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SCHINDLER

Murray Pantirer

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JON: Mr. Pantirer, you were going to tell me about how you survived, but let me ask you a little bit earlier than that, about your life after you were all put into the ghetto in Krakow? No, let me ask a different question actually — because you volunteered to go to work for the Germans didn't you? Tell me about why you decided to volunteer?

MURRAY: In - in the very beginning when Hitler took over Poland, we lived in Krakow, we were a family of 9. My father was then 39 years old, he was born 1900, my mother was 38 years old, we were 7 children, the eldest was 16, the youngest was 4, we were 5 brothers and 2 sisters. A large family could not have a chance to stay in Krakow or even go to the Krakow ghetto. That was selected for people who had a trade, who worked for the Germans, and with a small family, husband and wife and about 2 or 3 children the most. And our family, we were told in 1941, that we must leave Krakow and we should go out about 40 kilometers. That makes it like 26 miles, to live in the outskirts of Krakow, that <sup>is</sup> food will be available more better than in the big cities. But at the very end of '41 an order came out that young men who are capable of doing work from every household, a man has to go to work, so we tried to save our father, and because the family was so large my older brother, then was 18 years old, he volunteered. They put him on the truck among 50 or 60 boys, and they took him near Krakow to a factory from brick, a brick factory. After a few months

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MURRAY: pass by, early spring  
in 42, an order - order came out that  
it's not enough that the family is large,  
and we getting the cards for food, but  
we must ~~make~~ <sup>SUBMIT</sup> another person to work, ~~and~~ So  
then I volunteered, ~~and~~ When I volunteered,  
they put me down to a camp, and the camp  
was Plashow. They start building that  
camp Plashow. When we actually start, there  
was no more than about 50 or 60 boys. The  
camp commander at that time <sup>WAS -</sup> his name was  
Miller. Camp Plashow was built on a Jewish  
cemetery; the cemetery was called <sup>YAROSLAWSKA -</sup> ~~(NAME)~~  
that's in Polish means Jerusalem, And we —  
our job was to start building barracks,  
and built ~~factory~~ <sup>FACTORIES -</sup> and they start slowly  
bringing in more ...

TELEPHONE RINGS

CUT

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JON: Mr. Pantirer you were going to tell me about what life was like when you arrived in Plashov in December 1941, er 42, and perhaps you could start the sentence by "in December 1942 I came to Plashov."

MURRAY: I came before.

JON: How far before?

JON: Maybe in July, August.

JON: As early as that. Okay fine.

MURRAY: In the early part when we came to Plashov, we were put up in a group of 15 with one ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>KAPO</sup> and we were starting to build barracks, ~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> were called ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>BARRACKENBAUS.</sup> During the winter of 1942, I recall, we were called on a Friday morning, it's called in German ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>APPELPLATZ,</sup> that's the place where they get er ~~er~~ <sup>ALL</sup> er prisoners. And we was standing on er attention and Miller at that time make announcement that a new ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>LAGERKOMMANDER CAME IN.</sup> ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>AMON GOETH,</sup> his name was ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>AMON GOETH,</sup> a tall, maybe 6 feet 6, an officer and he had the SS hat with the - that er signa ~~and~~ <sup>ON</sup> the cap, and he was going to be ~~taken~~ <sup>TAKING</sup> over that camp. That same morning, he went, there was already in that camp, Jewish policeman, we call it ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>ODER -</sup> he - there was the commander from the Jewish order Mr. ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>KATZ</sup> and one was Mr. ~~HE -~~ Goldberg, <sup>HE -</sup> immediately he shot them on the spot, And we were thinking that we were probably all going to be shot, so he tell us, that's what's happening if you don't obey orders, or if you're not going to

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A MAN BY

WORK HARD ENOUGH.

MURRAY CONT: And the fact, ~~that by~~ <sup>WASSERSTRUM</sup> the name of <sup>OUR KAPO</sup> ~~(NAME)~~ received the hat he was ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>OUR LAGER - OUR</sup> commander, he gave him a hat that was almost with blood still, he put it on on him and he said, from now on you take over and you in charge.

