

Good afternoon. My name is Abraham Kay. Today, we're interviewing Mark Newman, a Holocaust survivor. This project is sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section. Mr. Newman, tell me a little bit about yourself now. Are you married?

I am married. I got three children. My wife's name is Margaret Newman. And she went through the same what I went through.

What was her name before you were married?

She was Margaret Yosowitz.

And where is she from?

She is in another town, not Soimy, not too far from Soimy.

In Czechoslovakia?

In Czechoslovakia.

And you, yourself, are from Soimy, Czechoslovakia?

I, myself, am from Soimy, Czechoslovakia.

Can you tell me a little bit about Soimy.

Soimy was a little town. Was there about 20, 25 families.

Of Jewish people?

Of Jewish people?

And about how many people lived there altogether?

All with the Christians, there was about 350 people, 300, about 400 in this whole city.

Now, Mr. Newman, when were you born?

I was born 1908.

And could you describe your family a little bit?

Yeah. When I was in home with my family, my mother and father. And we had-- my mother had seven girls and myself, eight children. So we grown up in this town. My father was a farmer. He had the farm. And we had cows. And we had a lot of field. And after, when I grew up, I start in business with lumber.

Now, your parents' names were?

My father was Nathan Wolf Newman. Nathan Wolf Newman. And my mother is Shaindel, Shaindel-- well, her middle name, you need her maiden name? Freedman. So I was after my mother's name from the beginning. But they didn't want to go to the court. So they made me like I don't have a father.

But after, when I was growing up and I needed my name, my father's name, so I asked my father and mother to come to the court and to make a marriage, marriage like-- well, what their marriage is by a rabbi. So at this time, they didn't

have-- half children was on Freedman, half children was Newman.

Now you had four older sisters.

I had four older sisters, four, five, no four. Four older sisters.

They were Sarah.

Sarah, she was married. She had five children. One son, he survived. He's in Israel.

And my other sister, Basha, she had six children. So two were survived, and the other one, they was killed. And Rivkah, she had three children.

And Hannah, she was not living in Soimy. She was living in another already a bigger town, bigger city. She was already-- and she had two children. They didn't took her the same time when my mother and father and my sisters. The other sisters, they was living in Soimy.

And then you had three younger sisters.

Two younger sisters. Three younger sisters, right-- Dreizel, Rudi, and Hannah-- and Rachel.

Now, what was family life like in Soimy?

Very good. We was like very, very tight each to other one. We helped for what was married. And the husband maybe, he didn't-- couldn't make a better living. Well, we help him. And we help. Everybody made a living-- a living like in town was.

Tell me a little bit about your schooling in Soimy.

In Soimy, I had no school. Just I had private schools. I was learning by rabbis.

How long did you go to--

I was to 14 years. After 14 years, I didn't learn.

And what did you learn when you were in school?

What I learned? Well, just learned a little writing in-- studied, I mean, in Hebrew studying. Like we learned [NON-ENGLISH] and a little Gemera And, well, 14, 15 years, after I helped my parents.

Did you have a synagogue in Soimy?

We had a synagogue.

And--

A little-- next to my house was my father's place.

He owned the building?

Yeah. He didn't own the building. The place, the ground he had. So he donated the ground for the shul. And this already the other people was there, 15 or 20 years, what they put it together. And they helped build up this place, shul. My father had the Torah. And he gave it, this to the shul.

And like this, after I grew up, I was 19 year old. I went away from home. And I been in [NON-ENGLISH] in Czechoslovakia, MoravskÃ; Ostrava.

How far from Soimy?

Oh, this was far. This was-- I traveled with the train. I traveled with the train by from hours, for sure 10 hours. 10 hours the train.

Did you have a rabbi in Soimy?

We didn't have a rabbi.

But the one person who taught you, did he live in Soimy?

