  
00:10:02,010 --> 00:10:05,280  
think it was, we come back  
and his ration of bread

178  
00:10:05,280 --> 00:10:09,850  
was stolen or disappeared.

179  
00:10:09,850 --> 00:10:12,340  
He says, that's it.

180  
00:10:12,340 --> 00:10:17,440  
He wanted to get kind  
of our approval that.

181  
00:10:17,440 --> 00:10:19,600  
We did not let him die.

182  
00:10:19,600 --> 00:10:21,970  
We did not just  
feed him his words.

183  
00:10:21,970 --> 00:10:26,320  
The three of us each got a third  
of our meager little ration.

184  
00:10:26,320 --> 00:10:27,340  
What did it consist of?

185  
00:10:27,340 --> 00:10:31,840  
A piece of bread like a  
brick, which we know now



186

00:10:31,840 --> 00:10:35,140  
was sawdust in it  
and everything.

187

00:10:35,140 --> 00:10:39,610  
And we gave a third of  
that, a third of our lives,

188

00:10:39,610 --> 00:10:42,680  
to this man, so he  
should not give up.

189

00:10:42,680 --> 00:10:48,130  
As a matter of fact, to the best  
of my knowledge, he survived.

190

00:10:48,130 --> 00:10:51,760  
So there was tremendous  
things, tremendous things.

191

00:10:51,760 --> 00:10:53,890  
Like my own brother--

192

00:10:53,890 --> 00:11:03,430  
I had very bad kidneys.

193

00:11:03,430 --> 00:11:06,490  
And I was urinating  
almost anytime.

194

00:11:06,490 --> 00:11:10,350  
It was known because  
my kidneys were cold.

195

00:11:10,350 --> 00:11:12,120  
I don't know how  
he managed that,

196

00:11:12,120 --> 00:11:15,840  
to cut it out of his little  
meager clothing from inside.

197

00:11:15,840 --> 00:11:24,090  
And I had a kind of a  
blanket to warm my kidneys.

198  
00:11:24,090 --> 00:11:25,370  
OK, we have to reload.

199  
00:11:25,370 --> 00:11:35,360

200  
00:11:35,360 --> 00:11:38,540  
To celebrate any  
holidays, and yet

201  
00:11:38,540 --> 00:11:43,220  
how people managed to try to  
celebrate holidays in the camp.

202  
00:11:43,220 --> 00:11:48,540

203  
00:11:48,540 --> 00:11:52,920  
There was, in our camp,  
a pair of tefillin.

204  
00:11:52,920 --> 00:11:56,280  
Tefillin or phylacteries  
which a man over the age of 13

205  
00:11:56,280 --> 00:11:58,630  
puts on his right  
hand and on his head.

206  
00:11:58,630 --> 00:12:01,320  
I don't know how it  
ended up in the camp.

207  
00:12:01,320 --> 00:12:06,090  
I cannot imagine how it  
was possible to be smuggled

208  
00:12:06,090 --> 00:12:09,120  
in, unless it was

dropped by helicopter.

209

00:12:09,120 --> 00:12:14,240

It defies my imagination,  
even at this point.

210

00:12:14,240 --> 00:12:19,220

And people-- A  
man's supposed to do

211

00:12:19,220 --> 00:12:21,920

that every day of the  
week, except for Saturdays

212

00:12:21,920 --> 00:12:25,020

are on Jewish holidays.

213

00:12:25,020 --> 00:12:28,410

And there were a few who  
were privy to the fact

214

00:12:28,410 --> 00:12:32,660

that there is a pair of  
tefillin in the camp.

215

00:12:32,660 --> 00:12:36,950

People literally  
risked their lives

216

00:12:36,950 --> 00:12:39,260

to maneuver to get  
to that tefillin.

217

00:12:39,260 --> 00:12:42,350

Because before roll call,  
which was 6:00 in the morning,

218

00:12:42,350 --> 00:12:45,810

nobody's supposed to  
be going anywhere else,

219

00:12:45,810 --> 00:12:51,740

but to the latrine,

between barrack and latrine

220  
00:12:51,740 --> 00:12:55,910  
or between barrack  
and roll call.

221  
00:12:55,910 --> 00:13:02,300  
And here, this had to be  
accomplished before roll call.

222  
00:13:02,300 --> 00:13:07,230  
And it was really  
a tremendous task.

223  
00:13:07,230 --> 00:13:11,420  
Is was one of the  
mysteries, still

224  
00:13:11,420 --> 00:13:14,790  
the mysteries of how  
they got it from there

225  
00:13:14,790 --> 00:13:18,140  
and how people got there.

226  
00:13:18,140 --> 00:13:21,380  
In about 11 months, I  
succeeded to do that once

227  
00:13:21,380 --> 00:13:24,080  
with about 15 or 20  
attempts other times.

