

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,980

2  
00:00:02,980 --> 00:00:06,490  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:06,490 --> 00:00:11,110  
Volunteer Collection interview  
with David Bayer conducted

4  
00:00:11,110 --> 00:00:15,310  
by Margaret Garrett  
on April 7, 1998

5  
00:00:15,310 --> 00:00:17,950  
in Silver Spring, Maryland.

6  
00:00:17,950 --> 00:00:19,780  
This is a follow-up  
interview that

7  
00:00:19,780 --> 00:00:24,850  
will focus on David Bayer's  
post-Holocaust experiences.

8  
00:00:24,850 --> 00:00:27,400  
In preparation for  
this interview,

9  
00:00:27,400 --> 00:00:30,730  
I listened to the interview  
you conducted with the Shoah

10  
00:00:30,730 --> 00:00:35,260  
Foundation on March 10, 1996.

11  
00:00:35,260 --> 00:00:37,480  
I will not ask you  
to repeat everything

12

00:00:37,480 --> 00:00:39,550  
you said in that interview.

13  
00:00:39,550 --> 00:00:41,950  
Instead, I will  
use this interview

14  
00:00:41,950 --> 00:00:45,700  
as an opportunity to  
follow up on that interview

15  
00:00:45,700 --> 00:00:50,020  
and focus on your  
post-Holocaust experiences.

16  
00:00:50,020 --> 00:00:54,580  
This is tape number one, side A.

17  
00:00:54,580 --> 00:01:03,400  
Mr. Bayer, shall we start with  
your experience in the woods

18  
00:01:03,400 --> 00:01:07,780  
at the end of your internment?

19  
00:01:07,780 --> 00:01:13,720  
When I ran away from Blechhammer  
we walked in the woods

20  
00:01:13,720 --> 00:01:15,980  
for a while.

21  
00:01:15,980 --> 00:01:20,110  
And we were a larger  
group, but I wound up

22  
00:01:20,110 --> 00:01:24,820  
with two Russian prisoners.

23  
00:01:24,820 --> 00:01:27,340  
And we couldn't walk no more.

24

00:01:27,340 --> 00:01:34,300  
We lied down under a  
pine tree, dense trees.

25  
00:01:34,300 --> 00:01:39,220  
And we cuddled in the snow.

26  
00:01:39,220 --> 00:01:43,020  
And later, maybe  
five to six days,

27  
00:01:43,020 --> 00:01:48,630  
without knowing what's  
going on outside the woods,

28  
00:01:48,630 --> 00:01:52,050  
and we had nothing to  
eat, we were starving.

29  
00:01:52,050 --> 00:02:00,040  
We only ate some pine cones,  
and I had some melted margarine

30  
00:02:00,040 --> 00:02:00,970  
on my body.

31  
00:02:00,970 --> 00:02:04,390  
And we scratched it off of  
my body, and we licked it,

32  
00:02:04,390 --> 00:02:07,180  
and we ate it.

33  
00:02:07,180 --> 00:02:13,730  
And finally, we decided to  
get out because we couldn't--

34  
00:02:13,730 --> 00:02:15,360  
we were freezing to death.

35  
00:02:15,360 --> 00:02:19,130  
I was scared that we  
will die in the woods.

36  
00:02:19,130 --> 00:02:22,360  
So we decided to walk out.

37  
00:02:22,360 --> 00:02:25,660  
After we walked out  
while in the dense woods,

38  
00:02:25,660 --> 00:02:29,330  
we come to a field.

39  
00:02:29,330 --> 00:02:33,890  
We only we only could  
see snow and the heavens.

40  
00:02:33,890 --> 00:02:36,630  
And then all of a  
sudden, on the horizon

41  
00:02:36,630 --> 00:02:38,780  
we saw some silhouettes.

42  
00:02:38,780 --> 00:02:41,290  
And we didn't know  
who they were, they

43  
00:02:41,290 --> 00:02:44,870  
were Germans or Russian or--

44  
00:02:44,870 --> 00:02:48,527  
but we decided to  
get out anyway.

45  
00:02:48,527 --> 00:02:50,360  
We came out, and they  
were Russian soldiers.

46  
00:02:50,360 --> 00:02:53,410

47  
00:02:53,410 --> 00:02:55,840  
And they had the guns on

us, because they didn't--

48  
00:02:55,840 --> 00:02:58,480  
they couldn't see who we were.

49  
00:02:58,480 --> 00:03:00,490  
Maybe we were  
German or something.

50  
00:03:00,490 --> 00:03:03,170  
But they realized  
that we are prisoners,

51  
00:03:03,170 --> 00:03:07,050  
and they picked us up, and  
practically picked us up.

52  
00:03:07,050 --> 00:03:08,050  
One of carrying me.

53  
00:03:08,050 --> 00:03:11,050  
I was maybe 70 kilos.

54  
00:03:11,050 --> 00:03:13,270  
And you had weighed  
how much before?

55  
00:03:13,270 --> 00:03:18,340  
I was 140, 150, maybe.

56  
00:03:18,340 --> 00:03:20,110  
I don't remember.

57  
00:03:20,110 --> 00:03:26,110  
But he took me and took  
us out to a little village

58  
00:03:26,110 --> 00:03:30,940  
not far from the woods  
there, and they took us

59  
00:03:30,940 --> 00:03:32,170

into our house.

60  
00:03:32,170 --> 00:03:34,350  
A German family lived there.

61  
00:03:34,350 --> 00:03:37,450  
There were two  
women in the house.

62  
00:03:37,450 --> 00:03:41,620  
And the Russian soldiers  
told them to take care of us,

63  
00:03:41,620 --> 00:03:47,230  
to clean us up to, give us  
food, to give us a bath.

64  
00:03:47,230 --> 00:03:48,760  
The German women were scared.

65  
00:03:48,760 --> 00:03:53,210  
They did everything that the  
Russians told them to do.

66  
00:03:53,210 --> 00:03:54,580  
There were no mans in the house.

67  
00:03:54,580 --> 00:03:58,040  
Theyu must have run away.

68  
00:03:58,040 --> 00:04:01,330  
And I was there maybe  
two or three days,

69  
00:04:01,330 --> 00:04:04,940  
but I recuperate a little bit.

70  
00:04:04,940 --> 00:04:07,720  
The woman didn't  
have much to eat.

71  
00:04:07,720 --> 00:04:10,420

Anyway, they gave us some  
soup or some clothing.

72  
00:04:10,420 --> 00:04:13,390  
They gave me a woman's coat.

73  
00:04:13,390 --> 00:04:15,280  
I didn't realize it  
was a woman's coat.

74  
00:04:15,280 --> 00:04:17,620  
I took it gladly.

75  
00:04:17,620 --> 00:04:19,730  
My feet were frozen,  
completely frozen.

76  
00:04:19,730 --> 00:04:24,270  
All of my toes were froze up.

77  
00:04:24,270 --> 00:04:30,320  
And she gave me a pair of  
shoes, but it didn't fit good.

78  
00:04:30,320 --> 00:04:32,330  
And I was very edgy.

79  
00:04:32,330 --> 00:04:33,290  
I wanted to get out.

80  
00:04:33,290 --> 00:04:33,997  
I wanted to go.

81  
00:04:33,997 --> 00:04:35,330  
I didn't know where I was going.

82  
00:04:35,330 --> 00:04:39,730  
I wanted to go back  
to Poland or to--

83  
00:04:39,730 --> 00:04:44,330  
and I was very tired,

very, very weak.

84

00:04:44,330 --> 00:04:48,730

But I still had  
the energy to go.

85

00:04:48,730 --> 00:04:51,610

And I was walking  
towards Poland, which

86

00:04:51,610 --> 00:04:53,530

I saw other people walking--

87

00:04:53,530 --> 00:04:55,630

Were you by yourself  
when you were walking?

88

00:04:55,630 --> 00:04:59,200

By myself, but in the  
process a lot of other people

89

00:04:59,200 --> 00:05:01,220

coming from  
different directions.

90

00:05:01,220 --> 00:05:03,130

And we'd meet on the  
roads and the highways,

91

00:05:03,130 --> 00:05:06,557

and we talk, and we ask,  
where you come from?

92

00:05:06,557 --> 00:05:07,390

Where you come from?

93

00:05:07,390 --> 00:05:08,530

Where are you from?

94

00:05:08,530 --> 00:05:09,670

Where you going?

95



00:05:09,670 --> 00:05:11,680  
You know, everybody  
was trying to find

96  
00:05:11,680 --> 00:05:14,770  
a friend and a familiar face.

97  
00:05:14,770 --> 00:05:19,390  
And we were going and going  
and passing by little towns,

98  
00:05:19,390 --> 00:05:22,300  
little villages with  
Germans, who were hiding,

99  
00:05:22,300 --> 00:05:24,880  
and the Russians  
were plundering.

100  
00:05:24,880 --> 00:05:28,900  
The Russians already  
occupied the whole area.

101  
00:05:28,900 --> 00:05:30,780  
The Russians were not  
so friendly, anyway.

102  
00:05:30,780 --> 00:05:32,680  
They were not so--

103  
00:05:32,680 --> 00:05:34,390  
they told us, you're free, go.

104  
00:05:34,390 --> 00:05:36,130  
Go what you want, do  
what you want to do,

105  
00:05:36,130 --> 00:05:37,480  
but don't bother us.

106  
00:05:37,480 --> 00:05:42,550  
You know, we have  
nothing ourselves.

107  
00:05:42,550 --> 00:05:48,580  
And anyways, I stopped  
in another house,

108  
00:05:48,580 --> 00:05:54,160  
which practically I  
forced myself in to stay.

109  
00:05:54,160 --> 00:05:55,140  
It was warmer.

110  
00:05:55,140 --> 00:05:56,290  
I mean, it was wintertime.

111  
00:05:56,290 --> 00:06:02,300  
It was January 1945.

112  
00:06:02,300 --> 00:06:10,612  
And I went into one house,  
and there was only a woman.

113  
00:06:10,612 --> 00:06:11,320  
There was no man.

114  
00:06:11,320 --> 00:06:18,420  
It was old people and women and  
children but no military age

115  
00:06:18,420 --> 00:06:21,070  
men.

116  
00:06:21,070 --> 00:06:22,840  
And I went into that  
one house, which

117  
00:06:22,840 --> 00:06:29,230  
I wanted to stay with a few more  
people, but I didn't know them.

118  
00:06:29,230 --> 00:06:35,170  
And the woman got a Russian

officer to eject us.

119  
00:06:35,170 --> 00:06:40,980  
Because she probably became  
chummy with him in order

120  
00:06:40,980 --> 00:06:44,250  
to protect her or whatever.

121  
00:06:44,250 --> 00:06:45,600  
So they kicked us out.

122  
00:06:45,600 --> 00:06:47,190  
Now, were you still in Germany?

123  
00:06:47,190 --> 00:06:48,090  
Yeah, was Germany.

124  
00:06:48,090 --> 00:06:50,500  
Was in the Breslau area.

125  
00:06:50,500 --> 00:06:53,260

126  
00:06:53,260 --> 00:06:58,450  
Which I think now is Poland,  
but then it was still Germany.

127  
00:06:58,450 --> 00:07:04,140  
So I had to find another place,  
and we find a barn or whatever.

128  
00:07:04,140 --> 00:07:06,790  
We spend the night and  
keep going every day,

129  
00:07:06,790 --> 00:07:08,305  
until we come to a rail station.

130  
00:07:08,305 --> 00:07:12,130

131

00:07:12,130 --> 00:07:17,120

But on the way, a lot of things happened to me.

132

00:07:17,120 --> 00:07:20,210

I was going on a nice, nice road.

133

00:07:20,210 --> 00:07:21,080

It was still snow.

134

00:07:21,080 --> 00:07:25,680

Everything was snow, icy and snow.

135

00:07:25,680 --> 00:07:32,130

There was a little town, and I smelled like bread, a bakery.

136

00:07:32,130 --> 00:07:33,420

A bakery.

137

00:07:33,420 --> 00:07:36,780

I could smell the aroma from the bread.

138

00:07:36,780 --> 00:07:40,380

So I walked over there to that house building.

139

00:07:40,380 --> 00:07:43,760

There was no sign that there's a bakery or anything.

140

00:07:43,760 --> 00:07:44,910

I knocked on the door.

141

00:07:44,910 --> 00:07:47,870

Nobody wanted to answer.

142

00:07:47,870 --> 00:07:49,360

So I said, yelled in.

143  
00:07:49,360 --> 00:07:53,090  
I'm going, the Russians are  
here, baking bread here.

144  
00:07:53,090 --> 00:07:54,340  
And please, I want some bread.

145  
00:07:54,340 --> 00:07:54,940  
I'm hungry.

146  
00:07:54,940 --> 00:07:57,710

147  
00:07:57,710 --> 00:08:01,650  
So a German came to the  
door, opened up, let me in,

148  
00:08:01,650 --> 00:08:04,680  
and gave me a loaf of  
bread, and said be quiet,

149  
00:08:04,680 --> 00:08:06,670  
don't tell anybody.

150  
00:08:06,670 --> 00:08:08,403  
Because if I tell,  
everybody will come

151  
00:08:08,403 --> 00:08:09,820  
and we won't have  
enough, he said.

152  
00:08:09,820 --> 00:08:12,390

153  
00:08:12,390 --> 00:08:15,650  
So I got two kilo bread.

154  
00:08:15,650 --> 00:08:16,850  
I was happy.

155

00:08:16,850 --> 00:08:19,520

And right away I start eating.

156

00:08:19,520 --> 00:08:25,590

And I keep walking  
again on the road.

157

00:08:25,590 --> 00:08:28,980

A Russian-- two  
Russians, one driver, one

158

00:08:28,980 --> 00:08:31,640

jumped out of the Jeep.

159

00:08:31,640 --> 00:08:33,700

He said, "what do you got?"

160

00:08:33,700 --> 00:08:35,252

Where are you going?"

161

00:08:35,252 --> 00:08:37,870

I said, "I'm going home."

162

00:08:37,870 --> 00:08:42,390

"What have you got  
under your coat?"

163

00:08:42,390 --> 00:08:43,919

"A bread."

164

00:08:43,919 --> 00:08:45,680

"Give me a half."

165

00:08:45,680 --> 00:08:48,840

The Russian, fresh bread.

166

00:08:48,840 --> 00:08:51,610

So I give him the boots.

167

00:08:51,610 --> 00:08:54,630

It was very felt boots.

168  
00:08:54,630 --> 00:08:57,550  
Made out of felt.  
And I had but shoes.

169  
00:08:57,550 --> 00:08:58,990  
I couldn't walk anyway.

170  
00:08:58,990 --> 00:09:00,066  
It was frozen.

171  
00:09:00,066 --> 00:09:00,880  
I was glad.

172  
00:09:00,880 --> 00:09:02,500  
So I'll give you half.

173  
00:09:02,500 --> 00:09:04,480  
And he did.

174  
00:09:04,480 --> 00:09:07,080  
Took off his boots.

175  
00:09:07,080 --> 00:09:09,870  
His feet wrapped  
around with rags.

176  
00:09:09,870 --> 00:09:15,690  
And I put the felt  
boots on me right away,

177  
00:09:15,690 --> 00:09:18,420  
and I put the other  
one on my shoulder.

178  
00:09:18,420 --> 00:09:21,290  
And I gave him a half of bread.

179  
00:09:21,290 --> 00:09:22,290  
And I just kept walking.

180

00:09:22,290 --> 00:09:23,450  
I was happy.

181  
00:09:23,450 --> 00:09:28,270  
About a mile out after I walked  
away, maybe a mile and a half,

182  
00:09:28,270 --> 00:09:30,110  
he came back with  
another officer,

183  
00:09:30,110 --> 00:09:32,162  
and another one, three of them.

184  
00:09:32,162 --> 00:09:33,120  
They didn't say a word.

185  
00:09:33,120 --> 00:09:34,745  
They jumped on me,  
and knocked me down,

186  
00:09:34,745 --> 00:09:37,360  
and took off the boots.

187  
00:09:37,360 --> 00:09:41,850  
Knocked me down, took the  
boots right off my feet

188  
00:09:41,850 --> 00:09:43,770  
and started yelling  
and cussing in Russian.

189  
00:09:43,770 --> 00:09:45,180  
And that's it.

190  
00:09:45,180 --> 00:09:47,160  
And I it I had no other choice.

191  
00:09:47,160 --> 00:09:49,530  
Lucky I had the old ones still.

192  
00:09:49,530 --> 00:09:51,810



I didn't throw them away.

