

Synopsis of interview with
Goldstein, Mayer

00:00:00 Idle chatter while someone is talking on the phone.

00:01:00 Scene continues

00:01:30 Scene continues

00:02:00 Scene continues

00:02:30 Scene is cut - ended

00:03:00 Someone asks apparent subject to introduce himself
AGAIN, TO TEST SOUND LEVEL.

00:03:30 My name is Mayer Goldstein. I live in Montreal. I
was born on Aug. 23, 1924 in Poland.

Q: Can you please describe the people in your household
before the war

00:04:00 (TRechnical discussion about sound)

00:04:30My father and mother, two brothers and two sisters.

00:05:00 QWhat was your family's social status?

A: Middle class.

Q: How long have you been here?

00:05:30 A: Since yesterday/ (Talk to test sound level again.

00:06:00 Someone - under the auspices of one generation after,
Boston. I'm here to interview Mr. Goldstein.

00:06:30: To be included in the archives of the historical m
museum, being built in WASHINGTON, DC

Q: Tell me a proverb

00:07;00 in Yiddish

A: One doesn't come to me now.

Q: What's the one, there's a lamp in your house

00:07:30 Chatter about a potential proverb

00:08:00 Goldstein says something in Yiddish. Conversation
about culture.

00:08:30 There were no movies in town. No theater.

00:09:00 A Zionist theater group came through once or twice a
year. Mostly it was gatherings, with singing and
dancing.

00:09:30 Maybe I went once because I was very young. What was
the name of the Hebrew school on Poland, I can't remember
- Yavnet?

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- 00:10:00 Int explains again the importance of being able to report details.
A: We didn't hve a big organizational life because it was a small town.
- 00:10:30 There was no Bund, no Communist Party. (Constant chatter from other people in room.) Some woman says she had a relative who was a communist.
- 00:11:00 Someone else is talking. Int. repeats again the need for detail, background information.
- 00:11:30 Int. continues lectyring the respondent. What about relations with nonJews?
- 00:12:00 It will never happen. ~~Q:~~ Goldstein shifts into Polish.
- 00:12:30 He is obviously playing to the audience.
Q: What did that mean, what you just said?
A: When the Russians wanted a defense traeaty with France, they wanted ~~to~~ the right to go through Poland if attacvked
- 00:13:00 On the radio was a song that the Germans are threat-ening us with a shamate, a rag, and we reply with a a whistle.
- 00:13:30 It is hard for me to translate it into English to show the meaning. It fell through so they made a traty with Germany and Poland was divided into two.
- 00:14:00 Technical talk - even one of the crew is annoyed. We are going to start again. Introduce yourself.
- 00:14:30: My name os Meyer Goldstein, I live in Montreal, etc.
Q: Who lived in your house before the war?
- 00:15:00 Same as before
What would you say was your family's social status?
A: Very religious
- 00:15:30 And middle class.
Int: So I take it you celebrated Shabbas and so on.
Res: Of course
- 00:16:00 How would you describe your level of cultural observations?
A: NonJewish, I don't recall any because there ^R WAS NO MOYIC HOUSE IN TOWN.

Maybe there was some from Cracow but I don't recall.

00:16:30 Big rabbis used to come from other towns. I recall, every Shabos afternoon, the was having Kadusha (ph) Sometimes I was forced to go.

00:17:00 My father always went. Once we went to one rabbi, once to the other. This was the cultural life. You couldn't go to the movie because there wasn't one. There was no one to give lectures.

00:17:30 Q: You had travelling rabbis?

A: That was something else. There was a permanent rabbi and in his quarters there were the chasidim/

00:18:00 On Shabos, he "gesuch Torah" he gave a commentary. The Jews came to wherever he was staying. Say it was after dinner

00:18:30 And they talked about the Torah. They considered it a big thing to eat from the rabbi's plate.

00:19:00 So the rabbi ate a little and the others had something that was left over. They still do it; it must be left over from the old times.

00:19:30 Q: How were your parents educated and what was the education of your siblings?

A: I was the oldest at home. I was about 15 when the war broke out and I only went to the third grade. Then I wasn't allowed to go anymore because

00:20:00 I wasn't allowed to go to the Polish public school so I had a private teacher. I learned Polish and mathematics. And then I went to cheder. That was my education.

00:20:30 My next brother and sister went I think to the sixth grade. The other two didn't start. My father, I don't think he went to school at all because he was born in

00:21:00 His family was very religious and I think he didn't go to school. But he was educated at home and he was an accountant.

00:21:30 My mother finished public school.

Q: ypurself, how old were you when you formal education stopped?

A: As I said, in 1939 everything stopped.

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- 00:22:00 No Jew went to school. I was 15.
- Q: Could you describe your town?
- 00:22:30 I think it was about 8,000 people, about 2,000 Jewish.
- Q: Did you have anti-semitic exoeriences before the war?
- A: Yes
- 00:23:00 We were still in school, the other boys used anti-Jewish epithets. Sometimes we were beaten. I came home once with a hole in my head - IU don't remember how I got it - probably in a fight.
- 00:23:30 We were always the victimes. We were not allowed to hit them back. We felt we had to respect them. They were stronger. I remember once I went to the police.
- 00:24:00 The policeman said, "They didn't kill you, what do you want?" Many times they threw stones and broke windows in the house.
- 00:24:30 I remember, at Easter, no Jew would go out at night, because the priest, in his ceremony, would tell them that the Jews killed Christ, and they would go out angry at the Jews.
- 00:25:00 Maybe it wasn't true, but this was our belief. This was our feeling and belief. No Jew was to go out.
- Q: As the prospect for the war became imminent, what was the view of your family?
- A: I don't remember, just to escape.
- 00:25:30 Many people, especially men, ran east. Men from our town went more east. Many stopped at our town because they couldn't go any fürther. And there was no communication. Even before the war
- 00:26:00 There wasn't much. We had one train goingeast, and then you cou;d get a regular train going further east. As soon as the war broke out this stopped. There were no cars, just trucks. And these were requisitioned by the army.
- 00:26:30 People walked. If they used a horse and buggy, the army took it away. People came from Cracow and further, but people from our town ran away to Lemberg.
- 00:27:00 You couldn't take a plane. Not from our town. And you needed a passport and a visa and these were hard to come by.