228  
00:13:24,080 --> 00:13:27,980  
But then the signals  
were coming, no, stop it,

229  
00:13:27,980 --> 00:13:30,890  
you cannot, because there were  
suspicions that somebody might

230  
00:13:30,890 --> 00:13:32,108  
see or detect it.

231  
00:13:32,108 --> 00:13:33,650  
Because if they  
would have found out,

232  
00:13:33,650 --> 00:13:36,410  
it would have been killing  
hundreds of people,

233  
00:13:36,410 --> 00:13:38,270  
such a great defiance.

234  
00:13:38,270 --> 00:13:40,100  
And it was done.

235  
00:13:40,100 --> 00:13:46,470  
It was done a regular basis,  
but was assigned every day

236  
00:13:46,470 --> 00:13:48,090  
a few who could do that.

237  
00:13:48,090 --> 00:13:52,230  
And it was very tremendously  
risky to get to the spot

238  
00:13:52,230 --> 00:13:54,810  
and to put out that  
tefillin to say the prayers.

239  
00:13:54,810 --> 00:14:02,770  
And holidays, of course, there  
was the Hanukkah holiday,

240  
00:14:02,770 --> 00:14:08,810  
which had tremendous--  
has tremendous memories.

241  
00:14:08,810 --> 00:14:12,620  
One was-- see, if ever  
anybody escaped the camp,

242

00:14:12,620 --> 00:14:15,960  
it could have only been  
a Pole or a Ukraine.

243  
00:14:15,960 --> 00:14:21,560  
Because if he got out he--

244  
00:14:21,560 --> 00:14:23,820  
With the siren, we better stop.

245  
00:14:23,820 --> 00:14:24,960  
Let's cut for a minute.

246  
00:14:24,960 --> 00:14:26,670  
And we'll start  
with holidays again.

247  
00:14:26,670 --> 00:14:28,170  
Yeah.

248  
00:14:28,170 --> 00:14:32,590  
Only a Pole could or a Ukraine  
could escape, because first

249  
00:14:32,590 --> 00:14:33,840  
of all, they were our foreman.

250  
00:14:33,840 --> 00:14:35,370  
They were in good flesh.

251  
00:14:35,370 --> 00:14:38,400  
They didn't look like skeletons.

252  
00:14:38,400 --> 00:14:41,920  
And a Pole would take him in.

253  
00:14:41,920 --> 00:14:44,280  
We have found out  
later, after the war,

254  
00:14:44,280 --> 00:14:49,487  
that the guy who escaped already

has gotten enough information

255

00:14:49,487 --> 00:14:51,570  
from Jewish inmates to  
know where his family might

256

00:14:51,570 --> 00:14:52,660  
have hidden something.

257

00:14:52,660 --> 00:14:54,880  
So he was considered  
a millionaire.

258

00:14:54,880 --> 00:14:59,510  
He knows where the  
treasures are hidden.

259

00:14:59,510 --> 00:15:01,940  
And the Polish population  
would help him.

260

00:15:01,940 --> 00:15:02,780  
And he was a Pole.

261

00:15:02,780 --> 00:15:05,470  
He was one of them.

262

00:15:05,470 --> 00:15:08,440  
But in a case like that,  
when a Pole would disappear,

263

00:15:08,440 --> 00:15:12,860  
they would decimate either  
the group or the barracks

264

00:15:12,860 --> 00:15:15,540  
where they came from.

265

00:15:15,540 --> 00:15:19,850  
And in my own experience,  
once or twice,

266

00:15:19,850 --> 00:15:26,280  
the rows in front of me were  
taken, or the row alongside me.

267  
00:15:26,280 --> 00:15:29,210  
So I was really rubbing  
with death along these lines

268  
00:15:29,210 --> 00:15:31,500  
as well.

269  
00:15:31,500 --> 00:15:37,800  
And it was just before  
Hanukkah, Hanukkah time.

270  
00:15:37,800 --> 00:15:40,770  
They have held back  
a few prisoners.

271  
00:15:40,770 --> 00:15:42,840  
Of course, there  
were very few Poles

272  
00:15:42,840 --> 00:15:45,260  
in the camps and  
very few Ukraines.

273  
00:15:45,260 --> 00:15:47,030  
And they were-- by  
the way, they Poles

274  
00:15:47,030 --> 00:15:48,260  
were worse than the Germans.

275  
00:15:48,260 --> 00:15:51,000  
They were really miserable.

276  
00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:54,230  
The Ukraines, horrible.

277  
00:15:54,230 --> 00:16:02,960  
And so, the Germans made  
a Hanukkah celebration.



