

You're good at running things?

Hopefully.

You have said all the time here, I wanted to live [GERMAN] leben. [SPEAKING GERMAN].

Yeah, yeah.

Now you said you wanted to live. Why did you-- you took physical danger if you did that.

Well, sure I did that.

So why did you do it?

You didn't--

[LAUGHS]

Well, this is the question I hear 100,000 times. People ask me, why did you do that?

Yes, why did you do it?

Why?

Yes, why?

Some people have a little bit [INAUDIBLE]. My wife had told that if you make a promise yesterday, you have to keep that promise. She said--

You couldn't stand by and see what was happening.

What?

You couldn't--

He did it for his honor.

His honor, right.

You had promised your parents, you keep that promise.

And you did-- you helped the Jews because you felt it was your honor to help them, that they were being mistreated.

An obligation.

That's what he said in the beginning.

The obligation.

That it was a matter of honor, of German honor. He said, what is Hitler doing to the--

So this was-- it was an act of humanity for you. An act of humanity.

No interpretation about that. I didn't do it. I didn't want to participate in that crazy business, regardless of the consequences.

And did any other Germans knew--

No.

--what you did? No.

No. No, no, no.

No one knew. No one knew. No one was privy to what you were doing.

No. After the 13th of July, sure.

After 13th of July, the--

Well, and the [INAUDIBLE] commissioner let me know that I was crazy, and had taken only a hair, and I had a bullet.

That what he said?

Yeah, to other people. They told me. Yeah, he said I got-- I caught that bullet. They made plenty fun.

What happened to all those Jews? They survived? They, what happened to them later, to these Jews?

Some went to Uruguay. I put them all in other places. Some fell in the action in [PLACE NAME]. Some.

In '42.

In '42. Yeah. In October 13th. And here. Some ran from me. So they run away. They were hiding.

Do you see some of them, of these Jews? Have you seen, after the war, those you rescued?

Oh, yeah, in Israel. Yes.

In Israel. They live. So you saw them?

No, no, no, they came some-- they came from Uruguay and from-- there's another city-- other state. And when I get-- had the honor there. I got the medal [INAUDIBLE]. So that was it, yeah.

What happened to you after '42?

Is what?

What happened? Where were you after 1942?

Where did you go? You? When the Russians came, where did you go?

In '42? The Russians came in '45.

Where were you between 1942 and 1945?

Working. Still working there.

Still working there. With Jewish workers?

No.

No. At that point, mm-mm.

No. My staff was smaller than that. Had to work with Polish people . Was a crazy time, believe me. I was so disappointed. I'm born from German parents, and my grandparents.

Protestant? The Protestant?

What church? But what particular? Lutheran? What denomination were you?

Are you Lutheran?

Lutheran, yeah.

Lutheran.

I'm Protestant, yeah.

Were you-- this is one of the questions they want-- were you involved with your church?

No. No.

We was non-believers. I asked him that question.

[INAUDIBLE] I got confirmed in 14 years. And then I don't-- no, I didn't go to a church very often. But back in my mind, I lived a straight life. I don't want to do that, what they did. They are killing people. Still, I couldn't believe it, but it happened there.

[SPEAKING GERMAN] on vacation when you went to Germany. You used to go. You leave. You used to go to Germany. During the war. No, during the war. You never told any Germans what was happening to the Jews?

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

You did?

Oh, yeah.

And they believed you?

No.

They didn't believe.

No.

You told them, I saw they were killing Jews, and they said, this is [GERMAN].

[SPEAKING GERMAN]. Had a job in Dubno. I mean, Dubno city is well known.

And I have seen that people get killed there like sheep. This-- Like sheep they got killed.

And they didn't believe.

They had to undress here, the underwear there, and the shoes there, and [INAUDIBLE] there. So I've seen that.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

This is the end of an interview with Hermann Graebe.