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00"27"30 I think Polish students could go to Italy without a visa, but nobody thought of that then. I found this out after the war.

Q: What were the first changes you experienced due to the war?

00:28:00 Q: You said your school was closed. How did things change at home?

A: On Tuesday the Germans came into our town. It was the 5th of September. The first victim was a Jew.

00:28:30 He was my teacher. He was killed apparently - I saw him dead - He lived in a courtyard and he must have gone out to open the gate.

00:29:00 Then they started taking Jews to work. Not so much to work but to clean the streets. In our town, the streets were never washed.

00:29:30 There were dead horses left from the Polish army, and the Jews had to clean them up. And they put on a curfew - Jews cannot go out after seven or eight.

00:30:00 I was a little boy so I didn't feel it. But we were afraid to go out. The Poles felt even freer to show their feelings.

00:30:30 So we were confronted not only by the Germans but also by the Polish neighbors of our town. So gradually, it went from bad to worse.

00:31:00 It wasn't expected that they would kill all the Jews. But a Jew was the first victim. Jews were afraid to go to schul, so they held services in their homes.

00:31:30 The scrolls had been taken to private houses maybe a day before the war, so we prayed there. The Catholics told the Germans where the Jews were, and the soldiers came, took the Jews out in their talesim, to clean the streets.

00:32:00 It was not due to necessity. They took pictures. They cut off half a beard; they made them dance in the streets. In the afternoon I remember

00:32:30 Polish kids, my friends, running around, pointing out Jews and the soldiers would get them out for amusement. There was no need for it at all. This started in the first weeks.

00:33:00 But measuring it against the persecutions later, this was just child's play.

Q: I understand you were in Cracow ghetto. Can you tell me how you got there?

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- 00:33:30 They liquidated our town in Nov. 92. They made it Judenfrei. Our family hid; I didn't hide and the Polish police caught me and arrested me.
- 00:34:00 The transport was in Meerchou (ph). That is, they collected them in horse and buggy and took them there where there was a train. Then they shipped them east.
- 00:34:30 They collected all the people they found hiding and shipped them on to Meerchou. I was one of four on one of these shipments.
- 00:35:00 Begins to cry, cannot talk.
- 00:35:30 There is a break. He continues. My family had a kind of bunker that was hidden from the outside.
- 00:36:00 Our house was on a hill and we dug a hole that was covered. They made soda water in the basement and the bottles were piled up outside.
- 00:36:30 One Pole knew they were there. He let them out and they ran to another village WHERE A Pole hid them for a few days.
- 00:37:00 They walked to Cracow with my grandfather. But I wasn't with them. They thought I was more mobile. We thought things would quiet down and they would let the Jews go back.
- 00:37:30 They thought one should be on the outside to find out what was going on. But I was caught. Somehow they didn't send us by the train but
- 00:38:00 the ghetto was open, just a few police. When they said to go, I don't go, on principle, so I was left over - all four of us were.
- 00:38:30 They brought other Jews, but the transport had already gone. They collected over 400 Jews there. Suddenly they put gendarmes on the ghetto and took out the people.
- 00:39:00 They were taken to the woods and shot. But when they called for people to come out, I didn't go; all four of us didn't go.
- 00:39:00 Then there were none of us left. But a few were left to clean up the ghetto. After the shooting, I think there were left 15 people.
- 00:39:30 Some were Jews who worked outside and when they came back they found no one left. We hired a coal truck to take us to the ghetto in Cracow

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- 00:40:00 In the middle of the way, a Polish policeman with a German stopped us - it was stupid, it was an open truck with 15 Jews sitting there.
- 00:40:30 The driver didn't want to stop but they had a jeep and they overtook us. They brought us back to town and took everything people had.
- 00:41:00 They kept us at the Polish police station and by a lucky coincidence the Polish commandant was an ex-patient of the doctor.
- 00:41:30 He told him that it was no good, it was all finished and we would be shot. He gave us to understand that we should run away or do what we could.
- 00:42:00 When they were walking us away, we four were the last, so when they walked to the right, we went to the left/ Once out on the street, we didn't know where to go.
- 00:42:30 We decided to walk to Meerchau (ph)
In walking, we found the same truck, and the driver was going home, so he took us.
- 00:43:00 We were the only Jews in the ghetto; there were plenty of empty houses. The next day, I went by train to Cracow.
- 00:43:30 The doctor survived and lived in Israel; the son did not survive. A Polish policeman whom I met helped me to go to Cracow.
- 00:44:00 I gave him something and he took me to Cracow. He said that the next day they were taking people to forced labor. So he escorted me on the train and took me to Cracow. He said I should go to forced labor as a non-Jew.
- 00:44:30 I didn't go. He wanted me to take my sister. He let the other Jews run away. He said I could survive with forced labor but my family was against it.
- 00:45:00 I was gone from my family for about a month and one day I appeared again. This was November 1942 and we stayed there until March when the ghetto was liquidated.
- 00:45:30 Q: Do you remember the administrators of the ghetto?
Can you describe the set-up?
- A: When I came to the ghetto it was still not divided. It was divided some time. It was divided in February, into ghetto A, for working Jews and ghetto B for nonworking Jews. We were in B

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00:46:00 One day they surrounded the ghetto and put up the fence. The ghetto was run by David Guter and there were Jewish police.

00:46:30 The chief I think was Sincha Shapiro. The Germans came in every day or second day, and they supervised it.

