

--with a little small pool. You stepped into the pool before you went in because they had the disinfectant over there. You walked in.

It was burning because most of us had-- what do you call-- boils or cut feet. That's nothing. Here come with hot water. You hardly could stand it. The [? buoy ?] was going over our faces and our bodies, cold water.

You went into another barrack. And they gave you clothes. And I remember like today. They gave me a jacket I could go around five Mikes. OK. They gave me the jacket, OK, with the pants.

They gave me civilian shoes. Some of them got wooden shoes. They were the Holland shoes. I had the civilian shoes.

We walked in to another camp, not knowing where the camp is all about, what we called the quarantine camp. As we walked into the quarantine camp, we were waiting. You had to stretch out your arm. As you stretched out your arm, they gave you a number, a tattoo number. They give you the tattoo number.

And as they gave me my tattoo number, B4990, the SS man came to me. And they says to me, do you know what this number all about? I said no, sir. OK, let me tell you now.

You are being dehumanized. And you a number. Still don't know what he was talking about. OK, I still don't know. OK?

And I was waiting and waiting, waiting for my other friends to come. They went through the same procedure, no difference. But answer to go over the other side to the sauna, what they call it-- Kanada. They went into-- there were four buildings over there, crematorium 1, 2, 3, and 4, 4 buildings.

They were pushed in, up to 1,500 people, with a towel and soap. The door closed behind them. Instead water to come out from the shower heads, a Zyklon B [INAUDIBLE] choking poison. How do I know? Because I was very, very interested to be in the underground again.

I was interested in everything. Because I knew someday I'm going to be free. I always believed that someday I'm going to be free. And I were the moment I'm going to be free, I will never stop talking about the Holocaust.

I will never try to tell people what one human could do to the other. That we must know about it. We cannot be any more caught off guard, like we, the 6 million Jewish people, were caught off guard in Europe. So long as we know about it, I believe we will never let it happen again. If we say to ourselves no, silence and complacency is the biggest killer.

I was told later by the sonderkommando, when they opened the door, she asked them questions. Most of the people were pushing themselves to the corners, hoping they can have pockets of air in the corner. And the most of the people were scattered around to cover the small little children, hoping they can breathe longer. They had to go in with axes and separate them, one by one.

As they brought them out, they looked into their mouths. If they had gold teeth, the gold teeth were knocked out. If they couldn't, they ripped out the jaws. And all the women's hair was cut off. That's what's going in day in and day out.

In a barrack, I used to-- over there after the quarantine, they took me into a camp, what they called a camp D, the working camp. They put us in a barrack, up to 1,500 people, built for 60 horses. Was a long stove going through the barrack. Was never heated in winter.

In the morning, we used to get up two or three hours before work. On the roll call, we were standing over there. And the SS man, every barrack used to be 30 barracks. Every barrack-- I mean 20 barracks, used to be.

Every barrack is to have a own commandant, an SS man. And every barrack is to have a Blockalteste with the schreiber.

That the mean the secretary. And they work in the barrack, prisoners, only one commander.

Used to come, used to go up and down, look in your eyes. They like your look, took off your number. You went to work. At night, they call your number. They took you out, you never returned.

In the morning, we used to get a little bit, slice of bread, with ersatz kaffee, a synthetic coffee. We went by to work by orchestra. We came home by orchestra. People were tortured by orchestra.

Everything by the best musicians in Europe because when they said you want to take with you what you can carry, this mean the musician would take his instrument. Or she would take the instrument. You know, they brought to camp, they knew pretty close who was a good musician, what he played, and everything, that they used to play.

Lunchtime, we got a little bit soup. Evening, the same thing. That tired, working 10 hours, 12 hours a day, beaten, kicked. Come back to, went to the bed, sleeping on bunks, 4, 5, 6, 7 people, small bunks, wooden bunks.

We used to have a blanket. We used to call, we used to pull one, each other off. You tried to pull one each other off.

Roll call again. Everybody goes down from both sides of the of the barracks, standing half asleep, dead tired, not knowing what's going on. The SS man comes in, make selections.

Two hours later, everybody goes back to bed. Two hours later, he calls the number. Goes out, never returns.

