

My name is Phil Loeb. Today's date is July 29, 1991. I'm here to interview Herman Samet, who is a survivor of the Nazi Holocaust. I am doing this under the auspices of the Holocaust Research Collection at Florida Atlantic University. The purpose of this interview is to add to the oral history of the Nazi Holocaust, so that through this living memorial, future generations will know what happened. With this knowledge, we hopefully can prevent any reoccurrences in the future. OK, Herman, we are going to begin by talking about the town from which you came.

Q: Tell me first, where were you born and what was your birthday?

A: I was born in _____ which was _____ My birthday was March 7, 1925

Q: Does that town have another name?

A: Slavish interpretation.

Q: Geographically in Checkoslovakia, what part is it?

A: If you describe Prague as the capital city, it's the west border, totally to the east near the Polish border, in Hungaria, not far from the Hungarian and Polish borders, closer to the Polish border. The closest Polish city was Lemberg.

Q: Did you grow up in this city?

A: I did grow up there -- I was a teenager.

Q: Approximately, how many people lived in that city?

A: About 1500 all together, with 600 Jewish families, I would guess.

Q: Really, a large percentage of the population was Jewish. It was really a town or village, not a city.

A: That's correct.

Q: Now, before the war, were there any particular organizations that helped the Jews with their routine needs, for example, like Kehilla?

A: This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word. It is not the primary source and it has not been checked for spelling or accuracy. For sure, there were 3 synagogues and a Kehilla, a Rabbi and a Jewish judge for Jewish purposes and we had a high

school, we had a Yeshiva, which I went to.

Q: Who was the head of the Kehilla? Do you remember any of the names? <http://collections.ushmm.org> Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

A: Rabbi Schreiber.

Q: Now, how is it organized? How did you become a member of the Kehilla?

A: While I was a child and student growing up, my father was a very ----you have to understand the nature of Jewish life was very much organized through religion. My parents were very religious people. They obeyed the Sabbath, went twice a day to synagogue, obey the holidays, have separate dishes for meat and dairy products, shared the food for the sick. They believed in tzedaka as a basis of Jewish life. As a matter of fact, my education, most of it, was Jewish in Yeshiva.

Q: Was there any political parties in your shtetl?

A: Very much so.

Q: Could you describe them?

A: Yes. I remember I had cousins which were older, they

are not alive. Their politics was first and religion second. Then there was Jabotinsky those days, it was not the government shamir. It was also communistic party. Germany started to develop. You have to understand the poor people with big families, very hugh, big families. I myself came from a family of 7 children. So, naturally, as I could understand more about political things, people ran away to the border -- to Poland because arrest and they started to say to themself, you have to jump a bridge, catch a straw and save yourself.

Q: So the Communists were put down.

A: Very much so. There was hanging.

Q: Who was doing the hanging?

A: In my area, was occupied when Czeck was broken up. The Carpethians was broken up by the Hungarians. The Hungarians occupied the country in 1937.

Q: At that point did they persecute the Jews? That was under Admiral Horthy and....

A: That's right. Horthy was all right. As a matter of fact, I saw him in Germany after the war. Germans took him away, they didn't want to give him

Q: What did people do to make a living in your town?

A: Most of them storekeepers. My father was dealing with lumber. There was a big mill. the name was Eislaw. Someone came from England and wanted to know about her parents. He was a PHD. My father was selling to Switzerland for building ships. He was a salesman.

One sold shoes and another sold other things.

Q: How many children were there in your immediate family?

A: 3 boys and 4 girls.

Q: What were the names of your brothers and sisters?

A: Leah, Paul, Harlan, Edith, Tobin, Israel, Isaac.

Q: This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word. It is not the primary source, and it has not been checked for spelling or accuracy. Where were you in the family?

A: I was the 3rd child, first boy. The girls came first.

Q: What were your parents' names?

A: Moshe and my mother was ^{http://collections.ushmm.org} Gittel

Q: And where were they born? ^{contact: shoykha@ushmm.org for further information about this collection}

A: My mother was born in the same place I was born. My father was born in Salekin a city of Sentef.

Q: Did you speak Hungarian?

A: I spoke a little Hungarian. My father spoke it, and my mother spoke it.

Q: Now, you had 600 families. This was nice size Jewish community. What did they do for recreation?

