1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,570

2 00:00:00,570 --> 00:00:03,600 Beverly Hills, California.

3 00:00:03,600 --> 00:00:06,660 Continuing interview with Bart Stern.

4 00:00:06,660 --> 00:00:18,930

5 00:00:18,930 --> 00:00:21,780 Can you back up just a little bit with the Kapos

6 00:00:21,780 --> 00:00:24,120 and tell me what you and your brother--

7 00:00:24,120 --> 00:00:27,510 did you make up a story to tell them?

8 00:00:27,510 --> 00:00:28,410 Yeah.

9 00:00:28,410 --> 00:00:32,640 No, actually, there were some facts in it,

10 00:00:32,640 --> 00:00:36,180 but to make it a little bit more interesting for them,

11 00:00:36,180 --> 00:00:38,880 we embellished upon it.

12 00:00:38,880 --> 00:00:42,900 And we have given instead of our location,

13 00:00:42,900 --> 00:00:44,658 we gave two other locations.

14 00:00:44,658 --> 00:00:48,120

15 00:00:48,120 --> 00:00:53,590 Because we were hoping that we will survive,

16 00:00:53,590 --> 00:00:57,400 and we didn't want them to be able to get there first.

17 00:00:57,400 --> 00:01:00,100 So we have confused them a little bit, in case

18 00:01:00,100 --> 00:01:04,080 if they would have been able to come.

19 00:01:04,080 --> 00:01:10,830 But our aim was not only that we benefit by this approach,

20 00:01:10,830 --> 00:01:14,850 but we have saw that others also got onto that point

21 00:01:14,850 --> 00:01:16,710 that there are--

22 00:01:16,710 --> 00:01:21,090 that Kapos can be bribed, really.

23 00:01:21,090 --> 00:01:24,157 Telling them, listen, if you win, you know where you go back 24

00:01:24,157 --> 00:01:24,990 and you will get it.

25

00:01:24,990 --> 00:01:26,700 Be nice to us.

26

00:01:26,700 --> 00:01:31,080 If you lose, we will be helping you.

27

00:01:31,080 --> 00:01:33,120 And this was something that my brother

28

00:01:33,120 --> 00:01:35,070 has masterminded and saw to that that it

29

00:01:35,070 --> 00:01:37,320 had spread to others too.

30

00:01:37,320 --> 00:01:39,660 And though he became--

31

00:01:39,660 --> 00:01:43,710 matter of fact, when there was a group transferred

32

00:01:43,710 --> 00:01:49,620 to another camp, and when my brothers ran immediately

33

00:01:49,620 --> 00:01:52,620 to that group of settlers and make hay out of this here.

34

00:01:52,620 --> 00:01:55,810 This is something which can work.

35

00:01:55,810 --> 00:01:59,970 And they became-- have used every little bit of it

36 00:01:59,970 --> 00:02:04,110 at every opportunity there was to make it a survival

37 00:02:04,110 --> 00:02:07,680 possibility, not only for ourselves.

38 00:02:07,680 --> 00:02:12,120 The amazing thing is that we were really like blind horses,

39 00:02:12,120 --> 00:02:15,540 pulled right, and right, left, left.

40 00:02:15,540 --> 00:02:18,120 But within our subconscious mind,

41 00:02:18,120 --> 00:02:21,520 we had also a very conscious mind.

42 00:02:21,520 --> 00:02:27,090 And we have put it to as good use as we possibly could.

43 00:02:27,090 --> 00:02:30,090 I mean, just the same, the will of survival

44 00:02:30,090 --> 00:02:34,590 itself was a tremendous, tremendous effort.

45 00:02:34,590 --> 00:02:38,670 You know, like, there were suicides in the camps.

46 00:02:38,670 --> 00:02:43,500 But it was never religious Jews committed suicide.

47 00:02:43,500 --> 00:02:47,580 Even the most primitive Polish people,

48 00:02:47,580 --> 00:02:51,900 I mean, if you read some of the book of Isaac Bashevis Singer,

49 00:02:51,900 --> 00:02:56,790 in Poland with such a poverty that Haarlem is a paradise.

50 00:02:56,790 --> 00:03:00,870 And they had never went to school, just to Hebrew school.

51 00:03:00,870 --> 00:03:02,820 But they had the face.

