

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,450

2

00:00:02,450 --> 00:00:06,290

OK, the date is
March the 3rd, 1992.

3

00:00:06,290 --> 00:00:10,760

We're speaking with Mr. Henry
Drobiarz in Central Village,

4

00:00:10,760 --> 00:00:11,360

Connecticut.

5

00:00:11,360 --> 00:00:15,560

Mr. Drobiarz, can you tell us
a little bit about yourself?

6

00:00:15,560 --> 00:00:19,280

For example, what was your
name when you were growing up?

7

00:00:19,280 --> 00:00:21,780

Where were you born,
your date of birth,

8

00:00:21,780 --> 00:00:23,840

and what was your
childhood like?

9

00:00:23,840 --> 00:00:29,300

Yeah, I was born in
Sosnowiec, Poland

10

00:00:29,300 --> 00:00:36,370

and then I was living all
the time in Kozlow, Poland.

11

00:00:36,370 --> 00:00:39,760

When I was seven years old
I went to public school.

12

00:00:39,760 --> 00:00:44,010

And about five years old I
started to go to the cheder.

13

00:00:44,010 --> 00:00:48,870

So when I come back from the
public school in the noon

14

00:00:48,870 --> 00:00:52,620

time-- afternoon I got to
go to the cheder, come home

15

00:00:52,620 --> 00:00:54,120

about 6:00.

16

00:00:54,120 --> 00:00:56,640

My parents were in business.

17

00:00:56,640 --> 00:01:04,370

They were dealing with grain,
cattle, and farm products.

18

00:01:04,370 --> 00:01:07,018

And we got a decent life.

19

00:01:07,018 --> 00:01:08,560

They give everything
to the children,

20

00:01:08,560 --> 00:01:11,630

what the children need.

21

00:01:11,630 --> 00:01:14,030

It wasn't a rich life.

22

00:01:14,030 --> 00:01:16,050

The only thing--
we got everything.

23

00:01:16,050 --> 00:01:18,110

How many children did
your parents have?

24
00:01:18,110 --> 00:01:19,880
We have four.

25
00:01:19,880 --> 00:01:22,950
You want to tell anything about
your brothers and sisters?

26
00:01:22,950 --> 00:01:25,730
Yeah.

27
00:01:25,730 --> 00:01:29,300
I had a older brother
who was two years older.

28
00:01:29,300 --> 00:01:33,830
And then I have one
brother, he passed away,

29
00:01:33,830 --> 00:01:35,870
that was the third.

30
00:01:35,870 --> 00:01:40,160
He was about six, seven
years old he passed away.

31
00:01:40,160 --> 00:01:46,170
Then I had another brother,
he was born in 1930.

32
00:01:46,170 --> 00:01:50,290
And I've got a
sister born in 1934.

33
00:01:50,290 --> 00:01:53,160
We have been four in the family.

34
00:01:53,160 --> 00:01:59,680
And when I finished
school, the seventh grade,

35
00:01:59,680 --> 00:02:03,450

I went to public school.

36
00:02:03,450 --> 00:02:06,330
My father says nothing--

37
00:02:06,330 --> 00:02:10,100
wasn't much to do in town,
because my brother was

38
00:02:10,100 --> 00:02:13,020
the main help for my parents.

39
00:02:13,020 --> 00:02:16,040
So he says I should
go learn a trade.

40
00:02:16,040 --> 00:02:21,610
And my uncle was a tinsmith
in Sosnowiec, Poland.

41
00:02:21,610 --> 00:02:24,790
So he says I should
come learn the trade.

42
00:02:24,790 --> 00:02:30,340
And I went when I was 15
years old, and I worked there.

43
00:02:30,340 --> 00:02:34,540
And at night I went two
times, three times a week

44
00:02:34,540 --> 00:02:36,520
so trade school.

45
00:02:36,520 --> 00:02:40,630
I got to learn about the trade.

46
00:02:40,630 --> 00:02:41,530
Which trade was that?

47
00:02:41,530 --> 00:02:43,730

Timsmith, sheet metal.

48

00:02:43,730 --> 00:02:44,716
[NON-ENGLISH].

49

00:02:44,716 --> 00:02:48,120

50

00:02:48,120 --> 00:02:54,670
And then I did all right,
I made already good money.

51

00:02:54,670 --> 00:02:57,330
And I still on the
holidays I came

52

00:02:57,330 --> 00:03:00,210
home for visit with the
parents, and the parents

53

00:03:00,210 --> 00:03:01,350
came to visit with us.

54

00:03:01,350 --> 00:03:04,830
Because they were coming to
Sosnowiec with the brothers

55

00:03:04,830 --> 00:03:06,220
to sell.

56

00:03:06,220 --> 00:03:11,070
So I wasn't lonesome, it
was always see the parents.

57

00:03:11,070 --> 00:03:18,150
And the war broke out in 1939.

58

00:03:18,150 --> 00:03:20,110
Can I stop you before
we go back to there?

59

00:03:20,110 --> 00:03:20,610

Yeah.

60

00:03:20,610 --> 00:03:21,985

What was your home
like Jewishly?

61

00:03:21,985 --> 00:03:23,830

Were you traditional?

62

00:03:23,830 --> 00:03:26,250

Orthodox, traditional Orthodox.

63

00:03:26,250 --> 00:03:28,410

I didn't know anything else.

64

00:03:28,410 --> 00:03:29,770

I have to light [INAUDIBLE].

65

00:03:29,770 --> 00:03:34,650

I have to daven every morning
and every night, and Shabbos.

66

00:03:34,650 --> 00:03:36,940

It was real Orthodox.

67

00:03:36,940 --> 00:03:37,730

I went to cheder.

68

00:03:37,730 --> 00:03:43,600

I learned the main
thing, whatever.

69

00:03:43,600 --> 00:03:49,800

And when I was 14 years old
then I start to learn the trade.

70

00:03:49,800 --> 00:03:53,220

I didn't know nothing
about tinsmithing.

71

00:03:53,220 --> 00:03:56,520

I went to my uncle and

I learned the trade.

72

00:03:56,520 --> 00:04:00,430

And that maybe
saved my life, too.

73

00:04:00,430 --> 00:04:06,100

Because during the
war in 1939 in my town

74

00:04:06,100 --> 00:04:11,640

I was doing the tinsmithing,
so they give me a pass

75

00:04:11,640 --> 00:04:15,250

that I can go from
one place to another.

76

00:04:15,250 --> 00:04:17,970

Because they didn't
have no tinsmith,

77

00:04:17,970 --> 00:04:20,250

and I was working in town.

78

00:04:20,250 --> 00:04:24,690

I didn't have to go
out to do digging,

79

00:04:24,690 --> 00:04:30,775

the hard work on the railroad
or building the roads.

80

00:04:30,775 --> 00:04:33,350

81

00:04:33,350 --> 00:04:39,240

And it has been
like this till 1941.

82

00:04:39,240 --> 00:04:46,930

And in March-- excuse me,
1940 in March, they came out

83

00:04:46,930 --> 00:04:52,190
and they got everybody got the
white armbands, Jewish star

84

00:04:52,190 --> 00:04:54,680
to be recognizable.

85

00:04:54,680 --> 00:04:56,780
And you couldn't get
out from the town.

86

00:04:56,780 --> 00:05:00,990
You got to have a
pass to get out.

87

00:05:00,990 --> 00:05:03,620
You couldn't go with the train.

88

00:05:03,620 --> 00:05:04,970
You have a pass, you could.

89

00:05:04,970 --> 00:05:08,260

90

00:05:08,260 --> 00:05:15,920
And my brother has to go out
and work for the Germans.

91

00:05:15,920 --> 00:05:18,440
They got right away they
took all the young people.

92

00:05:18,440 --> 00:05:19,830
They took him to Krakow.

93

00:05:19,830 --> 00:05:25,358
They have to work
building-- making bricks.

94

00:05:25,358 --> 00:05:27,150
They still could come

home for the weekend.

95

00:05:27,150 --> 00:05:33,240

They work six days,
and Saturday they

96

00:05:33,240 --> 00:05:39,630

could leave Krakow and
come home to Kazlow to--

97

00:05:39,630 --> 00:05:46,000

there were maybe 15, 20
boys that age, 22, 23.

98

00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:52,510

And they took some food with
them, whatever they got.

99

00:05:52,510 --> 00:05:55,640

There wasn't enough,
so they helped out.

100

00:05:55,640 --> 00:06:00,850

We still could buy some
food on the black market.

101

00:06:00,850 --> 00:06:10,100

In 1942, so they
start to gather us.

