

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,380

2  
00:00:02,380 --> 00:00:02,880  
OK.

3  
00:00:02,880 --> 00:00:03,995  
You can just give me your--

4  
00:00:03,995 --> 00:00:04,495  
All right.

5  
00:00:04,495 --> 00:00:05,250  
--all over again.

6  
00:00:05,250 --> 00:00:05,850  
OK.

7  
00:00:05,850 --> 00:00:08,790  
My name is Arthur R. Menke.

8  
00:00:08,790 --> 00:00:12,750  
I was born in Hamburg,  
Germany of the year 1927,

9  
00:00:12,750 --> 00:00:15,270  
February the 23rd.

10  
00:00:15,270 --> 00:00:18,330  
Why don't we start  
off by telling me

11  
00:00:18,330 --> 00:00:21,600  
a little bit about your  
childhood and your parents?

12  
00:00:21,600 --> 00:00:28,200  
I had a father, whose  
age was at that time 55,

13

00:00:28,200 --> 00:00:30,840  
and my mother at  
the time was 46.

14  
00:00:30,840 --> 00:00:33,510  
And I had a sister  
the age of 17.

15  
00:00:33,510 --> 00:00:34,560  
So you had one sister?

16  
00:00:34,560 --> 00:00:34,920  
Yes.

17  
00:00:34,920 --> 00:00:36,170  
And that was the only sibling?

18  
00:00:36,170 --> 00:00:36,870  
Yes.

19  
00:00:36,870 --> 00:00:43,530  
And we lived in a  
very nice neighborhood

20  
00:00:43,530 --> 00:00:45,340  
in Hamburg, Germany.

21  
00:00:45,340 --> 00:00:50,850  
And we had to leave that  
neighborhood and apartment

22  
00:00:50,850 --> 00:00:53,790  
we lived in because the  
Jews were no longer allowed

23  
00:00:53,790 --> 00:00:54,810  
in that part of town.

24  
00:00:54,810 --> 00:00:56,340  
It was too good for them.

25  
00:00:56,340 --> 00:00:58,740

What time frame are  
we talking about?

26  
00:00:58,740 --> 00:01:01,860  
That was, I would  
say, in about '38.

27  
00:01:01,860 --> 00:01:03,210  
In '38, OK.

28  
00:01:03,210 --> 00:01:06,690  
1938.

29  
00:01:06,690 --> 00:01:08,170  
Before that time--

30  
00:01:08,170 --> 00:01:10,890  
I know this is going to be hard  
to try to remember, especially

31  
00:01:10,890 --> 00:01:12,390  
because you were  
that young, but--

32  
00:01:12,390 --> 00:01:16,470  
do you remember any of  
the time around the time

33  
00:01:16,470 --> 00:01:17,970  
that Hitler came to power?

34  
00:01:17,970 --> 00:01:18,870  
Oh, yes.

35  
00:01:18,870 --> 00:01:22,290  
Of course, I was born in  
'27, but I vividly remember,

36  
00:01:22,290 --> 00:01:24,840  
let's say, around '35.

37  
00:01:24,840 --> 00:01:32,430

And that's when the Jews  
were starting to suffer.

38  
00:01:32,430 --> 00:01:37,680  
And it was maybe around '38  
where the Jews, like I said,

39  
00:01:37,680 --> 00:01:41,970  
were resettled in  
another part of town

40  
00:01:41,970 --> 00:01:46,190  
and they were not allowed to  
shop at the regular stores.

41  
00:01:46,190 --> 00:01:51,450  
There was stores especially  
assigned to Jews,

42  
00:01:51,450 --> 00:01:54,990  
with the merchandise was higher.

43  
00:01:54,990 --> 00:01:58,650  
We were also-- of course,  
there were benches

44  
00:01:58,650 --> 00:02:01,140  
that said, no Jews allowed.

45  
00:02:01,140 --> 00:02:06,360  
And you couldn't go  
to a movie, and there

46  
00:02:06,360 --> 00:02:09,300  
were severe restrictions.

47  
00:02:09,300 --> 00:02:12,600  
I am sure you recall  
Crystal Night.

48  
00:02:12,600 --> 00:02:16,320  
And I don't think we  
have to get into that.

49  
00:02:16,320 --> 00:02:18,120  
No, I'm quite sure  
you know that.

50  
00:02:18,120 --> 00:02:19,510  
Do you remember things?

51  
00:02:19,510 --> 00:02:20,010  
I'm sorry.

52  
00:02:20,010 --> 00:02:25,110  
At that time-- you know,  
they arrested for--

53  
00:02:25,110 --> 00:02:31,860  
when the German official was  
killed in France, and that

54  
00:02:31,860 --> 00:02:36,540  
was supposedly a punishment,  
to punish the Jews for that.

55  
00:02:36,540 --> 00:02:39,510  
And that's how the  
Crystal Night originated.

56  
00:02:39,510 --> 00:02:43,380  
And at that time, my father  
was taken to a concentration

57  
00:02:43,380 --> 00:02:46,830  
camp near Berlin for six weeks.

58  
00:02:46,830 --> 00:02:51,100

59  
00:02:51,100 --> 00:02:53,290  
They came to the house  
to arrest my father,

60  
00:02:53,290 --> 00:02:55,570

and he was at the  
place of business.

61  
00:02:55,570 --> 00:02:58,510  
And ordered my mother  
not to contact him.

62  
00:02:58,510 --> 00:03:00,580  
And they went and arrested him.

63  
00:03:00,580 --> 00:03:04,570  
And he came back after  
six weeks a broken man.

64  
00:03:04,570 --> 00:03:07,180  
He was hardly recognizable.

65  
00:03:07,180 --> 00:03:10,630  
And at that time,  
the Nazis taken

66  
00:03:10,630 --> 00:03:13,510  
over all German-owned  
businesses.

67  
00:03:13,510 --> 00:03:15,730  
And they were government-run.

68  
00:03:15,730 --> 00:03:20,530  
So my father's business--  
he had a small factory

69  
00:03:20,530 --> 00:03:24,050  
producing rubber stamps  
and signs, et cetera.

70  
00:03:24,050 --> 00:03:28,090  
And that business was taken  
over by the government.

71  
00:03:28,090 --> 00:03:32,590  
And his bank account was taken.

72

00:03:32,590 --> 00:03:38,380

And we were only allowed to draw  
a small amount of our own money

73

00:03:38,380 --> 00:03:39,400

at the time.

74

00:03:39,400 --> 00:03:44,740

And my father was forced  
to work as a laborer,

75

00:03:44,740 --> 00:03:46,060

packing shoes in a factory.

76

00:03:46,060 --> 00:03:49,790

77

00:03:49,790 --> 00:03:57,370

Do you remember, when you were  
a small child about this time,

78

00:03:57,370 --> 00:04:03,618

was there a lot of  
antisemitic overtones?

79

00:04:03,618 --> 00:04:04,785

By the children, especially.

80

00:04:04,785 --> 00:04:09,640

The antisemitism, I really--

81

00:04:09,640 --> 00:04:13,330

it was a lot worse in  
smaller towns first.

82

00:04:13,330 --> 00:04:14,650

Small villages.

83

00:04:14,650 --> 00:04:16,660

As a matter of fact,  
they were so bad

84

00:04:16,660 --> 00:04:19,959  
that the people lived in smaller  
towns went to the bigger cities

85

00:04:19,959 --> 00:04:23,200  
because there was  
less antisemitism.

86

00:04:23,200 --> 00:04:26,470  
And now, the German  
Jew was, if you

87

00:04:26,470 --> 00:04:31,420  
want to use the  
term integrated, he

88

00:04:31,420 --> 00:04:37,330  
was not like the Polish Jew, who  
was discriminated by the Poles

89

00:04:37,330 --> 00:04:41,800  
many, many years before  
the German Jew was.

90

00:04:41,800 --> 00:04:48,310  
And so the German Jew  
was a proud German.

91

00:04:48,310 --> 00:04:54,280  
Like my father fought  
for Germany in 1914/18

92

00:04:54,280 --> 00:05:00,310  
and was discharged as  
a proud German soldier

93

00:05:00,310 --> 00:05:02,200  
defending his country.

94

00:05:02,200 --> 00:05:04,660  
And the German Jews  
were dumb enough



95

00:05:04,660 --> 00:05:08,950

to believe that what's  
happened to the Polish Jews--

96

00:05:08,950 --> 00:05:11,740

because the Polish  
Jews suffered sooner

97

00:05:11,740 --> 00:05:15,400

than the German Jews were--  
they go, oh, this will never

98

00:05:15,400 --> 00:05:21,730

happen to us, we are German  
first before we are Jewish.

99

00:05:21,730 --> 00:05:25,450

But I recall being  
taken out of the school.

100

00:05:25,450 --> 00:05:30,760

And I was enrolled into  
a German high school.

101

00:05:30,760 --> 00:05:34,627

It was called Talmud Torah,  
which is still standing today.

102

00:05:34,627 --> 00:05:36,460

Was that a public school  
or a Jewish school?

103

00:05:36,460 --> 00:05:37,502

That was a Jewish school.

104

00:05:37,502 --> 00:05:38,570

Jewish school, OK.

105

00:05:38,570 --> 00:05:43,300

And they also had a girl's  
school where my sister went.

106

00:05:43,300 --> 00:05:46,540  
There was a highly--

107  
00:05:46,540 --> 00:05:48,820  
a real fine school.

108  
00:05:48,820 --> 00:05:53,710  
And we were well-educated.

109  
00:05:53,710 --> 00:05:57,970  
Of course, that was too  
good for the Jews again,

110  
00:05:57,970 --> 00:06:01,180  
and the building was  
taken over by the Germans.

111  
00:06:01,180 --> 00:06:06,830  
And we were all forced into a  
small school with the girls.

112  
00:06:06,830 --> 00:06:12,280  
Of course, there was a lot  
of emigration at the time.

113  
00:06:12,280 --> 00:06:15,376  
And I might add this.

114  
00:06:15,376 --> 00:06:19,060  
My mother saw the  
handwriting on the wall

115  
00:06:19,060 --> 00:06:22,780  
and wanted to get  
out of Germany.

116  
00:06:22,780 --> 00:06:30,070  
But I recall saying to my  
father, you don't have a trade,

117  
00:06:30,070 --> 00:06:32,420  
it'd be difficult  
to start over again.

118  
00:06:32,420 --> 00:06:35,140  
So they procrastinated  
until it was too late.

119  
00:06:35,140 --> 00:06:43,170  
And we did apply to leave  
Germany in the late '30s

120  
00:06:43,170 --> 00:06:44,890  
but I was too late at the time.

121  
00:06:44,890 --> 00:06:45,390  
Sure.

122  
00:06:45,390 --> 00:06:48,000

123  
00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:52,565  
You said something earlier about  
being moved within Hamburg.

124  
00:06:52,565 --> 00:06:54,440  
Was that a ghetto that  
was set up in Hamburg?

125  
00:06:54,440 --> 00:06:55,530  
No, not really.

126  
00:06:55,530 --> 00:07:01,260  
It was a neighborhood where more  
Jewish people lived, really.

127  
00:07:01,260 --> 00:07:01,760  
Already?

128  
00:07:01,760 --> 00:07:02,640  
Already.

129  
00:07:02,640 --> 00:07:04,130  
Before the Nazis, OK.

130

00:07:04,130 --> 00:07:04,630

Yes.

131

00:07:04,630 --> 00:07:08,040

The neighborhood I lived  
in was on the other side

132

00:07:08,040 --> 00:07:11,340

of the river, which was a  
much nicer neighborhood.

133

00:07:11,340 --> 00:07:12,570

And they moved you into the--

134

00:07:12,570 --> 00:07:13,290

Yes.

135

00:07:13,290 --> 00:07:17,240

And I was not welcome at  
school either anymore.

136

00:07:17,240 --> 00:07:19,860

I was going to  
public school there.

137

00:07:19,860 --> 00:07:22,590

Do you remember when you  
moved what kind of feelings

138

00:07:22,590 --> 00:07:23,920

you had at that time?

139

00:07:23,920 --> 00:07:26,820

Well, as a child, it  
didn't bother us at all.

140

00:07:26,820 --> 00:07:30,120

But of course, it  
was a terrible thing

141

00:07:30,120 --> 00:07:31,740

for my parents to go through.

142

00:07:31,740 --> 00:07:38,400

Matter of fact, we had a real nice home at that part of town.

143

00:07:38,400 --> 00:07:41,850

And at first, we all lived in--

144

00:07:41,850 --> 00:07:44,498

the whole family-- in a rented room, you know.

145

00:07:44,498 --> 00:07:48,240

146

00:07:48,240 --> 00:07:51,010

It was a trauma at that time already.