JON: I'm just going to, that was extremely good answer, and I'd just like you to start it in a slightly different way. Perhaps you might tell me what happened on the first day that <sup>AMON</sup> ~~GOETH~~ <sup>(NAME)</sup> arrived at the camp, and if you start by saying on the first day that <sup>GOETH</sup> ~~GOETH~~ commandant ~~Gert~~ arrived.

MURRAY: You want me to repeat everything?

JON: Just from on the first day.

MURRAY: On the first day that <sup>AMON GOETH</sup> ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>APPELPLATZ</sup> ~~Gert~~ arrived and we were called <sup>ON THE</sup> ~~(NAME)~~ and Miller officially had to give over the prisoners, <sup>WHEN WE WERE</sup> ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ so called prisoners to <sup>AMON GOETH</sup> ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>WHAT</sup> ~~Gert~~ that first morning, the first thing <sup>IS</sup> ~~that~~ he did <sup>KATZ</sup> ~~was~~ he shot <sup>GOLDBERG -</sup> ~~(NAME)~~ and <sup>ODER</sup> ~~(NAME)~~ they were <sup>(NOT CLEAR)</sup> ~~(NAME)~~ that was the Jewish police. Inside in the camp we were watched by the Jewish police, we were watched for the work. On the outside we were guard by SS and also we were watched by the <sup>SOME</sup> ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>SOME LTVIAN/LATVIANIAS</sup> ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ people.

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JON: So ~~(NAME)~~ ~~Geit~~, why  
do you think ~~(NAME)~~ ~~Geit~~ shot ~~(NAME)~~ and  
~~(NAME)~~ ~~GO~~ **AMON GOETH** **KATZ** **A**  
**GOLDBERG?**

MURRAY: It's a possibility  
that he want to show his strength and  
his commander. **A** And he had a little speech  
in front of us that nobody will get away  
with anything like not giving a full  
days work and there's no, it will become  
much tighter control, and much stricter,  
**A** And he walked also with a very long, with  
a big dog, and er, a matter of fact, it's  
like sometimes a small animal had to  
learn how to survive in the forest among  
the lions, I myself had learned, and later  
I pass it onto my friends, **AMON GOETH**  
~~(NAME)~~ ~~Geit~~  
wore three different hats, there was that  
officer **ROUND** hat, that plain hat that folds  
together, and also the hat, **TY - FROM THE TYROLS**  
~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ like  
a hunting hat. **I** If he put on this hat, it  
was when he, and the trial in 1945 when  
he was caught in Krakow, was bought out  
that the girl who was serving him, that  
in the morning or during noon time or  
whatever it was, if she served him some  
food, he would say, not yet, I cannot eat  
yet, **He** went out, because his villa was on  
the - still inside the camp, but on a little  
hill, he will go out and while people were  
working in the camp, regardless if you  
work hard, if you stand on er attention  
he will go over and he will shoot you,  
**When** he saw blood that was the time that  
he could go back to his villa and start  
eating. **So** I myself, always when I saw  
from far away that he's coming, I ran  
to the latrine. **THIS** ~~was~~ was one place that  
he will not go in, **When** friends of mine

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MURRAY CONT: or people would come —  
and they would bring in, Plashov was, ~~hanged~~ <sup>TIMES</sup>  
**THAT THEY HAD** up to 20 thousand people. When they  
liquidated the Krakow ghetto in March 19 —  
1943, that camp swallowed up to 20 thousand  
people. So I will tell the people, look —  
forget what kind of a hat he wear.

JON: Mr. Pantirer can you  
tell me the story - I know you weren't  
there, but as you heard it of the shooting  
of Diana Reiter the architect.

MURRAY: I was there. I was  
a group of 50 boys, again we were called  
**BARRACKENBAU.**  
(~~NOT CLEAR~~) We were asked after we were  
finished building barracks, we actually  
built the barracks for new prisoners,  
barracks for the woman from the ghetto,  
~~We~~ we were told that the camp will become  
a concentration camp and there's an  
order that we have to be watched now by  
more SS people, ~~And~~ we had to build for  
them officers quarters, and I recall that  
when we went down there and we start  
digging, we did by shovel, by pick, ~~And~~  
this young lady, the architect, said to  
the German, don't ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>POUR ANY CONCRETE NOW</sup> because it's  
still too soft. ~~And~~ he immediately hit  
her over the head and he said ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>MACH SNELL -</sup>

**MAKE FAST AND POUR  
THE CONCRETE.** →

~~We~~ We put the footing and we start raising  
the barracks. ~~And~~ as we <sup>RAISE</sup> ~~start raising~~ the  
barracks, after a few days a corner caved  
in. ~~And~~ she was called to look at that  
corner, and she said in that corner I told  
you not to ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>POUR IT -</sup> that we have to  
do a little deeper digging. ~~So~~ they called  
**SHWEINERFUKTE JUDE**  
her ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ and he shot her on the

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JON: That was ~~(NAME)~~ ~~GOET~~ **AMON GOETH**  
**WHO** shot her?

