

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,250

2
00:00:03,250 --> 00:00:08,530
I will start from introducing
my name and where I live.

3
00:00:08,530 --> 00:00:09,030
OK.

4
00:00:09,030 --> 00:00:17,620

5
00:00:17,620 --> 00:00:20,790
My name is Nathan Offen.

6
00:00:20,790 --> 00:00:27,160
I was born in Krakow, Poland, I
used to reside, before the war,

7
00:00:27,160 --> 00:00:33,960
this means before 1939,
in Krakow, Podgorze,

8
00:00:33,960 --> 00:00:38,100
which is the other side
of the river Vistula.

9
00:00:38,100 --> 00:00:40,990

10
00:00:40,990 --> 00:00:43,420
Was that a Jewish neighborhood?

11
00:00:43,420 --> 00:00:47,180
Yes, it was rather
Jewish neighborhood, yes.

12
00:00:47,180 --> 00:00:50,410
I had two brothers.

13

00:00:50,410 --> 00:00:59,590

I have two brothers, a sister,
and a father and mother.

14

00:00:59,590 --> 00:01:06,630

Father's name was Jacob and
my mother's name was Gusta.

15

00:01:06,630 --> 00:01:10,860

And I had a sister who
didn't survive the Holocaust.

16

00:01:10,860 --> 00:01:13,980

Her name was Miriam.

17

00:01:13,980 --> 00:01:19,230

And then I have
a younger brother

18

00:01:19,230 --> 00:01:23,260

who lives in California.

19

00:01:23,260 --> 00:01:26,850

His name is Bernard Offen.

20

00:01:26,850 --> 00:01:28,980

And then I have
my oldest brother,

21

00:01:28,980 --> 00:01:31,530

who reside in Michigan.

22

00:01:31,530 --> 00:01:35,050

And his name is Sam.

23

00:01:35,050 --> 00:01:36,540

So you're the middle brother?

24

00:01:36,540 --> 00:01:37,860

I am the middle one.

25

00:01:37,860 --> 00:01:40,175
What was your date of birth?

26
00:01:40,175 --> 00:01:48,780
The 15/12/1922, which makes
me now, my next birthday--

27
00:01:48,780 --> 00:01:53,970
December the 15, 1922,
which makes me 69 years old.

28
00:01:53,970 --> 00:01:56,495
I'll be 70 next
December the 15th.

29
00:01:56,495 --> 00:02:03,880

30
00:02:03,880 --> 00:02:06,100
What was your father's business?

31
00:02:06,100 --> 00:02:11,140
My father's business-- he
originally was a shoemaker

32
00:02:11,140 --> 00:02:17,560
but then he got tired of it and
started a business traveling.

33
00:02:17,560 --> 00:02:22,540
And he was selling
billiards, pool tables,

34
00:02:22,540 --> 00:02:29,680
and all the billiard balls.

35
00:02:29,680 --> 00:02:35,890
And also, he was selling-- he
was traveling and all the bars

36
00:02:35,890 --> 00:02:44,290
and into little villages he was
going and selling his items.

37

00:02:44,290 --> 00:02:47,050

Also, all the equipment
what in the bars

38

00:02:47,050 --> 00:02:49,630

were using, whatever
they were using.

39

00:02:49,630 --> 00:02:53,320

The chalk for the
billiards and so forth.

40

00:02:53,320 --> 00:02:56,150

How did he get into that
business from shoemaking?

41

00:02:56,150 --> 00:02:57,190

Do you know?

42

00:02:57,190 --> 00:03:06,380

Well, he was capable of selling.

43

00:03:06,380 --> 00:03:09,640

He enjoyed selling
more than sitting.

44

00:03:09,640 --> 00:03:12,340

Actually, he became
a shoemaker when

45

00:03:12,340 --> 00:03:17,890

he married my mother, when he
came out from the First World

46

00:03:17,890 --> 00:03:19,120

War.

47

00:03:19,120 --> 00:03:22,490

He became a shoemaker because
he didn't have any profession.

48

00:03:22,490 --> 00:03:23,590

He was a young--

49

00:03:23,590 --> 00:03:33,450

and when he married my mother,
my uncle taught him shoemaking.

50

00:03:33,450 --> 00:03:36,420

And that's how he got
to become a shoemaker.

51

00:03:36,420 --> 00:03:40,160

52

00:03:40,160 --> 00:03:42,130

Did he travel all
over the region?

53

00:03:42,130 --> 00:03:43,610

He traveled all around.

54

00:03:43,610 --> 00:03:50,150

He carried his wares on
his back in a knapsack.

55

00:03:50,150 --> 00:03:52,910

And then he had two
suitcases that he carried.

56

00:03:52,910 --> 00:03:57,710

And he traveled by bus,
by trail, by railroad,

57

00:03:57,710 --> 00:03:59,900

by horse and buggy.

58

00:03:59,900 --> 00:04:05,600

However he could manage to
get to a certain destination

59

00:04:05,600 --> 00:04:07,580

where he wanted.

60

00:04:07,580 --> 00:04:13,940

But he always managed to
come home for Shabbat.

61

00:04:13,940 --> 00:04:16,279

In other words, he
always came home

62

00:04:16,279 --> 00:04:20,660

for Thursday night
or Friday morning.

63

00:04:20,660 --> 00:04:23,990

He always managed to
come home for Shabbat.

64

00:04:23,990 --> 00:04:25,640

Otherwise, he was out traveling?

65

00:04:25,640 --> 00:04:27,950

Otherwise, he was out
traveling the whole week.

66

00:04:27,950 --> 00:04:28,610

Right.

67

00:04:28,610 --> 00:04:29,930

He didn't have a store?

68

00:04:29,930 --> 00:04:31,220

No, he didn't have a store.

69

00:04:31,220 --> 00:04:34,910

Yes, he carried his
ware on his back always.

70

00:04:34,910 --> 00:04:36,920

Was there a particular
company he worked for?

71

00:04:36,920 --> 00:04:38,690

No, he was independent dealer.

72
00:04:38,690 --> 00:04:40,513
He worked for himself.

73
00:04:40,513 --> 00:04:41,430
He worked for himself.

74
00:04:41,430 --> 00:04:42,950
I see.

75
00:04:42,950 --> 00:04:45,510
Were you a religious family?

76
00:04:45,510 --> 00:04:47,210
No, we were not religious.

77
00:04:47,210 --> 00:04:50,510
But we kept up all the
holidays and Saturday, we

78
00:04:50,510 --> 00:04:54,170
had to go to shul
with my father.

79
00:04:54,170 --> 00:04:56,720
And the holidays, we
always had to go to shul.

80
00:04:56,720 --> 00:04:59,540

81
00:04:59,540 --> 00:05:06,060
But we were not considered at
European standard religious.

82
00:05:06,060 --> 00:05:07,940
But we kept up all the holidays.

83
00:05:07,940 --> 00:05:10,550
The place-- my
mother, everything

84

00:05:10,550 --> 00:05:15,970

was kosher in the house
and everything so forth.

85

00:05:15,970 --> 00:05:18,320

Did you live in a house?

86

00:05:18,320 --> 00:05:19,660

We lived in an apartment.

87

00:05:19,660 --> 00:05:24,220

88

00:05:24,220 --> 00:05:25,930

Was it a large building?

89

00:05:25,930 --> 00:05:30,060

Yeah, it was a large building,
maybe 20 apartments or so.

90

00:05:30,060 --> 00:05:34,310

91

00:05:34,310 --> 00:05:35,810

A three-story building.

92

00:05:35,810 --> 00:05:45,710

93

00:05:45,710 --> 00:05:49,430

Just to get a little
bit of a time frame,

94

00:05:49,430 --> 00:05:52,670

when was it that your father
stopped being a shoemaker

95

00:05:52,670 --> 00:05:56,600

and launched himself
into billiards?

96

00:05:56,600 --> 00:06:08,080
I imagine it must have
been in 1936 or '37.

97
00:06:08,080 --> 00:06:12,010
Do you remember working
with your father at all?

98
00:06:12,010 --> 00:06:14,890
You know, I had to-- no,
I had to go to school.

99
00:06:14,890 --> 00:06:16,000
I attended school.

100
00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:18,290
I attended Polish school.

101
00:06:18,290 --> 00:06:28,650
I went to public
school in a Kosciuszki.

102
00:06:28,650 --> 00:06:29,820
Called Kosciuszki.

103
00:06:29,820 --> 00:06:37,410
This was near the bridge,
near Pilsudskiego Bridge.

104
00:06:37,410 --> 00:06:40,740
It was that new bridge that
they built just before the war.

105
00:06:40,740 --> 00:06:43,550

106
00:06:43,550 --> 00:06:44,800
Was this in your neighborhood?

107
00:06:44,800 --> 00:06:47,650
Did you cross across the
Vistula to get to that school?

108

00:06:47,650 --> 00:06:49,300

No, I didn't have to
cross the Vistula.

109

00:06:49,300 --> 00:06:55,660

I it must have been maybe
15 blocks to the school.

110

00:06:55,660 --> 00:06:59,440

I have to cross the
Rynek Podgorski.

111

00:06:59,440 --> 00:07:04,270

And Rynek Podgorski
through Kalwaryjska.

112

00:07:04,270 --> 00:07:08,110

And was down there a couple
blocks off Kalwaryjska it was,

113

00:07:08,110 --> 00:07:08,620

the school.

114

00:07:08,620 --> 00:07:09,760

So it wasn't too far.

115

00:07:09,760 --> 00:07:12,970

It was a nice walk to school.

116

00:07:12,970 --> 00:07:15,160

Did you walk with your
brothers and sister?

117

00:07:15,160 --> 00:07:16,300

Yes, I walked.

118

00:07:16,300 --> 00:07:19,030

Yes, I walked all
with my friends.

119

00:07:19,030 --> 00:07:20,080

Yes, yes.

120
00:07:20,080 --> 00:07:23,650
So I would always we
walked with somebody.

121
00:07:23,650 --> 00:07:25,450
What about cheder?

122
00:07:25,450 --> 00:07:31,180
At the cheder-- we used to go
to the cheder in the afternoon

123
00:07:31,180 --> 00:07:33,070
when we came out from school.

124
00:07:33,070 --> 00:07:37,510
I think the school ended at 1
o'clock from 8:00 till 1:00.

125
00:07:37,510 --> 00:07:41,680
And then I think we went to
the cheder from 3:00 to 5:00.

126
00:07:41,680 --> 00:07:45,540

127
00:07:45,540 --> 00:07:48,480
We went to the Talmud Torah.

128
00:07:48,480 --> 00:07:54,120
And the Talmud
Torah was [POLISH]..

129
00:07:54,120 --> 00:07:55,500
That was the name?

130
00:07:55,500 --> 00:07:57,480
That was the name of
the street, Rekawka

131
00:07:57,480 --> 00:07:58,605
was the name of the street.

132
00:07:58,605 --> 00:08:07,990

133
00:08:07,990 --> 00:08:11,926
What you remember about
Polish public school,

134
00:08:11,926 --> 00:08:16,120
in terms of maybe
treatment by the Poles

135
00:08:16,120 --> 00:08:20,090
of the Jewish children or any
antisemitism at that time?

136
00:08:20,090 --> 00:08:22,420
Well, the school was--

137
00:08:22,420 --> 00:08:26,890
there was a class, there
were very large classes.

138
00:08:26,890 --> 00:08:31,330
And I remember the classes
were of, I imagine,

139
00:08:31,330 --> 00:08:33,429
about 50 students.

140
00:08:33,429 --> 00:08:39,950
And in my class were maybe
four or five Jewish children.

141
00:08:39,950 --> 00:08:44,090
And antisemitism was very great.

142
00:08:44,090 --> 00:08:46,400
I always had to fight my way.

143
00:08:46,400 --> 00:08:47,510
I always fought.

144

00:08:47,510 --> 00:08:50,270

And I never gave up anything.

145

00:08:50,270 --> 00:08:52,880

Anybody beat me up,

I always managed

146

00:08:52,880 --> 00:08:55,820

to wait for him when he

came out from school.

147

00:08:55,820 --> 00:08:57,020

I knew where he lived.

148

00:08:57,020 --> 00:08:59,150

And I used to beat him up also.

149

00:08:59,150 --> 00:09:03,260

But it was that I never gave up.

150

00:09:03,260 --> 00:09:06,380

And there was always,

always fighting.

151

00:09:06,380 --> 00:09:07,580

They always beat me up.

152

00:09:07,580 --> 00:09:15,600

And I used to always fight back.

153

00:09:15,600 --> 00:09:18,242

Nothing in particular would

provoke them to beat you up?

154

00:09:18,242 --> 00:09:19,450

Just because you were Jewish?

155

00:09:19,450 --> 00:09:22,180

It's just because I

was Jewish, I guess.

156

00:09:22,180 --> 00:09:24,310

The antisemitism was very great.

157

00:09:24,310 --> 00:09:27,140

And I remember I
used to love sports.

158

00:09:27,140 --> 00:09:29,440

I used to love playing soccer.

159

00:09:29,440 --> 00:09:33,220

And I was a pretty
good soccer player.

160

00:09:33,220 --> 00:09:38,710

I also belonged to Akiva,
a Zionist organization.

161

00:09:38,710 --> 00:09:43,030

This was in Krakow.

162

00:09:43,030 --> 00:09:49,120

And also belonged to the
Maccabi, to the soccer,

163

00:09:49,120 --> 00:09:53,400

to the sports.

164

00:09:53,400 --> 00:10:01,860

And I also belonged to
the Maccabi Athletic,

165

00:10:01,860 --> 00:10:04,515

where I was doing
boxing as a junior.

166

00:10:04,515 --> 00:10:08,880

167

00:10:08,880 --> 00:10:10,680

So you were very athletic.

168

00:10:10,680 --> 00:10:12,300

Yeah, I enjoyed, yes, yes.

169

00:10:12,300 --> 00:10:13,740

I enjoyed it, yes.

170

00:10:13,740 --> 00:10:16,590

The Maccabi was just
a Jewish sports group?

171

00:10:16,590 --> 00:10:17,970

A sports group, yes.

172

00:10:17,970 --> 00:10:20,370

Well, they were in
the league, actually.

173

00:10:20,370 --> 00:10:24,810

But they had the juniors,
kids like me, you know.

174

00:10:24,810 --> 00:10:28,350

That we are playing,
that we were

175

00:10:28,350 --> 00:10:33,030

training against other group.

176

00:10:33,030 --> 00:10:34,260

Other Jewish groups?

177

00:10:34,260 --> 00:10:35,670

Other Jewish groups, yes.

178

00:10:35,670 --> 00:10:36,660

I see.

179

00:10:36,660 --> 00:10:39,870

But I also played
around the house.

180

00:10:39,870 --> 00:10:42,120
All within few
blocks from my house,

181
00:10:42,120 --> 00:10:46,390
there was a place
called Krzemionki,

182
00:10:46,390 --> 00:10:48,120
which was just a big field.

183
00:10:48,120 --> 00:10:50,830
And we were just
getting together.

184
00:10:50,830 --> 00:10:53,280
We played against other streets.

185
00:10:53,280 --> 00:10:55,500
We were stay
blocks, other blocks

186
00:10:55,500 --> 00:10:57,615
we were playing
against each other.

187
00:10:57,615 --> 00:10:58,620
Other Jewish blocks.

188
00:10:58,620 --> 00:11:01,430
But when we played with
Christian, we always were--

189
00:11:01,430 --> 00:11:04,290
was always a fight sometimes.

190
00:11:04,290 --> 00:11:12,258
And the worst thing was
walking through to the cheder,

191
00:11:12,258 --> 00:11:14,640
this was-- they were
standing, the Christian boys

192
00:11:14,640 --> 00:11:18,560
were standing on a cliff and
always throwing rocks at us.

193
00:11:18,560 --> 00:11:23,450
And many times, I used to get
my head, used to get split

194
00:11:23,450 --> 00:11:29,810
from hitting from a rock when I
was going to the Hebrew school,

195
00:11:29,810 --> 00:11:31,830
to the cheder.