Well, no, no. He was not living there all the time. They took like 10 children in this. They hired a rabbi. And he lived with us. I had private rabbi too, to write. I was writing in German and Jewish, Hebrew, in I write Czech. This is what he learned me. I didn't have a school. This time, even when I was born, there in this city was not a school. So I had private.

Did the non-Jews there have a school at all that they went to?

After, there was a school non-Jews, yes.

After when?

After when I was already maybe 12, 13 years old.

It opened up for the first time?

They opened up their school. And before, when I was born, there was Czechoslovakia-- the Austria-Hungary was this time when I was born. It was the First World War. In the First World War, they lost. Then the Czech come in our city. They took over this--

And they opened up a school.

And they opened up a school.

What were your neighbors like? Did you have non-Jewish neighbors at all?

Yeah.

And how did you get along with them?

Very good, yeah. We got along with them, neighbors.

Did you have any friends that you would play with when you were young?

No. Never. I didn't have a friend to-- just I had boys, not Jewish, what I know. And I used to go out, like go out and talk to them. Or I hired them to work something for me. So that's what I had.

Now, you said your father had some farmland.

Right.

And did he have a mineral spring?

Mineral spring we had. We had a mineral spring. We had a mill, water mill. You know what it means? And we had a big truck, big truck. From this, we made a living, my father.

And was your father in the lumber business at all or the wood business?

No. Well, he handled like with everything. Well, he was not special with lumber. I start the lumber business. I start the lumber business.

And when did you start that?

I start in '38, 1938.

Before you moved away from home, while you were still living with your parents, was your family comfortable?

Living?

Mm, hmm.

Yeah. Not very comfortable. We live in a city like everybody. So, well, we tried the best. We tried the best for us.

Well, there was not-- there was not factories. There was nothing to do. People allowed it. They didn't do nothing. So who was in the lumber business, they do it a little bit. And like this he lived.

We had cows. We had horses. And we had farm. And everything growed by us, on our farm.

Now, were there any Zionists in your city?

No.

At all?

No. I had just one friend. He was in another group.

Now, weren't you at some point in a Hachsharah, in a Zionist group?

In Hachsharah.

Where was that?

Moravskã; Ostrava.

All right.

Moravskã; Ostrava.

And that was when you moved away.

When I moved away. This was in 1936.

That you moved away?

Yeah. Well, I was not too long. I was in the Hachsharah for eight months. And then I went with a group to Israel.

When was that?

It was in 1936, '37. Well, my father and mother, they start begging me to come back. So I come back. They didn't want to leave the girls. They didn't want to allow it to go.

Who didn't want to--

My father and mother they didn't allow the girls to go away from home. So they was home. And--

Do you have a picture here of your Hachsharah group?

This is the one.

Why don't you show that to me. This is-- what was the reason for taking this picture? Was this at a wedding?

It was a wedding. It was a wedding. So with the whole group, we took this picture. I'm in the bottom with a friend of mine, Dub. Was my good friend.

And do you remember when that was taken?

And this was taken in which year? I think I write it down on this, no? About '36.

All right. Where did you live in Israel when you were in Israel?

When I was there I was working hard on food. There was nothing like now. Even the war there we didn't have there. So I was working hard.

And the work, for this reason, maybe this reason took me home back. Well, even not, I didn't look on the work too much. Well, I was sorry for my father and mother, and they asked me to come back.

Where-- go ahead, you could put that down now.

So, this picture, to put it down?

Sure. Where in Israel were you.

I was in Haifa.

And what kind of work were you doing there?

Just black work, like digging streets, and all kind of work, all kind of work, hard work.

At home, when you were living with your family, what language did you speak at home?

Yiddish.

And was that what everybody spoke there, all the Jewish?

Yeah. All the kids was speaking Yiddish.

And you said you also-- did you learn German, you said?

Yeah.

And Czech?

And Czech.

And did you learn Hungarian as well?

Hungarian I learned just in the troubles.

How do you remember yourself at that time?