278  
00:16:02,960 --> 00:16:05,520

279  
00:16:05,520 --> 00:16:10,200  
All the poles of the barracks,  
on the outside Poles,

280  
00:16:10,200 --> 00:16:15,030  
they hung up the prisoners  
were chosen to be one of the 10

281  
00:16:15,030 --> 00:16:19,550  
of the tents, on  
their feet, head down.

282  
00:16:19,550 --> 00:16:22,690  
We had to pour oil o them.

283  
00:16:22,690 --> 00:16:24,270  
And they had a bonfire.

284  
00:16:24,270 --> 00:16:29,400  
And we had to sing  
Christmas songs--

285  
00:16:29,400 --> 00:16:32,630  
Heilege Nacht.

286  
00:16:32,630 --> 00:16:38,200  
We had to sing the songs while  
our brothers, our fathers,

287  
00:16:38,200 --> 00:16:41,650  
our cousins were burning.

288  
00:16:41,650 --> 00:16:47,670  
That same night, which  
we had prepared before,

289  
00:16:47,670 --> 00:16:50,640  
a little bit of oil was sneaked

from here and a little bit

290  
00:16:50,640 --> 00:16:52,090  
of oil from there.

291  
00:16:52,090 --> 00:16:53,760  
And of rags made out--

292  
00:16:53,760 --> 00:16:58,590

293  
00:16:58,590 --> 00:17:01,810  
forgive me, I'm  
completely confused--

294  
00:17:01,810 --> 00:17:03,670  
knots made out of it.

295  
00:17:03,670 --> 00:17:06,640  
And we were in small  
groups with lookout posts.

296  
00:17:06,640 --> 00:17:09,280

297  
00:17:09,280 --> 00:17:12,369  
Hundreds gathering  
to say the prayers

298  
00:17:12,369 --> 00:17:17,339  
and the blessing of Hanukkah,  
of the miracle of Hanukkah.

299  
00:17:17,339 --> 00:17:20,589

300  
00:17:20,589 --> 00:17:22,569  
We really did not give up.

301  
00:17:22,569 --> 00:17:24,579  
I mean, give up.

302

00:17:24,579 --> 00:17:29,100

Future, there was none,  
but we didn't give up.

303

00:17:29,100 --> 00:17:34,900

And it was unbelievable.

304

00:17:34,900 --> 00:17:38,440

But heroism we saw daily.

305

00:17:38,440 --> 00:17:40,650

I mean, I only know  
the little bit what

306

00:17:40,650 --> 00:17:42,960

I know in my little circle.

307

00:17:42,960 --> 00:17:44,840

But I heard other things.

308

00:17:44,840 --> 00:17:49,050

And my cousin told  
us things what

309

00:17:49,050 --> 00:17:51,945

happened in his camp,  
which was unbelievable,

310

00:17:51,945 --> 00:17:54,190

which was unbelievable.

311

00:17:54,190 --> 00:17:59,870

I mean, one incident, is  
going to go back to Birkenau.

312

00:17:59,870 --> 00:18:03,010

We were in Birkenau.

313

00:18:03,010 --> 00:18:05,020

We were a few  
nights in Birkenau.

314

00:18:05,020 --> 00:18:07,000

I don't remember whether  
it was the first night

315

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:09,500

or the second night.

316

00:18:09,500 --> 00:18:12,140

We were told, by  
the way, everybody

317

00:18:12,140 --> 00:18:14,735

was told it will mean death.

318

00:18:14,735 --> 00:18:15,860

If you do this, it's death.

319

00:18:15,860 --> 00:18:18,050

If you do that, it's death.

320

00:18:18,050 --> 00:18:21,310

And the curfew was very  
clearly explained to us.

321

00:18:21,310 --> 00:18:25,500

And there was a metal  
drum cut in half

322

00:18:25,500 --> 00:18:28,793

where we had to take care  
of our needs if necessary.

323

00:18:28,793 --> 00:18:30,210

But the door was  
not to be opened.

324

00:18:30,210 --> 00:18:35,930

But I heard very  
tender little voices.

325

00:18:35,930 --> 00:18:40,270

In curiosity, I got to find

out what's going on here.

326

00:18:40,270 --> 00:18:44,320

So I sneaked out of the barrack.

327

00:18:44,320 --> 00:18:46,150

And I go where I--

328

00:18:46,150 --> 00:18:48,990

led to me where I

heard the voices.

329

00:18:48,990 --> 00:18:52,700

There were trenches,

long trenches.

330

00:18:52,700 --> 00:18:58,520

And I saw that nurses--

331

00:18:58,520 --> 00:18:59,770

nurses you could only--

332

00:18:59,770 --> 00:19:02,360

whether they were German

or even prisoners,

333

00:19:02,360 --> 00:19:07,890

had white uniform with a nice

hood and a red cross on it.