196
00:11:31,830 --> 00:11:34,560
So these were
substantial rocks, then.

197
00:11:34,560 --> 00:11:36,320
Right, right.

198
00:11:36,320 --> 00:11:38,220
They were throwing also, always.

199
00:11:38,220 --> 00:11:45,230

200
00:11:45,230 --> 00:11:47,393
This sight, I guess
this was just part

201
00:11:47,393 --> 00:11:48,560
of life for a Jew in Poland?

202
00:11:48,560 --> 00:11:51,155
Yeah, this was
accepted, yes, yes, yes.

203
00:11:51,155 --> 00:11:53,640
So at home, you wouldn't,

say, tell your father.

204

00:11:53,640 --> 00:11:56,420

Yeah, well, I had a couple Christian friends.

205

00:11:56,420 --> 00:11:58,790

But we never used to go to each other's house.

206

00:11:58,790 --> 00:11:59,780

Only on the street.

207

00:11:59,780 --> 00:12:03,800

Because we went to school, we said hello.

208

00:12:03,800 --> 00:12:06,650

But otherwise, we were not friendly,

209

00:12:06,650 --> 00:12:08,960

we were not going to each other's house.

210

00:12:08,960 --> 00:12:11,690

Was there any particular times of year where antisemitism

211

00:12:11,690 --> 00:12:14,020

seemed to get worse?

212

00:12:14,020 --> 00:12:17,830

There are these stories about, you know, around Pesach

213

00:12:17,830 --> 00:12:21,380

that the Jews would kill little Christian children.

214

00:12:21,380 --> 00:12:27,520

I don't recall any particular time like get worse.

215
00:12:27,520 --> 00:12:32,250
But the Jewish youth
was very well-organized.

216
00:12:32,250 --> 00:12:38,010
It was very-- there were many,
many different organization.

217
00:12:38,010 --> 00:12:42,990
There were Poale Zion,
there were Mizrahi,

218
00:12:42,990 --> 00:12:48,520
there were Jabotinsky.

219
00:12:48,520 --> 00:12:51,880
There were many groups and
they knew how to fight back.

220
00:12:51,880 --> 00:12:56,380
So they had never fear like
in big city like in Krakow.

221
00:12:56,380 --> 00:13:00,295
They always, always, you
know, defending themselves.

222
00:13:00,295 --> 00:13:01,240
I see.

223
00:13:01,240 --> 00:13:04,930
And there was a Jewish
district, [POLISH],

224
00:13:04,930 --> 00:13:07,660
where the Christian
couldn't walk through

225
00:13:07,660 --> 00:13:11,540
because they get beaten, beaten
up also, you know what I mean?

226
00:13:11,540 --> 00:13:14,710
So they try, made
a few attempts,

227
00:13:14,710 --> 00:13:17,440
but they were just beaten out.

228
00:13:17,440 --> 00:13:21,550

229
00:13:21,550 --> 00:13:24,000
So let me take this off.

230
00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:27,760

231
00:13:27,760 --> 00:13:28,260
OK.

232
00:13:28,260 --> 00:13:30,820

233
00:13:30,820 --> 00:13:33,630
Did you speak
Yiddish in your home?

234
00:13:33,630 --> 00:13:37,710
Well, my parents spoke Yiddish,
and I answered them in Polish.

235
00:13:37,710 --> 00:13:39,570
I see.

236
00:13:39,570 --> 00:13:42,000
So you understood Yiddish
but didn't necessarily--

237
00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:43,480
Right, right, right.

238
00:13:43,480 --> 00:13:46,125

So did my grandmother
speak Yiddish.

239
00:13:46,125 --> 00:13:49,870

240
00:13:49,870 --> 00:13:52,320
But my parents spoke
Polish very well.

241
00:13:52,320 --> 00:14:01,500

242
00:14:01,500 --> 00:14:03,960
How old were you when
you joined Akiva?

243
00:14:03,960 --> 00:14:08,300

244
00:14:08,300 --> 00:14:11,945
Oh, must have been
13, 14 years old.

245
00:14:11,945 --> 00:14:16,830

246
00:14:16,830 --> 00:14:19,610
Did you have intentions at
that time of eventually going

247
00:14:19,610 --> 00:14:21,780
to Palestine?

248
00:14:21,780 --> 00:14:27,390
Well, a lot of young
boys older than I,

249
00:14:27,390 --> 00:14:32,040
you know, 18, 19, they
went on the Hakhshara.

250

00:14:32,040 --> 00:14:33,630
You know what is a Hakhshara?

251
00:14:33,630 --> 00:14:37,000
And they went to
Israel, yes, yes.

252
00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:38,070
Older than I.

253
00:14:38,070 --> 00:14:40,230
Right, right.

254
00:14:40,230 --> 00:14:42,260
I was too young.

255
00:14:42,260 --> 00:14:47,080
Was your father involved in any
of the Zionist organizations?

256
00:14:47,080 --> 00:14:49,900
Well, he supported
all the movements.

257
00:14:49,900 --> 00:14:56,130

258
00:14:56,130 --> 00:15:00,240
But you know, he was very
busy just struggling.

259
00:15:00,240 --> 00:15:02,580
You know, it was very hard
to make just a living,

260
00:15:02,580 --> 00:15:07,830
to support the family.

261
00:15:07,830 --> 00:15:10,440
He didn't have much
time to himself.

262

00:15:10,440 --> 00:15:12,300

Were you comfortable
as a family?

263

00:15:12,300 --> 00:15:15,700

Did you always have enough food?

264

00:15:15,700 --> 00:15:17,760

No, we were not comfortable.

265

00:15:17,760 --> 00:15:23,770

We had a depression
before the war.

266

00:15:23,770 --> 00:15:25,980

It was much worse than here.

267

00:15:25,980 --> 00:15:28,710

We have the
repercussion, I assume

268

00:15:28,710 --> 00:15:31,653

it went through the whole world,
the depression, the same thing

269

00:15:31,653 --> 00:15:32,820

like you were going through.

270

00:15:32,820 --> 00:15:36,040

But it was much
tougher to get food.

271

00:15:36,040 --> 00:15:38,400

You know, sometimes I
went to school hungry.

272

00:15:38,400 --> 00:15:51,850

273

00:15:51,850 --> 00:15:56,740

One thing I didn't get
was where your sister was

274

00:15:56,740 --> 00:16:00,100
in the hierarchy of siblings.

275

00:16:00,100 --> 00:16:04,345
My sister was between
me and Bernard.

276

00:16:04,345 --> 00:16:12,838

277

00:16:12,838 --> 00:16:13,790
OK.

278

00:16:13,790 --> 00:16:14,945
Bernard was the youngest.

279

00:16:14,945 --> 00:16:21,060

280

00:16:21,060 --> 00:16:23,320
Did you have any responsibility
to take care of them?

281

00:16:23,320 --> 00:16:25,200
Yes, I had the responsibility.

282

00:16:25,200 --> 00:16:29,850
But I was irresponsible
because I used to take it

283

00:16:29,850 --> 00:16:31,620
for a ride in the carriage.

284

00:16:31,620 --> 00:16:33,870
I used to ride with
them down the hill.

285

00:16:33,870 --> 00:16:34,510
I see.

286

00:16:34,510 --> 00:16:40,440

I wasn't very
responsible as a child.

287
00:16:40,440 --> 00:16:42,520
But they never got
hurt, you know.

288
00:16:42,520 --> 00:16:45,720
It was just part of fun.

289
00:16:45,720 --> 00:16:47,940
And we had to--

290
00:16:47,940 --> 00:16:54,160
I was very ingenious as
building my own toys.

291
00:16:54,160 --> 00:16:56,560
And you know, you had
to be entertained.

292
00:16:56,560 --> 00:17:00,640
And I remember building
the crystal radio.

293
00:17:00,640 --> 00:17:03,160

294
00:17:03,160 --> 00:17:05,510
And we used to
listen to the radio.

295
00:17:05,510 --> 00:17:08,980
I used to build the set.

296
00:17:08,980 --> 00:17:10,720
How did you get the
parts for that radio?

297
00:17:10,720 --> 00:17:12,640
Was it a kit of some kind?

298

00:17:12,640 --> 00:17:14,980

Oh, no, you had to
build it yourself.

299

00:17:14,980 --> 00:17:19,060

Everything, the--
what you call it?

300

00:17:19,060 --> 00:17:21,010

Everything, you had
to build it yourself,

301

00:17:21,010 --> 00:17:23,869

constructing from nothing.

302

00:17:23,869 --> 00:17:29,960

You bought-- only you had
to buy is the ebonite,

303

00:17:29,960 --> 00:17:32,600

I think it was
called, a plate where

304

00:17:32,600 --> 00:17:37,460

you done all your soldering
and everything on the plate.

305

00:17:37,460 --> 00:17:41,840

Ebonite, it was some kind
of a plastic, a plate

306

00:17:41,840 --> 00:17:45,530

that you build on it
the whole crystal set.

307

00:17:45,530 --> 00:17:47,000

And it was fascinating.

308

00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:49,580

You could pick up at
night on the crystal set,

309

00:17:49,580 --> 00:17:51,390

you could pick up whole Europe.

310
00:17:51,390 --> 00:17:53,060
Wow.

311
00:17:53,060 --> 00:17:55,250
Especially after midnight.

312
00:17:55,250 --> 00:17:58,790
I used to stand up and listen
to the radio after midnight.

313
00:17:58,790 --> 00:18:02,780
I remember my father was so
proud when I built that set.

314
00:18:02,780 --> 00:18:04,840
We used to stand
up late at night.

315
00:18:04,840 --> 00:18:06,440
And I put on that set.

316
00:18:06,440 --> 00:18:07,850
And the whole family listened.

317
00:18:07,850 --> 00:18:10,490
I put it on the
loudspeaker so we

318
00:18:10,490 --> 00:18:15,440
didn't have to listen
on the earphones

319
00:18:15,440 --> 00:18:19,730
so we could listen
after midnight.

320
00:18:19,730 --> 00:18:21,230
Did you understand
other languages

321

00:18:21,230 --> 00:18:23,810
besides Polish and Yiddish?

322
00:18:23,810 --> 00:18:25,640
Well, if you
understand Yiddish, you

323
00:18:25,640 --> 00:18:27,630
could understand
a little German.

324
00:18:27,630 --> 00:18:28,130
German.

325
00:18:28,130 --> 00:18:30,920
I didn't understand French,
I didn't speak French.

326
00:18:30,920 --> 00:18:34,040
But English was an
unknown language to me.

327
00:18:34,040 --> 00:18:34,940
Right.

328
00:18:34,940 --> 00:18:37,533
So did you get some
German-language stations

329
00:18:37,533 --> 00:18:38,450
on your crystal there?

330
00:18:38,450 --> 00:18:39,740
Germany, yes, you could.

331
00:18:39,740 --> 00:18:41,270
Yes, you could.

332
00:18:41,270 --> 00:18:42,890
British, you could get at night.

333
00:18:42,890 --> 00:18:45,680

After midnight, you could
get a lot of stations.

334
00:18:45,680 --> 00:18:47,030
All Europe, practically.

335
00:18:47,030 --> 00:18:50,460
Czechoslovakia you
could understand.

336
00:18:50,460 --> 00:18:52,940
The Slovakian and the
Slovenian languages,

337
00:18:52,940 --> 00:18:56,420
you could understand some of it.

338
00:18:56,420 --> 00:19:01,450
How did you learn to
put a radio together?

339
00:19:01,450 --> 00:19:03,980
Had you read books?

340
00:19:03,980 --> 00:19:08,845
Yeah, I read the book how to
put it together, yes, yes.

341
00:19:08,845 --> 00:19:10,220
And what about
getting the parts?

342
00:19:10,220 --> 00:19:12,750

343
00:19:12,750 --> 00:19:15,800
Well, all you have
to buy is actually

344
00:19:15,800 --> 00:19:18,390
the crystal you had to buy.

345

00:19:18,390 --> 00:19:23,670
And like I said, the
plate you had to buy.

346
00:19:23,670 --> 00:19:25,980
The wiring, it
wasn't too expensive.

347
00:19:25,980 --> 00:19:30,480
And the soldering kit, yes,
certain things you had to buy.

348
00:19:30,480 --> 00:19:32,520
But I always earned my money.

349
00:19:32,520 --> 00:19:36,210
I earned my money, you
know, like from scrap metal

350
00:19:36,210 --> 00:19:41,460
or bottles, or you
went and you soldered.

351
00:19:41,460 --> 00:19:46,590
And I always managed to fix
somebody a lock or something.

352
00:19:46,590 --> 00:19:50,550
I was always very
handy, very creative.

353
00:19:50,550 --> 00:19:52,530
So I always had money.

354
00:19:52,530 --> 00:19:55,310
How old were you when
you built that radio?

355
00:19:55,310 --> 00:20:01,070
Oh, I must have been
about 13 years old.

356
00:20:01,070 --> 00:20:02,120

It's a great thing.

357
00:20:02,120 --> 00:20:04,670
Yes.

358
00:20:04,670 --> 00:20:07,390
After you finished
Polish school,

359
00:20:07,390 --> 00:20:10,730
what did you do next
in terms of education?

360
00:20:10,730 --> 00:20:12,150
I went to work.

361
00:20:12,150 --> 00:20:12,650
You did?

362
00:20:12,650 --> 00:20:13,740
I went to work.

363
00:20:13,740 --> 00:20:19,130

364
00:20:19,130 --> 00:20:20,450
And where was that?

365
00:20:20,450 --> 00:20:27,100
I went to work in a store where
they were selling fabrics.

366
00:20:27,100 --> 00:20:31,060

367
00:20:31,060 --> 00:20:32,370
This was in the city?

368
00:20:32,370 --> 00:20:33,555
In Krakow, yes.

369

00:20:33,555 --> 00:20:39,770

370

00:20:39,770 --> 00:20:41,077

To what grade did you finish?

371

00:20:41,077 --> 00:20:42,660

You finished the
Polish public school.

372

00:20:42,660 --> 00:20:44,430

I finished public school, yes.

373

00:20:44,430 --> 00:20:45,150

Public school.

374

00:20:45,150 --> 00:20:47,160

And then I went to work.

375

00:20:47,160 --> 00:20:51,270

So you just chose not
to go to a Gymnasium?

376

00:20:51,270 --> 00:20:52,410

Yes.

377

00:20:52,410 --> 00:20:54,120

Well, yes.

378

00:20:54,120 --> 00:20:55,800

We just couldn't afford it.

379

00:20:55,800 --> 00:20:58,645

I see, right.

380

00:20:58,645 --> 00:21:00,120

Did you have the desire?

381

00:21:00,120 --> 00:21:01,770

It was during the Depression.

382

00:21:01,770 --> 00:21:06,090
Well, I always wanted to
be electrical engineer.

383
00:21:06,090 --> 00:21:10,870

384
00:21:10,870 --> 00:21:12,250
This was my desire.

385
00:21:12,250 --> 00:21:12,750
Yeah.

386
00:21:12,750 --> 00:21:16,040

387
00:21:16,040 --> 00:21:19,330
What did you do at
the fabric store?

388
00:21:19,330 --> 00:21:21,550
Well, I was a salesperson.

389
00:21:21,550 --> 00:21:26,820
I was learning, I was measuring,
took inventory, and measuring,

390
00:21:26,820 --> 00:21:30,025
and what a salesperson does.

391
00:21:30,025 --> 00:21:35,870

392
00:21:35,870 --> 00:21:38,690
Did you enjoy the work there?

393
00:21:38,690 --> 00:21:40,680
No, not very much.

394
00:21:40,680 --> 00:21:41,890
Not very much.

395

00:21:41,890 --> 00:21:44,990

I would rather
worked a little bit

396

00:21:44,990 --> 00:21:51,200

on more mechanical,
more electricity,

397

00:21:51,200 --> 00:21:52,340

something like that.

398

00:21:52,340 --> 00:21:55,880

So I also, when I
came out from school,

399

00:21:55,880 --> 00:21:59,970

I think my first job was--

400

00:21:59,970 --> 00:22:02,670

my father talked to a
friend of his, a plumber,

401

00:22:02,670 --> 00:22:07,660

who gave me a job.