102

00:06:10,100 --> 00:06:13,480

We have to go in one place--

103

00:06:13,480 --> 00:06:17,060

one spot, like a ghetto.

104

00:06:17,060 --> 00:06:23,850

And about, I should say,
then they took all the Jews

105

00:06:23,850 --> 00:06:25,710

they have together.

106

00:06:25,710 --> 00:06:29,600
And they took them to Slomniki.

107

00:06:29,600 --> 00:06:31,280
That was a town.

108

00:06:31,280 --> 00:06:33,140
Could you spell that?

109

00:06:33,140 --> 00:06:38,120
S-L-O-M-N-I-K-I.

110

00:06:38,120 --> 00:06:39,120
OK, thank you.

111

00:06:39,120 --> 00:06:42,350
Slomniki, that was in Poland.

112

00:06:42,350 --> 00:06:44,695
That was a county of Miechow.

113

00:06:44,695 --> 00:06:52,390

114

00:06:52,390 --> 00:06:56,733
That was, I think, in August,
because it was already

115

00:06:56,733 --> 00:07:06,840
I think the grain was taken
up from the fields in 1942.

116

00:07:06,840 --> 00:07:09,355
They sorted out, they
took the young people out,

117

00:07:09,355 --> 00:07:09,980
the young boys.

118

00:07:09,980 --> 00:07:13,270

119
00:07:13,270 --> 00:07:15,950
Because the groups that
was working already,

120
00:07:15,950 --> 00:07:20,920
they weren't in the
thing, but they took them

121
00:07:20,920 --> 00:07:21,980
to the place, Slomniki.

122
00:07:21,980 --> 00:07:26,180
It was still some young people.

123
00:07:26,180 --> 00:07:28,670
And I wasn't there
because I still

124
00:07:28,670 --> 00:07:35,210
have a pass that I can stay
in town and do my tinsmithing.

125
00:07:35,210 --> 00:07:39,010
They give me that privilege.

126
00:07:39,010 --> 00:07:43,630
And they took all the old
people, and I with my parents,

127
00:07:43,630 --> 00:07:46,970
because I know they're going
to-- so we hid in Kazlow.

128
00:07:46,970 --> 00:07:49,970

129
00:07:49,970 --> 00:07:55,370
We hid, and we stay for
another three months.

130
00:07:55,370 --> 00:07:59,970

They took us from there,
they took us to Wolbrom.

131
00:07:59,970 --> 00:08:02,580
That was where they
made the ghetto,

132
00:08:02,580 --> 00:08:06,420
and that was
judenrein all around.

133
00:08:06,420 --> 00:08:11,940
And about November they
cleaned out Wolbrom.

134
00:08:11,940 --> 00:08:17,400
They took it over to
the Miechow, the county.

135
00:08:17,400 --> 00:08:24,790
They load up all the people in
the cars and the they took--

136
00:08:24,790 --> 00:08:27,040
they didn't sort it out no more.

137
00:08:27,040 --> 00:08:30,050
They took everybody, young, old.

138
00:08:30,050 --> 00:08:35,590
And they took it to
Treblinda that time already.

139
00:08:35,590 --> 00:08:36,230
Oh really?

140
00:08:36,230 --> 00:08:36,730
Yeah.

141
00:08:36,730 --> 00:08:39,500

142

00:08:39,500 --> 00:08:43,159
We think, they went up that way.

143
00:08:43,159 --> 00:08:47,440
We don't know where they
went, they went up that way.

144
00:08:47,440 --> 00:08:51,640
And so that was the end of the--

145
00:08:51,640 --> 00:08:54,340

146
00:08:54,340 --> 00:08:57,430
we took off from
that town, Wolbrom.

147
00:08:57,430 --> 00:09:00,400
I got a policeman,
a town policeman

148
00:09:00,400 --> 00:09:05,830
came for to help clean up
the town with the Jews.

149
00:09:05,830 --> 00:09:07,810
They have to have the police.

150
00:09:07,810 --> 00:09:12,340
So the policemen came to me
Saturday and he says to me,

151
00:09:12,340 --> 00:09:14,980
tomorrow going to
be [NON-ENGLISH]----

152
00:09:14,980 --> 00:09:18,590
that's tomorrow-- going
to be liquidation of you.

153
00:09:18,590 --> 00:09:24,670
So I know what it is,
so we took off again.

154

00:09:24,670 --> 00:09:28,420

We went to Kozlow back to town.

155

00:09:28,420 --> 00:09:35,050

Me, my father, mother, and
sister, and brother, and uncle.

156

00:09:35,050 --> 00:09:37,480

Wow, so you're
still all together?

157

00:09:37,480 --> 00:09:38,830

Yeah, we're still all together.

158

00:09:38,830 --> 00:09:40,540

We come back to Kozlow.

159

00:09:40,540 --> 00:09:43,330

We went into a Polish people.

160

00:09:43,330 --> 00:09:45,910

We hid for a day.

161

00:09:45,910 --> 00:09:48,550

And then at night, we split up.

162

00:09:48,550 --> 00:09:51,160

I went with my
father to one place,

163

00:09:51,160 --> 00:09:54,950

and my mother went with the
two children to another place.

164

00:09:54,950 --> 00:09:57,410

And my uncle went
to another place.

165

00:09:57,410 --> 00:10:00,550

We stay in town for
about four days,

166
00:10:00,550 --> 00:10:08,630
and then they come out order
that if some Jews are left

167
00:10:08,630 --> 00:10:11,710
they can go to Krakow.

168
00:10:11,710 --> 00:10:14,260
And that's what we
went, to Krakow.

169
00:10:14,260 --> 00:10:19,370
I went to work to the camp
and I took my father with me.

170
00:10:19,370 --> 00:10:23,140
We were working for bridges
for the German company,

171
00:10:23,140 --> 00:10:26,040
Langert was their name.

172
00:10:26,040 --> 00:10:28,480
They were from Zwickau.

173
00:10:28,480 --> 00:10:37,370
And that was the Judenlager,
that was Krakow-Plaszow.

174
00:10:37,370 --> 00:10:42,360
And that was in 1942.

175
00:10:42,360 --> 00:10:47,790
And my parents, my mother went
with the sister and brother,

176
00:10:47,790 --> 00:10:51,540
and she was there by herself.

177
00:10:51,540 --> 00:10:54,780
And my father was working

with me in Judenlager

178
00:10:54,780 --> 00:10:56,080
and he was working.

179
00:10:56,080 --> 00:11:01,150
And so like a
husband, he says he

180
00:11:01,150 --> 00:11:05,200
wants to go back to his wife--

181
00:11:05,200 --> 00:11:07,822
to the kids and his
wife, so he went back.

182
00:11:07,822 --> 00:11:09,280
Maybe he would have
stayed with me,

183
00:11:09,280 --> 00:11:11,530
maybe he would have been alive.

184
00:11:11,530 --> 00:11:20,480
So he went back and
in 1942 on the end,

185
00:11:20,480 --> 00:11:28,440
I guess, in sometime they
liquidated the Judenlager.

186
00:11:28,440 --> 00:11:32,320
They brought us up to--

187
00:11:32,320 --> 00:11:37,890
that was in 1940--

188
00:11:37,890 --> 00:11:41,960
yeah, end of 1942.

189
00:11:41,960 --> 00:11:44,990
They brought us up

to the Judenlager,

190
00:11:44,990 --> 00:11:49,110
and they brought us up to--
made a concentration camp.

191
00:11:49,110 --> 00:11:51,393
That was Krakow-Jerozolimska.

192
00:11:51,393 --> 00:11:52,810
I don't know if
you heard of that?

193
00:11:52,810 --> 00:11:53,910
Yeah.

194
00:11:53,910 --> 00:11:58,710
And there I worked
in the Gemeinschaft.

195
00:11:58,710 --> 00:12:01,110
They have the trades.

196
00:12:01,110 --> 00:12:14,800
And I was working there till
about March I think, 1943.

197
00:12:14,800 --> 00:12:19,470
Because they liquidated
the ghetto [INAUDIBLE]..

198
00:12:19,470 --> 00:12:23,180
I think they liquidated
all the same time.

199
00:12:23,180 --> 00:12:25,700
Can you recall
what the conditions

200
00:12:25,700 --> 00:12:26,740
were like in the ghetto?

201

00:12:26,740 --> 00:12:28,235
Do you remember anything?

202
00:12:28,235 --> 00:12:31,130
In ghetto it was very crowded.

203
00:12:31,130 --> 00:12:32,620
The hygiene wasn't there.

