

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:18,310

2
00:00:18,310 --> 00:00:21,730
Why don't you tell me about
the reunion with your brother?

3
00:00:21,730 --> 00:00:22,270
Yes.

4
00:00:22,270 --> 00:00:22,930
OK.

5
00:00:22,930 --> 00:00:27,550
And start from the beginning,
because we have to start fresh.

6
00:00:27,550 --> 00:00:30,300

7
00:00:30,300 --> 00:00:35,530
When my wife's sisters were
evacuated to west Germany

8
00:00:35,530 --> 00:00:37,890
to Landsberg, to a
camp, a DP camp--

9
00:00:37,890 --> 00:00:40,540

10
00:00:40,540 --> 00:00:45,310
I married the younger
sister as my wife.

11
00:00:45,310 --> 00:00:49,060
So I went with her.

12
00:00:49,060 --> 00:00:50,540
We stayed in Munich.

13

00:00:50,540 --> 00:00:55,405

So I said, I want to go see
the list of all the survivors.

14

00:00:55,405 --> 00:00:56,920

Munich had a headquarters.

15

00:00:56,920 --> 00:00:59,470

And the lists were
printed on all the walls

16

00:00:59,470 --> 00:01:01,300

around the building inside.

17

00:01:01,300 --> 00:01:03,980

So I looked at my
town, from my town--

18

00:01:03,980 --> 00:01:07,080

to Poland, and then my town.

19

00:01:07,080 --> 00:01:09,190

I noticed my brother is living.

20

00:01:09,190 --> 00:01:12,110

One of my brothers is survivor.

21

00:01:12,110 --> 00:01:15,430

And I also noticed a
sister of my best friend

22

00:01:15,430 --> 00:01:19,110

who I went to school with before
the war is also a survivor.

23

00:01:19,110 --> 00:01:21,380

And she is in that camp
where my two sisters knows

24

00:01:21,380 --> 00:01:24,000

her there, in Landsberg.

25

00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:26,730

So I said, I'm going
there right away.

26

00:01:26,730 --> 00:01:29,160

And by streetcar, it
took about 20 minutes

27

00:01:29,160 --> 00:01:31,350

to get there, to the camp.

28

00:01:31,350 --> 00:01:32,640

And I went there.

29

00:01:32,640 --> 00:01:33,840

And I looked her up.

30

00:01:33,840 --> 00:01:36,860

And when she saw me, she
just couldn't believe it.

31

00:01:36,860 --> 00:01:39,610

It was a very emotional
reunion with her.

32

00:01:39,610 --> 00:01:41,400

And I said to her,
you know what?

33

00:01:41,400 --> 00:01:44,610

My brother, Solomon, is
living in the French zone.

34

00:01:44,610 --> 00:01:46,642

I don't know how to
get to where he is.

35

00:01:46,642 --> 00:01:47,850

You say your brother Solomon?

36

00:01:47,850 --> 00:01:49,230

He is here.

37
00:01:49,230 --> 00:01:50,430
I say, here?

38
00:01:50,430 --> 00:01:53,430
Yeah, he came here,
and he's in the camp.

39
00:01:53,430 --> 00:01:56,070
As a matter of fact, he
stays in my room here.

40
00:01:56,070 --> 00:01:58,330
But he went out for the
night to see a movie.

41
00:01:58,330 --> 00:02:01,380
They had movies
showing in the camp.

42
00:02:01,380 --> 00:02:04,140
This is the American zone.

43
00:02:04,140 --> 00:02:05,280
So I said, a movie?

44
00:02:05,280 --> 00:02:09,400
I'm so exhausted, I said to
her, and I want to go to sleep.

45
00:02:09,400 --> 00:02:12,150
And she said, well, lay
down on the cot here.

46
00:02:12,150 --> 00:02:14,186
She had cots all over.

47
00:02:14,186 --> 00:02:15,390
That's your brother's cot.

48
00:02:15,390 --> 00:02:18,483
But we'll manage to

get another one here.

49
00:02:18,483 --> 00:02:19,650
So I laid down, fell asleep.

50
00:02:19,650 --> 00:02:22,830
And about 11:30 at
night, he comes back.

51
00:02:22,830 --> 00:02:24,040
He noticed I was asleep.

52
00:02:24,040 --> 00:02:25,040
He didn't know who I am.

53
00:02:25,040 --> 00:02:26,190
I'm nothing.

54
00:02:26,190 --> 00:02:29,880
She said to him, the
friend, why don't you

55
00:02:29,880 --> 00:02:32,310
go over and look who
is sleeping there?

56
00:02:32,310 --> 00:02:32,830
He looked.

57
00:02:32,830 --> 00:02:33,780
He said to her--

58
00:02:33,780 --> 00:02:35,610
he walked back to her,
said, I don't know.

59
00:02:35,610 --> 00:02:39,770
I hadn't seen him for
six years, my brother.

60
00:02:39,770 --> 00:02:40,890
She said, look again.

61

00:02:40,890 --> 00:02:44,330

Then he goes over to the
other side of my face.

62

00:02:44,330 --> 00:02:47,060

And he said, that's my brother.