402

00:22:07,660 --> 00:22:13,960

And I tried out for a few
weeks, I worked as a plumber.

403

00:22:13,960 --> 00:22:19,850

But what happened was
they used me as a horse.

404

00:22:19,850 --> 00:22:22,810

405

00:22:22,810 --> 00:22:26,560

They loaded up plumbing,
and toilets, and everything

406

00:22:26,560 --> 00:22:28,330

on a cobblestone road.

407
00:22:28,330 --> 00:22:30,130
And I was the horse.

408
00:22:30,130 --> 00:22:32,320
I had to pull that
wagon, and push it

409
00:22:32,320 --> 00:22:34,450
up the hill, and everything.

410
00:22:34,450 --> 00:22:37,580
And I came home, I was
practically crying.

411
00:22:37,580 --> 00:22:39,776
I couldn't.

412
00:22:39,776 --> 00:22:42,610
I figured that I was--

413
00:22:42,610 --> 00:22:45,310
my feet went into my rear.

414
00:22:45,310 --> 00:22:49,660
I think I was a few inches
shorter after a day's work.

415
00:22:49,660 --> 00:22:51,430
And I didn't last on that job.

416
00:22:51,430 --> 00:22:56,980
Because the guy who was in
charge was very antisemitic.

417
00:22:56,980 --> 00:22:58,070
He was a Goy.

418
00:22:58,070 --> 00:23:02,080
And he wanted-- he wasn't
interested of teaching

419

00:23:02,080 --> 00:23:02,920
me anything.

420

00:23:02,920 --> 00:23:05,580
All he wanted I
should pull the wagon.

421

00:23:05,580 --> 00:23:09,970
So I quit after few weeks.

422

00:23:09,970 --> 00:23:12,010
This was in plumbing.

423

00:23:12,010 --> 00:23:14,480
How old were you when
you got that job?

424

00:23:14,480 --> 00:23:15,575
Oh, about 15.

425

00:23:15,575 --> 00:23:21,210

426

00:23:21,210 --> 00:23:23,760
Was the fabric store
a Jewish store?

427

00:23:23,760 --> 00:23:24,960
Yes, yes.

428

00:23:24,960 --> 00:23:25,470
I see.

429

00:23:25,470 --> 00:23:27,830
Yes.

430

00:23:27,830 --> 00:23:29,915
So you worked the
plumbing for a few weeks

431

00:23:29,915 --> 00:23:31,950

then moved on to the
fabric store after that.

432
00:23:31,950 --> 00:23:32,450
Yes.

433
00:23:32,450 --> 00:23:32,970
OK.

434
00:23:32,970 --> 00:23:36,480
How long did you stay
at the fabric store?

435
00:23:36,480 --> 00:23:42,330
Oh, I stayed at the
fabric store, I guess,

436
00:23:42,330 --> 00:23:43,770
till the war broke out.

437
00:23:43,770 --> 00:23:47,890

438
00:23:47,890 --> 00:23:50,110
What was your older
brother doing?

439
00:23:50,110 --> 00:23:53,675
Sam was a furrier, he
worked for a furrier.

440
00:23:53,675 --> 00:23:58,310

441
00:23:58,310 --> 00:24:01,140
Were you all still living in
the apartment, your family

442
00:24:01,140 --> 00:24:01,640
together?

443
00:24:01,640 --> 00:24:02,140

Yes.

444

00:24:02,140 --> 00:24:14,900

445

00:24:14,900 --> 00:24:17,090

Are there any other memories
about your childhood,

446

00:24:17,090 --> 00:24:22,820

say, up to the point
right before the war?

447

00:24:22,820 --> 00:24:25,655

Anything you feel is important?

448

00:24:25,655 --> 00:24:28,330

449

00:24:28,330 --> 00:24:34,650

Well, I remember my grandmother
used to receive letters

450

00:24:34,650 --> 00:24:36,520

from America.

451

00:24:36,520 --> 00:24:43,650

And I remember her
receiving the gold piece,

452

00:24:43,650 --> 00:24:46,560

the dollars in the letters.

453

00:24:46,560 --> 00:24:49,400

I remember.

454

00:24:49,400 --> 00:24:52,980

Who was sending them to her?

455

00:24:52,980 --> 00:24:55,895

Her brother from Detroit.

456

00:24:55,895 --> 00:25:00,710

457

00:25:00,710 --> 00:25:03,650

He would send her
some gold coins?

458

00:25:03,650 --> 00:25:06,026

Coins, yes.

459

00:25:06,026 --> 00:25:08,170

Did your grandmother
live with you?

460

00:25:08,170 --> 00:25:08,670

No.

461

00:25:08,670 --> 00:25:11,640

She lived in the same building
but she didn't live with us.

462

00:25:11,640 --> 00:25:16,140

In the same building,
same apartment building.

463

00:25:16,140 --> 00:25:28,795

464

00:25:28,795 --> 00:25:30,170

All in all, did
you feel like you

465

00:25:30,170 --> 00:25:34,400

had a good childhood in Krakow?

466

00:25:34,400 --> 00:25:36,690

Yes, a very good childhood.

467

00:25:36,690 --> 00:25:42,050

I mean, we were a nice family.

468

00:25:42,050 --> 00:25:44,390
I mean, Saturday,
we went to shul.

469
00:25:44,390 --> 00:25:46,970
And when we came
from the shul, we

470
00:25:46,970 --> 00:25:49,160
had to bring home the cholent.

471
00:25:49,160 --> 00:25:56,070
You know, the cholent was put
Friday afternoon to the bakery.

472
00:25:56,070 --> 00:25:58,430
And the Saturday after
shul, we took out

473
00:25:58,430 --> 00:26:01,820
the cholent when we were
coming home from the shul.

474
00:26:01,820 --> 00:26:06,110
And then father made Kiddush.

475
00:26:06,110 --> 00:26:09,950
And we had the fish
and the whole--

476
00:26:09,950 --> 00:26:13,250
no matter what, Shabbos
was always plenty of food,

477
00:26:13,250 --> 00:26:15,490
and everything was prepared.

478
00:26:15,490 --> 00:26:19,460
Mother used to bake cakes
and challahs, everything

479
00:26:19,460 --> 00:26:21,790
she used to bake.

480
00:26:21,790 --> 00:26:23,690
She worked at home all
the time, your mother?

481
00:26:23,690 --> 00:26:26,650
My mother was a dressmaker.

482
00:26:26,650 --> 00:26:34,020
She was a-- you know, the people
brought a piece of fabric,

483
00:26:34,020 --> 00:26:36,880
and she used to make
the pattern for it,

484
00:26:36,880 --> 00:26:39,540
then she used to make the dress.

485
00:26:39,540 --> 00:26:41,040
She was sewing at home.

486
00:26:41,040 --> 00:26:44,170

487
00:26:44,170 --> 00:26:46,020
So kind of a custom dressmaker?

488
00:26:46,020 --> 00:26:47,590
Yeah, custom dressmaker.

489
00:26:47,590 --> 00:26:53,430
In this country, she would have
been a designer because she

490
00:26:53,430 --> 00:26:54,840
was able to make the pattern.

491
00:26:54,840 --> 00:27:03,780

492

00:27:03,780 --> 00:27:05,950
So sounds like it was
pretty busy in your house.

493
00:27:05,950 --> 00:27:06,720
Yes.

494
00:27:06,720 --> 00:27:12,720
And what is in my memory
now, it comes across now.

495
00:27:12,720 --> 00:27:16,860
I remember when the war broke
out, and for the holidays,

496
00:27:16,860 --> 00:27:19,710
I didn't have a suit.

497
00:27:19,710 --> 00:27:20,730
I didn't have anything.

498
00:27:20,730 --> 00:27:22,240
Because usually
for the holidays,

499
00:27:22,240 --> 00:27:24,240
the children always
used to get new shoes,

500
00:27:24,240 --> 00:27:25,830
new clothing, everything.

501
00:27:25,830 --> 00:27:27,690
Was a custom like that.

502
00:27:27,690 --> 00:27:30,420
And I was complaining
that I don't have nothing.

503
00:27:30,420 --> 00:27:31,320
My mother went out--

504

00:27:31,320 --> 00:27:33,310
This was the new year?

505
00:27:33,310 --> 00:27:35,550
This was for Rosh Hashanah.

506
00:27:35,550 --> 00:27:43,840
And my mother went and took
out one of her own suits.

507
00:27:43,840 --> 00:27:47,240
And she went to the tailor.

508
00:27:47,240 --> 00:27:53,030
And she told the tailor to make
from her suit a suit for me.

509
00:27:53,030 --> 00:27:55,610
I remember it was black.

510
00:27:55,610 --> 00:27:57,800
And I remember
from the skirt, it

511
00:27:57,800 --> 00:28:00,320
was long enough to
make a pair of pants.

512
00:28:00,320 --> 00:28:08,140
I had a join right
across my hips.

513
00:28:08,140 --> 00:28:11,750
Right across my hips a
join because the material

514
00:28:11,750 --> 00:28:13,580
because the skirt was short.

515
00:28:13,580 --> 00:28:14,780
I remember that.

516

00:28:14,780 --> 00:28:18,290

517

00:28:18,290 --> 00:28:20,030

Did you have certain responsibilities

518

00:28:20,030 --> 00:28:21,470

around the house?

519

00:28:21,470 --> 00:28:24,870

I mean, you took care of your younger brother.

520

00:28:24,870 --> 00:28:29,080

But did you have other things you were responsible for?

521

00:28:29,080 --> 00:28:31,600

Since your father was away all week.

522

00:28:31,600 --> 00:28:33,790

No, I didn't have any responsibility.

523

00:28:33,790 --> 00:28:39,220

I had a certain responsibility to have my own money

524

00:28:39,220 --> 00:28:43,390

so I could buy myself a candy and make my own toys.

525

00:28:43,390 --> 00:28:47,405

I mean, there was like you went out

526

00:28:47,405 --> 00:28:48,760

and you bought yourself toys.

527

00:28:48,760 --> 00:28:50,470

You had to make your own toys.

528

00:28:50,470 --> 00:28:56,110

And no, we didn't have
a great responsibility.

529

00:28:56,110 --> 00:29:01,870

We lived in a small apartment,
there wasn't much to do.

530

00:29:01,870 --> 00:29:05,440

The responsibility just go to
school, and do your homework,

531

00:29:05,440 --> 00:29:06,640

and come back.

532

00:29:06,640 --> 00:29:08,680

Otherwise there wasn't much.

533

00:29:08,680 --> 00:29:10,870

Well, we went out
whenever we had time.

534

00:29:10,870 --> 00:29:14,320

We'd play soccer, and play
stickball with the kids

535

00:29:14,320 --> 00:29:17,000

on the street, and so forth.

536

00:29:17,000 --> 00:29:19,150

Well, the usual thing.

537

00:29:19,150 --> 00:29:21,640

I mean, friends
come to the house.

538

00:29:21,640 --> 00:29:23,850

I went to their house.

539

00:29:23,850 --> 00:29:25,500

Were you ever able

to take advantage

540
00:29:25,500 --> 00:29:29,640
of some of the culture of
the city, any of the theater?

541
00:29:29,640 --> 00:29:31,600
Yes, yes, yes.

542
00:29:31,600 --> 00:29:36,030
I think the most impressive
things that happened--

543
00:29:36,030 --> 00:29:41,050
I remember we went
to a health exhibit.

544
00:29:41,050 --> 00:29:45,630
And I must've been about
11 or 12 years old.

545
00:29:45,630 --> 00:29:48,540
And I saw an alcohol--

546
00:29:48,540 --> 00:29:52,740
a pair of lungs of a smoker.

547
00:29:52,740 --> 00:29:55,110
And next to it was non-smoker.

548
00:29:55,110 --> 00:30:01,390
Then I saw a liver of an
alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

549
00:30:01,390 --> 00:30:05,410
And I think this stood--

550
00:30:05,410 --> 00:30:09,340
this always stays in
my mind through my life

551
00:30:09,340 --> 00:30:12,670

that I remember about the
smoker, about what damage

552
00:30:12,670 --> 00:30:13,180
it does.

553
00:30:13,180 --> 00:30:15,610
This is the most
impressive thing

554
00:30:15,610 --> 00:30:19,430
that I can remember
from my youth.

555
00:30:19,430 --> 00:30:21,520
And sometimes, I
said to my children,

556
00:30:21,520 --> 00:30:25,540
I said, I wish that here in
high school, instead of all

557
00:30:25,540 --> 00:30:31,630
those football trophies, they
should have a display like this

558
00:30:31,630 --> 00:30:33,610
so the kids wouldn't
start smoking.

559
00:30:33,610 --> 00:30:36,970
They would remember that.

560
00:30:36,970 --> 00:30:37,830
That's interesting.

561
00:30:37,830 --> 00:30:39,970
I had no idea they
did that then.

562
00:30:39,970 --> 00:30:43,960
I remember that from school,
showing the smoker's lung

563
00:30:43,960 --> 00:30:45,690
and the non-smokers lung.

564
00:30:45,690 --> 00:30:46,690
That's very interesting.

565
00:30:46,690 --> 00:30:47,410
Oh, you saw that?

566
00:30:47,410 --> 00:30:48,700
Yeah, I remember seeing it.

567
00:30:48,700 --> 00:30:51,770
And this always stood in
my mouth about smoking.

568
00:30:51,770 --> 00:30:56,680
And I gave up smoking here
when President Kennedy

569
00:30:56,680 --> 00:30:58,000
was assassinated.

570
00:30:58,000 --> 00:31:01,570
I think they came out with a
definite link between cancer.

571
00:31:01,570 --> 00:31:02,070
I see.

572
00:31:02,070 --> 00:31:04,330
And that's the time that
when I gave up smoking.

573
00:31:04,330 --> 00:31:07,340

574
00:31:07,340 --> 00:31:09,290
Were you bar mitzvahed?

575

00:31:09,290 --> 00:31:11,100
Yes.

576
00:31:11,100 --> 00:31:14,640
Do you remember anything
about that in particular?

577
00:31:14,640 --> 00:31:17,670
There wasn't a big thing
to be bar mitzvahed.

578
00:31:17,670 --> 00:31:23,930
You said your portion, and
it just wasn't a big thing.

579
00:31:23,930 --> 00:31:27,980
And they threw some--

580
00:31:27,980 --> 00:31:28,820
I don't know.

581
00:31:28,820 --> 00:31:32,310
Did they throw some?

582
00:31:32,310 --> 00:31:36,480
There wasn't a big thing, I
think, to become a bar mitzvah.

583
00:31:36,480 --> 00:31:41,190
You read your portion
and this was it.

584
00:31:41,190 --> 00:31:42,720
And you were bar mitzvah boy.

585
00:31:42,720 --> 00:31:44,520
There was a big
thing like is here.

586
00:31:44,520 --> 00:31:45,290
Right, yeah.

587

00:31:45,290 --> 00:31:47,311
It was a natural thing, I think.

588
00:31:47,311 --> 00:31:49,970

589
00:31:49,970 --> 00:31:50,470
OK.

590
00:31:50,470 --> 00:31:54,150

591
00:31:54,150 --> 00:31:57,120
So we have you up
to about age 15.

592
00:31:57,120 --> 00:32:03,010

593
00:32:03,010 --> 00:32:07,300
So we're coming close
to the time of the war.

594
00:32:07,300 --> 00:32:08,860
Yes.

595
00:32:08,860 --> 00:32:12,280
What do you remember
shortly before the war

596
00:32:12,280 --> 00:32:16,390
in terms of Poland
mobilizing for a possible war

597
00:32:16,390 --> 00:32:19,040
with Germany?

598
00:32:19,040 --> 00:32:21,100
Well, I just remember
when the things

599
00:32:21,100 --> 00:32:24,130

were building up for the war.

600
00:32:24,130 --> 00:32:27,490
I mean, I remember
reading in the papers

601
00:32:27,490 --> 00:32:31,180
that German gave Poland
an ultimatum that--

602
00:32:31,180 --> 00:32:32,110
About Danzig.

