

Hi, my name is Idel Barth. And I'm looking for my family, what is-- my father was Solomon Barth. My mother was Neha Keller. And I'm born in Galicia, Poland in Rymanów. And I'm a survivor from the concentration camp, where I were five and a half year in the concentration camp.

My concentration camp was first in Biezanów by Rymanów. I worked by water regulations. And then from there, I work in highways in 1940 and '41 for Rymanów, Krosno, Jaslo, Sanok. From there, they took me to a concentration camp to near Kraków. I work in Biezanów in a concentration camp by a big buggy. I worked there at least one year.

From Biezanów, they took me to [NON-ENGLISH] Jerozolimskie. This was-- the Jerozolimskie was a place where the people were buried, a cemetery. And this was near Kraków. In the cemetery, they put a big concentration camp. In this concentration camp, I were a couple of days only. And from there, they put all people together and send us to Skarzysko-Kamienna. In Skarzysko-Kamienna, I work in a factory from bombs. The factory was Werke A.

Birkenau?

Werke A, Skarzysko-Kamienna. And then there, I work with a person whose name was Shmila Zinger. I'm looking for him. I were already all over the world to look for people, for my family, for my sisters. My sister's name was-- mine older sister was Hannah. My next sister was Fayge, And the next sister was Chaya.

I never met nobody from my whole family. I have family in other places in Poland-- in Sanok and Zagórz. This were all-- everything was Poland, Galicia. And the time being in the concentration camp, I were with a lot of people from my town where I was born.

Now, from Skarzysko-Kamienna, they sent us to a camp where was the name Sulejów, by Łódź. There I were about four weeks. From there, they send a group to Buchenwald.

I arrived in Buchenwald in 1944. And in Buchenwald, I were between two and three weeks, where I were very sick in my legs. In Buchenwald, they send us a group to Niederursel.

Niederursel, I were-- a couple of years ago, I were back in Germany to visit. We was allowed still to go in that place. I were visit. And I find out that Niederursel is near Frankfurt am Main. And I told to my wife, let us go to see the camp. My wife told me, oh, no, there wouldn't be more a camp. There would be-- in this place would be a nice museum or something else. So I didn't go.

From there, there I were working at least seven, eight months. I don't remember exactly. From there, they sent me to Halberstadt. In Halberstadt, I were working like a mechanic in tunnels on the--

Underground.

--underground. And from there, they took us on a transport. And on the transport, they-- I walk about 20-21 days, every day at least 40 to 50 kilometers. On the 20 of April, 1945, I was shot by the German SS. I have three shots in my body.

Why were you shot?

I was shot-- well, I'm a Jew. I have three shots in my body. And I survive with my three shots. And I hope and I dream my whole life that I will find somebody, somebody who knows me, or somebody from my whole family. We were a family at least from 400 people-- mine uncles, mine aunts, my sisters-- brothers, I didn't have.

Only-- and then I went from-- after my liberation, I were living in Italy 22 months. From Italy, I went to South America. I lived in South America in Bolivia-- Oruro, Bolivia 18 years. I have there my own store. The store was the name Casa Dos Mundos.

And from Bolivia, I came to United States Central in 1965. On the 9th of February, 1965, I arrive in the United States. Today, I am working in a bank. The bank is in New York. The bank, its name is Harlem Savings Bank, in case somebody is looking for me.

Again, my name is Idel Barth, working in the Harlem Savings Bank in New York. Now, they go change the Harlem Savings Bank to Apple Savings Bank. In case you don't find me in the Harlem Savings Bank, you can find me in the Apple Savings Bank.

Now, is this your address in New York?

Mine address in New York is 100 Overlook Terrace, zip code 10040.

Is that New York City?

Yeah, in New York City. And my telephone is 795-8522. Thank you very much for everything. That's it.

OK. Let me ask you a few questions.

Yeah, [INAUDIBLE]-- finishing.

Yeah. You must have been a young boy when they first-- when you first went into the camp.

Yes, sure, 21 years. I'm today 65.