MURRAY: **IT** Was ~~(NAME)~~ right. **AMON GOETH,**  
Immediately I saw it with my own eyes  
that ~~(NAME)~~ ~~GOET~~ **AMON GOETH** he had a dog with him  
and he shot her on the spot. **IT** was also  
another engineer, Greenberg, but him he  
always he will not shoot him, he will  
beat him up, every time. **He** was also  
tremendous good engineer.

JON: Mr. Pantirer tell  
me about the time when you were orderd into  
a party to make a garden for the marshall  
of Krakov, what happened there when someone  
tried to escape. Perhaps you might start  
that by saying I was in a group that had  
to work outside the camp, someone escaped  
we came back, and so on.

MURRAY: We - we were a group  
of boys that we always built, worked outside.  
**BARRACKENBAU**  
We were called ~~(NAME)~~ and all work that if  
it wasn't time to build barracks, we took  
the Jewish tombstone and we lay it out  
for sidewalks. **AMON GOETH**  
One day in 1943 ~~(NAME)~~ ~~GOET~~  
received that a new commander, it will be  
like a new provost marshal over the entire  
city of Krakow, came in. **If** I'm not mistaken  
his name was Frank.

JOE: Let's just start  
again because it wasn't Frank, because  
Frank was there already. But er it  
doesn't matter. If you could just start  
it by saying ~~(NAME)~~ ~~GOET~~ **AMON GOETH** got an order.



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MURRAY:

ANON GOETH  
(NAME) ~~GOET~~ knew ...

JON: After I've finished speaking Mr. Pantirer because remember I explained how we're going to cut my questions out right.

MURRAY:

ANON GOETH  
(NAME) ~~GOET~~ got an order that a new commander for the town of Krakow came in. ANON GOETH  
(NAME) ~~GOET~~ tried to make him like a present; he took out 50 boys, they were loaded up on trucks and we load top soil and we went to the villa to make him a new garden, a garden of flowers. And as a matter of fact I have to say, that over there we were not treated bad, we got food, we got er they even gave us a few cigarettes. One night after, like 2 or 3 days, one of the boys had escaped, ~~W~~hen he escaped we came into the camp and they start counting, <sup>US</sup> they count us every night.

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JON: I'll ask you the question Mr. Pantirer, don't worry. Tell me again the story about ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>ANON GOETH</sup> ~~Gert~~ giving the present and what happened after that.

MURRAY: When a new commander came in to Krakow, ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>ANON GOETH</sup> ~~Gert~~ took out 50 boys, I was one among them, and we went out to make a garden, and as a matter of fact when we worked on the garden ~~S~~ they fed us better than in camp. And on the second day, on the way home, one boy had escaped. And when we came in to the gates and they start counting us and they saw there was only 49, they wouldn't let us enter and they call ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>ON GOETH GOETH</sup> ~~Gert~~ <sup>came</sup> down with a few SS and he was fuming, <sup>AND YELLING</sup> where's the 50? And we act that we don't know, really didn't know. <sup>WE</sup> ~~he~~ couldn't <sup>WE SAW HIM ESCAPE.</sup> ~~SAY THAT~~ <sup>(NOT CLEAR)</sup> ~~So~~ he took every second one, <sup>OF MY HAND</sup> 25 or 24, one to the right and one to the left, and was shooting them on the spot. And he says, that's what's happening if any one of you ever escape. And we make ourselves almost like a promise, that we are responsible for our friends. How can we save one life and put in jeopardy 25 or even maybe more. <sup>SO</sup> ~~but~~ that's why we did not escape.

