

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,240

2  
00:00:03,240 --> 00:00:05,757  
Until 1945.

3  
00:00:05,757 --> 00:00:07,590  
So most of your time  
there was spent working

4  
00:00:07,590 --> 00:00:08,850  
in the Messerschmitt factory?

5  
00:00:08,850 --> 00:00:09,660  
Factory, yeah.

6  
00:00:09,660 --> 00:00:10,860  
First you built the roads?

7  
00:00:10,860 --> 00:00:13,080  
First we built the roads  
for the first two weeks,

8  
00:00:13,080 --> 00:00:15,570  
and then they called  
all carpenters.

9  
00:00:15,570 --> 00:00:18,690  
And good thing that I said  
that I am a carpenter.

10  
00:00:18,690 --> 00:00:21,570  
He look at my hands,  
and he slapped me.

11  
00:00:21,570 --> 00:00:23,050  
And he says, you son of a bitch.

12  
00:00:23,050 --> 00:00:26,500  
You're telling me that  
these are carpenter's hands?

13  
00:00:26,500 --> 00:00:27,000  
I said--

14  
00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:27,750  
Checking if they're calloused.

15  
00:00:27,750 --> 00:00:28,410  
Yeah.

16  
00:00:28,410 --> 00:00:32,170  
And I said, well,  
I am a student.

17  
00:00:32,170 --> 00:00:35,010  
I was a student  
before I was arrested,

18  
00:00:35,010 --> 00:00:39,780  
and I didn't have hard  
work in Auschwitz.

19  
00:00:39,780 --> 00:00:43,620  
So I couldn't have any  
calluses on my hands.

20  
00:00:43,620 --> 00:00:48,195  
However, I am acquainted with  
all the carpenters tools.

21  
00:00:48,195 --> 00:00:51,550

22  
00:00:51,550 --> 00:00:58,870  
He says, OK, then we take  
you, but if you show me

23  
00:00:58,870 --> 00:01:07,010  
any ignorance to  
handling the equipment,

24  
00:01:07,010 --> 00:01:09,740

I will kill you  
personally, he said.

25  
00:01:09,740 --> 00:01:12,240  
Who-- was he-- is this  
a kapo or was he SS?

26  
00:01:12,240 --> 00:01:12,740  
No, no.

27  
00:01:12,740 --> 00:01:14,480  
That was SS, SS officer.

28  
00:01:14,480 --> 00:01:21,870

29  
00:01:21,870 --> 00:01:28,250  
So I was directed  
to the [NON-ENGLISH]

30  
00:01:28,250 --> 00:01:35,620  
for Messerschmitt, which  
was a small aluminum box,

31  
00:01:35,620 --> 00:01:39,640  
and duty was--

32  
00:01:39,640 --> 00:01:45,730  
it's on a conveyor, and I had  
to make approximately 60 holes

33  
00:01:45,730 --> 00:01:47,215  
in one minute.

34  
00:01:47,215 --> 00:01:48,400  
You had to drill them in?

35  
00:01:48,400 --> 00:01:50,260  
Drill them in, yeah,  
through the jig.

36  
00:01:50,260 --> 00:01:55,040

37  
00:01:55,040 --> 00:02:02,360  
So many guys were afraid  
to break the bits,

38  
00:02:02,360 --> 00:02:06,500  
and once you broke the  
bit, you got 25 lashes.

39  
00:02:06,500 --> 00:02:14,060  
So I became famous because I  
learned how to sharpen the bits

40  
00:02:14,060 --> 00:02:20,000  
and to work long enough  
to be allowed to break it.

41  
00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:26,570  
You had to perform already  
certain work with every bit

42  
00:02:26,570 --> 00:02:28,760  
before you could break it.

43  
00:02:28,760 --> 00:02:31,580  
I see.