Well, I remember myself they told me everybody knows me. And I was living very well. I was dressed nice. I was going out a lot and spending time, good times.

What were your hopes at that time? Your plans for your life?

I didn't have time to think, to think on nothing, just all the time was trouble. First of all, I've been a soldier in Czechoslovakia. I was 19 years old I've been in the army.

When you were 19?

What? A 19-year-old I was. Well, in 1930, I was in the army, in the Czech army. I was two years in the army.

From 1930 to 1932?

Right.

And what did what was your job in the army?

In the army? Well, like a soldier, anything. I was a soldier, then out, and learned first two months. After the two months, I had a job, a different job.

But I came out for the soldier and the uniforms. And munition, this is what I had a job there. And after the two years I came home. And I start my business again.

And this was the lumber business?

The lumber business. And I started the lumber business. They come in 1938. I have to go back-- well, every-- the second year when I came home from the army, I have to go for 2, 3 weeks back in the army. This was for three years to spend 2, 3 months-- or not three months, but six weeks in the army.

And all the time I start the business. I came home. I start again, start again. And so it was like this.

What kind of business did you have? What did you actually do in the lumber business?

In the lumber business, we used to-- in winter time, we used to-- I don't know what to tell you how this means. I have to go with people. I have to hire people, 100 people, and go out in the-- to cut the lumber down. They work there.

And then we had horses. And they took them out from there, from the hills. And we put it down by the water.

In the summer, we used to took together this lumber together. And the people, not the Jewish people-- they used to do just the other, not Jews, they used to on the water put it down and used to go down with the water by 60 mile on a smaller water, just when it was raining. And then they come in in a bigger water, the Dunaj. And they went up the Hungarian. We sold up to Hungarian.

So you sold the whole tree?

Yeah.

You had people working for you, you said?

Yes.

All right. Did you have Jews working for you or non-Jews? Or--

No, non-Jews. This is not a Jew's work. The Jews didn't work this kind of work. The Jews who was in the business and he hired this non-Jew to work with this.

Well, I was working. I was going in the morning at 4 o'clock with the people out there and to get them the order this and this what they do. And then we had a foreman too. And he was responsible. 4 o'clock I went there and come down around 10 o'clock back home.

And this was your business?

This was my business.

In Soimy, did you ever have anybody who was antisemitic toward you in Soimy?

In that time, well, you hear some time. I didn't hear from this people. What was there, I didn't never-- well, we didn't even know what means antisemitic. They didn't know this. But they was not reading papers. They not reading, no news, no television, no radio. Never they had a radio. So just like this they lived, and they didn't know what it means to be bad with the neighbors.

Now, how about when you moved and you were in the lumber business?

So--

Did you have--

They was working. They was working. And I didn't have trouble with them. I didn't have trouble. If he was a good worker, he get better pay. So he tried to be better. And the foreman, he already know what he do. Well, I tell him what they do, and he do it. He make the order for these people, and he works himself too.

When did you first hear about the Nazis? When do you first remember hearing about them, Nazis?

1928.

'38 or '28?

Well, in '38.

And actually, what did you hear first?

Excuse me. What we heard-- what we heard-- what I heard from the Nazis in 1938, this in Germany start. So we heard what bad is. Well, nobody made this nothing. We didn't make big thing in this. We hear what in Germany is going on. Nobody talk of them from this too much. Nobody.

What did you hear was happening in Germany?

What we hear in Germany is that they rob and they beat up Jews. And they took them away. Nobody find them no more. So this is what we hear.

Other way we couldn't hear nothing, no newspaper. When you want a newspaper, you have to go by 5 miles for a newspaper. They didn't bring our city newspapers.

Now, you were called into the army in 1938? I was calling-- no, in 19-- I was calling when the war started. I was calling to Czechoslovakia.

When was that?

Huh? I believe in 1938.

Was that when Germany took over part of Czechoslovakia?