JON: Mr. Pantirer, ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>ANON</sup> ~~Gert~~ <sup>GOETH</sup> was also in charge of the liquidation of the ghetto in Krakow, and I know that you lost some members of your family during that, I wonder if you could tell me a bit about that by saying something like

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JON CONT: **AMON GOETH**  
(NAME) Gert was in  
charge of the liquidation of the ghetto  
in March 1943, and then tell me about  
what happened to your family.

MURRAY: In March of 1943  
it was an order probably that the Krakow  
ghetto had to be liquidated. So **AMON**  
**GOETH** himself with his SS men was in charge.  
All men and woman who were young, who  
could pass by as good workers, or they  
work for the Germans, they were put in on  
truck loads and were driven **UP** to **OSTA-PLASZOW.**  
(NAME). Elderly woman, children, sick  
people, were shot on the spot and they  
were **BROUGHT UP, WITH FLAT TRUCKS**  
**(NOT CLEAR)** into our camp in Plaszow,  
I myself, with a group of other boys, had  
to unload the people who were shot. **AND IN**  
one case we asked a German, because a young  
kid was there and he wasn't dead yet and  
we asked, would you give a **GENADESHOSS**  
**(NOT CLEAR)** - **GENADE**  
**- ER -**  
a kindness, so we will not bury **DE** alive.  
And he said, throw it in, it's a **(NOT CLEAR)**  
**ON**  
it's a shame to waste a bullet **THAT**  
**SCHMUTZ JUDEN**  
**(NOT CLEAR)**. And we had to pour gasoline  
over them, and we kept on burning them,  
My 2 brothers and a sister who, **WHILE** they  
liquidated from the place we lived, **SO**  
2 brothers and sisters came into the ghetto,  
And being that they were **BLOND** hair, blue  
eyes, they could pass for Poles. And they  
hid in that ghetto for 4 days, and when  
it got quiet, when everybody got, the  
ghetto was literally liquidated, they came  
out from a bunker and they struggling to  
defense - going over on the other side,  
and mind you **THE** ghetto was no more patrolled  
by the SS, it was patrolled by the Polish  
police. And a Polish policeman had shot my  
2 brothers and a sister. They **BROUGHT** them up

- GENADE IS THE -  
WORD THAT

SAID -

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MURRAY: on the truck, into the  
~~CAMP~~ <sup>CAMP</sup> and we had to ~~BURN~~ <sup>BURN</sup> them. After the  
war I came to Krakow and I tried to find  
that Polish policeman who did it, There  
would be nobody who would come forward  
to be a witness.

TALKING TOGETHER

JON: You also lost your  
mother and father in similar circumstances  
didn't you.

MURRAY: In 1942, in <sup>MIERKOW,</sup> ~~( )~~  
there was the final solution, what they  
call it, from all small little towns, They  
gathered around the rest of the Jewish  
people, those who were hidden, those who  
were in certain areas that they were  
not liquidated or send away the first time,  
My father and mother, the youngest sister  
and the youngest brother, the Germans  
put them <sup>ON A PL -</sup> on an area in the <sup>RING</sup> ~~area~~ in the  
middle of the town, and they asked the man  
to go to one side and the woman and children  
on the other, <sup>SIDE.</sup> People knew that the men  
will go to a camp to work. And my father  
had decided that he will not leave my  
mother, my brother and a sister. He went  
over on the other side, and my mother was  
holding a child in her hand and my father  
was holding a child in her hand. And they  
shot them on the spot, I know ~~her~~ for a  
fact, because a few days later people who  
knew my father and mother came to the  
camp and they told me the story, They were  
crying, they felt that they had neglected,  
and they felt that my father was like a

(NOT CLEAR) - like a hero. And that's the

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MURRAY: insanity of it, that we  
the innocent felt guilty what the murderers  
did to us.

JON: In August, I beg your  
pardon, in May of 1944 (NAME) ~~was~~ held  
something called a ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>AMON GOETH</sup> ~~action~~ <sup>GESUNDHEIT AKTION</sup>, a  
health action in - in Plashow, I wonder if  
you can tell me what you remember of that?