44  
00:02:31,580 --> 00:02:39,100  
So after that, on May  
1, 1944, in Flossenburg,

45  
00:02:39,100 --> 00:02:44,910  
they allowed us to play ball for  
the first time, and that was--

46  
00:02:44,910 --> 00:02:45,870  
Football?

47  
00:02:45,870 --> 00:02:49,410  
That was like soccer, yeah,  
like soccer, but only by hands.

48

00:02:49,410 --> 00:02:52,120

49

00:02:52,120 --> 00:02:54,550

Instead of kicking the  
ball, since there was not

50

00:02:54,550 --> 00:03:03,850

enough room, we also had  
two goals and operating

51

00:03:03,850 --> 00:03:05,800

with our hands.

52

00:03:05,800 --> 00:03:10,990

Would you please believe  
me that I became a star?

53

00:03:10,990 --> 00:03:16,270

And because of that, I  
received a better position

54

00:03:16,270 --> 00:03:21,730

to be again in a store issuing  
the tools every morning

55

00:03:21,730 --> 00:03:26,620

and collecting them at  
the end of each shift,

56

00:03:26,620 --> 00:03:34,870

and that was also very  
good because I had one more

57

00:03:34,870 --> 00:03:41,020

dish of soup just to maintain my  
physical strength for the game.

58

00:03:41,020 --> 00:03:44,230

Germans were betting on me,  
how many goals I will shoot.

59

00:03:44,230 --> 00:03:44,910  
Really?

60  
00:03:44,910 --> 00:03:48,130  
And we were allowed to  
play only Sunday afternoon.

61  
00:03:48,130 --> 00:03:51,800

62  
00:03:51,800 --> 00:03:54,390  
So you'd throw the  
ball to one another?

63  
00:03:54,390 --> 00:03:56,570  
Yeah, yeah, and  
just the same thing,

64  
00:03:56,570 --> 00:03:59,390  
you operated with your hands  
the same as with your feet.

65  
00:03:59,390 --> 00:04:00,350  
I see.

66  
00:04:00,350 --> 00:04:03,110  
And would you believe that--

67  
00:04:03,110 --> 00:04:07,370  
this is something  
I never expected,

68  
00:04:07,370 --> 00:04:15,630  
and we had definite  
knowledge that Germany

69  
00:04:15,630 --> 00:04:19,420  
is losing the war because,  
for the first time,

70  
00:04:19,420 --> 00:04:25,410  
they allowed us to have  
some kind of entertainment.

71  
00:04:25,410 --> 00:04:28,240  
That was their national  
holiday, May 1--

72  
00:04:28,240 --> 00:04:34,580

73  
00:04:34,580 --> 00:04:35,390  
what do they call--

74  
00:04:35,390 --> 00:04:40,170  
NSDAP, right?

75  
00:04:40,170 --> 00:04:43,500  
Nationalsozialistische  
Deutsche Arbeiterpartei.

76  
00:04:43,500 --> 00:04:47,100

77  
00:04:47,100 --> 00:04:51,730  
And from this point on, it  
was a little bit better.

78  
00:04:51,730 --> 00:04:59,950  
They added sugar to our morning  
tea, so you can imagine, huh?

79  
00:04:59,950 --> 00:05:03,040  
Now, two things happened.

80  
00:05:03,040 --> 00:05:05,990

81  
00:05:05,990 --> 00:05:10,430  
First, after an unfortunate  
uprising in Warsaw,

82  
00:05:10,430 --> 00:05:17,150  
the first prisoners arrived from  
Warsaw directly to Flossenburg,

83  
00:05:17,150 --> 00:05:18,560  
and second thing happened--

84  
00:05:18,560 --> 00:05:20,660  
This was after the  
Polish uprising?

85  
00:05:20,660 --> 00:05:21,880  
Polish uprising, yeah.

86  
00:05:21,880 --> 00:05:24,290  
So in September of--

87  
00:05:24,290 --> 00:05:29,540  
Polish uprising  
was August 1, 1944.