No, Czechoslovakia was still in-- around the city like was, nothing happened. I think later on, they made-- they make, like say they made an alarm to all people to go to the army, the Czechs. And then vanish. He works with America together. He couldn't work out nothing.

Then the Czechoslovakia part fall apart. And then the Germans coming in there. They took Czechoslovakia. They took Poland.

And I was this time in the army when they fall apart. I went home. And then they start the Hungarian coming in.

When you went home, did you go back to Soimy?

Yeah, I was in Soimy.

Was this after Poland had been invaded? Do you remember?

No, before Poland was invaded.

All right, so this was when the Germans first came into Czechoslovakia.

The Germans come into Czechoslovakia, not there where we lived. There come in the Hungarian. Well, the Germans, they went in Prague. They took Prague. They took the Sudeten [NON-ENGLISH].

Where was Soimy in Czechoslovakia?

You don't find them even on the map. Now, I think they got it.

Where was it? Where was it close to?

Close Munkács. You hear from Munkács? Hear Khust? So this was between Khust and Munkács.

And it was in the Carpathians?

What?

In the Carpathian Mountains?

In the Carpathian. This was in the Carpathian. Soimy was in the Carpathian. Well, we had a little bigger town. But there was already-- there was already a bigger city. I believe there was by 50,000, 50,000 Jews.



And that was called?

In the town, yeah.

What was the name of that town?

Wolowo. Wolowo.

Wolowo?

Yeah.

All right. So you were in the army. And then went back home to Soimy.

Yeah.

And the Hungarians came in?

The Hungarians came in. So they started taking us to the camp, working camp.

Do when that was?

In 1940.

That was already in 1940?

Mm, hmm.

All right. Was when you were back in Soimy, what was life like under the Hungarians?

Was already-- the life was bad already. They start to like what we hear in Germany, in Germany what they do in 1938, they start the Hungarian the same thing. They had jails. They took them in jail and beat them for nothing, the people. And then in 1941, they start taking out the Jews to take them to Poland.

Now, still--

And I was--

Still in 1940, were there Hungarians-- was there Hungarian army in Soimy? Were there troops there?

Was police. Police. And army was not there.

How many police were there?

How many police? Who knows? There was-- I can't tell exactly how many police. There was a lot.

What did you do to make a living then?

I still was in the business.

The lumber business?

Lumber business.

But now in Soimy?

In Soimy.

And still cutting down trees.

Yes. Yes. I left a lot of lumber there at home when they took me already in labor camp. Even when I was in labor camp, I had-- still I had myself very good. I was in 1940 in the labor camp. The name was Kalinczuk in the hills, in hills.

And there, they allowed who is going to give in horses to work. I can be in home. So I give horses to work.

In Soimy still, once the Hungarians were there, did the non-Jews there treat you any differently? Did they change at all toward you?

No, they didn't.

The Czech people.

No, they was OK.

Did any of them try to help in any way?

Oh, to help? They didn't help nothing. They couldn't help nothing. And we didn't need no help from them this time. We didn't need help.

Well, you see, one time I came home in 1940, this was already the Hungarian. And they used to-- we had a Jewish guy. He was on this spring-- on this place what we used to take baths and something like this. How are you call them?

The mineral springs?

Mineral spring. And he was there like a watchman. And when the Hungarian, they come in, and I was coming from labor camp home for vacation, and he made a thing this I am against. Well, he used to take already for his. What he used to make the beds, he used to take the money for him.

I didn't tell him nothing. Well, he tell for the police this I am against. This what he makes. This was already 1941, 1941, not in '40.

And so they took me in 1941. They took me to the police station. And guy, he was like-- he was like here-- he was a bigger guy what he makes ordered in the city, like a mayor. Not like a mayor, he didn't have offices. He didn't have-- well, he had a ward to say.

And he told for the police this, I talk why he-- I don't want him to take Hungarian people to give them beds. So I didn't know nothing for this. So one time, this was a Saturday.