00:47:00 Mostly you didn't see Germans inside, only at the gate. Around the ghetto, was watched by Polish policemen.

Q: How many in the ghetto.

A: About 20,000. It was already reduced.

00:47:30 It started with many more. This was already the third cut. After every action the first was in July '42; there was one in October. And there must have been another.

00:48:00 An action meant they took away a few thousand people. We found out later it was to camps and they reduced the population.

00:48:30 I think I came after the third reduction. It was hard to know how many people were there because of the influx from all around. People came out of hiding, had no place to go, so they came to the nearest place where there were still Jews.

00:49:00 Everybody was illegal in that we didn't have papers, we didn't have a card. It wasn't of consequence because there was plenty of food to buy.

Q: How did you get money?

00:49:30 We had money. We had gold. We had American dollars that we could sell and get food.

Q: Were you able to get medical attention?

A: There was a hospital and there were plenty of doctors, Jewish doctors.

00:50:00 We didn't need any doctors.

Q: I take it there wasn't any school?

A: No. I don't know if there was an active synagogue in the ghetto.

00:50:30 Anyway, I didn't go. I don't think my father had anything there. Everything was left. I don't even know if my grandfather put on anything.

00:51:00 I don't think anybody did.

Q: Was there anything to do? Was there any cultural life?

A: Nothing. I don't remember any

Q: What about political life, apart from surviving?

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- 00:51:30 I don't recall any. I was young. I remember in Cracow once there was a bombing by some Jewish boys. There were rumours that Jews could go to the woods, that there were partisans, but I don't know.
- 00:52:00 I remember once they arrested a boy they brought from the outside. He still has a sister in Israel. It was said he could take Jews to the partisans, but it was all rumours, I don't know.
- 00:52:30 All I know is from rumous. As for an effective underground all I know is runours.
- Q: What about smuggling. Was that a part of your life?
- 00:53:00 A: I didn't do any but many Jewish children did. I remember One girl was sent out of the ghetto when they were going to split it.
- 00:53:30 My sister, we pushed her out between the wires, maybe she could save herself. She travelled for a week, but she came back.
- 00:54:00 But she travelled alone for one week.
- Q: How did you leave the Cracow ghetto and where did go?
- 00:54:30 A: This was Sunday. The action started Saturday. They took out all the people to P .
All the Jews who were working people gāt numbers.
- 00:55:00 They had letters and numbers. All these were taken to _____ because it was building up.
Constructing the cam¹s, making the barracks. Then in the morning they started to take out the groups.
- 00:55:30 Then Sunday morning they taook all the people from the ghetto . This time they took them by trucks, and the trucks went to Auschwitz. In the morning
- 00:56:00 They took 30 people and they were supposed to clean up the ghetto. Then they separated men and women. And then they started separating
- 00:56:30 Them into another group/ All the old people - I remember my grandfather was there - they took them into a yard and they shot them there.
- 00:57:00 The rest they took to the trucks. Somehow I was separated - they took a group pf young people, about 20 to 25, He said, "let." "right," he didn't make any big investigations

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- 00:57:30 I ended up with this group of young people. Then he disagreed with the leader of the action. We heard them talking in German.
- 00:58:00 They were arguing about who's dogs we were. He made three groups. He was looking for fpr professions - he separated us by trade.
- 00:58:30 Finally, I ended up in the second group/ The first was - he made up three groups - apprentices, gesell, in German, and the 4rd group, master craftsmen.
- 00:59:00 The ordinary workers, he moved away to the trucks. I told him I was an apprecntice electrician. So he asked me
- 00"59:30 AC or DC. I didn't know what he meant, so I answered one of them. I don't know whether he didn't know the right answer or I gave him the right one.
- 01:00:00 He asked me also what current, 110 or 220. I told him one, but I didn't know. But I was in the truck; some of the gendarmes were hitting us towards the truck.
- 01:00:30 I fell to the ground and they all jumped over me. I picked myself up and I was now in the back of the group. I was reluctant tp go.
- 01:01:00 At it happened this was the last truck. There were no more trucks. He berated _____ He complained that there were 3,000 Jews and now he has more Jews.
- 01:01:30 We stayed there about an hour and we weren't surrounded by anyone. There were Germans and a few Ukranians around because Jews had been left to clean the ghetto and undress the dead.
- 01:02:00 The people who had been shot were loaded on platforms and were taken to P _____. Thrown on the carts like animals. And we were doing nothing, just standing there.
- 00:02:30 We had been told to take one bag, ten kilos, whatever it was, with names on everything, and at another time, we were told that everything should beleft.
- 00:03:00 So the place was strewn with these things, so the people were told to put things in order. The stuff was load on the trucks. At a certain moment, came a few
- 01:03:30 Men and they tried to march us to _____ St. We saw that we would be shot there, so we tried to join the people who cleaned.

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01:04:00 There were some Ukrainians in charge. There were about 80 boys left. He wouldn't let us join the others. He hit me with a rifle butt. I couldn't run and I ended up with the whole group.

01:04:30 We were lined up, the commander, Gett (ph) came and told us in simple German that we were going to be shot. He had six gendarmes with him to do the shooting. I ran away.

END OF TAPE 1

BEGIN TAPE 2

00:00:00 Me and another boy, I jumped out, it was a low building. I broke a window and jumped down, and ran into the yard. I saw there was a ladder to the attic there

00:00:30 I pulled the ladder up behind me and I sat there and I saw the shooting. I sat there an hour or two and then I went down and joined the cleaners. By the time evening came

00:01:00 came, the group was about 80 as people came in from other places. They found one Jew shot, executed but he survived and joined our group. They found one boy

00:01:30 Alive from the hospital - because they shot everyone there. At night they took us to Plachau (ph) they walked us there.

