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SCHINDLER

Henry Kinstlinger

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INTERVIEW WITH HENRY KINSWNGER.

JON: <sup>KINSLEY:</sup> Mr. ~~Kinswnger~~ you used to work in the <sup>MADRITSCH</sup> ~~(name)~~ factory; I wonder if you can tell me what conditions were like working for <sup>MADRITSCH</sup> ~~(name)~~.

<sup>KINSLEY:</sup> MR. ~~KINSWNGER~~: Well, from <sup>MADRITSCH</sup> ~~(name)~~ we were first of all separated from the main er camp. We got conditions better than other things, but first of all we paid off everybody. How we pay off? We used to cut materials and <sup>- TONS OF THEM -</sup> ~~(inaudible)~~ them, So you know, you can cut a suit from three and a quarter yards, or three yards, you know, depending how you, how talented you are as a <sup>- AS A -</sup> ~~(inaudible)~~.. So we cut from, we used to get our assignment ~~and~~ lets say, you cut from three yards <sup>- WE</sup> ~~to be~~ cut into ninety, <sup>- TEN INCHES OR</sup> And we used to get them ~~into~~ ten centimetre <sup>- THERE WERE MILES - MILES -</sup> YOU KNOW. And ~~then~~ with the volume <sup>MADRITSCH - GETZ - ER</sup> ~~(name)~~ we shared this with ~~others,~~ <sup>HELEVIC</sup> ~~(name)~~ henchmen, Mr. ~~(name)~~ who used to come <sup>OVER</sup> ~~home~~ every week or every month, and collect the money for him. And, naturally, there was something left for us, and the best proof are the foods which we got extra. There was a thousand bread a day for the rest of the people, for the money, and <sup>WE</sup> got ~~of~~ to, you know, the food came sometimes in <sup>THE SACK WITH</sup> ~~(name)~~ car.. came and dump er the white bread. <sup>--- TASTE OF -</sup> ~~(inaudible)~~ and we were better off than anybody else. Why? Because <sup>MADRITSCH</sup> ~~(name)~~ felt if he feed us <sup>AND -</sup> we would perform better, and we would be much safer. And the best proof <sup>- NOBODY WAS SHOT FROM MADRITSCH AND -</sup> ~~a number of us (NOT CLEAR)~~ I think - and all the people <sup>SURVIVED</sup> ~~so far~~ except, you know, <sup>DEAD</sup> ~~they had~~ <sup>OR</sup> to do something, but <sup>YOU KNOW - NOBODY</sup> ~~no one~~ was starving, <sup>NOBODY</sup> ~~no one~~ got sick, <sup>WE</sup> got the whole things <sup>- A</sup> ~~the~~ medical department, our own er.. like I say, we got clothing, because we got materials, And we g ot extra two pounds of bread a day, whcih helped us. Some people - it was too much for them so they trade in for other things, you know.

~~MR. KINSWINGER: materials, and we got  
extra two pounds bread a day, which helped  
us. Some people it was too much for them,  
so they trade in for other things you know.~~

JON: Life in Plashow then wasn't  
as uncomfortable for you working for ~~Marbridge~~ <sup>MADRITSCH</sup>  
as it would have been <sup>FOR</sup> some of the other people?

<sup>KINSLEY</sup>  
MR. KINSWINGER: Working, but once we  
finished working we went downstairs <sup>IN CAMP AND</sup> ~~and again~~  
everything changed. We were ~~over~~ four hundred  
people in a barrack, we call this, and the usual  
things, er searching and er.. inspections you  
know, <sup>ER - LOUSING - ALL KINDS. THIS WAS</sup> (NOT CLEAR).. ~~just for the...~~ <sup>ALREADY -</sup>  
<sup>MADRITSCH</sup> couldn't do nothing over ~~there,~~ <sup>THAT</sup> he had no  
influence ~~over~~ there, but one thing, once in <sup>WE -</sup>  
the morning after ~~the~~ <sup>APPELL</sup> ~~apelle~~, like an appella  
six o'clock in the morning, when we stayed in  
our pyjamas over there, and went over back to  
work at ~~Marbridge~~ <sup>THE MADRITSCH</sup>... then we <sup>GOT THE WATER - WE</sup> (INAUDIBLE).. washed  
<sup>OURSELVES, YOU KNOW - ER ^</sup> ~~house,~~ made some warm food. <sup>^</sup> and the condition  
over there <sup>LIKE I SAID</sup> ~~I guess~~ it was much better upstairs,  
<sup>^</sup> where we work, than where we live downstairs.