88  
00:05:29,540 --> 00:05:39,090  
In September,  
first group arrived

89  
00:05:39,090 --> 00:05:46,220  
from the uprising prisoners.

90  
00:05:46,220 --> 00:05:47,990  
And the second thing happened--

91  
00:05:47,990 --> 00:05:50,820

92  
00:05:50,820 --> 00:05:53,415  
the plague of typhus.

93  
00:05:53,415 --> 00:05:56,750

94  
00:05:56,750 --> 00:06:05,276  
So I experienced, as I mentioned  
to you, bedbugs in Pawiak.

95



00:06:05,276 --> 00:06:14,930  
I forgot to tell you about fleas  
in the hospital in Auschwitz,

96  
00:06:14,930 --> 00:06:18,230  
tremendous fleas,  
that you could cry

97  
00:06:18,230 --> 00:06:20,570  
because you couldn't  
catch them, and they

98  
00:06:20,570 --> 00:06:24,090  
were biting you all night long.

99  
00:06:24,090 --> 00:06:27,910  
And here lice.

100  
00:06:27,910 --> 00:06:35,210  
To receive a set of  
shorts and shirt,

101  
00:06:35,210 --> 00:06:43,365  
you had to exchange these two  
items for one portion of bread.

102  
00:06:43,365 --> 00:06:45,980

103  
00:06:45,980 --> 00:06:50,250  
Bread was like money.

104  
00:06:50,250 --> 00:06:56,650  
You could buy anything with  
the prisoners' daily portion

105  
00:06:56,650 --> 00:06:58,380  
of bread.

106  
00:06:58,380 --> 00:07:01,550  
I tell you what the  
value of bread was.

107

00:07:01,550 --> 00:07:07,340

One kommissbrot, the German military schwarzbrot--

108

00:07:07,340 --> 00:07:12,350

that was similar to our pumpernickel, black

109

00:07:12,350 --> 00:07:13,430

pumpernickel.

110

00:07:13,430 --> 00:07:19,640

It was also like square, so divided into four portions.

111

00:07:19,640 --> 00:07:28,250

One bread was one beautiful white-blue diamond.

112

00:07:28,250 --> 00:07:31,265

That was the same corresponding value.

113

00:07:31,265 --> 00:07:35,800

114

00:07:35,800 --> 00:07:37,390

So after that, I--

115

00:07:37,390 --> 00:07:44,130

116

00:07:44,130 --> 00:07:51,220

many, not only Polish, but also Czechs and German prisoners

117

00:07:51,220 --> 00:07:52,530

were dying.

118

00:07:52,530 --> 00:07:58,510

Germans in camp were occupying always some functions,

119  
00:07:58,510 --> 00:08:02,190  
whether they're in  
charge of the barracks,

120  
00:08:02,190 --> 00:08:08,340  
or in charge of your work  
kommando or whatever.

121  
00:08:08,340 --> 00:08:12,720  
However, there were also  
Czechs in Flossenburg.

122  
00:08:12,720 --> 00:08:18,990  
In Auschwitz, the majority were  
Polish, about 80% of Poles.

123  
00:08:18,990 --> 00:08:34,169  
Here, however, we had about 40%  
of Czechs, maybe 35% of Poles,

124  
00:08:34,169 --> 00:08:38,010  
and other nationalities,  
including Americans,

125  
00:08:38,010 --> 00:08:40,919  
the fliers who were shot down.

126  
00:08:40,919 --> 00:08:43,510  
They were there but a  
very short period of time,

127  
00:08:43,510 --> 00:08:47,590  
and they were  
immediately executed.

128  
00:08:47,590 --> 00:09:01,627  
Now, to finish my story, I was  
there until, again, April 21.

129  
00:09:01,627 --> 00:09:05,070

130  
00:09:05,070 --> 00:09:12,260  
We started moving in a  
group of 5,000 surrounded

131  
00:09:12,260 --> 00:09:16,805  
by, again, Ukrainian SS.