334

00:19:07,890 --> 00:19:11,550

They're leading little

children, toddlers, from two

335

00:19:11,550 --> 00:19:16,720

to maybe four years

old, on a little march.

336

00:19:16,720 --> 00:19:20,650

And they were intrigued by the

fire they saw in the trenches.

337

00:19:20,650 --> 00:19:24,160  
When they came up to the  
end, these nurses or whoever

338  
00:19:24,160 --> 00:19:26,830  
they were, just pushed them in.

339  
00:19:26,830 --> 00:19:29,200  
And the kids were  
burning alive--

340  
00:19:29,200 --> 00:19:30,145  
those voices.

341  
00:19:30,145 --> 00:19:32,830  
I came back to the barrack.

342  
00:19:32,830 --> 00:19:35,560  
Fortunately, nobody saw me.

343  
00:19:35,560 --> 00:19:38,490  
And I told my brothers.

344  
00:19:38,490 --> 00:19:40,170  
The first reaction was--

345  
00:19:40,170 --> 00:19:41,590  
of course, it could be--

346  
00:19:41,590 --> 00:19:44,592  
there was my brother who  
had the 11-month-old baby.

347  
00:19:44,592 --> 00:19:46,050  
Though he could  
not have been here.

348  
00:19:46,050 --> 00:19:48,190  
But could be anybody.

349  
00:19:48,190 --> 00:19:50,310  
But this was not even

that was the concern.

350

00:19:50,310 --> 00:19:54,170

The concern was, are  
you out of your mind?

351

00:19:54,170 --> 00:19:58,210

If you would have been detected,  
you would have been killed.

352

00:19:58,210 --> 00:20:00,760

So what have you accomplished?

353

00:20:00,760 --> 00:20:04,200

Now you know what  
it would have meant.

354

00:20:04,200 --> 00:20:08,070

And people must have--

355

00:20:08,070 --> 00:20:12,780

this was-- my case was heroic  
just to know what's going on.

356

00:20:12,780 --> 00:20:14,420

But other people did things.

357

00:20:14,420 --> 00:20:20,370

I mean, when I worked in the  
Kommando, the high chimney,

358

00:20:20,370 --> 00:20:22,850

this ceramic for this high  
chimney is very expensive.

359

00:20:22,850 --> 00:20:25,640

360

00:20:25,640 --> 00:20:31,065

And some, to sabotage,  
broke, dropped pieces.

361

00:20:31,065 --> 00:20:32,690

They knew they were  
going to be killed.

362

00:20:32,690 --> 00:20:37,340

Just to stop their progression.

363

00:20:37,340 --> 00:20:40,460

Ironically enough, we went  
back three and a half years

364

00:20:40,460 --> 00:20:42,890

ago to Poland, to Birkenau.

365

00:20:42,890 --> 00:20:45,500

And we went to the camp that  
I was in, the coal mine,

366

00:20:45,500 --> 00:20:47,220

[PLACE NAME].

367

00:20:47,220 --> 00:20:50,980

It took the Pollacks  
about 30 years

368

00:20:50,980 --> 00:20:55,320

to build the third  
which we did not finish.

369

00:20:55,320 --> 00:20:57,190

And we did it in--

370

00:20:57,190 --> 00:21:01,380

we-- I mean, we Jewish  
labor, slave laborers,

371

00:21:01,380 --> 00:21:02,400

did it in two years.

372

00:21:02,400 --> 00:21:05,440

373



00:21:05,440 --> 00:21:08,350  
And of course, there were  
no pictures to be taken.

374  
00:21:08,350 --> 00:21:10,930  
We took a picture of it  
just out of curiosity

375  
00:21:10,930 --> 00:21:16,060  
to determine how much of it did  
we do and how much did they do.

376  
00:21:16,060 --> 00:21:19,760  
So they got the best workers.

377  
00:21:19,760 --> 00:21:24,250  
We did everything possible to  
sabotage, everything possible,

378  
00:21:24,250 --> 00:21:25,450  
at the risk of our lives.

379  
00:21:25,450 --> 00:21:28,260  
Because we figured if  
I have done something

380  
00:21:28,260 --> 00:21:30,900  
to hold back their  
progress, I am killed,

381  
00:21:30,900 --> 00:21:32,580  
but will do good for others.

382  
00:21:32,580 --> 00:21:36,460  
This happened on a  
daily basis, constantly,

383  
00:21:36,460 --> 00:21:42,490  
and in many different  
areas, many different areas.

384  
00:21:42,490 --> 00:21:47,310  
There were mechanics who are

working on the German trucks

385

00:21:47,310 --> 00:21:51,270  
and succeeded subfusion  
of oil or whatever it was.

386

00:21:51,270 --> 00:21:56,820  
We heard the trucks blew  
up on the way somewhere.