193

00:09:51,810 --> 00:09:52,710

And I walked again.

194

00:09:52,710 --> 00:09:57,300

And he asked me for  
watches, if I had watches.

195

00:09:57,300 --> 00:10:00,490

Russians crazy for watches.

196

00:10:00,490 --> 00:10:04,122

You know, he goes ""[RUSSIAN]  
You have a watch?"

197

00:10:04,122 --> 00:10:05,080

I didn't have no watch.

198

00:10:05,080 --> 00:10:07,080

I had nothing.

199

00:10:07,080 --> 00:10:09,205

If I were to have a watch,  
they would have taken it

200

00:10:09,205 --> 00:10:10,270

away right away from me.

201

00:10:10,270 --> 00:10:12,610

That's all they  
were looking for.

202

00:10:12,610 --> 00:10:14,390

The Russians were not so--

203

00:10:14,390 --> 00:10:17,440

they had nothing themselves.

204

00:10:17,440 --> 00:10:20,320

The rifle he was  
carrying, it was a sling.

205  
00:10:20,320 --> 00:10:23,380  
No belt. No belt  
buckle on his pants.

206  
00:10:23,380 --> 00:10:25,070  
They didn't have  
nothing themselves.

207  
00:10:25,070 --> 00:10:29,360  
They were poor.

208  
00:10:29,360 --> 00:10:31,740  
Not like the Americans.

209  
00:10:31,740 --> 00:10:35,620  
And then I keep walking.

210  
00:10:35,620 --> 00:10:38,375  
This took me maybe a week  
before I reached Poland.

211  
00:10:38,375 --> 00:10:41,520

212  
00:10:41,520 --> 00:10:45,033  
And then I boarded some  
trains, military trains going.

213  
00:10:45,033 --> 00:10:46,575  
Because there were  
no regular trains.

214  
00:10:46,575 --> 00:10:49,090  
Now, military trains what?

215  
00:10:49,090 --> 00:10:50,090  
Russian military trains.

216  
00:10:50,090 --> 00:10:51,240  
Russian military trains.

217

00:10:51,240 --> 00:10:52,410

I think it was Russian.

218

00:10:52,410 --> 00:10:54,870

The area where I was,  
Lublin was occupied

219

00:10:54,870 --> 00:10:56,860

by the Russian military.

220

00:10:56,860 --> 00:10:59,490

But you couldn't board the  
Russian military trains

221

00:10:59,490 --> 00:11:01,410

until you got to  
the Polish border?

222

00:11:01,410 --> 00:11:04,710

No, I could have boarded anyway.

223

00:11:04,710 --> 00:11:08,040

I mean, they didn't allow, but  
we sneaked in on the trains

224

00:11:08,040 --> 00:11:08,700

anyway.

225

00:11:08,700 --> 00:11:09,825

But there was no trains.

226

00:11:09,825 --> 00:11:10,950

Everything was knocked out.

227

00:11:10,950 --> 00:11:12,480

The war was still going on.

228

00:11:12,480 --> 00:11:17,880

But more to Poland we  
had more communication.

229

00:11:17,880 --> 00:11:27,550  
And I went to a [INAUDIBLE]  
and I reached Radom.

230  
00:11:27,550 --> 00:11:29,780  
With a train, a train  
going to Russia somewhere,

231  
00:11:29,780 --> 00:11:31,660  
and I reached Radom.

232  
00:11:31,660 --> 00:11:35,790  
Radom is 30 kilometers from  
my hometown of Kozienice.

233  
00:11:35,790 --> 00:11:39,390  
And it just took me  
maybe two or three weeks

234  
00:11:39,390 --> 00:11:41,680  
before I reached Radom.

235  
00:11:41,680 --> 00:11:42,985  
There's a lot of stops.

236  
00:11:42,985 --> 00:11:48,400  
I slept in railroad  
stations and on the floors,

237  
00:11:48,400 --> 00:11:50,050  
and I meet a lot of people.

238  
00:11:50,050 --> 00:11:54,200  
I met my teacher,  
who was in school--

239  
00:11:54,200 --> 00:11:56,680  
I was in school in his class.

240  
00:11:56,680 --> 00:11:59,110  
And he was a prisoner  
in Auschwitz,

241

00:11:59,110 --> 00:12:02,920

and I recognized him  
in a railroad station

242

00:12:02,920 --> 00:12:06,670

going home also, but he  
was very, very bad off.

243

00:12:06,670 --> 00:12:07,420

He was hungry.

244

00:12:07,420 --> 00:12:11,560

He was-- he looked like a--  
he was a young man in his 30s,

245

00:12:11,560 --> 00:12:13,920

and he looked like was 70.

246

00:12:13,920 --> 00:12:16,140

And he was so happy to see me.

247

00:12:16,140 --> 00:12:18,570

He was a Polish-- in  
the Polish underground,

248

00:12:18,570 --> 00:12:21,960

and they pushed  
him into Auschwitz.

249

00:12:21,960 --> 00:12:23,510

So he was not a Jew?

250

00:12:23,510 --> 00:12:25,020

No, he was a Christian.

251

00:12:25,020 --> 00:12:26,790

And I knew him very well.

252

00:12:26,790 --> 00:12:27,540

I knew his family.

253

00:12:27,540 --> 00:12:30,800

254

00:12:30,800 --> 00:12:33,260

But when I come home to  
Kozniece, to my hometown,

255

00:12:33,260 --> 00:12:34,880

I told his family  
about I saw him,

256

00:12:34,880 --> 00:12:37,111

and he didn't come home yet.

257

00:12:37,111 --> 00:12:41,480

It took him a long time  
to leave Kozienice.

258

00:12:41,480 --> 00:12:51,082

But in the meantime, when I came  
to Radom, I had to walk home.

259

00:12:51,082 --> 00:12:53,040

And the snow was still snowing.

260

00:12:53,040 --> 00:12:57,230

It was February already, or  
maybe the middle of February.

261

00:12:57,230 --> 00:13:00,300

262

00:13:00,300 --> 00:13:05,440

And this was the worst  
trip I ever made,

263

00:13:05,440 --> 00:13:10,750

worse than the march  
from Jaworzno to Germany.

264

00:13:10,750 --> 00:13:13,150

The roads were no roads.

265

00:13:13,150 --> 00:13:18,070

The Polish roads was  
completely icy and snowy.

266

00:13:18,070 --> 00:13:24,250

There was nowhere-- to walk a  
mile would take you an hour.

267

00:13:24,250 --> 00:13:27,170

And then my feet are all frozen.

268

00:13:27,170 --> 00:13:30,140

But before that,  
when I came to Radom,

269

00:13:30,140 --> 00:13:32,730

I had to last two or three days.

270

00:13:32,730 --> 00:13:36,750

So I went into a  
Christian family

271

00:13:36,750 --> 00:13:39,020

and asked if I could stay.

272

00:13:39,020 --> 00:13:40,160

A woman saw me.

273

00:13:40,160 --> 00:13:41,750

She said, where  
are you going to?

274

00:13:41,750 --> 00:13:45,760

I said to Kozienice.

275

00:13:45,760 --> 00:13:47,420

"You look terrible.

276

00:13:47,420 --> 00:13:49,130

You want to stay in my house?

277

00:13:49,130 --> 00:13:51,200  
I'll let you in."

278  
00:13:51,200 --> 00:13:53,550  
And she had two children.

279  
00:13:53,550 --> 00:13:54,570  
Her husband was missing.

280  
00:13:54,570 --> 00:13:56,070  
I don't know what's  
happened to him.

281  
00:13:56,070 --> 00:13:57,720  
She didn't mention it.

282  
00:13:57,720 --> 00:14:00,390  
And they were Catholic people.

283  
00:14:00,390 --> 00:14:03,870  
And she probably  
knew I was Jewish.

284  
00:14:03,870 --> 00:14:04,620  
I didn't tell her.

285  
00:14:04,620 --> 00:14:06,420  
She didn't ask me.

286  
00:14:06,420 --> 00:14:09,000  
But she let me stay maybe  
two days there in her house.

287  
00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:14,865  
She gave me food and bathed  
my feet in hot water,

288  
00:14:14,865 --> 00:14:18,140  
but it didn't help much.

289  
00:14:18,140 --> 00:14:22,370  
It was not icy, because



I couldn't move my toes.

290

00:14:22,370 --> 00:14:25,550

But I wrapped around with  
rags and everything else,

291

00:14:25,550 --> 00:14:28,730

and I walked towards Kozienice.

292

00:14:28,730 --> 00:14:30,550

But the road was  
terrible, and I finally

293

00:14:30,550 --> 00:14:35,680

reached Kozienice  
in the evening.

294

00:14:35,680 --> 00:14:39,040

I have to pass by the cemetery.

295

00:14:39,040 --> 00:14:40,660

The Jewish cemetery  
you have to pass

296

00:14:40,660 --> 00:14:43,600

by when you reach the town.

297

00:14:43,600 --> 00:14:48,730

So I walked up to the cemetery,  
and my dad and my grandmother's

298

00:14:48,730 --> 00:14:52,110

grave, because  
they died together.

299

00:14:52,110 --> 00:14:52,920

And I cried.

300

00:14:52,920 --> 00:14:55,830

I cried loud.

301

00:14:55,830 --> 00:14:56,730

It was already dusk.

302

00:14:56,730 --> 00:14:59,370

It was going to be dark.

303

00:14:59,370 --> 00:15:05,022

One Pole passed by  
in a horse and wagon.

304

00:15:05,022 --> 00:15:06,050

And he stopped.

305

00:15:06,050 --> 00:15:09,780

He walked up the hill  
to see who was there,

306

00:15:09,780 --> 00:15:13,580

who was there [? snooping ?]  
and crying there.

307

00:15:13,580 --> 00:15:15,338

He took me down.

308

00:15:15,338 --> 00:15:16,630

He said, "where are you going?"

309

00:15:16,630 --> 00:15:19,320

I said, "who are you?"

310

00:15:19,320 --> 00:15:25,400

I just came back from the  
war, in Europe and Germany."

311

00:15:25,400 --> 00:15:27,260

"Come stay with me tonight."

312

00:15:27,260 --> 00:15:29,362

And he took me to his house.

313

00:15:29,362 --> 00:15:31,330

I stayed there overnight.

314

00:15:31,330 --> 00:15:35,836

And the next morning,  
I went to see Leon

315

00:15:35,836 --> 00:15:44,120

[? Drylewski, ?] a man who  
worked for my father, and a man

316

00:15:44,120 --> 00:15:46,040

my father built his house.

317

00:15:46,040 --> 00:15:47,450

He bought his land.

318

00:15:47,450 --> 00:15:50,730

And he worked-- he got  
married when he's still

319

00:15:50,730 --> 00:15:53,150

working for my father.

320

00:15:53,150 --> 00:15:57,170

And during the  
ghetto, in Kozenice,

321

00:15:57,170 --> 00:16:01,690

when the Germans  
occupied us, we took

322

00:16:01,690 --> 00:16:06,386

a lot of possessions of ours  
and hide it in his house.

323

00:16:06,386 --> 00:16:08,560

We give it to him, actually.

324

00:16:08,560 --> 00:16:11,615

We give it to for keeping.

325

00:16:11,615 --> 00:16:19,550

So the next morning when I  
got up, and so I went to him,

326  
00:16:19,550 --> 00:16:22,580  
the welcome was not so friendly.

327  
00:16:22,580 --> 00:16:27,680  
He didn't suspect  
me to be alive.

328  
00:16:27,680 --> 00:16:33,665  
And I come into the house,  
I saw everything ours--

329  
00:16:33,665 --> 00:16:43,190  
furniture, tables, a  
bedspread, tablecloths.

330  
00:16:43,190 --> 00:16:46,660

331  
00:16:46,660 --> 00:16:52,980  
A lot of things what my  
mother gave me to take it over

332  
00:16:52,980 --> 00:16:55,340  
to their house.

333  
00:16:55,340 --> 00:16:58,840  
I sneaked a lot of  
times out of the ghetto,

334  
00:16:58,840 --> 00:17:02,230  
and they gave me some food,  
in the meantime sometimes.

335  
00:17:02,230 --> 00:17:04,960  
They were not bad,  
but they were always

336  
00:17:04,960 --> 00:17:10,420  
scared for what other people,  
what other people will say,

337

00:17:10,420 --> 00:17:14,260  
that they got rich  
because of us,

338  
00:17:14,260 --> 00:17:21,170  
or they didn't want to show  
that they have a lot of things.

339  
00:17:21,170 --> 00:17:22,960  
And this was ours, ours.

340  
00:17:22,960 --> 00:17:28,370  
When I was-- when I was  
in Pionki, and [INAUDIBLE]

341  
00:17:28,370 --> 00:17:30,340  
and I was working that  
part because [INAUDIBLE]

342  
00:17:30,340 --> 00:17:33,370  
during the German  
occupation, I had

343  
00:17:33,370 --> 00:17:38,885  
wanted them a lot to send me  
some food, but they never did.

344  
00:17:38,885 --> 00:17:44,650  
I told him to sell whatever  
you can and send me some food.

345  
00:17:44,650 --> 00:17:47,500  
He never did.

346  
00:17:47,500 --> 00:17:50,480  
But they were afraid  
for the Russians.

347  
00:17:50,480 --> 00:17:58,210  
So they treated me a little bit,  
pretending to be kind to me.

348  
00:17:58,210 --> 00:18:02,870

But I realized that there's  
no place to stay there.

349  
00:18:02,870 --> 00:18:04,930  
You mean in the village?

350  
00:18:04,930 --> 00:18:09,610  
In Kozienice, my home, my town.

351  
00:18:09,610 --> 00:18:11,925  
You know, where I was born  
and everybody knew me,

352  
00:18:11,925 --> 00:18:12,550  
and everybody--

353  
00:18:12,550 --> 00:18:14,860  
I knew everybody.

354  
00:18:14,860 --> 00:18:18,820  
But meantime, other  
friends of mine came back,

355  
00:18:18,820 --> 00:18:23,980  
also survivors came  
back to Kozienice.

356  
00:18:23,980 --> 00:18:26,357  
Excuse me, that's  
making a noise.

357  
00:18:26,357 --> 00:18:27,640  
Thank you.

358  
00:18:27,640 --> 00:18:32,670  
And we got together,  
and we got a house

359  
00:18:32,670 --> 00:18:36,720  
from-- an abandoned house,  
which was a Jewish house.

360

00:18:36,720 --> 00:18:39,330  
And we moved in there,  
fixed it up a little bit,

361  
00:18:39,330 --> 00:18:40,510  
and we moved in there.

362  
00:18:40,510 --> 00:18:43,290  
But in the meantime,  
I went to the hospital

363  
00:18:43,290 --> 00:18:46,380  
for my frozen feet.

364  
00:18:46,380 --> 00:18:50,330  
And I stayed there  
maybe two weeks.

365  
00:18:50,330 --> 00:18:52,240  
How were you treated  
at the hospital?

366  
00:18:52,240 --> 00:18:55,490  
To answer your question-- bad.

367  
00:18:55,490 --> 00:18:56,480  
Very bad.

368  
00:18:56,480 --> 00:18:58,580  
I had to-- I lie on the floor.

369  
00:18:58,580 --> 00:19:01,860  
I had no bed.

370  
00:19:01,860 --> 00:19:08,430  
And there was a doctor,  
who he was a German.

371  
00:19:08,430 --> 00:19:09,900  
In the Polish hospital?

372  
00:19:09,900 --> 00:19:12,570

He was a German, but only--

373

00:19:12,570 --> 00:19:16,440  
I knew and other Jewish people  
knew that he was a German.

374

00:19:16,440 --> 00:19:21,780  
During the occupation,  
during the German occupation,

375

00:19:21,780 --> 00:19:24,150  
he was the director  
of the hospital.

376

00:19:24,150 --> 00:19:27,340

377

00:19:27,340 --> 00:19:29,740  
But he didn't reveal--

378

00:19:29,740 --> 00:19:32,140  
he probably revealed to the  
Germans that he was a German,

379

00:19:32,140 --> 00:19:34,900  
but he never told the  
Poles that he's a German.

380

00:19:34,900 --> 00:19:37,450  
He was there before the--  
he was living in Poland

381

00:19:37,450 --> 00:19:41,280  
before the war as a Pole.

382

00:19:41,280 --> 00:19:44,650  
But he was a German,  
a Volksdeutsche.

383

00:19:44,650 --> 00:19:47,900  
Means-- a Volksdeutsche means  
a German from the nation.



384

00:19:47,900 --> 00:19:51,620

Any German who lives outside  
Germany is a Volksdeutsche.