00:02:00 It wasn't far, about two or three kilometers. Since then I became a

Q: What do you remember of your first day?

A: The first day they put us into Barrack 38

00:02:30 There were bunks, three levels of them. When Gett (ph) came to welcome us he saw this little boy and asked, "Vass muchts du here?" (ph) He yelled, he motioned, "enough" and he left.

00:03:00 The first day, I don't remember if we went to work, but I think so. I don't remember anything significant except that every day they were bringing in Jews and shooting them up on the hill.

00:03:30 The camp was on the Jewish cemetery.

Q: When you arrived it had already been set up?

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- 00:04:00 They put us into empty barracks and this was our living quarters. It was not heated and through the walls you could see outside.
- 00:04:30 Q: What would you say was the population of the camp?
A: About 7,000 or maybe less because later more people came. The camp was built for 10,000 people
- Q: And guarded by how many?
A: I couldn't tell you.
- 00:05:00 Every few yards there were guards, we called them black uniforms. This was a division of the Russian Army that had surrendered and the leader was General Vasoc.
- 00:05:30 They wore black uniforms and the officers were Ukrainians. If I remember, the leader was a Lithuanian.
- 00:06:00 And there were watch towers, every 100 yards or so. There were lights at night and they stood there with machine guns.
- 00:06:30 The guards were all men, although there were a few SS officers who were women. But not on guard duty.
- 00:07:00 There were no Germans in guard, even at the gate. There were only Jews at the camp, although I heard that later they built additional camps and they divided them.
- 00:07:30 There were only Jews there. A few Poles who were working there. Later there were men and women, but separated.
- 00:08:00 We were not divided by a fence only by barracks. We could visit after work. There were no restrictions. I worked in a few places because I didn't have a permanent
- 00:08:30 Place. So people like me were sent to work on roads near the barracks. Then after a few days they took us to SS where they kept clothing for the Germans.
- 00:09:00 We had to tie it up in dozens, sweaters, socks, and so on. We load the stuff on trucks' since we even had to go to the railroad station and load it onto trains.
- 00:09:30 We had to get up at 6:00, be at the platz for seven and then be at the gate to wait for our truck. The trucks took us to our work. After a few days, the trucks stopped coming and we had to walk.

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- 00:10:00 This was after one of our boys escapefd. For a few days we didn't work and then they changed the routine so we had to walk with guards.
- 00:10:30 This boy I pushed out. We were loading crushed coal. Trucks dumped it outside. Polish workers shoveled it inside. And there we had to push it back in place.
- 00:11:00 This guy was very short and the window was high up. He had a brother living outside on Aryan papers, and they were in communication.
- 00:11:30 We used to steal from there, to Poles outside, sweaters, socks, whatever we worked on. Poles would gather there, and we threw things down, sometimes just for the hell of it. This boy told me he wanted to escape.
- 00:12:00 This boy told me he wanted to escape through the window but he was too short. So I stood up with him on my shoulder AND I pushed him out and there was a woman waiting for him and he ran away.
- 00:12:30 They kept us in the wrk place until midnight. Then the guards led us out and after that we were always escorted. Maybe he intended to shoot every tenth, that was the custom.
- 00:13:00 He took the four boys from the front because, he said, he had run away when they were going for food. They were sending four boys to get the lunch with a kettle.
- 00:13:30 They sent four boys, and the German said that that day, he had sent five, and one had run away. I knew it wasn't true. Gett (ph) came and put them in the first line.
- 00:12:00 He said he would kill them - one of them is my wife's cousin and he lives in Montreal They marched us back to camp, but when we got there we were dispersed immediately because this was the night we made the "revivia" (ph)
- 00:12:30 Everybody gave back everything . All the barracks were locked up and nobody could be away from camp. So because of this, the giy at the gate yelled and screamed and ordered us to disperse immediately to the barracks.
- 00:13:00 And this was why they didn't do anything. For a few days we were not allowed and then the SS persisted and we started again to go out to work.
- 00:13:30 But we were made to walk, and we all were responsible for one another. We couldn't go to piss - if we went all four had to go.

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00:14:00 We could only go twice a day, and we had to go all four. We had to work together, and if one escaped, the other three would be shot.

00:14:30 This is how we worked for a certain time. More escaped and we didn't go to work.

00:15:00 The food - we got soup in the work place. We ate twice a day. Soup and supper before we left. At first the food was very good because IT CAME FROM THE MILITARY KITCHEN.

00:15:30 We got sausage from Hollan. We got soup and bread But not work place. But Gett didn't know about it because after the escape

00:16:00 We didn't get food from the military kitchen. Only in camp. In camp there was bread and soup and if I wasn't in camp I didn't have the soup.

00:16:30 It was just water and cabbage. Very bad soup. I didn't eat the soup while I was in the camp.

Q: What was the reaction of the inmates during the regimen of the work and the brutality?

00:17:00 We didn't do any work and the guards were sitting there and couldn't care less. I worked mainly in a place where they stored blankets. I was sleeping there.

00:17:30 I would say I didn't work at all and most of us didn't work. When we had to crush stones, I sat half a day and maybe I hit a stone once.

00:18:00 Sometimes they beat us. I remember it was Pesack '43, he came and he yelled, "So many don't work." And he took us on the Appelplatz, picked out the weakest and gave us 25 on the ass.

00:18:30 The woman in charge of the work was Greenberg from Cracow. He put her on a table and everybody gave her 25 lashes. And if you forgot the count, it didn't count.

00:19:00 I escaped a short time after, but I think a few people didn't survive the lashes. He said not enough work was being done.

Q: Did you have adequate clothing.

A: No. It was too cold

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00:19:30 I didn't have a shirt because my rucksack was gone. Then they brought all the things and said that if I could find a bag with me name on its they would give it to me,

00:20:00 My bag wasn't there so I ended up witha lady's blouse with holes. There were latines, for men on one sie, for women on the other side.