Because new transports used to come in day in, day out. 1944, when the last solution of the Jewish people, they used to burn. Is unbelievable when gas between 10 and 15,000 people a day. Small little kids to save 100th of a penny, that's what I believe. They didn't want to put into the gas chambers. They put throw them into the pits, the big pits, to burn them in the pits because the crematoriums couldn't burn as fast.

One night, being in the underground, I come back. Maybe you're going to ask me the question what the underground used to do in Auschwitz. Maybe I told you on my own.

I heard the orchestra playing. Children are singing and dancing. I went to the back door and looked out, put out my head very-- not too much. Because the searchlight used to go on all over the barracks. And the machine guns used to be pointed.

And if they see, they took out the head. They get you. They can cut you off pretty quickly because you don't know when he pulls the trigger.

I heard singing and dancing and screaming and yelling. See, I could take a stone and throw to the crematoriums, camp D, so close. When the wind was blowing the wrong way, you could smell, you know, the odor.

People screaming and yelling. What happened, I found out, that the children were singing and dancing while their mothers and their fathers and their brothers and sisters are burning alive. When the pits quiet down, they were pushed in, too.

That's what we have to live, day in and day out. It's hard to believe it. Again and again, I will mention what one human could do to the other. And that's what I had to live, day in and day out, over there.

I was working in the [NON-ENGLISH], what we call a scrapyard where the planes used to come in. And we used to take them apart, the aluminum, the copper wiring, the steel.

What planes are you talking about?

The German planes were shot down. They used to take them apart, the aluminum, the copper, and the steel, and would load them on different cars and send them back to the mills to be remelted again to make new aluminum, new steel.

And I was working a kommando, the one Jewish guy, 28 Russian officers, and the kapo and Austrian German.

That's a group that you worked with?

Yes.

In the camp?

In the camp, yeah, on the C Lager [INAUDIBLE]. You see, we used to go up to 1,500 people. But everybody had a different kapo. And they had a little tent outside.

I pushed in the-- I was chosen to be a ranger master. This means I used to drive the train with the air force men. It was an air force man. And sometime he drive and I used to uncouple, you know, to set the different cars on different railroad stations.

Yeah.

And then they asked me once, the Russian guys, why were Russians over there? They ran away from a prison camp and they were caught, they were sent to Auschwitz from lieutenants to what is next to a general. The generals didn't go to work. You could see the generals with their long coats with all their medals, the Russian generals with the beard and camp. They never went to work, but they went to war.

And they used to always ask me, when you're pushing in the planes, before you're going to push in I have to check the airplanes, you know, shut down airplanes. And they say, if you see some guns in the front wings, tell us. I said oh, yes. This car got the guns. This car got guns.

And I didn't know what it's all about. Right? I didn't want to know what it's all about.

One day, right before lunchtime, I walked into the tent. And I see the Russians with the kapo, with the German kapo sitting over there. And all the- closed. And I could see a gun.

What they did, they took out the machine guns. They were so good, they was to make small little guns for them. With-- they do the something.

And they say come on. You're part of us. I start to get scared. I say what do you mean? I say we're building guns and be sending over to the sonderkommando. The sonderkommando was the special commander working-- and the prisoners working in the crematoriums and the gas chambers.

OK? I'm part of them, I'm part of them. I can do nothing about it.

And what they said to me, OK, you're going to be a leader of a group. And I was a leader [INAUDIBLE]. What happened is if you were a leader or you were, I know you. But I didn't know your people.

God forbid, if we're caught, you made us a promise, you know? We get caught, we're not going to talk. But on the stress and on the beating, people will talk. OK? And we used to bring in guns, put in the loaf of bread, thrown over over there.

One day I was chosen to bring in a gun. But we used to put between the legs. Because we used to have what we called filzen, searching. We used to come into camp, used to be searching. You know, people used to be organizing things.

And I wasn't worrying too much carrying the gun because I knew something is going to happen. When I came close to me, a bunch of groups from the other side pushed us over there from this side. As they pushed us in, was a big turmoil, you know? And they were beating with the whips.

Now at this time, I sneaked to the other side, turned back. And they know I'm on the other side. Everything quiets down. They took the gun. They threw over.

Today's the 10th of the month, right? The 7th day, 10th of the month, nobody, not too many people talk about, not too much is written about. Supposed to start the uprising, the 8th, but start the 7th.