204
00:12:32,620 --> 00:12:36,180

205
00:12:36,180 --> 00:12:41,760
They got one room and
maybe four or five families

206
00:12:41,760 --> 00:12:43,590
got one kitchen.

207
00:12:43,590 --> 00:12:47,760
It was crowded, lice and bugs.

208
00:12:47,760 --> 00:12:50,970
And where they
could, they washed,

209
00:12:50,970 --> 00:12:53,650
they washed the clothes.

210
00:12:53,650 --> 00:13:03,160
Like us, we've been also
been with lice and dirty.

211
00:13:03,160 --> 00:13:05,320
We washed once a week.

212
00:13:05,320 --> 00:13:08,725
We went to a shower and a cold
shower or something like that.

213
00:13:08,725 --> 00:13:12,910
Or you went to the ghetto to

get the bath and have a shower.

214

00:13:12,910 --> 00:13:17,430

So I visited with my parents
when I was in Judenlager.

215

00:13:17,430 --> 00:13:18,470

And I took sick.

216

00:13:18,470 --> 00:13:21,600

217

00:13:21,600 --> 00:13:26,340

took sick and I was
sick of typhoid.

218

00:13:26,340 --> 00:13:27,130

Oh really?

219

00:13:27,130 --> 00:13:28,042

Yeah.

220

00:13:28,042 --> 00:13:29,250

But you recovered, obviously.

221

00:13:29,250 --> 00:13:32,430

Yeah, I recovered, yeah.

222

00:13:32,430 --> 00:13:37,720

Yeah, and in Judenlager,
I was going out to work.

223

00:13:37,720 --> 00:13:41,420

We still could buy
something outside.

224

00:13:41,420 --> 00:13:45,420

Of course, people
have been coming in,

225

00:13:45,420 --> 00:13:49,740

Polish people come in and

sell on the black market.

226

00:13:49,740 --> 00:13:53,180

They took a chance,
brought into the camp.

227

00:13:53,180 --> 00:14:02,075

So 1943 and it must have
been in the fall time

228

00:14:02,075 --> 00:14:08,810

or in the beginning,
because the years went by.

229

00:14:08,810 --> 00:14:13,090

So they took us and
they sort us out.

230

00:14:13,090 --> 00:14:18,190

All of them when we come
up from that Judenlager

231

00:14:18,190 --> 00:14:21,600

where they sort us out.

232

00:14:21,600 --> 00:14:24,870

They want the tradesmen they
took to a different side,

233

00:14:24,870 --> 00:14:26,580

and the non-tradesmen.

234

00:14:26,580 --> 00:14:28,870

The non-tradesmen
they sent to Skarzysko

235

00:14:28,870 --> 00:14:31,640

to ammunition factory.

236

00:14:31,640 --> 00:14:34,590

A lot of my friends went there.

237

00:14:34,590 --> 00:14:40,080
And they read my brother's name,
because he was registered also

238
00:14:40,080 --> 00:14:41,640
as a tradesman.

239
00:14:41,640 --> 00:14:44,460
And I don't know if my
name if I didn't hear

240
00:14:44,460 --> 00:14:47,100
or they omit it or something.

241
00:14:47,100 --> 00:14:49,680
So I see he's going
there, so I went too.

242
00:14:49,680 --> 00:14:54,820
Because that time they
didn't ask no questions.

243
00:14:54,820 --> 00:15:00,010
So they sort us out, and
we stay in Jerozolimska we

244
00:15:00,010 --> 00:15:01,720
stay about a couple of weeks.

245
00:15:01,720 --> 00:15:05,400
They took us from there,
they sent us to Mielec.

246
00:15:05,400 --> 00:15:07,220
Mielec was a big factory.

247
00:15:07,220 --> 00:15:11,090
That was the Polish
airplane factory.

248
00:15:11,090 --> 00:15:13,510
They were making the
planes, the Poles.

249
00:15:13,510 --> 00:15:14,930
Can you spell that please?

250
00:15:14,930 --> 00:15:18,725
M-I-E-L-E-C.

251
00:15:18,725 --> 00:15:19,615
OK.

252
00:15:19,615 --> 00:15:26,070
Mielec, Poland, and that was a
factory, an airplane factory.

253
00:15:26,070 --> 00:15:30,920
And Heinkel, the German
bombers, they built there.

254
00:15:30,920 --> 00:15:34,510

255
00:15:34,510 --> 00:15:40,360
So we were there for about
six months in that factory.

256
00:15:40,360 --> 00:15:42,280
Where did you live at the time?

257
00:15:42,280 --> 00:15:44,420
They got barracks.

258
00:15:44,420 --> 00:15:53,190
And the food was poor, and
the hygiene wasn't there.

259
00:15:53,190 --> 00:15:57,370
You got to do you
own everything.

260
00:15:57,370 --> 00:16:01,730
You've got to wash the
clothes and everything.

261
00:16:01,730 --> 00:16:04,330

262
00:16:04,330 --> 00:16:07,510
Were you tortured or
anything at that point?

263
00:16:07,510 --> 00:16:15,040
No, the thing is, somehow
when you come into the camp

264
00:16:15,040 --> 00:16:19,120
sometimes they've
been frisking you

265
00:16:19,120 --> 00:16:24,070
or something if you didn't
go in line or something.

266
00:16:24,070 --> 00:16:27,720
And the job wasn't too
bad because we were

267
00:16:27,720 --> 00:16:30,120
working with the Polish people.

268
00:16:30,120 --> 00:16:34,950
I was working and making
all the things inside

269
00:16:34,950 --> 00:16:36,060
what comes in the plane.

270
00:16:36,060 --> 00:16:39,180
The [NON-ENGLISH]
they called it.

271
00:16:39,180 --> 00:16:43,950
And it was two Jewish
boys and on Polack.

272

00:16:43,950 --> 00:16:49,370

And we whatever has
to be done, we did.

273

00:16:49,370 --> 00:16:51,470

And my brother was
working on the top.

274

00:16:51,470 --> 00:16:56,230

He was putting up the
covers on the plane.

275

00:16:56,230 --> 00:17:04,319

We were there until
about June 1944,

276

00:17:04,319 --> 00:17:09,175

then when the Americans
start to come in--

277

00:17:09,175 --> 00:17:10,650

what they call it?

278

00:17:10,650 --> 00:17:12,970

Offensive?

279

00:17:12,970 --> 00:17:14,660

So they thought
that the Russians

280

00:17:14,660 --> 00:17:17,589

were going to come in
because we weren't too far

281

00:17:17,589 --> 00:17:21,250

from the Russian
border, Sandomierz.

282

00:17:21,250 --> 00:17:24,880

We were next to the
San, that's the water.

283

00:17:24,880 --> 00:17:27,680

284

00:17:27,680 --> 00:17:29,750

Past the San the
Russians were there,

285

00:17:29,750 --> 00:17:33,490

and on this side the
San, the Germans.

286

00:17:33,490 --> 00:17:36,280

So they were afraid that the
Russians are going to come in

287

00:17:36,280 --> 00:17:40,090

and we were going to be there.

288

00:17:40,090 --> 00:17:43,480

They grab us, they grab
the factory and everything.

289

00:17:43,480 --> 00:17:46,330

So they took us
out that time and I

290

00:17:46,330 --> 00:17:50,890

think that was the
22nd of June, 1944.

291

00:17:50,890 --> 00:17:54,060

And they took us
through Wieliczka.

292

00:17:54,060 --> 00:17:56,580

That was still in Poland.

293

00:17:56,580 --> 00:17:59,520

That was a salt mine.

294

00:17:59,520 --> 00:18:03,060

They have a factory there
also for airplane factory.

295

00:18:03,060 --> 00:18:05,280

The only thing we didn't
stay there too long,

296

00:18:05,280 --> 00:18:07,580

maybe a couple weeks.

297

00:18:07,580 --> 00:18:15,450

And from there they took
us, again in 1944, they

298

00:18:15,450 --> 00:18:21,420

took us and load
us up in the cars,

299

00:18:21,420 --> 00:18:26,970

and they say that we were
deciding in Auschwitz.

300

00:18:26,970 --> 00:18:29,100

They want to take
us to Auschwitz

301

00:18:29,100 --> 00:18:32,910

or they were fighting
for us, because we

302

00:18:32,910 --> 00:18:35,730

were important to them.

303

00:18:35,730 --> 00:18:37,770

We were tradesmen.

304

00:18:37,770 --> 00:18:40,980

So that's what they say
now, who the hell knows.