385

00:19:51,620 --> 00:19:54,620

386

00:19:54,620 --> 00:19:57,540

Like the Jews who  
live in the diaspora,

387

00:19:57,540 --> 00:20:00,980

they could come to Israel,  
be Israeli either way.

388

00:20:00,980 --> 00:20:03,710

389

00:20:03,710 --> 00:20:08,090

So he treated me very bad, and  
I was glad to get out of there.

390

00:20:08,090 --> 00:20:10,806

391

00:20:10,806 --> 00:20:14,000

The only thing was, I  
recuperate a little bit after.

392

00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:16,970

Backing up in the Shoah  
Foundation interview,

393

00:20:16,970 --> 00:20:20,200

you talked about some  
burns that you had.

394

00:20:20,200 --> 00:20:21,680

This was in Pionki.

395

00:20:21,680 --> 00:20:24,710

This was before the liberation.

396  
00:20:24,710 --> 00:20:27,410  
Yes, but I wondered whether  
you recovered from the burns,

397  
00:20:27,410 --> 00:20:31,250  
or whether at this  
time after the--

398  
00:20:31,250 --> 00:20:35,910  
I recovered in Auschwitz.

399  
00:20:35,910 --> 00:20:39,120  
So you didn't have any leftover  
problems from the burns?

400  
00:20:39,120 --> 00:20:40,260  
Nothing.

401  
00:20:40,260 --> 00:20:43,890  
My burns were from here to  
here, from the elbow down,

402  
00:20:43,890 --> 00:20:45,900  
and my face, and my legs.

403  
00:20:45,900 --> 00:20:48,330  
Because the explosion  
came from underneath.

404  
00:20:48,330 --> 00:20:50,340  
I had an explosion in Pionki.

405  
00:20:50,340 --> 00:20:52,670  
So you didn't need  
any treatment for--

406  
00:20:52,670 --> 00:20:54,870  
No, I only had the  
treatment in Auschwitz,

407  
00:20:54,870 --> 00:20:56,580

which we put cream on me.

408  
00:20:56,580 --> 00:20:57,840  
OK.

409  
00:20:57,840 --> 00:20:59,910  
And after that, I was fine.

410  
00:20:59,910 --> 00:21:03,000  
So when you left the  
hospital after being treated

411  
00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:04,438  
for your feet,  
were you recovered,

412  
00:21:04,438 --> 00:21:06,480  
or were you still having  
a lot of with your feet?

413  
00:21:06,480 --> 00:21:10,920  
I had trouble, but I was a  
lot better, a lot better.

414  
00:21:10,920 --> 00:21:14,940  
And then a lot of other  
survivors came together,

415  
00:21:14,940 --> 00:21:18,150  
and we all lived in this house.

416  
00:21:18,150 --> 00:21:23,260  
And we realized that Poland  
is not a place to stay,

417  
00:21:23,260 --> 00:21:27,910  
that our homes are  
are no more homes.

418  
00:21:27,910 --> 00:21:31,930  
It's just-- we cannot  
build no more in Poland.

419

00:21:31,930 --> 00:21:35,190

We cannot stay in Poland.

420

00:21:35,190 --> 00:21:44,950

So we heard from the grapevines  
that the Jewish organizations

421

00:21:44,950 --> 00:21:46,410

are organizing--

422

00:21:46,410 --> 00:21:50,880

423

00:21:50,880 --> 00:21:52,620

organizing how do you call it?

424

00:21:52,620 --> 00:21:55,200

425

00:21:55,200 --> 00:21:58,990

Like exodus, coming out  
from Poland, from Russia,

426

00:21:58,990 --> 00:22:04,090

whenever Jews want to  
run away from there,

427

00:22:04,090 --> 00:22:06,510

and they will help you,  
these organizations.

428

00:22:06,510 --> 00:22:11,020

There was an organization,  
the Jewish Brigade.

429

00:22:11,020 --> 00:22:12,800

The Jewish Brigade  
were in the war,

430

00:22:12,800 --> 00:22:17,652

but after the war  
is almost over,

431  
00:22:17,652 --> 00:22:22,780  
they try to get any Jew  
from Poland and Hungary

432  
00:22:22,780 --> 00:22:25,550  
and Romania to go  
towards the West.

433  
00:22:25,550 --> 00:22:28,250

434  
00:22:28,250 --> 00:22:31,081  
You know, to  
Germany, to German--

435  
00:22:31,081 --> 00:22:36,770  
so I went from Koziénice to  
Lodz by train, me and all

436  
00:22:36,770 --> 00:22:38,690  
my friends, whoever  
wanted to go.

437  
00:22:38,690 --> 00:22:40,970  
Now, where did you get  
money for the train?

438  
00:22:40,970 --> 00:22:41,550  
No money.

439  
00:22:41,550 --> 00:22:42,050  
No money?

440  
00:22:42,050 --> 00:22:43,340  
We didn't pay no money.

441  
00:22:43,340 --> 00:22:45,920  
Our numbers were our tickets.

442  
00:22:45,920 --> 00:22:49,790  
Everywhere we went

in Europe on trains,

443

00:22:49,790 --> 00:22:51,820

we showed that we  
were going home.

444

00:22:51,820 --> 00:22:54,370

445

00:22:54,370 --> 00:22:55,430

Showed the number.

446

00:22:55,430 --> 00:22:57,590

The number from the  
concentration camp?

447

00:22:57,590 --> 00:22:58,520

My number was B74.

448

00:22:58,520 --> 00:23:01,250

449

00:23:01,250 --> 00:23:08,840

And they let us free, free  
passage everywhere we went.

450

00:23:08,840 --> 00:23:11,690

And the trains were-- most of  
them were transport trains,

451

00:23:11,690 --> 00:23:13,940

but it was still cattle trains.

452

00:23:13,940 --> 00:23:19,130

Regular trains-- was not  
many passenger trains.

453

00:23:19,130 --> 00:23:21,260

And we went to Lodz.

454

00:23:21,260 --> 00:23:23,450

In Lodz we stayed for a while.

455  
00:23:23,450 --> 00:23:26,917  
And then they went to  
Czechoslovakia, to Pilsen.

456  
00:23:26,917 --> 00:23:28,250  
Now, where did you stay in Lodz?

457  
00:23:28,250 --> 00:23:29,930  
Did you stay with friends or?

458  
00:23:29,930 --> 00:23:32,706  
Also people which we know.

459  
00:23:32,706 --> 00:23:36,950  
After the war-- after the  
war, you talk about friends,

460  
00:23:36,950 --> 00:23:38,450  
you're asking about friends.

461  
00:23:38,450 --> 00:23:40,130  
Everybody was a friend.

462  
00:23:40,130 --> 00:23:43,710  
It's like finding--  
like finding a relative.

463  
00:23:43,710 --> 00:23:46,880  
You find another Jew  
somewhere coming or going,

464  
00:23:46,880 --> 00:23:51,320  
or alive, or doing  
anything, you ask him--

465  
00:23:51,320 --> 00:23:53,090  
if you didn't  
recognize he's Jewish,

466  
00:23:53,090 --> 00:23:55,730  
you ask him a

question like this,

467

00:23:55,730 --> 00:23:59,402  
was a code word called "amho."

468

00:23:59,402 --> 00:24:05,360  
It's a Hebrew word  
for the nation.

469

00:24:05,360 --> 00:24:09,470  
"Amho" means-- if you say--

470

00:24:09,470 --> 00:24:12,890  
for instance, if I saw a  
man in the street somewhere,

471

00:24:12,890 --> 00:24:16,220  
and I wanted to talk to him,  
I didn't know if he is Jewish

472

00:24:16,220 --> 00:24:18,470  
or not, I wanted to  
ask him something,

473

00:24:18,470 --> 00:24:20,010  
maybe I recognized him.

474

00:24:20,010 --> 00:24:23,300  
So I asked him, do you  
know the street "Amho?"

475

00:24:23,300 --> 00:24:25,190  
The minute he hears  
the word "amho"

476

00:24:25,190 --> 00:24:28,612  
he knows that I'm Jewish,  
and we start talking.

477

00:24:28,612 --> 00:24:29,820  
Say, which way are you going?

478



00:24:29,820 --> 00:24:30,500  
What you need?

479  
00:24:30,500 --> 00:24:32,120  
What do you want to help?

480  
00:24:32,120 --> 00:24:34,940  
What do you want?

481  
00:24:34,940 --> 00:24:36,530  
You know?

482  
00:24:36,530 --> 00:24:38,770  
We helped each other.

483  
00:24:38,770 --> 00:24:42,260  
We were so like brothers,  
like lost sheep.

484  
00:24:42,260 --> 00:24:45,980  
You know, we didn't--

485  
00:24:45,980 --> 00:24:49,430  
nobody was a stranger  
anymore to us.

486  
00:24:49,430 --> 00:24:52,940  
Even I didn't know him, I  
was confident he will help,

487  
00:24:52,940 --> 00:24:56,100  
or he will me, or I help him.

488  
00:24:56,100 --> 00:24:58,110  
So it was a lot like this.

489  
00:24:58,110 --> 00:25:02,728  
So in Lodz we met people.

490  
00:25:02,728 --> 00:25:03,770  
"You have where to stay?"

491  
00:25:03,770 --> 00:25:04,280  
"No."

492  
00:25:04,280 --> 00:25:06,350  
"Come, come stay with me.

493  
00:25:06,350 --> 00:25:07,250  
I have an apartment.

494  
00:25:07,250 --> 00:25:08,540  
I know these people."

495  
00:25:08,540 --> 00:25:10,430  
You know, we got together.

496  
00:25:10,430 --> 00:25:12,560  
And then from there we  
went to Czechoslovakia

497  
00:25:12,560 --> 00:25:16,040  
by train, also a freight car.

498  
00:25:16,040 --> 00:25:18,380  
And we came to Pilsen.

499  
00:25:18,380 --> 00:25:21,807  
Now, the freight car, it  
was just like an empty car?

500  
00:25:21,807 --> 00:25:22,640  
Empty, going, right.

501  
00:25:22,640 --> 00:25:24,473  
And you just got there  
and sat on the floor?

502  
00:25:24,473 --> 00:25:26,180  
Yeah, you lie down,  
and that's it.

503  
00:25:26,180 --> 00:25:26,780

No, no--

504

00:25:26,780 --> 00:25:29,430

And there was no freight in  
the car, maybe a little bit?

505

00:25:29,430 --> 00:25:29,930

No.

506

00:25:29,930 --> 00:25:30,860

Empty.

507

00:25:30,860 --> 00:25:32,900

It was empty, we took it.

508

00:25:32,900 --> 00:25:37,590

With freight, if there--

most of them-- some trains

509

00:25:37,590 --> 00:25:41,610

went with military

transport, mostly in Germany.

510

00:25:41,610 --> 00:25:46,070

[INAUDIBLE] It was

empty, let's go.

511

00:25:46,070 --> 00:25:49,550

Nobody objected.

512

00:25:49,550 --> 00:25:51,410

When we came to Pilsen,

there were already

513

00:25:51,410 --> 00:25:56,920

organizations there,

the Jewish agencies.

514

00:25:56,920 --> 00:26:02,840

They already give us guidance

what to do, where to go.

515

00:26:02,840 --> 00:26:08,090  
They came to pick us up,  
took us to another station

516  
00:26:08,090 --> 00:26:11,090  
towards Germany,  
towards Bavaria.

517  
00:26:11,090 --> 00:26:15,260  
And we came to  
Bayern, and we went

518  
00:26:15,260 --> 00:26:16,940  
to a camp called Fohrenwald.

519  
00:26:16,940 --> 00:26:18,110  
There was nothing there.

520  
00:26:18,110 --> 00:26:21,560  
The camp was empty when I came.

521  
00:26:21,560 --> 00:26:25,400  
Now, you had heard through  
the grapevine about the camp?

522  
00:26:25,400 --> 00:26:27,980  
No, in Poland through  
the grapevine.

523  
00:26:27,980 --> 00:26:30,890  
Then later, when we come  
closer, when we come to Pilsen,

524  
00:26:30,890 --> 00:26:35,210  
we already had people  
waiting for us.

525  
00:26:35,210 --> 00:26:35,878  
Not for me.

526  
00:26:35,878 --> 00:26:37,045  
For anybody who was coming--

527

00:26:37,045 --> 00:26:37,545

I see.

528

00:26:37,545 --> 00:26:39,320

From the agencies.

529

00:26:39,320 --> 00:26:42,560

Coming, and they give us--

530

00:26:42,560 --> 00:26:47,110

they want the names, where they  
come from, everything else.

531

00:26:47,110 --> 00:26:50,510

Actually all this was organized  
to take us all to Palestine.

532

00:26:50,510 --> 00:26:51,920

OK.

533

00:26:51,920 --> 00:26:53,880

This was the goal  
from the agency.

534

00:26:53,880 --> 00:26:56,540

There was people from  
the United States,

535

00:26:56,540 --> 00:26:58,630

from Israel, from  
Switzerland, you

536

00:26:58,630 --> 00:26:59,880

know, those kind of countries.

537

00:26:59,880 --> 00:27:04,070

So the idea was that people,  
refugees would go to this camp.

538

00:27:04,070 --> 00:27:06,380

Survivors to get out  
of Eastern Europe.

539  
00:27:06,380 --> 00:27:08,340  
Yeah, so they would  
go to this camp.

540  
00:27:08,340 --> 00:27:10,520  
And from there,  
the agencies would

541  
00:27:10,520 --> 00:27:12,170  
help them get to Palestine.

542  
00:27:12,170 --> 00:27:14,010  
Then the UNRRA came in.

543  
00:27:14,010 --> 00:27:14,810  
OK.

544  
00:27:14,810 --> 00:27:17,060  
The United Nations organization.

545  
00:27:17,060 --> 00:27:23,810  
And this was established camps,  
like displaced person camps.

546  
00:27:23,810 --> 00:27:25,520  
You know, I was a  
displaced person.

547  
00:27:25,520 --> 00:27:27,090  
I was not--

548  
00:27:27,090 --> 00:27:28,190  
I have no home in Poland.

549  
00:27:28,190 --> 00:27:30,120  
I have nowhere else to go.

550  
00:27:30,120 --> 00:27:34,370  
So Fohrenwald was a camp--

551

00:27:34,370 --> 00:27:41,590  
before we came it was a  
camp for ethnic Germans,

552  
00:27:41,590 --> 00:27:43,000  
and they had beautiful houses.

553  
00:27:43,000 --> 00:27:45,710

554  
00:27:45,710 --> 00:27:47,990  
And like townhouses,  
some of them

555  
00:27:47,990 --> 00:27:54,200  
townhouses, and some of  
them individual houses

556  
00:27:54,200 --> 00:27:55,580  
and with a gate.

557  
00:27:55,580 --> 00:27:57,670  
Like they're making now here.

558  
00:27:57,670 --> 00:28:01,340  
In our area there's  
a big development

559  
00:28:01,340 --> 00:28:03,320  
with fences and gates.

560  
00:28:03,320 --> 00:28:07,430  
It was a nice,  
established place.

561  
00:28:07,430 --> 00:28:11,700  
When we came, the  
Germans are gone.

562  
00:28:11,700 --> 00:28:16,140  
And the UNRRA took it over,  
and I was almost the first one.

563

00:28:16,140 --> 00:28:20,725

The group, ours, we  
came from Pilsen.

564

00:28:20,725 --> 00:28:22,710

We were the first ones there.

565

00:28:22,710 --> 00:28:26,020

We choose a-- ours  
was a beautiful house.

566

00:28:26,020 --> 00:28:28,620

I met some friends,  
which I never knew,

567

00:28:28,620 --> 00:28:32,100

but we become friendly.

568

00:28:32,100 --> 00:28:36,570

Actually, I had two houses, one  
with a single boys-- a bunch

569

00:28:36,570 --> 00:28:41,790

of single boys, me and Derek  
Weinberg, and Max [? Korner, ?]

570

00:28:41,790 --> 00:28:47,470

and all are my age, in the 20s.

571

00:28:47,470 --> 00:28:49,830

So you're about 23 now.

572

00:28:49,830 --> 00:28:51,040

22, 23.

573

00:28:51,040 --> 00:28:56,700

I was 23, right, in 1946, '47.

574

00:28:56,700 --> 00:29:00,030

I was born in 1922.

575



00:29:00,030 --> 00:29:03,210  
So and then I had a house--

576  
00:29:03,210 --> 00:29:06,690  
I had a room with the friends  
what we came from Kozenice.

577  
00:29:06,690 --> 00:29:12,430  
My friends, that one who just  
talked to me and her husband.