My sister was still-- another sister, but she didn't live with Soimy. She was living in a different-- and they took my parents. And they took in 1941, they took my parents.

She came from where she was. And she was in this house, what where my parents was living. She was till 1944 there.

That was Hannah.

My sister with the children. And then they took her too.

And you have a picture of your parents here, don't you, with, I think, three of your sisters?

Yeah, I got the picture.

Why don't you show that.

Well, this is a picture. I don't remember this picture. I believe they don't allow it. They didn't allow it to take pictures. They didn't allow to take pictures. When my parents was religious, they didn't allow it. And I don't remember when they took the picture.

But they allowed that picture to be taken?

Not like this. I don't know, I find this picture by my uncle here in America.

And those are three of your sisters. Is that Sarah, Basia, and Rivka?

I believe this is all the sisters.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

That's Rivka, Hannah.

OK. Then I think you have another picture there, right by the mineral baths, don't you?

Yes.

Why don't you show that?

This, I show with the finger.

No, we don't want to look at--

This is my sister. And this is my sister.

OK. And then right over there, that's the mineral baths in the background.

This is the mineral baths, right.

OK. Now, where were you in the labor camp in 1940? You were in Kalinczuk, you were saying.

In Kalinczuk.

What was life like there in Kalinczuk in 1940?

Well, there is no houses there. Was not a city. There was just in the hill between lumber, between trees. And there we used to live. We make a fire outside and like live.

And, well, like I say, I had horses working. And I was living Dorohoi. I came down in the hills while I give them the horses there to work. And I went, and I was living in Dorohoi.

In?

Dorohoi, a city Dorohoi.

And what were you doing then?

Nothing. I didn't do nothing. Well, I gave the horses. I could go home. I been back. And I could like this. After--

How were you able to get the horses?

The what?

How were you able to get the horses?

The horses? We had the horses.

The family had them?

In 1940, yes, we had still horses.

Now, from Kalinczuk, the next place that you went was to Polina?

This was already-- not in-- I went in to Polina, Polina. And this was on-- what is the name already the place where I was. This was a-- we was working there. And we fixed for the trains the-- I don't know how you're calling this.

The tracks?

The tracks.

When you were in the labor camps, who was above you? Who was running the camps?

Who was running? Hungarian officers.

Were they army officers?

Yes. They was with us.

Did they guard you at that time?

Yes, they guard this.

Who was in the labor camps then?

By this time we was there by like three groups. From 1940, we talk.

Mm, hmm.

Three groups there, and we made wood to burn, for people selling short wood like-- I don't know what to tell you. We put it together this much and this much. We have to make it.

Were there Jewish people only in the camps or was it--

Only Jewish people. Just we had Hungarian what they watch us. It was a big officer too there.

Were the Czech people, the non-Jewish people, were they in different camps or were they left at home?

No, the Czech people, they went to Czechoslovakia. They went already-- they didn't wait for the Hungarian. They run away. They run away to there where they used to live before they used to, not there no more. They was afraid.

So when Czechoslovakia was fall apart, they went away, to Czechoslovakia, like say Prague and-- Prague. And they went Brno, Brno. So around there, they left. We was just with these people was born around there, the Christian, not Jews. They was there.

All right. Before August 1941, let's talk about Soimy before August 1941. What was happening in Soimy?

It was not happening nothing.

The Hungarian police were there.

Yeah. The Hungarian was there. And still the Jews they had some work and made money. They made living good. Just after 1941, when they start taking away the Jews it was bad. No help.

No help from the non-Jews. They didn't say nothing. So this was--

All right. Now you said your family was taken away in 1941.

'41.

And that was in August of 1941?

In August, yes. It was exactly-- you know what Tisha B'Av is?

Mm, hmm.

They took them on Tisha B'Av.

On Tisha B'Av?

Yeah.