603
00:32:32,110 --> 00:32:34,960
About Danzig, that they want
a corridor through Poland,

604
00:32:34,960 --> 00:32:36,200
you know what I mean?

605
00:32:36,200 --> 00:32:38,770
And this was.

606
00:32:38,770 --> 00:32:43,720
The next thing I remember,
my mother's cousin--

607
00:32:43,720 --> 00:32:45,680
we lived on the ground floor.

608
00:32:45,680 --> 00:32:47,680
And he was drafted to the army.

609
00:32:47,680 --> 00:32:52,010
And he came, we saw him
in the Polish uniform,

610
00:32:52,010 --> 00:32:53,710
and he was going into the army.

611
00:32:53,710 --> 00:32:55,900
This was the last

time that I saw him.

612
00:32:55,900 --> 00:33:01,590

613
00:33:01,590 --> 00:33:03,480
So that was in 1939 then?

614
00:33:03,480 --> 00:33:06,790
This was in 1939.

615
00:33:06,790 --> 00:33:11,220
But I saw him, then I met him.

616
00:33:11,220 --> 00:33:13,310
I don't know I should
tell you this story now,

617
00:33:13,310 --> 00:33:17,780
but I met him in Italy
in 1945 after the war.

618
00:33:17,780 --> 00:33:19,400
Wow, how do you like that?

619
00:33:19,400 --> 00:33:20,120
Yes.

620
00:33:20,120 --> 00:33:22,010
So between the time
he was enlisted,

621
00:33:22,010 --> 00:33:23,660
you hadn't heard from him after?

622
00:33:23,660 --> 00:33:26,870
No, he was in Russia.

623
00:33:26,870 --> 00:33:30,680
He was in Russia and from there,
he went with the Polish Army.

624

00:33:30,680 --> 00:33:34,040

This I found out after
the war, within this army,

625

00:33:34,040 --> 00:33:37,010

through the Middle
East to Israel.

626

00:33:37,010 --> 00:33:41,360

And he was fighting in
Italy on Monte Casino

627

00:33:41,360 --> 00:33:42,340

in the whole campaign.

628

00:33:42,340 --> 00:33:43,080

I see.

629

00:33:43,080 --> 00:33:43,580

Yes.

630

00:33:43,580 --> 00:33:46,020

And that's how I met him
in Italy after the war.

631

00:33:46,020 --> 00:33:46,520

I see.

632

00:33:46,520 --> 00:33:52,300

633

00:33:52,300 --> 00:33:54,700

Do you remember your
father or discussing

634

00:33:54,700 --> 00:33:56,330

what was going on
with your family

635

00:33:56,330 --> 00:33:58,270

with your older
brother or your father?

636
00:33:58,270 --> 00:33:58,780
Yes.

637
00:33:58,780 --> 00:34:03,610
My father said,
well, if the war--

638
00:34:03,610 --> 00:34:06,010
the war started.

639
00:34:06,010 --> 00:34:10,179
It was September
I think 1st, 1939

640
00:34:10,179 --> 00:34:13,409
that the German invaded Poland.

641
00:34:13,409 --> 00:34:21,260
And I recall my father
saying that if they come

642
00:34:21,260 --> 00:34:23,570
in, what can they do to me?

643
00:34:23,570 --> 00:34:26,719
I built this house, I
was in the Austrian Army

644
00:34:26,719 --> 00:34:28,610
in the First World War.

645
00:34:28,610 --> 00:34:29,870
What can they do to me?

646
00:34:29,870 --> 00:34:31,400
They can only put me to work.

647
00:34:31,400 --> 00:34:34,860

648

00:34:34,860 --> 00:34:40,580
But if I recall before the
war, I think a few months

649
00:34:40,580 --> 00:34:42,530
before the war, they
were sending already

650
00:34:42,530 --> 00:34:46,850
a lot of Jews from
Germany into Poland.

651
00:34:46,850 --> 00:34:49,820
And I remember my
father's cousin came up,

652
00:34:49,820 --> 00:34:52,760
and he stayed with
us a few days.

653
00:34:52,760 --> 00:34:55,370
In 1938, they expelled
a lot of Jews.

654
00:34:55,370 --> 00:34:58,475
Yes, but they didn't kill
anybody at that time,

655
00:34:58,475 --> 00:34:59,350
you know what I mean?

656
00:34:59,350 --> 00:35:02,900
So my father used to say,
well, what can they do to me?

657
00:35:02,900 --> 00:35:05,300
All only they can
do to me is nobody's

658
00:35:05,300 --> 00:35:07,880
going to touch my
house, nobody is

659

00:35:07,880 --> 00:35:09,740
going to take me from my home.

660
00:35:09,740 --> 00:35:13,220
I fought for the Germans
in the First World War.

661
00:35:13,220 --> 00:35:16,720
And all they can do
is put me to work.

662
00:35:16,720 --> 00:35:18,320
That's all.

663
00:35:18,320 --> 00:35:21,650
But I'm not going nowhere,
I'm not moving nowhere.

664
00:35:21,650 --> 00:35:24,110
Where was your father's
brother coming from?

665
00:35:24,110 --> 00:35:26,630
My father's brother?

666
00:35:26,630 --> 00:35:28,950
He came from Germany?

667
00:35:28,950 --> 00:35:31,940
No, my father's uncle.

668
00:35:31,940 --> 00:35:33,550
Oh, father's uncle uncle, OK.

669
00:35:33,550 --> 00:35:34,670
Not my father.

670
00:35:34,670 --> 00:35:36,935
My father's uncle, yes,
he came from Berlin.

671
00:35:36,935 --> 00:35:38,130

I see.

672
00:35:38,130 --> 00:35:41,040
Berlin, yes.

673
00:35:41,040 --> 00:35:44,420
And this was the
words that my father

674
00:35:44,420 --> 00:35:50,480
said because when the war
started, a lot of people

675
00:35:50,480 --> 00:35:53,720
started to run away because they
were afraid for the Germans.

676
00:35:53,720 --> 00:35:55,640
So they were starting
running away.

677
00:35:55,640 --> 00:35:59,960
Anyhow, four days in January--

678
00:35:59,960 --> 00:36:01,820
in January, I'm sorry.

679
00:36:01,820 --> 00:36:05,240
September the 4th, the
German came in to Krakow.

680
00:36:05,240 --> 00:36:08,610

681
00:36:08,610 --> 00:36:14,640
And I recall that
they came in and I

682
00:36:14,640 --> 00:36:18,550
was standing in the doorway.

683
00:36:18,550 --> 00:36:20,550

This was on
Limanowskiego Street,

684
00:36:20,550 --> 00:36:24,810
and we lived on Krakusa, this is
a side street of Limanowskiego.

685
00:36:24,810 --> 00:36:27,780
And we were standing in the
doorway and looking out.

686
00:36:27,780 --> 00:36:36,690
And the German came in with on
a motorbike with the side car

687
00:36:36,690 --> 00:36:38,940
on the side.

688
00:36:38,940 --> 00:36:41,580
And one was driving
and the other one

689
00:36:41,580 --> 00:36:44,190
was with a submachine gun.

690
00:36:44,190 --> 00:36:47,490
And he came into our street,
and pointing the gun,

691
00:36:47,490 --> 00:36:49,820
we should get into the door.

692
00:36:49,820 --> 00:36:52,230
"Raus, raus, raus,"
he was shouting,

693
00:36:52,230 --> 00:36:53,560
so we closed the door.

694
00:36:53,560 --> 00:36:54,780
That's the last.

695

00:36:54,780 --> 00:37:02,460

Then a half an hour later,
they were coming in.

696

00:37:02,460 --> 00:37:05,610

The SS came in on Limanowskiego.

697

00:37:05,610 --> 00:37:06,720

I saw him.

698

00:37:06,720 --> 00:37:08,750

Then they didn't
chase us anymore.

699

00:37:08,750 --> 00:37:12,210

700

00:37:12,210 --> 00:37:13,860

They were coming in.

701

00:37:13,860 --> 00:37:18,420

Tall, big guys on horses.

702

00:37:18,420 --> 00:37:22,650

And practically the feet were
hanging down to the ground,

703

00:37:22,650 --> 00:37:24,180

so tall they were.

704

00:37:24,180 --> 00:37:27,000

705

00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:29,340

They make such an
impression, such

706

00:37:29,340 --> 00:37:33,390

a psychological impression, that
they look so superior, so tall,

707

00:37:33,390 --> 00:37:34,680

and so everything.

708
00:37:34,680 --> 00:37:37,110
Maybe they were small horses.

709
00:37:37,110 --> 00:37:42,300
No, they were picked
like a theatrical group

710
00:37:42,300 --> 00:37:45,000
to make an impression.

711
00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:47,490
Afterwards, I
found out that they

712
00:37:47,490 --> 00:37:51,240
used to come into every
town on cars like this.

713
00:37:51,240 --> 00:37:53,070
Just before they
came into the car,

714
00:37:53,070 --> 00:37:56,100
they dismantled themselves
from the trucks.

715
00:37:56,100 --> 00:38:01,530
And they just parade through to
give a psychological impression

716
00:38:01,530 --> 00:38:03,270
that they are so superior.

717
00:38:03,270 --> 00:38:04,350
Anyhow.

718
00:38:04,350 --> 00:38:12,720
But let me take you back a few
days before the Germans came

719

00:38:12,720 --> 00:38:13,680
in.

720
00:38:13,680 --> 00:38:19,450
The Polish Army opened
up all the warehouses

721
00:38:19,450 --> 00:38:24,080
so the people should help
themselves with the goods

722
00:38:24,080 --> 00:38:27,200
so the Germans
shouldn't get them.

723
00:38:27,200 --> 00:38:29,170
What did the goods include?

724
00:38:29,170 --> 00:38:35,800
The goods include chocolate
factory, Suchard, Optima,

725
00:38:35,800 --> 00:38:39,490
there was Zarno,
there was a supply

726
00:38:39,490 --> 00:38:48,550
of flour, bread, and
Monopol, which is cigarettes.

727
00:38:48,550 --> 00:38:50,240
So all those factories.

728
00:38:50,240 --> 00:38:51,490
So the people went in.

729
00:38:51,490 --> 00:38:55,300
They helped themselves
up with provisions.

730
00:38:55,300 --> 00:38:56,410
Do you remember going?

731

00:38:56,410 --> 00:38:59,840

Yeah, I remember Sam, and
me, and my youngest brother,

732

00:38:59,840 --> 00:39:05,710

we went to Zarno, we took
a flour, a sack of flour.

733

00:39:05,710 --> 00:39:09,700

We went to the cigarettes
factory, to the Monopol,

734

00:39:09,700 --> 00:39:12,490

we picked up cartons
of cigarettes.

735

00:39:12,490 --> 00:39:18,220

And then we picked up chocolate,
how much we could grab.

736

00:39:18,220 --> 00:39:20,290

And we brought everything home.

737

00:39:20,290 --> 00:39:29,440

So we had a little provision
to last us for a few weeks

738

00:39:29,440 --> 00:39:30,850

during the beginning of the war.

739

00:39:30,850 --> 00:39:33,940

Because in Europe, you
didn't have any supplies.

740

00:39:33,940 --> 00:39:35,290

You bought daily.

741

00:39:35,290 --> 00:39:37,000

You went daily to the store.

742

00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:38,650

And you bought it for every day.

743
00:39:38,650 --> 00:39:40,990
There wasn't
refrigeration or anything.

744
00:39:40,990 --> 00:39:45,640
You were needing
milk, you went and you

745
00:39:45,640 --> 00:39:48,340
bought for the day milk.

746
00:39:48,340 --> 00:39:52,360
They were bringing the
milk from the farms.

747
00:39:52,360 --> 00:39:53,950
You didn't buy
milk in the store.

748
00:39:53,950 --> 00:39:56,440
They were bringing
milks from the farm.

749
00:39:56,440 --> 00:39:58,540
And you went to
Rynek to the market

750
00:39:58,540 --> 00:40:03,580
and you bought a liter
of milk or five liters.

751
00:40:03,580 --> 00:40:07,510
Whatever you wanted, you bought
it from the daily supply.

752
00:40:07,510 --> 00:40:09,460
And also, a butcher,
you bought it,

753
00:40:09,460 --> 00:40:11,120
you went every day
to the butcher,

754
00:40:11,120 --> 00:40:13,585
and you bought meat for the
day, whatever you were needing.

755
00:40:13,585 --> 00:40:17,020

756
00:40:17,020 --> 00:40:18,340
So we were lucky.

757
00:40:18,340 --> 00:40:20,740
We had the flower,
and we had chocolate,

758
00:40:20,740 --> 00:40:21,910
and we had cigarettes.

759
00:40:21,910 --> 00:40:26,260
And then later on, we were
able to trade the cigarettes

760
00:40:26,260 --> 00:40:27,520
for some other food.

761
00:40:27,520 --> 00:40:29,365
We would trade bartering.

762
00:40:29,365 --> 00:40:35,260

763
00:40:35,260 --> 00:40:36,835
And that's how we could exist.

764
00:40:36,835 --> 00:40:39,550

765
00:40:39,550 --> 00:40:45,190
Was there ever any
opportunity for you

766

00:40:45,190 --> 00:40:46,870
to enlist in the Polish Army?

767
00:40:46,870 --> 00:40:51,940
Was there any call for
you or your older brother?

768
00:40:51,940 --> 00:40:54,430
No, they were in
disarray already.

769
00:40:54,430 --> 00:40:57,310

770
00:40:57,310 --> 00:41:02,710
They were in disarray
coming from the Silesia,

771
00:41:02,710 --> 00:41:07,210
from the Polish-German border.

772
00:41:07,210 --> 00:41:08,680
They were already disarray.

773
00:41:08,680 --> 00:41:10,070
They were withdrawing.

774
00:41:10,070 --> 00:41:16,180
They were just going
further out east.

775
00:41:16,180 --> 00:41:17,950
Would you remember any battles?

776
00:41:17,950 --> 00:41:19,450
There were no no battles.

777
00:41:19,450 --> 00:41:23,560
Krakow was given
up without a shot.

778
00:41:23,560 --> 00:41:24,430

Was given up.

779

00:41:24,430 --> 00:41:26,570

Krakow is a very
historical city.

780

00:41:26,570 --> 00:41:29,680

It has a lot of--

781

00:41:29,680 --> 00:41:32,830

It became the capital of the
German general government.

782

00:41:32,830 --> 00:41:37,600

--has the Wawel, which
is all the Polish kings

783

00:41:37,600 --> 00:41:41,480

are buried there in Krakow.

784

00:41:41,480 --> 00:41:54,740

785

00:41:54,740 --> 00:42:00,560

Well, then in
October of 26, 1939,

786

00:42:00,560 --> 00:42:07,850

the Germans put up placards.

787

00:42:07,850 --> 00:42:09,140

Is the right word, placards?

788

00:42:09,140 --> 00:42:12,020

789

00:42:12,020 --> 00:42:12,785

And the Jews--

790

00:42:12,785 --> 00:42:13,610

Decrees.

791
00:42:13,610 --> 00:42:19,910
--decrees, with a
decree that the Jews

792
00:42:19,910 --> 00:42:21,425
have to supply forced labor.

793
00:42:21,425 --> 00:42:27,750

794
00:42:27,750 --> 00:42:34,410
And November 28, the Jews
had to create a Judenrat.

795
00:42:34,410 --> 00:42:45,390

796
00:42:45,390 --> 00:42:48,180
Those decrees, I guess,
called for all able-bodied men

797
00:42:48,180 --> 00:42:49,260
of a certain age?

798
00:42:49,260 --> 00:42:56,040

799
00:42:56,040 --> 00:42:56,540
Yes.

800
00:42:56,540 --> 00:42:59,020
Then they ordered
for the Jews to start

801
00:42:59,020 --> 00:43:04,120
wearing the Star of
David on the left arm.

802
00:43:04,120 --> 00:43:09,950
This was in December of '39.