Crematoria number two found out that they are going to go this night to the gas chambers. You know, they used to change them very often. After two or three months, they used to bring in new people. And they start the uprising the day before.

How they did? They wanted had guns. Working the crematoriums and the gas chambers, people brought from the ghettos the gold watches and other things, right? And they went to the to the lookout tower, the [GERMAN] we used to call, say hey, I got a big watch. Why don't you come down, have it?

He said throw it up. I say I throw up the watch, it's going to break. He came down. As he came down with the machine gun, they put a knife in him. And they got machine guns, a few of them.

You never saw a big fight. We were surrounded completely, Auschwitz and Birkenau. And we didn't have the main uprising in Auschwitz and in Birkenau. We had an uprising in Birkenau. And I think I had part of it because with the guns.

We knew exactly what's going on. They used to make pictures and send out. And maybe you heard about it. They caught the women. The Polish women used to work as a cleaning woman or something. They caught the two underground people with her.

When we came into camp in Birkenau, we saw the gallows set up. The orchestra's playing. And everybody getting a slice of bread. And I took a look at them. I said they didn't talk. If they would have talked, more people would save the gallows.

As you walked by, [GERMAN] with the eyes to your right. Everybody had to take a bite and look to the right. When you looked at those people, you could not believe it how tortured they were.

You could see their nails were ripped off. The ears were cut. The mouth, the tongue was hanging out. They did not talk.

See, we promised. I'm sure they were tortured to death. But they did not talk. Thank God they didn't talk.

And that's what I live day in and day out in Auschwitz-Birkenau. It's people died, you know, in the thousands. It's unbelievable. They tortured people.

Didn't want to-- what do you call it-- take suicide. They went to the electrified barbed wire. This was the easiest death. I had friends. I used to beg them not to.

They used to sit down with the dead people. Anybody who died, we put them outside. And they didn't take them away the first day. They kept them for three or four days.

They sit down to die over there. Come in and say what for, Mike, why? But they die an easy death than to go on to be tortured and to be killed. Sure, I used to be beaten. I used to get whips. Had to count it.

Had a friend, he was caught. Maybe he stole a potato or do something. And they took him out. I can see the picture right now. They gave him 45. And everybody had to watch from the barrack.

He counted 43. I guess he forgot himself. He went to 42. He had to start again. But he was silent.

They were laughing, joking. Put cold water on his back. Beat him again. The back opened already pretty good.

They say he's going to scream now. They put pepper and salt. He start to scream.

He silenced again, walked away. And we grabbed him and brought him into the barrack. We washed him out, the salt and pepper and everything. We thought everything is going to be fine.

But two hours later, he wasn't anymore with us. That's what we had to live, day in and day out. It's hard for people to imagine. It's hard for people to grasp.

How did I survive? I was a dreamer, a fantasizer. I tried to make myself make human. Of course, they said I'm not.

I saw birds flying in to camp. I can see it right now I'm talking to you. I am in Birkenau, laying on the bunk. I could see birds flying in and picking on the ground. And I said to myself, what they can pick on the ground that we cannot see it?

And they flew out. And I said why can't I be a bird? And I said to myself Mike, close your eyes and start to fantasize. I closed my eyes, and I was a bird, and I flew out, and I was free.

When I opened my eyes, I was back in the same surroundings. But for the few moments when I was dreaming and fantasizing, I was a free person. I was free. I was somebody again.

Did you ever see so boxcars or railroad cars traveling on the rail? So nice and peaceful, in different direction, nobody is telling them where are you going. They're pulled. Nobody is asking for identification card, no nothing.

And I say to myself, isn't that nice and quiet? Why can't I be a boxcar? I change my sample of plank of wood, be part of the boxcar. And I was traveling again. I was free again.

The most precious thing a person can have or can possess is to be free. Make no difference what you have, how rich and the luxuries you have. When you're not free, you are nothing.

Dreaming and fantasizing, always reminding myself that I'm a person, like anybody else, kept me going. And I always say I never lost my hope, never lost my belief.

When did you actually become free?

May the 5th, 1945.

Can you tell us about that?

Yeah, I'm going to come back in a second. I know the time. But I said I'm going to talk very slowly. And I'm leaving out quite a few things because I don't want to go back.

1945, January the 18th, see I know every date, every part of Auschwitz, every part of Birkenau. Because as I mentioned before, I knew I'm going to be free and I'm going to talk about it. I want to be exact what I'm talking about.