00:20:30 It was a few hundred yards from out barracks. It was filthy.

Q: Was there any medical help for inmates?

00:21:00 There was a but I never went. If you went, some got release form work. The boys were afraid to go. They might be on the next list.

00"21"30 Some claimed they got a day off from work but I never went. The person in charge, they excuted him after the war.

Q: Can you describe the Kapos?

00:22:00 In our group there were two - Trachtenberg and Knoebler. Knoebler was a nice guy but Trachtenberg was a bute. He was very strong.

00:22:30 He didn't have much power but he used the power to monopolize the the buying of bread. The Polish girls who were working brought in and we bartered or bought .

00:23:00 He brought in bread and we had to buy it from him. He CAUGHT A COUPLE OF BOYS DOING SOMETHING AND he beat them. But I didn't have any trouble with him.

00:23:30 I didn't buy food to trade, maybe once or twice. I wasn't so concerned with food. A piece of bread was enough for me.

00:24:00 Q: Besides the lashing, what were some of the other punishments that were common?

A: Shooting was the only punishment if they caught you in any transgression.

00:24:30 Q: Was there any resistemce?

A: Not in camp

Q: What about on a personal level? Did people help pne another?

00:25:00 There was no talk about it. Everyone was getting up at six and coming back from work at six. Then tney waited for tomorrow.

- 00:25:30 I don't remember any organized discussion. We knew what was going on outside only from people who came in. If you were optimistic you heard that the Russians were in Warsaw. If you were pessimistic, you heard that the Germans were in Moscow.
- 00:26:00 You could believe anything you wanted. Some said the Americans had bombed Auschwitz. We knew about Auschwitz - one day they brought clothing back and someone said that he recognized my father's coat.
- 00:26:30 I told him he should have checked the belt because he had a few gold coins there. People from this transport were selected to work there.
- 00:27:00 My father worked in Auschwitz to the end of 1943, even into '44. Some of those people, who worked with my father, survived and some live in N.J.
- 00:27:30 The whole transport went to Auschwitz and the clothing came back the next day. Once a batch of clothing came that still had on the yellow patch and it was marked from where.
- 00:28:00 We had to sort out the clothing in piles. and then we made packages, one suit, one shoes. For two weeks the clothing came.
- 00:28:30 The soldiers said it came from disinfecting places. The packages were addressed to people. I don't know who, we were only involved in the sorting.
- 00:29:00 Men, women and children. Some of the boys even changed shoes there. I don't know why I didn't change my shirt there, but I didn't.
- 00:29:30 Q: When you worked outside the camp, did you have any relations with the general population?
A: No. Once when we marched on the street, I saw two couples that I knew. Just waved, that's all.
- 00:30:00 Q: Was there any religious activity in the camp?
A: Nothing. The first Pesach that I was in the camp I didn't eat bread.
- 00:30:30 They said that they allowed one pot of potatoes to be made for the very religious. Only instead of soup they had the potatoes instead of bread. I didn't eat any.

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00:31:00 I didn't eat any bread this first year . I stole here a carrot. I wasn't only working inside, I was also working outside. That must have been the end of April because I escaped in May.

00:31:30 Q: Tell me about the esca-e.

A: We had this big wall of cloth th at was valuable and we sold pieces for anything that was valuable.

00:32:00 We were at home until Nov. 42 and we sold things for gold coins. Each child had one gold coin and some money in bills. I kept mine. I never gave away nothing.

00:32:30 They shot one or two people on whom they found money. But I didn't give it away anyway. Even the baker asked me to keep his money. I said OK.

00:33:00 I gave it back to him later. The twenty dollar gold coin I kept in my shoe. The paper money I oused in my behind.

00:33:30 An unidentified woman is in camera telling about seeling things.

00:34:00 She continues: This is what everybody was doing, selling everything. We sold of everything, for Polish money too.

00:34:30 You came in as you were an the kids collected things. And my mother didn't give up anything. (Another person appears on screen.)

00:35:00 Now Goldtein is talking on the phone. He continues talking on the phone - in French.

00:35:30 He seems to be talking business. Finally he is done. I: Start talking about the escape.

00:36:00 Goldstein pauses. I escaped May 13, 1043. I was restless in camp, alway thinking of escaping.

00:36:30 In the beginning I was carrying Aryan papers. But later I figured they would find it on me and I got rid of it.

00:37:00 But still I was thinking of escaping because I had a few conflict with the Ober The first conflict I had was in ghetto.

00:37:30 Leibling was after me in the ghetto and once he tried to get me and I ran away. We lived in a building where he was the administrator or the owner.

00:38:00 He came from a prominent family in Cracow. He confronted me also once in camp.

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- 00:38:30 He wanted me to carry stones in a wheelbarrow and I didn't do a very good job. He beat me up and I was not very respectfull towards him, I called him Mr. Leibling.
- 00:39:00 And then one night they were taking, in the middle of the night, people to clearn the latrines. It was my principle never to go anyw here, I was evading.
- 00:39:30 They were taking people out and hitting them. After the night, when tney came back, they told me that Leibling was
- 00:40:00 Looking for the tall guy in the 38 block, and they said they took everybody. I said once, when someone asked me why I escaped
- 00:40:30 i said that Moses, who had killed the Egyptian and found one Jew hitting the other, who said to Moses do you think you are going to kill me like you killed the Egyptian?
- 00:41:00 Moses knew he had been seen and ran away, and now I felt the same. that if there was a aelesction, I would lead the list. The second confrontation
- 00:41:30 Was at Oesach when I went to the kitchen and got the soup. And he said he would give me the good stuff.
- 00:42:00 I was hungry and he gave me food. When I cam out a confronted me and aSKED ME WHO GAVE ME THE SOUP. He was short, and he started hitting me.
- 00:42:30 I put the pail over his head. The women peeling pota- toes intervned. I hit him and I ran away, so I was always thinking os escaping.
- 00:43:00 So I left my place of work and went to another one. The were craftsmen there, tailors, furriers. They were making baskets to carry gremades.
- 00:43:30 This gemeinschaft was very religious and were called "bedouins." They were so religious I was told that during Succoth, they put out two branches and called it a succah
- 00:44:00 Why did I go to work there? Because they said they were going to take bous outside to being those branches weeds, to male the baskets. They brought them in from the outside by trucks.
- 00:44:30 I worked there two weeks and I didn't make a basket. First, I didn't know how, and then , I took half finished baskets and looked like I was working.