147

00:07:51,010 --> 00:07:51,510

OK.

148

00:07:51,510 --> 00:07:54,060

149

00:07:54,060 --> 00:07:54,840

Let's see.

150

00:07:54,840 --> 00:07:57,365

You talked a little bit about Kristallnacht.

151

00:07:57,365 --> 00:07:58,740

Do you remember anything specific

152

00:07:58,740 --> 00:08:01,920

about that night that happened to you or your family?

153

00:08:01,920 --> 00:08:06,660

Well, I know that the

all-Jewish businesses

154  
00:08:06,660 --> 00:08:10,470  
were totally destroyed,  
including huge department

155  
00:08:10,470 --> 00:08:14,340  
stores, like Hecht Company.

156  
00:08:14,340 --> 00:08:15,630  
Karstadt is the name.

157  
00:08:15,630 --> 00:08:17,310  
They're all over Germany today.

158  
00:08:17,310 --> 00:08:22,390  
And they'd taken furs and  
threw them in the river.

159  
00:08:22,390 --> 00:08:22,890  
Right.

160  
00:08:22,890 --> 00:08:27,660  
And you know, the Jewish  
cars the people owned,

161  
00:08:27,660 --> 00:08:30,070  
the automobiles were destroyed.

162  
00:08:30,070 --> 00:08:32,159  
The strange part is  
my father's business

163  
00:08:32,159 --> 00:08:35,130  
was not destroyed because  
people didn't realize

164  
00:08:35,130 --> 00:08:37,140  
that my father was a Jew.

165  
00:08:37,140 --> 00:08:39,539  
So his business

was not destroyed.

166  
00:08:39,539 --> 00:08:43,470  
Is any reason for that they  
might not think he was a Jew?

167  
00:08:43,470 --> 00:08:45,060  
Or did they not just not know?

168  
00:08:45,060 --> 00:08:47,400  
Is that?

169  
00:08:47,400 --> 00:08:51,840  
They didn't realize  
that he was a Jew.

170  
00:08:51,840 --> 00:08:56,640  
And like I said earlier,  
the Jew, the German Jew,

171  
00:08:56,640 --> 00:09:01,080  
was first German, you know.

172  
00:09:01,080 --> 00:09:08,440  
And I want to show you  
a little incident where

173  
00:09:08,440 --> 00:09:11,340  
there was a Nazi holiday.

174  
00:09:11,340 --> 00:09:15,000  
Of course, the Jews would  
not display their flag.

175  
00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:18,390  
And my sister and I would  
make a flag out of a sheet

176  
00:09:18,390 --> 00:09:22,630  
and hang out, which my parents  
naturally reeled back in again.

177

00:09:22,630 --> 00:09:24,960  
But just to give  
you a sample, like

178  
00:09:24,960 --> 00:09:28,130  
there was no  
different at the time.

179  
00:09:28,130 --> 00:09:28,900  
Right, OK.

180  
00:09:28,900 --> 00:09:34,440

181  
00:09:34,440 --> 00:09:41,010  
Do you remember much about  
any friends in school

182  
00:09:41,010 --> 00:09:43,650  
that you had at that time  
in your neighborhood?

183  
00:09:43,650 --> 00:09:46,710  
Especially from the children  
that I'm kind of interested in,

184  
00:09:46,710 --> 00:09:49,680  
about if there were  
any antisemitic.

185  
00:09:49,680 --> 00:09:53,520  
Yes, because they were  
agitated by their parents.

186  
00:09:53,520 --> 00:10:00,390  
And we had to wear  
a star of David,

187  
00:10:00,390 --> 00:10:02,640  
with the name Jew written in it.

188  
00:10:02,640 --> 00:10:05,310  
And there with the letters



were made in such a way

189  
00:10:05,310 --> 00:10:08,430  
that it looked like Hebrew.

190  
00:10:08,430 --> 00:10:10,860  
You know, it says in  
German Jew in there.

191  
00:10:10,860 --> 00:10:13,680  
And it had to be worn  
on the outer clothes.

192  
00:10:13,680 --> 00:10:15,240  
From what time did this?

193  
00:10:15,240 --> 00:10:17,700  
That started also  
in the late '30s.

194  
00:10:17,700 --> 00:10:19,260  
Late '30s.

195  
00:10:19,260 --> 00:10:20,886  
I would say '38, maybe.

196  
00:10:20,886 --> 00:10:23,453  
And kids would throw stones.

197  
00:10:23,453 --> 00:10:24,495  
You know, kids are cruel.

198  
00:10:24,495 --> 00:10:27,930

199  
00:10:27,930 --> 00:10:31,145  
And not being allowed  
to go many places.

200  
00:10:31,145 --> 00:10:36,260  
It was a hardship on the kids.

201  
00:10:36,260 --> 00:10:40,010  
Do you remember what  
the life was like in--

202  
00:10:40,010 --> 00:10:41,810  
we're not talking  
about a ghetto here--

203  
00:10:41,810 --> 00:10:44,267  
but the neighborhood  
that you spoke

204  
00:10:44,267 --> 00:10:45,350  
of that you were moved to?

205  
00:10:45,350 --> 00:10:46,880  
Was it guarded by the Nazis?

206  
00:10:46,880 --> 00:10:49,100  
Was it free going  
back and forth?

207  
00:10:49,100 --> 00:10:52,600  
Oh, yes, yes it was.

208  
00:10:52,600 --> 00:10:57,920  
And even at that time,  
there were plenty of Germans

209  
00:10:57,920 --> 00:11:00,650  
who were not Nazis.

210  
00:11:00,650 --> 00:11:03,690  
But they were scared  
not to be Nazis.

211  
00:11:03,690 --> 00:11:06,410  
I remember as a little boy,  
I worked in a little stall.

212  
00:11:06,410 --> 00:11:08,010  
They were selling health food.

213  
00:11:08,010 --> 00:11:11,090  
And I did the  
deliveries for him.

214  
00:11:11,090 --> 00:11:14,390  
And beautiful people.

215  
00:11:14,390 --> 00:11:18,500  
But I also remember taking the  
packages to the post office,

216  
00:11:18,500 --> 00:11:21,530  
that other kids would  
tear the labels off,

217  
00:11:21,530 --> 00:11:23,540  
you know, them being Jewish.

218  
00:11:23,540 --> 00:11:27,560  
And you know, causing  
problems and things.

219  
00:11:27,560 --> 00:11:29,940  
How long did you  
work at this store?

220  
00:11:29,940 --> 00:11:32,120  
Well, it was a  
little part-time job

221  
00:11:32,120 --> 00:11:35,390  
that after school,  
I worked there.

222  
00:11:35,390 --> 00:11:43,040  
But there were Germans that my  
family knew, who befriended us,

223  
00:11:43,040 --> 00:11:49,610  
who were strictly  
against the system.

224

00:11:49,610 --> 00:11:52,850

I'll tell you how bad it was.

225

00:11:52,850 --> 00:12:00,530

One child remarked in school--

226

00:12:00,530 --> 00:12:02,030

he overheard his  
parents the night

227

00:12:02,030 --> 00:12:07,730

before saying that some law  
that Hitler made was ridiculous,

228

00:12:07,730 --> 00:12:10,040

or I can't get the detail.

229

00:12:10,040 --> 00:12:13,970

Anyway, this man, this  
Christian man, Gentile man,

230

00:12:13,970 --> 00:12:17,540

was arrested by  
the German Gestapo.

231

00:12:17,540 --> 00:12:22,860

And eight weeks later, his  
wife received the urn of ashes,

232

00:12:22,860 --> 00:12:24,350

you know, where they killed him.

233

00:12:24,350 --> 00:12:29,750

So the kids were scared  
of their parents.

234

00:12:29,750 --> 00:12:33,500

You were not allowed to  
listen to foreign broadcasts.

235

00:12:33,500 --> 00:12:39,680

So like England or

America, et cetera.

236

00:12:39,680 --> 00:12:43,128

So neighbors would  
turn other neighbors

237

00:12:43,128 --> 00:12:45,170

in that they were listening  
to foreign broadcasts

238

00:12:45,170 --> 00:12:47,200

and they were severely punished.

239

00:12:47,200 --> 00:12:49,445

So people who did--

240

00:12:49,445 --> 00:12:50,670

turn this off a minute.

241

00:12:50,670 --> 00:12:51,170

OK, sure.

242

00:12:51,170 --> 00:12:55,100

243

00:12:55,100 --> 00:12:57,500

You inquired of what type  
of neighborhood it was.

244

00:12:57,500 --> 00:13:02,690

Well, the neighborhood was  
not a bad neighborhood.

245

00:13:02,690 --> 00:13:06,350

The living quarters  
were difficult to find.

246

00:13:06,350 --> 00:13:10,550

And we didn't live as  
nice as we did before.

247

00:13:10,550 --> 00:13:12,830

And we didn't starve.

248  
00:13:12,830 --> 00:13:16,370

249  
00:13:16,370 --> 00:13:18,500  
It was just a different  
type of living.

250  
00:13:18,500 --> 00:13:20,120  
We were under  
pressure all the time

251  
00:13:20,120 --> 00:13:24,950  
that we were like to the  
enemy of your own country.

252  
00:13:24,950 --> 00:13:29,200  
And like I said earlier, a lot  
of people started to deport,

253  
00:13:29,200 --> 00:13:30,950  
they had enough sense  
to get out of there.

254  
00:13:30,950 --> 00:13:31,610  
Right.

255  
00:13:31,610 --> 00:13:33,860  
Did a lot of people--

256  
00:13:33,860 --> 00:13:36,410  
were they able to get out?

257  
00:13:36,410 --> 00:13:38,300  
Was it more restricted  
as time went on?

258  
00:13:38,300 --> 00:13:40,820  
Well, there was a  
point where Hitler

259

00:13:40,820 --> 00:13:42,490  
wanted the people to get out.

260  
00:13:42,490 --> 00:13:44,990  
Of course, they  
had to have visas.

261  
00:13:44,990 --> 00:13:47,060  
In order to come  
to this country,

262  
00:13:47,060 --> 00:13:50,210  
they had to be sponsored.

263  
00:13:50,210 --> 00:13:51,915  
So that sometimes  
created a problem.

264  
00:13:51,915 --> 00:13:53,290  
So you had to have  
someone there.

265  
00:13:53,290 --> 00:13:55,610  
Of course, they had  
Jewish organizations,

266  
00:13:55,610 --> 00:13:58,340  
one was named HIAS,  
and others that

267  
00:13:58,340 --> 00:14:02,090  
assisted the Jews from leaving.

268  
00:14:02,090 --> 00:14:04,940  
And then, of course, it came--

269  
00:14:04,940 --> 00:14:07,880  
you had to have a certain  
amount of money to leave.

270  
00:14:07,880 --> 00:14:11,840  
And since my own bank account,  
my father's bank account,

271

00:14:11,840 --> 00:14:16,950  
was taken over, at that time, it  
was almost impossible to leave.

272

00:14:16,950 --> 00:14:19,490  
So when we wanted to  
leave in the late '30s,

273

00:14:19,490 --> 00:14:21,080  
we couldn't leave anymore.

274

00:14:21,080 --> 00:14:22,890  
My father wanted  
to go to Australia.

275

00:14:22,890 --> 00:14:25,260  
That's what his hoped to do.

276

00:14:25,260 --> 00:14:27,980  
But it didn't work out that way.

277

00:14:27,980 --> 00:14:29,870  
You talked about freezing  
your bank accounts.

278

00:14:29,870 --> 00:14:31,132  
Were you allowed an allowance?

279

00:14:31,132 --> 00:14:32,090  
Was that how it worked?

280

00:14:32,090 --> 00:14:33,140  
Yes.

281

00:14:33,140 --> 00:14:36,260  
To the best of my knowledge, he  
was allowed a certain amount.

282

00:14:36,260 --> 00:14:37,950  
A certain amount  
a month or a week?



283  
00:14:37,950 --> 00:14:41,360  
Yes, but it wasn't enough  
so my father had to work.

284  
00:14:41,360 --> 00:14:42,860  
Sure.

285  
00:14:42,860 --> 00:14:47,163  
And you said, you stated  
before that there was no real--

286  
00:14:47,163 --> 00:14:49,580  
there was no hunger in this  
neighborhood that you were in?

287  
00:14:49,580 --> 00:14:51,740  
No.

288  
00:14:51,740 --> 00:14:55,070  
No, I don't think so.

289  
00:14:55,070 --> 00:14:57,020  
Food and everything  
was available.

290  
00:14:57,020 --> 00:14:59,540  
And there was food on the table.

291  
00:14:59,540 --> 00:15:01,670  
And there was no real hardship.