MURRAY: I remember it very  
perfectly. In May, the first week in May,  
we were called up again in that ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>APPELPLATZ</sup>,  
and we were checked out by Jewish and German  
doctors. They worked together and markers  
were put, certain markers, and nobody had  
any idea what was for, we were put up on  
certain lists, I had my older brother with  
me then, but he had a scratch on his, here -  
on the throat, I was marked - he was marked  
- he was registered. The following week we  
were called again on that same ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>APPELPLATZ</sup> and  
it was ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>MUTTERS TAG</sup> and the loud speakers  
were speaking ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>MUTTI - MUTTI -</sup> and they took away  
all the children. They took away at that  
time a cousin of mine, a boy, and a cousin, a  
girl, and they took away my brother. They  
took away a few hundred people, and those  
people that he felt did no more good any  
more to do any work, they took them to  
Auschwitz and immediately they were put  
in the oven in Auschwitz. And that's how I  
have lost my - the older brother, whom I  
was in camp with him together all this time,  
was nothing wrong with him, was a good  
worker, just that he had that mark - ~~that~~ A  
scratch.

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JON: You then must have heard shortly, in August 1944, you may remember there was the shipment of people away again from Plashow and there was the big train load of people being sent, and on that occasion you saw Oscar Schindler didn't you. Now I wonder if you could tell me about that story, starting something like "in August 1944 a lot of people were sent away and they were loaded into the cars," and then if you want to tell me how - what happened.

MURRAY: In August of 1944, at that time being that I was from the first encamp, and ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>BARRACKENBAU</sup> had finished, I received a job to work in a kitchen, and probably that's how it saved me, I was very hungry, very pale, but I started working in the kitchen. An order came in 1944, in August, to start the kettles in the kitchen boiling <sup>ALL</sup> over again, ~~we~~ had already served the people in camp, and we were told that this is food for people who are loaded up in the cattle cars and that they are on their way to ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>MATTHAUSEN.</sup> Most of these people were people from Plashow, and also a transport from the ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>EMALIA</sup>. The people were there for 2/3 days, locked up the doors, and Oscar Schindler found out that they're there without food and the heat of the sun is burning on those, on the roof of the car. He came with this car, with cigarettes, whiskey, chocolates, and probably money too and he gave to ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>ANON GOETH</sup> and he told them that this is people who are very good trained and we are need those people for the war machine.

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INTERVIEW WITH MURRAY PANTIRER.

JON: Mr. Pantirer, when was the.. when was the first time that you ever heard of Oscar Schindler?

MR. PANTIRER: In August of 1944, when they load up the people from ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>EMALIA</sup> into the car loads, and to take them away to ~~mad houses~~ <sup>MATTHAUSEN</sup>. An order came in the kitchen, that we should prepare some food, and when we - people who worked in the kitchen together with me, were carrying the kettles with soap, down where the car loads were standing, I saw and I observed Oscar Schindler, and I was told that for two days the people were there without any sanitation facilities, and without any food, that he had bribed ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>AMON GOETH</sup>. He told them that this is people, that he need them for work, for the war machine,, that they are good people, and good workers, So they opened up the doors, we fed the people, and they were so hot, you can seen the ~~flushes~~ <sup>FLUSHES</sup> in their face, that Schindler himself has directed the group when we were finished with feeding them, to lay water hoses and we were.. one was standing up on top, and we were water hosing the roofs of the cars, so that the people will get some relief. I couldn't believe with my own eyes, a man in civilian clothes, a beautiful person, that he will do that kind of a kindness to us. I wasn't used to that kind of thing.

JON: It must have been quite dangerous because there was ~~Gert~~ <sup>GOETH</sup>, who you've described as a fanatical killer, a man who shoots people

on the spur of the moment, and here was a

JON: civilian ordering something which was very dangerous, no?

MR. PANTIRER: It was, and to this day, I really don't know how he got away with it, But it must have been a certain challenge to this man, that he couldn't stand that another human being innocently should suffer.

JON: How did you yourself get on to Schindler's list?