387

00:21:56,820 --> 00:22:01,210  
I was too young to have had  
such mechanical knowledge,

388

00:22:01,210 --> 00:22:06,500  
but it constantly was  
done, thinks of defiance.

389

00:22:06,500 --> 00:22:08,980  
But how much good it  
did, I don't know.

390

00:22:08,980 --> 00:22:13,130

391

00:22:13,130 --> 00:22:13,898  
We may run out.

392

00:22:13,898 --> 00:22:14,815  
We should just reload.

393

00:22:14,815 --> 00:22:20,420

394

00:22:20,420 --> 00:22:21,110  
Changing film.

395

00:22:21,110 --> 00:22:22,030  
Camera 06 is up.

396

00:22:22,030 --> 00:22:23,638  
Take seven is up.

397  
00:22:23,638 --> 00:22:32,580

398  
00:22:32,580 --> 00:22:33,080  
OK.

399  
00:22:33,080 --> 00:22:40,560

400  
00:22:40,560 --> 00:22:44,490  
There was a very  
well-known, actually

401  
00:22:44,490 --> 00:22:51,090  
worldwide known great  
rabbi of Sienna,

402  
00:22:51,090 --> 00:22:52,944  
great rabbinic descendent.

403  
00:22:52,944 --> 00:22:55,610

404  
00:22:55,610 --> 00:22:59,780  
He was working-- we were  
working in the same Kommando,

405  
00:22:59,780 --> 00:23:03,900  
and he just uttered  
to me, oh, what he

406  
00:23:03,900 --> 00:23:09,930  
would be willing to give,  
sacrifice, if he would not have

407  
00:23:09,930 --> 00:23:14,010  
to desecrate the Yom Kippur.

408  
00:23:14,010 --> 00:23:16,680  
It was a wishful  
thing, like we wished

409  
00:23:16,680 --> 00:23:21,700  
we would have a cup full  
of coffee with sugar.

410  
00:23:21,700 --> 00:23:23,530  
And it didn't get lost on me.

411  
00:23:23,530 --> 00:23:25,630  
So I came back to the camp.

412  
00:23:25,630 --> 00:23:29,730  
And I approached  
the camp doctor.

413  
00:23:29,730 --> 00:23:33,780  
Dr. Erik Cohen with his  
name, also from Prague.

414  
00:23:33,780 --> 00:23:36,030  
And if you spoke the same  
language as the other person

415  
00:23:36,030 --> 00:23:40,290  
spoke, than you were  
kind of buddies.

416  
00:23:40,290 --> 00:23:42,540  
So I said, Dr. Erik--

417  
00:23:42,540 --> 00:23:45,390  
and everybody knew  
the old rabbi.

418  
00:23:45,390 --> 00:23:48,730  
He was not so very old, but  
to us, it was, anybody over 30

419  
00:23:48,730 --> 00:23:49,230  
was--

420  
00:23:49,230 --> 00:23:51,310

40 was ancient.

421

00:23:51,310 --> 00:23:55,650

So I said, you know, Dr.  
Erik, if you could arrange

422

00:23:55,650 --> 00:23:59,820

that the old rabbi would  
not have to work Yom Kippur,

423

00:23:59,820 --> 00:24:02,070

you will come out  
alive from here.

424

00:24:02,070 --> 00:24:04,330

He was a very assimilated Jew.

425

00:24:04,330 --> 00:24:06,390

I never thought he  
would respond to that.

426

00:24:06,390 --> 00:24:07,555

But he says to me--

427

00:24:07,555 --> 00:24:09,180

if he would have  
kicked me in my pants,

428

00:24:09,180 --> 00:24:12,910

I would have expected  
that as well.

429

00:24:12,910 --> 00:24:16,920

So, he asked me, did the  
old rabbi tell you that?

430

00:24:16,920 --> 00:24:18,090

I didn't want to lie to him.

431

00:24:18,090 --> 00:24:19,680

So I said, no, but I tell you.

432

00:24:19,680 --> 00:24:23,100  
In that matter, that  
you will enable him not

433  
00:24:23,100 --> 00:24:28,690  
to have to work Yom Kippur,  
you will come out alive.

434  
00:24:28,690 --> 00:24:32,818  
And again, there was  
no time of dilly-dally.

435  
00:24:32,818 --> 00:24:34,610  
There had to be everything  
done in seconds.

436  
00:24:34,610 --> 00:24:37,950  
Because you never knew when  
you're going to be interrupted.

437  
00:24:37,950 --> 00:24:41,900  
So he says, OK.