578  
00:29:12,430 --> 00:29:15,530  
She was not married yet, but  
they were boyfriends in camp.

579  
00:29:15,530 --> 00:29:17,640  
And a few other  
people from Kozenice.

580  
00:29:17,640 --> 00:29:24,000  
We had like a big townhouse.

581  
00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:25,860  
So this was not barracks.

582  
00:29:25,860 --> 00:29:27,080  
This was nice houses.

583  
00:29:27,080 --> 00:29:28,350  
It was beautiful houses.

584  
00:29:28,350 --> 00:29:32,100  
And the UNRRA, they  
made the streets--

585  
00:29:32,100 --> 00:29:35,490  
named the streets, put  
names on the streets--

586  
00:29:35,490 --> 00:29:38,310  
New York, Connecticut.

587

00:29:38,310 --> 00:29:40,650  
All the streets were  
United States names,

588  
00:29:40,650 --> 00:29:42,480  
the states from  
the United States,

589  
00:29:42,480 --> 00:29:44,160  
the Americans put right away.

590  
00:29:44,160 --> 00:29:45,840  
This was an American  
zone already,

591  
00:29:45,840 --> 00:29:48,313  
because we came from the  
Russian to the Americans.

592  
00:29:48,313 --> 00:29:48,813  
OK.

593  
00:29:48,813 --> 00:29:49,313  
Mm-hmm.

594  
00:29:49,313 --> 00:29:51,940  
It was like from day to night.

595  
00:29:51,940 --> 00:29:55,210  
The Americans  
treated us very good.

596  
00:29:55,210 --> 00:29:58,320  
Especially the UNRRA gave  
us everything we needed--

597  
00:29:58,320 --> 00:30:02,510  
clothing, food.

598  
00:30:02,510 --> 00:30:03,980  
They treated us like human.

599

00:30:03,980 --> 00:30:06,700

600

00:30:06,700 --> 00:30:10,351

But we got frustrated.

601

00:30:10,351 --> 00:30:16,640

We went from one camp,  
torture camp, to a good camp.

602

00:30:16,640 --> 00:30:21,640

But we want-- the people, we  
want to produce something.

603

00:30:21,640 --> 00:30:26,780

We don't want to stay and get  
rations, food, and chocolates,

604

00:30:26,780 --> 00:30:27,730

and candy.

605

00:30:27,730 --> 00:30:31,900

You give me the best food  
in the world, but still--

606

00:30:31,900 --> 00:30:33,130

they're still giving to you.

607

00:30:33,130 --> 00:30:36,020

608

00:30:36,020 --> 00:30:40,670

So we live in the Fohrenwald  
and there came other people,

609

00:30:40,670 --> 00:30:42,380

and thousands of more people.

610

00:30:42,380 --> 00:30:47,360

And there were at least 3,000  
to 4,000 people in that camp,

611

00:30:47,360 --> 00:30:48,470  
maybe more.

612  
00:30:48,470 --> 00:30:51,300  
I don't know how many.

613  
00:30:51,300 --> 00:30:56,960  
And we became a very,  
very tight group.

614  
00:30:56,960 --> 00:31:02,240  
You know, and a lot of started  
smuggling people out to Israel.

615  
00:31:02,240 --> 00:31:04,820  
Now, how did you spend  
your day if everything

616  
00:31:04,820 --> 00:31:06,410  
was provided for you?

617  
00:31:06,410 --> 00:31:10,800  
We played all kind of  
football and baseball.

618  
00:31:10,800 --> 00:31:12,100  
All kinds of games.

619  
00:31:12,100 --> 00:31:14,090  
We do nothing.

620  
00:31:14,090 --> 00:31:18,230  
So they didn't give you chores  
to do or ask you to help sweep

621  
00:31:18,230 --> 00:31:19,370  
the streets?

622  
00:31:19,370 --> 00:31:23,600  
Yeah, there were shops  
to repair for clothing.

623

00:31:23,600 --> 00:31:28,850  
There were schools for  
young girls to how to sew.

624  
00:31:28,850 --> 00:31:34,190  
And there were young kids,  
kids like youngsters,

625  
00:31:34,190 --> 00:31:37,970  
maybe 16, 17, and  
school for them.

626  
00:31:37,970 --> 00:31:42,650  
I was supposedly--  
not officially

627  
00:31:42,650 --> 00:31:47,600  
but supposedly  
became like a guard.

628  
00:31:47,600 --> 00:31:50,725  
All my friends where we were  
in this big house together,

629  
00:31:50,725 --> 00:31:53,150  
they became-- one was  
a chief of police.

630  
00:31:53,150 --> 00:31:54,110  
And they were police.

631  
00:31:54,110 --> 00:31:57,240  
They made like a whole city.

632  
00:31:57,240 --> 00:31:58,908  
So I was helping him.

633  
00:31:58,908 --> 00:32:01,200  
Actually, I didn't want to  
become a-- put on a uniform.

634  
00:32:01,200 --> 00:32:03,710  
I didn't like it.

635  
00:32:03,710 --> 00:32:05,270  
Why didn't you like it?

636  
00:32:05,270 --> 00:32:08,390  
I don't like being in uniform.

637  
00:32:08,390 --> 00:32:17,000  
But we started  
doing some business.

638  
00:32:17,000 --> 00:32:21,080  
Young people like me, we  
didn't want to do nothing.

639  
00:32:21,080 --> 00:32:22,430  
So I started smuggling.

640  
00:32:22,430 --> 00:32:28,160

641  
00:32:28,160 --> 00:32:35,360  
Guys who went out from the camp  
to the farmers, to the Germans,

642  
00:32:35,360 --> 00:32:41,960  
to buy up produce from them,  
fresh produce, apples, fruits,

643  
00:32:41,960 --> 00:32:46,580  
meat, clothing, and bring  
it to the camp and sell it.

644  
00:32:46,580 --> 00:32:50,000  
We start being a  
commerce business.

645  
00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:56,040  
And this became very big,  
and become a black market.

646  
00:32:56,040 --> 00:32:58,350

And also they will start  
selling to the Germans,

647  
00:32:58,350 --> 00:33:01,170  
but the Germans were  
still on rations.

648  
00:33:01,170 --> 00:33:04,530  
Now, how did the people  
in the camp get money?

649  
00:33:04,530 --> 00:33:08,690

650  
00:33:08,690 --> 00:33:10,070  
That's what happened.

651  
00:33:10,070 --> 00:33:14,242  
We start doing some  
business, selling stuff.

652  
00:33:14,242 --> 00:33:15,200  
We used to get rations.

653  
00:33:15,200 --> 00:33:16,040  
We got cigarettes.

654  
00:33:16,040 --> 00:33:17,870  
We don't smoke.

655  
00:33:17,870 --> 00:33:20,000  
You know, little by little  
you accumulate money.

656  
00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:23,340  
You don't need it, so  
you buy something else

657  
00:33:23,340 --> 00:33:24,880  
and sell something.

658  
00:33:24,880 --> 00:33:26,300

For instance, I didn't have--

659

00:33:26,300 --> 00:33:28,160

I didn't have--

660

00:33:28,160 --> 00:33:29,360

I didn't work.

661

00:33:29,360 --> 00:33:30,230

I got cigarettes.

662

00:33:30,230 --> 00:33:31,550

I never smoked.

663

00:33:31,550 --> 00:33:32,360

OK.

664

00:33:32,360 --> 00:33:35,750

I used to have  
stacks of cigarettes.

665

00:33:35,750 --> 00:33:37,910

And a German for a  
carton of cigarettes,

666

00:33:37,910 --> 00:33:40,310

he'll give you  
anything you want.

667

00:33:40,310 --> 00:33:40,890

OK.

668

00:33:40,890 --> 00:33:43,430

So you could start with the  
cigarettes and build up.

669

00:33:43,430 --> 00:33:48,380

I once went with my  
friend Derek Weinberg.

670

00:33:48,380 --> 00:33:53,930

He was working for the



US army as a courier.

671  
00:33:53,930 --> 00:33:57,050  
They gave him a motorcycle,  
gave him a uniform.

672  
00:33:57,050 --> 00:34:00,770  
So I traveled with him from  
one military camp to another.

673  
00:34:00,770 --> 00:34:02,450  
[INAUDIBLE] the  
Germans-- the Americans

674  
00:34:02,450 --> 00:34:06,810  
took us-- took him and they  
paid him with rations, too,

675  
00:34:06,810 --> 00:34:07,310  
whatever.

676  
00:34:07,310 --> 00:34:08,770  
And he liked that.

677  
00:34:08,770 --> 00:34:11,929  
And I met a woman called  
Maria Lehmann, a German woman.

678  
00:34:11,929 --> 00:34:14,860

679  
00:34:14,860 --> 00:34:20,659  
That woman was-- her husband was  
a German also, but from Mexico.

680  
00:34:20,659 --> 00:34:23,560  
She was from Bavaria.

681  
00:34:23,560 --> 00:34:30,100  
And she lived about 10, 15 miles  
from the camp, a little town

682

00:34:30,100 --> 00:34:33,679  
not far from Starnberg.

683  
00:34:33,679 --> 00:34:35,880  
So we passed by  
there a few times,

684  
00:34:35,880 --> 00:34:37,909  
and she was very friendly.

685  
00:34:37,909 --> 00:34:39,920  
One time we stopped there.

686  
00:34:39,920 --> 00:34:47,530  
So she asked if I have  
extra bread or extra butter.

687  
00:34:47,530 --> 00:34:49,179  
You couldn't get  
everything there.

688  
00:34:49,179 --> 00:34:51,909  
So I said I'll bring  
it to you next time.

689  
00:34:51,909 --> 00:34:55,989  
And from then we  
became very friendly.

690  
00:34:55,989 --> 00:35:01,780  
And I asked her for, among  
other things, what she has.

691  
00:35:01,780 --> 00:35:03,465  
I got in touch with a man.

692  
00:35:03,465 --> 00:35:04,340  
I mean, not in touch.

693  
00:35:04,340 --> 00:35:08,080  
I knew him in camp  
in, in Fohrenwald.

694

00:35:08,080 --> 00:35:12,391

He was an organizer  
for the Irgun.

695

00:35:12,391 --> 00:35:16,260

Irgun Tsvai HaLeumi, the  
Jewish underground organization

696

00:35:16,260 --> 00:35:20,200

Israel, who was  
fighting the British.

697

00:35:20,200 --> 00:35:26,970

He wanted me to find out if  
I could get any kind of guns

698

00:35:26,970 --> 00:35:30,630

from the Germans to buy.

699

00:35:30,630 --> 00:35:34,520

So I mentioned this  
to Mrs. Lehmann.

700

00:35:34,520 --> 00:35:36,110

She said, I will check it on--

701

00:35:36,110 --> 00:35:38,432

check it out.

702

00:35:38,432 --> 00:35:39,640

She brought me one gun first.

703

00:35:39,640 --> 00:35:44,420

704

00:35:44,420 --> 00:35:48,080

So much-- I can't  
remember how many marks.

705

00:35:48,080 --> 00:35:52,520

She told me about a man who  
want so much and so much.

706  
00:35:52,520 --> 00:35:54,560  
I said OK.

707  
00:35:54,560 --> 00:35:59,450  
This Jewish man from the  
Irgun, I have a picture of him.

708  
00:35:59,450 --> 00:36:01,030  
I can't remember his name.

709  
00:36:01,030 --> 00:36:05,270

710  
00:36:05,270 --> 00:36:06,150  
I gave it to him.

711  
00:36:06,150 --> 00:36:07,730  
So then he paid me.

712  
00:36:07,730 --> 00:36:10,220  
And he said, bring  
more, whatever you can.

713  
00:36:10,220 --> 00:36:14,057  
Whatever you can, whatever  
you bring, we need it.

714  
00:36:14,057 --> 00:36:15,140  
We smuggle this to Israel.

715  
00:36:15,140 --> 00:36:17,460  
We need it.

716  
00:36:17,460 --> 00:36:19,460  
So that's what happened,  
and I started smuggling

717  
00:36:19,460 --> 00:36:21,470  
a lot of these things.

718

00:36:21,470 --> 00:36:26,240  
She got me in touch with another  
guy, a guy, a German with one

719  
00:36:26,240 --> 00:36:29,360  
leg, a wooden leg her had.

720  
00:36:29,360 --> 00:36:32,525  
Yes, He claimed that he  
was a driver for Goering.

721  
00:36:32,525 --> 00:36:35,240  
I don't know if  
it's true or not.

722  
00:36:35,240 --> 00:36:37,115  
And he came to camp.

723  
00:36:37,115 --> 00:36:41,690  
He brought me some guns in his  
wooden shoes and wooden leg.

724  
00:36:41,690 --> 00:36:49,090  
And so the old man  
was going to Israel

725  
00:36:49,090 --> 00:36:51,460  
and I was cut off with him.

726  
00:36:51,460 --> 00:36:52,690  
We didn't do it anymore.

727  
00:36:52,690 --> 00:36:55,270  
And I was still in  
touch with Mrs. Lehmann.

728  
00:36:55,270 --> 00:36:57,490  
She was very-- then  
she brought me jewelry.

729  
00:36:57,490 --> 00:37:01,600  
She like-- you know, she  
became like a [INAUDIBLE]

730  
00:37:01,600 --> 00:37:03,295  
she wanted gasoline for her car.

731  
00:37:03,295 --> 00:37:05,170  
She had a car, but she  
couldn't get gasoline.

732  
00:37:05,170 --> 00:37:06,660  
And I had plenty of gasoline.

733  
00:37:06,660 --> 00:37:08,290  
Because from the  
Americans plenty, they

734  
00:37:08,290 --> 00:37:11,470  
stocked up the gasoline  
tanks in my garage.

735  
00:37:11,470 --> 00:37:13,660  
We had more cars,  
so we had a garage.

736  
00:37:13,660 --> 00:37:15,220  
So I had plenty.

737  
00:37:15,220 --> 00:37:17,620  
They give it to me  
as much as I want.

738  
00:37:17,620 --> 00:37:20,410  
And she was really happy.

739  
00:37:20,410 --> 00:37:21,846  
We have to turn over the tape.

740  
00:37:21,846 --> 00:37:22,346  
Yeah.

741  
00:37:22,346 --> 00:37:31,770

742

00:37:31,770 --> 00:37:35,040

This is a continuation of  
a United States Holocaust

743

00:37:35,040 --> 00:37:37,380

Memorial Museum  
Volunteer Collection

744

00:37:37,380 --> 00:37:39,390

interview with David Bayer.

745

00:37:39,390 --> 00:37:43,440

This is tape number one, side B.

746

00:37:43,440 --> 00:37:46,560

And in Fohrenwald, a lot  
of things happened there

747

00:37:46,560 --> 00:37:52,320

between the displaced--

748

00:37:52,320 --> 00:37:57,570

between the DPs and  
the German police.

749

00:37:57,570 --> 00:37:59,730

The German police--  
became the German police.

750

00:37:59,730 --> 00:38:02,430

They give them all the guns.

751

00:38:02,430 --> 00:38:05,010

The government, the Bava--  
the Bayern government--

752

00:38:05,010 --> 00:38:10,370

Bairische government organized  
with the help of the Americans

753

00:38:10,370 --> 00:38:11,820

regular German police.

754  
00:38:11,820 --> 00:38:12,610  
German police?

755  
00:38:12,610 --> 00:38:13,110  
Police.

756  
00:38:13,110 --> 00:38:15,660  
You know.

757  
00:38:15,660 --> 00:38:16,650  
They formed that.

758  
00:38:16,650 --> 00:38:17,670  
Time is passing by.

759  
00:38:17,670 --> 00:38:23,340  
Since the beginning,  
already the end '46

760  
00:38:23,340 --> 00:38:25,980  
was already Germans' police  
and the Germans' government,

761  
00:38:25,980 --> 00:38:29,250  
and the Americans are  
really established

762  
00:38:29,250 --> 00:38:31,360  
under the American control.

763  
00:38:31,360 --> 00:38:35,070  
And so they started  
cracking down

764  
00:38:35,070 --> 00:38:36,540  
on the black market things.

765  
00:38:36,540 --> 00:38:37,540  
The German police?

766



00:38:37,540 --> 00:38:38,040  
Yeah.

767  
00:38:38,040 --> 00:38:38,980  
OK.