52 00:03:02,820 --> 00:03:05,100 The suicides were always by the assimilated,

53 00:03:05,100 --> 00:03:09,000 who were the philosophical.

54 00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:12,980 Because they did not see any reason in further survival,

55 00:03:12,980 --> 00:03:15,510 because there was really not too much of a chance.

56 00:03:15,510 --> 00:03:22,060 But we have always aimed to survival and never to give up.

57 00:03:22,060 --> 00:03:24,370 I mean, to give up was the easiest thing.

58 00:03:24,370 --> 00:03:27,270 I mean, if you just sat down, like the men

59 00:03:27,270 --> 00:03:31,260 with the story who lost his bread, we did not.

60 00:03:31,260 --> 00:03:36,970 We were going on with a great belief that we will survive.

61 00:03:36,970 --> 00:03:39,420 And there is a morning prayer that we

62 00:03:39,420 --> 00:03:45,240 say that I believe in the coming of the Messiah.

63 00:03:45,240 --> 00:03:50,040 And people have, tell this, I am believe that with God's help

64 00:03:50,040 --> 00:03:54,330 I will be surviving the camp and I will take revenge on them.

65 00:03:54,330 --> 00:03:58,890 This was strong driving force, even if it didn't

66 00:03:58,890 --> 00:04:01,800 come from everybody himself.

67 00:04:01,800 --> 00:04:05,580 It was fed to him by others, always with encouragement

68 00:04:05,580 --> 00:04:06,990 given. 69 00:04:06,990 --> 00:04:09,450 Everybody felt itself an encouragement.

70 00:04:09,450 --> 00:04:11,610 Of course, I can't imagine that.

71 00:04:11,610 --> 00:04:12,900 I don't remember what I did.

72 00:04:12,900 --> 00:04:14,023 I said, OK, stop it.

73 00:04:14,023 --> 00:04:14,940 I've already heard it.

74 00:04:14,940 --> 00:04:19,120 I mean, because the labor was very hard.

75 00:04:19,120 --> 00:04:22,019 The conditions were inhuman.

76 00:04:22,019 --> 00:04:24,530 If I would be able to describe it, I mean,

77 00:04:24,530 --> 00:04:26,040 if I would have a better vocabulary

78 00:04:26,040 --> 00:04:27,930 and I would have the greatest writers,

79 00:04:27,930 --> 00:04:34,800 I couldn't give you the complete happening over five minute.

80 00:04:34,800 --> 00:04:36,960 I would go berserk myself. 81 00:04:36,960 --> 00:04:43,110 It was beyond comprehension of anybody,

82 00:04:43,110 --> 00:04:44,570 beyond comprehension of anybody.

83 00:04:44,570 --> 00:04:53,670 It was so out of the extraordinary that one cannot

84 00:04:53,670 --> 00:04:55,470 comprehend it.

85 00:04:55,470 --> 00:05:01,200 But whatever we have had, it was nurtured by our belief

86 00:05:01,200 --> 00:05:03,910 and by the encouragement of others.

87 00:05:03,910 --> 00:05:07,590 I mean, like the rabbi survived and having Yom Kippur,

88 00:05:07,590 --> 00:05:09,900 that he was considered that he was

89 00:05:09,900 --> 00:05:15,390 our messenger to the Almighty.

90 00:05:15,390 --> 00:05:22,320 And these are the things which gave us strength to survive.

91 00:05:22,320 --> 00:05:24,148 Is survival an achievement?

92 00:05:24,148 --> 00:05:27,980 93 00:05:27,980 --> 00:05:31,910 It's a rhetorical question really.

94 00:05:31,910 --> 00:05:36,285 Yes, survival is an achievement, yes.

95 00:05:36,285 --> 00:05:37,535 We wanted to achieve survival.

96 00:05:37,535 --> 00:05:41,164

97 00:05:41,164 --> 00:05:45,334 How does your whole experience make you feel about humanity.

98 00:05:45,334 --> 00:05:48,196

99 00:05:48,196 --> 00:05:53,675 Humanity is very frail, very materialistic.

100 00:05:53,675 --> 00:05:58,170

101 00:05:58,170 --> 00:06:02,240 We see that then and today.

102 00:06:02,240 --> 00:06:04,100 We need territories.

103 00:06:04,100 --> 00:06:07,220 We need more wealth.