And that was August 20?

August 20.

All right. Where were you on that date?

I was in labor camp.

And that was where?

This was by on the hood. On the hood, we made there in the hills too, we made there streets. Just in the hill, streets we made there.

Now what happened-- what happened on August 20? And how did you learn--

So when my officer, he told me, this my parents they took away. He gave me vacation.

Now, what officer was this?

A Hungarian.

Mm, hmm.

He gave me vacation.

He gave you like a pass to leave for--

Yeah.

Mm, hmm. And what did he tell you?

He didn't tell me nothing. He just give me this. He gave me the vacation to go home. I went home. I didn't find nobody home.

Do you know what day you got home?

What they got?

What day you got home? Was it August 20 or the day after?

Exactly, I think, the same day. They took him in the shul. You know, took them together, all the Jews. And--

They took them into the shul.

To the shul. And they led them the next day. They took them away in trucks. Took them away in trucks. When I came home, and I didn't find nobody, so I started to go after them, after my parents, to look where they are. So I know they took him to Poland. So--

How did you learn that?

How? Well, this what we know. Well, I went from home, there was from us maybe about 100 kilometer. I went there. And I start to get in touch with people what happened. Well, you couldn't-- well, people used to come over back, not Jews, Hungarian.

And I tried to get there, the communist Podolsk.

That was the name of the city in Poland?

In Poland, where they killed my father. They killed there 70,000 Jews in one grave. And when I was there, I came Jasina. You didn't hear from Jasina. This is next-- is the Polish on the other side, not too far from there to Poland.

So there was mine a friend. Well, he was a soldier and Hungarian. And I took Hungarian uniform. So I went there after my-- when I came there, nobody was really living, just the grave was shooking like this. The people was falling down in this grave was life. This is a day later when I came there.

So I couldn't go home no more. I see I don't have nobody there, just one sister. But she went in the same truck, in the same-- they took her off in Khust. They took her off for money. And somebody called the police. And they-- well, my parents, they went already back.

And when my sister come-- when my sister, they start looking for her in Khust, somebody like [NON-ENGLISH]. And they find them. And they start them to there.

They start?

They take them too. Well, my sister was not in communist Podolsk. She was a little there. Her, I find there and pushed her home. They come back to home. And they come on the-- and they are not too far from the home in Torun, more Jews. And her son, he went in a different direction. He didn't come with his transport.

Now, was this your sister Sarah?

My sister, yeah, my sister with five children.

Sarah?

Yeah.

All right. She was on the transport to communist Podolsk.

To communist Podolsk.

And who took her off? Who--

I think some from the Hungarian officers. They paid off. And they took her off.

Do you know who was able to pay to get her off?

Yeah. Well, in this city in Khust, the Jews was there still. And he had-- my brother-in-law, he had there what he used to work for him in the fields, you know, for the-- and he took him off. They was there in his house.

Her husband?

The husband and my sister with five children.

Now, that was in August of '41.

Yeah. This was in August.

Now, did you see Sarah then?

Sarah? Sure.

All right. When did you see her next?

Sarah, she went to Poland. They took her to Poland. Well, my father-- they already not-- they was killed already when she come back. And she come back--

And you had already seen the grave with--

Yeah. I was to send it back to Torun. And more transport, from maybe 170 Jews with children, they come there. And his son-in-law went there to Torun. He was still home. He went to Torun. I was already in Poland.

And they want to take him home. Well, the Judenrat say no. You can take one people-- one family. And, well, we going to take out all. This was a Saturday. No, Friday was it.

And so he listened to the Judenrat. And he left them. He could take them away from there. One family or two families, they could take it when they pay off a little money. And they left them over Saturday. And Sunday, they say they're going to take all the Jews. See--

Now this was in Torun now?

In Torun.

When was this?

Well, this was around-- the date I can't remember. I can't remember exactly the--

Was it in August still or was it later?

I think it was already after the holidays.