A: Not too much. They had movies that were very seldom active. It was a Chassidish life. From Friday nite to Saturday night, it was all spiritual. Men were by themselves and women were by themselves. The Jewish girls by themselves and the Jewish boys by themselves. Others who didn't obey the rules of their parents, they felt that they were being demoralized. The young kids like me liked to play soccer, started to swim. Little

Q: What did the Egyptians say 5,000 years ago? Youth are

going backwards.

Q: What schools did you attend?

A: Czech - at 3 yrs old started Hebrew school.

Q: How far did you go?

A: I went to the 6th grade.

Q: Did the war interfere with your studies?

A: That's right.

Q: So you were in the sixth grade when the war developed.

A: That's correct.

Q: Do you remember any incidents of anti-semitism that happened to you or your family, or your friends before 1939?

A: Yes. When the Hungarians came in, the Ukrainians took over and they immediately destroyed our house. The people who lived right there -- our neighbors -- lived for generations there. Tremendous hatreds from those people. What a beating I got. We went out on the street -- it was such a surprise, that we couldn't go out at night by ourselves. We went out 4 or 5 o'clock in the winters.

Q: So you stayed in the house and you were broken into.

Q: Now we want to talk about the time that Hitler was on the way up, but not yet on top, before the war came to your country. Before the town was occupied. Did you hear what was going on with Germany?

A: Yes.

Q: What did you hear?

A: I heard that we had war and as children, we were talking that we would have to enlist in the army and we'd have to learn to shoot, because the Germans were very good and we would have to be better, because we were a small country -- 12 million in those days.

Q: So you were planning on fighting the Germans?

A: Fighting the Germans, yea, together with our cousins and some old Czech soldiers. We'd all go out there and fight. We would not let them take our country because Maczarak was fighting for the truth. We were very much involved because

Sokol was the organization.....
Life was very hard, but we knew that Germany was preparing for war and we collected information about the collection.

Q: Now, as Hitler started to get more powerful, were there any changes in your little town?

A: Yes. People used to run away from Germany and used to tell horrible stories.

Q: When they came to your town?

A: Yes. We didn't believe them because the German people, as my father used to say were very cultured and civilized human beings and would never do such a thing. The things they were telling us were absurd. They warned us. No, it's not possible. Germany will never do such a thing. So many doctors, so many professionals. Why should they do that? Jews always lived good.

Q: So nobody in your family tried to leave at that time.

A: No. We weren't even talking about it.

Q: Was your town ever occupied by the Russians during the war?

A: No.

Q: Now let's talk about when the Nazis came in. Before the ghetto started. Now, what happened in you town between the time the war started and the occupation? How long did it take for the Nazi occupation to get into you?

A: The minute the eastern front opened up, there was already then, the transfer over the road, because they had a good line of communication through us -- not the best one---with the trains. The transports they had was a good one, so they made a big problem for us. The mulish party, they started to control, so they took away.....totally destroyed us. A Jew had to wear a star.

Q: That's before the occupation?

A: Sure, sure, sure. They took over from Horty's party, they took over the newspapers. Jewish people couldn't own things, supplies. Took away their rights for existence. The children couldn't go to school. As a matter of fact, we used to go to a Jewish school. They beat up the teacher, so she was laid up the whole season. He couldn't go on his legs. As a matter of fact, he died in East New York. They oppressed in such a way that you felt by the air in every step of your life. A child couldn't go no where. If there was a holiday for the Christian children, they used to beat the hell out of us.

Q: Were you aware of this feeling of the Hungarians before the war?

A: No. They were lovely people. So before the war, the Hungarians changed. Hitler's propoganda went so well in the Christian world that it shocked my mind already then. I used to play with soccer players, but nobody would play with me. I used to go out in the evenings. Who could stay home, there was no electricity, no cultural #237 I wasn't sure with my life. If they caught a Jewish kid or Jewish man, they would beat the hell out of him. I was...
Q: Did you ever get caught?

A: Sure. There wasn't a kid staying home. This I got from the Czechs. The Czechs always, they took children from the schools -- the minute they could move. There were all kinds of athletics, talents and prizes.

Q: Now, was there a day when the Nazis actually marched into your town?

A: Yea.

Q: Do you remember that day?

A: I remember the day but I don't remember the date.

Q: Tell me, what did you see when they entered your town?

A: #255 I wasn't there when they marched in. When they approached the front lines, they stopped their trains and they brutalized us -- the people, rapes, they came down from the front. 261 You have to understand, going back to the first question, it came to my mind that they took away, I don't know how many. Thousands of Jews from #264 Carpathian Jews. The Hungarians and the Germans. They took whole families.

Q: I heard about these massacres.

