Jerry lives in a small town that was about one third Jewish. He was born on July 20, 1922. His family had a small dry goods store. Jerry has 3 brothers and 2 sisters and the family lived in Lodz.

He attended public school and then went to a Jewish school in New York from 1937 till 1939. He was 17 years old.

In his town the Jewish people stayed together. The only time that he mingled with non-Jewish people was in school and in business. He had no socialization with non-Jewish people.

On September 1, 1939 at 6 am the Germans started to bomb the city where he lived. Since that time everyone lived in fear.

On September 3, 1939, the German occupied the city and organized the German Police. The Polish citizens surrender the jail and the Germans gave orders that all make citizens between the ages of 15 and 55 where to report to the main square at 5 pm on Sunday.

The German soldiers had them march to a warehouse and they were locked up overnight. There were no lights and no water.

They were released and told that all guns must be confiscated.

They were assigned work by the German government. They were not paid for this work. They cleaned up the roads and the dead animals.

Laws were passed that Jewish people could have no business and could not sell to the Gentiles. No Kosher meat was available. This was the beginning of 1940.

Jewish people had to have permission to travel from town to town. People tried to help one another.
21:00 In 1940 the Jewish people had about 60 stores. The Germans gave them permission to have only 5 stories. They were permitted to sell only to Jews.

23:40 Jerry received a letter from the Gestapo to see the Jewish doctor. The next letter came on November 10, 1940 and Jerry was told to bring warm clothes and heavy shoes and gloves. They were told if they didn't go harm would come to their parents.

25:10 They were ordered to march to the railroad station from the school this was about 3 miles. Jerry said it looked like funeral. This was the last time he saw his mother and father.

26:00 At the railroad station we regular passenger trains. They traveled about 1 and 1/2 days and saw a lot of passenger trains sent to the camp.

28:10 There was only one barrack with a fence around and they received their first supper in the camp. The meal had no taste and no one touched it.

29:00 They were awaken at 6 am and given coffee and bread and then went to work.

30:50 They worked 11 hours per day. Jerry was in a forced labor camp. They worked 5 and 1/2 days per week.

32:50 There was only cold water in the camp no hot water.

33:00 They go used to the food. This camp was much better than the other camps. He was able to get food from home. Once a month letters arrived.

35:25 In 1941, 6 people were sicked and sent to Auschwitz. This was the first time Jerry heard of Auschwitz.

38:30 In 1942 or 43, Jerry was sent to a new camp called Nogkin (ph). They worked for the railroad. This camp was much worse than the other one. The food was worse and they got less of it. The work was very hard and there was no medical care. A lot of people died here in this camp.

41:00 Jerry was sent to Maska (ph) camp, he was not there very long. He worked in a factory. He went on to say he was moved to other camps.

44:10 While working in one factory they were given overhauls. They worked with a powder that was all over them. They were never given soap to wash. They got used to the smell of the powder. The work continued for 3 shifts of 8 hours each.

46:30 The Jewish women had the same rations as the men.

48:45 He stayed in this camp until 1944.
01:00 All of the camps that Jerry was in were labor camps. He felt that he survived because he was healthy.

01:50 In the camps people were beaten for stealing, or not walking fast enough. Most of the beatings came from the guards.

02:30 Once, Jerry had pneumonia and was able to spend 2 weeks in the camp and not work. Mr. Lidzer (ph): would do the selection from the infirmary for Auschwitz if they could not work.

04:50 Jerry said that each camp was different. Each camp became worse. There were less supplies and they were starved. Each morning in one camp you got a cup of coffee, another camp you got nothing. Once camp they got soup with pieces of meat about twice per week. Mostly they ate once in 24 hours.

07:00 Some people tried to observe the holidays and fast at first in the camps, but later years they were just glad to get something to eat.

09:20 Most Jews were recognized by the yellow star, the Polish had a P, the Russians had an R. Most people stayed away from the Jews, they felt that they were contaminated and they always did the hardiest work.

11:00 The last camp that Jerry was in was Daha (ph). There were over 32,000 inmates and there was not enough food eat. They were given 2 slice of bread per day.

11:55 Jerry observed American airplanes flying very low and he saw no more German planes.

12:00 In Daha (ph) he could see the crematoriums. They had very big chimneys. He was aware of what was going on.

13:05 Jerry saw large heaps of skeletons. There was not enough time to bury them.

13:30 The Swiss Red Cross arrived at the camp around noon one day. There was a lot of chaos. They were feed soup.

15:30 They left the camp by way of passenger trains and received proper food of cheese, crackers, and canned fish. Jerry was in the labor camps for 4 and 1/2 years and 3 weeks. They were each given a paper and sleeping bag. Jerry said it was nice and comfortable. They traveled 2-3 days to Insbrck, Austria.

16:50 A German officer spoke to them for about 2 minutes. He said that the American army was not far away and that they would be alright.

18:40 They were sent back to Germany.
22:50 The Germans were handing out food; they found a place to
sleep in a barn and this was the first supper he had in 4 and 1/2
years.

24:30 They were given civilian clothes. In the beginning the
people had little feelings about being liberated. After a little
while life started to change.

26:01 Orders were issued for them to stay in the German barracks.
Jerry weight about 90 lbs. and could barely walk. The Americans
were running the camps and there were Jewish and American Doctors.
Jerry was weak but not sick.

28:30 They started to think that they had survived.

30:00 List of the survivors were made and handed out. Jerry found
out that his 2 brothers had survived and he was reunited with them.

31:10 Jerry learned in 1945 that his parents did not survive and
he could not get the details of their deaths.

32:25 After the war the German people had orders by the Americans
to treat the Jews well. The Germans were worried that the Jewish
people would hurt them it they were associated with the Nazi's.

53:30 In 1946, Jerry came to the United States and lived in New
York, in 1951 he went to Israel and got married and returned back
to the U.S. In 1953 he moved to Atlanta and bought a grocery store

38:00 Jerry couldn't speak to his children about his experiences.
His wife was 12 years old when se went to the camps. She suffered
a nervous breakdown in 1965.

43:00 Jerry has never gone back to Europe. The nightmares have
still not gone away. He feels he is still not free.

47:00 Jerry felt that the State of Israel was important for the
Jewish people to have a home.

Jerry hopes this would be for the future, a lesson for all humans.
People need to appreciate what it is to live in a democratic
country with all people having freedom.
.END.