292  
00:15:01,670 --> 00:15:06,365  
Like I said earlier, there  
was only certain stores

293  
00:15:06,365 --> 00:15:08,610  
that the Jews could  
do their shopping.

294  
00:15:08,610 --> 00:15:09,110  
Right.

295

00:15:09,110 --> 00:15:09,610

They did it.

296

00:15:09,610 --> 00:15:11,240

They were state-operated,  
excuse me.

297

00:15:11,240 --> 00:15:14,210

All stores they could go  
to or just certain stores

298

00:15:14,210 --> 00:15:15,800

at certain hours?

299

00:15:15,800 --> 00:15:17,910

Certain stores at certain hours.

300

00:15:17,910 --> 00:15:19,160

Certain hours they could shop.

301

00:15:19,160 --> 00:15:20,960

They were operated by the state.

302

00:15:20,960 --> 00:15:23,840

303

00:15:23,840 --> 00:15:27,370

Why don't we move on  
here to your deportation?

304

00:15:27,370 --> 00:15:28,910

And tell me a little  
bit about that.

305

00:15:28,910 --> 00:15:30,980

You know, how it happened.

306

00:15:30,980 --> 00:15:36,670

It happened-- you received  
a letter through the mail.

307

00:15:36,670 --> 00:15:40,520

Matter of fact, the postman  
knew of these letters,

308

00:15:40,520 --> 00:15:42,590

and he normally would  
ring the doorbell

309

00:15:42,590 --> 00:15:44,150

when he had mail for us.

310

00:15:44,150 --> 00:15:47,570

He didn't do it at the time  
because he was a decent guy.

311

00:15:47,570 --> 00:15:51,950

And the contents of a  
letter would give us

312

00:15:51,950 --> 00:15:59,690

an order to vacate our  
apartment within so many hours.

313

00:15:59,690 --> 00:16:04,490

And we were allowed so  
many pounds per person

314

00:16:04,490 --> 00:16:06,440

to take with us.

315

00:16:06,440 --> 00:16:10,250

And then we were told  
in that same letter

316

00:16:10,250 --> 00:16:15,740

that we had to take our  
own key to our apartment

317

00:16:15,740 --> 00:16:18,170

to the local police station.

318

00:16:18,170 --> 00:16:20,390

Also may want to add this--

319  
00:16:20,390 --> 00:16:24,650  
the gold and furs  
and other things,

320  
00:16:24,650 --> 00:16:27,470  
we had to turn in  
earlier already.

321  
00:16:27,470 --> 00:16:28,430  
Anything of value.

322  
00:16:28,430 --> 00:16:30,062  
They seized your valuables.

323  
00:16:30,062 --> 00:16:32,270  
See, and of course some  
people didn't give it all up.

324  
00:16:32,270 --> 00:16:34,950  
But there was a drive for that.

325  
00:16:34,950 --> 00:16:40,490  
So when we received  
our notice, we

326  
00:16:40,490 --> 00:16:44,000  
bought warm socks you could get.

327  
00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:48,560  
And I think we were allowed  
100 pounds per person.

328  
00:16:48,560 --> 00:16:51,260  
What did you bring,  
do you remember?

329  
00:16:51,260 --> 00:16:54,980  
There was, you know, the  
backpack at the time,

330

00:16:54,980 --> 00:17:01,380  
with sweaters, warm  
underwear, clothing.

331  
00:17:01,380 --> 00:17:04,200  
Extra shoes.

332  
00:17:04,200 --> 00:17:09,089  
And we had to report  
to a Masonic temple.

333  
00:17:09,089 --> 00:17:15,290  
Now, might want to add that  
the Masonic temple was also

334  
00:17:15,290 --> 00:17:18,310  
against the law to exist.

335  
00:17:18,310 --> 00:17:20,180  
And my father was a Mason.

336  
00:17:20,180 --> 00:17:22,799  
And he went to secret  
meetings, even.

337  
00:17:22,799 --> 00:17:24,020  
A Freemason?

338  
00:17:24,020 --> 00:17:25,160  
Yes.

339  
00:17:25,160 --> 00:17:29,210  
And we went to  
this temple, which

340  
00:17:29,210 --> 00:17:32,600  
the inside was all marble  
and completely destroyed

341  
00:17:32,600 --> 00:17:34,560  
on the inside.

342

00:17:34,560 --> 00:17:40,260  
And they laid on the  
floor for the night.

343  
00:17:40,260 --> 00:17:45,440  
And the Germans ordered us any  
cash money, we had to turn in.

344  
00:17:45,440 --> 00:17:48,050  
Any rings and so on.

345  
00:17:48,050 --> 00:17:51,420  
They made the last little  
pitch to get the stuff off.

346  
00:17:51,420 --> 00:17:56,210  
And that was the first  
time we were guarded.

347  
00:17:56,210 --> 00:18:02,540  
We were loaded on  
open trucks, and taken

348  
00:18:02,540 --> 00:18:08,690  
to the railroad station, and  
loaded into a regular railroad

349  
00:18:08,690 --> 00:18:09,360  
cars.

350  
00:18:09,360 --> 00:18:11,970  
Not cattle cars, railroad cars.

351  
00:18:11,970 --> 00:18:13,220  
They had seats and everything?

352  
00:18:13,220 --> 00:18:15,530  
They had seats and  
everything in it.

353  
00:18:15,530 --> 00:18:19,040  
And they were old cars,  
but most had seats.

354  
00:18:19,040 --> 00:18:22,080  
Some of them had to  
lay on the floor.

355  
00:18:22,080 --> 00:18:24,350  
And we traveled, I believe  
it was three days and three

356  
00:18:24,350 --> 00:18:26,810  
nights, to Russia.

357  
00:18:26,810 --> 00:18:28,730  
To Russia.

358  
00:18:28,730 --> 00:18:32,900  
OK, let me backtrack  
just a little bit.

359  
00:18:32,900 --> 00:18:35,568  
When the letter came, did  
they give you any indication

360  
00:18:35,568 --> 00:18:36,860  
as to where you might be going?

361  
00:18:36,860 --> 00:18:37,860  
What you would be doing?

362  
00:18:37,860 --> 00:18:42,260  
I think they were told we were  
going to the east to work.

363  
00:18:42,260 --> 00:18:43,010  
To work.

364  
00:18:43,010 --> 00:18:45,480  
Yeah.

365  
00:18:45,480 --> 00:18:46,320  
OK, go ahead.

366

00:18:46,320 --> 00:18:49,740

Now, I may have  
mentioned earlier

367

00:18:49,740 --> 00:18:56,190

that many transports  
that arrived in Minsk

368

00:18:56,190 --> 00:18:57,535

were killed right on the spot.

369

00:18:57,535 --> 00:18:59,160

And that's where you  
arrived, in Minsk?

370

00:18:59,160 --> 00:19:00,618

Yeah, Minsk, this  
was White Russia,

371

00:19:00,618 --> 00:19:02,160

German occupation of Russia.

372

00:19:02,160 --> 00:19:04,260

Most people don't  
understand that.

373

00:19:04,260 --> 00:19:07,410

What time frame, what kind of,  
what are we talking about here?

374

00:19:07,410 --> 00:19:08,040

What year?

375

00:19:08,040 --> 00:19:08,790

'40, 1940.

376

00:19:08,790 --> 00:19:09,983

This is 1940.

377

00:19:09,983 --> 00:19:11,400

And that's when  
you were deported?



378  
00:19:11,400 --> 00:19:11,910  
Yes.

379  
00:19:11,910 --> 00:19:14,310  
OK.

380  
00:19:14,310 --> 00:19:15,840  
OK, back to Minks, sorry.

381  
00:19:15,840 --> 00:19:20,400  
And in Minsk, we were marched.

382  
00:19:20,400 --> 00:19:21,560  
It was very cold.

383  
00:19:21,560 --> 00:19:26,880  
We were marched into an  
area, which appeared to be--

384  
00:19:26,880 --> 00:19:30,810  
which was at one time  
a Russian school.

385  
00:19:30,810 --> 00:19:35,770  
Now, we were a transport  
of 1,000 people.

386  
00:19:35,770 --> 00:19:41,680  
That Russian school was, at that  
time, occupied by Russian Jews.

387  
00:19:41,680 --> 00:19:45,370  
And they had to  
vacate that building

388  
00:19:45,370 --> 00:19:49,090  
to put us into that building.

389  
00:19:49,090 --> 00:19:52,450  
It appeared at one time it  
was a fairly modern school.

390  
00:19:52,450 --> 00:19:54,013  
Had running water.

391  
00:19:54,013 --> 00:19:55,180  
Of course, this didn't work.

392  
00:19:55,180 --> 00:19:56,920  
The toilets didn't work.

393  
00:19:56,920 --> 00:20:03,180  
But you could tell it was like  
a regular high school, like we

394  
00:20:03,180 --> 00:20:05,970  
almost had in this country.

395  
00:20:05,970 --> 00:20:11,550  
And we already saw  
a lot of dead people

396  
00:20:11,550 --> 00:20:15,390  
on the ground at that  
time, Russian Jews that

397  
00:20:15,390 --> 00:20:19,020  
were killed by the Germans  
that didn't evacuate

398  
00:20:19,020 --> 00:20:21,450  
the building fast enough.

399  
00:20:21,450 --> 00:20:23,450  
They were in the building  
or around the grounds?

400  
00:20:23,450 --> 00:20:26,130  
They were in the building,  
they occupied the building.

401  
00:20:26,130 --> 00:20:28,128  
It was part of a ghetto then.

402  
00:20:28,128 --> 00:20:29,670  
And this is in the  
wintertime, right?

403  
00:20:29,670 --> 00:20:31,500  
It was in the wintertime.

404  
00:20:31,500 --> 00:20:40,210  
And we then gathered old  
mattresses and stuff.

405  
00:20:40,210 --> 00:20:46,180  
And all 1,000 of us, I believe,  
stayed in that building

406  
00:20:46,180 --> 00:20:51,390  
and there was another building  
or other small outbuildings.

407  
00:20:51,390 --> 00:20:54,672  
That's where we were  
housed at the time.

408  
00:20:54,672 --> 00:20:56,130  
Did you go out and  
work from there?

409  
00:20:56,130 --> 00:20:58,290  
Is that what they did?

410  
00:20:58,290 --> 00:21:00,870  
The first couple of days,  
I don't think we did.

411  
00:21:00,870 --> 00:21:02,250  
But then we were put to work.

412  
00:21:02,250 --> 00:21:04,770  
Matter of fact, we had  
to build our own fences

413

00:21:04,770 --> 00:21:06,840  
to go around there.

414  
00:21:06,840 --> 00:21:10,343  
You said at the beginning,  
when you arrived in Minsk,

415  
00:21:10,343 --> 00:21:11,760  
some people were  
shot immediately.

416  
00:21:11,760 --> 00:21:13,090  
Was there a rationale for that?

417  
00:21:13,090 --> 00:21:13,860  
I mean did they have?

418  
00:21:13,860 --> 00:21:14,360  
No.

419  
00:21:14,360 --> 00:21:16,580  
They just picked certain  
people out of the crowd.

420  
00:21:16,580 --> 00:21:17,100  
No.

421  
00:21:17,100 --> 00:21:18,030  
Now, at the time--

422  
00:21:18,030 --> 00:21:19,590  
now, we didn't even know that.

423  
00:21:19,590 --> 00:21:24,990  
I found out later because there  
were hundreds and hundreds

424  
00:21:24,990 --> 00:21:30,540  
of suitcases that  
were taken to what

425  
00:21:30,540 --> 00:21:32,640

used to be an office  
building in Minsk,

426  
00:21:32,640 --> 00:21:34,740  
which we had to sort out.

427  
00:21:34,740 --> 00:21:37,870  
And the goodies were  
sent back to Germany.

428  
00:21:37,870 --> 00:21:40,830  
And the people who  
did the sorting found

429  
00:21:40,830 --> 00:21:46,232  
pictures of their own loved ones  
in there that never made it.

430  
00:21:46,232 --> 00:21:48,190  
But I think I'm getting  
off track a little bit.

431  
00:21:48,190 --> 00:21:49,180  
No, no, that's fine.

432  
00:21:49,180 --> 00:21:53,260  
I mean, you know, I just  
was trying to figure out

433  
00:21:53,260 --> 00:21:55,360  
if you knew at the  
time that people

434  
00:21:55,360 --> 00:21:57,220  
were being killed immediately.

435  
00:21:57,220 --> 00:22:00,650  
Or if it's, like you said, there  
was something that came later.

436  
00:22:00,650 --> 00:22:01,150  
Yes.

437

00:22:01,150 --> 00:22:03,970

438

00:22:03,970 --> 00:22:09,820

People lost their lives almost immediately, some of them.