768  
00:38:38,980 --> 00:38:41,040  
There was a few  
friends of mine who

769  
00:38:41,040 --> 00:38:44,610  
used to be on the  
black market business

770  
00:38:44,610 --> 00:38:48,210  
and they were going to  
farms, and buying a cow

771  
00:38:48,210 --> 00:38:51,840  
from a German farmer,  
slaughter the cow,

772  
00:38:51,840 --> 00:38:55,560  
and bringing the meat  
to the camp and sell it.

773  
00:38:55,560 --> 00:38:57,570  
And also sell to  
some Germans who

774  
00:38:57,570 --> 00:39:02,370  
couldn't get all the kind  
of meats in the rations.

775  
00:39:02,370 --> 00:39:09,190  
So was one incident which the  
German police stopped a truck

776  
00:39:09,190 --> 00:39:11,520  
with some smugglers.

777  
00:39:11,520 --> 00:39:16,110  
I mean, some black market

guys who were coming to camp.

778

00:39:16,110 --> 00:39:17,970

Because our camp was  
on the main highway

779

00:39:17,970 --> 00:39:22,860

going from Munich  
to Austria, to Linz,

780

00:39:22,860 --> 00:39:26,325

to a Garmisch-Partenkirchen,  
to Berchtesgaden.

781

00:39:26,325 --> 00:39:28,590

They're passing by  
the main highway,

782

00:39:28,590 --> 00:39:34,840

and our camp was maybe a  
little bit in from the road.

783

00:39:34,840 --> 00:39:37,190

It was visible from the road.

784

00:39:37,190 --> 00:39:40,600

So the Germans stopped  
that truck on the road,

785

00:39:40,600 --> 00:39:42,430

and they searched him.

786

00:39:42,430 --> 00:39:46,300

They had a fight, and  
one Jewish boy was shot.

787

00:39:46,300 --> 00:39:49,420

They were struggling  
with the gun, and--

788

00:39:49,420 --> 00:39:51,490

so we actually rioted.

789

00:39:51,490 --> 00:39:54,640

We went out from the camp,  
and we start up the highway.

790

00:39:54,640 --> 00:39:55,780

Were you part of the riot?

791

00:39:55,780 --> 00:39:59,290

Right, an American police  
constable or police,

792

00:39:59,290 --> 00:40:01,720

military police came  
and blocked the camp,

793

00:40:01,720 --> 00:40:04,800

didn't let us out for a while.

794

00:40:04,800 --> 00:40:05,360

And--

795

00:40:05,360 --> 00:40:07,600

For how long wouldn't  
they let you out?

796

00:40:07,600 --> 00:40:10,460

Maybe two weeks.

797

00:40:10,460 --> 00:40:11,810

We couldn't go to the funeral.

798

00:40:11,810 --> 00:40:14,890

We had to take the  
young man to Munich.

799

00:40:14,890 --> 00:40:17,380

Only 10 people were allowed.

800

00:40:17,380 --> 00:40:18,520

It was very tense.

801

00:40:18,520 --> 00:40:20,580

The situation was  
very tense then.

802

00:40:20,580 --> 00:40:30,570

We stopped a bus with Germans,  
and threw the bus over

803

00:40:30,570 --> 00:40:31,460

on the road.

804

00:40:31,460 --> 00:40:33,380

We damaged the bus.

805

00:40:33,380 --> 00:40:36,330

The Germans run away,  
and the American police

806

00:40:36,330 --> 00:40:38,400

came and blocked the whole camp.

807

00:40:38,400 --> 00:40:39,960

We couldn't get out.

808

00:40:39,960 --> 00:40:43,110

There used to be like a  
city, going and coming

809

00:40:43,110 --> 00:40:46,470

the way we want, but they  
locked us up like in prison.

810

00:40:46,470 --> 00:40:51,820

[INAUDIBLE] So we were a little  
bit tense with the Americans.

811

00:40:51,820 --> 00:40:53,700

The Americans helped  
more the Germans lately.

812

00:40:53,700 --> 00:40:56,580

In the beginning, the Americans,  
the first group of Americans

813  
00:40:56,580 --> 00:41:02,310  
who came to occupation,  
they were friendly.

814  
00:41:02,310 --> 00:41:05,250  
Were nice to the survivors.

815  
00:41:05,250 --> 00:41:06,120  
They were helpful.

816  
00:41:06,120 --> 00:41:08,520  
But the other wave, the  
new ones who come in

817  
00:41:08,520 --> 00:41:11,850  
were already more  
friendly to the Germans.

818  
00:41:11,850 --> 00:41:14,730  
The Germans were all young men.

819  
00:41:14,730 --> 00:41:17,910  
They were all young  
blonde German women.

820  
00:41:17,910 --> 00:41:20,580

821  
00:41:20,580 --> 00:41:21,750  
Some of them married.

822  
00:41:21,750 --> 00:41:25,640  
They became already  
buddy-buddies.

823  
00:41:25,640 --> 00:41:29,850  
And we resented that  
as young people.

824  
00:41:29,850 --> 00:41:36,250  
And which we also run

around with German girls.

825  
00:41:36,250 --> 00:41:39,060

826  
00:41:39,060 --> 00:41:44,130  
Single guys, you know,  
happy go lucky, like me.

827  
00:41:44,130 --> 00:41:46,020  
All of my friends, we didn't--

828  
00:41:46,020 --> 00:41:47,915  
some of them married  
Jewish girls.

829  
00:41:47,915 --> 00:41:49,290  
They met them and  
they went away.

830  
00:41:49,290 --> 00:41:51,180  
And I didn't.

831  
00:41:51,180 --> 00:41:53,100  
Did you go out  
with German girls?

832  
00:41:53,100 --> 00:41:54,090  
Yeah.

833  
00:41:54,090 --> 00:41:56,880  
I met a German girl  
named Monika Rosenzweig.

834  
00:41:56,880 --> 00:41:58,620  
We were together.

835  
00:41:58,620 --> 00:42:01,350  
She was a telephone operator,  
and she was crazy about me.

836  
00:42:01,350 --> 00:42:02,430

But--

837  
00:42:02,430 --> 00:42:04,230  
Was a German Jew or?

838  
00:42:04,230 --> 00:42:05,220  
She was German.

839  
00:42:05,220 --> 00:42:05,730  
German.

840  
00:42:05,730 --> 00:42:06,570  
OK.

841  
00:42:06,570 --> 00:42:07,460  
So it wasn't Jewish.

842  
00:42:07,460 --> 00:42:09,540  
You was a German girl.

843  
00:42:09,540 --> 00:42:12,825  
She came from Sudeten Germany.

844  
00:42:12,825 --> 00:42:14,575  
And I don't know  
whatever happened to her.

845  
00:42:14,575 --> 00:42:16,630  
I still have a picture.

846  
00:42:16,630 --> 00:42:21,590  
[INAUDIBLE] And I had  
a lot more pictures.

847  
00:42:21,590 --> 00:42:24,900  
I threw them away.

848  
00:42:24,900 --> 00:42:25,610  
And that's it.

849  
00:42:25,610 --> 00:42:32,310

And then I couldn't go  
to the United States.

850  
00:42:32,310 --> 00:42:38,520  
Now, were most of the people  
in this camp, were most of them

851  
00:42:38,520 --> 00:42:39,682  
Jews?

852  
00:42:39,682 --> 00:42:40,390  
All of them Jews.

853  
00:42:40,390 --> 00:42:41,720  
All Jews, OK.

854  
00:42:41,720 --> 00:42:46,300  
The beginning, there was  
some German refugees.

855  
00:42:46,300 --> 00:42:48,820  
When we came, they had to move.

856  
00:42:48,820 --> 00:42:53,620  
And then-- but when the  
camp, the Jewish camps

857  
00:42:53,620 --> 00:42:56,590  
were getting  
thinner and thinner,

858  
00:42:56,590 --> 00:43:00,500  
all the refugees came  
from the Ukraine.

859  
00:43:00,500 --> 00:43:01,450  
I didn't see them yet.

860  
00:43:01,450 --> 00:43:03,640  
I didn't see them because  
I was already gone.

861



00:43:03,640 --> 00:43:07,720  
When I left Fohrenwald,  
there were still all Jews.

862  
00:43:07,720 --> 00:43:09,730  
And then I heard  
from other people

863  
00:43:09,730 --> 00:43:14,590  
after that other came in,  
refugees from the Ukraine,

864  
00:43:14,590 --> 00:43:17,800  
from Russia, from Belarus.

865  
00:43:17,800 --> 00:43:18,520  
Not Jews.

866  
00:43:18,520 --> 00:43:19,480  
Not Jews.

867  
00:43:19,480 --> 00:43:21,550  
And was the idea  
of the camp when

868  
00:43:21,550 --> 00:43:25,930  
you were there mostly to  
help people get to Palestine?

869  
00:43:25,930 --> 00:43:27,190  
The idea was Palestine.

870  
00:43:27,190 --> 00:43:29,440  
Then not everybody want  
to go to Palestine.

871  
00:43:29,440 --> 00:43:33,730  
And besides, there's a lot of  
families people had in America.

872  
00:43:33,730 --> 00:43:39,250  
And also, the  
United States, there

873  
00:43:39,250 --> 00:43:40,600  
was a quota system before.

874  
00:43:40,600 --> 00:43:43,390  
A quota system to  
go, how many people.

875  
00:43:43,390 --> 00:43:48,370  
But the United States let in  
100,000 refugees without quota.

876  
00:43:48,370 --> 00:43:53,350  
And I was one of the 100,000.

877  
00:43:53,350 --> 00:43:56,080  
And I said, no, I'm not  
going to the United States.

878  
00:43:56,080 --> 00:43:59,290  
And why did you say that?

879  
00:43:59,290 --> 00:44:01,600  
Because of the conflicts  
with the American soldiers.

880  
00:44:01,600 --> 00:44:02,890  
Oh, OK.

881  
00:44:02,890 --> 00:44:03,490  
With the--

882  
00:44:03,490 --> 00:44:05,198  
OK, so you were angry  
with the Americans.

883  
00:44:05,198 --> 00:44:06,810  
No, I was--

884  
00:44:06,810 --> 00:44:08,710  
It didn't appeal to you.

885

00:44:08,710 --> 00:44:12,820

I said, well, I could go  
whenever I want later on.

886

00:44:12,820 --> 00:44:13,870

You know, I didn't--

887

00:44:13,870 --> 00:44:16,810

I was not in a hurry,  
because I didn't have nobody

888

00:44:16,810 --> 00:44:18,400

there in the United States.

889

00:44:18,400 --> 00:44:22,420

Did you have any place  
that you did want to go?

890

00:44:22,420 --> 00:44:24,160

That's what happened.

891

00:44:24,160 --> 00:44:30,670

I had to choose to go to  
Panama or to the United States.

892

00:44:30,670 --> 00:44:31,262

What happened?

893

00:44:31,262 --> 00:44:33,220

I would have probably  
gone to the United States

894

00:44:33,220 --> 00:44:38,200

if the friend who lived in  
Panama didn't search for me

895

00:44:38,200 --> 00:44:42,760

and find me in the DP camp  
through the American embassy.

896

00:44:42,760 --> 00:44:44,680

Now, he was from your hometown?

897  
00:44:44,680 --> 00:44:45,520  
In Kozienice.

898  
00:44:45,520 --> 00:44:48,250  
And he looked for you.

899  
00:44:48,250 --> 00:44:51,780  
After the war, he start  
looking for family,

900  
00:44:51,780 --> 00:44:55,240  
for friends, whoever survived.

901  
00:44:55,240 --> 00:44:57,070  
His father, his  
mother was there.

902  
00:44:57,070 --> 00:44:58,420  
And he found you through the UN.

903  
00:44:58,420 --> 00:45:00,670  
Through the United  
States government.

904  
00:45:00,670 --> 00:45:01,690  
Oh, OK.

905  
00:45:01,690 --> 00:45:05,140  
He went to the American  
embassy in Panama,

906  
00:45:05,140 --> 00:45:07,170  
and he told him the story.

907  
00:45:07,170 --> 00:45:08,830  
I have a friend--

908  
00:45:08,830 --> 00:45:12,130  
I had a friend before the  
war, and if I could find him,

909

00:45:12,130 --> 00:45:14,560

I would appreciate--  
and there was some--

910

00:45:14,560 --> 00:45:18,400

this guy, he lived alone  
and searched for me.

911

00:45:18,400 --> 00:45:20,920

Now, how did your  
friend get to Panama?

912

00:45:20,920 --> 00:45:23,020

He went there before  
the war in 1938.

913

00:45:23,020 --> 00:45:24,020

Oh.

914

00:45:24,020 --> 00:45:26,020

He emigrated from Europe to--

915

00:45:26,020 --> 00:45:30,110

And why did he go to Panama?

916

00:45:30,110 --> 00:45:31,480

He didn't go to Panama.

917

00:45:31,480 --> 00:45:33,220

He went to Honduras.

918

00:45:33,220 --> 00:45:36,070

What happened, my  
friend's father

919

00:45:36,070 --> 00:45:40,120

emigrated by himself to  
South America before the war.

920

00:45:40,120 --> 00:45:40,990

OK.

921

00:45:40,990 --> 00:45:44,020

In '38 or '37, I

don't know what year.

922

00:45:44,020 --> 00:45:47,140

He couldn't make it in

Poland, so he went to--

923

00:45:47,140 --> 00:45:51,190

by himself, left a wife and

children in Kozenice, Poland.

924

00:45:51,190 --> 00:45:52,060

He was Jewish?

925

00:45:52,060 --> 00:45:52,900

Yeah.

926

00:45:52,900 --> 00:45:56,360

And he went there to look

for work for the government,

927

00:45:56,360 --> 00:45:57,420

you know.

928

00:45:57,420 --> 00:46:01,150

And he was sending money

home every once in a while.

929

00:46:01,150 --> 00:46:05,410

Whatever he made, money to

sustain his wife and children.

930

00:46:05,410 --> 00:46:09,970

In 1938, he came from

South America to Poland,

931

00:46:09,970 --> 00:46:17,230

took his wife, took

1, 2, 3, kids he had.

932

00:46:17,230 --> 00:46:18,430

Three.

933  
00:46:18,430 --> 00:46:21,460  
My friend, a  
daughter, and a son.

934  
00:46:21,460 --> 00:46:23,990

935  
00:46:23,990 --> 00:46:26,450  
No, four kids.

936  
00:46:26,450 --> 00:46:28,841  
One daughter was born in '39.

937  
00:46:28,841 --> 00:46:31,530

938  
00:46:31,530 --> 00:46:35,190  
So he took them all to  
South America in 1938,

939  
00:46:35,190 --> 00:46:37,710  
right before the war.

940  
00:46:37,710 --> 00:46:39,610  
I went with him to  
school together.

941  
00:46:39,610 --> 00:46:43,440  
We were buddy-buddy when  
we're children, friends.

942  
00:46:43,440 --> 00:46:47,490  
And I remember he  
left me a golden pen.

943  
00:46:47,490 --> 00:46:50,460  
His father brought from South  
American and gave it to me.

944  
00:46:50,460 --> 00:46:52,410

So he wasn't just  
one of many pals.

945  
00:46:52,410 --> 00:46:53,820  
He was a very close friend.

946  
00:46:53,820 --> 00:46:55,647  
He lived down across  
the lake here.

947  
00:46:55,647 --> 00:46:56,980  
I see him every once in a while.

948  
00:46:56,980 --> 00:47:00,180

949  
00:47:00,180 --> 00:47:02,240  
So the father lived in Honduras.

950  
00:47:02,240 --> 00:47:03,920  
He took him over.

951  
00:47:03,920 --> 00:47:07,320  
From there he left,  
went to Panama.

952  
00:47:07,320 --> 00:47:09,840  
And in Panama after the  
war, he searched for me.

953  
00:47:09,840 --> 00:47:12,240  
And his father said,  
OK, let's bring him over

954  
00:47:12,240 --> 00:47:14,230  
here if he wants to come.

955  
00:47:14,230 --> 00:47:17,910  
So that's why I  
said, I go to Panama.

956  
00:47:17,910 --> 00:47:19,620



The purpose was,  
they had a daughter.

957  
00:47:19,620 --> 00:47:21,162  
They wanted me to  
marry the daughter.

958  
00:47:21,162 --> 00:47:24,032

959  
00:47:24,032 --> 00:47:25,240  
I didn't want to get married.

960  
00:47:25,240 --> 00:47:29,230

961  
00:47:29,230 --> 00:47:35,460  
So in Panama, I didn't want  
to live in Panama City.

962  
00:47:35,460 --> 00:47:37,860  
I don't like the system.

963  
00:47:37,860 --> 00:47:41,190  
I don't like the  
people, how they work.

964  
00:47:41,190 --> 00:47:42,600  
I didn't like the civilization.