438  
00:24:41,900 --> 00:24:46,470  
That was like my getting into  
the infirmary before sent

439  
00:24:46,470 --> 00:24:51,260  
to Birkenau, was you took--

440  
00:24:51,260 --> 00:24:54,033  
there was exhausted oil which  
we brought back from the working

441  
00:24:54,033 --> 00:24:55,700  
Kommando-- officially,  
we could bring it

442  
00:24:55,700 --> 00:24:58,340  
back to the barracks to pour it  
on the barracks, on the floor,

443  
00:24:58,340 --> 00:25:01,280

so that it doesn't dust, no mud.

444

00:25:01,280 --> 00:25:03,770

And this oil, we took  
a few spoons of that,

445

00:25:03,770 --> 00:25:04,640

we got diarrhea.

446

00:25:04,640 --> 00:25:08,120

And on diarrhea you could  
get into the infirmary.

447

00:25:08,120 --> 00:25:11,780

So he says, OK, but you  
have to go with him.

448

00:25:11,780 --> 00:25:15,770

And the procedure was  
already we knew what.

449

00:25:15,770 --> 00:25:19,040

We got him in into  
the infirmary.

450

00:25:19,040 --> 00:25:20,480

Me and he were assigned one bed.

451

00:25:20,480 --> 00:25:25,090

The bed was not any wider than  
24 inches, maybe 26 inches.

452

00:25:25,090 --> 00:25:27,050

It was very narrow bed.

453

00:25:27,050 --> 00:25:31,190

And it was so stuffed  
that we were assigned

454

00:25:31,190 --> 00:25:34,310

one bed for the two of us.

455

00:25:34,310 --> 00:25:39,440

Here, this rabbi tried  
also to encourage others.

456

00:25:39,440 --> 00:25:42,850

And they shouldn't despair.

457

00:25:42,850 --> 00:25:45,660

He had said the  
Yom Kippur prayers,

458

00:25:45,660 --> 00:25:50,280

which are very long, very long.

459

00:25:50,280 --> 00:25:53,900

He knew them from the very  
beginning to the very end

460

00:25:53,900 --> 00:25:55,820

by heart.

461

00:25:55,820 --> 00:26:00,640

So the two ends of the  
blankets, we put on our heads.

462

00:26:00,640 --> 00:26:03,070

An authorized Jew is  
supposed to cover his head

463

00:26:03,070 --> 00:26:04,330

when he said the prayers.

464

00:26:04,330 --> 00:26:07,863

And we said the prayers.

465

00:26:07,863 --> 00:26:09,280

And he interrupted  
in the meantime

466

00:26:09,280 --> 00:26:11,170

to go over to  
others who were sick



467

00:26:11,170 --> 00:26:12,610

and who were really  
in bad shape.

468

00:26:12,610 --> 00:26:14,260

And he said prayers to them.

469

00:26:14,260 --> 00:26:18,770

470

00:26:18,770 --> 00:26:23,160

He gave me a blessing.

471

00:26:23,160 --> 00:26:29,410

And he says, in the merits  
of having done this for him,

472

00:26:29,410 --> 00:26:30,130

God will help me.

473

00:26:30,130 --> 00:26:30,820

I will come out.

474

00:26:30,820 --> 00:26:33,760

And I said, rabbi, you will  
also with God's help come out.

475

00:26:33,760 --> 00:26:35,110

He did survive the war.

476

00:26:35,110 --> 00:26:37,900

477

00:26:37,900 --> 00:26:42,430

The fact is that he could stay  
in the camp, in the infirmary,

478

00:26:42,430 --> 00:26:45,500

to say his prayers.

479

00:26:45,500 --> 00:26:49,730

I understood later that  
thousands in the camp

480  
00:26:49,730 --> 00:26:54,817  
felt good that he will be saying  
the prayers for everybody.

481  
00:26:54,817 --> 00:26:59,590

482  
00:26:59,590 --> 00:27:04,360  
I can't comprehend even  
today that how such faith

483  
00:27:04,360 --> 00:27:08,000  
can permeate in case like that.

484  
00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:08,946  
And it did.

485  
00:27:08,946 --> 00:27:10,440  
It did.

486  
00:27:10,440 --> 00:27:12,262  
There were other thing  
we did, which I--

487  
00:27:12,262 --> 00:27:14,220  
just I'm so emotionally  
involved in the moment,

488  
00:27:14,220 --> 00:27:17,230  
I cannot even think clear.

489  
00:27:17,230 --> 00:27:21,780  
So this is how I have spent  
Yom Kippur because of,

490  
00:27:21,780 --> 00:27:24,410  
an account of this man.

491  
00:27:24,410 --> 00:27:27,200

And it was unbelievable.

492  
00:27:27,200 --> 00:27:29,540  
When the others asked  
me, in the camp-- can

493  
00:27:29,540 --> 00:27:31,040  
you imagine, with struggling.