439

00:22:09,820 --> 00:22:16,330

But no mass killing at that time.

440

00:22:16,330 --> 00:22:19,700

OK in this, I guess we could call it a camp.

441

00:22:19,700 --> 00:22:21,770

That was a ghetto, really.

442

00:22:21,770 --> 00:22:22,900

OK.

443

00:22:22,900 --> 00:22:25,833

You started to say something about working and building

444

00:22:25,833 --> 00:22:26,500

your own fences.

445

00:22:26,500 --> 00:22:27,670

Was that how it was guarded?

446

00:22:27,670 --> 00:22:31,270

The fences were then set up and then the Nazis guarded it?

447

00:22:31,270 --> 00:22:32,020

That's right.

448

00:22:32,020 --> 00:22:33,010

OK.

449

00:22:33,010 --> 00:22:34,650  
Did you go out  
after that and work?

450  
00:22:34,650 --> 00:22:35,150  
Yes.

451  
00:22:35,150 --> 00:22:38,170  
What kind of work did you do?

452  
00:22:38,170 --> 00:22:40,270  
Various things.

453  
00:22:40,270 --> 00:22:49,730  
I was detailed to work at  
one of the sources of heating

454  
00:22:49,730 --> 00:22:53,810  
their homes, they used  
turf, like peat moss.

455  
00:22:53,810 --> 00:22:56,690  
And we loaded the railroad  
cars with peat moss

456  
00:22:56,690 --> 00:22:59,630  
to go to some other places.

457  
00:22:59,630 --> 00:23:01,070  
And shoveled snow.

458  
00:23:01,070 --> 00:23:03,350  
You know, it snows  
a lot in Russia.

459  
00:23:03,350 --> 00:23:11,030  
And I was detailed  
to an army base

460  
00:23:11,030 --> 00:23:16,100  
like we have here, like  
Fort [? Meade ?],, and small.

461

00:23:16,100 --> 00:23:21,080  
And I was detailed to cut wood--

462

00:23:21,080 --> 00:23:25,960  
everything was fiber-- wood  
for the kitchen and cleanup.

463

00:23:25,960 --> 00:23:29,300  
Now, these were not the SS,  
these were the regular army.

464

00:23:29,300 --> 00:23:30,170  
Regular troops.

465

00:23:30,170 --> 00:23:34,005  
The regular troops, which did  
not mistreat us that terribly.

466

00:23:34,005 --> 00:23:38,390

467

00:23:38,390 --> 00:23:41,780  
Did you have basically enough  
food to eat at this time?

468

00:23:41,780 --> 00:23:43,010  
How was that worked out?

469

00:23:43,010 --> 00:23:45,800  
Food was very scarce already.

470

00:23:45,800 --> 00:23:49,490  
And whenever you had a chance  
to steal something, you would.

471

00:23:49,490 --> 00:23:53,090  
You steal a potato here and  
a little piece of bread.

472

00:23:53,090 --> 00:23:56,280  
So yeah, food was already  
very much rationed.



473  
00:23:56,280 --> 00:24:03,090  
And you started to feel  
hungry most all the time.

474  
00:24:03,090 --> 00:24:06,020  
So the troops seemed to treat  
you a little bit better.

475  
00:24:06,020 --> 00:24:06,532  
Yes.

476  
00:24:06,532 --> 00:24:08,490  
The army, the straight  
army troops, not the SS.

477  
00:24:08,490 --> 00:24:08,990  
Yes.

478  
00:24:08,990 --> 00:24:11,930  
I recall a little incident.

479  
00:24:11,930 --> 00:24:16,340  
The first thing I had to do when  
I got there in that army camp

480  
00:24:16,340 --> 00:24:23,250  
was bring water for washing to  
a sergeant who worked there.

481  
00:24:23,250 --> 00:24:26,420  
And I recall him  
closing the shades,

482  
00:24:26,420 --> 00:24:30,800  
and whispering, and saying  
to me that things are being

483  
00:24:30,800 --> 00:24:32,510  
done to the Jewish people.

484  
00:24:32,510 --> 00:24:34,640

God will punish them.

485  
00:24:34,640 --> 00:24:36,740  
But he whispered  
that because he would

486  
00:24:36,740 --> 00:24:38,617  
have been overheard  
by his colleague,

487  
00:24:38,617 --> 00:24:39,950  
his career would have been over.

488  
00:24:39,950 --> 00:24:41,750  
Sure.

489  
00:24:41,750 --> 00:24:44,210  
Was there a lot of  
that, do you think?

490  
00:24:44,210 --> 00:24:46,400  
Did you encounter  
very much of that kind

491  
00:24:46,400 --> 00:24:47,540  
of feeling in the army?

492  
00:24:47,540 --> 00:24:49,640  
Not a lot, but some.

493  
00:24:49,640 --> 00:24:51,422  
Some people reacted that way.

494  
00:24:51,422 --> 00:24:52,718  
OK.

495  
00:24:52,718 --> 00:24:53,780  
Turn this off a while.

496  
00:24:53,780 --> 00:24:54,320  
Oh, sure.

497

00:24:54,320 --> 00:24:58,150

498

00:24:58,150 --> 00:25:01,750

There was another little  
interesting little story

499

00:25:01,750 --> 00:25:03,160

I want to tell you.

500

00:25:03,160 --> 00:25:06,620

After I was transported  
from Minsk to other camps,

501

00:25:06,620 --> 00:25:10,180

I worked temporarily  
in an airplane factory.

502

00:25:10,180 --> 00:25:13,870

And they were trying to build  
the Henkel airplane, which

503

00:25:13,870 --> 00:25:16,420

by the way, is in  
the Smithsonian.

504

00:25:16,420 --> 00:25:21,730

And the people that  
were trying to teach us

505

00:25:21,730 --> 00:25:27,550

were German civilians who  
had their uniforms and rifles

506

00:25:27,550 --> 00:25:29,890

in the lockers at the factory.

507

00:25:29,890 --> 00:25:33,190

And they were really  
decent fellows.

508

00:25:33,190 --> 00:25:37,120

For instance, at that time, I  
was really not a human anymore.

509  
00:25:37,120 --> 00:25:38,780  
I was very dirty.

510  
00:25:38,780 --> 00:25:40,600  
I had lice.

511  
00:25:40,600 --> 00:25:43,390  
And these men would  
try to get close to us.

512  
00:25:43,390 --> 00:25:47,620  
In my instance, trying  
to teach me how to weld.

513  
00:25:47,620 --> 00:25:50,240  
And I would talk to  
him freely sometime,

514  
00:25:50,240 --> 00:25:52,240  
would tell him about this,  
I look like an animal

515  
00:25:52,240 --> 00:25:53,890  
now, but didn't always.

516  
00:25:53,890 --> 00:25:55,540  
I mean, they were--

517  
00:25:55,540 --> 00:26:00,100  
some of the people  
were human beings.

518  
00:26:00,100 --> 00:26:03,100  
And on one Sunday  
when it snowed heavy,

519  
00:26:03,100 --> 00:26:07,930  
we were detailed to  
clear the streets

520

00:26:07,930 --> 00:26:11,520  
where these people lived.

521

00:26:11,520 --> 00:26:15,950  
And one of those  
German instructors,

522

00:26:15,950 --> 00:26:19,400  
if you want to call them  
that, called two of us in.

523

00:26:19,400 --> 00:26:21,380  
There was another  
young kid and I.

524

00:26:21,380 --> 00:26:24,850  
And they actually fed us.

525

00:26:24,850 --> 00:26:28,760  
And I'll never forget this in  
my life, even to this day, yes.

526

00:26:28,760 --> 00:26:31,340  
One of them said us, says,  
you've been here all this time

527

00:26:31,340 --> 00:26:34,220  
and not once have you  
tried to clean yourself.

528

00:26:34,220 --> 00:26:36,980  
So it just tells you what  
an animal you became.

529

00:26:36,980 --> 00:26:40,370  
But there were a  
few instances where

530

00:26:40,370 --> 00:26:45,667  
there were some Germans  
who were against this.

531

00:26:45,667 --> 00:26:47,000  
But not too many, unfortunately.

532  
00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:47,500  
Sure.

533  
00:26:47,500 --> 00:26:49,842

534  
00:26:49,842 --> 00:26:51,050  
This was in Russia, you said?

535  
00:26:51,050 --> 00:26:52,130  
Now, this was in Poland now.

536  
00:26:52,130 --> 00:26:52,955  
This is in Poland.

537  
00:26:52,955 --> 00:26:55,910  
You know, after the  
Russian advanced,

538  
00:26:55,910 --> 00:26:57,200  
you know, they pulled back.

539  
00:26:57,200 --> 00:26:59,720  
Well, of course,  
every pull back, they

540  
00:26:59,720 --> 00:27:01,170  
pulled back fewer and fewer.

541  
00:27:01,170 --> 00:27:05,990  
They only pulled back the people  
they were young and healthy,

542  
00:27:05,990 --> 00:27:07,800  
forced labor they  
could make use of.

543  
00:27:07,800 --> 00:27:08,300  
Right.

544  
00:27:08,300 --> 00:27:14,660  
Was this job or workforce in  
the plane factory-- was that a--

545  
00:27:14,660 --> 00:27:17,120  
I don't want to say  
privileged-- but was it a more,

546  
00:27:17,120 --> 00:27:19,520  
did younger people work there?

547  
00:27:19,520 --> 00:27:21,050  
Well, yes.

548  
00:27:21,050 --> 00:27:26,120  
At that camp, we were detailed  
in the morning from the camp

549  
00:27:26,120 --> 00:27:27,570  
to the factory.

550  
00:27:27,570 --> 00:27:32,690  
And that was very  
terrible times because we

551  
00:27:32,690 --> 00:27:36,480  
were guarded by the  
Ukrainians and Latvians, who

552  
00:27:36,480 --> 00:27:39,680  
enjoyed killing people.

553  
00:27:39,680 --> 00:27:41,660  
And they carried whips.

554  
00:27:41,660 --> 00:27:48,050  
And while we were marching  
from the concentration

555  
00:27:48,050 --> 00:27:51,320  
camp, labor camp,

to the factories,

556

00:27:51,320 --> 00:27:54,090

it was a terrible ordeal.

557

00:27:54,090 --> 00:27:55,210

Maybe people were killed.

558

00:27:55,210 --> 00:27:58,970

559

00:27:58,970 --> 00:28:04,130

For instance, Polish civilians  
would come by on a bicycle.

560

00:28:04,130 --> 00:28:07,730

Hundreds of us had to jump  
into a water-filled ditch

561

00:28:07,730 --> 00:28:10,425

to make room for that  
civilian to arrive.

562

00:28:10,425 --> 00:28:15,120

But once we were in the  
factories, we were in a--

563

00:28:15,120 --> 00:28:17,030

building was heated.

564

00:28:17,030 --> 00:28:21,470

And the treatment was not  
the best in the world,

565

00:28:21,470 --> 00:28:24,930

but it was tolerable.

566

00:28:24,930 --> 00:28:30,110

So that was a privilege  
of, at least then, maybe

567

00:28:30,110 --> 00:28:35,270



10 hours a day under a  
condition that was half-humane.

568  
00:28:35,270 --> 00:28:36,440  
Right.

569  
00:28:36,440 --> 00:28:37,340  
When I said pro--

570  
00:28:37,340 --> 00:28:39,230  
I didn't really mean  
privileged or whatever.

571  
00:28:39,230 --> 00:28:42,140  
But I guess what I meant was  
were you chosen in some way

572  
00:28:42,140 --> 00:28:43,940  
to do this over other people?

573  
00:28:43,940 --> 00:28:46,530  
Or was it just a regular detail?

574  
00:28:46,530 --> 00:28:51,498  
No, I tell you, they made a  
selection in the mornings.

575  
00:28:51,498 --> 00:28:53,540  
Every morning, you had to  
fall out to be counted.

576  
00:28:53,540 --> 00:28:55,850  
And that happened maybe  
two or three times a day,

577  
00:28:55,850 --> 00:28:57,140  
we were counted.

578  
00:28:57,140 --> 00:28:59,600  
And every time when  
they make a selection,

579

00:28:59,600 --> 00:29:01,380  
they usually meant a  
selection for death.

580  
00:29:01,380 --> 00:29:03,338  
You know, when they pulled  
you out, that means,

581  
00:29:03,338 --> 00:29:05,000  
well, your number's up.

582  
00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:09,230  
And I was trying to hide  
behind someone else.

583  
00:29:09,230 --> 00:29:16,000  
And this guy who did the  
selection got his whip,

584  
00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:19,180  
and smacked me one,  
and called me out.

585  
00:29:19,180 --> 00:29:21,490  
And I assumed that  
my number was up.