MR. PANTIRER: In October of 1944, there was almost a liquidation of the camp Plashow. The Germans as a rule did not want to leave any prisoners, any people in their concentration camps while the Russians were coming nearer. So they try moving us, they moved us into <sup>GROSS ROSEN</sup> (NAME). In GrossRosen, it was a political camp. As far as I remember GrossRosen absolutely did not have beds. In GrossRosen you were sitting on the floor, like sitting down, one into the other, like sardines in a can, And if you were lucky, they put in three, four, the most five days, a call came that somewhere in Germany, they need fifty, a hundred or a thousand workers, then you were saved. If on the other hand an order did not come out, then you were put down, there you had in GrossRosen a gas chambers where they would gas people. I myself when I was taken into GrossRosen, I was taken into a doctor, and a <sup>MARKER</sup> ~~mark~~ on my body was put down. I had no idea what that marker was for. As a matter of fact, they parade me a few times to give me showers, to show <sup>THAT WATER</sup> ~~that the word~~ on my shoulders, and they <sup>HAD</sup> ~~get~~ group of people, some of them were Polish people, who make the uprising, not the <sup>WARSAW</sup> ~~ones~~ <sup>GHETTO</sup> together, that was an uprising in Warsaw....



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JON:

Not to worry about that

so much, um.. let me ask you another question, a different question, um.. you are described on the list as being a metal worker, ~~Er~~ what I would like you to do, is to start your answer by saying on the list next to my name they say I'm a metal worker, but I never did anything to do with metal, and then say that you don't know how you got on to the list, which is what you were saying to me downstairs a few moments ago.... So if you want to start by saying... "I'm described on the list as a metal worker..."

MR. PANTIRER:

When we were in Grossrossen

a list came that Oscar Schindler had prepared

to ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>MASEL</sup> Goldberg, and he, even he could nothave saved the Jews from ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>ENALIA</sup> because theywent already to ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>MATTHAUSEN</sup> but he was inclined,

he was so dedicated to save some kind of Jews,

that he went to ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>BRUNNITZ</sup> Czechoslovakia, and

he persuade the German hierarchy that he would

be able to build ammunition factory, if he

could only get a thousand men, So a list was

made, and on my list, on this list, I saw my

name and two others, my date of birth, the

number that I had in Grossrossen, <sup>THE</sup> concentration

camp number, and as proof, it's written down—

a metal sheet worker. // <sup>7410/2/2</sup> I give you my word,

I never put it down, I was never a metal

worker, as you heard from my experience,

that I went to camp being a ~~(NOT CLEAR)~~ <sup>GARGACKENBAU</sup>

builder, then later I worked in the kitchen,

If I would be some kind of a fanatic or would

be years back, I would say that an angel

flew down, marked down my name. Till this

day, till this day I have no idea, And being

that I was on the list, I came to ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>BRUNNITZ</sup>and I was ~~safe~~ <sup>SAVED</sup>, And while I was ~~safe~~ <sup>SAVED</sup>, that's

why I dedicate my life to tell the story and

to try, not so much for the Jewish people. I

am more than sure that our President Kennedy

said 'if you fool me once, it's your fault,

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MR. PANTIRER: if you fool me twice,  
it's my fault being a fool. The Jewish people  
know already well, that we must have <sup>A STATE OF</sup> Israel,  
~~Without~~ the State of Israel, if we had a State  
of Israel prior to the holocaust, there would  
never have been a holocaust, ~~And~~ we know that  
we have to put our faith, as far as the Jewish  
people, in our own hands, but I would like to  
tell the story, I would like it to be documented,  
for the sake of any human being, may it be  
coloured, may it be in China, may it be in  
Biafra, or any place in the world, that as  
long as I live, I want to pass the word that  
a genocide, or holocaust should not happen to  
any human being in this <sup>WORLD</sup> ~~word~~.

JON: What do you think the  
lesson for the rest of the world of Oscar  
Schindler is?

MR. PANTIRER: The lesson of Oscar  
Schindler is that in the darkest days, you still  
find a human being who feels it's worthwhile  
to jeopardise his own life, not to take away  
somebody else's life, or better yet to save  
somebody else's life. Our lessons about the  
holocaust is to learn that when you have a  
dictator, the English word for it is 'chop  
him down at the butt', at the very early stage,  
when a law is taking away, even from only ten  
people among millions, protect that law. ~~If~~ you  
don't protect the law of ten, then the law will  
be taken away of a thousand, then of a million.

JON: Why do you think Oscar  
Schindler did what he did?