January the 18th, 1945, the Russian army are closing in. They stopped 40 kilometers, 27 miles from Auschwitz. They could walked in with one tank and liberate us.

They gathered us in Auschwitz 1 o'clock in the morning of the 19th. They took us out. And we marching in snow, cold. 35 kilometers a day, no food, no water. I had plenty of water, snow.

We marching, not know where we going. People what could not make it, I can see it now. The people, they're staring at me because they fall back. They lost their wooden shoes in the deep snow, or they couldn't make it, they fall back.

They were shot not with a regular bullet, but with a dum dum bullet, with a shadow bullet. If the person gets shot in their

head, the head will split in dozens of pieces. The side of the roads, I can see it now, was not white. Everything was red.

Finally, we came a destination what I don't know. Was at night. We were packed in in open coal cars.

They threw us in like herring. In a way, it was good. Because we had lots of bodies. It was warm.

And there was snowing. And snow was covering us. And you know when you under snow, it's warm.

We were traveling. They say it's Vienna. You could see the light. We drove up to Linz, Mauthausen.

Came into Mauthausen. We are loaded. Hundreds of people died before they came into Mauthausen because it was a high hill to get up.

Very hard to make it, especially in winter when it's sticky and everything, icy. People ask me today when they go into Mauthausen, how could you walk up? They have to go by car, the second gear.

We came in over there, again, undressed ourselves, went into the sauna, got hot water, cold water, no clothes. Marching into our barracks naked, January. Sleeping in the barrack naked, a room not too big, up to 400 people sleeping like herring one on each other, head to feet. I remember like today.

If you wanted to go, you had to go at night. You had to go. You don't want to.

You had to step on each other. And everybody was screaming, beating, hitting you. Don't step. Because you want to go between the people, OK?

They ask me-- I'm going to leave out a few things-- they ask me what profession I'm now. I say a machinist. They took me down to Gusen. It was a small camp of 7,500 people. Every day used to bring up a transport of 1,000 or 1,500 people.

Every day was the same amount of people. People died. New people came in.

And they put me in to work in a factory building Messerschmitt planes, you know, the big Jager planes. And the factories were built already in the big mountains. Every day we used to get packed in in the railroad cars. And we used to travel. Was too far to travel, they brought us back.

I built a part in the plane what they call the short fender. It was a small, round piece. You know, we had to weld it, you know, electric welding. And I had to make nice three holes. Exactly, it had to be the three holes, because every time it was checked out to the 10th of a millimeter.

And so the three holes, the three wires went back. But the pilot used to control the flaps in the back, slow it down, and everything. But we in the underground are say they're not going to get away with nothing. I was pretty fast to mix up things.

The plane went up. The plane came down. They didn't know what happened. They thought it's something wrong with the aluminum. They used to come and try to test the aluminum. That's what they used to do until the last minute, till May the 5th, 1945.

Well, what were you doing?

I moved a little bit the little hole. When the wire went down, it caught. You could not control fast. You know, it slow them down, maybe they're getting to the thing. You know, it was a thing made that he could not control, the back flaps.

And they made once a film called The Devil's General. And I swear that I told the story, exactly the same thing. I used to tell the story and true story.

You know, maybe the guy heard about it. Don't have to be on the thing. But that's what I did in Gusen, too, exactly, no difference.

My friends, when I got to Israel, or they're in Europe, or someplace in the United States, were with me in camp, they don't call me Mike. They call me partisan. They call me partisan. Everybody will call me partisaner. See, they're calling [INAUDIBLE] because they know. My friends [INAUDIBLE] know that what I was doing, you know.

May the 5th, 1945, looking out through the window, sleeping on my stomach, because it was very hard to sleep on the back because the shoulder blades was sticking out too far on the wooden thing. And I saw things come in with a white star.

And I say to my friends, you see the Germans did? They change from a swastika to a white star. I don't know what a white star means. I don't know what the Americans or anybody else has.

And I'm looking out, again, from the window. I saw some more things coming. But on the side on the roads are marching German soldiers without their weapons.

And my friend say, Mike, why don't you go out and find out? I said, why me? I say you never afraid, do you?

I say OK. I'll go out. I go out and I waved to the tank.

