He was born in 1930 in Lodz, the only son of a well-to-do family. In 1939, when he was 9 years old, the Germans entered Lodz and all the Jews had to move to the ghetto; the hunger.

When he was 18 he was caught and sent with 87 people on a truck to Chelmno. He was the only child in the group. When they arrived at the camp, Walter Burmeister took him under his wings. Hans Botman was the commander and killed all those who were too tired to work. Only 20 out of the group of 87 remained alive.

Everyday new transports arrived. They were taken to the forest to build the crematorium. They did not know what they were building. 75% of the workers were killed and there were piles of dead bodies around. He was assigned to the Hauskommand to clean large buildings.

He describes the camp which was in a beautiful pastoral setting. The piles of dead bodies were burned in the finished crematorium. He describes how people were gassed in trucks on the way to the crematorium and burned there. The large bones were ground and thrown into the river. The gold teeth were removed. People were still alive when burned. 15-20 were always saved to write letters to the people in the ghetto and tell them how good it was in the camp, so they would want to come.

Every other day 2000 people came on transports. His mother arrived in the camp and was killed. He was called 'Spinefics' [fox] by everyone because he did everything to survive.

Describes the brutal camp commanders and what they did, particularly Hans Botman. Walter Burmeister helped and protected him. He told him that he wanted to adopt him after the war. He had a good voice and became the singer of Chelmo and was asked to sing at SS parties.

Tells about Goldberg, who worked in the Forest Kommando that had to throw the dead bodies into the crematorium. He had to throw in his sister's dead body. He escaped but was killed. As punishment Hans Botman had 10 people killed.

When the Russians advanced there were plans to liquidate the camp. The children from Lidice arrived and were killed after Heydrich was killed. A transport of high level German generals arrived and was also killed, apparently after an uprising.

He describes how the camp looked. He testified at the trials of Gunter Fuchs and Krauf. In January they did away with the crematorium, and how it was done. Groups of five people were told to lie down and were shot. He was also shot and pretended to be dead. A group of the craftsmen saw what was happening, took one of the guards prisoner, took his gun and started shooting Germans. In the chaos that ensued, he escaped and crawled to the village nearby and taken in by a peasant. Hans Botman
had all the craftsmen shot. When he realized that one person was missing. He promised a reward of 25,000 marks to whomever brought him back.

He was very sick in the village. A Jewish Russian general had him taken to a hospital. His ordeals were told in the movie Shoah. He testified in many trials in Germany, of Shafale, Lapps and Burmeister, whom he tried to save.

II
He talks about his childhood in the ghetto. There were children's gangs. They were stealing and selling things. He was caught and jailed but then released. Describes the 16 year old gang leader and organizer. They were stealing cigarettes and selling them on the black market. His father was shot and he tried to help his mother. There was a reversal of child/parent roles. His main aim was to survive, and he lived by the principal of 'every man for himself'. It was training for him for the Chelmo death camp where 400,000 died and only 2 survived, he being one of them.

Repeats how he was wounded and hid out in a peasant's house.

His thoughts about how he survived are that being a child, he accepted cruelty as life and became an animal. He knew how to handle the Germans, by doing everything they wanted. He relied on Walter Burmeister who saved him repeatedly from selections.

Tells about people killed in special ovens. Infants from the transports were thrown in the air and shot as a game. People were totally unfeeling, and he himself was closed off.

Talks more about Burmeister, who helped not only him but also others. Describes his work bringing back gold and jewelry from the killing woods. He still has nightmares and suffers from depression. It is hard for him to talk about it. He is tearful.

After he left the hospital he went to Lodz, met Avraham Selig and joined the kibbutz for children. He studied there and changed and went with them to Israel.

Talks about Mishak, the peasant he stayed with after his escape. Describes the burned and wounded in the hospital to which he was taken. The skilled workers in the camp, who staged the uprising and were killed, left a will with the names of all the participants. There is now a memorial with their names in Chelmno.

Talks about the close relationship between the Poles and the Germans.

III
Repeats what he talked about in tape I. The ghetto, the death camp Chelmno, his escape and hospital stay.

Russians asked him who among the Poles had collaborated with the Germans and he told them.

Tells of giving evidence at various war crime trials in Israel and Germany. Trials of Gunter Fuchs, Eichmann, Kramp.
In Lodz, at age 15, he joined the kibbutz and went with them first to Italy and then to Israel. He joined the army, got married and built a new life for himself and his family.

He is the sole survivor of 400,000 in Chelmno. His experiences left him highly nervous and angry. He suffers from periodic severe headaches. His wife helped him survive and change after the war. He talks about his work achievements after the army.