JON: The English word for appella  
is roll-call.... um... I wonder if you could  
tell me the story you told me last time, when  
you wanted to go the bathroom or the toilet, and  
what happened then, and if you start that by  
saying 'One day I was working at ~~Marbridge~~ <sup>MADRITSCH'S</sup>  
factory and I had to go.. and then tell me the  
story.

**KINSLEY:**  
MR. ~~KINGSINGER~~: Well, one day I had to go to the bathroom, I used to cut on the **BENZER MACHINE**... ~~(INAUDIBLE)~~ over there. The rule was over there that you couldn't go by yourself, you have to have five people with you. I was very busy over there because we supply cut material for a thousand people a day. I figure, well, I'm going to wait for five people, it's a waste <sup>TOO MUCH</sup> of time, I take a chance, and ~~then~~ left myself. And er.. **LATRINE** ~~the train~~ was about a half mile, ~~As~~ I walk over there, on the way back already, I got **A APRON** ~~(INAUDIBLE)~~ on my pants to save my er valuable suit over there, I see **GOETH'S** ~~Goeth's~~ approaching **ON A HORSE**. And his **AUSTRIAN -ER-** horse and hat, which was a sign he is in a bad mood. I.. I didn't know what to do naturally, I passed, I knew I'm in trouble. I passed, but he knew me, because everytime he came with some kind of er.. investigation commission or group of German <sup>YOU KNOW</sup> he show off with **HADDITSCH** ~~Marriage~~ Cutting Department, I remember ~~you~~ **HE** always stay behind me, I used to smell his cigarettes, because he was a chain smoker ~~yeah~~, we were short on cigarettes, so I.. I knew he was behind me, he asked me the same question all the time 'how many uniforms I cut a day, and how many a week', same question. Naturally I answered him, without turning my head, like you're not supposed to. When I ~~now~~ back to the story.. when I pass him, the rule was you have to take your hat off and stay straight and look at his face, which I did. He passed me without doing.. you know people in the windows <sup>OVER</sup> from the barracks didn't gave me a chance, you know. Behind me was another guy, **WALKING** ~~working~~ the same by himself. He never made it. He approached him, took him - shot him, and dumped him in the lake, ~~And~~ somehow by a miracle <sup>I -</sup> **YOU KNOW GOETH -** this was ~~got~~.. survived, I figure because he recognised me, maybe he needed

**KINGSLEY**  
MR. ~~KINGSLEY~~ me, you know, for later er.. show off, you know, with the cutting department, things we were cutting, because that's what he er tried to er impress the German, this what kept the concentration camp going.

JON: Very good, and that's marvellously told, I wonder if we could er - I'm going to ask you that same question, and I wonder if we can start it a different way, and maybe if we keep it just a little bit shorter because of the time that's available to me, but what I'm going to ask you is, tell me the story about the... and if you can start by saying there was a rule at Plashov that when you went to the ~~toilet~~ **LATRINE** there had to be six people, I had to go, so I went by myself, I took a risk, I was coming back, Commandant ~~Goeth~~ **GOETH** ~~Goeth~~.. if you call him Commandant.. because sometimes in England people won't understand instantly what ~~Goeth~~ **GOETH** is, but they'll understand what Commandant ~~Goeth~~ **GOETH** so tell me the story about the ~~toilet~~ **LATRINE** and start by saying that there was a rule at Plashov..