305

00:18:40,980 --> 00:18:44,070

Because I didn't know at
the time we were on the side

306

00:18:44,070 --> 00:18:49,590

and they say we were in
Auschwitz and deciding

307
00:18:49,590 --> 00:18:51,270
to be liquidated.

308
00:18:51,270 --> 00:18:56,730
Meantime, from there we went
they took us to Flossenburg.

309
00:18:56,730 --> 00:18:59,806
We came into
Flossenburg in July.

310
00:18:59,806 --> 00:19:03,620
It was real hot, I think
the middle of July.

311
00:19:03,620 --> 00:19:07,020
They took off all the clothes.

312
00:19:07,020 --> 00:19:09,990
We have to throw away
the clothes, naked,

313
00:19:09,990 --> 00:19:10,980
like you're born.

314
00:19:10,980 --> 00:19:13,470
You were still in your
regular civilian clothes?

315
00:19:13,470 --> 00:19:16,690
No, no, no, we already got the--

316
00:19:16,690 --> 00:19:17,190
Oh, you did?

317
00:19:17,190 --> 00:19:18,960
In Mielec we already
got the marks,

318

00:19:18,960 --> 00:19:20,920
you see that was the
mark from Mielec.

319
00:19:20,920 --> 00:19:22,230
Oh, I see.

320
00:19:22,230 --> 00:19:23,920
We were already
concentration camp.

321
00:19:23,920 --> 00:19:26,800
Soon we came up to
the Jerozolimska

322
00:19:26,800 --> 00:19:31,940
no more civilian clothes.

323
00:19:31,940 --> 00:19:34,060
It was already the
striped clothes.

324
00:19:34,060 --> 00:19:36,850
It was concentration camp.

325
00:19:36,850 --> 00:19:40,920
And Mielec was already
concentration camp,

326
00:19:40,920 --> 00:19:48,230
and I don't know, they told me
we brought something with us.

327
00:19:48,230 --> 00:19:51,990
So they took us to shower us.

328
00:19:51,990 --> 00:19:59,310
So they took about 300
people, and we thought

329
00:19:59,310 --> 00:20:02,020
that they're going to kill us.

330

00:20:02,020 --> 00:20:05,470

Because people start to
scream, so many people.

331

00:20:05,470 --> 00:20:07,440

And then all of a
sudden, they let

332

00:20:07,440 --> 00:20:10,140

the shower go in Flossenburg.

333

00:20:10,140 --> 00:20:13,590

You had heard stories already
about the gas chamber?

334

00:20:13,590 --> 00:20:14,910

Yeah, sure we heard.

335

00:20:14,910 --> 00:20:15,410

You did?

336

00:20:15,410 --> 00:20:16,890

Yeah.

337

00:20:16,890 --> 00:20:19,500

Because that was already '44.

338

00:20:19,500 --> 00:20:22,735

Right, some people say
that even to the point

339

00:20:22,735 --> 00:20:24,610

that they had heard
rumors or whatever they--

340

00:20:24,610 --> 00:20:26,040

Yeah, rumors, sure, only rumprs.

341

00:20:26,040 --> 00:20:30,810

The only thing we thought
we going to get killed.

342

00:20:30,810 --> 00:20:33,480

People were screaming
and everything.

343

00:20:33,480 --> 00:20:37,410

Then on the way out they
shaved us, the hair,

344

00:20:37,410 --> 00:20:39,330

and they threw some lime.

345

00:20:39,330 --> 00:20:40,080

Oh my god.

346

00:20:40,080 --> 00:20:43,440

It was burning like a fire.

347

00:20:43,440 --> 00:20:51,780

They grab it, throw it on there
between the legs, in here,

348

00:20:51,780 --> 00:20:53,790

and they marked us.

349

00:20:53,790 --> 00:20:56,867

I had a two on the--

350

00:20:56,867 --> 00:20:59,710

With the tattoo?

351

00:20:59,710 --> 00:21:01,690

No, no, no, with paint.

352

00:21:01,690 --> 00:21:02,400

Oh, really?

353

00:21:02,400 --> 00:21:03,020

Yeah.

354

00:21:03,020 --> 00:21:08,360

The ones they took to work

for to dig stones, what is it?

355

00:21:08,360 --> 00:21:10,292

A stone mine.

356

00:21:10,292 --> 00:21:11,320

A quarry.

357

00:21:11,320 --> 00:21:12,580

Quarry.

358

00:21:12,580 --> 00:21:16,470

You see, there they
didn't care anymore.

359

00:21:16,470 --> 00:21:22,020

The tools, even
the tradesmen they

360

00:21:22,020 --> 00:21:25,110

if you was rugged
they separate you.

361

00:21:25,110 --> 00:21:26,850

They didn't care.

362

00:21:26,850 --> 00:21:30,120

That was in Flossenburg.

363

00:21:30,120 --> 00:21:34,170

We were there for about a week,
staying in the sun and the hot

364

00:21:34,170 --> 00:21:36,410

without clothes.

365

00:21:36,410 --> 00:21:40,210

And we were like animals.

366

00:21:40,210 --> 00:21:45,190

We were sleeping crossways
on the wooden beds,

367
00:21:45,190 --> 00:21:50,700
because it was so packed,
about 400, 500 in one barrack.

368
00:21:50,700 --> 00:21:55,010
About five, six days without
clothes, and then they

369
00:21:55,010 --> 00:21:55,760
give us clothes.

370
00:21:55,760 --> 00:21:59,420
And they send us from there
they send us to Litomerice,

371
00:21:59,420 --> 00:22:02,480
the two and threes.

372
00:22:02,480 --> 00:22:06,740
The first I don't know if they
sent them to kill or something

373
00:22:06,740 --> 00:22:09,230
or they kelled them off.

374
00:22:09,230 --> 00:22:12,780
Because that was the lowest one.

375
00:22:12,780 --> 00:22:16,550
So we went, the twos,
we went to Litomerice.

376
00:22:16,550 --> 00:22:18,990
That was a carbide mine.

377
00:22:18,990 --> 00:22:21,560

378
00:22:21,560 --> 00:22:22,850
You know what carbide is?

379

00:22:22,850 --> 00:22:24,920

Mm-hmm.

380

00:22:24,920 --> 00:22:31,710

And we could see Theresienstadt
from the place where we were.

381

00:22:31,710 --> 00:22:34,390

And they kept us there
also not too long ago.

382

00:22:34,390 --> 00:22:36,960

I should say about six weeks.

383

00:22:36,960 --> 00:22:39,620

We supposed to
fix some machines,

384

00:22:39,620 --> 00:22:46,740

put them in the mines, and
still working for the airplane.

385

00:22:46,740 --> 00:22:49,230

I guess it didn't materialize.

386

00:22:49,230 --> 00:22:55,250

So they sent us from there
they sent us to Dachau.

387

00:22:55,250 --> 00:23:00,170

Yeah, in Dachau we were
there about three, four days.

388

00:23:00,170 --> 00:23:02,900

From there, they
send us to Augsburg.

389

00:23:02,900 --> 00:23:05,050

That was a big
messerschmidt plant.

390

00:23:05,050 --> 00:23:06,440

What kind?

391

00:23:06,440 --> 00:23:13,220

Messerschmidt, airplane factory,
everything with no food,

392

00:23:13,220 --> 00:23:19,100

nothing much to eat and
hungry in the railroad cars.

393

00:23:19,100 --> 00:23:23,790

And they brought us to Augsburg.

394

00:23:23,790 --> 00:23:30,700

And every morning about 5:00
in the morning they wake us up,

395

00:23:30,700 --> 00:23:35,040

they give us a little bit of
coffee and a piece of bread.

396

00:23:35,040 --> 00:23:40,560

And we have to go again
the airplane factory.

397

00:23:40,560 --> 00:23:44,130

The name was Horgau
in the woods.

398

00:23:44,130 --> 00:23:49,080

And a regular train, and for
us they got a cattle car.

399

00:23:49,080 --> 00:23:54,240

Every day you're going
in that cattle car.

400

00:23:54,240 --> 00:23:58,980

And they let us out
in Horgau in Augsburg.

401

00:23:58,980 --> 00:24:03,600

And from there they

kept us till about--

402

00:24:03,600 --> 00:24:07,920

I don't know, every so
often they transfer us

403

00:24:07,920 --> 00:24:10,850

from one place to another.

404

00:24:10,850 --> 00:24:18,230

Sometimes they transferred
us in December 1994,

405

00:24:18,230 --> 00:24:24,050

they took us to Leonberg,
and not far from Stuttgart.

406

00:24:24,050 --> 00:24:28,770

Leonberg was a tunnel, a big
tunnel, it was blocked off.