104 00:06:07,220 --> 00:06:09,260 Presidents need more votes. 105

00:06:09,260 --> 00:06:11,990 Politicians need more votes.

106

00:06:11,990 --> 00:06:20,960 And this is unfortunately human nature, I mean, humanity.

107

00:06:20,960 --> 00:06:23,060 I still believe that the best people in the world

108

00:06:23,060 --> 00:06:25,280 are in America.

109

00:06:25,280 --> 00:06:28,130 Before I came to this country, I traveled

110

00:06:28,130 --> 00:06:30,170 to many other countries.

111

00:06:30,170 --> 00:06:32,660 But I was a student, I had an opportunity

112

00:06:32,660 --> 00:06:33,860 to go for study tours.

113

00:06:33,860 --> 00:06:37,010 I won scholarships.

114

00:06:37,010 --> 00:06:38,210 And we are the best people.

115

00:06:38,210 --> 00:06:40,520 Are we?

116

00:06:40,520 --> 00:06:45,170 Depends to whom are we comparing ourselves.

00:06:45,170 --> 00:06:49,770 So humanity-- and I'm not the best person either.

118 00:06:49,770 --> 00:06:54,740 I see people who are much more superior to me.

119 00:06:54,740 --> 00:07:04,830 So I'm really not qualified to give a good answer.

120 00:07:04,830 --> 00:07:07,460

121 00:07:07,460 --> 00:07:11,330 Tell me about how you feel about taking revenge.

122 00:07:11,330 --> 00:07:13,310 And were you able to at all?

123 00:07:13,310 --> 00:07:15,920

124 00:07:15,920 --> 00:07:18,260 Yes, I took revenge.

125 00:07:18,260 --> 00:07:23,160

126 00:07:23,160 --> 00:07:25,150 The only thing happened when we were liberated

127 00:07:25,150 --> 00:07:31,090 by the Russians, a few days--

128 00:07:31,090 --> 00:07:34,960 I mean, I was fortunate to be accepted by the Russians. 00:07:34,960 --> 00:07:36,555 I mean, I only weighed 84 pounds.

130 00:07:36,555 --> 00:07:38,700 I was a walking skeleton.

131 00:07:38,700 --> 00:07:41,880 But they did not accept us as survivors

132 00:07:41,880 --> 00:07:46,470 because the Germans have even put up the skeletons

133 00:07:46,470 --> 00:07:48,690 as saboteurs with the Russians.

134 00:07:48,690 --> 00:07:51,790 So they-- I don't know what experiences they had, but I

135 00:07:51,790 --> 00:07:56,910 was very strongly interrogated.

136 00:07:56,910 --> 00:07:58,440 But to my good fortune, they were

137 00:07:58,440 --> 00:08:02,100 the Jewish-Russian general.

138 00:08:02,100 --> 00:08:05,310 And I have given him proof that I'm Jewish.

139 00:08:05,310 --> 00:08:07,660 So I was accepted, actually.

140 00:08:07,660 --> 00:08:09,630 The greatest thing he could do for me, 141

00:08:09,630 --> 00:08:12,570 the uniform of a dead soldier was taken off and given me

142

00:08:12,570 --> 00:08:13,380 a part of it.

143

00:08:13,380 --> 00:08:23,170

144

00:08:23,170 --> 00:08:26,950 Three days or so having-- and I was

145

00:08:26,950 --> 00:08:31,600 kind of a expensive property for them because I could read maps.

146

00:08:31,600 --> 00:08:33,850 I could interpret maps.

147

00:08:33,850 --> 00:08:37,789 And I was not a great strategist.

148

00:08:37,789 --> 00:08:40,240 But I knew there is north, south, east,

149

00:08:40,240 --> 00:08:42,640 west, and northwest, northeast.

150

00:08:42,640 --> 00:08:46,362 So I was going on with the Russians.

151

00:08:46,362 --> 00:08:48,070 They needed me like a hole in their head.

152

00:08:48,070 --> 00:08:49,820

They didn't have

themselves anything.

153 00:08:49,820 --> 00:08:50,710 And I couldn't walk.

154 00:08:50,710 --> 00:08:56,890 I had to be on a horse-drawn wagon, seated with others.