965  
00:47:42,600 --> 00:47:44,400  
I got angry from  
everything already.

966  
00:47:44,400 --> 00:47:47,630

967  
00:47:47,630 --> 00:47:50,870  
So I went to live  
with the Indians.

968  
00:47:50,870 --> 00:47:55,370

He had one other son, next  
to my friend, which was--

969  
00:47:55,370 --> 00:47:59,280  
also he was in Panama, but  
he didn't like it either.

970  
00:47:59,280 --> 00:48:01,130  
He was confused.

971  
00:48:01,130 --> 00:48:03,590  
So he got me as a friend.

972  
00:48:03,590 --> 00:48:07,040  
He said, look, we both  
don't like it here.

973  
00:48:07,040 --> 00:48:11,890  
Let's go over to a place  
called Concepcion on the border

974  
00:48:11,890 --> 00:48:14,500  
from Panama and Costa Rica.

975  
00:48:14,500 --> 00:48:17,240  
Province is called Chiriqui.

976  
00:48:17,240 --> 00:48:18,800  
The capital is called David.

977  
00:48:18,800 --> 00:48:21,780  
In Spanish they  
call it Dah-veed.

978  
00:48:21,780 --> 00:48:25,140  
And I went with him over there,  
and we lived with the Indians.

979  
00:48:25,140 --> 00:48:28,350  
We were making leather and--

980  
00:48:28,350 --> 00:48:29,650

Making leather?

981  
00:48:29,650 --> 00:48:30,150  
Leather.

982  
00:48:30,150 --> 00:48:31,430  
Leather.

983  
00:48:31,430 --> 00:48:36,400  
From alligators, from  
iguanas, from all kind of--

984  
00:48:36,400 --> 00:48:37,770  
and I was very happy.

985  
00:48:37,770 --> 00:48:39,150  
Now, what was this set up?

986  
00:48:39,150 --> 00:48:40,770  
This was an Indian village?

987  
00:48:40,770 --> 00:48:41,910  
An Indian place.

988  
00:48:41,910 --> 00:48:46,890  
It must have been a little  
small town, maybe 2,000 people.

989  
00:48:46,890 --> 00:48:48,030  
A little small town.

990  
00:48:48,030 --> 00:48:49,720  
And was there a leather factory?

991  
00:48:49,720 --> 00:48:50,530  
No, no.

992  
00:48:50,530 --> 00:48:51,030  
What?

993  
00:48:51,030 --> 00:48:52,110

Just primitive way.

994

00:48:52,110 --> 00:49:02,780  
They make-- the Indians make  
the leather from a bark.

995

00:49:02,780 --> 00:49:03,460  
Yeah.

996

00:49:03,460 --> 00:49:07,480  
The bark is called mangle.

997

00:49:07,480 --> 00:49:11,170  
It grows in swamps.

998

00:49:11,170 --> 00:49:14,710  
Take the bark off, then it  
grows back all the time.

999

00:49:14,710 --> 00:49:17,710  
That bark is used  
to make leather.

1000

00:49:17,710 --> 00:49:20,350  
And we learned that from them.

1001

00:49:20,350 --> 00:49:26,310  
But I came from a family  
from leather business.

1002

00:49:26,310 --> 00:49:29,660  
My father had a shoe factory,  
and we all knew about leather.

1003

00:49:29,660 --> 00:49:32,430  
His father also used  
to make leather,

1004

00:49:32,430 --> 00:49:34,910  
worked in shoe business.

1005

00:49:34,910 --> 00:49:38,720

So what can we do in a  
small place like this?

1006  
00:49:38,720 --> 00:49:41,830  
They had a banana plantation,  
and that's all they had.

1007  
00:49:41,830 --> 00:49:43,190  
There's a few business.

1008  
00:49:43,190 --> 00:49:45,080  
And Indians are living  
from the fields,

1009  
00:49:45,080 --> 00:49:47,000  
and we had nothing else to do.

1010  
00:49:47,000 --> 00:49:55,040  
So we tried to have a  
tannery, a co-op tannery.

1011  
00:49:55,040 --> 00:49:56,360  
A tannery is a leather--

1012  
00:49:56,360 --> 00:49:57,173  
Tannery.

1013  
00:49:57,173 --> 00:49:57,808  
Tannery.

1014  
00:49:57,808 --> 00:49:59,225  
And they had a  
small [INAUDIBLE]..

1015  
00:49:59,225 --> 00:50:02,300  
We made holes in the  
ground, cement holes,

1016  
00:50:02,300 --> 00:50:06,245  
and we put the  
hides in, with cal.

1017

00:50:06,245 --> 00:50:10,250  
Cal is a-- call it  
in Spanish "cal."

1018  
00:50:10,250 --> 00:50:16,520  
C-A-L. It's a grain, a  
stone, a white stone,

1019  
00:50:16,520 --> 00:50:21,590  
which fermentates when  
they put it in the water.

1020  
00:50:21,590 --> 00:50:24,820  
That's what we did.

1021  
00:50:24,820 --> 00:50:26,760  
[BEEPING]

1022  
00:50:26,760 --> 00:50:28,230  
Shall we stop this for a minute?

1023  
00:50:28,230 --> 00:50:29,986  
We stop for a minute.

1024  
00:50:29,986 --> 00:50:32,770  
OK.

1025  
00:50:32,770 --> 00:50:34,180  
OK, let's continue.

1026  
00:50:34,180 --> 00:50:36,700  
And he left for  
home back to Panama.

1027  
00:50:36,700 --> 00:50:41,110  
And I stayed for a while  
there with the Indians.

1028  
00:50:41,110 --> 00:50:42,070  
And one day--

1029  
00:50:42,070 --> 00:50:43,690

Why did he leave?

1030  
00:50:43,690 --> 00:50:45,190  
His father wanted him home.

1031  
00:50:45,190 --> 00:50:50,620  
He had a business in Panama.

1032  
00:50:50,620 --> 00:50:53,470  
So did you and your friend  
have your own little business

1033  
00:50:53,470 --> 00:50:54,010  
together?

1034  
00:50:54,010 --> 00:50:54,510  
No.

1035  
00:50:54,510 --> 00:50:56,380  
Or you were hooked  
in with the Indians?

1036  
00:50:56,380 --> 00:50:58,780  
We just didn't need much anyway.

1037  
00:50:58,780 --> 00:51:01,750  
Over there we lived  
primitively, very primitive.

1038  
00:51:01,750 --> 00:51:05,640  
I lived in a shack  
on the ground.

1039  
00:51:05,640 --> 00:51:09,084  
I slept on a board.

1040  
00:51:09,084 --> 00:51:11,110  
Very like the Indians.

1041  
00:51:11,110 --> 00:51:12,640  
I bathed in the river.

1042  
00:51:12,640 --> 00:51:13,540  
We had no--

1043  
00:51:13,540 --> 00:51:15,795  
So you and your friend  
had your own shack.

1044  
00:51:15,795 --> 00:51:16,690  
That's it.

1045  
00:51:16,690 --> 00:51:17,350  
We didn't--

1046  
00:51:17,350 --> 00:51:18,845  
You didn't need any money.

1047  
00:51:18,845 --> 00:51:20,213  
We didn't need much.

1048  
00:51:20,213 --> 00:51:23,590  
We lived from the [INAUDIBLE],,  
and we lived exactly

1049  
00:51:23,590 --> 00:51:24,670  
like they did.

1050  
00:51:24,670 --> 00:51:26,530  
We ate the same food.

1051  
00:51:26,530 --> 00:51:30,040  
I didn't have much clothing.

1052  
00:51:30,040 --> 00:51:32,050  
A pair of sandals.

1053  
00:51:32,050 --> 00:51:34,390  
And so what did that  
feel like to you?

1054  
00:51:34,390 --> 00:51:35,020  
I was happy.



1055  
00:51:35,020 --> 00:51:35,740  
You were happy.

1056  
00:51:35,740 --> 00:51:36,640  
I was very happy.

1057  
00:51:36,640 --> 00:51:38,260  
I didn't know want--

1058  
00:51:38,260 --> 00:51:41,380  
I went away from the hustle  
and bustle of Panama.

1059  
00:51:41,380 --> 00:51:44,680  
I went away from the--

1060  
00:51:44,680 --> 00:51:50,320  
like you asked me before if  
I told my story to somebody.

1061  
00:51:50,320 --> 00:51:51,880  
I wanted to talk  
to them in Panama.

1062  
00:51:51,880 --> 00:51:53,740  
They didn't want to listen.

1063  
00:51:53,740 --> 00:51:55,390  
They didn't wouldn't  
say nothing.

1064  
00:51:55,390 --> 00:51:58,270  
They play cards in the  
organizations the whole time.

1065  
00:51:58,270 --> 00:52:01,150

1066  
00:52:01,150 --> 00:52:04,650  
Like I was not around.

1067

00:52:04,650 --> 00:52:05,980

Like you didn't exist.

1068

00:52:05,980 --> 00:52:07,480

I wouldn't exist.

1069

00:52:07,480 --> 00:52:09,880

Like, they didn't care  
if I survived or not.

1070

00:52:09,880 --> 00:52:12,310

Did your friend want to  
hear what had happened?

1071

00:52:12,310 --> 00:52:13,553

No, none of them.

1072

00:52:13,553 --> 00:52:14,470

And his father didn't?

1073

00:52:14,470 --> 00:52:14,970

No.

1074

00:52:14,970 --> 00:52:16,960

Were there many Jews in Panama?

1075

00:52:16,960 --> 00:52:18,250

Maybe 1,000.

1076

00:52:18,250 --> 00:52:20,720

1,000?

1077

00:52:20,720 --> 00:52:24,560

And there were two kinds,  
three kinds of Jews over there.

1078

00:52:24,560 --> 00:52:29,810

The one Eastern European,  
the one Sephardim,

1079

00:52:29,810 --> 00:52:35,790

means Jews from Latin count--

1080  
00:52:35,790 --> 00:52:41,000  
from Spain, from  
Turkey, from Greece.

1081  
00:52:41,000 --> 00:52:43,160  
This is the Sephardim.

1082  
00:52:43,160 --> 00:52:49,910  
Means Jews who came there  
during the Inquisition.

1083  
00:52:49,910 --> 00:52:54,320  
Three types of Jews in Panama.

1084  
00:52:54,320 --> 00:52:57,680  
The first are there  
from the Marranos,

1085  
00:52:57,680 --> 00:53:03,710  
the one came there in the  
14th, and 15th century.

1086  
00:53:03,710 --> 00:53:08,750  
From Spain under Mary  
[INAUDIBLE] Christian,

1087  
00:53:08,750 --> 00:53:13,250  
but they still observe  
Judaism in some way.

1088  
00:53:13,250 --> 00:53:16,850  
And the rest of them are Turks,  
Turkish Jews, means Sephardim.

1089  
00:53:16,850 --> 00:53:18,290  
And the rest are European.

1090  
00:53:18,290 --> 00:53:22,700  
These Europeans from Romania,  
Poland, and some from Germany.

1091  
00:53:22,700 --> 00:53:24,680  
That's all.

1092  
00:53:24,680 --> 00:53:26,090  
Total about 1,000.

1093  
00:53:26,090 --> 00:53:27,830  
Now maybe more.

1094  
00:53:27,830 --> 00:53:28,850  
Some Americans.

1095  
00:53:28,850 --> 00:53:31,970  
Was your friend's  
family religious?

1096  
00:53:31,970 --> 00:53:33,320  
No.

1097  
00:53:33,320 --> 00:53:34,660  
They all go on from Panama.

1098  
00:53:34,660 --> 00:53:35,368  
They lived there.

1099  
00:53:35,368 --> 00:53:36,590  
They all died.

1100  
00:53:36,590 --> 00:53:39,560  
My friend lives in Costa Rica.

1101  
00:53:39,560 --> 00:53:42,500  
The other brother who  
was with me in Concepcion

1102  
00:53:42,500 --> 00:53:46,190  
died in Mexico or in Canada.

1103  
00:53:46,190 --> 00:53:49,430  
And one other son who lives  
down in New York State

1104  
00:53:49,430 --> 00:53:52,790  
retired, and he's very down.

1105  
00:53:52,790 --> 00:53:54,680  
His wife just died.

1106  
00:53:54,680 --> 00:53:57,410  
One daughter lives  
in Philadelphia,

1107  
00:53:57,410 --> 00:53:58,790  
and one lives in Miami.

1108  
00:53:58,790 --> 00:54:02,030  
So the whole family dispersed.

1109  
00:54:02,030 --> 00:54:05,400  
And I meet him once in a while.

1110  
00:54:05,400 --> 00:54:08,570  
But in Concepcion, I was  
very happy with the Indians.

1111  
00:54:08,570 --> 00:54:10,475  
They treated me very nicely.

1112  
00:54:10,475 --> 00:54:12,860  
They were very good people.

1113  
00:54:12,860 --> 00:54:15,530  
Every once in a while, they  
went with me to the market.

1114  
00:54:15,530 --> 00:54:19,100  
I went with them,  
actually, to Concepcion.

1115  
00:54:19,100 --> 00:54:22,730  
I mean to David from Concepcion.

1116

00:54:22,730 --> 00:54:26,240  
And they introduced  
me to a Jewish man.

1117  
00:54:26,240 --> 00:54:29,000  
His name is [? Sam ?] Sand.

1118  
00:54:29,000 --> 00:54:31,950  
He told me that  
he's a Polish Jew.

1119  
00:54:31,950 --> 00:54:35,160  
When I came to meet him,  
he told me he's German.

1120  
00:54:35,160 --> 00:54:36,995  
He was a German Jew, actually.

1121  
00:54:36,995 --> 00:54:37,620  
He didn't know.

1122  
00:54:37,620 --> 00:54:41,700  
They call-- in Panama, they  
call every Jew Polish Jew.

1123  
00:54:41,700 --> 00:54:44,006  
It doesn't matter  
where you come from.

1124  
00:54:44,006 --> 00:54:46,230  
They call you Jodio Polaco.

1125  
00:54:46,230 --> 00:54:48,300  
It means Polish Jew.

1126  
00:54:48,300 --> 00:54:49,860  
Because the majority  
of Polish Jews

1127  
00:54:49,860 --> 00:54:52,125  
had a big influence  
in Costa Rica,

1128

00:54:52,125 --> 00:54:58,710  
in Panama, in Nicaragua, and  
Honduras, and El Salvador.

1129

00:54:58,710 --> 00:55:02,200  
The Polish Jew taught  
the natives there,

1130

00:55:02,200 --> 00:55:05,070  
when they came there after  
the Second World War--

1131

00:55:05,070 --> 00:55:09,840  
First World War, they  
taught them everything.

1132

00:55:09,840 --> 00:55:13,800  
They are so appreciative for  
the Polish Jew, all the shoe

1133

00:55:13,800 --> 00:55:18,770  
manufacturers in South  
America were the Jews--

1134

00:55:18,770 --> 00:55:21,600  
the Latinos didn't  
wear no shoes.

1135

00:55:21,600 --> 00:55:24,090  
They wore sandals, and  
that's the only primitive way

1136

00:55:24,090 --> 00:55:24,990  
they was making.

1137

00:55:24,990 --> 00:55:26,970  
A pair of shoes come  
from the United States,

1138

00:55:26,970 --> 00:55:28,950  
but they never made  
them over there.

1139

00:55:28,950 --> 00:55:31,470

The Polish Jew  
start making shoes

1140

00:55:31,470 --> 00:55:34,500

in these special countries.

1141

00:55:34,500 --> 00:55:35,890

They opened factories.

1142

00:55:35,890 --> 00:55:37,260

They taught them how to do it.

1143

00:55:37,260 --> 00:55:39,930

And now they are  
the best shoemakers

1144

00:55:39,930 --> 00:55:43,170

in the world, the Latinos.

1145

00:55:43,170 --> 00:55:47,880

In Panama, in Nicaragua,  
El Salvador, in Honduras,

1146

00:55:47,880 --> 00:55:51,070

in Venezuela, all  
those Polish Jews.

1147

00:55:51,070 --> 00:55:52,800

That's why they call them--

1148

00:55:52,800 --> 00:55:55,110

every Jew was a Polish Jew.

1149

00:55:55,110 --> 00:56:01,097

So when I met this [? Sam ?]  
Sand, he said to me,

1150

00:56:01,097 --> 00:56:01,680

"you're crazy.

1151



00:56:01,680 --> 00:56:02,680  
What are you doing here?