Also a [YIDDISH] because--

[YIDDISH]. You understand Yiddish?

Yeah, yeah.

[SPEAKING YIDDISH]

What else you want?

Well, where were you born in Poland, which city?

In Poland, I'm born in Rymanów. This is a small city. This was Rymanów, Galicia, Poland. Ask.

Well, and-- now, what did they do? They rounded up the Jews?

They took us to a station about five kilometer from the city.

When was this, in 1942?

This was in 1940.

Oh.

And they put us in wagons, closed wagons, and they sent us out to near Kraków, to a concentration camp.

Was this run by the Poles or the Germans?

This was run by the German.

Why did they move you around? They-- I always hear about people moving from one to another.

They didn't want that we know people from one place to the-- when we stay too long, we would know a lot

of people. But I know already in Poland, I know a lot of people, what this was my native language. And I could speak the language to them. It was easy to speak this language.

And I were last year-- two years ago in June, I were in Israel too. And I lived in Israel such a thing too, such a recording. And I left a beautiful stone. And here, a gentleman from Jerusalem recognized me. And here, he told me, oh, you brought in such a nice stone to Jerusalem. I recognize you. You were in Israel. Yes. I were in Israel. I didn't find nobody in Israel either.

Now, you had a big family in Poland?

Yeah, we were a family from about 400 people. And nobody is here. I have a cousin, one cousin. Her name is Kalta and she lives in Brooklyn, in Borough Park, Brooklyn. She didn't come to this convention, but she is very, very religious. So the religious people didn't come to pay us-- to this place.

Well, we'll stop.

We stop. OK.

Now, how were you liberated?

I were liberated in May the 7th in 1945 after I been shot the 20th April, 1945. I were liberated. One year after my liberation, I went on a scale and I have 64 pounds. And then I eat a little by little. I couldn't eat when my stomach didn't take too much. I saw a lot of people, when they were eating a lot--

You were in the American sector or the Russian?

I were liberated from the Russian. And when the Russian came in, they asked somebody who speaks at least two, three languages. And I pick up my hand. Only I were lying on the floor, I couldn't stay up. I were very weak from the shots. And I introduce him from Russian to German.

And then I went home. I went home. I were in 1945 in my hometown. From there, I went to Czechoslovakia. From Czechoslovakia, I went to Hungary, and from Hungary to Romania to look to maybe I can find somebody. I didn't find nobody in this whole town.

Then I went to-- from Romania back to Hungary. From Hungary, we went to Austria, smuggling the-- what do you-- the frontiers-- no papers, no nothing, no documents, no paying tickets for the traveling, no nothing. And then I lived 22 months in Italy. And so I survive a little by a little.

But did you work a little bit?

No, in Italy, we make a-- we didn't work. And when we were able to work. We was also dealing with the nerves and everything that we not able to work. And in South America, I have my own business. In the beginning, I were a peddler. I peddle a couple of years. And then I bought me a business. I couldn't peddle, I have bad legs. I have heavy varicose veins. I am wearing stocking until here up. And this is my history.

Did you-- were you with anybody? Did you have any help? Or were you mostly alone?

Alone in France and Germany, I didn't have nobody. In Germany, in the beginning, I were afraid to tell that I am a Jew after the liberation. And the later, they told me, you can tell that you are a Jew. You don't have to-- nobody would tell you nothing. No.

So you got from the Russian sector to the American sector? You just smuggled across the borders or whatever you took?

Yeah, that what I went from one place to the other. I didn't smuggle, I went. They told me-- the Russian told me, [RUSSIAN]. [RUSSIAN], that mean, go home in your hometown, where are you born. And the hometown was Galicia. So I went home. Only I didn't find nobody. Nobody was there.

Were there any Jews left at all in the town?

No, in mine, no. When I came back in 1945, nobody was there. From 700 men what we went out to the concentration camp, volunteers, what they told us when we go to the concentration camp, they would let stay my family at home. So when all of them-- we came back about five or six. But I find some in Israel and some in New York. The rest are all dead. And I didn't find not one person here in this convention in Washington, DC.