MR. ~~KINGSLEY~~ One day I had to go to ~~toilet~~ **LATRINE**, the rule was over there, that there had to be five people together, nobody could go by himself, I had to go, and I figure I save a little time and take a chance and go by myself, which I did. On the way back, I saw ~~Goeth~~ **GOETH** approaching from the house. I know I'm in trouble, because the rule was very strictly enforced, somehow I, passing him, which I took my ~~(inaudible)~~ **- THING -** and my hat, I er he passed me, he didn't bother with me, but another guy who was behind me a few yards, didn't make it, because he pulled him, shot him and dumped <sup>HIM</sup> in the lake over there, which was built like a fire hazard or something, and I made it, without even, I figure ~~Goeth~~ **GOETH** did it

7412/1

SLATE 127 TAKE/ONE(CONTD)

**KINGSLEY**  
MR. ~~KINGSWINGER~~: because he recognised  
me ~~as the~~ <sup>THAT I'M</sup> cutter in the ~~Martridge~~ <sup>MADRITSCH</sup> over there  
which he usually came with some a Commandant  
~~GOETH~~  
Gert let's put it this way.. and er it was ~~ONE~~  
one of the things <sup>WHICH</sup> I was lucky to survive.. ~~GERT~~ <sup>GOETH</sup>

JON: <sup>GOETH</sup>  
Gert shot the man behind  
you for doing the same offence as you?

**KINGSLEY** <sup>OLAP</sup>  
MR. ~~KINGSWINGER~~: <sup>BECAUSE</sup> The same thing. He asked  
him why you go outside, so he stayed.. <sup>HALF</sup> dead  
already, you know, he knew <sup>WHAT TO EXPECTING -</sup> ~~(INAUDIBLE)~~ I  
naturally I was scared, ~~you know~~, running, you  
know first, I heard the shot behind me, I  
didn't know he shoot at me or the other guy.  
I turned my head, the guy was dead, laying,  
he pulled him over and dump him to the lake  
over there.

JON: <sup>KINGSLEY</sup> ~~[HOW MUCH LONGER]~~ Er. Mr. ~~Kingswinger~~, you  
didn't work for Schindler at <sup>EMALIA</sup> ~~(NAME)~~ but you  
found yourself on your way to.. on the list  
for Schindler's workers? How did this  
happen?

**KINGSLEY** <sup>MADRITSCH</sup>  
MR. ~~KINGSWINGER~~: When ~~Martridge~~ came one  
day, he said he can send some people to <sup>BRINWITZ</sup> ~~(NAME)~~  
to Schindler, and if we want to go with our  
families he was going to take care of this,  
which he did. And I was one of the lucky ones.  
My wife and ~~NE~~ we wind up in <sup>BRINWITZ</sup> ~~(NAME)~~ Er...

JON: What happened as far as  
you know to the majority of workers who worked  
for <sup>MADRITSCH</sup> ~~Martridge~~ who didn't take this option to  
go to <sup>BRINWITZ</sup> ~~(NAME)~~.....

**KINGSLEY**  
MR. KINGSWINGER: They went to different camps, let's say some went to ~~(NAME)~~ **DACHAU**.. some went to ~~(NAME)~~ **MATTHAUSEN**... er.. some survived, some no, like ~~(INAUDIBLE)~~ **ANOTHER CAMP -**.. I can't give you exactly figures, because I don't know. **B**ut I know a lot of people still alive, even the ones in ~~(NAME)~~ **BRINNWITZ -**, **B**ut er ~~(NAME)~~ Schindler. I know a lot of people who were in ~~(NAME)~~ **EMALIA** they weren't sent for some reasons, I figure some intrigue, some, they weren't sent to ~~(NAME)~~ **BRINNWITZ** and they went to ~~(NAME)~~ **DACHAU** and they're still alive, they're here in New York.

JON: A lot of ~~(NAME)~~ **MADRITSCH** workers didn't survive, did they?

**KINGSLEY**  
MR. KINGSWINGER: I don't know, I can't tell you, because like I say, they was a mixture of people from all over, not only from Cracow, and er .. ~~(INAUDIBLE)~~ **THEY'RE SPREAD ALL OVER** if they're alive or not, how many are alive I don't know. I know I met a few who were alive, even though they weren't in ~~(NAME)~~ **BRINNWITZ**.