63

00:02:47,060 --> 00:02:49,540

He woke me up from
my best sleep.

64

00:02:49,540 --> 00:02:52,040

And the reunion
was so emotional.

65

00:02:52,040 --> 00:02:54,320

We were both crying
without stop.

66

00:02:54,320 --> 00:03:00,970

And that's the way I met him
after the war in Munich--

67

00:03:00,970 --> 00:03:03,970

then in Landsberg,
I mean, the camp.

68

00:03:03,970 --> 00:03:06,230

And from then, I had
to go back to Poland.

69

00:03:06,230 --> 00:03:10,070

I went back to Poland
again from there.

70

00:03:10,070 --> 00:03:13,480

And later on, I
came back to Germany

71

00:03:13,480 --> 00:03:16,690

And stayed with my brother
in the French zone.

72
00:03:16,690 --> 00:03:18,490
He lived in French zone.

73
00:03:18,490 --> 00:03:22,060
And I took my wife there also.

74
00:03:22,060 --> 00:03:23,920
She was not my wife yet.

75
00:03:23,920 --> 00:03:28,660
But we got married in that small
town in Germany, in Saulgau.

76
00:03:28,660 --> 00:03:31,780
It's a very small town near--

77
00:03:31,780 --> 00:03:33,620
not far from
Constance, Bodensee.

78
00:03:33,620 --> 00:03:36,490
I know, here, that's
a familiar town.

79
00:03:36,490 --> 00:03:40,960
In the wedding, we had to bring
a rabbi from another town,

80
00:03:40,960 --> 00:03:42,790
from Ulm, also a DP camp.

81
00:03:42,790 --> 00:03:45,160
The big camp had a rabbi there.

82
00:03:45,160 --> 00:03:46,930
He came in to
perform the wedding.

83
00:03:46,930 --> 00:03:48,490
It was outdoors.

84

00:03:48,490 --> 00:03:52,343

The whole small town came to
that wedding, the Germans,

85

00:03:52,343 --> 00:03:54,760

because they haven't seen a
wedding like that in 50 years,

86

00:03:54,760 --> 00:03:58,060

they say, in that little town.

87

00:03:58,060 --> 00:03:59,462

And we got married from there.

88

00:03:59,462 --> 00:04:00,670

And from there, we went back.

89

00:04:00,670 --> 00:04:02,470

We came to the United States.

90

00:04:02,470 --> 00:04:06,250

91

00:04:06,250 --> 00:04:08,425

Tell me.

92

00:04:08,425 --> 00:04:11,540

Wasn't there a big
religious ceremony?

93

00:04:11,540 --> 00:04:12,040

Yes.

94

00:04:12,040 --> 00:04:14,753

The rabbi performed a
real orthodox ceremony,

95

00:04:14,753 --> 00:04:16,420

with breaking the
glass, and everything.

96

00:04:16,420 --> 00:04:19,360
They say that was,
for them, so unusual.

97
00:04:19,360 --> 00:04:22,010
The people were so
anxious to see it.

98
00:04:22,010 --> 00:04:24,460
We lived with a
German family there.

99
00:04:24,460 --> 00:04:26,740
And they said they
haven't seen it

100
00:04:26,740 --> 00:04:29,990
for 50 years, a wedding
like that in that town.

101
00:04:29,990 --> 00:04:34,210
Very few Jewish people lived
there before the war even.

102
00:04:34,210 --> 00:04:36,790
There, only one person lived
there, a very famous person.

103
00:04:36,790 --> 00:04:40,510
Albert Einstein's first
cousin lived nearby

104
00:04:40,510 --> 00:04:46,610
in a little town near that
little town, [INAUDIBLE]

105
00:04:46,610 --> 00:04:47,110
Einstein.

106
00:04:47,110 --> 00:04:47,800
I met him.

107
00:04:47,800 --> 00:04:49,120

I met him.

108
00:04:49,120 --> 00:04:50,140
He came to the wedding.

109
00:04:50,140 --> 00:04:51,340
We invited him.

110
00:04:51,340 --> 00:04:54,580
And he was at the wedding.

111
00:04:54,580 --> 00:04:56,500
It's a little town
called Buchau.

112
00:04:56,500 --> 00:04:58,990
This is the only
town in Germany where

113
00:04:58,990 --> 00:05:03,460
a synagogue had only a bell,
a ringing bell like a church.

114
00:05:03,460 --> 00:05:05,920
This is the only synagogue
in all of Germany

115
00:05:05,920 --> 00:05:07,570
who had a bell, a ringing bell.

116
00:05:07,570 --> 00:05:11,940

117
00:05:11,940 --> 00:05:12,610
OK.

118
00:05:12,610 --> 00:05:15,560
Let's now go back a
little bit to liberation.

119
00:05:15,560 --> 00:05:16,630
You said you thought it--

120
00:05:16,630 --> 00:05:17,130
Yeah.

121
00:05:17,130 --> 00:05:19,870
After we were
liberated, what happened

122
00:05:19,870 --> 00:05:24,210
is they segregated
everybody by nationality--

123
00:05:24,210 --> 00:05:27,540
Frenchmen in this block,
Poles in this block,

124
00:05:27,540 --> 00:05:30,750
Russians in this, Czechs
in this, Belgium here.