407

00:24:28,770 --> 00:24:34,350

Half the tunnel was for cars
to come through and trucks,

408

00:24:34,350 --> 00:24:38,510

and half the car
was for to build--

409

00:24:38,510 --> 00:24:43,170

they were building wings
for the messerschmidt plane.

410

00:24:43,170 --> 00:24:47,830

Always all the time was
we supposed to do things.

411

00:24:47,830 --> 00:24:50,220

If they need bolts, we
already got the rivets.

412

00:24:50,220 --> 00:24:54,000

They need rivets, was already

everything in this arrived.

413

00:24:54,000 --> 00:25:05,120

And we were there till
about April '44, '45.

414

00:25:05,120 --> 00:25:08,420

They took us out from
there on a march,

415

00:25:08,420 --> 00:25:13,440

because then we were
going to-- from there

416

00:25:13,440 --> 00:25:15,470

we went into Kaufering.

417

00:25:15,470 --> 00:25:22,630

That was a camp, and
Leonberg was the main camp.

418

00:25:22,630 --> 00:25:25,330

Kaufering was a side camp.

419

00:25:25,330 --> 00:25:27,820

We were there for
about three weeks,

420

00:25:27,820 --> 00:25:32,530

although nothing much to
eat and nothing to do.

421

00:25:32,530 --> 00:25:38,060

And that was in '44 at the end.

422

00:25:38,060 --> 00:25:44,530

And a week before the liberation
they took us to Allach.

423

00:25:44,530 --> 00:25:47,130

That was next to the Dachau.

424

00:25:47,130 --> 00:25:56,120
And on a Friday night
we heard the artillery,

425
00:25:56,120 --> 00:26:00,520
the tanks shooting.

426
00:26:00,520 --> 00:26:02,010
And they hit our barrack.

427
00:26:02,010 --> 00:26:06,390
They hit, a lot of
people got killed.

428
00:26:06,390 --> 00:26:08,740
I don't know.

429
00:26:08,740 --> 00:26:12,670
And the Germans took
off, they left the camp

430
00:26:12,670 --> 00:26:18,340
onto the, what you
call the German what

431
00:26:18,340 --> 00:26:23,470
they were political Germans
were concentration camp.

432
00:26:23,470 --> 00:26:26,770
The wand what they
rap us steal us.

433
00:26:26,770 --> 00:26:32,620
They got the-- political
got the red mark,

434
00:26:32,620 --> 00:26:37,550
and the robbers got the
triangle, a black one.

435
00:26:37,550 --> 00:26:40,180
So they were watching us.

436
00:26:40,180 --> 00:26:44,120
And Sunday morning
the gates open.

437
00:26:44,120 --> 00:26:50,580
So we got liberated
May 1st, 1945.

438
00:26:50,580 --> 00:26:56,010
As soon the gate opened
they were outside potato

439
00:26:56,010 --> 00:26:58,140
piles for the winter.

440
00:26:58,140 --> 00:26:59,340
They didn't feed us.

441
00:26:59,340 --> 00:27:02,010
The only thing the
piles were still there.

442
00:27:02,010 --> 00:27:05,320
They didn't give us to eat it.

443
00:27:05,320 --> 00:27:10,050
So I took a can and I
had a buddy of mine,

444
00:27:10,050 --> 00:27:14,580
and I says I'm going to go
out and get some potatoes.

445
00:27:14,580 --> 00:27:17,430
I go get out, and
we made a fire.

446
00:27:17,430 --> 00:27:19,800
And he was cooking the potatoes.

447
00:27:19,800 --> 00:27:22,020

So while he was
cooking it I said

448
00:27:22,020 --> 00:27:25,690
I'm going to get another can.

449
00:27:25,690 --> 00:27:27,700
So I got out and
got another can.

450
00:27:27,700 --> 00:27:28,400
I come back.

451
00:27:28,400 --> 00:27:31,810
Hey stays and cries,
somebody stole the can.

452
00:27:31,810 --> 00:27:34,480
Because we already
got liberated.

453
00:27:34,480 --> 00:27:38,380
And people, it was
for them easier

454
00:27:38,380 --> 00:27:42,400
to take it from here
than to go out the gate.

455
00:27:42,400 --> 00:27:44,680
And I said what you crying?

456
00:27:44,680 --> 00:27:45,490
We got liberated.

457
00:27:45,490 --> 00:27:46,000
Let's go.

458
00:27:46,000 --> 00:27:47,590
He didn't want to go.

459
00:27:47,590 --> 00:27:49,360

And I didn't see him since.

460
00:27:49,360 --> 00:27:50,564
Really?

461
00:27:50,564 --> 00:27:51,064
No.

462
00:27:51,064 --> 00:27:54,700
I went out right away,
and I went on the road

463
00:27:54,700 --> 00:28:01,030
with some four or five
other concentration camps.

464
00:28:01,030 --> 00:28:03,790
We went to the
town about a mile.

465
00:28:03,790 --> 00:28:07,300
On the way, a Jeep went by
and the Jeep turned back

466
00:28:07,300 --> 00:28:09,550
and he gave us chewing gum.

467
00:28:09,550 --> 00:28:11,095
That was the liberation.

468
00:28:11,095 --> 00:28:12,370
This is the Americans?

469
00:28:12,370 --> 00:28:13,360
Yeah.

470
00:28:13,360 --> 00:28:15,820
And they told me to chew.

471
00:28:15,820 --> 00:28:16,740
I didn't know.

472
00:28:16,740 --> 00:28:17,614
I ate.

473
00:28:17,614 --> 00:28:19,540
I didn't know chewing gum.

474
00:28:19,540 --> 00:28:22,120
We didn't know what
chewing gum is.

475
00:28:22,120 --> 00:28:23,950
So I ate the chewing gum.

476
00:28:23,950 --> 00:28:25,450
We came in, they
were camping out.

477
00:28:25,450 --> 00:28:28,510
They were cooking,
and they surround us.

478
00:28:28,510 --> 00:28:32,440
It was Polish soldiers,
Jewish soldiers,

479
00:28:32,440 --> 00:28:34,750
they start to ask questions.

480
00:28:34,750 --> 00:28:36,910
And they will give us to drink.

481
00:28:36,910 --> 00:28:40,090
I got drunk that
day-- that evening.

482
00:28:40,090 --> 00:28:46,320
And I stay overnight.

483
00:28:46,320 --> 00:28:50,120
I was sleeping there in the barn
where they were camping out.

484

00:28:50,120 --> 00:28:53,500

In the morning I wake
up, they've been gone.

485

00:28:53,500 --> 00:28:57,320

So we went as a group, four
or five, we changed clothes.

486

00:28:57,320 --> 00:29:01,250

We went to the German
houses-- they left the houses.

487

00:29:01,250 --> 00:29:05,000

So we throw away
the striped clothes.

488

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:07,585

They walked away from
us, because a lot

489

00:29:07,585 --> 00:29:11,061

of lice, a lot of things.

490

00:29:11,061 --> 00:29:12,960

So we changed
clothes, we showered,

491

00:29:12,960 --> 00:29:14,940

and I cleaned up a little bit.

492

00:29:14,940 --> 00:29:18,840

It took us three days to go
into Munich because Allach

493

00:29:18,840 --> 00:29:20,820

we went by foot.

494

00:29:20,820 --> 00:29:23,150

There was no transportation.

495

00:29:23,150 --> 00:29:27,460

And then we came into Munich

I saw people carrying wine.

496

00:29:27,460 --> 00:29:32,060

They were sellers, they
took out some wine.

497

00:29:32,060 --> 00:29:35,300

And I was also going
in for a case of wine.

498

00:29:35,300 --> 00:29:36,990

So we celebrated.

499

00:29:36,990 --> 00:29:41,150

And then I started
after a couple days

500

00:29:41,150 --> 00:29:43,430

I went to work
for the American--

501

00:29:43,430 --> 00:29:45,890

for the GIs through the kitchen.

502

00:29:45,890 --> 00:29:48,050

And that was the best
thing I ever did,

503

00:29:48,050 --> 00:29:50,300

because I have plenty of food.

504

00:29:50,300 --> 00:29:54,453

And I brought home some
food for my friends.

505

00:29:54,453 --> 00:29:56,120

And a lot of friends
came to the kitchen

506

00:29:56,120 --> 00:29:58,760

there because they got
a lot of leftovers.

507

00:29:58,760 --> 00:30:03,860

Because in the beginning,
everything was ration.

508

00:30:03,860 --> 00:30:05,960

You couldn't buy, even for
money you couldn't buy.