CUT

SLATE 128 TAKE/ONE

7412/1

7

JON: Um.. Mr. <sup>KINSEY</sup> Kinslinger, what were conditions like for you at <sup>BRINNLITZ?</sup> ~~BRINNLITZ?~~ ~~(NAME)?~~

<sup>KINSEY:</sup> MR. <sup>KINGSWINGER:</sup> KINGSWINGER: When we came to <sup>BRINNLITZ</sup> ~~(NAME)~~, after <sup>GROSS ROSEN</sup> ~~(NAME)~~, naturally we were in concentration, we had uniform, we call this pyjamas, <sup>YOU KNOW</sup> er numbers everything, er.. we were treated right away because we came from <sup>MADRITSCH</sup> ~~Martridge~~. There were <sup>ACCUSING ALSO -</sup> ~~queues in (NAME)~~ ~~we~~ got a lot of money, <sup>THEY</sup> ~~and we~~ came ~~in~~ the first few days er.. who came you know the people who surround Schindler... and ask us for money, ~~We~~ didn't have the money, we couldn't give it to them. <sup>SO</sup> they send us right away to the worst labour over there, which was carrying <sup>UHM - ON YOUR BACK -</sup> ~~(AUDIBLE)~~ sacks of cement, <sup>AND</sup> they kept us over there, the whole fifty people for about a week or two. <sup>LATER THINGS CHANGED</sup> ~~(AUDIBLE)~~

I MEAN,

<sup>YOU</sup> know, we were separated and put into different labour things, and er nightshift, <sup>OF</sup> all kinds, <sup>I -</sup> we didn't have some special privileges over there, The opposite, I would say we were persecuted, because er we weren't from.. even by Mr. Schindler.. My experience <sup>WITH HIM IS -</sup> ~~(NAME)~~ you know, he used to throw cigarettes, butts, came visiting in our. <sup>WHILE I'M</sup> working over there, he came one day, he threw a cigarette in front of me, and came to me because he didn't reckon my face, <sup>YOU</sup> ~~he~~ came from what.. Plashow.. er.. how do they call this industry. <sup>YOU KNOW</sup> ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>I SAID</sup> He looked at me and squeezed the cigarettes with his shoe. <sup>I'M FROM MADRITSCH.</sup> So I put this together, you know, that he must be behind this money collection, when we came over there too, from <sup>MADRITSCH.</sup> ~~Martridge~~, Because we didn't give him money, he wouldn't even let me pick up a cigarette butt.

JON: Do you really believe that a man who's just got a bank loan...



7412/1

SLATE 129 TAKE/ONE

JON: Er.. Mr. ~~Kinswinger~~ **KINSLEY**  
you were just suggesting that er Schindler really felt some sort of vengeance towards the ~~Marbridge~~ **HADRITSCH** workers, because you hadn't paid any money, but I was going to ask you whether you really believed that a man who'd had millions of marks of loans from banks, who had made many millions of marks from the black market in pots and pans would be vengeful against a small group of people who were working in his factory?

**KINSLEY:** **WELL,**  
~~MR. KINSWINGER:~~ ~~(INAUDIBLE)~~.. well it never hurts you to get more..I mean er maybe because all of a sudden a group of Jews refused to give him money. After all, to me Schindler was still a German, a Nazi, I'm never going to believe he was a Jew lover. To me he er represent German system, Nazi, and he was a guy who made money. He knew how to make money, but help out the Jews, and his problem was now how to survive with the money after the war. And er the whole set-up <sup>WITH</sup> of the Jews was to keep a few Jews to er.. ~~(to stay alive, and go all over the world and tell the~~ <sup>ALL HAVE TO DO -- TO A</sup> ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~

**GENIUS HE IS -**

er rescue a thousand Jews, and somehow he did it. To me, Schindler was a shrewd German who knew in 1942 that the war was lost, and he made a lot of money coming to Cracow, which was a reward for his er.. clandestine interest of <sup>**ABWEHR [?]**</sup> ~~(INAUDIBLE)~~ activities. Now he used to love er life, and the whole thing is how to survive. **AND** the only thing he realised was to get some Jews <sup>TO</sup> and help him to survive, <sup>TOO</sup> and that's where he er.. ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>**AFTER THE WAR**</sup> a millionaire, and he'd be a hero.