MR. PANTIRER: A question of that was  
asked of him by the New York Times correspondent  
in 1969, when he came the first time to New

MR. PANTIRER: stand the killing. I looked at them, I want you to understand that he had a rapport with the people. When he took over the factory in <sup>EMALIA</sup> (NAME) he did not chase the Jews - the owners out, he worked with the owners, and he came across bookkeepers, and other people, and he saw that we are regular human beings, innocent people. We're not revolutionaries, we didn't fight, we were law abiding citizens. So to him, it was almost like a challenge, and you must also say, maybe it is the hand of God in it that a person like that was sent out to be able to do so much.

JON: How do you think he was able to do what he was able to do?

MR. PANTIRER: He was always had an awful lot of money, he was involved with a lot of charm, maybe he bribed some Germans with money, maybe with some diamonds, maybe with women, but he done it. He - it's remarkable that in his camp in <sup>BRINNWITZ</sup> (NAME) he was not satisfied with one thousand men, he went to Auschwitz and he got out three hundred women, and he brought them to <sup>BRINNWITZ</sup> (NAME), and I am making a statement that those women never worked. What they did, he went into factories that they had wool, and they were working on making sweaters and clothes for the men who worked in the factory. I have to bring out one more thing, for Oscar Schindler and his wife. In February, of 1945 a call came in from the Czech railroad people.....

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JON: <sup>^</sup> Were you there at the <sup>GOLDENSCHAU</sup> (NAME) .. when they brought the people out? Let me ask you a separate question about that then. Um...

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JON: Mr. Pantirer, we're going to talk about the people, the Hungarian Jews in the cattle truck er at ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>BRINNLITZ</sup> and I wonder if you could just start by saying what you saw yourself when you went down to those cattle trucks?

MR. PANTIRER: I remember in the beginning of 1945 a call had come into ~~B.....(NAME)~~ <sup>BRINNLITZ</sup> Camp. ~~They~~ <sup>THERE</sup> were cattle cars, people were loaded up and they were put in a siding in a site about twenty, twenty-five kilometres away from our camp. The Germans needed the engines, who were pulling those people, for some other things, for people.. for their own usage, so they left the people on the side of a siding. The moaning and the smell was almost like unbearable so the Czechs who worked on the railroad had called down to our camp saying that there are some people, and if Oscar Schindler will accept them. He said 'by all means'yes', and our camp had also a siding, a railroad siding, so they were brought in to a railroad siding, and a few of us were called down there. We worked for hours with picks, shovels, we poured hot water, the car loads were frozen complete frozen. When we finally opened one up, and we ran to grab somebody who we see was in pain, we, excuse me for the expression, but I cannot say it any other ways than what I saw, is when we lift them up, is the skin of their behind was frozen, was ripped, and they were screaming and yelling. And when we saw the pain, we worked slowly, and we had to watch too much of hot water, than we would bring them, too little, it didn't help. Slowly we got out maybe thirty-five. Out of the thirty-five about twenty some were put.. first all twenty-five were put down on a make-shift like er ~~a counting house,~~ <sup>KRANKENHAUS</sup> like a place, a hospital,

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MR. PANTIRER: a makeshift end up camp. Mrs. Schindler was cooking for those people hot cereal every morning, ~~and~~ she ask, and I was sometimes among the boys, that would ask from the camp, we should carry the heavy pots and she will ask us, ~~She~~ was crying like a little baby, and she will ask us to feed, and she brought to life twenty ~~son~~ <sup>SOME</sup> of this Hungarian Jews. They didn't work one day, <sup>SINCE</sup> either January or February, <sup>BUT</sup> ~~and~~ in 1945, in May, when we were liberated, twenty ~~son~~ <sup>SOME</sup> of this people were nourished back to life, a hundred percent from death, extermination.

JON: Let me take you back just a second, and if you could describe to me what the people looked like when you opened up the cars, and what your reaction was when you saw what they looked like and what.. ~~of course~~ <sup>BECAUSE</sup> Schindler was there, wasn't he, and what you remember, if you remember anything of what Schindler's reaction was?