1152  
00:56:02,680 --> 00:56:05,230

1153  
00:56:05,230 --> 00:56:07,000  
You survived the  
war, you come here

1154  
00:56:07,000 --> 00:56:09,060  
living in a hole like this?

1155  
00:56:09,060 --> 00:56:10,060  
What are you doing here?

1156  
00:56:10,060 --> 00:56:11,530  
There's nothing here.

1157  
00:56:11,530 --> 00:56:12,280  
There's no people.

1158  
00:56:12,280 --> 00:56:13,030  
There's no Jews.

1159  
00:56:13,030 --> 00:56:13,840  
There's nothing.

1160  
00:56:13,840 --> 00:56:15,730  
What is going to be out of you?

1161  
00:56:15,730 --> 00:56:19,080  
What will happen to you?"

1162  
00:56:19,080 --> 00:56:20,155  
Said I don't want--

1163  
00:56:20,155 --> 00:56:21,780  
I don't want to live  
no more in Europe.

1164

00:56:21,780 --> 00:56:24,810  
I don't want to live no more  
in the hustle and bustle.

1165  
00:56:24,810 --> 00:56:26,220  
I don't want it.

1166  
00:56:26,220 --> 00:56:27,330  
I was disillusioned.

1167  
00:56:27,330 --> 00:56:28,230  
I was disappointed.

1168  
00:56:28,230 --> 00:56:30,960  
I was very down.

1169  
00:56:30,960 --> 00:56:33,270  
And also with the religion.

1170  
00:56:33,270 --> 00:56:36,330  
I was very religious  
when I was a kid.

1171  
00:56:36,330 --> 00:56:40,410  
And during the war, I  
prayed to God all the time,

1172  
00:56:40,410 --> 00:56:43,770  
but God didn't  
come to my rescue,

1173  
00:56:43,770 --> 00:56:45,595  
not to my parents, nobody.

1174  
00:56:45,595 --> 00:56:46,720  
You know what the solution?

1175  
00:56:46,720 --> 00:56:48,690  
I don't want to be  
religious at all.

1176  
00:56:48,690 --> 00:56:49,755

I don't want to pray.

1177

00:56:49,755 --> 00:56:51,047

I don't want to talk about God.

1178

00:56:51,047 --> 00:56:53,100

I want nothing.

1179

00:56:53,100 --> 00:56:56,760

Then he was talking to me.

1180

00:56:56,760 --> 00:57:00,788

About three or four  
times I met him.

1181

00:57:00,788 --> 00:57:04,740

And he says, I'm going to send  
a telegram to the Jewish Agency

1182

00:57:04,740 --> 00:57:08,820

to New York and find out  
what can be done with you,

1183

00:57:08,820 --> 00:57:10,590

if you want to go anywhere.

1184

00:57:10,590 --> 00:57:13,690

You should go to  
Israel, he said to me.

1185

00:57:13,690 --> 00:57:15,200

Israel has become independent.

1186

00:57:15,200 --> 00:57:16,600

He showed me newspapers.

1187

00:57:16,600 --> 00:57:21,300

It was 1947, '48, with  
the Arab armies mobilizing

1188

00:57:21,300 --> 00:57:25,710

to attack Israel, and Israel

is becoming independent.

1189  
00:57:25,710 --> 00:57:28,790  
The United Nations  
voted for independence.

1190  
00:57:28,790 --> 00:57:30,472  
And here you are running away?

1191  
00:57:30,472 --> 00:57:31,680  
He said, you're running away?

1192  
00:57:31,680 --> 00:57:32,930  
I said, I'm running away.

1193  
00:57:32,930 --> 00:57:34,763  
That's exactly what I'm  
doing, running away.

1194  
00:57:34,763 --> 00:57:36,900

1195  
00:57:36,900 --> 00:57:41,420  
And I met a man in Panama.

1196  
00:57:41,420 --> 00:57:45,500  
His name-- I knew his name.

1197  
00:57:45,500 --> 00:57:47,840  
He couldn't read and write.

1198  
00:57:47,840 --> 00:57:51,650  
He was from a town in  
Poland called Zelechow.

1199  
00:57:51,650 --> 00:57:54,200  
That town, I had an uncle there.

1200  
00:57:54,200 --> 00:57:55,700  
And he was a Polish Jew.

1201

00:57:55,700 --> 00:57:59,600  
He came there also  
before the war.

1202  
00:57:59,600 --> 00:58:05,390  
He became a builder without  
knowing how to read and write.

1203  
00:58:05,390 --> 00:58:10,220  
Made his own blueprints, built  
his own high rise in Panama.

1204  
00:58:10,220 --> 00:58:11,720  
It's unbelievable.

1205  
00:58:11,720 --> 00:58:12,400  
In Panama?

1206  
00:58:12,400 --> 00:58:14,540  
In Panama City.

1207  
00:58:14,540 --> 00:58:16,250  
He became very rich.

1208  
00:58:16,250 --> 00:58:22,190  
And he let me in the Jewish  
Community Center in Panama.

1209  
00:58:22,190 --> 00:58:24,645  
When I tell told  
him I'm leaving,

1210  
00:58:24,645 --> 00:58:26,990  
I'm going to  
Concepcion, he said,

1211  
00:58:26,990 --> 00:58:29,605  
I have a house between  
Concepcion and VolcÃ¡n.

1212  
00:58:29,605 --> 00:58:32,230

1213

00:58:32,230 --> 00:58:35,170

He built a house  
there for summer.

1214

00:58:35,170 --> 00:58:36,060

You can have the key.

1215

00:58:36,060 --> 00:58:37,810

And every time you  
want, you can go there.

1216

00:58:37,810 --> 00:58:40,810

This house was unbelievable  
house you ever saw.

1217

00:58:40,810 --> 00:58:45,090

He built it on top of a river.

1218

00:58:45,090 --> 00:58:45,760

Atop a stream.

1219

00:58:45,760 --> 00:58:46,510

Not a big river.

1220

00:58:46,510 --> 00:58:49,630

A stream.

1221

00:58:49,630 --> 00:58:52,300

And the water from  
the stream was going

1222

00:58:52,300 --> 00:58:56,327

into a pool, a swimming pool.

1223

00:58:56,327 --> 00:58:57,520

Made a swimming pool.

1224

00:58:57,520 --> 00:58:59,530

And the water was  
constantly changing,

1225

00:58:59,530 --> 00:59:05,560  
and with filters, that should  
not allow all kind of fish

1226  
00:59:05,560 --> 00:59:07,275  
or other things in there.

1227  
00:59:07,275 --> 00:59:09,400  
And he gave me the key,  
and I went there every once

1228  
00:59:09,400 --> 00:59:10,660  
in a while.

1229  
00:59:10,660 --> 00:59:14,470  
This was between  
Concepcion and Volcã;n.

1230  
00:59:14,470 --> 00:59:16,860  
Volcã;n is right on the border.

1231  
00:59:16,860 --> 00:59:21,240  
They call it Volcã;n because  
there was a dead volcano.

1232  
00:59:21,240 --> 00:59:25,310  
Once interrupted-- once  
erupted over there.

1233  
00:59:25,310 --> 00:59:26,550  
The land is very good.

1234  
00:59:26,550 --> 00:59:28,140  
There are a lot of German Jew--

1235  
00:59:28,140 --> 00:59:34,710  
German-- German people lived  
there, but they're not German.

1236  
00:59:34,710 --> 00:59:39,700  
They are-- like  
the Seven Day-- no.

1237

00:59:39,700 --> 00:59:43,150

They are a religion, which  
they run away from persecution

1238

00:59:43,150 --> 00:59:48,020

somewhere, and they lived there  
in VolcÃ¡n, like a big area.

1239

00:59:48,020 --> 00:59:48,930

They have farmers.

1240

00:59:48,930 --> 00:59:52,370

They have cows and cheese  
and everything else.

1241

00:59:52,370 --> 00:59:55,451

And they don't mix  
with nobody else there.

1242

00:59:55,451 --> 00:59:58,110

They're very nice people,  
but the Panamanian government

1243

00:59:58,110 --> 01:00:00,450

didn't like it,  
but they said they

1244

01:00:00,450 --> 01:00:02,230

didn't want to pay no taxes.

1245

01:00:02,230 --> 01:00:04,380

Well, come back to the story.

1246

01:00:04,380 --> 01:00:12,060

So this [? Sam ?] Sand got a  
letter from the Jewish agency,

1247

01:00:12,060 --> 01:00:13,950

from New York,  
that there's going

1248

01:00:13,950 --> 01:00:19,950



to be a ship coming through  
the canal going to Israel.

1249  
01:00:19,950 --> 01:00:24,490  
And I could join that  
ship if I want to.

1250  
01:00:24,490 --> 01:00:28,840  
Because the ship come  
into Panama to pick up

1251  
01:00:28,840 --> 01:00:32,500  
180 trucks, who the  
Jewish Agency brought

1252  
01:00:32,500 --> 01:00:36,690  
from the Canal Zone, surplus.

1253  
01:00:36,690 --> 01:00:39,020  
Mack trucks.

1254  
01:00:39,020 --> 01:00:44,120  
And I could take  
care of the cargo.

1255  
01:00:44,120 --> 01:00:45,170  
They give me a title.

1256  
01:00:45,170 --> 01:00:46,190  
I'd be supercargo.

1257  
01:00:46,190 --> 01:00:47,600  
That's what they called me.

1258  
01:00:47,600 --> 01:00:51,680  
And I will watch that cargo,  
taking care on the ship,

1259  
01:00:51,680 --> 01:00:54,248  
that I want to go to Israel.

1260  
01:00:54,248 --> 01:00:58,370

So I agreed, said  
goodbye to my Indians.

1261  
01:00:58,370 --> 01:01:00,620  
And I said goodbye  
to [? Sam ?] Sand,

1262  
01:01:00,620 --> 01:01:02,510  
and I went back to Panama.

1263  
01:01:02,510 --> 01:01:04,730  
And I went to ColÃ³n.

1264  
01:01:04,730 --> 01:01:07,896  
The ship came.

1265  
01:01:07,896 --> 01:01:09,670  
And I took whatever  
possessions I had,

1266  
01:01:09,670 --> 01:01:12,150  
and I went to  
Israel on that ship.

1267  
01:01:12,150 --> 01:01:14,880

1268  
01:01:14,880 --> 01:01:21,410  
I went to Curacao with  
the ship to pick up

1269  
01:01:21,410 --> 01:01:28,010  
gasoline for aeroplanes  
in barrels, put it inside.

1270  
01:01:28,010 --> 01:01:33,660  
Then the ship, when it was  
still in Panama, got an order,

1271  
01:01:33,660 --> 01:01:35,180  
first we got the  
trucks on the ship.

1272

01:01:35,180 --> 01:01:39,650

Then they got an order to get  
cables, special cables that you

1273

01:01:39,650 --> 01:01:42,620

should buy in the Canal Zone.

1274

01:01:42,620 --> 01:01:48,812

And from there to go to a  
port in Cuba called Antilla.

1275

01:01:48,812 --> 01:01:52,230

On the other side  
of Cuba, Havana.

1276

01:01:52,230 --> 01:01:54,830

1277

01:01:54,830 --> 01:02:01,340

To pick up a torpedo boat, and  
to pull this with the cables

1278

01:02:01,340 --> 01:02:01,840

to Israel.

1279

01:02:01,840 --> 01:02:06,770

1280

01:02:06,770 --> 01:02:09,740

That's what we did.

1281

01:02:09,740 --> 01:02:13,310

On that ship, there  
were two Israelis

1282

01:02:13,310 --> 01:02:15,390

who came from San Francisco.

1283

01:02:15,390 --> 01:02:17,030

They were college students.

1284

01:02:17,030 --> 01:02:18,530  
And they got orders  
to come home.

1285  
01:02:18,530 --> 01:02:21,050

1286  
01:02:21,050 --> 01:02:25,010  
There was a Jew from  
New Jersey, a woman

1287  
01:02:25,010 --> 01:02:31,400  
who was passenger on that  
ship, opening a chicken farm

1288  
01:02:31,400 --> 01:02:33,350  
in Israel.

1289  
01:02:33,350 --> 01:02:37,250  
There was a Mexican  
Jewish boy from Mexico,

1290  
01:02:37,250 --> 01:02:39,440  
who joined that transport.

1291  
01:02:39,440 --> 01:02:43,340  
And there was a French  
Jewish boy from Mexico, also.

1292  
01:02:43,340 --> 01:02:48,060  
He was living in Mexico,  
but he's from France.

1293  
01:02:48,060 --> 01:02:54,890  
And then there was in  
Miami, from Miami two

1294  
01:02:54,890 --> 01:02:57,920  
Jewish guys stole a torpedo--

1295  
01:02:57,920 --> 01:02:59,720  
actually, I know they stole it.

1296

01:02:59,720 --> 01:03:05,180

For \$80,000-- the  
Jewish agency paid him

1297

01:03:05,180 --> 01:03:09,050

\$80,000 for a torpedo  
boat the United States

1298

01:03:09,050 --> 01:03:13,430

Navy got from Germany.

1299

01:03:13,430 --> 01:03:14,495

It was a German boat?

1300

01:03:14,495 --> 01:03:19,430

A German torpedo boat  
with two live torpedoes.

1301

01:03:19,430 --> 01:03:24,680

And the American named  
that little boat Honduras.

1302

01:03:24,680 --> 01:03:29,480

And that boat, the two guys,  
one a Jewish, one a Christian,

1303

01:03:29,480 --> 01:03:35,360

American, took that boat  
from Miami's naval yard

1304

01:03:35,360 --> 01:03:39,030

somewhere to that Port Antilla.

1305

01:03:39,030 --> 01:03:45,630

And there you had to schlep it,  
pull it from there to Israel.

1306

01:03:45,630 --> 01:03:47,130

With live torpedoes.

1307

01:03:47,130 --> 01:03:49,440

Two live torpedoes

and a pump, to pump up

1308  
01:03:49,440 --> 01:03:52,350  
the boat at all time.

1309  
01:03:52,350 --> 01:03:57,060  
And the ship name  
was Vassiliadis RAF.

1310  
01:03:57,060 --> 01:04:03,240  
Like this ship, the owner's  
son was a Royal Air Force pilot

1311  
01:04:03,240 --> 01:04:04,900  
and got killed in the war.

1312  
01:04:04,900 --> 01:04:09,680  
He named after him, Vassiliadis.

1313  
01:04:09,680 --> 01:04:12,840  
The ship was Greek  
crew, very hostile.

1314  
01:04:12,840 --> 01:04:13,410  
Hostile?

1315  
01:04:13,410 --> 01:04:17,340  
Hostile to us, because  
we meet, for instance,

1316  
01:04:17,340 --> 01:04:19,950  
to tell them to  
write down everything

1317  
01:04:19,950 --> 01:04:21,840  
they do with the cargo.

1318  
01:04:21,840 --> 01:04:26,120  
So they got extra  
time they have to pay.

1319  
01:04:26,120 --> 01:04:27,840

And it was very--

1320  
01:04:27,840 --> 01:04:30,295  
and the torpedo was  
hampering the travel.

1321  
01:04:30,295 --> 01:04:33,900  
It was very choppy, and we  
had to cross the Atlantic.

1322  
01:04:33,900 --> 01:04:37,920  
And we went-- and when  
we came to the Gibraltar,

1323  
01:04:37,920 --> 01:04:41,020  
the British didn't  
let us go through.

1324  
01:04:41,020 --> 01:04:42,900  
We had to sneak  
through at night.

1325  
01:04:42,900 --> 01:04:44,310  
And they told us to stop.

1326  
01:04:44,310 --> 01:04:45,930  
We didn't want to stop.

1327  
01:04:45,930 --> 01:04:48,830  
They kept constantly was in  
touch with the Jewish Agency

1328  
01:04:48,830 --> 01:04:50,490  
in New York.

1329  
01:04:50,490 --> 01:04:53,205  
And whatever they tell  
him to do, he had to do.

1330  
01:04:53,205 --> 01:04:56,670  
Because it was  
chartered by them.

1331

01:04:56,670 --> 01:04:59,700

And then there was a storm--

1332

01:04:59,700 --> 01:05:03,150

Now, this was in 1948?

1333

01:05:03,150 --> 01:05:04,380

Beginning of '48.

1334

01:05:04,380 --> 01:05:05,520

Beginning of '48.

1335

01:05:05,520 --> 01:05:06,900

OK.

1336

01:05:06,900 --> 01:05:08,010

End of '47.

1337

01:05:08,010 --> 01:05:10,640

It took us about  
a month, but maybe

1338

01:05:10,640 --> 01:05:13,800

five weeks to  
travel on that ship.