125
00:05:30,750 --> 00:05:33,090
And there were so many
blocks, every block,

126
00:05:33,090 --> 00:05:37,090
it was many more that have
two blocks for second groups.

127
00:05:37,090 --> 00:05:38,620
So our group was very small.

128
00:05:38,620 --> 00:05:40,890
So we stayed with
the Poles together.

129
00:05:40,890 --> 00:05:43,130
We hanged out the
flag, a Polish flag,

130
00:05:43,130 --> 00:05:47,510
and a blue and white
flag, the Israeli flag

131
00:05:47,510 --> 00:05:48,920
in front of the barrack.

132
00:05:48,920 --> 00:05:50,510
Everybody had to
hang out their flags.

133
00:05:50,510 --> 00:05:54,350
So we made it out from
different pieces of cloth.

134
00:05:54,350 --> 00:05:57,290
So the Russian
soldiers, officers,

135
00:05:57,290 --> 00:06:01,835
would form the honor guard
and marched in unison--

136
00:06:01,835 --> 00:06:04,040
there were a group
of about 30 of them--

137
00:06:04,040 --> 00:06:07,370
to every block, and
saluted, and had a speech.

138
00:06:07,370 --> 00:06:09,770
The captain spoke.

139
00:06:09,770 --> 00:06:14,230
And when he came to our
block, it was very moving.

140
00:06:14,230 --> 00:06:15,470
I can remember.

141
00:06:15,470 --> 00:06:18,760

142
00:06:18,760 --> 00:06:21,310
He said-- the officer,

he said, he knows what

143
00:06:21,310 --> 00:06:23,360
happened to the Jewish people.

144
00:06:23,360 --> 00:06:25,690
He knows what the Germans did.

145
00:06:25,690 --> 00:06:29,440
And he knows that you are a
few of the survivors here.

146
00:06:29,440 --> 00:06:34,390
He knows also that we don't
have a home where to go to.

147
00:06:34,390 --> 00:06:36,372
And he finished and saluted it.

148
00:06:36,372 --> 00:06:37,330
And it was very moving.

149
00:06:37,330 --> 00:06:38,020
We all cried.

150
00:06:38,020 --> 00:06:46,060

151
00:06:46,060 --> 00:06:49,571
That was the incident, what
happened after the liberation.

152
00:06:49,571 --> 00:06:52,940

153
00:06:52,940 --> 00:06:56,900
Tell me a little bit about,
in those first few weeks

154
00:06:56,900 --> 00:07:01,580
after liberation,
did the British--

155
00:07:01,580 --> 00:07:03,770
did they help you--

156
00:07:03,770 --> 00:07:04,420
Yeah, the--

157
00:07:04,420 --> 00:07:05,510
--give you supplies
like toothbrushes?

158
00:07:05,510 --> 00:07:07,190
Afterwards, about
two weeks later,

159
00:07:07,190 --> 00:07:10,640
they brought in food and
supplies, fed everybody.

160
00:07:10,640 --> 00:07:12,200
Kitchens were set up.

161
00:07:12,200 --> 00:07:13,580
You get food.

162
00:07:13,580 --> 00:07:16,040
And they processed you--

163
00:07:16,040 --> 00:07:18,960
the name, which country you
came from, where we were.

164
00:07:18,960 --> 00:07:23,110
They gave you DP
cards, identity cards.

165
00:07:23,110 --> 00:07:26,038
What about clothes, and
toothbrush, and things like--

166
00:07:26,038 --> 00:07:26,830
did they give you--

167

00:07:26,830 --> 00:07:30,390

They give these things
out, yes, to everybody.

168

00:07:30,390 --> 00:07:33,070

And they had put up
running water in the blocks

169

00:07:33,070 --> 00:07:35,830

already, because there was
no water running before.

170

00:07:35,830 --> 00:07:42,850

And they had also disinfection
and lousing for people.

171

00:07:42,850 --> 00:07:45,160

They had that white powder.

172

00:07:45,160 --> 00:07:48,280

They sprayed it,
everybody all over.

173

00:07:48,280 --> 00:07:51,160

And constantly, every
week, they did that.

174

00:07:51,160 --> 00:07:53,650

They were afraid of
typhus breaking out,

175

00:07:53,650 --> 00:07:56,290

which in the other
camp, typhus broke out.

176

00:07:56,290 --> 00:07:57,640

It was a disease.

177

00:07:57,640 --> 00:08:01,720

It killed a lot of people
there after the liberation.

178

00:08:01,720 --> 00:08:07,000

And also another incident--
there was a group of musicians

179

00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:08,210

in the camp during the war.

180

00:08:08,210 --> 00:08:10,990

The Germans had the
prisoners, musicians.

181

00:08:10,990 --> 00:08:11,980

And they were Poles.

182

00:08:11,980 --> 00:08:14,170

There were about 30
of them, a group.

183

00:08:14,170 --> 00:08:17,020

And in that camp we are in-- it
was a military camp, actually--

184

00:08:17,020 --> 00:08:19,330

there was a drugstore
there in the camp.