A guy come out from the turret. And I'm scared, you know? Comes out from the turret. And he throw in a small little bar.

And I picked up. It was a bar of chocolate. I grabbed it. I went into the barrack. And I said take a look! Can you imagine they named this little chocolate Herschel?

[LAUGHTER]

I couldn't spell the name Hershey. I said Hershel, OK? It was delicious. It was delicious.

And I looked out, again, to the window. Now we have a guy, a civilian with a Red Cross band with a soldier with a machine gun. And he waves. And everybody is scared to go to the fence.

I said OK, I'm going to go. I went to the fence. The guy tells me, in German, that you are free now. The Americans are over here.

And stay in this camp. Wait over here. We're going to take you back to the main camp of Mauthausen. We're going to give you food and clothing, and so far.

Now this soldier is talking to me. He said what languages do you speak? I say I speak German, I speak Polish, I speak Yiddish, some Hebrew. I say what I can remember in Russian and some other few languages what I can converse.

And he says he speaks Polish and German, too. At the moment he said it, I bet you I turn white like the wall. And I start to move back. And he say come on back. Don't be afraid. I want to talk to you.

I was afraid. When he said you speak German and Polish, that he's a Volksdeutsche born in Poland. You see, any German what was born in Poland, we call him a Volksdeutsche. He said come on back. Don't be afraid.

He says he's an American. He was born in Chicago. His mother is German. His father is Polish. And they spoke in that home this kind of language. And he spoke the same languages.

OK, I came back. I told my friends. I say, you know, we're now free. The Americans are over here. Let's not worry

about it.

They say they're going to come. They're going to take us to Mauthausen. And they're going to give us clothes. We are free people.

I'm sitting over there. And we organize a little bit food. We're sitting around. We're cooking over there and cooking.

Of course, it wasn't kosher. But we killed a pig. And I brought it in. We had a big jar.

We're cooking and cooking. We had a loaf of bread already and it smells good.

Were the guards gone?

Oh, yeah. I'm glad you told me. When the Allies came closer, the main SS people left. They brought in the militia, the 60, 65-year-old, 70-year-old militia with the commandant left over.

I'm glad you asked me about it. When I talk about the Holocaust, you know, sometimes I leave out him because I want to not stay too long. Sorry.

We had a factory in the mountains what was not ready yet. And we were told that two keg of dynamite are put over there. And we said to ourselves, if we have to march over there, we're not going to go.

That's some arguments. The militia commandant and the SS commander had some arguments over there. While they were arguing, the Allies, the Americans came in.

OK, yes, the most of them, 99.9% are left because they didn't want to be caught over there. If they got caught, they're prisoners of the Americans, you know. And they know what's going to happen to them.

And I was sitting there like today, cooking and cooking over there. I say to the German, you know, in a day or two, I'm going to leave camp. I'm not going to go to the main camp. Everybody says, Mike, you're crazy.

And everybody-- smells so good. I'm telling you, it smells good. Get the loaf of bread. Everybody, a small slice of bread I gave everybody.

And they say, Mike, can we dip? I say not yet. It's not ready.

At the moment I looked in in the pot, and I saw this meat is very dark, I took out a piece of meat, I put a piece of paper, and I took the whole top, and I turned over in the ground. And I sit on it. And I was thinking I'm going to burn my butt, you know.

They said what are you doing? You could see their eyes. If the eyes could kill you, they would kill. And I gave everybody a small slice of meat. Say why, Mike? I say I tell you later.

Here comes another friend of mine, smiling and laughing. He says, oh, you don't know how that taste. I say what happened? I asked him.

And he says you caught a chicken. He killed a chicken. He didn't eat the meat. But guess what? He drunk the fat, a whole glassful.

And I said to my friend, I say, I'm not a doctor. He's not going to walk to the main camp next day.

We went next day over there. And I said let's go see where he is. You couldn't come close to his bed. He got the diarrhea. Killed him.



See that's the reason I didn't want you to dip in the fat. And that's the reason I made it dark, the meat. You would thank me about it. I said, oh, yes.

And we go into the barrack. We left a good friend of mine. Went together to cheder, the Hebrew school, to school, to the ghetto, to the camp. And he comes in, [PERSONAL NAME], he comes to me smiling and laughing. Mike, we are free. We can go home.

I say yes, we are free. Home, I don't know. And he says, Mike, I don't feel good.