1339

01:05:13,800 --> 01:05:19,730

And then the engineer,  
a Greek, broke his leg,

1340

01:05:19,730 --> 01:05:25,500

and he wanted to get off in  
Sparta, in the Mediterranean.

1341

01:05:25,500 --> 01:05:28,470

We couldn't tell him no.

1342

01:05:28,470 --> 01:05:30,710

And they were very mean.

1343

01:05:30,710 --> 01:05:33,780



Finally, they stopped  
somewhere, on an island.

1344  
01:05:33,780 --> 01:05:36,970  
And they got him off.

1345  
01:05:36,970 --> 01:05:38,590  
And he want to Greece somewhere.

1346  
01:05:38,590 --> 01:05:41,100  
Somebody came, picked him up.

1347  
01:05:41,100 --> 01:05:43,450  
And we arrived in Israel.

1348  
01:05:43,450 --> 01:05:46,880  
Now, how did you feel about  
leaving Panama and going

1349  
01:05:46,880 --> 01:05:47,380  
to Israel?

1350  
01:05:47,380 --> 01:05:50,590

1351  
01:05:50,590 --> 01:05:52,720  
I went back to Panama.

1352  
01:05:52,720 --> 01:05:56,080  
Yeah, but how did you  
feel when you left?

1353  
01:05:56,080 --> 01:06:00,580  
Well, I felt very, very--

1354  
01:06:00,580 --> 01:06:03,220  
I was very melancholy.

1355  
01:06:03,220 --> 01:06:04,780  
I was very-- didn't know.

1356

01:06:04,780 --> 01:06:08,620  
I didn't know myself what  
I'm doing, right or wrong.

1357  
01:06:08,620 --> 01:06:12,380  
I didn't-- one thing, I was  
happy that I'm going to fight

1358  
01:06:12,380 --> 01:06:14,320  
for Israel.

1359  
01:06:14,320 --> 01:06:18,360  
Because here I heard  
the news everyday,

1360  
01:06:18,360 --> 01:06:25,810  
the Arab army are  
gathering at the borders.

1361  
01:06:25,810 --> 01:06:29,440  
Nasser is threatening to  
attack, and this and that.

1362  
01:06:29,440 --> 01:06:32,480  
And here there's no help.

1363  
01:06:32,480 --> 01:06:37,840  
Also when I was in Panama,  
there was a company, an airline

1364  
01:06:37,840 --> 01:06:42,310  
company, cargo airline company  
with eight big transport

1365  
01:06:42,310 --> 01:06:43,300  
planes.

1366  
01:06:43,300 --> 01:06:44,620  
They were all Israeli.

1367  
01:06:44,620 --> 01:06:45,648  
We didn't know.

1368

01:06:45,648 --> 01:06:47,065

I found out when

I came to Israel.

1369

01:06:47,065 --> 01:06:49,570

I found out about it.

1370

01:06:49,570 --> 01:06:53,950

The Jewish agency was the best  
thing ever happened to Israel,

1371

01:06:53,950 --> 01:06:55,360

especially in New York.

1372

01:06:55,360 --> 01:06:58,930

The Jewish Agency did it.

1373

01:06:58,930 --> 01:07:02,230

They opened up a fictitious--

1374

01:07:02,230 --> 01:07:03,445

fictitious company.

1375

01:07:03,445 --> 01:07:05,666

[PHONE RINGING]

1376

01:07:05,666 --> 01:07:09,070

I'm not going to answer that.

1377

01:07:09,070 --> 01:07:09,610

She did.

1378

01:07:09,610 --> 01:07:12,140

1379

01:07:12,140 --> 01:07:15,970

And there were  
eight cargo planes

1380

01:07:15,970 --> 01:07:20,500

with all Jewish pilots, used

to be pilots during the Second

1381  
01:07:20,500 --> 01:07:22,210  
World War.

1382  
01:07:22,210 --> 01:07:25,990  
And they were teaching  
Israeli pilots how to fly.

1383  
01:07:25,990 --> 01:07:31,170  
And they were bringing guns and  
ammunition and everything else.

1384  
01:07:31,170 --> 01:07:35,730  
The company was named  
Panama-Argentina,

1385  
01:07:35,730 --> 01:07:37,130  
but they never  
flew to Argentina.

1386  
01:07:37,130 --> 01:07:41,280

1387  
01:07:41,280 --> 01:07:45,780  
Somebody want to take  
a cargo to Argentina,

1388  
01:07:45,780 --> 01:07:47,030  
they told them we're occupied.

1389  
01:07:47,030 --> 01:07:47,530  
We're busy.

1390  
01:07:47,530 --> 01:07:48,720  
We can't go there.

1391  
01:07:48,720 --> 01:07:51,805  
Constantly flying  
their planes to Israel.

1392  
01:07:51,805 --> 01:07:53,610

So there was a lot going on.

1393

01:07:53,610 --> 01:07:54,420

Yeah, I met them.

1394

01:07:54,420 --> 01:07:55,290

I met them.

1395

01:07:55,290 --> 01:07:57,540

The reason I knew all  
that, I met them in Panama.

1396

01:07:57,540 --> 01:07:58,920

And I didn't know who they were.

1397

01:07:58,920 --> 01:08:00,030

I saw their company.

1398

01:08:00,030 --> 01:08:00,750

I didn't know.

1399

01:08:00,750 --> 01:08:02,400

And then I met them in Israel.

1400

01:08:02,400 --> 01:08:04,590

Then I find out what happened.

1401

01:08:04,590 --> 01:08:07,920

So you were-- you went  
partly because Sam

1402

01:08:07,920 --> 01:08:10,110

thought you should go.

1403

01:08:10,110 --> 01:08:11,977

No, not only him.

1404

01:08:11,977 --> 01:08:14,661

1405

01:08:14,661 --> 01:08:16,319

I realized what's going to be.

1406  
01:08:16,319 --> 01:08:17,319  
I mean, what's going on.

1407  
01:08:17,319 --> 01:08:18,180  
But am I going to do here?

1408  
01:08:18,180 --> 01:08:20,040  
I mean, I'm going to  
live with the Indians?

1409  
01:08:20,040 --> 01:08:22,970  
I'm happy, OK, but  
what's the end?

1410  
01:08:22,970 --> 01:08:23,760  
No future.

1411  
01:08:23,760 --> 01:08:28,850  
Because he can-- he kept  
giving me sense in my head.

1412  
01:08:28,850 --> 01:08:30,100  
So he nudged you a little bit.

1413  
01:08:30,100 --> 01:08:30,689  
Yeah.

1414  
01:08:30,689 --> 01:08:31,200  
OK.

1415  
01:08:31,200 --> 01:08:35,130  
And he was partly responsible.

1416  
01:08:35,130 --> 01:08:36,779  
So when I came to Israel--

1417  
01:08:36,779 --> 01:08:38,370  
You said that you  
were glad that you

1418  
01:08:38,370 --> 01:08:39,689  
were going to fight for Israel?

1419  
01:08:39,689 --> 01:08:40,740  
Yeah, I was very glad.

1420  
01:08:40,740 --> 01:08:41,698  
So you wanted to fight.

1421  
01:08:41,698 --> 01:08:42,390  
I did.

1422  
01:08:42,390 --> 01:08:43,350  
OK.

1423  
01:08:43,350 --> 01:08:49,890  
And this was my  
criticism all the time,

1424  
01:08:49,890 --> 01:08:53,399  
even now till now,  
till this day, I always

1425  
01:08:53,399 --> 01:08:55,950  
feel guilty that I  
didn't fight the Germans,

1426  
01:08:55,950 --> 01:08:59,040  
knowing that I  
would lose anyway.

1427  
01:08:59,040 --> 01:09:01,290  
I even talked to this yesterday  
with a friend of mine.

1428  
01:09:01,290 --> 01:09:04,800  
I said to him, "didn't hit  
back, didn't hit back."

1429  
01:09:04,800 --> 01:09:07,080  
You mean when you were in  
the ghetto or in the camps?

1430  
01:09:07,080 --> 01:09:07,955  
Everywhere, anywhere.

1431  
01:09:07,955 --> 01:09:08,750  
Everywhere.

1432  
01:09:08,750 --> 01:09:12,340  
We didn't hit back.

1433  
01:09:12,340 --> 01:09:19,800  
But the thing is, in this  
country, or any other country,

1434  
01:09:19,800 --> 01:09:22,240  
you have where to run  
when you hit back.

1435  
01:09:22,240 --> 01:09:24,750  
You have somebody to  
help you hit back.

1436  
01:09:24,750 --> 01:09:26,340  
If you have nobody--

1437  
01:09:26,340 --> 01:09:32,160  
how can a-- how can an  
animal in a cage fight back?

1438  
01:09:32,160 --> 01:09:35,880  
But you still have the feeling,  
even though you know that--

1439  
01:09:35,880 --> 01:09:38,040  
Yes, but he has no hope.

1440  
01:09:38,040 --> 01:09:42,310  
He cannot-- he has  
no way to get out.

1441  
01:09:42,310 --> 01:09:44,800  
There was no way to get out.



1442  
01:09:44,800 --> 01:09:47,470  
But in Israel, I have a gun.

1443  
01:09:47,470 --> 01:09:48,540  
I have an enemy.

1444  
01:09:48,540 --> 01:09:50,680  
I could fight.

1445  
01:09:50,680 --> 01:09:54,532  
That's why when I  
came to Haifa, they

1446  
01:09:54,532 --> 01:09:57,590  
didn't let me off the ship.

1447  
01:09:57,590 --> 01:10:01,500  
David Bayer, Camp Fohrenwald,  
Irgun Tsvai Leumi.

1448  
01:10:01,500 --> 01:10:02,780  
You're what?

1449  
01:10:02,780 --> 01:10:04,970  
I was in the Irgun Tsvai Leumi.

1450  
01:10:04,970 --> 01:10:06,366  
Underground organization.

1451  
01:10:06,366 --> 01:10:07,100  
OK.

1452  
01:10:07,100 --> 01:10:09,710  
If you sign that you--

1453  
01:10:09,710 --> 01:10:11,000  
we have Haganah now.

1454  
01:10:11,000 --> 01:10:12,680  
We have a state.

1455  
01:10:12,680 --> 01:10:15,710  
You sign this, sign your  
name that you're resigning

1456  
01:10:15,710 --> 01:10:19,473  
all underground activities.

1457  
01:10:19,473 --> 01:10:20,515  
And this was the British?

1458  
01:10:20,515 --> 01:10:22,280  
No, this was Israel already.

1459  
01:10:22,280 --> 01:10:23,600  
Israel.

1460  
01:10:23,600 --> 01:10:26,150  
Was not-- was not--

1461  
01:10:26,150 --> 01:10:28,880  
the British already was  
leaving or left or whatever.

1462  
01:10:28,880 --> 01:10:30,950  
How did they know you  
were in the underground?

1463  
01:10:30,950 --> 01:10:32,170  
They know.

1464  
01:10:32,170 --> 01:10:32,780  
They know.

1465  
01:10:32,780 --> 01:10:33,830  
They know my name.

1466  
01:10:33,830 --> 01:10:36,030  
They had my name  
from Fohrenwald.

1467

01:10:36,030 --> 01:10:38,150  
I didn't mention Fohrenwald.

1468  
01:10:38,150 --> 01:10:40,770  
And so there were  
reports that you were

1469  
01:10:40,770 --> 01:10:42,020  
in the underground from there.

1470  
01:10:42,020 --> 01:10:43,800  
I signed my name.

1471  
01:10:43,800 --> 01:10:44,960  
I signed everything.

1472  
01:10:44,960 --> 01:10:47,480  
I joined the Haganah right away.

1473  
01:10:47,480 --> 01:10:53,930  
And I was sent to a camp  
called Tel Litwinsky in Israel.

1474  
01:10:53,930 --> 01:10:57,530  
In Tel Litwinsky they show  
you how to work a gun,

1475  
01:10:57,530 --> 01:11:00,395  
how to shoot.

1476  
01:11:00,395 --> 01:11:02,420  
About maybe three or four days.

1477  
01:11:02,420 --> 01:11:05,450  
From there I went to a  
camp called Camp Sarafant.

1478  
01:11:05,450 --> 01:11:09,141

1479  
01:11:09,141 --> 01:11:11,920  
From Sarafant I went to a

place in the Negev desert

1480  
01:11:11,920 --> 01:11:14,640  
called Faluja.

1481  
01:11:14,640 --> 01:11:18,600  
In Faluja, I was faced  
the Egyptian army.

1482  
01:11:18,600 --> 01:11:21,280

1483  
01:11:21,280 --> 01:11:23,280  
It came right on time.

1484  
01:11:23,280 --> 01:11:24,840  
There was shooting.

1485  
01:11:24,840 --> 01:11:29,760  
And we took the whole Egyptian  
army prisoners with Nasser.

1486  
01:11:29,760 --> 01:11:31,740  
So were you in actual combat?

1487  
01:11:31,740 --> 01:11:35,700  
In combat, right in a valley.

1488  
01:11:35,700 --> 01:11:37,485  
In the area called Faluja.

1489  
01:11:37,485 --> 01:11:38,550  
And there was a desert.

1490  
01:11:38,550 --> 01:11:39,750  
It had nothing there.

1491  
01:11:39,750 --> 01:11:41,970  
Nothing there before.

1492  
01:11:41,970 --> 01:11:46,050

And the Egyptian  
army just marched in.

1493  
01:11:46,050 --> 01:11:48,210  
We caught them right  
there in the middle.

1494  
01:11:48,210 --> 01:11:53,790  
And my officer was a  
religious young man.

1495  
01:11:53,790 --> 01:11:59,400  
He was not-- he was from  
Poland, but from closer

1496  
01:11:59,400 --> 01:12:00,370  
to the Russian border.

1497  
01:12:00,370 --> 01:12:03,810  
He speaks with a bad accent.

1498  
01:12:03,810 --> 01:12:07,110  
And he speaks to me in Yiddish.

1499  
01:12:07,110 --> 01:12:10,230  
I didn't know Hebrew then.

1500  
01:12:10,230 --> 01:12:16,170  
And there with me, my unit were  
a bunch of boys from Brazil,

1501  
01:12:16,170 --> 01:12:18,520  
from Mexico.

1502  
01:12:18,520 --> 01:12:22,890  
So I speak Spanish with them,  
and we got along all right.

1503  
01:12:22,890 --> 01:12:25,520

1504  
01:12:25,520 --> 01:12:30,680

And we took the whole  
Egyptian army prisoner.

1505  
01:12:30,680 --> 01:12:33,930  
And the UN came  
in and freed them.

1506  
01:12:33,930 --> 01:12:37,010  
And we took all the equipment,  
all their equipment,

1507  
01:12:37,010 --> 01:12:40,310  
the most beautiful  
British equipment--

1508  
01:12:40,310 --> 01:12:44,690  
trucks, guns, tanks, all kinds.

1509  
01:12:44,690 --> 01:12:46,760  
The Egyptians had the  
British equipment.

1510  
01:12:46,760 --> 01:12:49,790  
Everything British, and  
they left everything,

1511  
01:12:49,790 --> 01:12:51,920  
just put their hands up.

1512  
01:12:51,920 --> 01:12:54,980  
And Nasser was not--

1513  
01:12:54,980 --> 01:12:56,410  
was an officer.

1514  
01:12:56,410 --> 01:12:58,820  
And he took over later on.

1515  
01:12:58,820 --> 01:12:59,780  
This was 1948.

1516  
01:12:59,780 --> 01:13:04,150

He was not leader  
of the country yet.

1517  
01:13:04,150 --> 01:13:07,190  
It was King Farouk.

1518  
01:13:07,190 --> 01:13:10,430  
Nasser became head later on.

1519  
01:13:10,430 --> 01:13:13,040  
He didn't last--

1520  
01:13:13,040 --> 01:13:18,200  
1956, 1968 War, lost it.

1521  
01:13:18,200 --> 01:13:23,600  
And in Israel, I was  
stationed at Sarafant

1522  
01:13:23,600 --> 01:13:26,690  
and with some people I know.

1523  
01:13:26,690 --> 01:13:31,880  
And there was next to me an  
Israeli, also in the army.

1524  
01:13:31,880 --> 01:13:35,120  
And I ended up  
friendly with him.

1525  
01:13:35,120 --> 01:13:37,220  
And that's it.

1526  
01:13:37,220 --> 01:13:38,150  
One day--

1527  
01:13:38,150 --> 01:13:40,780  
We have to turn over the tape.

1528  
01:13:40,780 --> 01:13:44,000