JON: Don't you think he took a certain

SLATE 129 TAKE/ONE(GONTD)

7412/1

9

JON: needn't have done as much. After all ~~Martridge~~ <sup>MADRITSCH</sup> did not do as much. After all he needn't have brought the Jews from ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>GOLLASCHAU</sup> into ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>BRINNITZ</sup> which you know about, anyway.

MR. KINSWINGER: <sup>KINSLEY:</sup> WELL, <sup>THIS</sup> This bringing the Jews from ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>GOLLASCHAU</sup> this was all showmanship. He didn't do that because you know.. because I'll give you one example of how he perform over there. He came.. you know, he used to travel over there. Some people - I don't know the details why he ~~was~~ <sup>WERE</sup>.. some people told me he used to go to Turkey, got money from the Jewish agencies, and er.. he bought bread for this, you know. One day he came back, and he .. there were about eight hundred people on the working grounds over there. He all of a sudden, start screaming to <sup>ONE OF THE</sup> his assistant, which I think was Mr. Stern, and er.. <sup>LINGERMANN?</sup> ~~(NAME)~~.. why did you gave the people extra bread, I'm the bad German, are you the good Jew, you should give them the bread... You wanted to tell him. 'listen we didn't have for the next day, <sup>HE SAYS,</sup> don't worry I will support, I'm going to supply the bread if necessary', and don't tell me are you the good Jew that he gave them <sup>- I'M THE BAD GERMAN.</sup> ~~the (NOT CLEAR)~~.. This was a performance to convince me and the other eight hundred people that he is doing something, you know, <sup>AND</sup> that's the way he used to ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>VERY MUCH</sup> influence people you know, <sup>AND</sup> some people believed this. I <sup>I</sup> couldn't

JON: The women in your family arrived at ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>BRINNITZ</sup> <sup>ABOUT FOUR</sup>.. ~~a~~ <sup>A</sup> doubtful three weeks, four weeks after you did.. about three weeks after you did. The women in your family had been to Auschwitz, er how do you account for the women in your family arriving at ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>BRINNITZ?</sup>

**KINSLEY:**

MR. ~~KINGSWINGER~~: Well, this is the same thing. He needed them. Don't forget one thing, if he wouldn't bring the women, he wouldn't be even mentioned after the war, that he was a hero, a rescuer. He knew it. He has to bring them, because we came to ~~BRINNITZ~~ <sup>BRINNITZ</sup> ~~(NAME)~~.. and if we didn't see the women everybody would shout 'where are they, what happened to them'? **B**ecause they're supposed to go with us, **A**nd we came over there and nobody was behind us, no women, so he would be in trouble, worse trouble than he expected, **S**o he worked on this. Don't forget ~~one~~ <sup>**ANOTHER**</sup> thing, this guys got millions with him, and er it's very hard, you know, to decide to give everything up, **S**o he has to do it, he ~~has~~ <sup>**HAD**</sup> to bring the women, he ~~has~~ <sup>**HAS**</sup> to er let's say like <sup>**LIKE -**</sup> he called us, he helped those people thinking he.. er.. did deal in some miracles for us, **H**e did it for himself, and **MY-  
MY THINKS IS - WE -** ~~methinks~~, he needed us, we needed him.

JON: Are you pleased that the two of you found each other?

**KINSLEY:**

MR. ~~KINGSWINGER~~: Whom is the second one, er Schindler?

JON: Schindler found you, and you found him? Are you pleased about that?