He fall on my hand. I picked him up. You know, like a chicken dies? Throws the head over?

He passed out. He died. Put him in, back in bed and left him over there. I don't know what happened to him.

The parents were liberated, were in Russia. They live in Canada. And I told them what happened to him. OK?

I was 19 and a half years old. I weighed 70 pound, weighed by the Red Cross, 70 pound. And I said to my friends, we are leaving tomorrow.

They say Mike, we are not. I say fine, you don't. I ask my friend what lives now in New Jersey, are you going with me. He says, Mike, yes. I went. We're through.

And I saved his life. Went through. I'm going with you. And I say how about you, three people? We are sleeping five people in the same bunk. We were eight, but three persons died.

I says no might in the world can keep me in this camp anymore. They told me I'm free. I was waiting for 5 and 1/2 years to hear this beautiful song, the beautiful melody that I'm free. I'm walking out from this camp. No camps for me anymore.

Finally, next day, we walked out from this camp. As I walked out, on the other side of the barbed wire I stopped. And I looked. Nobody is waiting for me.

Nobody's welcome me. Where do I go? I have no home to go home.

And at this time I said to myself, Mike, don't you ever look back. Think positive and keep going. I kept going. Went into Linz.

And that's when I was liberated by the Americans, May the 5th, 1945. And I was made an honorary member. Now I'm a full-fledged member from the from the 11th Army Division, sorry, the 11th Army Division. Was liberated concentration camp.

I was invited a few months ago to Hot Springs, Arkansas, to be the main speaker of the banquet because I was always talking about them. And they say they feel one thing they feel sorry, the guy what I talk to, the guy what liberated me, and the people what liberated me was 20 of them, passed away.

They remember this episode, what I used to talk about. That's what they found out about me, about the boxcar, and so forth. That's they found out about me.

And I always said to myself in camp that one day I'm going to be free. And the time will come. I will try to build a center, not a memorial stone, but a center that people can come, learn from the past to look into the future. This should never happen again. As children, young, or old can come to the center and touch it and feel it and walk out and see what one human could do to the other.

My speaking to you over here or sharing my experience, it's not for me. I went through. It's for the future generations that they can listen and look at it, look at a living survivor. Because I'm not going to be over here all the time. Someday

I will have to go.

They can say yes. That's a survivor. He's telling the story, what one human could do to the other. Should never let them happen again.

That's my children and my grandchildren, my grand-grandchildren should not go through the horrors and should be left to see what their parents or their grandparents should go through, as they should not go out from this memorial center for Holocaust Studies in Dallas.

That's why you are responsible partially for helping The Holocaust Center be built here in Dallas.

That's correct. I was partially responsible and also I was partially responsible to organize in 1977 the Holocaust survivors in Dallas and the second generation in Dallas. Because I believe that Holocaust survivors should come out from the woodworks and tell the story, not hold inside.

If they do hold inside, they do a disservice not to themselves, but to their loved ones, what they died. Innocent people died. They don't want to tell the story.

How did you get to Dallas?

I applied to go to the United States. And when I got the papers to the United States, to come to the United States, to go to New York, most of the Jewish people went to New York. When I went through the last DP person, display person, last office what the guy puts the stamp on it, when he looked over my papers-- and I was very active. I was active from the first day I was liberated from concentration camp. I start to organizing people.

I was the first guy to go into Linz, the main city, and put a little sign. Anybody what was born in Poland sign in. And people came in. We don't want the sign. We don't want, again, people know where we are.

I say it's not the purpose. The purpose is because if you signed in over here, and somebody other comes in and signs in and sees your name, maybe it can be your father or your brother. Because you don't know.

I got a cousin. I was with a cousin in Mauthausen. And I didn't know he was in Mauthausen. Can you imagine? I did not know because it was different camps, different barracks.

Mhm.

As we signed in, and lots of people find themselves. Cousins or friends find themselves. Right away to organize the things over there, organized-- when-- how I come to the United States, OK.

And he looked at the papers when I was organizing sport clubs. I went back to school and I got my physical education papers. And I was the youngest member of the [PERSONAL NAME] Jewish display persons in Munich on the physical education association. And they sent me around from city to city, from camp to camp to organize sports clubs, to develop back the bodies and tell them how important it is to have the exercise and to build up the body again.