155 00:08:56,890 --> 00:09:03,580 We came into a small community not far from Auschwitz,

156 00:09:03,580 --> 00:09:10,310 and noontime for the rest.

157 00:09:10,310 --> 00:09:12,820 And there were small narrow streets

158 00:09:12,820 --> 00:09:19,820 so we leaned onto the walls of the houses outside

159 00:09:19,820 --> 00:09:24,860 to take a rest, and have something to eat.

160 00:09:24,860 --> 00:09:25,935 It was sunshine.

161 00:09:25,935 --> 00:09:27,560 Matter of fact, I remember I had to sit

162 00:09:27,560 --> 00:09:32,000 on something because the snow was melting away.

163 00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:35,060 Here after about 5, 10 minutes, we were, well, 164

00:09:35,060 --> 00:09:39,050 sitting on our floor.

165

00:09:39,050 --> 00:09:51,510 Suddenly there was hailing of hot lead, rocks, even axes

166

00:09:51,510 --> 00:09:52,440 from the rooftops.

167

00:09:52,440 --> 00:09:56,050 They were not very high houses.

168

00:09:56,050 --> 00:10:00,480 So the population has attacked us.

169

00:10:00,480 --> 00:10:02,850 And they were also submachine guns.

170

00:10:02,850 --> 00:10:07,100 And a few people were killed.

171

00:10:07,100 --> 00:10:12,260 So I was, with another survivor with me, a Polish fellow,

172

00:10:12,260 --> 00:10:15,380 he probably was 10, 15 years old than me, a seasoned man.

173

00:10:15,380 --> 00:10:21,320 He was in the camps in the first week on.

174

00:10:21,320 --> 00:10:25,970 And the Russian soldiers were somehow surprised

175

00:10:25,970 --> 00:10:30,170 in a captured village,

this to happen.

176

00:10:30,170 --> 00:10:32,150

But he was not.

177

 $00:10:32,150 \longrightarrow 00:10:37,310$ 

So we went into the next

house across the street.

178

00:10:37,310 --> 00:10:40,280

Here we see there was--

179

00:10:40,280 --> 00:10:43,310

that they took off,

middle of lunch.

180

00:10:43,310 --> 00:10:44,420

The soup was still warm.

181

00:10:44,420 --> 00:10:47,210

182

00:10:47,210 --> 00:10:51,380

And we don't find them.

183

00:10:51,380 --> 00:10:54,620

He goes down to the basement.

184

00:10:54,620 --> 00:10:56,340

See, the basement is short.

185

00:10:56,340 --> 00:10:58,790

He sends out somebody

else to measure out

186

 $00:10:58,790 \longrightarrow 00:11:00,250$ 

the length of the house.

187

00:11:00,250 --> 00:11:03,380

So we saw that the basement

was cut about half.

188

00:11:03,380 --> 00:11:05,085 And there was straw at the end.

189

00:11:05,085 --> 00:11:05,960 Pulled out the straw.

190

00:11:05,960 --> 00:11:08,740 There he found a family.

191

00:11:08,740 --> 00:11:12,050 Of course, we had to shoot them because they all

192

00:11:12,050 --> 00:11:13,750 had ammunition.

193

00:11:13,750 --> 00:11:16,870 And this has been a very bad scene.

194

00:11:16,870 --> 00:11:21,340 I am-- to kill was terrible.

195

00:11:21,340 --> 00:11:27,580 So from then on, every uniformed Pole or German--

196

00:11:27,580 --> 00:11:30,910 we came across mostly Germans.

197

00:11:30,910 --> 00:11:31,630 This was Monday.

198

00:11:31,630 --> 00:11:35,530 We shot them as much as we could.

199

00:11:35,530 --> 00:11:39,460 I just want you to back up and tell me about taking revenge

200

00:11:39,460 --> 00:11:41,170 and how you feel about it.

201

00:11:41,170 --> 00:11:43,930

202

00:11:43,930 --> 00:11:46,210 I get asked the question whether I have

203

00:11:46,210 --> 00:11:49,690 any hatred toward the Germans.

204

00:11:49,690 --> 00:11:52,150 Hatred is not something I'm going

205

00:11:52,150 --> 00:11:54,760 to accomplish anything with.

206

00:11:54,760 --> 00:11:57,070 And what does it matter to the German?