185

00:08:19,330 --> 00:08:21,290

I didn't care about
going to a drugstore.

186

00:08:21,290 --> 00:08:23,050

I didn't look for medicine.

187

00:08:23,050 --> 00:08:25,300

What happened is these Poles
went into the drugstore,

188

00:08:25,300 --> 00:08:26,680

into the basement.

189

00:08:26,680 --> 00:08:31,570

They found bottles with

alcohol and just loaded up,

190
00:08:31,570 --> 00:08:35,230
and took out the alcohol
from the bottles, in bottles,

191
00:08:35,230 --> 00:08:36,789
and started to drink.

192
00:08:36,789 --> 00:08:40,299
And they didn't realize that
was wood alcohol, the poisonous

193
00:08:40,299 --> 00:08:41,710
alcohol.

194
00:08:41,710 --> 00:08:44,020
And all of them got poisoned.

195
00:08:44,020 --> 00:08:48,400
After the liberation, 30 of
these people died in the camp

196
00:08:48,400 --> 00:08:51,400
from wood alcohol poisoning.

197
00:08:51,400 --> 00:08:55,300
That was such a horrible
thing to hear what--

198
00:08:55,300 --> 00:08:59,440
they were screaming
and had convulsions.

199
00:08:59,440 --> 00:09:04,630
It was-- we couldn't-- we had to
run away and hide in the rooms.

200
00:09:04,630 --> 00:09:05,380
What was going on?

201
00:09:05,380 --> 00:09:07,570

This was after the liberation
these things happened.

202
00:09:07,570 --> 00:09:10,340

203
00:09:10,340 --> 00:09:14,390
And what about a big
religious ceremony after?

204
00:09:14,390 --> 00:09:17,250
After the liberation, what
happened when we stayed there--

205
00:09:17,250 --> 00:09:19,280
we stayed a couple of
weeks in Bergen-Belsen.

206
00:09:19,280 --> 00:09:21,410
We stayed there
after the liberation.

207
00:09:21,410 --> 00:09:23,960
First of all, the war
lasted another three weeks.

208
00:09:23,960 --> 00:09:26,660
But we stayed there
about six more weeks.

209
00:09:26,660 --> 00:09:29,840
Well, they found out in a
small town nearby called Celle,

210
00:09:29,840 --> 00:09:32,450
C-E-L-L-E--

211
00:09:32,450 --> 00:09:37,430
there was a small town
where a German family

212
00:09:37,430 --> 00:09:40,040
with a small synagogue,

and they hid it

213

00:09:40,040 --> 00:09:43,070
from the Nazis all these
years and protected

214

00:09:43,070 --> 00:09:47,840
the Torah, the scroll, the
holy books in the basement.

215

00:09:47,840 --> 00:09:49,558
And the British came
and liberated it.

216

00:09:49,558 --> 00:09:51,350
And they went to the
British and told them.

217

00:09:51,350 --> 00:09:53,060
There was a small
synagogue here.

218

00:09:53,060 --> 00:09:54,770
We protected it.

219

00:09:54,770 --> 00:09:58,040
You shouldn't-- the synagogue
was a little bigger than this

220

00:09:58,040 --> 00:10:00,720
house.

221

00:10:00,720 --> 00:10:03,910
And the British told
us, we have to go there.

222

00:10:03,910 --> 00:10:06,630
It's looking out only
for the Jewish prisoners,

223

00:10:06,630 --> 00:10:07,410
war prisoners.

224
00:10:07,410 --> 00:10:10,200
We were liberated.

225
00:10:10,200 --> 00:10:12,030
So we went there.

226
00:10:12,030 --> 00:10:13,980
And we told them--
they took us by truck

227
00:10:13,980 --> 00:10:15,820
there to the little town.

228
00:10:15,820 --> 00:10:18,100
It was about 10 miles away.

229
00:10:18,100 --> 00:10:21,550
And on Friday services,
there was a British chaplain,

230
00:10:21,550 --> 00:10:25,700
a Jewish rabbi from the
British army in a uniform.

231
00:10:25,700 --> 00:10:31,280
He went to the basement and
took out the scroll, the Torah.

232
00:10:31,280 --> 00:10:38,280
And he walked up with the
Torah to where the arc was--

233
00:10:38,280 --> 00:10:41,240
there was no scrolls in there--

234
00:10:41,240 --> 00:10:43,410
and made us walk behind him.

235
00:10:43,410 --> 00:10:45,480
And each row of
the whole synagogue

236

00:10:45,480 --> 00:10:47,790

was British officers
and soldiers.

237

00:10:47,790 --> 00:10:51,060

And they were making
films of this.

238

00:10:51,060 --> 00:10:53,910

And we walked up on
the bimah like a stage,

239

00:10:53,910 --> 00:10:56,910

where the Torahs are
sitting under the curtain.

240

00:10:56,910 --> 00:10:58,290

And there was a table.

241

00:10:58,290 --> 00:11:01,320

And he laid down the
scroll on the table.

242

00:11:01,320 --> 00:11:05,550

And he conducted the service,
Friday night service.

243

00:11:05,550 --> 00:11:07,260

It was very moving.