586  
00:29:21,490 --> 00:29:26,740  
But they made up a detail  
of young men, young boys,

587  
00:29:26,740 --> 00:29:32,740  
teenagers, to try to teach them  
to work in an airplane factory.

588  
00:29:32,740 --> 00:29:37,030  
Which turned out-- I think  
it didn't, it was a big flop.

589  
00:29:37,030 --> 00:29:42,970  
But there were times where you  
were treated a little better

590

00:29:42,970 --> 00:29:45,080  
than other times, yes.

591  
00:29:45,080 --> 00:29:45,580  
OK.

592  
00:29:45,580 --> 00:29:47,805  
How about let's move back  
a little bit to Minsk

593  
00:29:47,805 --> 00:29:52,360  
so we can come back circle  
back around to the factory.

594  
00:29:52,360 --> 00:29:57,250  
You're in Minsk now and  
you're in this ghetto,

595  
00:29:57,250 --> 00:29:59,380  
as we've established.

596  
00:29:59,380 --> 00:30:01,390  
What happens to you?

597  
00:30:01,390 --> 00:30:02,360  
Where do you move to?

598  
00:30:02,360 --> 00:30:03,280  
Why do you move?

599  
00:30:03,280 --> 00:30:04,870  
Do you know?

600  
00:30:04,870 --> 00:30:06,580  
When do you move?

601  
00:30:06,580 --> 00:30:07,480  
From camp to camp?

602  
00:30:07,480 --> 00:30:10,150  
Well, actually, how  
long are you in Minsk?

603  
00:30:10,150 --> 00:30:10,770  
Two years.

604  
00:30:10,770 --> 00:30:12,020  
You're in Minsk for two years.

605  
00:30:12,020 --> 00:30:19,540  
Now, they had a mass killings  
of thousands of people, of us.

606  
00:30:19,540 --> 00:30:21,940  
Actually, an order would  
come down from Berlin

607  
00:30:21,940 --> 00:30:24,190  
to destroy so many Jews.

608  
00:30:24,190 --> 00:30:25,150  
And that was done.

609  
00:30:25,150 --> 00:30:30,865  
I think in June of '42,  
that's when I lost my father.

610  
00:30:30,865 --> 00:30:34,850

611  
00:30:34,850 --> 00:30:38,620  
The way he was killed  
was that after I

612  
00:30:38,620 --> 00:30:42,910  
think 5,000 people  
got killed on one

613  
00:30:42,910 --> 00:30:46,900  
other section of that ghetto,  
which was divided by highway,

614  
00:30:46,900 --> 00:30:49,980  
they wanted to get these

bodies off the ground.

615  
00:30:49,980 --> 00:30:54,310  
And he was-- they would  
install the armband on them not

616  
00:30:54,310 --> 00:30:55,060  
to kill those.

617  
00:30:55,060 --> 00:31:02,380  
And they put these bodies in  
mass graves by horse carts.

618  
00:31:02,380 --> 00:31:04,510  
Of course, they had no horses.

619  
00:31:04,510 --> 00:31:07,570  
And you see, for days, you  
would see these bodies being

620  
00:31:07,570 --> 00:31:09,640  
hauled to the graves.

621  
00:31:09,640 --> 00:31:11,592  
And sometimes, the  
little kids sitting,

622  
00:31:11,592 --> 00:31:13,300  
it looked like they  
were alive, you know,

623  
00:31:13,300 --> 00:31:16,060  
the way they threw  
them on the wagons.

624  
00:31:16,060 --> 00:31:20,440  
And the third night,  
I overheard my father

625  
00:31:20,440 --> 00:31:23,710  
telling my mother that he  
has been through quite a bit

626

00:31:23,710 --> 00:31:31,940  
in World War I. But what he went  
through he was just horrible.

627

00:31:31,940 --> 00:31:51,060  
And that day-- they were put  
in those gas vans and killed.

628

00:31:51,060 --> 00:31:52,980  
That's how my father was killed.

629

00:31:52,980 --> 00:31:55,750  
These were the mobile vans  
that they brought around?

630

00:31:55,750 --> 00:31:57,120  
Yes, yes.

631

00:31:57,120 --> 00:31:58,320  
Into the Russians, OK.

632

00:31:58,320 --> 00:32:04,950  
And the strange part is that  
I had no feeling whatsoever.

633

00:32:04,950 --> 00:32:08,440  
My father's death  
didn't affect me at all.

634

00:32:08,440 --> 00:32:08,980  
Not at all?

635

00:32:08,980 --> 00:32:13,620  
No, I was already  
not normal anymore,

636

00:32:13,620 --> 00:32:15,844  
if you want to use that term.

637

00:32:15,844 --> 00:32:19,320  
And I recall the incident  
where my mother was killed.

638

00:32:19,320 --> 00:32:22,890

She was killed in  
a hospital that was

639

00:32:22,890 --> 00:32:26,100

emptied while we were at work.

640

00:32:26,100 --> 00:32:30,180

So the ones that could  
walk were put in gas vans.

641

00:32:30,180 --> 00:32:34,140

And the ones that couldn't walk  
were shot right in the bed.

642

00:32:34,140 --> 00:32:41,710

And my mother's body  
was put out by friends,

643

00:32:41,710 --> 00:32:44,580

former friends, friends  
wrapped her in paper,

644

00:32:44,580 --> 00:32:49,620

was taken to the cemetery,  
it was with a mass grave.

645

00:32:49,620 --> 00:32:56,255

I forced myself to cry because  
I had no feeling whatsoever.

646

00:32:56,255 --> 00:32:57,880

I don't know why I  
threw that in there.

647

00:32:57,880 --> 00:33:03,190

But it tells you what this type  
of life did to a human being.

648

00:33:03,190 --> 00:33:07,570

And that's how I lost my mother.

649

00:33:07,570 --> 00:33:10,300

Now, my sister was  
killed at the age of 17.

650

00:33:10,300 --> 00:33:12,820

651

00:33:12,820 --> 00:33:17,560

A handful of us were taken  
from Minsk into Poland

652

00:33:17,560 --> 00:33:20,590

when the Germans  
were retreating.

653

00:33:20,590 --> 00:33:26,960

And the people remaining  
were all killed.

654

00:33:26,960 --> 00:33:30,496

I don't know what method they  
used, but probably gassed.

655

00:33:30,496 --> 00:33:34,198

And that's how I lost my  
father, my mother, and sister.

656

00:33:34,198 --> 00:33:36,240

I think I'm getting ahead  
of myself a little bit.

657

00:33:36,240 --> 00:33:37,590

That's OK.

658

00:33:37,590 --> 00:33:41,640

What I was going to ask you  
is if you could tell me,

659

00:33:41,640 --> 00:33:43,740

you know, while you're  
in this ghetto here,

660



00:33:43,740 --> 00:33:46,500  
what the daily routine might be.

661  
00:33:46,500 --> 00:33:49,687  
Like a day in the life would  
be for you in the ghetto,

662  
00:33:49,687 --> 00:33:52,020  
due to the work detail and  
everything that you might do.

663  
00:33:52,020 --> 00:33:55,710  
Well, like I said earlier,  
everybody wanted to work.

664  
00:33:55,710 --> 00:34:00,030  
If you did not get out  
of the camp to work,

665  
00:34:00,030 --> 00:34:02,910  
you never knew when you  
were going to be killed.

666  
00:34:02,910 --> 00:34:05,730  
So naturally,  
everybody volunteered

667  
00:34:05,730 --> 00:34:09,270  
to be slave labor  
just to get out.

668  
00:34:09,270 --> 00:34:14,070  
And most of us who did go to  
work benefited to some extent.

669  
00:34:14,070 --> 00:34:16,530  
Stealing a little bit  
of wood for the fire

670  
00:34:16,530 --> 00:34:18,000  
or stealing, like  
I said earlier,

671

00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:20,830  
some potatoes, or anything.

672  
00:34:20,830 --> 00:34:23,610  
But if you were  
stealing these things,

673  
00:34:23,610 --> 00:34:24,920  
were people caught doing that?

674  
00:34:24,920 --> 00:34:26,820  
Oh, yes.

675  
00:34:26,820 --> 00:34:30,300  
If you were caught, you  
were severely punished.

676  
00:34:30,300 --> 00:34:32,820  
But you'd take that chance.

677  
00:34:32,820 --> 00:34:36,764  
I recall the incident I was  
picked up by a German soldier.

678  
00:34:36,764 --> 00:34:39,800

679  
00:34:39,800 --> 00:34:40,739  
Not a Nazi.

680  
00:34:40,739 --> 00:34:43,230  
He was a farmer who was drafted.

681  
00:34:43,230 --> 00:34:46,770  
And I used to-- while he was  
guarding us, taking us to work,

682  
00:34:46,770 --> 00:34:49,889  
I used to push his bicycle.

683  
00:34:49,889 --> 00:34:54,239  
And one day, he locked

me in the potato cellar,

684  
00:34:54,239 --> 00:34:57,930  
and I stole potatoes for him,  
and he let me steal potatoes

685  
00:34:57,930 --> 00:34:58,500  
from myself.

686  
00:34:58,500 --> 00:35:02,235

687  
00:35:02,235 --> 00:35:07,350  
You know, and a lot of times  
I would transport these things

688  
00:35:07,350 --> 00:35:08,790  
on his bicycle.

689  
00:35:08,790 --> 00:35:11,010  
Because at the gates  
going to the camp,

690  
00:35:11,010 --> 00:35:13,240  
his bicycle was not searched.

691  
00:35:13,240 --> 00:35:15,700  
And so that's how we  
survived, you know?

692  
00:35:15,700 --> 00:35:18,870  
Yeah, these things happen.

693  
00:35:18,870 --> 00:35:21,420  
What kind of-- you  
stayed a little bit

694  
00:35:21,420 --> 00:35:23,220  
about the peat moss and things.

695  
00:35:23,220 --> 00:35:26,850  
Were there any other actual work

details while you were in Minsk

696

00:35:26,850 --> 00:35:29,460

that you were assigned  
to other than digging

697

00:35:29,460 --> 00:35:31,770

peat moss, or the  
peat, or whatever?

698

00:35:31,770 --> 00:35:33,770

Well it's labor.

699

00:35:33,770 --> 00:35:35,520

You know, common labor.

700

00:35:35,520 --> 00:35:39,840

But a lot of my time was  
spent on the military base,

701

00:35:39,840 --> 00:35:40,440

working there.

702

00:35:40,440 --> 00:35:41,190

Just cleaning up.

703

00:35:41,190 --> 00:35:41,690

OK.

704

00:35:41,690 --> 00:35:42,330

Yeah.

705

00:35:42,330 --> 00:35:46,440

So we move-- you say  
you're there two years.

706

00:35:46,440 --> 00:35:48,750

And so we get up to about 1942.

707

00:35:48,750 --> 00:35:49,320

Yes.

708  
00:35:49,320 --> 00:35:50,490  
1942, OK.

709  
00:35:50,490 --> 00:35:54,180  
What happens to you in 1942  
when you leave this camp?

710  
00:35:54,180 --> 00:35:56,820  
In 1942, we were--

711  
00:35:56,820 --> 00:36:02,240  
a handful of us were  
transported to a Polish--

712  
00:36:02,240 --> 00:36:05,940  
we were loaded on cattle cars.

713  
00:36:05,940 --> 00:36:10,230  
And they were about 80  
people per cattle car

714  
00:36:10,230 --> 00:36:16,110  
with no water, no food,  
no toilet facilities.

715  
00:36:16,110 --> 00:36:18,810  
And when people died,  
which a lot of them did,

716  
00:36:18,810 --> 00:36:22,320  
we would sit on  
them for more room.

717  
00:36:22,320 --> 00:36:28,020  
And I was-- you couldn't  
go relieve yourself.

718  
00:36:28,020 --> 00:36:30,930  
It was severe conditions.

719  
00:36:30,930 --> 00:36:34,680  
And we came to a camp

that was called Lublin.

720  
00:36:34,680 --> 00:36:37,230  
It was in Poland.

721  
00:36:37,230 --> 00:36:39,870  
And that was a selection camp.

722  
00:36:39,870 --> 00:36:43,000

723  
00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:45,770  
At that time, I was  
with my brother-in-law,

724  
00:36:45,770 --> 00:36:50,620  
who was married to my  
sister very briefly.

725  
00:36:50,620 --> 00:36:54,250  
And they called out  
people who had trades.

726  
00:36:54,250 --> 00:36:58,450  
Electricians, or brush  
makers, or mechanics, and some

727  
00:36:58,450 --> 00:37:01,210  
thought that everybody  
wanted to save their life,

728  
00:37:01,210 --> 00:37:04,960  
so they run for a trade in order  
to save their life already.