509

00:30:05,960 --> 00:30:07,150

Right.

510

00:30:07,150 --> 00:30:10,100

So that was a big help.

511

00:30:10,100 --> 00:30:12,170

Can we back up a
little bit and go to--

512

00:30:12,170 --> 00:30:12,770

Yeah.

513

00:30:12,770 --> 00:30:15,200

We sort of zoomed through
these times in the camps.

514

00:30:15,200 --> 00:30:18,830

Are there any images of
things that you remember

515

00:30:18,830 --> 00:30:21,440

that were particularly-- that
made an impression on you,

516

00:30:21,440 --> 00:30:25,450

or any episode that
happened to you?

517

00:30:25,450 --> 00:30:27,730

What I can say?

518

00:30:27,730 --> 00:30:30,910

On the march I have

seen, because we

519

00:30:30,910 --> 00:30:35,230

were camping outside,
and I see some people

520

00:30:35,230 --> 00:30:37,720

eating flesh, human flesh.

521

00:30:37,720 --> 00:30:38,560

Oh my god.

522

00:30:38,560 --> 00:30:40,690

Yeah, they [INAUDIBLE].

523

00:30:40,690 --> 00:30:44,460

Because we didn't
have too much food.

524

00:30:44,460 --> 00:30:48,270

And people were eating snacks,
they were eating grass.

525

00:30:48,270 --> 00:30:50,355

I did myself, I eat grass.

526

00:30:50,355 --> 00:30:53,592

527

00:30:53,592 --> 00:30:57,250

What else images?

528

00:30:57,250 --> 00:31:01,180

Anything that-- any episode when
you were in all these places?

529

00:31:01,180 --> 00:31:05,440

You see, when I got sick
of typhoid on the way home

530

00:31:05,440 --> 00:31:11,866

from work, somehow I

still was [INAUDIBLE]..

531
00:31:11,866 --> 00:31:15,370
I didn't walk straight.

532
00:31:15,370 --> 00:31:17,710
So the guy came,
he was Ukrainian.

533
00:31:17,710 --> 00:31:19,060
He was watching us.

534
00:31:19,060 --> 00:31:26,110
That was still in Poland
in 1940, '41, '42.

535
00:31:26,110 --> 00:31:30,790
And he came to the
camp and the good thing

536
00:31:30,790 --> 00:31:35,060
that the sharp, the
SS, wasn't there.

537
00:31:35,060 --> 00:31:36,700
His wife was there.

538
00:31:36,700 --> 00:31:40,060
And he said that I want to
take off, I want to run away.

539
00:31:40,060 --> 00:31:44,060
I didn't have no strength to
walk, never mind run away.

540
00:31:44,060 --> 00:31:46,935
So she called-- if he
would have been there

541
00:31:46,935 --> 00:31:48,520
I would have had the bullet.

542

00:31:48,520 --> 00:31:52,410

I would-- there was
no question ask,

543

00:31:52,410 --> 00:31:54,025

give you the bullet right away.

544

00:31:54,025 --> 00:31:58,290

So she said to call
the Jewish kapos.

545

00:31:58,290 --> 00:32:01,260

They should give
me 25 [INAUDIBLE]..

546

00:32:01,260 --> 00:32:03,870

So they took me in.

547

00:32:03,870 --> 00:32:05,370

They say scream.

548

00:32:05,370 --> 00:32:08,910

They knew if they give me 25
I wouldn't survive either.

549

00:32:08,910 --> 00:32:11,550

So they told me scream.

550

00:32:11,550 --> 00:32:14,640

They didn't hit me,
they didn't touch me.

551

00:32:14,640 --> 00:32:17,490

Oh, so these were
half decent kapos?

552

00:32:17,490 --> 00:32:19,410

Yeah.

553

00:32:19,410 --> 00:32:24,076

That was still in
Poland in Judenlager.

554

00:32:24,076 --> 00:32:26,080

Do you know what year was that?

555

00:32:26,080 --> 00:32:29,235

That was in 1942,
in the beginning.

556

00:32:29,235 --> 00:32:30,940

Oh that was just--

557

00:32:30,940 --> 00:32:32,070

Yeah.

558

00:32:32,070 --> 00:32:35,110

When you had the typhus, you
didn't have any medical care,

559

00:32:35,110 --> 00:32:36,630

I assume?

560

00:32:36,630 --> 00:32:37,410

No.

561

00:32:37,410 --> 00:32:39,170

Just had to pass it?

562

00:32:39,170 --> 00:32:40,420

Yeah, yeah.

563

00:32:40,420 --> 00:32:42,210

We were laying in the thing.

564

00:32:42,210 --> 00:32:46,120

They got separated,
the quarantine.

565

00:32:46,120 --> 00:32:49,990

You have to go into that
quarantine and you stay there.

566

00:32:49,990 --> 00:32:51,960

The doctor that was
taking care of us,

567
00:32:51,960 --> 00:32:56,520
he died of typhoid, because
he was an older man,

568
00:32:56,520 --> 00:32:59,540
if I remember right.

569
00:32:59,540 --> 00:33:03,560
And I got a friend of
mine, and he died too.

570
00:33:03,560 --> 00:33:05,997
He didn't make it.

571
00:33:05,997 --> 00:33:06,580
This is from--

572
00:33:06,580 --> 00:33:06,940
From the same town.

573
00:33:06,940 --> 00:33:08,680
This is from the bad conditions?

574
00:33:08,680 --> 00:33:15,310
Yeah, cleanliness and
didn't have the food.

575
00:33:15,310 --> 00:33:17,700
The fever ate you up.

576
00:33:17,700 --> 00:33:22,980

577
00:33:22,980 --> 00:33:23,480
Well--

578
00:33:23,480 --> 00:33:25,242
What else you want to know?

579

00:33:25,242 --> 00:33:27,200

Anything else that you
can remember about that.

580

00:33:27,200 --> 00:33:28,010

Then you can go--

581

00:33:28,010 --> 00:33:31,650

you can continue to tell
me about what happened.

582

00:33:31,650 --> 00:33:33,920

You were working in a
kitchen, you were saying?

583

00:33:33,920 --> 00:33:36,560

Yeah, for the American army.

584

00:33:36,560 --> 00:33:41,390

And I work for about
four or five months.

585

00:33:41,390 --> 00:33:49,000

They took them out, they
supposed to go to Japan.

586

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:55,510

So they left Munich,
so I was without a job.

587

00:33:55,510 --> 00:34:00,680

The only thing we already formed
a committee and this and that.

588

00:34:00,680 --> 00:34:05,280

So I was involved
in some, and then

589

00:34:05,280 --> 00:34:12,690

I start to look for my to be in
mine profession as a tinsmith,

590

00:34:12,690 --> 00:34:16,230
we went to try to build houses.

591
00:34:16,230 --> 00:34:20,429
This kind of was
tough to get into.

592
00:34:20,429 --> 00:34:22,949
Can I ask you, how
did the Germans--

593
00:34:22,949 --> 00:34:26,949
all of a sudden, Germany is
defeated and you're in Germany.

594
00:34:26,949 --> 00:34:27,880
How did they--

595
00:34:27,880 --> 00:34:31,320
You see, a lot of
Germans they say they

596
00:34:31,320 --> 00:34:32,570
didn't know what was going on.

597
00:34:32,570 --> 00:34:33,100
Yeah.

598
00:34:33,100 --> 00:34:35,310
Yeah, I say how come
you didn't know?

599
00:34:35,310 --> 00:34:37,139
You seen us marching.

600
00:34:37,139 --> 00:34:39,989
I was marching in Augsburg.

601
00:34:39,989 --> 00:34:43,380
In the morning we were
marching to the train.

602

00:34:43,380 --> 00:34:47,639

They saw us in what
condition we were.

603

00:34:47,639 --> 00:34:52,730

When I got liberated
I weighed 95 pounds.

604

00:34:52,730 --> 00:34:53,500

I was a skeleton.

605

00:34:53,500 --> 00:34:57,280

So I says how come
you didn't know?

606

00:34:57,280 --> 00:35:02,380

And the Germans, they work
with us too, some Germans.

607

00:35:02,380 --> 00:35:05,440

The only thing they
did, I ask them

608

00:35:05,440 --> 00:35:07,960

because they say
they didn't know.

609

00:35:07,960 --> 00:35:12,670

And they were like
I went to a bakery,

610

00:35:12,670 --> 00:35:14,530

he didn't take no money from me.

611

00:35:14,530 --> 00:35:18,330

He give me bread, give me cake.