803

00:43:09,950 --> 00:43:12,770

804

00:43:12,770 --> 00:43:15,890

What do you remember
about getting the stars?

805

00:43:15,890 --> 00:43:17,910

What do I remember
about getting the stars?

806

00:43:17,910 --> 00:43:18,410

Yeah.

807

00:43:18,410 --> 00:43:19,370

Where you got it.

808

00:43:19,370 --> 00:43:22,520

Were you issued a star, did
you have to make it at home?

809

00:43:22,520 --> 00:43:26,540

Well, the Judenrat
had to supply them.

810

00:43:26,540 --> 00:43:30,680

They manufactured them.

811

00:43:30,680 --> 00:43:33,770

Now, these were the
blue and white armbands?

812

00:43:33,770 --> 00:43:42,380

The first bands were white
with a blue Magen David on it.

813

00:43:42,380 --> 00:43:43,295

They were all white.

814

00:43:43,295 --> 00:43:51,050

815

00:43:51,050 --> 00:43:54,170
Then they issue another
decree that the Jews couldn't

816
00:43:54,170 --> 00:44:02,060
walk through certain streets,
Planty and Rynek Glowny

817
00:44:02,060 --> 00:44:04,240
they couldn't walk through.

818
00:44:04,240 --> 00:44:07,550

819
00:44:07,550 --> 00:44:12,980
And then in December
of 1941, Jews

820
00:44:12,980 --> 00:44:20,560
had to move to the ghetto,
which was [POLISH]..

821
00:44:20,560 --> 00:44:23,790

822
00:44:23,790 --> 00:44:24,900
Which was?

823
00:44:24,900 --> 00:44:25,560
[POLISH]

824
00:44:25,560 --> 00:44:27,842
This is the neighborhood.

825
00:44:27,842 --> 00:44:29,050
That's where you were living?

826
00:44:29,050 --> 00:44:30,580
Yes, that's where I was living.

827
00:44:30,580 --> 00:44:31,860
So I didn't have to move.

828
00:44:31,860 --> 00:44:36,800

829
00:44:36,800 --> 00:44:41,450
And they could bring only so
much clothing and so much.

830
00:44:41,450 --> 00:44:47,600
So there was a
whole mass of people

831
00:44:47,600 --> 00:44:50,900
you could see
moving whatever they

832
00:44:50,900 --> 00:44:56,120
could get with them on their
backs, or whatever they had.

833
00:44:56,120 --> 00:44:58,700
Baby carriages,
you can load it up.

834
00:44:58,700 --> 00:45:00,810
And they had to move.

835
00:45:00,810 --> 00:45:04,250
Did anybody come
to live with you?

836
00:45:04,250 --> 00:45:05,480
Yes.

837
00:45:05,480 --> 00:45:09,110
Yes, we all had to double up.

838
00:45:09,110 --> 00:45:10,700
We all had to double up.

839
00:45:10,700 --> 00:45:20,090

840
00:45:20,090 --> 00:45:22,130
Then the first thing
from the ghetto,

841
00:45:22,130 --> 00:45:25,205
they done expulsion
of Jews to Lublin.

842
00:45:25,205 --> 00:45:32,360

843
00:45:32,360 --> 00:45:38,050
That was the first time they
actually took Jews away?

844
00:45:38,050 --> 00:45:45,290
In around December, when
the snow was falling,

845
00:45:45,290 --> 00:45:47,710
they used to-- you couldn't
walk on the streets.

846
00:45:47,710 --> 00:45:50,380
They used to come and
grab you on the streets

847
00:45:50,380 --> 00:45:52,870
as you were walking in
the ghetto, pick you up,

848
00:45:52,870 --> 00:45:57,850
and they'd take you
down to clean the snow.

849
00:45:57,850 --> 00:46:01,120
And you worked all day there.

850
00:46:01,120 --> 00:46:03,970
All kinds of forced labor.

851

00:46:03,970 --> 00:46:14,070
And then I recall they sent me.

852
00:46:14,070 --> 00:46:18,300
This was the first time
that I was away from home.

853
00:46:18,300 --> 00:46:21,525
They send me to a rock quarry.

854
00:46:21,525 --> 00:46:22,940
Hold one second, there's just--

855
00:46:22,940 --> 00:46:30,310

856
00:46:30,310 --> 00:46:31,562
OK.

857
00:46:31,562 --> 00:46:43,270
The Judenrat had to supply
people to a rock quarry.

858
00:46:43,270 --> 00:46:44,680
And they picked me.

859
00:46:44,680 --> 00:46:48,370
Everybody from every family,
somebody had to there.

860
00:46:48,370 --> 00:46:49,270
So they picked me.

861
00:46:49,270 --> 00:46:50,740
I was the youngest.

862
00:46:50,740 --> 00:46:52,340
I don't know, I was picked.

863
00:46:52,340 --> 00:46:54,850
So I had to go.

864

00:46:54,850 --> 00:46:57,190

I cannot recall the
name of the town.

865

00:46:57,190 --> 00:47:01,960

But this was not far from
Krakow, maybe 15 miles

866

00:47:01,960 --> 00:47:03,230

or 20 miles from Krakow.

867

00:47:03,230 --> 00:47:05,080

There was a rock quarry.

868

00:47:05,080 --> 00:47:11,080

And they sent a lot
of young boys like me.

869

00:47:11,080 --> 00:47:16,780

And we had to sit down there,
and with the hammer, break

870

00:47:16,780 --> 00:47:19,150

rocks.

871

00:47:19,150 --> 00:47:22,460

Sit on a pile of rocks
and break with a hammer,

872

00:47:22,460 --> 00:47:27,370

like making chips.

873

00:47:27,370 --> 00:47:32,470

Making chips with the hammer.

874

00:47:32,470 --> 00:47:35,200

Was this when they first had
that decree for forced labor?

875

00:47:35,200 --> 00:47:36,670

Yes, this was the first decree.

876
00:47:36,670 --> 00:47:39,670
This was the first time.

877
00:47:39,670 --> 00:47:41,530
I know I had difficulty.

878
00:47:41,530 --> 00:47:43,480
This was the first
time in my life

879
00:47:43,480 --> 00:47:46,300
that I was away
from home by myself.

880
00:47:46,300 --> 00:47:50,680
And I know at night, I
cried myself to sleep.

881
00:47:50,680 --> 00:47:54,460
And this was supervised, not
by the Germans, by the Poles.

882
00:47:54,460 --> 00:47:56,980

883
00:47:56,980 --> 00:47:57,790
And I don't know.

884
00:47:57,790 --> 00:47:59,890
I was there a few weeks only.

885
00:47:59,890 --> 00:48:03,558
Then they sent me
back to the ghetto.

886
00:48:03,558 --> 00:48:04,600
Where did you live there?

887
00:48:04,600 --> 00:48:07,415
They had barracks
set up or tents?

888

00:48:07,415 --> 00:48:08,290

We lived in barracks.

889

00:48:08,290 --> 00:48:12,440

890

00:48:12,440 --> 00:48:14,690

They provided food, something?

891

00:48:14,690 --> 00:48:16,430

Yeah we had some soup.

892

00:48:16,430 --> 00:48:21,885

893

00:48:21,885 --> 00:48:24,930

Was this Plaszow?

894

00:48:24,930 --> 00:48:26,640

No, this wasn't Plaszow.

895

00:48:26,640 --> 00:48:29,185

No, this wasn't

Plaszow, no, no, no, no.

896

00:48:29,185 --> 00:48:44,550

897

00:48:44,550 --> 00:48:47,820

Was the ghetto in Krakow sealed?

898

00:48:47,820 --> 00:48:50,220

Did they put a fence or a
wall around that ghetto?

899

00:48:50,220 --> 00:48:54,670

There was a fence, barbed wire.

900

00:48:54,670 --> 00:48:59,680

901
00:48:59,680 --> 00:49:05,790
And the Polish
police was outside.

902
00:49:05,790 --> 00:49:08,710

903
00:49:08,710 --> 00:49:11,270
And the German police
was at the gate.

904
00:49:11,270 --> 00:49:15,950

905
00:49:15,950 --> 00:49:17,990
And the Jewish
police was inside.

906
00:49:17,990 --> 00:49:24,100

907
00:49:24,100 --> 00:49:27,610
Were you ever able to get
out of the ghetto secretly?

908
00:49:27,610 --> 00:49:31,080
Or did you ever have
any reason to make it?

909
00:49:31,080 --> 00:49:37,345
Then from the ghetto, I used
to work in a brick factory.

910
00:49:37,345 --> 00:49:39,850

911
00:49:39,850 --> 00:49:47,380
I used to go out from the ghetto
under arm, marching every day.

912
00:49:47,380 --> 00:49:48,770
This was after the quarry?

913
00:49:48,770 --> 00:49:49,270
Yes.

914
00:49:49,270 --> 00:49:51,910

915
00:49:51,910 --> 00:49:55,360
In a brick factory.

916
00:49:55,360 --> 00:50:01,205
This was already
the war broke out.

917
00:50:01,205 --> 00:50:05,290

918
00:50:05,290 --> 00:50:08,200
The Russian.

919
00:50:08,200 --> 00:50:11,320
And I worked in a
brick factory there.

920
00:50:11,320 --> 00:50:18,370
But I got a job.

921
00:50:18,370 --> 00:50:21,970
First, I worked in
the brick factory.

922
00:50:21,970 --> 00:50:31,810
And then we were loading
the clay into the lorry,

923
00:50:31,810 --> 00:50:34,045
into the wagons.

924
00:50:34,045 --> 00:50:36,910

925

00:50:36,910 --> 00:50:41,800
With a spade, you cut out
a block of that wet clay.

926
00:50:41,800 --> 00:50:45,370
It was wet, the clay was
wet and was very heavy.

927
00:50:45,370 --> 00:50:48,730
To load it up and
put it into a lorry.

928
00:50:48,730 --> 00:50:51,610
And then we used to go to
the machines and mix it.

929
00:50:51,610 --> 00:50:55,060
And they mixed it and
they were making bricks.

930
00:50:55,060 --> 00:50:59,800
Anyhow, after working
there a few weeks,

931
00:50:59,800 --> 00:51:02,360
they were looking
for electrician.

932
00:51:02,360 --> 00:51:08,570
And into the workshop,
in a blacksmith,

933
00:51:08,570 --> 00:51:16,795
I got myself a job to
work in the workshop.

934
00:51:16,795 --> 00:51:20,530
So I became an electrician
in a blacksmith.

935
00:51:20,530 --> 00:51:28,040

936

00:51:28,040 --> 00:51:29,510
This was all forced labor?

937
00:51:29,510 --> 00:51:31,100
All forced labor.

938
00:51:31,100 --> 00:51:34,160
We used to leave from
the ghetto under guard.

939
00:51:34,160 --> 00:51:44,830
We used to march with a
Ukrainian guard to Bonarka.

940
00:51:44,830 --> 00:51:47,420

941
00:51:47,420 --> 00:51:48,620
That's where it was?

942
00:51:48,620 --> 00:51:51,620
Bonarka was the brick factory.

943
00:51:51,620 --> 00:51:52,640
Can you spell that?

944
00:51:52,640 --> 00:51:53,210
Bonarka.

945
00:51:53,210 --> 00:51:59,450
B-A-N-K-A.

946
00:51:59,450 --> 00:51:59,950
OK.

947
00:51:59,950 --> 00:52:02,460

948
00:52:02,460 --> 00:52:04,380
So we used to walk--

949

00:52:04,380 --> 00:52:06,270
down there, I worked.

950
00:52:06,270 --> 00:52:08,610
First, I worked as a blacksmith.

951
00:52:08,610 --> 00:52:15,330
Now, this was a very
good job because I

952
00:52:15,330 --> 00:52:19,410
was able to bring
in some clothing

953
00:52:19,410 --> 00:52:23,570
and trade it with
the Poles for food.

954
00:52:23,570 --> 00:52:27,390
And I was able to bring
home to my parents

955
00:52:27,390 --> 00:52:29,175
and my brother some food.

956
00:52:29,175 --> 00:52:32,410

957
00:52:32,410 --> 00:52:34,890
So we were trading
whatever we had.

958
00:52:34,890 --> 00:52:37,410
Or a piece of jewelry,
a ring, or something

959
00:52:37,410 --> 00:52:39,730
we could trade for food.

960
00:52:39,730 --> 00:52:41,070
So this was a good job.

961

00:52:41,070 --> 00:52:46,050
And then I was able
to bake a potato

962
00:52:46,050 --> 00:52:50,210
on a blacksmith, you know,
on the-- what you call it?

963
00:52:50,210 --> 00:52:51,135
The fire.

964
00:52:51,135 --> 00:52:51,840
The hearth?

965
00:52:51,840 --> 00:52:52,400
The what?

966
00:52:52,400 --> 00:52:52,900
Hearth.

967
00:52:52,900 --> 00:52:53,820
The hearth, yes.

968
00:52:53,820 --> 00:52:58,140
Yes, I was able
to bake a potato.

969
00:52:58,140 --> 00:52:59,700
And this was a big, big thing.

970
00:52:59,700 --> 00:53:02,610
Because I could have a
potato, I could eat a potato.

971
00:53:02,610 --> 00:53:03,390
Anyhow.

972
00:53:03,390 --> 00:53:06,120
But the job was interesting.

973
00:53:06,120 --> 00:53:15,540
The master blacksmith

was the one

974

00:53:15,540 --> 00:53:20,370

who directed like an orchestra.

975

00:53:20,370 --> 00:53:22,440

He was the leader.

976

00:53:22,440 --> 00:53:23,520

This was a Pole?

977

00:53:23,520 --> 00:53:24,640

Yes, he was a Pole.

978

00:53:24,640 --> 00:53:27,510

He was the master blacksmith.

979

00:53:27,510 --> 00:53:32,370

Now, we were making
parts for the factory

980

00:53:32,370 --> 00:53:35,040

that the parts broke down.

981

00:53:35,040 --> 00:53:39,450

We were forging those
parts, making it.

982

00:53:39,450 --> 00:53:50,850

Now, there were three people
with three sledgehammers.

983

00:53:50,850 --> 00:53:53,760

The master-- what was this?

984

00:53:53,760 --> 00:53:55,050

The hearth?

985

00:53:55,050 --> 00:53:56,580

The thing what
you hold the iron.

986
00:53:56,580 --> 00:53:57,450
Oh, the anvil?

987
00:53:57,450 --> 00:53:58,650
The anvil.

988
00:53:58,650 --> 00:54:00,150
The anvil.

989
00:54:00,150 --> 00:54:05,010
The master was holding
with a pair of big pliers.

990
00:54:05,010 --> 00:54:10,320
With the big pliers in his
left hand was holding there

991
00:54:10,320 --> 00:54:13,140
the red metal or
the white metal.

992
00:54:13,140 --> 00:54:17,550
Took it out from there
from the fire, right?

993
00:54:17,550 --> 00:54:24,930
And there were three guys
hitting it in a rhythm.

994
00:54:24,930 --> 00:54:27,990
One, two, three, one, two,
three, one, two, three.

995
00:54:27,990 --> 00:54:34,860
Now, the master, in his right
hand, had a little hammer.

996
00:54:34,860 --> 00:54:36,210
A little hammer.

997
00:54:36,210 --> 00:54:38,610
And with this little

hammer, he was

998

00:54:38,610 --> 00:54:44,290

pointing where to hit it,
in which spot to hit it.

999

00:54:44,290 --> 00:54:47,292

And there was one, two,
three, one, two, three.

1000

00:54:47,292 --> 00:54:51,420

The three hammers like an
orchestra was with a rhythm.

1001

00:54:51,420 --> 00:54:54,630

And you had to hit it right.

1002

00:54:54,630 --> 00:54:58,080

Because if you
wouldn't hit it right,

1003

00:54:58,080 --> 00:55:02,310

you would practically
break the master's arm

1004

00:55:02,310 --> 00:55:08,430

because he was holding it
with a pair of big pliers.

1005

00:55:08,430 --> 00:55:13,260

And if you didn't hit it right
in the anvil in the center,

1006

00:55:13,260 --> 00:55:18,130

it would just bend and it
would just knock his arm over.