132  
00:09:16,805 --> 00:09:17,930  
You were being marched out?

133  
00:09:17,930 --> 00:09:18,860  
Marched out.

134  
00:09:18,860 --> 00:09:22,680

135  
00:09:22,680 --> 00:09:26,465  
And they told us they will try  
to move us south toward Dachau.

136  
00:09:26,465 --> 00:09:29,770

137  
00:09:29,770 --> 00:09:34,780  
But because, we later  
learned, the Third army

138  
00:09:34,780 --> 00:09:41,380  
was moving so fast,  
they were pushing us

139  
00:09:41,380 --> 00:09:46,600  
toward southeast  
from Flossenbug.

140  
00:09:46,600 --> 00:09:53,950  
And therefore, after passing  
about 60 miles in three days

141  
00:09:53,950 --> 00:09:59,740  
and out of 30,000 prisoners,  
they killed 15,000.

142  
00:09:59,740 --> 00:10:05,490  
Whoever couldn't walk,  
he was shot in the ditch

143  
00:10:05,490 --> 00:10:06,540  
with dum dum bullets.

144  
00:10:06,540 --> 00:10:10,280

145  
00:10:10,280 --> 00:10:19,970  
And they were all found  
after a liberation

146  
00:10:19,970 --> 00:10:28,100  
by the Third Army members,  
General Patton's army.

147  
00:10:28,100 --> 00:10:42,070  
We had possibility of getting  
taken care of immediately

148  
00:10:42,070 --> 00:10:48,630  
by the American Red Cross  
hospital, field hospital,

149  
00:10:48,630 --> 00:10:54,670  
and I went with  
my friends, tried

150  
00:10:54,670 --> 00:11:03,220  
to go as far as possible west.

151  
00:11:03,220 --> 00:11:18,340  
And we arrived to  
Erlangen near Nuremberg.

152  
00:11:18,340 --> 00:11:26,000  
Erlangen was not bombed, was an  
academic city with a university

153

00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:33,650  
there, and the first  
camp for refugees

154  
00:11:33,650 --> 00:11:35,600  
was formed by the US army.

155  
00:11:35,600 --> 00:11:42,300

156  
00:11:42,300 --> 00:11:44,850  
Were you liberated  
just one morning?

157  
00:11:44,850 --> 00:11:53,490  
Yeah, I was liberated on the  
third day of our evacuation

158  
00:11:53,490 --> 00:11:59,770  
march with a beautiful,  
beautiful, never-to-forget

159  
00:11:59,770 --> 00:12:05,080  
situation because we were  
concentrated on the mountain.

160  
00:12:05,080 --> 00:12:07,180  
And we have seen on  
the other mountain--

161  
00:12:07,180 --> 00:12:10,570  
we have seen first  
American tanks,

162  
00:12:10,570 --> 00:12:24,770  
and together with us there were  
Soviet army members who jumped

163  
00:12:24,770 --> 00:12:29,690  
on the Ukrainian SS guards.

164  
00:12:29,690 --> 00:12:35,180  
They shot them, killed them

instantly, and with the guns,

165

00:12:35,180 --> 00:12:40,910  
they started moving toward  
the American troops.

166

00:12:40,910 --> 00:12:47,000  
And since that was some  
kind of a horseshoe area,

167

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:50,450  
we were trying to  
go into the valley

168

00:12:50,450 --> 00:12:55,670  
and then come up the mountain,  
making ourselves a shortcut.

169

00:12:55,670 --> 00:13:01,220  
And were there,  
three of us, and we

170

00:13:01,220 --> 00:13:07,760  
found a group of SS soldiers  
armed to their teeth.

171

00:13:07,760 --> 00:13:10,730  
And we almost got killed.

172

00:13:10,730 --> 00:13:13,890  
It's unbelievable, right there.