So it was October, November?

In October, November, yeah.

Did you get to talk to Sarah between August and--

Yeah, there.

In Torun?

In Dolno.

What did the two of you talk about?

Well, she started crying, our parents don't live. And the sisters, they don't live. They already dead. And she was hoping that she goes home. She come home. She going to stay.

To Soimy?

In Soimy. This is what they hope. They was-- well, she had two girls-- one was 18, 16-- and two little boys, smaller boys. They was, I think, 11, 8. And one boy, he went in a different direction. He came in a different city. And he went to my sister what she was living in Munkács.

Was that Shmuel?

Shmuel, and he has survived.

Now, what happened in Torun there?

In Torun, they killed them.

All right. That happened October, November?

Saturday, Saturday morning-- yeah-- Saturday morning they took them all together. And they take them on in the city a little farther. And they kill them all there on the hill.

Now, where were you when that happened?

I was in Poland.

In what city?

I was in communist Podolsk. I was in communist Podolsk. I couldn't go home. I couldn't go home. While I was in the uniform, I was very risk to go home, in the Hungarian uniform. So I was with my five friends, what I know there.



And then I was hiding with my friends, Jews. And then comes a German and find us. He find us there where we was. And one German, he said, you, come with me.

Was he a soldier or--

Soldier, German soldier. And then he told me to come with him. OK, I go. And another soldier took the other guy.

He said, you're going to shine my shoes. I say I don't have nothing. I was gladly to do, but I don't have no brushes, no nothing, no cream. He start to give me hell. He said, [NON-ENGLISH], and start to give me this and this hell.

I say, listen, you can do me one favor, you can kill me. Well, I can do what I can do. So he said, yeah, you-- du sprichts du? And he start hollering.

So he took me on a field. And he say, you're going to grave your grave here. You're going to be killed here. So that's what he said.

I didn't have no choice. What can I do? I have to do what he said. Just I see-- look, look what kind of terrain is there. I didn't know there nothing what is going on.

I know it's underground. I know it's a lot of partisans. I know what can-- I look for another change when I can go in-- like I used to be before by the Hungarian when I used to work for them, there was a lot of the groups in Poland. But I didn't find right away.

And he said, you going to grave. I see they're killing Jews. They're killing, you know, around there. And he turns around back and forth. And I feel-- I blacked my eyes. I don't see the world, nothing.

So I figured I have to die. Why? Why I have to die? So I grabbed the shovel, what he digged my-- and I kill him. And I catch his gun. And I run. I run over the border. I didn't know what [INAUDIBLE] this is, big or not big. I run fast.

And I come in trees, already in the hills, trees. I was very tired. I went up on a tree. And I sit down a little bit. And then I hear already dogs. Soldier going after me. And this was my story.

Then I went by 14 days. And I come to an underground. And they didn't want to take me.

Where was that?

Was already deep in Poland. I don't know the city. Well, I didn't come to the cities. No. I just was in the trees, in the hills. I eat the skin from the trees.

And so this I came to an underground. And I told him, I want to be here. I had another guy with me too. They can take me. They can take me. They can trust me.

I say, I'm this and this. You see how I look. I'm not a spy. I would like to save my life, and it's possible.

Yeah, you can do it. There and there is a bridge. And when you can there standing in one side a soldier and this side a soldier, they gave me the whole thing, the all information. And so I don't have no choice. I have to go and do what they say.

So I went. It was my luck. I came there. And I took the guy, tied up his mouth and take him down in the hill, a little down. The other guy didn't see it. It was night, midnight.

So I took everything, the gun. I took all what he had. And I come back. So I was there with them. I was working all kinds of places, in very dangerous places.

In the underground?

In the underground. So then from there I heard this organized the Czechoslovakia army.

OK, we're going to take a break here for just a couple of minutes.

OK. All right. And we'll come right back.

OK.

OK?

Mm, hmm.