244

00:11:07,260 --> 00:11:08,490

Even the English cried.

245

00:11:08,490 --> 00:11:14,760

246

00:11:14,760 --> 00:11:16,810

And then they took
us back to the camp.

247

00:11:16,810 --> 00:11:18,680

And we stayed there,

like I told you.

248

00:11:18,680 --> 00:11:20,820

And later on, we left.

249

00:11:20,820 --> 00:11:21,750

[INAUDIBLE]

250

00:11:21,750 --> 00:11:26,300

251

00:11:26,300 --> 00:11:26,800

OK.

252

00:11:26,800 --> 00:11:28,133

Go ahead and tell me about that.

253

00:11:28,133 --> 00:11:31,810

After, everybody grabbed
the potatoes and turnips

254

00:11:31,810 --> 00:11:32,890

and went home to eat.

255

00:11:32,890 --> 00:11:35,140

It lasted only for
about a day and a half.

256

00:11:35,140 --> 00:11:37,720

The following day, everybody
was hungry again, no food.

257

00:11:37,720 --> 00:11:40,880

And nobody-- we're
not liberated yet.

258

00:11:40,880 --> 00:11:43,190

So everybody was walking
around in the camp,

259

00:11:43,190 --> 00:11:45,170

looking for something to eat.

260
00:11:45,170 --> 00:11:48,710
So the SS came and said
to us on a loudspeaker,

261
00:11:48,710 --> 00:11:51,200
we have some bread and
canned goods for you

262
00:11:51,200 --> 00:11:54,390
up there on trucks,
waiting there.

263
00:11:54,390 --> 00:11:56,950
So everybody's
running to that area.

264
00:11:56,950 --> 00:11:59,310
So the major from
the SS, a doctor--

265
00:11:59,310 --> 00:12:03,110
you can tell he's a doctor, he
wears special insignia here--

266
00:12:03,110 --> 00:12:05,370
came and stood in
front of these trucks.

267
00:12:05,370 --> 00:12:08,340
And he said to us,
please, do me a favor,

268
00:12:08,340 --> 00:12:11,120
do not touch any of that food.

269
00:12:11,120 --> 00:12:11,990
Do not touch it.

270
00:12:11,990 --> 00:12:14,000
Don't it don't take it, he said.

271

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:15,410
Everybody said, why?

272
00:12:15,410 --> 00:12:17,570
It's all poisoned.

273
00:12:17,570 --> 00:12:20,490
You're all going to
die if you eat that.

274
00:12:20,490 --> 00:12:22,850
So I just moved back with
my friends, said, forget it.

275
00:12:22,850 --> 00:12:23,850
I'm not going to eat it.

276
00:12:23,850 --> 00:12:25,770
I lost a lot of weight in here.

277
00:12:25,770 --> 00:12:28,350
So a lot of them were
screaming their heads off.

278
00:12:28,350 --> 00:12:31,290
We're going to die
anyway from starvation.

279
00:12:31,290 --> 00:12:32,910
Better die with a full stomach.

280
00:12:32,910 --> 00:12:34,677
Some of them were saying that.

281
00:12:34,677 --> 00:12:36,760
So the general was pleading
with them, the doctor.

282
00:12:36,760 --> 00:12:39,300
Please wait another 24 hours.

283
00:12:39,300 --> 00:12:40,300

You're going to be free.

284

00:12:40,300 --> 00:12:42,890

The English are
going to be here.

285

00:12:42,890 --> 00:12:45,590

Nobody believed them either.

286

00:12:45,590 --> 00:12:48,122

People in those days were very--

287

00:12:48,122 --> 00:12:50,720

we saw so many
things in the past.

288

00:12:50,720 --> 00:12:52,580

What the Germans were
talking and doing

289

00:12:52,580 --> 00:12:54,330

were two different things.

290

00:12:54,330 --> 00:12:56,450

They always lied to
you, the Germans.

291

00:12:56,450 --> 00:12:59,510

They'll tell you you're
going to a lousing in a bath.

292

00:12:59,510 --> 00:13:02,470

And they were
killing people there.

293

00:13:02,470 --> 00:13:05,650

That's why a lot of people
don't realize, don't understand.

294

00:13:05,650 --> 00:13:10,030

How could so many people
go without resistance,

295

00:13:10,030 --> 00:13:11,170
to fight against them?

296

00:13:11,170 --> 00:13:12,740
Because they misled people.

297

00:13:12,740 --> 00:13:14,960
They didn't tell you
what they were doing.

298

00:13:14,960 --> 00:13:19,930
They had false signs on
the doors, [NON-ENGLISH],,

299

00:13:19,930 --> 00:13:21,505
in those gas places.

300

00:13:21,505 --> 00:13:23,710
They were gassing people.

301

00:13:23,710 --> 00:13:26,380
And I was aware of these
things already before.

302

00:13:26,380 --> 00:13:29,920
I was the first one,
actually, to notify

303

00:13:29,920 --> 00:13:32,800
people what the Germans were
doing with human beings,

304

00:13:32,800 --> 00:13:35,190
before Auschwitz existed.