And he looked at it. He says you're not going to go to New York. I said, oh, my God. He's going to take me off the transport, you know.

He says when you go to New York, you're going to come into a forest of trees. You're being single, not knowing nobody, you're going to get lost. You never will come out.

I didn't understand what he meant. That you're going to come into a lot of, millions of people, and you're not going to know nobody. You're going to get lost.

I'm going to send you to the biggest country in the United States, Texas. Country? Is there a country in the United

States? And he started to laugh.

He said the biggest state in the United States. You're going? I said what's the difference, OK?

He called in there a Jewish lady, what she was in charge of the case. She was a caseworker. He says I want to change his papers for Texas.

She said we cannot do it. They said oh, yes, you can. You need more favors from me, he says, than I need from you.

OK, I went back and I say nothing. Two weeks later, I get my papers, Dallas, Texas. And everybody were laughing. Mike, you're going to Texas? You're crazy.

You see? They have no streets over there. Everything is dirt. The cowboys, they're killing each other. And

And I have the joke. Well, I'll say I'll be a cowboy, too, you know? I'll buy me a horse. And I'll go on the horse with guns and do the same thing.

I came to the Jewish families, the Jewish federation. See, every city had to take in so many people, so many singles and so many married people. And I'm sure they had an opening over here in Dallas. And they sent me to Dallas.

Thank you, Mr. Taylor. They didn't send me to New York. They sent me to Dallas.

Because when I came into Dallas, I finally realized it. When I looked at people working, wearing the big hats, that he was a Texan. I know the name was Taylor. I say-- now I say where are you, Mr. Taylor? Thank you.

He sent me to Texas. And I'm glad he did send me to Dallas, Texas. That's when I came to Dallas, Texas, to the Jewish federation, auspices, you know, Dallas, Texas.

But you didn't know what had happened to your own family?

No, I never-- I didn't know what had happened. I only find out later on they went to Treblinka. I never knew about it.

And I tell you only one thing I remember, I was sleeping on the [INAUDIBLE]. And I found out that my brother was still with me. And this was one night I couldn't stop crying. I knew I would never see him. I never cried since.

I was asked, and this would be important to you, I was always asked do I have dreams. Yes, I had dreams. I had dreams fighting the SS.

But when I woke up, I never came out a loser, always a winner. And I think that's the reason, one of the reasons that I can speak very freely, not to hesitate, not to go through to relive my experience. And also, I had a very, very close family at home, very, very strong family togetherness. And my family now is built the same way.

Very close?

Very close.

I want to ask you one more question. I know that we're--

Go ahead.

--running out of time. You have a scar on the left side of your face.

The scar, I was beaten. I was hit.

Can you tell me about that?

Yeah, it was a guy, an SS man. He spoke better Yiddish than I spoke. He was a Volksdeutsche from Lodz, Litzmannstadt.

He was a dorozka driver. This mean he was a kutscher. This mean he was driving a little thing taking people to the railroad station. What do you call it in English? He had a--

Taxi?

Like a taxi, but a horse wagon.

Oh, yeah.

OK. He used to take it, no? And lots of organizing was going on in Auschwitz, dealing and wheeling with the gold and other things. And I saw him walk. You know, I could feel he's walking behind me.

And I went on the engine. I figured when I come to [INAUDIBLE], I woke up. He can do nothing to me. As I put my step, my foot on the steps, here goes [WHISTLES] the whip. And didn't say another word.

I went to engine to start. And here is the air force person, too, over there. I didn't say a word.

I look back. I want to see everything is free. I say, hey, take a look what happened. What's happened?

And I guess I was smarter than he was. I say I slipped and I hit my face. I think if I would have say he did it, I wouldn't be over here to tell you the story.

The first thing what I did I moved away my blood from my eye. I closed this eye. And I looked at it. And I say oh, I got my eye. Everything is OK.

But walking in with open wounds to camp is dangerous. Because every night you walk in from work, the orchestra was playing. The SS man was staying in front of the gate. Look at you, they put the point, you know, the same number you had on your hand you had on your coat or on your shirt.

And they put up the number, you went to camp. And at night, they call your number, you never returned.

I'm bleeding. I have to stop my bleeding. I start to get you know, [INAUDIBLE]. Is that what do you call it?

Mhm.

OK.

Clotted?