612

00:35:18,330 --> 00:35:20,590

Because he felt sorry for me.

613

00:35:20,590 --> 00:35:23,100

614

00:35:23,100 --> 00:35:25,170

The only thing you
couldn't trust them.

615

00:35:25,170 --> 00:35:27,710

I wouldn't trust them today.

616

00:35:27,710 --> 00:35:28,720

It's just unusual.

617

00:35:28,720 --> 00:35:30,637

What about when you were
growing up in Poland?

618

00:35:30,637 --> 00:35:33,270

Did you feel any antisemitism?

619

00:35:33,270 --> 00:35:40,780

In my town because I was
involved to go to school.

620

00:35:40,780 --> 00:35:43,110

To public school?

621

00:35:43,110 --> 00:35:43,890

Public school.

622

00:35:43,890 --> 00:35:47,100

Yeah, because I was not a softy.

623

00:35:47,100 --> 00:35:49,560

I was one of theirs.

624

00:35:49,560 --> 00:35:53,050

They couldn't fight with
me, I would fight back.

625

00:35:53,050 --> 00:35:53,550

So--

626

00:35:53,550 --> 00:35:55,160

But did they ever call you any--

627

00:35:55,160 --> 00:36:01,170

No, they called you, they
say [NON-ENGLISH] you go

628

00:36:01,170 --> 00:36:03,585

to Palestine.

629

00:36:03,585 --> 00:36:05,800

[NON-ENGLISH] the Palestinian.

630

00:36:05,800 --> 00:36:08,280

But this I didn't care.

631

00:36:08,280 --> 00:36:11,370

Because I was going
to their school,

632

00:36:11,370 --> 00:36:17,490

and they were learning about
religion and everything.

633

00:36:17,490 --> 00:36:20,910

The priest came for an
hour, so it worked out.

634

00:36:20,910 --> 00:36:23,940

Sometimes it was
better, so I stayed

635

00:36:23,940 --> 00:36:28,620

and I listened to the teaching.

636

00:36:28,620 --> 00:36:32,190

So I wasn't the type of guy--

637

00:36:32,190 --> 00:36:35,640

they did some, it
was some Jewish boys

638

00:36:35,640 --> 00:36:38,100

they wear payots or
something like this.

639
00:36:38,100 --> 00:36:41,160
They like to grab the payots.

640
00:36:41,160 --> 00:36:46,410
Because we didn't
have no Jewish--

641
00:36:46,410 --> 00:36:49,350
Jewish was the cheder after.

642
00:36:49,350 --> 00:36:52,980
The public we got to
go together with them.

643
00:36:52,980 --> 00:36:55,320
So we didn't have no school.

644
00:36:55,320 --> 00:36:59,010
Because afterwards, in a
big city like Sosnowiec,

645
00:36:59,010 --> 00:37:02,370
they already have a
public school for Jews,

646
00:37:02,370 --> 00:37:06,870
not just the Jewish
public school.

647
00:37:06,870 --> 00:37:11,610
Where I was, we were
maybe a dozen or maybe

648
00:37:11,610 --> 00:37:17,153
two dozen Jewish kids in the
public school from my town.

649
00:37:17,153 --> 00:37:17,820
So pretty small.

650

00:37:17,820 --> 00:37:21,210

Yeah, so we kind
of got a mixture.

651

00:37:21,210 --> 00:37:23,640

And we did the same
thing what they did,

652

00:37:23,640 --> 00:37:26,010

the physical
education or something

653

00:37:26,010 --> 00:37:33,960

like that, playing music,
or exercising or something.

654

00:37:33,960 --> 00:37:39,550

It wasn't bothered with the--

655

00:37:39,550 --> 00:37:47,810

they started in 1935, '37, when
the Jews came from Germany--

656

00:37:47,810 --> 00:37:49,400

When the Polish
Jews were sent back?

657

00:37:49,400 --> 00:37:50,600

Back, yeah.

658

00:37:50,600 --> 00:37:53,600

That time they
started already to--

659

00:37:53,600 --> 00:37:59,270

like in the stores they
say don't buy from Jews.

660

00:37:59,270 --> 00:38:01,850

They were picketing.

661

00:38:01,850 --> 00:38:02,660

They should picket.

662
00:38:02,660 --> 00:38:05,510

663
00:38:05,510 --> 00:38:09,370
That was the guys what
they were the anti-Semites.

664
00:38:09,370 --> 00:38:12,520

665
00:38:12,520 --> 00:38:13,300
Otherwise--

666
00:38:13,300 --> 00:38:15,870

667
00:38:15,870 --> 00:38:18,750
Were you involved in any youth
groups, any Zionist groups

668
00:38:18,750 --> 00:38:19,560
or anything?

669
00:38:19,560 --> 00:38:22,120
Or did you play any instruments
or have any hobbies?

670
00:38:22,120 --> 00:38:26,690
No, I didn't have the time.

671
00:38:26,690 --> 00:38:30,150
I used to belong to
the, what you call it,

672
00:38:30,150 --> 00:38:33,800
to the Betar, the organization.

673
00:38:33,800 --> 00:38:36,720
The only thing I wasn't
involved too much,

674
00:38:36,720 --> 00:38:39,420
because I have to
learn the trade.

675
00:38:39,420 --> 00:38:48,110
And then I have to go
to school at night.

676
00:38:48,110 --> 00:38:52,830
And my uncle didn't
feel mercy for me.

677
00:38:52,830 --> 00:38:55,550
I was working during
the day, and at night I

678
00:38:55,550 --> 00:38:57,320
got to do a lot of things.

679
00:38:57,320 --> 00:39:00,720
And sometimes I
went to a meeting,

680
00:39:00,720 --> 00:39:03,530
I didn't get involved too much.

681
00:39:03,530 --> 00:39:04,975
I have friends
that were involved.

682
00:39:04,975 --> 00:39:08,390

683
00:39:08,390 --> 00:39:16,200
And mostly I went to the
synagogue for services

684
00:39:16,200 --> 00:39:18,780
on Shabbos.

685
00:39:18,780 --> 00:39:19,380

No, that's OK.

686
00:39:19,380 --> 00:39:20,490
You didn't have to.

687
00:39:20,490 --> 00:39:23,730
Is there-- oh, I'm
going to flip the tape

688
00:39:23,730 --> 00:39:25,260
over because it's running out.

689
00:39:25,260 --> 00:39:26,550
So flip it from here.

690
00:39:26,550 --> 00:39:36,700

691
00:39:36,700 --> 00:39:40,330
All right, I'd like to
go now back to the time

692
00:39:40,330 --> 00:39:42,970
just when you were liberated
if that's all right.

693
00:39:42,970 --> 00:39:46,835
And we can talk a
little bit about you.

694
00:39:46,835 --> 00:39:49,490
So you were working for the
GIs, but then they departed.

695
00:39:49,490 --> 00:39:49,990
Yeah.

696
00:39:49,990 --> 00:39:50,500
Right?

697
00:39:50,500 --> 00:39:52,700
And what happened after that?

698
00:39:52,700 --> 00:39:55,360
After that, when they
departed, we were in the group,

699
00:39:55,360 --> 00:40:04,430
so the group we try to go
in business building houses.

700
00:40:04,430 --> 00:40:08,250
Because I was as a tinsmith.

701
00:40:08,250 --> 00:40:09,850
It was very tough.

702
00:40:09,850 --> 00:40:16,020
It was hard to get
into, into construction.

703
00:40:16,020 --> 00:40:21,520
We were about four or five guys.

704
00:40:21,520 --> 00:40:26,080
So we work for about
a couple years,

705
00:40:26,080 --> 00:40:29,250
and we didn't
accomplish too much.

706
00:40:29,250 --> 00:40:36,750
We had an office, and but we
didn't make not too much money.

707
00:40:36,750 --> 00:40:43,920
Whatever we made we got expenses
paid the help and everything.

708
00:40:43,920 --> 00:40:52,080
And in 1947, '48
we were thinking

709

00:40:52,080 --> 00:40:54,730
that we should emigrate.

710
00:40:54,730 --> 00:40:59,610
So we still were involved with
the building, with the thing,

711
00:40:59,610 --> 00:41:01,590
until 1949.

712
00:41:01,590 --> 00:41:04,410
Can you back up and tell us--
were you married by that time?

713
00:41:04,410 --> 00:41:05,070
No, no.

714
00:41:05,070 --> 00:41:06,520
No, but you had met your wife?

715
00:41:06,520 --> 00:41:08,160
Yeah, yeah.

716
00:41:08,160 --> 00:41:09,990
While you were
working for the GI?