1007

00:55:18,130 --> 00:55:20,100

So you had to be very careful.

1008

00:55:20,100 --> 00:55:23,070

Hit it with all
your strength, pow,

1009
00:55:23,070 --> 00:55:25,180
down in the center of the anvil.

1010
00:55:25,180 --> 00:55:27,330
So this was-- I
enjoyed that work.

1011
00:55:27,330 --> 00:55:28,680
I enjoyed that work.

1012
00:55:28,680 --> 00:55:31,630
Not only that I could
get some extra food

1013
00:55:31,630 --> 00:55:34,080
and I could do a little
trading, but I also

1014
00:55:34,080 --> 00:55:37,420
enjoyed that that work
was very interesting.

1015
00:55:37,420 --> 00:55:41,490
And then I done a
little electrical work.

1016
00:55:41,490 --> 00:55:49,650
One of the Ukrainians, who was
the manager of the factory--

1017
00:55:49,650 --> 00:55:52,320
they were making bricks
for the Russian fronts,

1018
00:55:52,320 --> 00:55:54,630
they were telling us that
this was defense work.

1019
00:55:54,630 --> 00:55:56,130
Was very important.

1020

00:55:56,130 --> 00:55:57,210
Anyhow.

1021
00:55:57,210 --> 00:56:00,030
So one of the
Ukrainians, who was

1022
00:56:00,030 --> 00:56:04,860
a manager of the
factory at the time,

1023
00:56:04,860 --> 00:56:06,840
he built a new house down there.

1024
00:56:06,840 --> 00:56:08,640
And they were
needing electricians.

1025
00:56:08,640 --> 00:56:10,410
So they asked for electricians.

1026
00:56:10,410 --> 00:56:12,210
I volunteered that I could do.

1027
00:56:12,210 --> 00:56:17,620
Anyhow, I never done
rewiring the house.

1028
00:56:17,620 --> 00:56:19,230
This was complicated.

1029
00:56:19,230 --> 00:56:22,800
But I had the damn
nerve that I said, OK.

1030
00:56:22,800 --> 00:56:27,240
I thought that--
anyhow, I screwed it up.

1031
00:56:27,240 --> 00:56:31,140
And then he told
this to the German.

1032

00:56:31,140 --> 00:56:33,600

The German came with the gun.

1033

00:56:33,600 --> 00:56:35,340

He put the gun to my head.

1034

00:56:35,340 --> 00:56:40,270

He said, if I won't fix
it, he's going to shoot me.

1035

00:56:40,270 --> 00:56:41,430

And this was real.

1036

00:56:41,430 --> 00:56:44,550

It wouldn't mean nothing
for him to shoot me.

1037

00:56:44,550 --> 00:56:48,300

What is it that you
screwed up on that?

1038

00:56:48,300 --> 00:56:52,500

I didn't make the right
connection on the switch.

1039

00:56:52,500 --> 00:56:53,670

I blew a fuse.

1040

00:56:53,670 --> 00:56:54,900

Anyhow.

1041

00:56:54,900 --> 00:56:57,460

I fixed it eventually,
and it was OK.

1042

00:56:57,460 --> 00:56:59,470

But he really threatened me.

1043

00:56:59,470 --> 00:57:01,280

He really threatened me.

1044

00:57:01,280 --> 00:57:03,300
How were the Ukrainians?

1045
00:57:03,300 --> 00:57:04,380
Very mean.

1046
00:57:04,380 --> 00:57:07,590
And they had to prove
themselves to the Germans

1047
00:57:07,590 --> 00:57:09,270
that they are better
than the Germans,

1048
00:57:09,270 --> 00:57:12,150
that they are more cruel and
more meaner than the Germans.

1049
00:57:12,150 --> 00:57:17,040
So they had to
outdo the Germans.

1050
00:57:17,040 --> 00:57:19,455
Anyhow.

1051
00:57:19,455 --> 00:57:21,420
Was your brother Sam working?

1052
00:57:21,420 --> 00:57:24,510
Sam was working for the defense.

1053
00:57:24,510 --> 00:57:30,060
He was something working
on tanks and an ornament

1054
00:57:30,060 --> 00:57:32,160
for the Germans.

1055
00:57:32,160 --> 00:57:34,590
In a different-- he was
going out somewhere else

1056

00:57:34,590 --> 00:57:37,140
on a different place.

1057
00:57:37,140 --> 00:57:38,550
And your father?

1058
00:57:38,550 --> 00:57:42,000
My father worked
in Optima, where

1059
00:57:42,000 --> 00:57:44,370
was the chocolate
factory used to be.

1060
00:57:44,370 --> 00:57:48,030
He worked there as a shoemaker.

1061
00:57:48,030 --> 00:57:51,060
As a shoemaker, he
was making shoes.

1062
00:57:51,060 --> 00:57:52,290
Back to shoemaking then.

1063
00:57:52,290 --> 00:57:54,030
Back to shoemaking.

1064
00:57:54,030 --> 00:57:57,450
And Bernard was also
working with the shoemakers.

1065
00:57:57,450 --> 00:58:03,060
And my mother worked on the
uniforms for the Germans.

1066
00:58:03,060 --> 00:58:05,700
She was making the
uniforms for the Germans.

1067
00:58:05,700 --> 00:58:06,390
And Miriam?

1068

00:58:06,390 --> 00:58:07,200
Sewing.

1069
00:58:07,200 --> 00:58:08,880
Marian was with my mother.

1070
00:58:08,880 --> 00:58:15,510

1071
00:58:15,510 --> 00:58:20,880
Then somehow, the job
ended in the big factory.

1072
00:58:20,880 --> 00:58:27,750
And they took me to
a more important job.

1073
00:58:27,750 --> 00:58:30,480
How long did you work at the
brick factory do you think?

1074
00:58:30,480 --> 00:58:31,170
A few months.

1075
00:58:31,170 --> 00:58:38,470

1076
00:58:38,470 --> 00:58:40,810
Then they took me.

1077
00:58:40,810 --> 00:58:42,040
I worked.

1078
00:58:42,040 --> 00:58:45,310
There were needing work.

1079
00:58:45,310 --> 00:58:52,100
They were starting bringing the
Germans from the Russian front,

1080
00:58:52,100 --> 00:58:54,260
the wounded ones.

1081
00:58:54,260 --> 00:58:56,930
So we're in 1941?

1082
00:58:56,930 --> 00:58:59,700
Where are we now?

1083
00:58:59,700 --> 00:59:01,640
If the Germans are
on the Russian front,

1084
00:59:01,640 --> 00:59:05,180
then we're someplace
at least in 1941.

1085
00:59:05,180 --> 00:59:05,970
'41.

1086
00:59:05,970 --> 00:59:06,470
OK.

1087
00:59:06,470 --> 00:59:09,410

1088
00:59:09,410 --> 00:59:10,700
Oh, no.

1089
00:59:10,700 --> 00:59:19,700
Because this was 1941.

1090
00:59:19,700 --> 00:59:22,730
No, so I must have been
working longer than that.

1091
00:59:22,730 --> 00:59:24,230
OK.

1092
00:59:24,230 --> 00:59:28,850
You had some time in the quarry,
a few weeks in the quarry.

1093

00:59:28,850 --> 00:59:31,250

And then you went to
the brick factory,

1094

00:59:31,250 --> 00:59:33,090

where you had a few jobs there.

1095

00:59:33,090 --> 00:59:35,570

Now, I want to go
to '43 already.

1096

00:59:35,570 --> 00:59:36,110

OK.

1097

00:59:36,110 --> 00:59:36,610

OK?

1098

00:59:36,610 --> 00:59:45,710

1099

00:59:45,710 --> 00:59:51,140

This was the end of 1940--

1100

00:59:51,140 --> 00:59:54,845

'42, winter '42.

1101

00:59:54,845 --> 01:00:00,220

1102

01:00:00,220 --> 01:00:01,330

I worked [POLISH].

1103

01:00:01,330 --> 01:00:06,580

1104

01:00:06,580 --> 01:00:09,400

They were bringing
from the Russian front,

1105

01:00:09,400 --> 01:00:13,360

they were bringing
the wounded German.

1106
01:00:13,360 --> 01:00:18,950
Not so much the wounded,
but the frozen one.

1107
01:00:18,950 --> 01:00:25,130
And they had lice.

1108
01:00:25,130 --> 01:00:32,900
And they were bringing him
down on the trains to [GERMAN]..

1109
01:00:32,900 --> 01:00:34,850
You know what means [GERMAN]?

1110
01:00:34,850 --> 01:00:35,720
To delouse them.

1111
01:00:35,720 --> 01:00:36,678
To delouse them, right.

1112
01:00:36,678 --> 01:00:39,410
To delouse them because they
were all-- they didn't change.

1113
01:00:39,410 --> 01:00:43,490
For weeks, they were
on the Russian front.

1114
01:00:43,490 --> 01:00:47,720
And they were all-- most of
them were frozen or wounded.

1115
01:00:47,720 --> 01:00:53,710
And they brought them down
to [GERMAN] and wash him.

1116
01:00:53,710 --> 01:00:55,170
Where was it they brought them?

1117
01:00:55,170 --> 01:00:59,975
[POLISH] It was outside Krakow.

1118
01:00:59,975 --> 01:01:03,260

1119
01:01:03,260 --> 01:01:05,354
Zablocie, you want to
know how to spell it?

1120
01:01:05,354 --> 01:01:06,230
Yeah, please.

1121
01:01:06,230 --> 01:01:26,030
Z-A-B-L-O-C-I-E.
This is in Polish.

1122
01:01:26,030 --> 01:01:26,960
[POLISH]

1123
01:01:26,960 --> 01:01:34,100
This was a side railroad
where they came.

1124
01:01:34,100 --> 01:01:38,210
They brought them in at
night so nobody should know.

1125
01:01:38,210 --> 01:01:46,200
There were no lights and
there were no platforms

1126
01:01:46,200 --> 01:01:48,360
to unload them.

1127
01:01:48,360 --> 01:01:54,240
So what they done was they
just put little ladders

1128
01:01:54,240 --> 01:01:57,300
to the train.

1129
01:01:57,300 --> 01:02:04,840
And we had to go up and

carry them from those trains

1130
01:02:04,840 --> 01:02:13,970
down the steps across
to the other trains

1131
01:02:13,970 --> 01:02:16,670
just standing on
the opposite side,

1132
01:02:16,670 --> 01:02:19,220
from one train to another.

1133
01:02:19,220 --> 01:02:23,910
Carrying them to the [GERMAN].

1134
01:02:23,910 --> 01:02:28,290
The Germans wouldn't touch
them because they had lice.

1135
01:02:28,290 --> 01:02:30,725
So the we had to carry them.

1136
01:02:30,725 --> 01:02:32,100
But they took them
from one train

1137
01:02:32,100 --> 01:02:33,250
and put them on another train?

1138
01:02:33,250 --> 01:02:33,833
Put them, yes.

1139
01:02:33,833 --> 01:02:37,260
From the what the train was
brought in from Russia, the Red

1140
01:02:37,260 --> 01:02:40,470
Cross train, we took him from
that train, carrying them

1141
01:02:40,470 --> 01:02:48,240

down the steps, walk across
the railroad to the other--

1142
01:02:48,240 --> 01:02:48,990
Track?

1143
01:02:48,990 --> 01:02:51,030
--to the other track.

1144
01:02:51,030 --> 01:02:53,850
And up the steps and down there.

1145
01:02:53,850 --> 01:02:55,440
And drop them down there.

1146
01:02:55,440 --> 01:02:57,630
And there were Germans
down there already

1147
01:02:57,630 --> 01:03:01,750
that they were taking the
names and whatever it is.

1148
01:03:01,750 --> 01:03:03,810
So we just done the carrying.

1149
01:03:03,810 --> 01:03:09,860
So I worked there for quite
some time, for a few months.

1150
01:03:09,860 --> 01:03:14,420
And this was a job done
at night, at night only.

1151
01:03:14,420 --> 01:03:18,680
This was all you did was every
night you carry these wounded

1152
01:03:18,680 --> 01:03:19,280
soldiers?

1153
01:03:19,280 --> 01:03:21,710

Yes, yes, they were coming
in from the Russian front.

1154
01:03:21,710 --> 01:03:25,970

1155
01:03:25,970 --> 01:03:34,210
And they had a lot
of gold rubles.

1156
01:03:34,210 --> 01:03:36,050
Right, gold rubles.

1157
01:03:36,050 --> 01:03:46,860
And a lot of food, a lot
of chocolate, and so forth.

1158
01:03:46,860 --> 01:03:49,950
You could eat whatever
you could eat down there.

1159
01:03:49,950 --> 01:03:51,210
You could eat.

1160
01:03:51,210 --> 01:03:55,050
But when we were
leaving at night,

1161
01:03:55,050 --> 01:03:58,200
you couldn't--
there were search.

1162
01:03:58,200 --> 01:04:01,920
If they found anybody
has a watch or anything,

1163
01:04:01,920 --> 01:04:04,390
they would shoot you right away.

1164
01:04:04,390 --> 01:04:06,870
How many hours would
you work each night?

1165

01:04:06,870 --> 01:04:08,070

Whole night.

1166

01:04:08,070 --> 01:04:09,990

In the morning, we went there.

1167

01:04:09,990 --> 01:04:12,960

And in the evening,
we work all night.

1168

01:04:12,960 --> 01:04:15,330

And in the morning,
we went, we walked

1169

01:04:15,330 --> 01:04:18,190

on the guards to the
ghetto, back to the ghetto.

1170

01:04:18,190 --> 01:04:23,010

It wasn't far, was maybe half
an hour walk from the ghetto.

1171

01:04:23,010 --> 01:04:24,240

It wasn't far.

1172

01:04:24,240 --> 01:04:25,680

So they did this at night?

1173

01:04:25,680 --> 01:04:26,620

At night only.

1174

01:04:26,620 --> 01:04:27,120

Why?

1175

01:04:27,120 --> 01:04:29,718

Just so people wouldn't
see what was going on?

1176

01:04:29,718 --> 01:04:30,510

What was happening.

1177

01:04:30,510 --> 01:04:33,360
Not only people, but the
trains were pulling in at night

1178
01:04:33,360 --> 01:04:35,640
so the people wouldn't
know, nobody would know.

1179
01:04:35,640 --> 01:04:38,130
And mostly at
night, I don't know.

1180
01:04:38,130 --> 01:04:41,190
I don't know they had a
curfew in the city or what.

1181
01:04:41,190 --> 01:04:43,350
I don't know about it
because I just lived

1182
01:04:43,350 --> 01:04:45,280
in the compound of the ghetto.

1183
01:04:45,280 --> 01:04:46,560
I don't know what was.

1184
01:04:46,560 --> 01:04:49,680
Most probably,
there was a curfew,

1185
01:04:49,680 --> 01:04:51,360
10:00 at night or whatever.

1186
01:04:51,360 --> 01:04:52,440
I imagine so.

1187
01:04:52,440 --> 01:04:54,270
I am not sure.

1188
01:04:54,270 --> 01:04:57,690
So nobody knew
what was going on.

1189

01:04:57,690 --> 01:04:59,050

They didn't want people to know.

1190

01:04:59,050 --> 01:04:59,550

Yes.

1191

01:04:59,550 --> 01:05:00,967

That the Germans
were coming back.

1192

01:05:00,967 --> 01:05:04,980

That they are bleeding, yes,
that they are bleeding heavily.

1193

01:05:04,980 --> 01:05:07,170

And that's why
they took the Jews.

1194

01:05:07,170 --> 01:05:10,830

Because this way couldn't--
everything was secretly.

1195

01:05:10,830 --> 01:05:13,310

Because the Jews went
back to the ghetto.

1196

01:05:13,310 --> 01:05:14,230

Exactly.

1197

01:05:14,230 --> 01:05:16,058

So it was everything.

1198

01:05:16,058 --> 01:05:17,850

When you loaded them
on those other trains,

1199

01:05:17,850 --> 01:05:18,850

then where did they go?