494  
00:27:31,040 --> 00:27:32,840  
They said, how were the prayers?

495  
00:27:32,840 --> 00:27:33,590  
What did he say?

496  
00:27:33,590 --> 00:27:35,810  
How did he say?

497  
00:27:35,810 --> 00:27:40,460  
It was unbelievable,  
unbelievable.

498  
00:27:40,460 --> 00:27:44,030  
And he really, I think,  
and I strongly believe,

499  
00:27:44,030 --> 00:27:46,310  
he did it so that he  
should be able to pray

500  
00:27:46,310 --> 00:27:50,835  
for the welfare of others,  
for the welfare of others.

501  
00:27:50,835 --> 00:27:53,760  
And when I have  
uttered a bad word,

502  
00:27:53,760 --> 00:27:56,700  
may they drop dead or  
be killed, the Germans,

503

00:27:56,700 --> 00:28:01,100  
he says, no, not killed, may  
they change their hearts.

504  
00:28:01,100 --> 00:28:06,540  
This is how he felt and  
he expressed himself.

505  
00:28:06,540 --> 00:28:09,800  
He didn't want anybody's  
unnecessary death.

506  
00:28:09,800 --> 00:28:15,278

507  
00:28:15,278 --> 00:28:19,030  
I'm trying to see if the plane  
is going to- Why don't we cut?

508  
00:28:19,030 --> 00:28:24,470

509  
00:28:24,470 --> 00:28:28,040  
You've talked about faith,  
and religious resistance,

510  
00:28:28,040 --> 00:28:30,200  
and mental resistance.

511  
00:28:30,200 --> 00:28:33,320  
Did you ever-- in  
the camps, were you

512  
00:28:33,320 --> 00:28:37,010  
ever able to find relief  
by joking with each other,

513  
00:28:37,010 --> 00:28:39,050  
by shoring up your spirits?

514  
00:28:39,050 --> 00:28:40,400  
Oh, yes, there was a lot of it.

515

00:28:40,400 --> 00:28:43,550

As a matter of fact,  
there was always--

516

00:28:43,550 --> 00:28:45,650

in any group, in any Kommando--

517

00:28:45,650 --> 00:28:48,110

Kommando means a working group--

518

00:28:48,110 --> 00:28:54,490

we had some who  
were telling jokes

519

00:28:54,490 --> 00:28:58,750

so that we should feel better.

520

00:28:58,750 --> 00:29:05,602

And quoting of the prophet.

521

00:29:05,602 --> 00:29:08,970

As a matter of fact, there  
were some assimilated Jews who

522

00:29:08,970 --> 00:29:11,435

came from some parts  
of Europe, they

523

00:29:11,435 --> 00:29:12,810

did not even know  
that there were

524

00:29:12,810 --> 00:29:15,690

such great  
philosophical teaching

525

00:29:15,690 --> 00:29:21,850

existing in Jewish learnings.

526

00:29:21,850 --> 00:29:33,210

And we were joking about hunger.

527

00:29:33,210 --> 00:29:36,600

We were joking about hard work.

528

00:29:36,600 --> 00:29:40,680

And I remember we were  
working at the coal mine.

529

00:29:40,680 --> 00:29:41,980

There was a civilian worker.

530

00:29:41,980 --> 00:29:49,248

He says, you know, we told the  
Jews they will be mining coals.

531

00:29:49,248 --> 00:29:52,550

And the Jews said,  
you don't want that.

532

00:29:52,550 --> 00:29:56,830

Then you would have to pay  
twice as much for your coal.

533

00:29:56,830 --> 00:30:00,910

And there were all  
kind of jokes cracked.

534

00:30:00,910 --> 00:30:05,470

But they were more of the  
serious nature of jokes.

535

00:30:05,470 --> 00:30:10,840

But I was amazed at how  
many quotes of the prophets

536

00:30:10,840 --> 00:30:13,000

were given.

537

00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:17,650

That one in particular,  
they say that--

538

00:30:17,650 --> 00:30:21,400

the quoted in the holy  
temple, the jackal came in,

539  
00:30:21,400 --> 00:30:23,690  
and the prophet laughs.

540  
00:30:23,690 --> 00:30:29,500  
The jackal comes in  
defaming the holy temple.

541  
00:30:29,500 --> 00:30:34,940  
He says, I'm laughing because  
he says when after this happens,

542  
00:30:34,940 --> 00:30:37,008  
then the temple  
will be purified.

543  
00:30:37,008 --> 00:30:38,800  
And then the whole  
people will be purified.

544  
00:30:38,800 --> 00:30:40,250  
And things like that.

545  
00:30:40,250 --> 00:30:42,440  
And it was amazing.

546  
00:30:42,440 --> 00:30:48,100  
Those who had knowledge had  
always something good to say.