717
00:41:09,990 --> 00:41:11,700
Yeah.

718
00:41:11,700 --> 00:41:13,320
Yeah, we weren't together.

719
00:41:13,320 --> 00:41:16,540
We were like the
boys were together

720
00:41:16,540 --> 00:41:18,550
and the girls were together.

721
00:41:18,550 --> 00:41:25,330
And we see each other

and then about 1946,

722

00:41:25,330 --> 00:41:29,300

'47 we were thinking
about getting married.

723

00:41:29,300 --> 00:41:32,780

The only thing we wait till
we come to the United States.

724

00:41:32,780 --> 00:41:37,280

And we got married in
United States in 1950.

725

00:41:37,280 --> 00:41:39,010

So you came to America together?

726

00:41:39,010 --> 00:41:39,790

No, yeah.

727

00:41:39,790 --> 00:41:41,082

You came with all these people?

728

00:41:41,082 --> 00:41:46,840

She came with my
brother together.

729

00:41:46,840 --> 00:41:52,040

Because my brother we
didn't have nobody here.

730

00:41:52,040 --> 00:41:54,310

So we have to register
and the 200,000--

731

00:41:54,310 --> 00:41:58,090

I don't know if that
somebody tell you about this,

732

00:41:58,090 --> 00:42:00,610

that's the [INAUDIBLE] quarter.

733

00:42:00,610 --> 00:42:01,940
Right.

734
00:42:01,940 --> 00:42:07,500
And so my brother
registered as a farmer.

735
00:42:07,500 --> 00:42:09,750
So they took the farmer's first.

736
00:42:09,750 --> 00:42:12,900
And the girls does domestic.

737
00:42:12,900 --> 00:42:17,100
They supposed to go work for
somebody, so they took them.

738
00:42:17,100 --> 00:42:22,080
And I was a tinsmith, I
was the last one to go.

739
00:42:22,080 --> 00:42:29,050
She went with my brother
together in December 1949,

740
00:42:29,050 --> 00:42:35,580
and I come in June 1950.

741
00:42:35,580 --> 00:42:38,850
And I got married in November.

742
00:42:38,850 --> 00:42:42,060
Where did you-- did you come
to New York at the time?

743
00:42:42,060 --> 00:42:43,620
Yeah, we were in New York.

744
00:42:43,620 --> 00:42:47,940
They came and she and my
brother, we had a friend

745

00:42:47,940 --> 00:42:49,440
and he had already a house.

746
00:42:49,440 --> 00:42:53,250
So they rent apartment
from him in the Bronx.

747
00:42:53,250 --> 00:42:58,080
When I come I come
already to the real thing.

748
00:42:58,080 --> 00:43:00,810
We already got furniture
and everything.

749
00:43:00,810 --> 00:43:03,900
Yeah, and I got a
little bit of money

750
00:43:03,900 --> 00:43:08,040
because from the construction
thing, whatever we sold

751
00:43:08,040 --> 00:43:09,540
and everything.

752
00:43:09,540 --> 00:43:18,540
And so I went with some friends.

753
00:43:18,540 --> 00:43:20,160
They were working
for the uncle, they

754
00:43:20,160 --> 00:43:24,120
were in the jewelry
business, custom jewelry.

755
00:43:24,120 --> 00:43:30,290
And so they told me that
I should go back to Europe

756
00:43:30,290 --> 00:43:32,780
and get some connections

for the custom

757

00:43:32,780 --> 00:43:36,050

jewelry for the
Catholics, prayer beads.

758

00:43:36,050 --> 00:43:36,710

Oh, yeah?

759

00:43:36,710 --> 00:43:38,960

Yeah, that's in Jewish hands.

760

00:43:38,960 --> 00:43:40,250

I didn't know that.

761

00:43:40,250 --> 00:43:41,600

Yeah.

762

00:43:41,600 --> 00:43:46,190

Prayer-- everything
is in Jewish hands.

763

00:43:46,190 --> 00:43:47,330

And I went to--

764

00:43:47,330 --> 00:43:49,070

Don't tell all the anti-Semites.

765

00:43:49,070 --> 00:43:53,830

Yeah, and I went
back to Germany,

766

00:43:53,830 --> 00:43:56,480

and I make some connections.

767

00:43:56,480 --> 00:43:59,690

And I come back and we
supposed to open up a business.

768

00:43:59,690 --> 00:44:01,250

We did open up.

769

00:44:01,250 --> 00:44:07,130

And then I got my brother,
I want him to be a partner.

770

00:44:07,130 --> 00:44:11,000

And my friend, he got a cousin,
he wants him to be a partner.

771

00:44:11,000 --> 00:44:14,000

The only thing they said,
because they know the trade,

772

00:44:14,000 --> 00:44:17,690

they were working for
the uncle both of them.

773

00:44:17,690 --> 00:44:20,060

They say no, I can't
be a third partner.

774

00:44:20,060 --> 00:44:22,250

I said I'm not [NON-ENGLISH].

775

00:44:22,250 --> 00:44:24,470

You know what [NON-ENGLISH]?

776

00:44:24,470 --> 00:44:31,140

So I said no, either I take 50%,
if you don't want my brother

777

00:44:31,140 --> 00:44:34,440

you give me 50% and you take 50.

778

00:44:34,440 --> 00:44:37,910

No, I give them the key.

779

00:44:37,910 --> 00:44:40,890

You take the business.

780

00:44:40,890 --> 00:44:47,370

So they paid me out, and I came
to the farm about a year later.

781
00:44:47,370 --> 00:44:49,770
And meantime, my
wife was working

782
00:44:49,770 --> 00:44:52,600
and my brother was working.

783
00:44:52,600 --> 00:44:55,788
And I went to work
for Bethlehem Steel.

784
00:44:55,788 --> 00:44:57,580
By that time, they had
been remodeling them

785
00:44:57,580 --> 00:44:59,896
liberty boats as a tinsmith.

786
00:44:59,896 --> 00:45:04,750
I was making good money,
\$2.75 an hour in 1952.

787
00:45:04,750 --> 00:45:05,710
Really?

788
00:45:05,710 --> 00:45:06,730
That's great.

789
00:45:06,730 --> 00:45:13,630
Yeah, I was making
about \$75 a week.

790
00:45:13,630 --> 00:45:16,110
And taxes and what you call it.

791
00:45:16,110 --> 00:45:17,540
Oh, a week, \$75 a week?

792
00:45:17,540 --> 00:45:18,040
Yeah.

793

00:45:18,040 --> 00:45:19,270

First you said \$75 an hour.

794

00:45:19,270 --> 00:45:21,120

No, no, no, a week.

795

00:45:21,120 --> 00:45:22,460

\$2.70, \$2.

796

00:45:22,460 --> 00:45:22,960

Oh, OK

797

00:45:22,960 --> 00:45:24,870

\$2.75.

798

00:45:24,870 --> 00:45:26,800

That time that was big money.

799

00:45:26,800 --> 00:45:27,660

That's true too.

800

00:45:27,660 --> 00:45:29,400

Yeah.

801

00:45:29,400 --> 00:45:34,410

My wife was making \$0.60,
my brother was making \$0.90.

802

00:45:34,410 --> 00:45:36,854

I was the big, big [INAUDIBLE].

803

00:45:36,854 --> 00:45:42,180

804

00:45:42,180 --> 00:45:44,130

This is my son and
my wife and me.

805

00:45:44,130 --> 00:45:47,210

806

00:45:47,210 --> 00:45:50,900

So that's-- do you have anything
else that you can think of that

807

00:45:50,900 --> 00:45:53,490

you'd like to add
about your family,

808

00:45:53,490 --> 00:45:57,520

about your experiences
during the Holocaust?

809

00:45:57,520 --> 00:46:00,750

I see a lot of things
in the Holocaust.

810

00:46:00,750 --> 00:46:03,350

They've been killing people.

811

00:46:03,350 --> 00:46:14,100

The thing is I showed some
friends of mine at night.

812

00:46:14,100 --> 00:46:18,690

Next morning, they were
dead all of a sudden.

813

00:46:18,690 --> 00:46:24,620

That kind of experience.

814

00:46:24,620 --> 00:46:26,510

OK, I think I'll turn
off the tape now then,

815

00:46:26,510 --> 00:46:27,690

if that's OK with you.

816

00:46:27,690 --> 00:46:28,190

OK.

817

00:46:28,190 --> 00:46:29,370

Thank you very much.

818

00:46:29,370 --> 00:46:30,920

OK.

819

00:46:30,920 --> 00:46:32,000