A: This was at the time, to answer your question. Full families, just massacred.

Q: Did you know families?

A: Oh sure, oh sure.

Q: Now, was there any resistance from the non-Jewish population in the town?

A: Yes. Much of them resisted.

Q: There was also Jewish resistance?

A: #281 Non Jewish resistance, as I know it there wasn't. In fact, there were collaborators. It seems to me, that they were looking for their independence. They wanted to have a say -- like for instance, the Palestinians now in Islam wanted to have but knew they would never accomplish it, so they 290 and the best they could get power was to be with Hitler. So that's 294

Q: There was Jewish resistance.

A: Yes

Q: Can you give me some examples of what happened?

A: They organized in groups to run away to Russia.

Q: Did some make it?

A: Yes. I may also tell you that some of them became big officers in the Russian army. Some of them came here which they went to the Czech army #303

Q: Was there any organization in the Jewish community to help themselves?

A: Zionist organizations. But in those days, I met a family which took themselves to Turkey, to Rumania, to Yugoslavia, Turkey and I met them in Israel which they disappeared and I never knew how they. A few of them, couple dozens of them, a couple of families.

Q: But they were helped by the Zionist organization to get out. In absolute secrecy.

Q: You didn't get out. And your family didn't get out.

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Q: How were you able to live through the emotional strain.

A: I was -- I went to work, I told you before, I went to work in lumbering. I was #330. We were loading wagons and sent them through the forest in three days. #333 they accepted me

Q: Did they know you were Jewish?

A: Yes. But they liked me. But I worked and got on the payroll. #327 I had two sisters and they went to Budapest and they started to learn trades, sewing shirts and stuff like that and other clothing, dresses. They are both alive and #331 and one is in New York. The one who is in New York is totally crazy. Totally lost her mind. The one in Harrisburgh has a daughter, a doctor, a psychiatrist. Hardly you can talk to her. As a result of their experience. Girls got it worse. I saw a girl, girls in Auschwitz. Never would I look at a girl in my life. They were 18, 19 years old, God, what they made of them! #342 with a cross in the back was hanging from her everything. Got zohl opheeten.

Q: Now, let's talk about the ghetto. They moved you into a ghetto. How did you find out that you had to go to a ghetto?

A: Early morning, the last day of Passover, 1945, the whole street was #350 #351 they let us stack some of our belongings, bags, just what we could carry and they took us into the main synagogue and they searched us from top to bottom #356 they confiscated jewels and everything. They took us to the city #358 there was a big factory there where they put all the Jews. Some of them they killed #361 when they resisted.

Q: So you walked into that ghetto?

A: Yes. There was slave labor.

Q: Now, you told me the date. You went into the ghetto in '44. Do you remember the season?

A: April. The last day of Passover.

Q: Now, who decided where you would live and with whom.

A: No, like animals.

Q: Who made the decisions?

A: No decisions were made. We took the family in a corner.

Q: How many rooms did you have?

A: No rooms at all. It was just a brick factory. There was only #376. There was a roof, that's all. There was no walls ????? It was cold.

Q: Was there a guard at the ghetto gates?

A: Yes. The Hungarian gendarmes.

Q: Who made the rules? The Hungarians or the Germans?

A: The Germans. You see, when you want to be precise, you can understand, it was under the German control. It's not important who made them. It was the guy who told me what to do. That was a Hungarian. It was not so, he got control from someone else -- a German. The German political party - The Gestapo approved everything.

Q: Was there a judenreich in the ghetto?

A: No. I wouldn't say a judenrat. Probably, they made an organization for the kitchen, I think that's what it was all about. This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word. It is not the primary source, and it has not been checked for spelling or accuracy.

Q: Were there any other organizations in the ghetto?

A: No

Q: Now, were there Jewish police?

A: Yes. They took out the ringleaders, otherwise the men who were active before, so they took them out, took them away from their wives and their children. There was a building and they locked them up there and watched them. #412

Q: Now, did anyone give you help from outside the ghetto? Jewish, or non-Jewish?

A: I heard after I came home, there was someone who helped us a few times in the ghetto. Which was true.

Q: Do you have their names?

A: No I don't have a name because I didn't know who the people were. They camouflaged themselves with old clothes when they went to the city, they took us to work. #421 #423 etc. they were told there were people with whom they could run away, but they didn't trust them.

Q: Now, were there organizations inside the ghetto? Any political organizations?

A: No. They would hang them and kill them. They had excellent informers. It was very easy to get an informer. When you are hungry, your stomach makes the decision. God almighty.