Really, not one?

No one what knows me.

Is there-- I mean, even from other towns?

No, I didn't find nobody. I'm looking for people from the concentration camp. I didn't find nobody, either. There's a lot of people what from all over the world, only you don't can find the people what you need.

So you're going to be-- so you live in New York City now?

I live in New York City, a retired young man. And I'm working three days a week-- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. And that's it. I'm happy. I don't have big eyes to see the other one-- I have more a dollar or less the dollar. So I'm more interested in what I'm interesting to be helping with my family. I have two children. I have a son. My son give me a grandchild.

Mazel tov.

The grandchild was on the 2nd of April, she was 40 years old. Her name is Nisa. So you can ask me anything.

Yeah. Where did you meet your wife?

Oh, my wife, I met in South America, in Bolivia. This is my second wife. From my first wife, I am divorced. My second wife come from Germany, from a small town in Germany. There was eight or nine Jewish families in Germany before Hitler. Her name is Elsa Spiel.

She was married to Mr. Hirsch. Her first husband died. And they left-- he left her two children. And I married her with the two children. The children are carrying the name from her first husband. And the children-- my daughter was seven years old, and my son was 12 years old. So they're carrying the name from the father, from the first father. The first father was Hirsch.

And so you met her and--

I met her in Bolivia and I married her in Bolivia. And so we live now 27 years together. And I grew up, my son is a doctor in public administration. And he works in Long Island in Rockville Centre in a nursing home. And my daughter's administrator. My daughter's name is Karen Hirsch. And she works administrator in Flower Hospital by the kidneys, where they wash the kidneys. There is she--

On dialysis.

--dialysis-- there is she administrator too. Are very good two children. I have a nice daughter-in-law. I have a beautiful grandchild. I'm happy with my life. I would like to live at least 20-30 years more so I can enjoy my life what I lost in mine young age in the concentration camp, five and a half years.

Well, there's nothing-- there's no lessons you can learn is there? Any lessons?

Yeah, I can learn. What kind of lessons you want I learn?

I don't know. You have to keep healthy. Got to work hard.

The only thing what I got-- from the concentration camp, I have very bad legs, varicose veins from staying and working 18, and 20, and 22 hours a day and very bad food. They didn't feed us enough.

And now, I became diabetic. And I am diabetic. I am on needles. I need to put me injections twice a day-- in the morning, an injection, in the afternoon, an injection. And after this, I became ulcers in my stomach.
[YIDDISH]

OK. I'm just trying to think. So I hope you can find what you've been looking for a long time now.

I will look here. I put in papers to the computer. And I have-- my wife have here a cousin, what he works on this computers. His name is Rosenstock. And Mr. Rosenstock is-- would like to help me to find somebody. Until now, I didn't find nobody. Then somebody finds him, you see. They're kissing and crying. They find him. Only I didn't find nobody.

OK. Would you like a copy of this? No, I have already a copy. I have a copy. They gave me yesterday the copy.

All right.

I hope that this tape would keep here for long years. And maybe for the future, it would be something good.

Yeah, well, they hope to get enough tapes to learn about all these people.

They don't have too many [NON-ENGLISH].

Yeah.

You understand? From other places, maybe they have-- from Warsaw, from Łódź. From Łódź, they have a lot of people. Only no Rymanów. I think I would be from Rymanów the only one here in this convention.

What was it close to?

Near Krosno, Jaslo, Sanok. Wojewodztwo lwowskie before, before Hitler came. Now is name Rzeszów.

It's still-- is it still-- it's still part of Poland? Yes.

This is still part of Poland, yeah, Galicia, yeah.

When I was born, this was Austria. In 1917, I were born, and this was Austria. And then they change it to Galicia. Yeah. So thank you very much for everything.

Well, I thank you.

And what's your name?

I'm Arthur Baran.

Arthur Bernie?

Arthur Baran-- right there is Baran.

Baran-- [INAUDIBLE].

Yeah. And--