1200

01:05:18,850 --> 01:05:20,650

To be deloused?

1201

01:05:20,650 --> 01:05:22,290

Yes, the delousing.

1202

01:05:22,290 --> 01:05:25,020

And then they pull
in other trains

1203

01:05:25,020 --> 01:05:26,430

when they were cleaned up.

1204

01:05:26,430 --> 01:05:30,180

And took into Germany, to
the hospitals, all over.

1205

01:05:30,180 --> 01:05:34,350

This was a embarkation point.

1206

01:05:34,350 --> 01:05:35,010

I see.

1207

01:05:35,010 --> 01:05:37,350

So you take them off one
train to get deloused,

1208

01:05:37,350 --> 01:05:40,650

then you put them on the
other train to someplace else?

1209

01:05:40,650 --> 01:05:41,340

No, no.

1210

01:05:41,340 --> 01:05:44,580

Then you have to be taken
off the delouse train.

1211

01:05:44,580 --> 01:05:47,320

It's standing stationary.

1212

01:05:47,320 --> 01:05:50,040

Then they had to take them
on another train and take.

1213

01:05:50,040 --> 01:05:51,163

The delousing train--

1214

01:05:51,163 --> 01:05:52,080

Was in a train itself.

1215

01:05:52,080 --> 01:05:53,880

--one comes in.

1216

01:05:53,880 --> 01:05:55,830

One comes in.

1217

01:05:55,830 --> 01:05:58,290

And we take them to
the delausungstrain,

1218

01:05:58,290 --> 01:06:00,220

who's stationary.

1219

01:06:00,220 --> 01:06:03,000

Then from there, he
had to take into a--

1220

01:06:03,000 --> 01:06:04,260

we didn't take them already.

1221

01:06:04,260 --> 01:06:06,570

There were the German
nurses and everything.

1222

01:06:06,570 --> 01:06:07,620

Once they were cleaned.

1223

01:06:07,620 --> 01:06:09,930

Once they were clean,
they handled it.

1224

01:06:09,930 --> 01:06:11,650

They handled it.

1225

01:06:11,650 --> 01:06:12,630

So this was this.

1226
01:06:12,630 --> 01:06:16,440
And they must have
killed a lot of Russians

1227
01:06:16,440 --> 01:06:19,160
and robbed them because
they had a lot of jewelry,

1228
01:06:19,160 --> 01:06:20,190
a lot of watches.

1229
01:06:20,190 --> 01:06:23,070
On some, I saw two, three
watches and everything.

1230
01:06:23,070 --> 01:06:24,630
I saw.

1231
01:06:24,630 --> 01:06:29,010
But we couldn't touch anything
because we were just afraid.

1232
01:06:29,010 --> 01:06:32,910
But if I saw a candy or
something, I could eat it.

1233
01:06:32,910 --> 01:06:33,690
I could eat it.

1234
01:06:33,690 --> 01:06:36,990
But I wouldn't take
anything to the ghetto.

1235
01:06:36,990 --> 01:06:38,790
Anyhow.

1236
01:06:38,790 --> 01:06:46,700
So what stands in my memory
is one incident, especially.

1237

01:06:46,700 --> 01:06:50,360
It was a young, blond fellow.

1238
01:06:50,360 --> 01:06:53,601
He must have been about
6 foot 2 or 6 foot 3.

1239
01:06:53,601 --> 01:06:57,880

1240
01:06:57,880 --> 01:07:02,110
And as I was taking
him off the--

1241
01:07:02,110 --> 01:07:07,600
going to pick him up, he
start talking to me in Polish.

1242
01:07:07,600 --> 01:07:11,470
In Polish, he was talking
to me, like he explained

1243
01:07:11,470 --> 01:07:15,820
that he came from the
border town, from Silesia,

1244
01:07:15,820 --> 01:07:17,050
from the border.

1245
01:07:17,050 --> 01:07:19,690
And he spoke pretty well Polish.

1246
01:07:19,690 --> 01:07:23,640
And he called me a friend.

1247
01:07:23,640 --> 01:07:27,210
Was nothing wrong with
him except that his feet

1248
01:07:27,210 --> 01:07:29,050
were frozen.

1249

01:07:29,050 --> 01:07:32,680
And he tells me a story that
he was just standing on guard

1250
01:07:32,680 --> 01:07:36,340
and his legs froze on him.

1251
01:07:36,340 --> 01:07:40,110
And he called me a friend.

1252
01:07:40,110 --> 01:07:45,000
And this made me so angry
that he called me a friend.

1253
01:07:45,000 --> 01:07:50,160
He wears a SS uniforms
and he calls me a friend.

1254
01:07:50,160 --> 01:07:54,750
Usually, we get two guys to
handle a big fellow like this

1255
01:07:54,750 --> 01:07:56,370
to carrying him down the train.

1256
01:07:56,370 --> 01:08:00,310
I said, no, this son of a
gun, I got to take him myself.

1257
01:08:00,310 --> 01:08:05,620
So I put him on my
back, and I dragged him

1258
01:08:05,620 --> 01:08:11,340
down with his feet
dangling on the stairs.

1259
01:08:11,340 --> 01:08:13,120
And he was screaming.

1260
01:08:13,120 --> 01:08:16,620
But it didn't matter
because the whole train was

1261
01:08:16,620 --> 01:08:20,580
moaning and groaning, so
nobody could hear anything.

1262
01:08:20,580 --> 01:08:22,800
Because it didn't matter.

1263
01:08:22,800 --> 01:08:24,840
I wanted to give
him a little pain.

1264
01:08:24,840 --> 01:08:29,140
I want him to
fiddle a little bit.

1265
01:08:29,140 --> 01:08:33,130
And then believe me,
when I put him back,

1266
01:08:33,130 --> 01:08:36,580
when carrying him across and
dragged him across the rail,

1267
01:08:36,580 --> 01:08:39,880
and he hitting with his
leg, and he was screaming.

1268
01:08:39,880 --> 01:08:44,170
And I said to myself,
damn it, I feel like I

1269
01:08:44,170 --> 01:08:46,264
am an animal like him already.

1270
01:08:46,264 --> 01:08:50,550

1271
01:08:50,550 --> 01:08:51,360
And I cried.

1272
01:08:51,360 --> 01:08:55,050

1273

01:08:55,050 --> 01:08:59,160

I cried that I lost
all my humanity.

1274

01:08:59,160 --> 01:09:01,050

That I am like him, a beast.

1275

01:09:01,050 --> 01:09:07,790

1276

01:09:07,790 --> 01:09:08,430

OK.

1277

01:09:08,430 --> 01:09:14,090

Then it was one of those.

1278

01:09:14,090 --> 01:09:16,160

In the morning, we
were coming back

1279

01:09:16,160 --> 01:09:18,589

to the ghetto on the guard.

1280

01:09:18,589 --> 01:09:24,210

1281

01:09:24,210 --> 01:09:31,020

As we're approaching the
ghetto, I heard a lot of noise,

1282

01:09:31,020 --> 01:09:32,479

a lot of shooting.

1283

01:09:32,479 --> 01:09:38,920

And as I got closer,
I heard there

1284

01:09:38,920 --> 01:09:43,220

were a lot of Germans
standing outside.

1285
01:09:43,220 --> 01:09:46,990
A lot of German guards
were guarding the ghetto.

1286
01:09:46,990 --> 01:09:48,520
I suspected something.

1287
01:09:48,520 --> 01:09:49,979
Something is going on.

1288
01:09:49,979 --> 01:09:54,245

1289
01:09:54,245 --> 01:09:58,320
As I got inside, I hear
shots, shots, and shots.

1290
01:09:58,320 --> 01:10:01,520

1291
01:10:01,520 --> 01:10:07,910
And as I was walking
closer to my house,

1292
01:10:07,910 --> 01:10:10,200
I saw a lot of dead
bodies on the streets.

1293
01:10:10,200 --> 01:10:13,000

1294
01:10:13,000 --> 01:10:17,590
I saw a lot of blood,
and killing, and killing,

1295
01:10:17,590 --> 01:10:18,820
and killing, and shooting.

1296
01:10:18,820 --> 01:10:24,840

1297

01:10:24,840 --> 01:10:26,585

I got to Josefinska.

1298

01:10:26,585 --> 01:10:31,560

1299

01:10:31,560 --> 01:10:34,620

There was something, a
little hospital down there.

1300

01:10:34,620 --> 01:10:40,590

1301

01:10:40,590 --> 01:10:44,100

They were throwing out
babies through the window.

1302

01:10:44,100 --> 01:10:47,980

1303

01:10:47,980 --> 01:10:51,490

They were picking up
babies by the feet

1304

01:10:51,490 --> 01:10:53,015

and hitting them
against the curb.

1305

01:10:53,015 --> 01:10:56,740

1306

01:10:56,740 --> 01:10:59,290

There was killing going
on right and left.

1307

01:10:59,290 --> 01:11:02,040

1308

01:11:02,040 --> 01:11:06,650

I managed to get to my house.

1309

01:11:06,650 --> 01:11:08,475

I didn't see anybody
in the house.

1310

01:11:08,475 --> 01:11:12,920

1311

01:11:12,920 --> 01:11:14,045

I ran outside.

1312

01:11:14,045 --> 01:11:20,690

1313

01:11:20,690 --> 01:11:27,050

I see a group of people being
herded towards Plac Zgody.

1314

01:11:27,050 --> 01:11:38,070

1315

01:11:38,070 --> 01:11:44,140

I saw my mother and
my sister Maria,

1316

01:11:44,140 --> 01:11:48,970

she was holding onto my mother,
to the skirt, petrified.

1317

01:11:48,970 --> 01:11:53,100

1318

01:11:53,100 --> 01:11:57,670

And I wanted to walk
over to my mother.

1319

01:11:57,670 --> 01:12:02,230

1320

01:12:02,230 --> 01:12:05,390

And my mother motioned to me
I should run, I should run,

1321

01:12:05,390 --> 01:12:06,160
I should run.

1322
01:12:06,160 --> 01:12:07,420
But I didn't listen.

1323
01:12:07,420 --> 01:12:09,040
I wanted to get closer.

1324
01:12:09,040 --> 01:12:15,380
And an SS spotted me,
the guard spotted me.

1325
01:12:15,380 --> 01:12:19,280
And he just came over
and hit me in the face

1326
01:12:19,280 --> 01:12:20,770
with the butt of the gun.

1327
01:12:20,770 --> 01:12:27,120

1328
01:12:27,120 --> 01:12:29,715
I started to bleed I
spit out some teeth.

1329
01:12:29,715 --> 01:12:36,160

1330
01:12:36,160 --> 01:12:42,758
And this was the last time I saw
my mother and my sister Maria.

1331
01:12:42,758 --> 01:12:44,310
And I never saw them again.

1332
01:12:44,310 --> 01:12:49,270

1333
01:12:49,270 --> 01:12:53,890
This was March the 13 of 1943.

1334
01:12:53,890 --> 01:12:56,290
This was the liquidation
of the Krakow ghetto.

1335
01:12:56,290 --> 01:13:02,570

1336
01:13:02,570 --> 01:13:06,380
Then they took me to work.

1337
01:13:06,380 --> 01:13:11,855
I had to load the
corpses on wagons.

1338
01:13:11,855 --> 01:13:25,770

1339
01:13:25,770 --> 01:13:27,550
This lasted a few days.

1340
01:13:27,550 --> 01:13:30,020
We worked.

1341
01:13:30,020 --> 01:13:33,930
And they transferred the
whole thing to Plaszow.

1342
01:13:33,930 --> 01:13:36,105
This was the end of
the Krakow ghetto.

1343
01:13:36,105 --> 01:13:39,710

1344
01:13:39,710 --> 01:13:43,480
You and everybody
were then transferred?

1345
01:13:43,480 --> 01:13:43,980
Yes.

1346

01:13:43,980 --> 01:13:49,540

1347

01:13:49,540 --> 01:13:52,822

We brought the bodies
to the Plaszow.

1348

01:13:52,822 --> 01:13:55,105

And this was the
end of the ghetto.

1349

01:13:55,105 --> 01:14:01,120

1350

01:14:01,120 --> 01:14:05,110

Your mother and sister,
where were they sent?

1351

01:14:05,110 --> 01:14:06,850

Well, I found out--

1352

01:14:06,850 --> 01:14:10,280

after the war, I found out
that they were sent to Belziec.

1353

01:14:10,280 --> 01:14:34,220

1354

01:14:34,220 --> 01:14:37,106

They were sent to Belziec.

1355

01:14:37,106 --> 01:14:38,590

This is what I said.

1356

01:14:38,590 --> 01:14:40,000

I found out after the war.

1357

01:14:40,000 --> 01:14:41,415

I didn't know about it.

1358

01:14:41,415 --> 01:14:47,850

1359

01:14:47,850 --> 01:15:01,540

Anyhow, in Plaszow, they
sent me and my brother Sam

1360

01:15:01,540 --> 01:15:04,880

to Wieliczka.

1361

01:15:04,880 --> 01:15:10,010

This was outside Krakow, I
think 14 kilometers from Krakow.

1362

01:15:10,010 --> 01:15:12,705

I think it was a salt mine.

1363

01:15:12,705 --> 01:15:15,770

1364

01:15:15,770 --> 01:15:17,300

What was the name
of the town again?

1365

01:15:17,300 --> 01:15:18,770

Wieliczka.

1366

01:15:18,770 --> 01:15:41,700

W-I-E-L-I-C-K-A.

1367

01:15:41,700 --> 01:15:44,400

So you weren't at
Plaszow very long?

1368

01:15:44,400 --> 01:15:48,030

1369

01:15:48,030 --> 01:15:51,210

You loaded these bodies and
you had to bring them there?

1370

01:15:51,210 --> 01:15:52,230

Yes.

1371
01:15:52,230 --> 01:15:55,830
Yes, this was the liquidation
of the Krakow ghetto,

1372
01:15:55,830 --> 01:16:00,630
which was in March 13, 1943.

1373
01:16:00,630 --> 01:16:03,150
This was the end of the Krakow.

1374
01:16:03,150 --> 01:16:04,410
Everybody was.

1375
01:16:04,410 --> 01:16:14,630
Whoever lived was transferred
to the Plaszow camp.

1376
01:16:14,630 --> 01:16:16,710
The Plaszow concentration camp.

1377
01:16:16,710 --> 01:16:18,380
Did you know about
that camp before?

1378
01:16:18,380 --> 01:16:20,210
Had you heard anything about it?

1379
01:16:20,210 --> 01:16:20,710
Yes.

1380
01:16:20,710 --> 01:16:21,210
Yeah.

1381
01:16:21,210 --> 01:16:22,910
Yes, yes.

1382
01:16:22,910 --> 01:16:25,920
Because they were building
it for quite some time.

1383

01:16:25,920 --> 01:16:29,650
They were building it
for quite some time.

1384
01:16:29,650 --> 01:16:30,850
Oh.

1385
01:16:30,850 --> 01:16:35,310
No, before that,
now, I recall it.

1386
01:16:35,310 --> 01:16:38,100
We worked in Plaszow.

1387
01:16:38,100 --> 01:16:45,760
Before we went to Wieliczka,
we worked on the road gang,

1388
01:16:45,760 --> 01:16:50,200
building the roads in Plaszow.

1389
01:16:50,200 --> 01:17:01,220
And I recall an incident
where the Kommando of Goeth.

1390
01:17:01,220 --> 01:17:05,116

1391
01:17:05,116 --> 01:17:06,290
Goeth was his name.

1392
01:17:06,290 --> 01:17:12,110
He was the commander
of the SS, the Plaszow.

1393
01:17:12,110 --> 01:17:14,030
He was in charge.

1394
01:17:14,030 --> 01:17:22,575
He used to walk around with
two guns in his hand and a dog.

1395

01:17:22,575 --> 01:17:26,770

1396

01:17:26,770 --> 01:17:33,230

And he used to shoot.

1397

01:17:33,230 --> 01:17:39,540

He used to tell to the dog,
Jude so the dog just jumped

1398

01:17:39,540 --> 01:17:46,230

at the person and just tore
out a piece of flesh from him.