Q: Did they inform on you for something?

A: I was once #436 my father #437. They took him out of the house one Saturday and brutalized him. I know who it was. It was a school friend. He became a Russian officer. And he openly told me. At the same time, the air was so heavy, they hung 12 people just for punishment

Q: What did they do?

A: They hung them. They just took them and brutalized them.

Q: What did they do to be punished?

A: They were born Jewish. That's all. They took them and hung them. I remember a neighbor, David, his wife and his child. He was a shoemaker, very lovely people. My heart still breaks.

Q: Now, were there any attempts to escape?

A: Yea. Sure there were people which escaped. I was myself #456. My aunt came to me crying, her daughter was taken away #459 #462 He was on line and we all had numbers. He died. He was with me in the camp.

Q: What were living conditions in the ghetto?

What kind of food did you get?

A: Whatever they could scramble up from the Jewish farmers. And they brought it in and this was the food once a day. They cooked and they gave it to us. Once a day, we had food.

Q: What kind of sleeping accommodations did you have?

A: Nothing. On the floor.

Q: Your parents were with you?

A: Yes. Everybody slept on the floor -- 3,4, 5 families.

Q: You said there was no heat?

A: Nothing. Nothing, whatsoever.

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Q: What about water?

A: Water, we stood on line for water all the time.

Q: Was there electricity?

A: No way. Nothing, nothing.

Q: How did you contact the toilet?
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A: There was a place where everybody went. you could cut the flies and the mosquitoes.

Q: Like a ditch?

A: Yea, a ditch. Very unsanitary.

Q: Now, if someone got sick, was there an infirmary?

A: They had .. I'll tell you a story. Do you know what a schochet is?

Q: A ritual slaughterer.

A: An old man, they took him out of the house. They couldn't take him with us, he was so disabled, so when we went by the station, they found this old man there. We called for a couple of young guys to help bring him, not to leave him by himself, so I went, a cousin of mine, so we couldn't carry. So the idea was to take the mattress off and carry him on the frame with the whole bed together. AS we carried him, the police -- the gendarme---was hitting us and

pushing us. What do you want, the man is almost gone? #496
Just like that.

Q: Now, you were working in the brick factory in the ghetto?

A: No. Nobody was working there. They started right away to fill out the quotas for Auschwitz.

Q: So they were having selections.

Q: So you didn't do any work. How long was your family able to remain together? The whole time in the ghetto?

A: It was a short time. A couple of weeks.

Q: By this time, you knew what the Germans were doing with the Jews?

A: Yea. We knew it but we didn't want to believe. It's always good to blame somebody else. The elderly people, I think, I condemn them. If they wouldn't be so much religious they wouldn't rely so much on #510 The picture would be entirely different. There would have been more resistance.

Q: That's been born out because when the Warsaw ghetto, when the old people died off, the young people made the resistance.

A: That is very excellent. I never thought of that. #516

Q: They were the leaders in the community and they had the respect of the people and you couldn't defy them.

A: You couldn't disobey. You were ruled out. #620
What he said was ...

Q: Were you in the ghetto until it closed?

A: No. Just before it closed.

Q: Now, when you left, what were you expecting?

A: 527

Q: Now, when you left the ghetto, how did they get you out.

A: They took us to the station. I can't remember how we walked. Did we walk or did they take us with cars? No, the station was not far, so we walked and they put us in the

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word. It is not the primary source, and it has not been checked for spelling or accuracy.

Q: How many left? Do you remember?

A: We never counted. They just pushed us into the wagons.
Q: How long did the trip take?
A: I don't know. <http://collections.ushmm.org>
A: I don't know. reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection.
Q: Was the whole family with you.
A: Yes. They brutalized my mother. There was two guys by each wagon door who was shoving us in. To climb up, we had to step up on other people. So they brutalized my mother. #645
No food, no water, babies crying, people dying. You had room for just sitting down.
Q: Did they give you any food while on the trip?
A: Not at all, not at all.
Q: Water?
A: Not at all, not at all. One time, they stopped, I don't know why, they changed locomotives and then they let us out to empty ourselves out. #554 it was such a pity, noise, human dignity,
Q: Did you take any personal possessions with you from the ghetto on this trip?
A: Personal clothes. Change clothes.