- 00:45:00 The first transport that came, I was not able to make it. So I said, next time. In the meantime, an opportunity arose. They were still bringing in Jews from the ghetto everyday.
- 00:45:30 And every day there was shooting go on. There was a big trench, they shot them and threw them in.
- 00:46:00 One day they brought in a family named Hocherman, from Cracow. They had a son-in-law who intervened with Gett, to let them live.
- 00:46:30 Gett was very short of building material and the son-in-law said he would tell him of a Pole who was hiding building material belonging to Jews.
- 00:47:00 He told him there was a Jew in the camp named Schlesinger who had hid the material with the Pole. The Pole had a brick factory with large barns.
- 00:47:30 It hasppened that the Jewish family hid in his place. Forty people. But after the M _____ he went to the Polish police who took them all out and shot them. But Schlesinger
- 00:48:00 Happened to be away, and after, he went to the ghetto and ended up in our group. So Gett saved the family. Then one day they come to the barrack and they call Schlesinger.
- 00:48:30 So he went. He was my neighbor - he slpet next to me. When he came back he told me he hed told Gett about the Pole, who also was in the camp, and they brought him
- 00:49:00 And the Pole said yes, he had the building material and Gett said he would take tem boys to load the material.
- 00:49:30 He put in chARGE A German Jew named Meyer, a Capo. So I said I wanted to go with my friend. We said we had hidden some gold and would give him a share if he would let us go. He said fine.
- 00:50:00 It was decided we would go on Wednesday. A day laeter he let me know that plans had changed.
- 00:50:30 They would only take Poles who were involved in making roads and other things. They were called Baudies (ph).
- 00:51:00 So I told him again about the gold and other things. He said the only one who could order that was God himself, maeaning Gett. But ~~he~~ ^I said ~~he~~ ^I would try.

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- 00:51:30 So I went down and saw Gett. He was in front of his office.
- 00:52:00 He stood outside with a big dog. I don't know why he didn't shoot me. I told him I had hidden away gold.
- 00:52:30 I would give it to him in return for more food. I spoke to him in broken German. He said I should make him a drawing. I said I don't know
- 00:53:00 He asked me if I went to school, and I said no. He ASKED ME IF I spoke Polish and I said no. He said, OK, that tomorrow I was not to go to work, but with the truck.
- 00:53:30 I said I had a friend who also had things hidden in the village. He asked if I had brown material for a suit and I said yes.
- 00:54:00 He had a guy bring me bread, two loaves. I said I wanted cheese too. he had the guy bring me cheese too.
- 00:54:30 He said the other guy could also miss work and go with me. He asked me if I had a suit, because we were painted and no one could go around not painted.
- 00:55:00 In the barrack they painted us (indicates, down each leg and down the middle of the body). The ones who worked inside red, the ones who worked outside, yellow.
- 00:55:30 Then they said we had to go to the barber. For having unpainted garment, it was shooting.
- 00:56:00 He asked me if I had a painted suit and I said yes, but they had only painted the clothes I was wearing. I had a friend, he is still alive, and I got his pants, that were short, and a jacket.
- 00:56:30 In this uniform, I went the next day, with my friend, with a truck, accompanied by an assistant to Gett

END OF TAPE II

BEGIN TAPE III

- 00:00:00 We went to P _____ with the truck and guards We came to Prussowitz (ph) and I knew every corner. They said now we go for the gold, and I said no, I want to go to get the
- 00:00:30 Brown material because later the man won't be there. I communicated with the man I wanted to escape with.

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- 00:01:00 This Pole told me he already had some people hiding in his uncle's place. He said that at eleven o'clock we should be at such and such corner and he would take us in.
- 00:01:30 My friend decided he didn't want to escape. He went to the ranch owner where he had hidden a full rucksack of ~~things~~ things
- 00:02:00 He said he would go back to camp. he would have a better chance to survive. The Kapo sitting there was his cousin.
- 00:02:30 He said he was going back to camp and I said I was escaping. He went to dig for his things and I went on the road.
- 00:03:00 I told a peasant there I was going for some food. I jumped out the window. He wanted to shoot us because he saw me
- 00:03:30 But he didn't know he didn't have ammunition in his rifle. When we had come from the morning, we were all full of dust, so he went into the mailman to wash up. He needed a pail of water.
- 00:04:00 I was sitting in the kitchen and I told him we are escaping. I asked him to block the kitchen so that the guard could not see us. He said, look, if you are running away
- 00:04:30 They will shoot me. You should know. The rifle was standing in the kitchen, he took out the bullets and gave them to me.
- 00:05:00 He said now you can run and by the time he finds out he has no bullets, you will have a few minutes lead. So he didn't know that he had no ammunition.
- 00:05:30 I ran away - I knew where to go. They called the police and Gett. I knew this because I was in the post office and all the calls came through there.
- 00:06:00 I ran away and spent the day sitting in the municipal office of another village because I knew the secretary there. He called me from the post office and told me who was coming and who was going.
- 00:06:30 He told me they took the guard and he had to stand at attention, saluting, in the market, until Gett came. They found out he was missing six bullets.