729  
00:37:04,960 --> 00:37:11,920  
So I followed him  
and we were selected

730  
00:37:11,920 --> 00:37:19,150  
as workers that  
could perhaps show

731

00:37:19,150 --> 00:37:21,730  
some benefit to the Germans.

732

00:37:21,730 --> 00:37:23,260  
Do you remember what actual--

733

00:37:23,260 --> 00:37:25,945  
what profession you  
told them you were?

734

00:37:25,945 --> 00:37:27,820  
I think it was electrician,  
I believe it was.

735

00:37:27,820 --> 00:37:30,036  
Electrician.

736

00:37:30,036 --> 00:37:32,880  
But he was one, so I  
followed around with him.

737

00:37:32,880 --> 00:37:36,070

738

00:37:36,070 --> 00:37:41,100  
But at that particular camp,  
my brother-in-law was saying,

739

00:37:41,100 --> 00:37:44,180  
I says, it looks like you're not  
going to see your sister again.

740

00:37:44,180 --> 00:37:47,200  
That he had the feeling we  
were going to get killed.

741

00:37:47,200 --> 00:37:49,900  
And the first thing I did--

742

00:37:49,900 --> 00:37:53,110  
Tony had a little  
piece of bread left.

743  
00:37:53,110 --> 00:37:54,550  
So I ate that.

744  
00:37:54,550 --> 00:37:57,320  
You know?

745  
00:37:57,320 --> 00:37:59,710  
You think different.

746  
00:37:59,710 --> 00:38:06,100  
But from there, the so-called  
laborers who had no profession

747  
00:38:06,100 --> 00:38:09,150  
were eliminated in that camp.

748  
00:38:09,150 --> 00:38:14,440  
And then we were loaded  
again on another cattle car

749  
00:38:14,440 --> 00:38:17,620  
and went through the  
same ordeal again.

750  
00:38:17,620 --> 00:38:20,450  
And we arrived at  
another labor camp.

751  
00:38:20,450 --> 00:38:21,295  
I think it was--

752  
00:38:21,295 --> 00:38:24,990

753  
00:38:24,990 --> 00:38:30,610  
you know, I can't recall the  
name right now of the camp.

754  
00:38:30,610 --> 00:38:33,280  
Mielec, I think it was.



755

00:38:33,280 --> 00:38:34,530

This is in Poland, by the way.

756

00:38:34,530 --> 00:38:37,390

In Poland.

757

00:38:37,390 --> 00:38:38,740

But I have that recorded.

758

00:38:38,740 --> 00:38:40,670

I think we can pick  
that out later.

759

00:38:40,670 --> 00:38:42,340

Sure.

760

00:38:42,340 --> 00:38:47,860

And again, that was a camp  
where we worked every day.

761

00:38:47,860 --> 00:38:50,590

And that's where the  
camp I was assigned,

762

00:38:50,590 --> 00:38:53,460

they were trying to teach  
us to build airplanes.

763

00:38:53,460 --> 00:38:54,520

I mentioned that earlier.

764

00:38:54,520 --> 00:38:58,600

765

00:38:58,600 --> 00:39:02,680

After the Russian  
advanced further,

766

00:39:02,680 --> 00:39:06,560

we were transported  
to another camp.

767

00:39:06,560 --> 00:39:10,700

And that camp was also  
an airplane factory.

768

00:39:10,700 --> 00:39:13,520

And again, I was recognized  
by some of the Germans.

769

00:39:13,520 --> 00:39:15,380

And I was picked out  
to work in the factory.

770

00:39:15,380 --> 00:39:17,040

You were recognized  
by some of the--

771

00:39:17,040 --> 00:39:17,540

The Germans.

772

00:39:17,540 --> 00:39:18,608

--soldiers?

773

00:39:18,608 --> 00:39:19,400

Yeah, the soldiers.

774

00:39:19,400 --> 00:39:22,580

They act as  
instructors, you know.

775

00:39:22,580 --> 00:39:24,830

And they knew you had worked  
in the factory before.

776

00:39:24,830 --> 00:39:25,330

Yes.

777

00:39:25,330 --> 00:39:26,510

And I was picked out.

778

00:39:26,510 --> 00:39:29,690

And that was what really  
kept me alive, really.

779  
00:39:29,690 --> 00:39:34,040  
What kind of-- well, let's stop  
a little bit in the factory,

780  
00:39:34,040 --> 00:39:37,490  
the plane factory.

781  
00:39:37,490 --> 00:39:39,350  
And how were you  
different, let's

782  
00:39:39,350 --> 00:39:42,170  
say, than the rest of the  
prisoners in the camp?

783  
00:39:42,170 --> 00:39:44,483  
Was the camp divided  
between people

784  
00:39:44,483 --> 00:39:46,400  
who may have worked in  
the factory and others?

785  
00:39:46,400 --> 00:39:48,170  
Or were you all in  
the same kind of deal?

786  
00:39:48,170 --> 00:39:50,790  
No, not all of us  
worked in our camp.

787  
00:39:50,790 --> 00:39:55,790  
Other worked, did labor work,  
building roads and so on.

788  
00:39:55,790 --> 00:39:59,410  
Did you have a sense that you  
were better off than them?

789  
00:39:59,410 --> 00:39:59,910  
Oh, yes.

790  
00:39:59,910 --> 00:40:00,440  
OK.

791  
00:40:00,440 --> 00:40:01,010  
Yes.

792  
00:40:01,010 --> 00:40:02,600  
Why don't you describe  
a little bit about that?

793  
00:40:02,600 --> 00:40:04,430  
Like how you may  
have been different.

794  
00:40:04,430 --> 00:40:09,110  
At that particular camp, we  
were assigned to a barrack

795  
00:40:09,110 --> 00:40:12,740  
with specialized workers.

796  
00:40:12,740 --> 00:40:16,380  
In that particular  
barrack, we had a blanket,

797  
00:40:16,380 --> 00:40:17,510  
which was unheard of.

798  
00:40:17,510 --> 00:40:20,060  
And we had straw to sleep on.

799  
00:40:20,060 --> 00:40:26,270  
And while the others were  
driven out of the barracks

800  
00:40:26,270 --> 00:40:29,690  
during the night for special  
counting and whatnot,

801  
00:40:29,690 --> 00:40:32,210  
there were times they  
didn't bother us.

802  
00:40:32,210 --> 00:40:36,710  
And the treatment was a little  
bit better there at the time.

803  
00:40:36,710 --> 00:40:38,930  
Did you get-- did they  
feed you better also?

804  
00:40:38,930 --> 00:40:41,750  
Or could you tell?

805  
00:40:41,750 --> 00:40:45,290  
Well, yes, we did.

806  
00:40:45,290 --> 00:40:50,370  
Our main diet was bread.

807  
00:40:50,370 --> 00:40:53,750  
I think it was five  
men a loaf of bread,

808  
00:40:53,750 --> 00:40:57,232  
sliced maybe two, 2  
and 1/2 inches thick.

809  
00:40:57,232 --> 00:40:58,940  
Which by the way, had  
some sawdust in it.

810  
00:40:58,940 --> 00:41:00,150  
It was really horrible bread.

811  
00:41:00,150 --> 00:41:03,230  
But it was tasty  
like cake to us.

812  
00:41:03,230 --> 00:41:06,637  
And soup that was made  
out of water and potatoes

813  
00:41:06,637 --> 00:41:07,220

with peelings.

814  
00:41:07,220 --> 00:41:09,170  
You know, real garbage.

815  
00:41:09,170 --> 00:41:11,780  
I think when they  
ran out of soup,

816  
00:41:11,780 --> 00:41:17,240  
they stuck the hose in  
it to replenish the meal.

817  
00:41:17,240 --> 00:41:21,410  
But I did welding,  
aluminum welding

818  
00:41:21,410 --> 00:41:24,650  
for this particular airplane.

819  
00:41:24,650 --> 00:41:28,260  
And the fumes are quite harmful.

820  
00:41:28,260 --> 00:41:31,070  
Now, they do with [INAUDIBLE],,  
but at the time, they didn't.

821  
00:41:31,070 --> 00:41:34,070  
And the Poles, the Polish  
civilians who worked right

822  
00:41:34,070 --> 00:41:36,950  
alongside, received milk.

823  
00:41:36,950 --> 00:41:40,070  
And I remember, I would  
receive a cup of bouillon

824  
00:41:40,070 --> 00:41:44,840  
that was, you know, like in  
a cube bouillon with water.

825

00:41:44,840 --> 00:41:48,620  
And that's the extra  
treatment, extra food I got.

826  
00:41:48,620 --> 00:41:50,300  
That was the extra food.

827  
00:41:50,300 --> 00:41:54,017  
What other-- you said that there  
were basically just laborers,

828  
00:41:54,017 --> 00:41:56,100  
manual laborers, who were  
in the rest of the camp.

829  
00:41:56,100 --> 00:41:57,398  
How big was this camp?

830  
00:41:57,398 --> 00:41:58,690  
What are we talking about here?

831  
00:41:58,690 --> 00:42:03,290  
Oh, I would say maybe  
a couple thousand.

832  
00:42:03,290 --> 00:42:08,030  
And do you have a sense of where  
in Poland you may have been?

833  
00:42:08,030 --> 00:42:10,550  
Well, I was in Mielec.

834  
00:42:10,550 --> 00:42:15,700

835  
00:42:15,700 --> 00:42:18,880  
I have to actually  
look at my notes now.

836  
00:42:18,880 --> 00:42:23,210  
There were around four or  
five different camps I was in.

837

00:42:23,210 --> 00:42:25,360

I was shifted around  
several times in Poland.

838

00:42:25,360 --> 00:42:26,770

Sure.

839

00:42:26,770 --> 00:42:29,080

And then you said that you  
moved to another camp that

840

00:42:29,080 --> 00:42:32,110

also had the plane factory.

841

00:42:32,110 --> 00:42:33,910

Right, right.

842

00:42:33,910 --> 00:42:36,090

Was that camp any different?

843

00:42:36,090 --> 00:42:37,520

Or basically the same?

844

00:42:37,520 --> 00:42:41,470

Well, that camp already was  
called a concentration camp.

845

00:42:41,470 --> 00:42:47,980

And we were tattooed on our  
right front arm above the wrist

846

00:42:47,980 --> 00:42:51,390

by the letter of KL.

847

00:42:51,390 --> 00:42:54,430

In the event we escaped, they  
have a way of identifying us.

848

00:42:54,430 --> 00:42:55,840

What did KL stand for?

849



00:42:55,840 --> 00:42:58,250  
K stands for our concentration.

850  
00:42:58,250 --> 00:43:02,840  
Spelled with a K instead of  
C. And L counts for Lager.

851  
00:43:02,840 --> 00:43:07,860  
L-A-G-E-R, like lager beer,  
you know, Lager is a camp.

852  
00:43:07,860 --> 00:43:11,470  
Konzentrationslager.

853  
00:43:11,470 --> 00:43:15,860  
And there are very few  
of us who have this.

854  
00:43:15,860 --> 00:43:18,400  
Most of them are dead today.

855  
00:43:18,400 --> 00:43:22,740  
I think there are, out  
of about 2,000 or 3,000,

856  
00:43:22,740 --> 00:43:26,360  
maybe today, maybe  
seven, eight of us

857  
00:43:26,360 --> 00:43:28,172  
are alive today, maybe nine.

858  
00:43:28,172 --> 00:43:31,630

859  
00:43:31,630 --> 00:43:33,790  
OK.

860  
00:43:33,790 --> 00:43:38,410  
After you've worked in the  
plane factory for a while--

861

00:43:38,410 --> 00:43:41,290  
and you started to talk  
about a little bit earlier

862  
00:43:41,290 --> 00:43:44,560  
about the Russians  
coming in-- what

863  
00:43:44,560 --> 00:43:47,360  
happens at this period when  
you're starting to move back?

864  
00:43:47,360 --> 00:43:49,570  
Do you do you have a sense,  
do the people in the camp

865  
00:43:49,570 --> 00:43:54,100  
have a sense that the war may  
be going south for the Germans?

866  
00:43:54,100 --> 00:43:55,630  
Oh, yes.

867  
00:43:55,630 --> 00:43:59,800  
We had feelings that things were  
going bad for the Germans, yes.

868  
00:43:59,800 --> 00:44:01,120  
How did you know these things?

869  
00:44:01,120 --> 00:44:02,490  
How did you?

870  
00:44:02,490 --> 00:44:06,580  
Well, we didn't know  
anything for a true fact.

871  
00:44:06,580 --> 00:44:11,270  
But it was common  
knowledge that the war

872  
00:44:11,270 --> 00:44:13,984  
is going bad for the Germans.

873  
00:44:13,984 --> 00:44:15,640  
OK.