Q: Did you try to hide anything?
A: No
Q: Did you leave anything behind?
A: Yes. We had some things.
Q: How did you try to hide
A: Did up the floor. We buried it.
Q: Did you go back to get it?
A: Yes, I did. It was there. As a matter of fact, #564 They never found it. There was a lot of material. As a matter of fact there is still some stuff. My mother was a very good knitter and in those days, they used to make their own tablecloths, #569 all kinds of sweaters, #570 specially in those places, I still have today.
Q: You already told me about your trip to camp, now we're going to talk about the camp itself. You were in Auschwitz, and how many more camps were you in?
A: Auschwitz, Birkenau and a couple of others. Then I got to #575
Q: So you are in 1,2,3,4 camps altogether. Now call the names out of those camps for the record.
A: I arrived in Auschwitz, Birkenau, and I saw my mother. Yavishnau, 580
Q: Now, you arrived first in Auschwitz. Did you remember the date you arrived?
A: No dates. I can't remember.
Q: How long were you in the ghetto?
A: About 5 or 6 weeks.
Q: So let us say two months. April, May, June. You left the ghetto in June.
A: Oh I remember it was Shavuoth of '44. Exactly!
Q: Now, when you got to Auschwitz, your family was with you.
A: That was the last.
Q: This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word. It is not the primary source, and it has not been checked for spelling or accuracy.
A: As you got to the camp and came down from the cattle car, what was your impression and tell me what you saw

in Auschwitz? #597 It doesn't leave my mind -- this picture #604 I knew a guy who took me from the back and you'll still survive. He <http://collections.ushmm.org> little kids were being killed. (a long statement by him was completely inaudible) I still suffer from this moment.

Q: Did you know you were in a death camp?

A: Yup. How did I know? #692 Something about the smell, a crematorium. I still smell the smell. #698 It was unbelievable. Can't describe.

Q: Did Mengele select you for labor?

A: Yah. The butterflies inside you #705 Once a day, they let us out, until they started to send us to the camps. #716 Every day, deaths. During the day. They killed them with clubs.

Q: In Auschwitz, before they shipped you to other camps. What was your daily routine like?

A: Like animals #725

Q: What kind of food did they give you?

A: By this time any food was good food. Every food was

good. #735 (Long section inaudible)

Q: Now what did the food actually consist of?

A: As far as the food in Auschwitz, I didn't think about it.

Q: You weren't hungry. Did they have a daily roll call?

A: Yes.

Q: How did they organize that?

A: That was a brutal business. They had Kapos, they called them, assistants #776

Q: Where did it take place?

A: Front of the barracks. In Auschwitz, they did it before the meal, in the afternoon.

Q: You didn't have a morning roll call?

A: No. From there on they took the people to work in battalions. They filled in with the people who came from the transports. I was there a couple of days. They took me away in wagons and they took me to #788 where I worked in a coal mine.

Q: When you were in the second camp were there selections there?

A: Yup. No. Selections came #794 and they sent them back to Berkenau. #799

Q: Did the prisoners try to help each other to avoid being selected?

A: No (Inaudible) #807

Q: Did you ever have time to just sit and think? Think of thoughts that came to your mind all the time?

A: Yea. There was a time. There was very little time as we had to work steadily. #811

Q: How many hours a day did you work?

A: I think ten hours. #815

Q: When you worked in the coal mines, did they have facilities to get the coal off of you?

A: This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word. It is not the primary source, and it has not been checked for spelling or accuracy.

Q: Do you remember the names of your commanding officers who were in charge?

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A: Yea. ContactReference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

Q: Was he a kapo?

A: He was an officer. (inaudible #848)

Q: Do you know what happened to them after the war?

A: I heard #852

Q: Did you have any special job?

A: No. #858 When I was in the coal mines, I never worked at loading the coals. #867 There I worked with the master on the trains. I made the trains -- the motors -- that pulled up the coal. That was all. #876 His name was #877

Q: Was he bad to you too?

A: No. He gave me a break because he said he would kill no more Jews. So he said that's enough for him. #883 So I was lucky #886 others were dying out day by day, day by day.

Q: Was there anyone else who helped you?

A: No.

Q: Were you able to help anyone?

A: Me? Yea. When I worked with this guy, I always had a little bite of something from his sandwich. So when I came home, there is a guy who lived #897 I brought him a piece of my food. When I was in the coal mine, I got an extra piece of bread for them. When I was in Auschwitz, I had a pair of good shoes. I sold my shoes #915 Someone offered me a half a bread for the shoes. I divided the bread with all my friends around me. This I did. #921 I was sick too, but he was worst. #923 Birkenau is a little village, not like Auschwitz. It was 3 miles away. #932

Q: Were you ever hurt or injured?