305

00:13:35,190 --> 00:13:38,460
The day the Germans
invaded Russia

306

00:13:38,460 --> 00:13:45,120
in June 1941, the same day, they
started to kill Jewish people.

307
00:13:45,120 --> 00:13:50,020
In the town where I was born,
nearby, a place called Chelmno,

308
00:13:50,020 --> 00:13:51,640
I was the only one--

309
00:13:51,640 --> 00:13:54,490
actually, with another man--
to escape from that place,

310
00:13:54,490 --> 00:13:55,690
from Kolo.

311
00:13:55,690 --> 00:13:57,190
When I arrived in
Lodz in the ghetto

312
00:13:57,190 --> 00:13:59,960
to tell those people what
happens to the people,

313
00:13:59,960 --> 00:14:01,210
they never believed it.

314
00:14:01,210 --> 00:14:03,700
Even the people in Lodz
ghetto didn't believe

315
00:14:03,700 --> 00:14:05,830
what they were doing with them.

316
00:14:05,830 --> 00:14:06,830
They were going outside.

317
00:14:06,830 --> 00:14:08,947
Nobody volunteered.

318
00:14:08,947 --> 00:14:10,780
The Germans were telling,
we need volunteers

319
00:14:10,780 --> 00:14:12,072
to go to the Russian territory.

320
00:14:12,072 --> 00:14:13,990
We occupied so much land.

321
00:14:13,990 --> 00:14:16,160
We need people to
work on the farms.

322
00:14:16,160 --> 00:14:17,830
So they believed them.

323
00:14:17,830 --> 00:14:21,350
And they took them to kill them.

324
00:14:21,350 --> 00:14:23,720
That's the way they
misled the people.

325
00:14:23,720 --> 00:14:26,870
They made people also
lay down their clothes,

326
00:14:26,870 --> 00:14:29,570
and put the names
on their clothes,

327
00:14:29,570 --> 00:14:31,880
and made the people pay
money for the trucks,

328
00:14:31,880 --> 00:14:34,070
for the gasoline.

329
00:14:34,070 --> 00:14:37,130
They make them pay four marks
for the gasoline to take them

330
00:14:37,130 --> 00:14:40,420
to the extermination.

331
00:14:40,420 --> 00:14:42,980
So everybody say, if they
were going to kill us,

332
00:14:42,980 --> 00:14:44,690
why would they take
the money from us?

333
00:14:44,690 --> 00:14:46,570
Why would they make
us pay for gasoline?

334
00:14:46,570 --> 00:14:48,940
They made such the tricks.

335
00:14:48,940 --> 00:14:52,090
They used such
psychology, how to get

336
00:14:52,090 --> 00:14:54,250
the people to be exterminated.

337
00:14:54,250 --> 00:14:57,850
So the people didn't realize
what happened to them.

338
00:14:57,850 --> 00:15:00,740
But I knew already then.

339
00:15:00,740 --> 00:15:04,650
I knew already then
not to trust them,

340
00:15:04,650 --> 00:15:08,860
because I had experience from
back, from Chelmno where they

341
00:15:08,860 --> 00:15:11,030
were exterminating the people.

342
00:15:11,030 --> 00:15:13,850

But when I came to
the ghetto in '42,

343
00:15:13,850 --> 00:15:17,960
the people, the leadership in
the ghetto made me be quiet.

344
00:15:17,960 --> 00:15:19,560
Don't make panic in the ghetto.

345
00:15:19,560 --> 00:15:20,630
Be silent.

346
00:15:20,630 --> 00:15:21,830
They knew.

347
00:15:21,830 --> 00:15:25,170
I told them what
happened, the leadership.

348
00:15:25,170 --> 00:15:28,910
And they survived
the war because of me

349
00:15:28,910 --> 00:15:30,500
from the Lodz ghetto.

350
00:15:30,500 --> 00:15:31,700
I met them after the war--

351
00:15:31,700 --> 00:15:34,250

352
00:15:34,250 --> 00:15:35,630
in Lodz, where I met my wife.

353
00:15:35,630 --> 00:15:37,900
How did you get out of Chelmno?

354
00:15:37,900 --> 00:15:39,910
I wasn't taken to Chelmno.

355

00:15:39,910 --> 00:15:44,090

What happened is in Kolo,
in the city of Kolo,

356

00:15:44,090 --> 00:15:46,700

they started to
take out groups--

357

00:15:46,700 --> 00:15:49,320

300 a day, 400 a day.

358

00:15:49,320 --> 00:15:51,420

So I grew up with
Polish people together.

359

00:15:51,420 --> 00:15:52,590

I grew with--

360

00:15:52,590 --> 00:15:53,760

I lived with them together.

361

00:15:53,760 --> 00:15:56,040

I was next door
neighbors with Poles.

362

00:15:56,040 --> 00:15:59,440

My best friends were Poles,
went to school together.

363

00:15:59,440 --> 00:16:05,010

So one of those boys, my
friend from school, his brother

364

00:16:05,010 --> 00:16:07,830

was taken by the Germans
as a truck driver

365

00:16:07,830 --> 00:16:12,300

to take the people from
the town to Chelmno.