207

00:11:57,070 --> 00:11:59,800 They take comfort, and probably enjoys

208

00:11:59,800 --> 00:12:04,810 the spoil of Jewish properties, that I'm hating him.

209

00:12:04,810 --> 00:12:06,340 I'm going to destroy myself.

210

00:12:06,340 --> 00:12:07,660 Nothing to them.

211

00:12:07,660 --> 00:12:09,580 But I am more rational about it.

212

00:12:09,580 --> 00:12:12,550

I will not buy German goods.

213

00:12:12,550 --> 00:12:14,710 I will not go vacation in Germany.

214

00:12:14,710 --> 00:12:17,890

215

00:12:17,890 --> 00:12:20,020 I will not sponsor their events.

216

00:12:20,020 --> 00:12:23,980

217

00:12:23,980 --> 00:12:31,870 That's what I will, as far as my not compensating the Germans

218

00:12:31,870 --> 00:12:34,020 or not helping them.

219

00:12:34,020 --> 00:12:37,830 But hate, what do I accomplish by that?

220

00:12:37,830 --> 00:12:39,640 What do I accomplish by that?

221

00:12:39,640 --> 00:12:43,080 If I could say that America produces a better car,

222

00:12:43,080 --> 00:12:47,010 then I would surely go out and tell everybody to buy it.

223

00:12:47,010 --> 00:12:50,430 I mean, even now, I tell people, aren't you ashamed

224

00:12:50,430 --> 00:12:53,640

your father was killed in Auschwitz and you,

225

00:12:53,640 --> 00:12:56,910 or whoever it is, and you buy a Mercedes.

226

00:12:56,910 --> 00:12:59,490 Why don't you buy an American car?

227

00:12:59,490 --> 00:13:01,790 I, to that extent, yes.

228

00:13:01,790 --> 00:13:03,540 People say they go to vacation in Germany.

229

00:13:03,540 --> 00:13:06,292 I said, have you vacationed in America?

230

00:13:06,292 --> 00:13:09,870 Do you know how many nice scenes there are here?

231

00:13:09,870 --> 00:13:12,000 To that extent, but I don't hate.

232

00:13:12,000 --> 00:13:14,430 I don't carry on a grudge.

233

00:13:14,430 --> 00:13:15,840 No.

234

00:13:15,840 --> 00:13:19,170 And I tell you something very foolish on my part.

235

00:13:19,170 --> 00:13:22,110 I didn't even claim for years any restitution

236 00:13:22,110 --> 00:13:25,110 that I'm entitled to.

237

00:13:25,110 --> 00:13:29,040 I'm a 65% invalid.

238

00:13:29,040 --> 00:13:31,650 But then finally, I did because I figured,

239

00:13:31,650 --> 00:13:33,040 what am I going to do?

240

00:13:33,040 --> 00:13:34,050 Am I going to defy them?

241

00:13:34,050 --> 00:13:36,120 They will get the profit of it.

242

00:13:36,120 --> 00:13:40,740 Today I'm getting a very big pension, about \$300 a month.

243

00:13:40,740 --> 00:13:43,590 Of course, the Nazis as you know,

244

00:13:43,590 --> 00:13:45,870 get considerably bigger pensions.

245

00:13:45,870 --> 00:13:48,030 But hatred, I do not--

246

00:13:48,030 --> 00:13:50,700 I do not hate, no.

247

00:13:50,700 --> 00:13:54,390

00:13:54,390 --> 00:13:57,010 They cannot count on me being their public relations person,

249

00:13:57,010 --> 00:13:57,510

110.

250

00:13:57,510 --> 00:14:01,300

251

00:14:01,300 --> 00:14:04,000 What would you say for those who didn't survive?

252

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:07,970

253

00:14:07,970 --> 00:14:11,300 I know that they have probably have tried more--

254

00:14:11,300 --> 00:14:14,970 as much as me or more, for them.

255

00:14:14,970 --> 00:14:24,030 The only thing I can say for them is what I do every day.

256

00:14:24,030 --> 00:14:27,920 I say the Memorial Prayer for them,

257

00:14:27,920 --> 00:14:31,285 just like they would be my father or brother or sister

258

00:14:31,285 --> 00:14:32,060 or mother.

259

00:14:32,060 --> 00:14:33,560

That's what I would do say for them.