547  
00:30:48,100 --> 00:30:51,020

548  
00:30:51,020 --> 00:30:52,790  
Show you here an example.

549  
00:30:52,790 --> 00:30:56,206  
We had two couples,  
two German guys,

550

00:30:56,206 --> 00:31:03,070  
which were the most notorious  
robbers in German history.

551  
00:31:03,070 --> 00:31:04,750  
They were such  
famous robbers, they

552  
00:31:04,750 --> 00:31:09,040  
have, from what we  
understood, built

553  
00:31:09,040 --> 00:31:15,320  
a tunnel in the heart of  
Berlin to the central bank.

554  
00:31:15,320 --> 00:31:18,680  
And it was built,  
officially, by the people

555  
00:31:18,680 --> 00:31:21,710  
thought it was the telephone  
companies wiring build.

556  
00:31:21,710 --> 00:31:23,690  
Of course, these guys  
were apprehended.

557  
00:31:23,690 --> 00:31:25,670  
They ended up in jail.

558  
00:31:25,670 --> 00:31:28,550  
I don't know how  
many years they got.

559  
00:31:28,550 --> 00:31:30,660  
These guys, of course,  
as all other criminals,

560  
00:31:30,660 --> 00:31:35,870  
were taken out of jails and  
made Kapos in the camps.

561



00:31:35,870 --> 00:31:38,440  
But these were two  
very brilliant guys.

562  
00:31:38,440 --> 00:31:40,760  
And they saw in  
me and my brother

563  
00:31:40,760 --> 00:31:45,280  
that we come from  
well-to-do homes.

564  
00:31:45,280 --> 00:31:46,210  
So, they pumped up us.

565  
00:31:46,210 --> 00:31:48,850  
And they did it very--

566  
00:31:48,850 --> 00:31:51,010  
the best shrink would  
not get things out of you

567  
00:31:51,010 --> 00:31:53,020  
as well as they did.

568  
00:31:53,020 --> 00:31:56,800  
And we caught onto that.

569  
00:31:56,800 --> 00:32:01,750  
So my brother prepared me  
how the answer should be.

570  
00:32:01,750 --> 00:32:03,700  
Because he said, they  
will ask you 20 times

571  
00:32:03,700 --> 00:32:04,580  
over again and again.

572  
00:32:04,580 --> 00:32:07,470  
So we have to have a  
very clear cut story.

573

00:32:07,470 --> 00:32:09,340

And to give this to them.

574

00:32:09,340 --> 00:32:11,860

And stick to that.

575

00:32:11,860 --> 00:32:17,842

Their plans were that if  
the one in the war wins--

576

00:32:17,842 --> 00:32:19,550

they knew that they  
were going to survive

577

00:32:19,550 --> 00:32:21,795

because they were infallible.

578

00:32:21,795 --> 00:32:24,150

They were going to survive.

579

00:32:24,150 --> 00:32:30,530

And our chances to survive  
were zero in their eyes.

580

00:32:30,530 --> 00:32:33,020

And they were going to  
go back to our home town

581

00:32:33,020 --> 00:32:39,340

and they will dig out whatever,  
the gigantic treasures.

582

00:32:39,340 --> 00:32:41,202

Because Jews were  
known in Germany to be

583

00:32:41,202 --> 00:32:41,952

multimillionaires.

584

00:32:41,952 --> 00:32:50,820

So every Jew must have had two  
big boxes of gold and diamonds.

585

00:32:50,820 --> 00:32:54,870  
So when this worked, and these  
guys became good friends,

586

00:32:54,870 --> 00:32:56,870  
they've actually  
made quite a bit

587

00:32:56,870 --> 00:33:00,060  
of effort to be  
lenient towards--

588

00:33:00,060 --> 00:33:05,400  
I mean, they hit everybody, but  
they hit us, did not hit us,

589

00:33:05,400 --> 00:33:08,190  
or we had maybe  
easier little jobs.

590

00:33:08,190 --> 00:33:10,590  
So we have spread  
this on to others,

591

00:33:10,590 --> 00:33:15,180  
say, listen, if you  
have intelligent Kapos,

592

00:33:15,180 --> 00:33:18,480  
let them know that they  
have a chance to survive,

593

00:33:18,480 --> 00:33:21,830  
or that you will  
lead them to it.

594

00:33:21,830 --> 00:33:25,550  
Like my brother said, listen,  
and if should you not--

595

00:33:25,550 --> 00:33:29,450  
should Germany not win the

war, we will protect you.

596

00:33:29,450 --> 00:33:35,650

We will be here vouching  
for your good behavior

597

00:33:35,650 --> 00:33:38,350

and for your humane behavior.

598

00:33:38,350 --> 00:33:40,360

We have to reload.