874  
00:44:15,640 --> 00:44:19,010  
What was going on when you're--  
did you move to any more camps

875  
00:44:19,010 --> 00:44:19,570  
after this?

876  
00:44:19,570 --> 00:44:20,750  
What happens here?

877  
00:44:20,750 --> 00:44:23,380  
We moved to another  
camp called Wieliczka.

878  
00:44:23,380 --> 00:44:25,520  
I think you've  
heard of that camp.

879  
00:44:25,520 --> 00:44:28,030  
And of course, that  
was a death camp.

880  
00:44:28,030 --> 00:44:30,550  
Interested about the  
camp was the Germans

881  
00:44:30,550 --> 00:44:34,630  
were trying to produce airplanes  
in the salt mines, I think,

882  
00:44:34,630 --> 00:44:37,310  
which didn't work for them.

883  
00:44:37,310 --> 00:44:38,620  
We were three days.

884  
00:44:38,620 --> 00:44:43,510  
After a terrible,

terrible railroad trip,

885

00:44:43,510 --> 00:44:47,770

we were dumped out in that camp.

886

00:44:47,770 --> 00:44:51,470

Can you describe to the  
railroad trip a little bit?

887

00:44:51,470 --> 00:44:55,610

Well, you were just  
worse than cattle.

888

00:44:55,610 --> 00:44:57,070

You were forced in these cars.

889

00:44:57,070 --> 00:45:01,390

You sat one inside the other.

890

00:45:01,390 --> 00:45:03,280

And you couldn't,  
like I said earlier,

891

00:45:03,280 --> 00:45:07,420

couldn't relieve yourself, had  
nothing to eat, and no water.

892

00:45:07,420 --> 00:45:10,900

And you'd be in these  
cattle cars for days.

893

00:45:10,900 --> 00:45:14,670

And a lot of us didn't  
survive the trip.

894

00:45:14,670 --> 00:45:17,690

And each time you unloaded,  
you know, you had to run.

895

00:45:17,690 --> 00:45:22,500

And it was just hard,  
really hard for me

896  
00:45:22,500 --> 00:45:23,625  
to give you all the detail.

897  
00:45:23,625 --> 00:45:25,570  
It was just horrible.

898  
00:45:25,570 --> 00:45:30,060  
We went to Wieliczka, and  
for some reason, a few of us

899  
00:45:30,060 --> 00:45:32,310  
were loaded up again.

900  
00:45:32,310 --> 00:45:38,070  
And I arrived in the very last  
camp, which was Flossenbürg,

901  
00:45:38,070 --> 00:45:40,237  
it was in Bavaria.

902  
00:45:40,237 --> 00:45:41,320  
I know you've heard of it.

903  
00:45:41,320 --> 00:45:48,400  
And that was a camp that had  
criminals, German criminals,

904  
00:45:48,400 --> 00:45:54,690  
queers, political prisoners,  
and a handful of Jews,

905  
00:45:54,690 --> 00:45:58,530  
which were identified  
differently

906  
00:45:58,530 --> 00:46:05,550  
on the uniform with their little  
marker than the rest of them.

907  
00:46:05,550 --> 00:46:07,380  
The food was a little  
better in that camp.

908  
00:46:07,380 --> 00:46:09,900

909  
00:46:09,900 --> 00:46:13,570  
Our immediate bosses were  
the German criminals.

910  
00:46:13,570 --> 00:46:15,735  
They had the right to--

911  
00:46:15,735 --> 00:46:17,130  
they carried a club.

912  
00:46:17,130 --> 00:46:19,060  
So they differentiated e

913  
00:46:19,060 --> 00:46:19,560  
Yes.

914  
00:46:19,560 --> 00:46:20,250  
--the groups--

915  
00:46:20,250 --> 00:46:20,790  
Yes.

916  
00:46:20,790 --> 00:46:21,600  
--in the camp.

917  
00:46:21,600 --> 00:46:28,190  
What was interesting about that  
camp is that we had facilities

918  
00:46:28,190 --> 00:46:30,060  
we could wash ourself.

919  
00:46:30,060 --> 00:46:32,870  
And I wanted to  
clean myself again.

920  
00:46:32,870 --> 00:46:36,320

And in fact, I  
took my clothes off

921  
00:46:36,320 --> 00:46:39,170  
and I lay it on them and all  
of it so they'd be straight.

922  
00:46:39,170 --> 00:46:42,560  
So I became a human being,  
if you want to call it,

923  
00:46:42,560 --> 00:46:44,000  
a little bit human again.

924  
00:46:44,000 --> 00:46:46,190  
And the food was a  
little bit better.

925  
00:46:46,190 --> 00:46:48,380  
But they had the ovens  
there, too, you know,

926  
00:46:48,380 --> 00:46:54,985  
where the people got hung  
and cooked, and so on.

927  
00:46:54,985 --> 00:47:02,120  
And from that camp  
came the death march.

928  
00:47:02,120 --> 00:47:07,420  
But before the death  
march, the Germans

929  
00:47:07,420 --> 00:47:11,560  
didn't want to give up the Jews.

930  
00:47:11,560 --> 00:47:15,940  
And the handful of Jews who  
were in that Flossenbürg had

931  
00:47:15,940 --> 00:47:22,310  
a report and were moved by the

railroad further into Germany.

932

00:47:22,310 --> 00:47:28,760

And I was hidden by a German man  
who's been in the concentration

933

00:47:28,760 --> 00:47:29,260

for years.

934

00:47:29,260 --> 00:47:31,130

He was a communist.

935

00:47:31,130 --> 00:47:32,680

And he looked out for me.

936

00:47:32,680 --> 00:47:35,170

And he was a large man.

937

00:47:35,170 --> 00:47:39,110

And he more or less  
took care of me.

938

00:47:39,110 --> 00:47:41,780

And I stayed in that camp.

939

00:47:41,780 --> 00:47:43,700

He hid you in a train.

940

00:47:43,700 --> 00:47:44,600

No, behind.

941

00:47:44,600 --> 00:47:46,470

I stayed behind  
him at roll call.

942

00:47:46,470 --> 00:47:47,210

Oh, I see.

943

00:47:47,210 --> 00:47:47,930

You know, when  
they called us out.



944  
00:47:47,930 --> 00:47:48,950  
Oh, and he hid you, OK.

945  
00:47:48,950 --> 00:47:49,820  
Yeah.

946  
00:47:49,820 --> 00:47:51,140  
For calling out.

947  
00:47:51,140 --> 00:47:54,920  
How long did this go on that  
he was kind of protecting you?

948  
00:47:54,920 --> 00:47:56,720  
About three days or so.

949  
00:47:56,720 --> 00:47:58,100  
Three days.

950  
00:47:58,100 --> 00:47:59,060  
I may I want to add--

951  
00:47:59,060 --> 00:48:01,760  
something interesting  
happened to us.

952  
00:48:01,760 --> 00:48:06,350  
A lot of the Germans retreated  
further back into Germany

953  
00:48:06,350 --> 00:48:09,410  
not to be captured  
by the Russians.

954  
00:48:09,410 --> 00:48:12,890  
And they were a little scared  
of us already in this camp.

955  
00:48:12,890 --> 00:48:17,300  
And they'd taken all the  
German criminals now,

956

00:48:17,300 --> 00:48:20,750

and gave them German  
uniforms and rifles,

957

00:48:20,750 --> 00:48:26,060

and they were in the  
guard towers to watch us.

958

00:48:26,060 --> 00:48:29,580

And they quickly forgot that  
they were prisoners an hour

959

00:48:29,580 --> 00:48:30,080

ago.

960

00:48:30,080 --> 00:48:33,920

And they themselves  
did a lot of killing.

961

00:48:33,920 --> 00:48:37,400

So the troops kind of  
disappeared, the real troops.

962

00:48:37,400 --> 00:48:39,260

Well, they kept a  
skeleton crew on hand.

963

00:48:39,260 --> 00:48:46,100

That's-- we were put on death  
march for three days and three

964

00:48:46,100 --> 00:48:47,240

nights.

965

00:48:47,240 --> 00:48:49,460

And anybody who  
couldn't walk anymore

966

00:48:49,460 --> 00:48:52,327

was killed right on the spot.

967

00:48:52,327 --> 00:48:53,660

Did you know where you're going?

968

00:48:53,660 --> 00:48:54,410

Did they tell you?

969

00:48:54,410 --> 00:48:55,850

No, we didn't know.

970

00:48:55,850 --> 00:49:01,160

It turned out later, we  
were on the way to Dachau.

971

00:49:01,160 --> 00:49:04,220

But we marched.

972

00:49:04,220 --> 00:49:06,800

A few of us escaped  
during the death march.

973

00:49:06,800 --> 00:49:08,750

But it was difficult.

974

00:49:08,750 --> 00:49:11,540

What time of year was  
this, the death march?

975

00:49:11,540 --> 00:49:14,240

That was in the fall,  
I believe it was.

976

00:49:14,240 --> 00:49:16,510

Fall of what year  
are we talking about?

977

00:49:16,510 --> 00:49:17,010

'44.

978

00:49:17,010 --> 00:49:17,990

'44.

979

00:49:17,990 --> 00:49:21,050

'44, close to '45, maybe.

980  
00:49:21,050 --> 00:49:24,860

981  
00:49:24,860 --> 00:49:27,387  
You said a couple  
of people escaped.

982  
00:49:27,387 --> 00:49:28,970  
Did they catch anyone  
who had escaped?

983  
00:49:28,970 --> 00:49:30,470  
Or did you see these  
people fleeing?

984  
00:49:30,470 --> 00:49:33,980  
Or did you know  
they were leaving?

985  
00:49:33,980 --> 00:49:36,500  
They were not there the  
next time you-- you know,

986  
00:49:36,500 --> 00:49:38,360  
they were gone.

987  
00:49:38,360 --> 00:49:40,550  
You know, the reason  
so many people got

988  
00:49:40,550 --> 00:49:43,520  
killed on the death marches--

989  
00:49:43,520 --> 00:49:47,420  
they'd transport us in  
increments of 1,000.

990  
00:49:47,420 --> 00:49:50,690  
And if you don't march  
in step, the rear end

991

00:49:50,690 --> 00:49:53,090  
always has to run and catch up.

992  
00:49:53,090 --> 00:49:58,200  
And they're the ones  
that died the quickest.

993  
00:49:58,200 --> 00:50:01,290  
So when we did stop  
for a rest, no one

994  
00:50:01,290 --> 00:50:02,850  
wanted to be on the rear end.

995  
00:50:02,850 --> 00:50:07,070  
So several people had  
to get killed in order

996  
00:50:07,070 --> 00:50:08,070  
just to get us lined up.

997  
00:50:08,070 --> 00:50:13,890

998  
00:50:13,890 --> 00:50:20,800  
And on the third day,  
we woke up at night--

999  
00:50:20,800 --> 00:50:26,530  
in the morning-- and we  
noticed that the Germans

1000  
00:50:26,530 --> 00:50:28,900  
ran into the woods.

1001  
00:50:28,900 --> 00:50:29,700  
Just left.

1002  
00:50:29,700 --> 00:50:32,290  
They left and left us behind.

1003  
00:50:32,290 --> 00:50:34,840

Did you ever think about  
during those three days

1004  
00:50:34,840 --> 00:50:36,965  
trying to escape?

1005  
00:50:36,965 --> 00:50:39,340  
The thought was there but  
there was just too many guards.

1006  
00:50:39,340 --> 00:50:41,830  
Too many people around, yeah.

1007  
00:50:41,830 --> 00:50:44,470  
OK.

1008  
00:50:44,470 --> 00:50:48,430  
What did you do, what did  
you think when they left?

1009  
00:50:48,430 --> 00:50:50,800  
Well, we were totally confused.

1010  
00:50:50,800 --> 00:50:56,560  
And we would hear  
the cannon power.

1011  
00:50:56,560 --> 00:50:59,180  
You know, we would hear  
that someone was coming.

1012  
00:50:59,180 --> 00:51:01,120  
We didn't know who.

1013  
00:51:01,120 --> 00:51:09,120  
And the first night spent  
in the barn at the farmers.

1014  
00:51:09,120 --> 00:51:12,010  
And we would just run  
from house to house.

1015

00:51:12,010 --> 00:51:16,900  
We were going which we thought  
was talk to the Americans.

1016  
00:51:16,900 --> 00:51:19,510  
And I recall on the  
highways, we saw

1017  
00:51:19,510 --> 00:51:25,300  
Germans who were at that  
time waiting to be captured.

1018  
00:51:25,300 --> 00:51:27,418  
And they were armed.

1019  
00:51:27,418 --> 00:51:29,710  
Of course, we didn't know if  
they were going to kill us

1020  
00:51:29,710 --> 00:51:30,210  
or not.