1399

01:17:46,230 --> 01:17:47,945

And then he used to
shoot the people.

1400

01:17:47,945 --> 01:17:51,710

1401

01:17:51,710 --> 01:17:53,870

He was a big guy.

1402

01:17:53,870 --> 01:17:59,000

He must have weighed
maybe 250 pounds.

1403

01:17:59,000 --> 01:18:00,560

He was over six foot.

1404

01:18:00,560 --> 01:18:07,260

1405

01:18:07,260 --> 01:18:09,460

He done it every day
before breakfast.

1406

01:18:09,460 --> 01:18:11,565

He was going like
shooting ducks.

1407

01:18:11,565 --> 01:18:15,840

1408

01:18:15,840 --> 01:18:18,450
Every day, he was out like this.

1409

01:18:18,450 --> 01:18:24,500
And I recall an incident
where my brother

1410

01:18:24,500 --> 01:18:32,510
Sam, where the dog grabbed
him, grabbed him by the ribs.

1411

01:18:32,510 --> 01:18:34,940
And I think he must have
been the only one that

1412

01:18:34,940 --> 01:18:35,930
survived that.

1413

01:18:35,930 --> 01:18:39,200
Because he was
standing motionless

1414

01:18:39,200 --> 01:18:41,740
so the dog didn't bother him.

1415

01:18:41,740 --> 01:18:45,400
He just bit into his ribs.

1416

01:18:45,400 --> 01:18:49,620
And he must have been the
only one that survived that.

1417

01:18:49,620 --> 01:18:51,640
Where was your father
and younger brother?

1418

01:18:51,640 --> 01:18:57,190
My father worked in the
Gemeinschaft, which is--

1419

01:18:57,190 --> 01:19:04,840
they transferred him already to
the shoe factory in the Plaszow

1420

01:19:04,840 --> 01:19:07,170
concentration camp.

1421

01:19:07,170 --> 01:19:08,730
He worked already there.

1422

01:19:08,730 --> 01:19:11,280
And your little brother?

1423

01:19:11,280 --> 01:19:13,920
Yes, Bernard worked
with him, yes.

1424

01:19:13,920 --> 01:19:28,290

1425

01:19:28,290 --> 01:19:31,800
So you were in Plaszow for--

1426

01:19:31,800 --> 01:19:33,020
Plaszow.

1427

01:19:33,020 --> 01:19:40,670
--Plaszow for a few
weeks before you left?

1428

01:19:40,670 --> 01:19:43,250
You know, I can remember
exactly the time.

1429

01:19:43,250 --> 01:19:49,980
You know, there was just roughly
speaking, was a few months,

1430

01:19:49,980 --> 01:19:50,480
maybe.

1431

01:19:50,480 --> 01:19:59,500
Then we were shipped out to
Wieliczka, to the salt mine.

1432
01:19:59,500 --> 01:20:03,532
Down there, we worked.

1433
01:20:03,532 --> 01:20:12,400
They were enlarging the
shafts, the salt mine shaft,

1434
01:20:12,400 --> 01:20:17,530
because they wanted to
transfer all the aircraft

1435
01:20:17,530 --> 01:20:20,790
works underground.

1436
01:20:20,790 --> 01:20:23,130
And the easiest thing
was, the safest thing

1437
01:20:23,130 --> 01:20:24,750
was in the salt mine.

1438
01:20:24,750 --> 01:20:27,430

1439
01:20:27,430 --> 01:20:34,830
So we were blasting out,
deepening the shafts

1440
01:20:34,830 --> 01:20:40,250
so they could install an
aircraft factory there.

1441
01:20:40,250 --> 01:20:46,000

1442
01:20:46,000 --> 01:20:53,660
This was already in 1944.

1443

01:20:53,660 --> 01:21:05,680
In the spring, I think, 1944.

1444
01:21:05,680 --> 01:21:15,640
And then we could hear
at night already--

1445
01:21:15,640 --> 01:21:21,465
we could hear at night
already artillery fire.

1446
01:21:21,465 --> 01:21:30,980

1447
01:21:30,980 --> 01:21:32,790
What did you think about that?

1448
01:21:32,790 --> 01:21:37,470
We realized that it was--

1449
01:21:37,470 --> 01:21:40,590
we had some information
also from the Poles

1450
01:21:40,590 --> 01:21:42,870
that they worked
in the salt mine.

1451
01:21:42,870 --> 01:21:43,680
You know.

1452
01:21:43,680 --> 01:21:46,390
We were in contact already
a little bit with them.

1453
01:21:46,390 --> 01:21:47,940
The Germans were watching us.

1454
01:21:47,940 --> 01:21:52,020
But you know, sometimes
we exchange a word or so

1455

01:21:52,020 --> 01:21:55,650
in Polish language with the
miners who worked down there.

1456
01:21:55,650 --> 01:21:58,300
Because they were
doing the blasting.

1457
01:21:58,300 --> 01:21:59,380
They were the expert.

1458
01:21:59,380 --> 01:22:05,910
We were just doing the
hard work, just the laying.

1459
01:22:05,910 --> 01:22:08,110
But they were doing
the engineering

1460
01:22:08,110 --> 01:22:13,690
and the laying of the dynamite
to blast out the shaft.

1461
01:22:13,690 --> 01:22:22,680
So all of a sudden,
we heard that there's

1462
01:22:22,680 --> 01:22:25,900
going to be evacuation.

1463
01:22:25,900 --> 01:22:28,720
The Germans came down
and they brought us up

1464
01:22:28,720 --> 01:22:32,020
in a hurry from the shafts.

1465
01:22:32,020 --> 01:22:35,450

1466
01:22:35,450 --> 01:22:38,900
We made, my brother and
I, made some arrangements

1467
01:22:38,900 --> 01:22:41,540
in case something
like this happened,

1468
01:22:41,540 --> 01:22:47,380
we're going to hide ourself
with other two friends.

1469
01:22:47,380 --> 01:22:52,100

1470
01:22:52,100 --> 01:22:59,240
The other two friends were
Spielman and Zenek Fuchs.

1471
01:22:59,240 --> 01:23:07,370

1472
01:23:07,370 --> 01:23:12,800
Somehow, it was-- they
grabbed us and they put us

1473
01:23:12,800 --> 01:23:16,360
into the elevators.

1474
01:23:16,360 --> 01:23:17,410
And they brought us up.

1475
01:23:17,410 --> 01:23:19,380
And they started
to count the heads.

1476
01:23:19,380 --> 01:23:23,020

1477
01:23:23,020 --> 01:23:27,450
And there were two guys missing.

1478
01:23:27,450 --> 01:23:30,390
Two guys were missing.

1479

01:23:30,390 --> 01:23:33,220

And they went down.

1480

01:23:33,220 --> 01:23:36,270

1481

01:23:36,270 --> 01:23:43,170

At the time, we put away a
loaf of bread, a little water

1482

01:23:43,170 --> 01:23:48,910

in the mine down
there just in case we

1483

01:23:48,910 --> 01:23:50,160

were trying to hide ourselves.

1484

01:23:50,160 --> 01:23:52,340

So anyhow, my brother
and I came up.

1485

01:23:52,340 --> 01:23:53,310

We didn't get a chance.

1486

01:23:53,310 --> 01:23:54,660

They grabbed us right away.

1487

01:23:54,660 --> 01:23:57,690

We were walking near
the elevator shaft.

1488

01:23:57,690 --> 01:23:59,512

And they brought us up.

1489

01:23:59,512 --> 01:24:00,930

But Spielman and the other one--

1490

01:24:00,930 --> 01:24:03,730

Spielman stayed
down, stayed down.

1491

01:24:03,730 --> 01:24:09,370
And they count
the heads, and OK.

1492
01:24:09,370 --> 01:24:12,370
And they evacuated us.

1493
01:24:12,370 --> 01:24:15,405
They put us on trucks and
took us back to Plaszow.

1494
01:24:15,405 --> 01:24:18,664

1495
01:24:18,664 --> 01:24:24,420
As I was riding in the truck,
there was a young German SS

1496
01:24:24,420 --> 01:24:34,040
man said to me, you
see, we are going

1497
01:24:34,040 --> 01:24:37,190
to leave this part of Poland.

1498
01:24:37,190 --> 01:24:39,170
We're going to evacuate.

1499
01:24:39,170 --> 01:24:42,910
We're going to let
the Russians come in.

1500
01:24:42,910 --> 01:24:45,880
And they are going to kill
all the bad people here,

1501
01:24:45,880 --> 01:24:48,330
all the bad Poles.

1502
01:24:48,330 --> 01:24:54,520
But then with the V2,
we're going to come back.

1503

01:24:54,520 --> 01:24:56,000

You know the V2, the rockets.

1504

01:24:56,000 --> 01:24:58,180

Did you know what the V2 was?

1505

01:24:58,180 --> 01:25:02,120

I didn't know what
to do with it he too.

1506

01:25:02,120 --> 01:25:04,180

He was pointing out,
we're going to come back.

1507

01:25:04,180 --> 01:25:05,730

He was pointing out like that.

1508

01:25:05,730 --> 01:25:10,160

1509

01:25:10,160 --> 01:25:11,260

They took us to Plaszow.

1510

01:25:11,260 --> 01:25:14,210

1511

01:25:14,210 --> 01:25:21,950

A day later, they brought
Zenek Fuchs and Spielman.

1512

01:25:21,950 --> 01:25:23,570

And we had to witness this.

1513

01:25:23,570 --> 01:25:25,895

And they hanged them in Plaszow.

1514

01:25:25,895 --> 01:25:41,090

1515

01:25:41,090 --> 01:25:52,120

And a few days later, they

were building a transport

1516
01:25:52,120 --> 01:25:56,900
and they loaded
up on the trains.

1517
01:25:56,900 --> 01:26:00,320

1518
01:26:00,320 --> 01:26:02,030
And this was, I think, in July.

1519
01:26:02,030 --> 01:26:04,730

1520
01:26:04,730 --> 01:26:06,410
It was very hot.

1521
01:26:06,410 --> 01:26:09,475
They loaded it up
in cattle train.

1522
01:26:09,475 --> 01:26:14,180

1523
01:26:14,180 --> 01:26:17,920
We don't know where
we were going.

1524
01:26:17,920 --> 01:26:19,270
It was hot.

1525
01:26:19,270 --> 01:26:21,800
No water, no food
for a few days.

1526
01:26:21,800 --> 01:26:26,290

1527
01:26:26,290 --> 01:26:33,370
And we had a lot of dead people.

1528

01:26:33,370 --> 01:26:36,490

We were grasping for air.

1529

01:26:36,490 --> 01:26:38,980

Sometimes, they let us
stop on the station.

1530

01:26:38,980 --> 01:26:43,240

They let us get a little
water occasionally.

1531

01:26:43,240 --> 01:26:51,770

1532

01:26:51,770 --> 01:26:55,320

And I don't know
where we were looking.

1533

01:26:55,320 --> 01:27:02,490

Some of us managed to look
through the barbed wire,

1534

01:27:02,490 --> 01:27:04,920

through the little opening
in the cattle train.

1535

01:27:04,920 --> 01:27:07,590

You know, it has on
top a little opening.

1536

01:27:07,590 --> 01:27:09,960

And we lifted up
somebody to look.

1537

01:27:09,960 --> 01:27:12,480

Sometimes we could read,
but we couldn't figure out

1538

01:27:12,480 --> 01:27:13,530

where we going.

1539

01:27:13,530 --> 01:27:16,110

We know we were going through
Czechoslovakia because we

1540
01:27:16,110 --> 01:27:17,280
could read the signs.

1541
01:27:17,280 --> 01:27:20,150

1542
01:27:20,150 --> 01:27:23,880
And eventually, I
don't know, maybe

1543
01:27:23,880 --> 01:27:27,180
50% of the people on
the cattle train died.

1544
01:27:27,180 --> 01:27:29,740

1545
01:27:29,740 --> 01:27:31,860
You and Sam were still together.

1546
01:27:31,860 --> 01:27:32,470
Yes.

1547
01:27:32,470 --> 01:27:36,730
They were drinking I was
drinking their own urine.

1548
01:27:36,730 --> 01:27:42,490

1549
01:27:42,490 --> 01:27:43,930
And we got to Mauthausen.

1550
01:27:43,930 --> 01:27:56,150

1551
01:27:56,150 --> 01:27:57,470
We got to Mauthausen.

1552

01:27:57,470 --> 01:28:01,410

1553

01:28:01,410 --> 01:28:06,570

Next thing I remember,
I saw my father.

1554

01:28:06,570 --> 01:28:09,110

I saw Bernard.

1555

01:28:09,110 --> 01:28:12,260

And Sam and I were all together.

1556

01:28:12,260 --> 01:28:22,000

We were standing naked,
waiting for the showers.

1557

01:28:22,000 --> 01:28:24,730

1558

01:28:24,730 --> 01:28:29,340

All we had on is our belt.
They let us have our belt,

1559

01:28:29,340 --> 01:28:31,720

but naked.

1560

01:28:31,720 --> 01:28:35,020

And this was the last
time that I saw my father.

1561

01:28:35,020 --> 01:28:39,920

1562

01:28:39,920 --> 01:28:44,480

My father and Bernard
went to Auschwitz.

1563

01:28:44,480 --> 01:28:47,680

But I found out after the war.

1564

01:28:47,680 --> 01:28:50,610
Went to Auschwitz.

1565
01:28:50,610 --> 01:28:59,580
And my father, by a
point of a finger,

1566
01:28:59,580 --> 01:29:01,250
he was sent to the wrong side.

1567
01:29:01,250 --> 01:29:03,260
And he went to the crematorium.

1568
01:29:03,260 --> 01:29:09,470

1569
01:29:09,470 --> 01:29:15,913
That's the story what Bernard
told me after the war.

1570
01:29:15,913 --> 01:29:22,070

1571
01:29:22,070 --> 01:29:26,320
So at Mauthausen, they selected
out people to go to Auschwitz.

1572
01:29:26,320 --> 01:29:27,740
Yes.

1573
01:29:27,740 --> 01:29:30,120
Yes, because they couldn't
handle the whole thing.

1574
01:29:30,120 --> 01:29:33,660
So they divided.

1575
01:29:33,660 --> 01:29:42,600
So me and Sam were assigned
to work in the Steinbruch.

1576
01:29:42,600 --> 01:29:49,530

1577
01:29:49,530 --> 01:29:51,480
This is a granite
quarry, Steinbruch.

1578
01:29:51,480 --> 01:30:01,000

1579
01:30:01,000 --> 01:30:04,125
We worked there every day.

1580
01:30:04,125 --> 01:30:07,180

1581
01:30:07,180 --> 01:30:13,510
We had to get up about
5:00 in the morning.

1582
01:30:13,510 --> 01:30:22,320
Stand up, Appellplatz after
we get our slice of bread

1583
01:30:22,320 --> 01:30:27,650
and the black coffee,
ersatz coffee.

1584
01:30:27,650 --> 01:30:33,070
And we had to march to
work, to the Steinbruch.

1585
01:30:33,070 --> 01:30:35,590

1586
01:30:35,590 --> 01:30:43,500
Bringing back, we had to carry
and march through the gate

1587
01:30:43,500 --> 01:30:47,560
and bring the dead
ones who were killed.

1588

01:30:47,560 --> 01:30:54,200

1589

01:30:54,200 --> 01:30:55,940

Because they have to be counted.

1590

01:30:55,940 --> 01:30:58,415

All the bodies have to
be counted at the gate.

1591

01:30:58,415 --> 01:31:11,700

1592

01:31:11,700 --> 01:31:13,650

Every day there was somebody?

1593

01:31:13,650 --> 01:31:15,135

Yes, yes.

1594

01:31:15,135 --> 01:31:17,610

Did you ever have to
carry somebody back?

1595

01:31:17,610 --> 01:31:18,260

Oh, yes.

1596

01:31:18,260 --> 01:31:35,800

1597

01:31:35,800 --> 01:31:38,010

Let me switch tapes.

1598

01:31:38,010 --> 01:31:42,000