173

00:13:13,890 --> 00:13:16,080  
You sense you had  
freedom in the air,

174

00:13:16,080 --> 00:13:18,420  
and you could be killed  
in the last moment.

175

00:13:18,420 --> 00:13:24,930  
That was my fourth time  
when I faced the gun.

176  
00:13:24,930 --> 00:13:27,760  
And good thing that my  
friend spoke German,

177  
00:13:27,760 --> 00:13:32,220  
and then we said that we  
are Germans from Silesia.

178  
00:13:32,220 --> 00:13:33,540  
We want to go home now.

179  
00:13:33,540 --> 00:13:37,720

180  
00:13:37,720 --> 00:13:40,750  
So he said, only, as  
Germans, don't tell them

181  
00:13:40,750 --> 00:13:42,222  
that we are here.

182  
00:13:42,222 --> 00:13:43,578  
I see.

183  
00:13:43,578 --> 00:13:44,740  
Sure.

184  
00:13:44,740 --> 00:13:45,700  
Yeah, sure.

185  
00:13:45,700 --> 00:13:48,070  
And my luck was  
that, when I arrived

186  
00:13:48,070 --> 00:13:54,040  
to the first group of  
the tanks, the commanding

187  
00:13:54,040 --> 00:13:55,420  
officer of the 1st--



188

00:13:55,420 --> 00:14:00,010

I think that was 1st Division  
of Third Army, and most of them

189

00:14:00,010 --> 00:14:06,100

were Poles from Buffalo,  
New York area and almost

190

00:14:06,100 --> 00:14:09,310

every second spoke  
Polish, broken Polish,

191

00:14:09,310 --> 00:14:11,440

but they knew Polish language.

192

00:14:11,440 --> 00:14:16,390

So I told him in Polish  
who we met on our way here.

193

00:14:16,390 --> 00:14:20,440

So he said, OK, you will  
see what's going to happen,

194

00:14:20,440 --> 00:14:30,580

and they shot immediately  
first warning, like a rocket,

195

00:14:30,580 --> 00:14:32,270

down to the valley.

196

00:14:32,270 --> 00:14:40,766

And after a few moments  
when no white flag arrived

197

00:14:40,766 --> 00:14:49,830

at the main building, like city  
hall or something like that,

198

00:14:49,830 --> 00:14:52,590

then he says, look what's  
going to happen now.

199

00:14:52,590 --> 00:14:56,820  
And all these tanks,  
maybe a dozen of them

200  
00:14:56,820 --> 00:15:00,420  
from all around the area--

201  
00:15:00,420 --> 00:15:08,547  
they started shooting everything  
that they could reach.

202  
00:15:08,547 --> 00:15:10,880  
So they were being held in a  
little town in this valley?

203  
00:15:10,880 --> 00:15:11,900  
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

204  
00:15:11,900 --> 00:15:15,440  
So finally, after  
that first salvo,

205  
00:15:15,440 --> 00:15:25,910  
finally a white flag  
appeared on the steeple,

206  
00:15:25,910 --> 00:15:30,770  
and therefore that was  
the end of military action

207  
00:15:30,770 --> 00:15:31,610  
in this area.

208  
00:15:31,610 --> 00:15:34,130

209  
00:15:34,130 --> 00:15:40,380  
So later on, as I  
mentioned to you before,

210  
00:15:40,380 --> 00:15:47,970  
I was able to join  
the American Army,

211  
00:15:47,970 --> 00:15:55,010  
and after five years of serving  
with labor service companies,

212  
00:15:55,010 --> 00:15:59,060  
I arrived to New York.

213  
00:15:59,060 --> 00:16:01,430  
Five years employed  
by the US Army?

214  
00:16:01,430 --> 00:16:11,860  
Army, yeah, from September  
1945 to September 1950.

215  
00:16:11,860 --> 00:16:14,480  
So you're liberated what month?