Yeah, clotted, yeah. And I went to a friend of mine. I said look, you have to do something. He was a feldsher. You know what a feldsher means?

No.

A feldsher means he could, in Poland, you could go and he was an apothecary.

A pharmacist?

A pharmacist. But he could prescribe some medicine. I said why can't you do something? He said Mike, I cannot.

I said I'll tell you something. I got aluminum over here. I'm going to make six clamps. I made me six clamps. You can see the little holes over here, three over here, three over there, with sharp points. And I said go ahead and do it.

I said Mike, you cannot. Say at least show me what it is. He was showing me. And I was clamping.

And at this time, I said to my friends, all my friends, this is my last walk. I know. Because every day you went in to camp, the most every day, the most every day they had selections.

But somebody upstairs had to look over me. Was no selection tonight when I walked in. I say it's going to be tomorrow. Was no selection tomorrow, the day after tomorrow.

Because the crematoriums were burning so busy, they didn't select any more of us over there. And that's why I'm over here. That's where I got the scar.

I got quite a few. I got the scar over here, too, were beaten. I was beaten.

But I never gave up. Why are we going to end? Maybe you're going to incorporate later on. I'm sure that it's going to be edited.

I used to work different works, different jobs. I can remember like today I was working on the road to take big rocks and make small rocks. I took the hammer. We were breaking it. We had no gloves for bleeding.

And you had to make a pile of rocks so big that's-- what you call it a--

Gravel?

Huh?

Gravel?

No, we made the rocks. But you had to put a big pile. You had to measure. And they had to put every day.

And you had friends all sitting over here breaking rocks. I build roads. I build railroads, everything. And here the SS man was up down, or he had a bad night, or he had a bad day. I don't know.

And I can see people getting whipped with a bullwhip. You know you got two kinds. We used to call it spaghetti whip and used to call it bullwhip. You know, the spaghetti whip we saw over there at the memorial center. You see what I brought back.

He gets beaten. Boy, I could hear. He passed me by. And he gets beaten. And I'm waiting that I will get the whip, get the whip. And I don't know what happened.

Next day, the same guy, I don't know. Now he's not. He's shooting people. I can see it right now.

See, I'm bending down, like I would be over there. This guy, my friend got shot, falls over. Looks with the eyes at me, dead, open eyes. I'm waiting to get the bullet.

He passed me by. He gets the bullet. And I'm waiting.

Till today, I cannot figure out why he didn't shoot me. Till today, I can say only one thing. Somebody upstairs had to look over me all the times. God wanted me to be alive and tell the story.

Because as I walked out from this camp, May the 5th-- when I was liberated, I guess May the 8th I walked out-- at this

time I said to myself I will never stop talking, if people want to listen to me or Not I have told people if they listen for five minutes, they walk away, I accomplished five minutes. And I never stopped.

Because it's very close to me. Again, there's people should know about it. This generation and generations to come. It should never happen again.

I don't want the people here in the United States, what they say was no Holocaust, hundreds of books are written about there was no Holocaust. The Holocaust is a hoax. Auschwitz is a myth. Was never Auschwitz.

Those people what they come out and tell this story or write about the Holocaust was no Holocaust was a hoax, those are the most dangerous people walking in this United States. Because those people want you and the future generation to believe that was not happening. That it was not true.

And again, these people be caught off guard. God forbid if those people get the power. They would do exactly the same thing, maybe worst.

We must know. We must remember. We must not forget. We must always say in our mind it can happen again. We must not be indifferent. I don't care.

That's the biggest thing what Hitler could go on. Because 69% of the German people were indifferent. 21% were uncertain. Only 5% of Hitler, his Nazi machinery, and their collaborators were for atrocities and genocide. And 5% were against it. The 69% that were indifferent give the power to do what he wants to do.

And I don't want to stop you from telling your story, but we're going to have to stop the interview because we've--

OK. Go ahead.

--exceeded our time probably already. And I'm glad that you are here to tell the story and that you shared this with us today.

I'm very glad to be over here. And I hope, again, there's more the Holocaust survivors, the Holocaust survivors, the children, second generation, third generation could come up and tell the story of where they came from and exactly what happened in their own words. They should never break the chain, the past with the future. We must keep it together.

I agree with you. And that's a good place to stop for today.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you very much.

Thank you.