**KINSLEY:**

MR. ~~KINGSWINGER~~: I didn't.. I never liked him to tell you the truth, **T**he way he acted you know, looks to me, sometimes you see a movie, people crawling all over the floor, and one guy stays over there, and looks from the top of them, <sup>**YOU KNOW,**</sup> that's the way I look at him, **T**hat's the way he acted. He came over there, dressed over there, and the boots over there, the cigarettes over there, and we used to er look at him like God, <sup>**YOU KNOW - ER -**</sup> because ~~you know~~ that's what he wanted. He always got, he was surrounded by

KINSLEY:

I -

M.R. KINSINGER: his, well, well I don't want to use the right expression here. **YOU KNOW BECAUSE** ~~(THE) (THE) (THE)~~... and they helped him, they helped ~~him~~ **THEMSELF TOO. FIGURE OUT, YOU KNOW,** ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~. Er after the war, maybe they're going to share the wealth with him, too, and that's what they did too, **WHEN - WHEN** ~~and~~ they took him out from the camp, and uniforms, believe me, they got a lot of diamonds from him, not from him, maybe, **THEY, THEY** they were stealing from him too, yeah.. I know, give you a name too if you want.. big diamond thing was all of a sudden missing... **So** they wanted to share with him the wealth, because they know how much he got, how much he made, and how he made it, **So** I never was his fan, I mean er.. the reason like, I say, er I don't believe a guy who was acting in Czechoslovakia as a fifth column, he got twenty years in jail for this, and after the war was awarded by the Germans with businesses in Cracow, that he, all of a sudden, started loving Jews, **He** was brain-washed over there, and I'm sure he read the Bible **-MEIN KAMPF-** ~~in camp~~, and not a good word over there about the Jews, and all of a sudden he couldn't, I don't believe such a thing that somebody can do this. He knew one thing, I need them, and by helping them stay alive, I stay alive, because I tell you one thing, the best proof is after the war, right away, the Czech came to the door of our concentration camp asking for him, **and** we protect him, we didn't let him.. I mean not me, we wouldn't let them grab **HIM** ~~him~~.. he would be hung over there...

CUT

7412/1

SLATE 130 TAKE/ONE

KINSLEY

JON: Mr. Kinowinger, I wonder if you could just tell me briefly what happened after the war with the Czechs coming to look for Schindler, and if you could start that by saying 'immediately after the war ended...

KINSLEY:

MR. KINSWINGER: Immediately after the war ended, we didn't have oh.. some kind of occupation for us over there, because no Russian came in, no American, The only thing is we closed the camp, we got some guns which were left over after the SS ran away, but immediately after this is Czech.. underground, or Czech people came in front of the concentration camp asking for Schindler. We closed the doors, we didn't let them get inside, FIGURING AFTER (NOT CLEAR) ALL WE HAD A LITTLE BIT TO protect him, that we promised him, They MOVED away, and this is the way Schindler survived. Naturally, a few days later, we dressed in concentration uniform, he loaded all THIS the war er.. (NOT CLEAR) and trucks, give him A escort, he left safe Czechoslovakia to Germany, and that's the way he - WHAT HAPPENED (NOT CLEAR)

AFTER THIS I - I never met him after this.

JON: Why did the Czech underground want him?

KINSLEY:

MR. KINSWINGER: They want him because he was a squealer, he was a QUIZZLING squeeze link, he er used to work for the Germans in the fifth column at (NAME) and er they knew him.. they knew him, they were waiting for him, And I think by protecting him from the Czechs we paid our debts to him, I think so, because they would hang him right in front of the concentration camp, because he was so hated over there, because I from my knowledge, he wasn't even .. before Hitler gave him the honour

SLATE 130 TAKE/ONE (CONTD)

7412/1

13

**KINSLEY!**  
MR. ~~KINSWAGER~~ to be a S.A. man, he  
wasn't liked over there, ~~and~~ he was, I would  
say a 'bum', in Czechoslovakia, ~~and~~ in his  
home town, ~~and~~ <sup>So -</sup> like I say, they came and  
they want to pay him what he did to him, ~~and~~  
I say 'we paid him by protecting him', and  
to me this was all I owed him.

CUT