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- 00:07:00 They traced me to the municipal building because the peasant showed them where I went, and I was sitting in the office. I was sitting in the office at a typewriter like anyone else.
- 00:07:30 I saw Gett, he came to the building and was standing outside. The secretary sent out - he knew all the Polish police. He was very respected. He went out and they asked him if he saw a tall guy
- 00:08:00 He said oh yes, he saw him running that way. Late at night he took me to where I was supposed to meet the Pole. He left me and my friend took me to the attic where he was hiding others.
- 00:08:30 I was there until the end. My friend was taken back to bunker, I found out after, and he denied he knew where I was but they didn't hang him because he gave away the gold that he had.
- 00:09:00 He came back after the war and disappeared on a trip to Linz (ph) Five of the boys went to Linz
- 00:09:30 And he didn't come back. Apparently the Russians stopped him and robbed him and he was never found. I sat in the attic until Jan. 1945 - the couple and myself.
- 00:10:00 The food was very skimpy. We had one big loaf of bread like the peasants made for themselves every two weeks, and we had soup for lunch.
- 00:10:30 It was made from tiny noodles. Sometimes a little milk because she had a goat. Not a rich peasant.
- 00:11:00 We also had tea, at lunch and dinner. Sometimes when it was hot, that is, when the police came to the village, he had a place dug out in the kitchen for potatoes
- 00:11:30 So we went there sometimes at night, sometimes in the day. We didn't have any papers at this time.
- 00:12:00 It was unbearable. He brought someone from the underground, a lady, who took pictures of me to make Aryan papers, but it was too dangerous to go out. I could have but they didn't speak Polish.
- 00:12:30 We found out that the lady who took the pictures was also Jewish. I stayed until Jan, 1945 and then the Russians came into the village.

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00:13:00 The Russians started their winter offensvie then, and came to our village, whicj was about 30 km from Cracow.

Q: When you were liberated, were you suffering from any illnesses

A: Yes

00:13:30 When I went out, it was a mild day, but my ears froze off. In December, the peasant was complaining that he didn't have money for food, grain

00:14:00 I told him that I didn't have any more moeny but we could go to our house and I know where the gold is hidden in the walls. He was an old man but he could walk very fast.

00:14:30 It was cold in December and I wasn't well dressed. We went into the house through the cellar and I found the brick but there was nothing there. It had been taken out already by the people living there.

00:15:00 He was very disappointed and we hurried back because it was near morning. I couldn't keep up with him and I lost him.

00:15:30 I asked people going to church how to go back to the village because it was the first time that I had been there.

00:16:00 When I got back I couldn't walk and since then I was sick,, very weak I still have a picture of my ears black frim when they froze.

00:16:30 Everything peeled off, but I recuperated except when I go now in the cold they itch.

00:17:00 When I went to the doctor he said there was nothing wrong, I was just weak. My weight was 110 pounds.

Q: So where did you go after you were liberated?

00:17:30 I went down to the village and there was a big grou pf soldiers and I was sticking to them. I met a solder and he was Jewish and he was quattered with a peasant.

00:18:00 Then he had to go wofrward, and a Russian officer came in. who said he was also Jewish. I thought he was my friend.

00:18:30 But he turned me over to the Russian military police. And they started to interrogate me. I thought they were crazy

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- 00:19:00 I told them I was a Jew. They wanted my documents. I told them I had no documents, I was in hiding. He was writing in a book and told me to sign. I signed. In the middle of the night he brought
- 00:19:30 Brought the deputy mayor from the city, who knew me. They took me out and paraded me in front of him, and he told them who I am.
- 00:20:00 He told them the same as I did. So I went to Prussowitz. There were a few Jews. Soon there were 15 or 20 of us living in one house.
- 00:20:30 Then when the Poles started shooting and killing Jews again- this was the first week - they shot two Jews in Solnick (ph) who came out of hiding.
- 00:21:00 The Poles shot them on the street. Soon after I went to Cracow. No one was left from my family, only two brothers of my mother.
- 00:21:30 They were with me in the camp and survived. One is in Israel and one in New York. They were liberated in Germany in May.
- 00:22:00 I knew from the group that was at Auschwitz where my father worked that my father went to the gas chamber in 1944.
- 00:22:30 So I knew that no one survived. Then the Poles took me to the army. They mobilized my age group. Most Jewish boys didn't go.
- 00:23:00 Most eluded but I thought they wouldn't take me because I was bent up like this - (he bends over) . So I went before the commission and the doctor said there was nothing wrong with me.
- 00:23:30 Immediately they put me on guard duty before I had a uniform. I didn't like the environment and I met somebody who took me to the security office and they gave me a desk job.
- 00:24:00 I worked there for a few months until I got out of Poland. First I got married - I had met my wife in Prussowitz
- 00:24:30 She and her mother had been liberated from a camp in Poland a few days before me. She came back and we were married in October, 1945.
- 00:25:00 This I think was after the Program. We had a Program in Cracow, before Rosh Hashonah of 1945

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- 00:25:30 Only one Jew was killed, a women named Berger. Near Prussowitz, two were killed.
- 00:26:00 The woman who was cooking for us, her two brothers were killed. After the Program, we left illegally, to Germany, over the border to Czeckoslovakia.
- 00:26:30 We went to a DP camp in Landsberg. We were there about a year, maybe 14,15 months.
- Q: From the time of your liberation, did any organiza-tions help you?
- 00:27:00 A: Only in Landsberg, UNRAH (PH) - we were living outside the camp in a German home. We would go every week to UNRAH every week
- 00:27:30 And we got white bread - because everything in Germany was rationed. and we got everything from the DP camp. Like when my daughter was born
- 00:28:00 It was in an UNRRRAH hospital, with Jewish doctors and everything was free, and we got packages like military rations.
- 00:28:30 There was plenty of food in the DP camps and for food we could trade with the GERMans for anything.
- Q: How did you feel after what you had been through?
- 00:29:00 A: I don't know how to describe it.
- Q" You could function' you werem't depressed? You emerged with your values intact?
- xx**
- 00:29:30 In the beginning, I thought I could kill every German. Then I saw that I can't I couldn't do it
- 00:30:00 Q: How do you think the war affected your values' did you remain pretty much the same person?
- A: I never had any made up outlook before, when this happened, because I was young
- 00:30:30 I can't say my outlook changed because I didn't have one before. I believed that the world around us hated us, and that view has been reinforced. Although I was helped
- 00:31:00 By non-Jews, but I still say that most Poles, Germans most people hate us, and when we read what was happening behind the scenes, this reinforces my view more and more.