MR. PANTIRER: The reaction was that we...(INTERRUPTION).. when we opened up the cars, we couldn't believe our own eyes, even been in camp ourselves, what can happen to human beings. You couldn't almost see no meat on the people, all bones, and their eyes were bulging out, they couldn't even move. ~~They~~ had to be carried, and of course the smell, because there were so many that the sanitation things happened inside in that carload, and there were so many dead among them, ~~It~~ was Schindler himself, I remember it was.. was cursing and said 'how can a human being do such a thing to another human being, ~~and~~ he couldn't take it, he couldn't stand it, he moved away, and he said 'save as many as you

JON: After the war, you and your partners really dedicated yourselves to commemorating the name of Oscar Schindler, and you're in the building trade, and so perhaps you could give me a little bit which says: 'we're <sup>now</sup> ~~not~~.. my partners and I who were saved by Schindler, are now in the building trade, and whenever we build in a town, we name, we insist, as part of the contract, that we name... something like that...

MR. PANTIRER: Myself and my partners, we are building in the State of New Jersey, and we made ourselves like a promise that whenever we start off a lay-out of a project, with new streets, we name in that particular town, we name a street after Oscar Schindler, We would like to remember the kindness that Oscar did to us, and we would like also people to remember. So we have, I could name you, probably, half a dozen to a dozen towns, and I already, my children are in business with me, and my partner's children, and I already told them that any new town that they will be building, may it be townhouses, or one family houses, please name Oscar Schindler.

JON: Um.. you also have dedicated the scholarship, haven't you? Perhaps you could tell me a bit about that?

MR. PANTIRER: When, very often, we would have meet Oscar Schindler in Israel, and my partner and <sup>MYSELF</sup> ~~I~~ we ask Oscar Schindler, what can we do for you? He said money I don't need, what you can do is, my heart is in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. So we raise some money, we give money ourselves, and we dedicated an Oscar Schindler Scholarship, and every year, er.. under-privileged student

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MR. PANTIRER: from Israel gets the scholarship and .. to the Hebrew University, And the Hebrew University is sending us to us a letter, the name is, sometimes even a personal letter from the student who receives the scholarship.

JON: Don't you think it's strange that Oscar Schindler who was a Nazi a German, blond, blue eyes should have done what he did?

MR. PANTIRER: It's.. you're always gonna say like it's pure speculation, but you put things together, and in my mind, I made up my mind after really sitting with him for hours, and drinking with him, and almost being drunk with him, that Oscar Schindler at the very beginning, in '38 and '39, Nazism and the ~~Aryan~~ <sup>ARYAN-</sup> it was for him a kind of a power. And he, there's no question about it, he was the only, among.. you have to understand that the ~~Wehrmacht~~ <sup>WEHRMACHT</sup> the military, had taken over Poland, but only a few months after the military had occupied Poland, that a special elite, a special group, and most of them were SS, were brought in to Cracow, Warsaw and Poland and they had er.. they were given the authority to take over Jewish factories, Jewish stores, and Oscar Schindler got the factory of the ~~(NAME)~~ <sup>ENAWA.</sup> He didn't get that because he was not in the Party, he must have been in the Party, but as time came along, I am convinced that the man had a heart of gold, the man could not stand the killing, and somewhere he felt what the Nazi's stand for is not right, And what they're doing to people, happen to be Jewish people, and I want to make something very clear to the people, when they would have been finished with

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MR. PANTIRER: wars, go into Europe,  
he would have done the same thing with the  
Slaviks, he would have done to other people,  
the fact that he had started with the Gypsies,  
and the Hungarians. Anybody who wouldn't be  
in their mind a pure ~~Aryan~~ <sup>ARYAN</sup>, they would have  
liquidated, so in.. he did not approve of that  
part of the Nazism, ~~AND~~ <sup>AND</sup> when he was out, <sup>MAYBE</sup> he got  
a little bit too deep, I want to submit to  
you, that in ~~Brunitz~~ <sup>BRUNNITZ</sup> while we were there for  
six or seven months, not one single piece of  
ammunition went out from that camp. When  
inspectors came in, he would wink a little  
bit with the eyes to us when we worked in  
the factory, and he will tell them 'this is  
almost ready, this ~~is~~ <sup>WILL BE</sup> ready', and there's even  
talk that he went out and he bought from a  
factory two car loads of hand grenades saying  
that they were done by us. To him, it was  
a kind maybe.. say, a challenge, I would say it  
was strictly humaniterian, ~~He~~ couldn't stand  
that one human being should do a harm to  
another human being.

JON: Mr. Pantirer thank you very much  
indeed.

CUT