366

00:16:12,300 --> 00:16:15,180

They say, from there, they're
going to the Russian territory

367
00:16:15,180 --> 00:16:17,470
to work on farms.

368
00:16:17,470 --> 00:16:20,200
When he came back,
he noticed they

369
00:16:20,200 --> 00:16:23,080
were taking the people from his
truck and to put in the gas--

370
00:16:23,080 --> 00:16:26,560
to trucks, which has
gas, carbon monoxide.

371
00:16:26,560 --> 00:16:28,390
The Germans had
built special vans

372
00:16:28,390 --> 00:16:30,520
in the beginning, big vans.

373
00:16:30,520 --> 00:16:32,770
They could put 50
people in a van.

374
00:16:32,770 --> 00:16:35,140
And the exhaust pipe
from the trucks,

375
00:16:35,140 --> 00:16:39,250
from the gas from the trucks,
were going into the van inside.

376
00:16:39,250 --> 00:16:41,020
It was hermetically closed.

377
00:16:41,020 --> 00:16:44,860
And the carbon monoxide was
killing the people inside.

378
00:16:44,860 --> 00:16:48,070
And from the trucks,
from this truck, van,

379
00:16:48,070 --> 00:16:51,070
those truck drivers had to take
the bodies out and take them

380
00:16:51,070 --> 00:16:55,210
into the wooded area where they
had grabbed many people from

381
00:16:55,210 --> 00:16:58,180
the town, strong people, with
already prepared ditches--

382
00:16:58,180 --> 00:16:59,920
dig ditches, big ditches--

383
00:16:59,920 --> 00:17:03,600
and threw the bodies
in, and covered them up.

384
00:17:03,600 --> 00:17:08,829
And when he came back, he
told me, listen, to me.

385
00:17:08,829 --> 00:17:11,980
My brother could
not sleep all night.

386
00:17:11,980 --> 00:17:13,420
He wouldn't talk to nobody.

387
00:17:13,420 --> 00:17:16,990
He couldn't eat,
what he saw there.

388
00:17:16,990 --> 00:17:18,345
So he crossed himself.

389

00:17:18,345 --> 00:17:21,369
He said, please, I gave
my honor to my brother

390
00:17:21,369 --> 00:17:22,420
not to tell nobody.

391
00:17:22,420 --> 00:17:23,950
But I'm telling it to you.

392
00:17:23,950 --> 00:17:25,300
Do not go there.

393
00:17:25,300 --> 00:17:27,200
He wouldn't tell
me the rest of it.

394
00:17:27,200 --> 00:17:30,050
But I found out later
how they were doing it.

395
00:17:30,050 --> 00:17:32,290
They were killing all
these people there.

396
00:17:32,290 --> 00:17:37,750
They killed 380,000 Jews
there, the Germans, in Chelmno.

397
00:17:37,750 --> 00:17:42,140
That's before Auschwitz existed,
before anybody knew anything,

398
00:17:42,140 --> 00:17:44,030
in 1941.

399
00:17:44,030 --> 00:17:46,940
After that happened,
in December of '42,

400
00:17:46,940 --> 00:17:49,820
they're starting
to kill the people.

401
00:17:49,820 --> 00:17:52,070
And I knew it already them.

402
00:17:52,070 --> 00:17:55,460
And I told to my
brother and my sister--

403
00:17:55,460 --> 00:17:56,915
two sisters, I had.

404
00:17:56,915 --> 00:18:02,140
She survived in the
Lodz ghetto with me.

405
00:18:02,140 --> 00:18:04,670
The rest of my family was
killed also in Chelmno.

406
00:18:04,670 --> 00:18:07,310

407
00:18:07,310 --> 00:18:09,180
So that's what happened.

408
00:18:09,180 --> 00:18:10,130
That's why I knew.

409
00:18:10,130 --> 00:18:13,160
That why I knew what
they were doing.

410
00:18:13,160 --> 00:18:16,130
When I came to the ghetto,
I already knew then.

411
00:18:16,130 --> 00:18:18,710
And the people in the
ghetto didn't know anything.

412
00:18:18,710 --> 00:18:21,700
The leadership

didn't know anything.

413
00:18:21,700 --> 00:18:24,420
When I was working in the
ghetto in one place-- well,

414
00:18:24,420 --> 00:18:26,770
that's a long story.

415
00:18:26,770 --> 00:18:29,650
Going back to
liberation for a minute,

416
00:18:29,650 --> 00:18:32,300
did the people pick up a Jeep?

417
00:18:32,300 --> 00:18:32,810
Yes.

418
00:18:32,810 --> 00:18:33,980
Tell me about that.

419
00:18:33,980 --> 00:18:36,650
When we were
liberated, everybody

420
00:18:36,650 --> 00:18:40,580
was so enthusiastic,
so emotional.

421
00:18:40,580 --> 00:18:43,550
People were so happy that
they grabbed this Jeep

422
00:18:43,550 --> 00:18:45,180
and were carrying the Jeep.

423
00:18:45,180 --> 00:18:46,520
British soldiers got out.

424
00:18:46,520 --> 00:18:50,970
They were carrying the Jeep

in the air, all the prisoners.