00:14:33,560 --> 00:14:36,150

261

00:14:36,150 --> 00:14:39,200 And another thing what I do say, that we don't

262

00:14:39,200 --> 00:14:41,840 have to cave in for anything.

263

00:14:41,840 --> 00:14:43,730 We have to be alert.

264

00:14:43,730 --> 00:14:46,190 We have to watch out.

265

00:14:46,190 --> 00:14:51,290 Whether it's a Mezger or a Buchanan,

266

00:14:51,290 --> 00:14:55,550 we don't sit there and say, don't rock the boat.

267

00:14:55,550 --> 00:14:57,620 We have to rock the boat.

268

00:14:57,620 --> 00:15:01,390 And not only for us Jews sake alone,

269

00:15:01,390 --> 00:15:04,000 for the rest of the world.

270

00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:07,040 We cannot let these things occur again.

271

00:15:07,040 --> 00:15:11,435 Unless we know it, remember it, and tell it to others, 272

00:15:11,435 --> 00:15:12,880 it is bound to happen again.

273

00:15:12,880 --> 00:15:17,950

274

00:15:17,950 --> 00:15:23,110 People say that Jews went like sheep to the slaughter.

275

00:15:23,110 --> 00:15:25,660 How do you feel about that?

276

00:15:25,660 --> 00:15:28,660 That is utterly ridiculous to say that.

277

00:15:28,660 --> 00:15:33,880 You know, when-first of all, nobody

278

00:15:33,880 --> 00:15:37,030 ever believed this to be possible.

279

00:15:37,030 --> 00:15:39,190 Look, American people, even today--

280

00:15:39,190 --> 00:15:42,070 I'm not talking of the revisionists who say that--

281

00:15:42,070 --> 00:15:49,270 but the good thinking American people It couldn't be possible.

282

00:15:49,270 --> 00:15:54,460 Just the fact to accept it, it is a big order,

283

00:15:54,460 --> 00:15:56,260

to live with that.

284

00:15:56,260 --> 00:15:59,970 They did not go [INAUDIBLE].

285

00:15:59,970 --> 00:16:04,020

We were not trained to kill, true.

286

00:16:04,020 --> 00:16:08,370 Would we have had some leadership who

287

00:16:08,370 --> 00:16:13,920 would have made this more plausible to tell us,

288

00:16:13,920 --> 00:16:19,350 we would have acted differently, It's always hindsight.

289

00:16:19,350 --> 00:16:21,210 But we didn't go with--

290

00:16:21,210 --> 00:16:29,270 you have no idea what resistance there was, even in the ghettos.

291

00:16:29,270 --> 00:16:33,980 I mean, I remember in our own town, some of the gendarmerie

292

00:16:33,980 --> 00:16:36,560 were attacked.

293

00:16:36,560 --> 00:16:38,900 But what good was it?

294

00:16:38,900 --> 00:16:41,510 They outnumbered us by the thousands.

295

00:16:41,510 --> 00:16:43,440 It was not only the uniformed.

296

00:16:43,440 --> 00:16:46,340 Unfortunately, the population as well.

297

00:16:46,340 --> 00:16:50,480 The people who lived next door who

298

00:16:50,480 --> 00:16:55,280 have profited by living with us, and been friends just

299

00:16:55,280 --> 00:16:58,320 for that little bit of whatever the Jews still had,

300

00:16:58,320 --> 00:17:01,210 they were happy to have him being deported.

301

00:17:01,210 --> 00:17:05,480 So we were outnumbered one to thousands.

302

00:17:05,480 --> 00:17:10,130 That was really very little we could do.

303

00:17:10,130 --> 00:17:15,460 And even so, some of the ghettos,

304

00:17:15,460 --> 00:17:17,470 when they came to radio stations,

305

00:17:17,470 --> 00:17:19,660 they threw Molotov cocktails.

306

00:17:19,660 --> 00:17:21,025

This was sure that.

307

00:17:21,025 --> 00:17:24,010

I mean, sheep--

308

00:17:24,010 --> 00:17:25,630

I mean, I heard that.

309

00:17:25,630 --> 00:17:29,140

And I have said it before,

I was in Vietnam in '60.

310

 $00:17:29,140 \longrightarrow 00:17:32,010$ 

Our ambassador,

Mr. Nolte, I don't

311

00:17:32,010 --> 00:17:33,260

know how he became ambassador.