216  
00:16:14,480 --> 00:16:18,960  
I'm liberated in the  
end of April, April,

217  
00:16:18,960 --> 00:16:44,330  
I believe, April 24,  
1945 near [? Chamb. ?]

218  
00:16:44,330 --> 00:16:48,725  
It's very close to the German  
Czecho-Slovakian border.

219  
00:16:48,725 --> 00:16:56,210

220  
00:16:56,210 --> 00:16:59,330  
I didn't tell you  
many, many details.

221  
00:16:59,330 --> 00:17:05,150  
When I was in the bunker, I was  
facing the experimental block

222

00:17:05,150 --> 00:17:07,970  
number 10, to tell you about--

223  
00:17:07,970 --> 00:17:08,869  
this is--

224  
00:17:08,869 --> 00:17:11,510  
Well, do you have  
time to tell me that?

225  
00:17:11,510 --> 00:17:16,160  
Well, I could mention  
only one detail,

226  
00:17:16,160 --> 00:17:20,089  
that we were witnessing  
how they took one prisoner,

227  
00:17:20,089 --> 00:17:26,000  
and this happened to be one of  
the member of Polish Lwowska

228  
00:17:26,000 --> 00:17:34,490  
Fala, which was some happy hour  
on Polish radio before the war.

229  
00:17:34,490 --> 00:17:39,780  
And he was Jewish, and he  
was a fantastic comedian.

230  
00:17:39,780 --> 00:17:46,470  
He was a star of Polish  
radio before the war.

231  
00:17:46,470 --> 00:17:55,785  
So he was taken one morning  
to this experimental block.

232  
00:17:55,785 --> 00:17:58,500

233  
00:17:58,500 --> 00:17:59,460  
That was block 10?

234  
00:17:59,460 --> 00:18:01,350  
Block 10, yes.

235  
00:18:01,350 --> 00:18:07,270  
And they removed one  
testicle from him,

236  
00:18:07,270 --> 00:18:12,660  
and when he came back,  
we ask him, oh, what

237  
00:18:12,660 --> 00:18:14,550  
did they do to you?

238  
00:18:14,550 --> 00:18:19,350  
Well, he said, that first  
they had a special machine

239  
00:18:19,350 --> 00:18:24,120  
to ejaculate him when he  
was a normal person with two

240  
00:18:24,120 --> 00:18:31,510  
testicles, and then after that,  
they removed one testicle.

241  
00:18:31,510 --> 00:18:35,190  
And then after three  
weeks, they called him

242  
00:18:35,190 --> 00:18:38,730  
for another ejaculation  
just to compare

243  
00:18:38,730 --> 00:18:55,640  
how human sperm can work and  
be used with one and two.

244  
00:18:55,640 --> 00:18:58,310  
But with women, we  
have seen something.

245

00:18:58,310 --> 00:19:00,890

They were working, but--

246

00:19:00,890 --> 00:19:04,188

and this will be  
described in my book.

247

00:19:04,188 --> 00:19:06,230

You were able to see them  
during the experiments?

248

00:19:06,230 --> 00:19:08,660

Yes, before they closed  
the windows, yes.

249

00:19:08,660 --> 00:19:12,620

They realized later  
that we were watching.

250

00:19:12,620 --> 00:19:19,940

We were the witnesses, and  
they bricked up the windows.

251

00:19:19,940 --> 00:19:23,450

But for the first two weeks of  
December, I could observe that,

252

00:19:23,450 --> 00:19:30,860

and after two weeks, the masons  
blocked the windows completely.

253

00:19:30,860 --> 00:19:31,475

I see.

254

00:19:31,475 --> 00:19:35,200

255

00:19:35,200 --> 00:19:38,390

On women they were doing  
similar kinds of experiments?

256

00:19:38,390 --> 00:19:39,940

Yeah.

257

00:19:39,940 --> 00:19:55,411