A: Yea.

Q: Did anyone help you with that?

A: No. There is no help. You cannot understand, there is no help. You got to survive. That's it!

Q: You didn't go to the infirmary did you?

A: No. I was working with a partner to remove a beam #964 I had the lumber on my head and was almost on my knees. I helped my friend, by putting it on him. #972 I got a couple pounds of sugar, a couple pounds of bread. We couldn't run away. We had nowhere to run away. #989 it was a great thing to bury a Jew. #994 We would have been glad to be in the war with a rifle. I was in wartime. I have a medal of honor from the Israeli government. With stripes. I was very good with live ammunition. Moslems, today Christians, Chinese, Buddhist are all hungry. War is a part of us. For some reason, we have accepted, even revolutionized. and we make a war. Even Yugoslavia, they fought a war and when it was over, they didn't know for what reason. It's not a matter they can bury us 15 times. Our culture has developed. It's uncivilized.

Q: You see in a war when you are shooting a man 400 yards away, it's not a person. But when you take a baby and kill a baby, it's different. This is not a regular war. We defeated Iraq and we never saw an Iraqi.

A: You are right. It was not hard feeling against the

Iraq.

<http://collections.ushmm.org>

Q: But to walk up to a person and shoot them for further information about this collection

A: To line a person up against a grave and shoot them so that they fall into the grave, that's brutal. That's not war.

Q: Most of us are not ready for that.

Now, I want to know something about your reaction to camp experiences. When you think back what was the most difficult of your experiences?

A: One minute when I lost my family. All my relatives. Here they are and here they are not. You lived with those people, you helped those people, they fed you, they gave you clean clothes,..... In one second, I participated in a meeting of the German consulate. in March of 1990. And he took 68 was organized by the Jewish organization Congress. People were invited to east Germany after unification. We wanted to see how the German consulate justified such brutality by their.. I want to participate, I want to be a witness. England came to my mind. Why did

England fight so against that? I had friends in Poland, why do they cry so much? In Checkoslovakia, why are they so afraid? What happened to the Russians? Educate those people about their brutality and the Nazis and communist brutality. What will happen to us when the Nazis destroyed my mind -- destroyed me? #91 so I went there. So naturally, the German consulate came up and started to talk about how much the German government is doing for the Jewish people. I went up to the German and said "Arbeit Macht Frei". False anticipation. Surprises. I still yell out at night and my wife tells me "you're not in the concentration now, sleep! "don't wake me up. She knows already. I must go to see this man. #112 What can he tell me now. As they were speaking. He said they couldn't make good for everything, we apologize for that. Tell that to my mother, my sister #124. My two little brothers, walking hand to hand. Then they asked, "Any questions?". Naturally, I held up my hand and told him about the time I broke my leg #136. I sat in a place where I knew I would be visible. I am a survivor from Auschwitz, you are right, you can't pay back everything, we don't want from you nothing, don't pay us nothing, you can't possibly cure them. I have one question for you. Will you let the Nazi party back in your (government)? Will you make them outcasts? A group like that should not exist. That's what I want you to answer. The consul General said we must let them in. We are better off when they are on the inside. How can you protect us from their brutality? How can you protect us now? In the wartimes, you gave us misery, death always to remember. #;169.

Q: I want to ask you. When you had this horrible experience of losing your entire family, how did you go on?

A: Horrible. It destroyed my mind, my future education. I learned radio in Brussels..... how did I survive? Misery.

[This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word. It is not the primary source, and it has not been checked for spelling or accuracy. Survives should be normal. No way in this world that he

so told him that was enough. I had to carry the others. He said carry it a little longer. I said I can't, I've fallen, I'm hungry, I gave back the valice. Suddenly I heard an explosion and I saw bodies flying -- pieces flying. Someone stepped on a minefield. Then machinegun fire started and it looked like they planned to shoot all of us. My life wasn't worth much. If someone wanted they could get my sugar. I met a Russian and his name was Titus. He asked, "What is your name?" I speak Russian so I told him. He took out a garlic and offered me a couple pieces of garlic. I hadn't seen any of that during the entire war. I ate the garlic and it was very good. He said: "Let's go together". I asked where he was going? He asked where I would go? I said that I would go back from where I came. There was a young lieutenant and he said you come with me. The Army is pushing ahead and I think I hear the cannons. #480. We decided to hike for a while and at night we would go and steal. We did. We broke into stables and we got whatever we could eat.