312

00:17:33,260 --> 00:17:35,330

Although he tells me,

he asked me, he says,

313

 $00:17:35,330 \longrightarrow 00:17:37,690$ 

how come that you

were herded as sheep,

314

00:17:37,690 --> 00:17:40,330

let yourself being herded

as sheep in the cattle

315

00:17:40,330 --> 00:17:43,540

carts to being flushed out.

316

00:17:43,540 --> 00:17:46,240

So I asked him,

I said, how come?

317

00:17:46,240 --> 00:17:48,885

America, with all

its mighty power,

00:17:48,885 --> 00:17:50,510 American soldiers are killed every day.

319

00:17:50,510 --> 00:17:51,970 What are you doing?

320

00:17:51,970 --> 00:17:55,580 He said, I never thought about it that way.

321

00:17:55,580 --> 00:18:03,270 I think we were much more courageous with no means

322

00:18:03,270 --> 00:18:05,890 than any other people would be.

323

00:18:05,890 --> 00:18:07,660 But we are not.

324

00:18:07,660 --> 00:18:11,290 But the fact is that we really did not have any ammunition.

325

00:18:11,290 --> 00:18:12,520 Nobody behind us.

326

00:18:12,520 --> 00:18:16,667 Even when you know about the case of partisan,

327

00:18:16,667 --> 00:18:19,000 the partisans themselves, the Jewish partisans that they

328

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:23,840 destroyed, they wanted to take the credit for it.

329

00:18:23,840 --> 00:18:27,700 And so therefore, with what we did not have,

330 00:18:27,700 --> 00:18:33,640 we did more than people who have with what to do it.

331 00:18:33,640 --> 00:18:38,680 So that is a very, very wrong concept

332 00:18:38,680 --> 00:18:42,200 and nobody should think along those lines.

333 00:18:42,200 --> 00:18:49,720 Because it's really to defame the atrocities what took place.

334 00:18:49,720 --> 00:18:52,120 I don't think so.

335 00:18:52,120 --> 00:18:53,980 We can't even use that word.

336 00:18:53,980 --> 00:18:56,890 I know it has it's use by fine people.

337 00:18:56,890 --> 00:18:59,716

338 00:18:59,716 --> 00:19:02,010 When we went back to our hometown,

339 00:19:02,010 --> 00:19:05,290 3 and 1/2 years ago, the people said,

340 00:19:05,290 --> 00:19:07,140 why didn't you burn down the city? 00:19:07,140 --> 00:19:09,640 They wouldn't have known.

342

00:19:09,640 --> 00:19:12,450 I told them, I said, what would you have done?

343

00:19:12,450 --> 00:19:16,230 These were boys my age, non-Jewish boys

344

00:19:16,230 --> 00:19:17,840 from my hometown.

345

00:19:17,840 --> 00:19:19,350 I said, what would you have done?

346

00:19:19,350 --> 00:19:22,150 I said that you came back from the churches, Sunday

347

00:19:22,150 --> 00:19:25,200 always, with great hatred, as though best thing you could do,

348

00:19:25,200 --> 00:19:29,610 even the good days, is break the Jewish home windows.

349

00:19:29,610 --> 00:19:32,463 You know, it's nice to say that, but I

350

00:19:32,463 --> 00:19:34,380 asked him what would you have done if it would

351

00:19:34,380 --> 00:19:37,074 have been the opposite way.

352

00:19:37,074 --> 00:19:39,090 And you know what

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his answer was?

353

00:19:39,090 --> 00:19:41,490 I have a penknife in my pocket.

354

00:19:41,490 --> 00:19:42,600 You see this?

355

00:19:42,600 --> 00:19:44,418 It is 50 years old.

356

00:19:44,418 --> 00:19:45,960 And what would you have done with it?

357

00:19:45,960 --> 00:19:49,220

358

00:19:49,220 --> 00:19:52,980 I don't think so that any of the writers,

359

00:19:52,980 --> 00:19:56,820 or anybody who said that is even aware of it, what he says.

360

00:19:56,820 --> 00:20:03,420

361

00:20:03,420 --> 00:20:06,470 OK, thank you very much.

362

00:20:06,470 --> 00:21:13,000