1021  
00:51:30,210 --> 00:51:31,780  
Sure.

1022  
00:51:31,780 --> 00:51:34,510  
How did the people in the  
countryside, the farmers--

1023  
00:51:34,510 --> 00:51:36,580  
how did they react to you?

1024  
00:51:36,580 --> 00:51:41,530  
Some farmers would  
ask us in and fed us.

1025  
00:51:41,530 --> 00:51:45,430  
And others didn't.

1026  
00:51:45,430 --> 00:51:48,310  
But there were a handful  
were trying to help us.

1027

00:51:48,310 --> 00:51:51,100

And at that time, you  
see a lot of farmers

1028

00:51:51,100 --> 00:51:54,190

with the horses and  
wagons picking up bodies

1029

00:51:54,190 --> 00:52:01,705

with pitchforks so the  
Americans would not see them,

1030

00:52:01,705 --> 00:52:03,060

and there were so many of them.

1031

00:52:03,060 --> 00:52:04,840

Sure.

1032

00:52:04,840 --> 00:52:05,810

Go ahead.

1033

00:52:05,810 --> 00:52:12,540

And that was when I walked  
towards the American line.

1034

00:52:12,540 --> 00:52:14,268

Did you have people with you?

1035

00:52:14,268 --> 00:52:15,560

Or was it just you by yourself?

1036

00:52:15,560 --> 00:52:19,145

No, there were maybe  
a group of 10 of us.

1037

00:52:19,145 --> 00:52:20,120

And you stuck together?

1038

00:52:20,120 --> 00:52:21,560

Yes.

1039



00:52:21,560 --> 00:52:25,640  
What happened when  
you finally ran into--

1040  
00:52:25,640 --> 00:52:29,930  
or how did you get liberated?

1041  
00:52:29,930 --> 00:52:35,950  
Well, we went into a small  
city called Champ, C-H-A-M-P.

1042  
00:52:35,950 --> 00:52:36,980  
The Second Army.

1043  
00:52:36,980 --> 00:52:39,600

1044  
00:52:39,600 --> 00:52:40,850  
They took care of us, and we--

1045  
00:52:40,850 --> 00:52:41,892  
The Second American Army?

1046  
00:52:41,892 --> 00:52:44,760  
Yeah.

1047  
00:52:44,760 --> 00:52:48,860  
I recall the one building,  
the mayor's building,

1048  
00:52:48,860 --> 00:52:52,520  
they threw the mayors  
out, and there, they

1049  
00:52:52,520 --> 00:52:55,430  
gave us a building to stay in.

1050  
00:52:55,430 --> 00:52:58,100  
Now, this is, again,  
the fall of '44?

1051  
00:52:58,100 --> 00:52:58,695

'45.

1052

00:52:58,695 --> 00:52:59,195

'45.

1053

00:52:59,195 --> 00:53:00,770

No, that's spring of '45.

1054

00:53:00,770 --> 00:53:01,690

Spring of '45.

1055

00:53:01,690 --> 00:53:05,480

Because I was liberated  
in April of '45.

1056

00:53:05,480 --> 00:53:11,810

So you were roaming around  
in Germany from I think--

1057

00:53:11,810 --> 00:53:13,610

I may have gotten this wrong.

1058

00:53:13,610 --> 00:53:16,560

You said you were on the death  
march in the fall of '44.

1059

00:53:16,560 --> 00:53:17,610

It was spring.

1060

00:53:17,610 --> 00:53:18,110

OK.

1061

00:53:18,110 --> 00:53:18,650

It was spring.

1062

00:53:18,650 --> 00:53:20,317

It was spring, my  
fault. I got it wrong.

1063

00:53:20,317 --> 00:53:25,610

You know, I was also  
shot in the back, which--

1064  
00:53:25,610 --> 00:53:29,960  
while we were all starting to  
run after we were liberated,

1065  
00:53:29,960 --> 00:53:33,350  
after the Germans left,  
I was shot in the back

1066  
00:53:33,350 --> 00:53:36,907  
by a German officer with a  
small caliber at my back.

1067  
00:53:36,907 --> 00:53:38,240  
To try to stop you from running?

1068  
00:53:38,240 --> 00:53:39,400  
Yeah.

1069  
00:53:39,400 --> 00:53:41,370  
And so you had this  
wound when you were--

1070  
00:53:41,370 --> 00:53:42,500  
Yes.

1071  
00:53:42,500 --> 00:53:44,270  
--going around?

1072  
00:53:44,270 --> 00:53:47,290  
That's awful.

1073  
00:53:47,290 --> 00:53:52,180  
So in the spring of  
'45, you were liberated.

1074  
00:53:52,180 --> 00:53:53,920  
OK.

1075  
00:53:53,920 --> 00:53:57,070  
How did the Americans  
react to you all?

1076  
00:53:57,070 --> 00:54:01,450  
Oh, they were wonderful to us.

1077  
00:54:01,450 --> 00:54:04,710  
Describe a little bit about  
what they did for you.

1078  
00:54:04,710 --> 00:54:09,280  
Well, they fed us,  
clothed us, and you know,

1079  
00:54:09,280 --> 00:54:11,680  
they treated us  
like we're children.

1080  
00:54:11,680 --> 00:54:14,844

1081  
00:54:14,844 --> 00:54:18,600  
Did they have  
facilities and things

1082  
00:54:18,600 --> 00:54:21,510  
to take care of-- were there  
a lot of around, you know,

1083  
00:54:21,510 --> 00:54:23,760  
people who had been liberated?

1084  
00:54:23,760 --> 00:54:25,920  
You know, people  
from all around.

1085  
00:54:25,920 --> 00:54:28,410  
There were probably  
maybe 20, 30 of us

1086  
00:54:28,410 --> 00:54:33,986  
in that little city, you  
know, who were then free.

1087

00:54:33,986 --> 00:54:37,740

Matter of fact, I  
worked in the mess hall.

1088

00:54:37,740 --> 00:54:40,920

And they wanted-- as  
the troops were leaving,

1089

00:54:40,920 --> 00:54:42,150

they wanted us to--

1090

00:54:42,150 --> 00:54:43,410

wanted me to go with them.

1091

00:54:43,410 --> 00:54:44,110

To go with them.

1092

00:54:44,110 --> 00:54:44,610

Yeah.

1093

00:54:44,610 --> 00:54:47,010

And they took me to  
the headquarters.

1094

00:54:47,010 --> 00:54:51,150

But the officer in charge  
wouldn't go for it, you know.

1095

00:54:51,150 --> 00:54:52,710

They liked your cooking so much.

1096

00:54:52,710 --> 00:54:56,250

Well, I wasn't, no, I  
was just a laborer there

1097

00:54:56,250 --> 00:55:00,180

washing pots and pans  
or something like that.

1098

00:55:00,180 --> 00:55:04,680

How, then-- to pick up the  
story a little bit more.

1099

00:55:04,680 --> 00:55:06,900

What did you do after that  
when the Americans leave?

1100

00:55:06,900 --> 00:55:08,330

What did you?

1101

00:55:08,330 --> 00:55:12,570

We stayed there in order to  
gain our strength, really.

1102

00:55:12,570 --> 00:55:17,010

And then people went  
back to their hometowns.

1103

00:55:17,010 --> 00:55:24,780

And I traveled by bicycle  
back to Hamburg some time

1104

00:55:24,780 --> 00:55:26,335

on top of railroad cars.

1105

00:55:26,335 --> 00:55:28,085

What was that like  
going back through, you

1106

00:55:28,085 --> 00:55:31,470

know, a country that was  
obviously hostile to you

1107

00:55:31,470 --> 00:55:33,910

as a Jew before?

1108

00:55:33,910 --> 00:55:34,410

How was it?

1109

00:55:34,410 --> 00:55:36,420

Was it different?

1110

00:55:36,420 --> 00:55:38,415

Well, yes, it was different.

1111  
00:55:38,415 --> 00:55:43,200  
You know, freedom after four  
years was different, of course.

1112  
00:55:43,200 --> 00:55:45,810  
And we were skeptical of people.

1113  
00:55:45,810 --> 00:55:48,780

1114  
00:55:48,780 --> 00:55:51,750  
How long did you  
stay in Hamburg?

1115  
00:55:51,750 --> 00:55:56,880  
Stayed in Hamburg  
about six months or so.

1116  
00:55:56,880 --> 00:56:00,450  
Then I found out that my  
grandmother was alive.

1117  
00:56:00,450 --> 00:56:03,240  
She survived Theresienstadt.

1118  
00:56:03,240 --> 00:56:05,430  
And I went to-- she was there.

1119  
00:56:05,430 --> 00:56:08,280

1120  
00:56:08,280 --> 00:56:10,650  
She, at the time, lived  
in Marburg, Germany,

1121  
00:56:10,650 --> 00:56:13,020  
and I stayed with her.

1122  
00:56:13,020 --> 00:56:18,540  
And I worked for the American--

1123

00:56:18,540 --> 00:56:19,910  
for the GIs at that time.

1124  
00:56:19,910 --> 00:56:22,470

1125  
00:56:22,470 --> 00:56:24,400  
How did you get to the US?

1126  
00:56:24,400 --> 00:56:26,010  
When did you emigrate?

1127  
00:56:26,010 --> 00:56:32,120  
I came here in '46.

1128  
00:56:32,120 --> 00:56:33,470  
Labor Day, '46.

1129  
00:56:33,470 --> 00:56:33,980  
Labor Day.

1130  
00:56:33,980 --> 00:56:34,957  
Yeah.

1131  
00:56:34,957 --> 00:56:36,290  
And you've been here ever since?

1132  
00:56:36,290 --> 00:56:36,850  
Right.

1133  
00:56:36,850 --> 00:56:38,450  
OK.

1134  
00:56:38,450 --> 00:56:41,210  
Let me get back  
a little bit to--

1135  
00:56:41,210 --> 00:56:45,350  
you talked about,  
I think it was,

1136



00:56:45,350 --> 00:56:48,350  
when you laid down when the  
first time you got to wash.

1137  
00:56:48,350 --> 00:56:50,780  
I think it was in Flossenbürg.

1138  
00:56:50,780 --> 00:56:51,350  
Yes.

1139  
00:56:51,350 --> 00:56:51,850  
Yeah.

1140  
00:56:51,850 --> 00:56:52,760  
Am I right there?

1141  
00:56:52,760 --> 00:56:53,300  
Yes.

1142  
00:56:53,300 --> 00:56:54,260  
Was that the first  
time that you'd

1143  
00:56:54,260 --> 00:56:56,260  
been able to wash since  
you'd been in the camps.

1144  
00:56:56,260 --> 00:56:59,580  
Yes, that's where we had  
running water, you know,

1145  
00:56:59,580 --> 00:57:03,500  
and we were able  
to clean ourselves.

1146  
00:57:03,500 --> 00:57:05,227  
So this was unusual  
for the camps.

1147  
00:57:05,227 --> 00:57:07,060  
This was running water  
and things like that.

1148  
00:57:07,060 --> 00:57:10,000

1149  
00:57:10,000 --> 00:57:12,500  
Was this camp different than  
most of the ones you'd been in?

1150  
00:57:12,500 --> 00:57:15,980  
Yes, this was not a slave  
labor camp or a ghetto.

1151  
00:57:15,980 --> 00:57:19,878  
That was a concentration camp.

1152  
00:57:19,878 --> 00:57:21,920  
Is there any reason that  
you can think of that it

1153  
00:57:21,920 --> 00:57:23,450  
might have-- why this was?

1154  
00:57:23,450 --> 00:57:26,460  
That they had water and running  
water and things like that?

1155  
00:57:26,460 --> 00:57:30,230  
Well, they had very few  
prisoners when they were Jews.

1156  
00:57:30,230 --> 00:57:37,100  
That was a concentration  
camp for their own Germans

1157  
00:57:37,100 --> 00:57:42,060  
and all nationalities  
you can think about.

1158  
00:57:42,060 --> 00:57:45,378  
Is there anything else  
that you'd like to add?

1159  
00:57:45,378 --> 00:57:47,420

Sure there is, but I can't  
think of it right now.

1160  
00:57:47,420 --> 00:57:49,220  
OK.

1161  
00:57:49,220 --> 00:57:50,858  
All right, that's great.

1162  
00:57:50,858 --> 00:57:51,650  
I think we're done.

1163  
00:57:51,650 --> 00:57:54,190  
I've asked most of  
the questions I have.

1164  
00:57:54,190 --> 00:57:54,886  
Take this off.

1165  
00:57:54,886 --> 00:57:55,700  
Sure.

1166  
00:57:55,700 --> 00:57:57,250  
Now.

1167  
00:57:57,250 --> 00:58:00,000