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- 00:31:30 To me this is a fact, that the non-Jewish world hates us , that Roosevelt was the biggest Jew-Hater because he didn't lift a finger to save the Jews.
- 00:32:00 There was a move to have all the nations ask Hitler to stop the slaughter but it was prevented by the State Department and Roosevelt. It was an article by Fish, who had it from a Jewish State Department official.
- 00:32:30 Roosevelt wouldn't open his mouth or ~~lift~~ his finger to help. The world could have done a lot, but didn't want to do anything. And this reinforced the German position.
- 00:33:00 They saw the world didn't give a damn. Wh could dream that they could kill children and babies like that, but they saw that they could do it.
- 00:33:30 They were encouraged by the silence and knew that this was what the world wanted. And I am sure that they are sorry that they didn't accomplish everything.
- 00:34:00 Q: How religious were you after the war compared with before?
A: Completly. From religious to nonreligious.
Q: How do you feel about being Jewish?
- 00:34:30: Whatcan I do? But if they gave me a choice now, I would say nonJewish. But I don't have a choice. I feel that if God exists , he let us down. Where was he?
- 00:35:00 They say He knows everything before it happens, so why did He let it happen. If He wants to punish the Jews, couldn't He find some other wat. They say He is almighty. Even a nuclear bomb would have been mre humane.
- 00:35:30 If He decided that six million Jews had to be liqui- dated, couldn't he find some other way? If He is not almight - (he shrugs his shoulders)
- 00:36:00 Q: Were you able to talk about your experiences after the war?
A: Not really. Well, among friends. But there was nothing to talk about because everyone had his own story. (wipes tears from his eyes)
- 00:36:30 Q: What kind of reception do you receive from non- survivors after the war?
A: The Poles were mostly sorry that anyone survived.

- 00:37:00 They looked at us as superfluous. Most of the Poles were sorry that the Germans didn't finish the job. The Germans felt the same way when we arrived. Though the Germans themselves were not able to make Programs.
- 00:37:30 The Germans themselves are law-abiding and wouldn't do it if the law didn't allow.
- Q: Did you join any survivors organizations?
- A: There weren't any in Poland after the war. In Canada, yes.
- 00:38:00 I wasn't active in any, but I joined and supported them.
- Q: What language or languages were spoken primarily in your home
- A: Yiddish, and Polish only if it was needed, outside.
- 00:38:30 Q: What did you communicate to your children about the Holocaust?
- A: (He frowns) Superficially. If they read something, we talk. Not too much.
- 00:39:00 Q: The feelings about the country in which you now live?
- A: In what respect?
- A: Is it a good country; it is good for you?
- 00:39:30 I know they didn't let me in eagerly. After the war, I tried to immigrate to any country I could. I didn't qualify for the U.S. or Canada because I didn't have family.
- 00:40:00 In South America they let in lots of people, but not Jews. In Canada the same. I came to Canada illegally and then got immigration status through a lawyer. But legally I couldn't get in.
- 00:40:30 So I was not so grateful because they would not let me in. But first I migrated from Germany to Bolivia,
- 00:41:00 I still have the papers, and I came in as a nonJew.. I didn't change my name. It just was written nonJew.
- 00:41:30 So what did the nonJewish world do to me after the war? Same thing. Same discrimination. I don't think we need too much proof. We have books in Canada about the King (McKenzie King, prime minister) administration.
- 00:42:00 He was anti-Semitic. Roosevelt let the St. Louis go back and forth. But just yesterday they let people in from Cuba. They paid for the train tickets for the Hungarians; they let in all the Vietnamese.

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00:42:30 They let everyone in but for the Jews there were no loopholes. Now everyone enters, but poor Roosevelt couldn't find a legal way for them to come in, the cream of German society, with visas.

00:43:00 Now we can break the laws, but they are not Jews. So what do you ask me about the nonJewish world.

Q: Do you think another Holocaust is possible?

A: Yes. If the Germans could write in 1983

00:43:30 In a note to the US State Department and the US ^{JUSTICE} ~~State~~ Department that shooting four year-old girls in 1943 doesn't represent murder and they accept it, what more do you need?

00:44:00 That was published not by a Jew but by Reuters. I can read it to you I have it in my pocket. Jews didn't react to it. So shooting Jews is not murder.

00:44:30 Shooting a four year old girl does not represent underhanded killing.

Q: What kind of values do you try to transmit to your children?

00:45:00 A: That they should never forgive the Germans because they were the perpetrators and the nonJews acquiesced to it. And acquiescence is equal to

00:45:30 guilt by perpetrators. They acquiesced by silence. They didn't lift a finger.

00:46:00 I would like to add many things but it needs more thought. I find sometimes anger against the Jews, that we Jews do not do enough.

00:46:30 We don't do enough ourselves. We are too busy acquiring worldly things and we don't see, for example, we don't protest about the German note that just came to light.

00:47:00 We don't pay attention, and that is bad. I want to add only that, and my family doesn't know that, that I want to leave THIS CONTINENT and go to Israel, even if my family doesn't want to. I don't want to die here.

00:47:30 END OF TAPE III