425

00:18:50,970 --> 00:18:53,820

They were so happy to see the
British, that we were free.

426

00:18:53,820 --> 00:18:55,120

Finally, we're free.

427

00:18:55,120 --> 00:18:56,700

They were really free.

428

00:18:56,700 --> 00:18:59,040

Then they started to
believe they're free.

429

00:18:59,040 --> 00:19:01,370

They were carrying
this Jeep in the air,

430

00:19:01,370 --> 00:19:04,980

walking through the
camp all around.

431

00:19:04,980 --> 00:19:09,050

That day is an unforgettable,
unforgettable day,

432

00:19:09,050 --> 00:19:11,030

that we were so--

433

00:19:11,030 --> 00:19:14,160

on the other hand,
when we realized later

434

00:19:14,160 --> 00:19:17,560

that we have nobody to go to,
that was a different story.

435

00:19:17,560 --> 00:19:23,280

But the first two days,
the emotional outburst,

436

00:19:23,280 --> 00:19:27,120
the happiness was indescribable.

437

00:19:27,120 --> 00:19:30,500
You cannot describe this,
the emotions from the people,

438

00:19:30,500 --> 00:19:32,940
from the prisoners,
from all the people.

439

00:19:32,940 --> 00:19:37,050
When they announce to you the
first time in all these years

440

00:19:37,050 --> 00:19:38,710
that you are a human being.

441

00:19:38,710 --> 00:19:41,170
They are people.

442

00:19:41,170 --> 00:19:46,790
You're not treated like
nobody, worse than animals.

443

00:19:46,790 --> 00:19:51,620
The Germans were petting their
dogs while hanging people.

444

00:19:51,620 --> 00:19:54,770
They were petting their
dogs, making nice to dogs,

445

00:19:54,770 --> 00:19:57,260
while the people were hanging.

446

00:19:57,260 --> 00:19:59,450
That's how brutal they
were, how cynical.

447

00:19:59,450 --> 00:20:02,490

448
00:20:02,490 --> 00:20:05,470
There were thousands of
them doing like that.

449
00:20:05,470 --> 00:20:10,230
And after the war, they
disappeared, a lot of them.

450
00:20:10,230 --> 00:20:12,630
Did you live in
a DP camp at all?

451
00:20:12,630 --> 00:20:13,740
Yes, for a while.

452
00:20:13,740 --> 00:20:14,980
Were you in in Landsberg?

453
00:20:14,980 --> 00:20:15,840
Bergen-Belsen, yeah.

454
00:20:15,840 --> 00:20:17,692
I stayed there for
about six weeks.

455
00:20:17,692 --> 00:20:19,650
But not Landsberg, when
you went through there.

456
00:20:19,650 --> 00:20:20,040
No.

457
00:20:20,040 --> 00:20:21,330
Only the sisters stayed there.

458
00:20:21,330 --> 00:20:23,100
I went away from there.

459
00:20:23,100 --> 00:20:27,480
I lived in Berlin for a
while with civilian family.

460
00:20:27,480 --> 00:20:29,160
It was a Jewish--

461
00:20:29,160 --> 00:20:31,860
the wife was Jewish,
the husband was German.

462
00:20:31,860 --> 00:20:34,270
That's how they
survived the war.

463
00:20:34,270 --> 00:20:35,890
And they had one son.

464
00:20:35,890 --> 00:20:37,280
And he was a friend
of mine also.

465
00:20:37,280 --> 00:20:40,840
We stayed together a lot.

466
00:20:40,840 --> 00:20:45,880
I lost track of him and
of the family afterwards.

467
00:20:45,880 --> 00:20:48,310
I lost track of a lot of people
I haven't seen since then.

468
00:20:48,310 --> 00:20:50,350
I hope, when we go to Miami--

469
00:20:50,350 --> 00:20:54,150
now we have a gathering
there next week--

470
00:20:54,150 --> 00:20:56,750
I'll meet some people I haven't
seen him for so many years.

471
00:20:56,750 --> 00:21:02,214

472
00:21:02,214 --> 00:21:02,714
OK.

473
00:21:02,714 --> 00:21:05,700

474
00:21:05,700 --> 00:21:07,710
I think [AUDIO OUT].

475
00:21:07,710 --> 00:21:08,640
Let us get going.

476
00:21:08,640 --> 00:21:11,544

477
00:21:11,544 --> 00:21:13,000
Ready.

478
00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:14,104
Number six.

479
00:21:14,104 --> 00:21:14,604
Set.

480
00:21:14,604 --> 00:21:17,260

481
00:21:17,260 --> 00:21:20,040
When we looked out
through the window,

482
00:21:20,040 --> 00:21:23,625
and we saw the tanks passing
by-- some of them with a white

483
00:21:23,625 --> 00:21:28,360
star, some of them with British
markings, with British flags--

484

00:21:28,360 --> 00:21:30,050
we all jumped up and
hugged each other.

485
00:21:30,050 --> 00:21:32,050
We were so happy to
see this happening,

486
00:21:32,050 --> 00:21:33,973
that we are finally
going to be free.

487
00:21:33,973 --> 00:21:36,390
And we waved handkerchiefs out
through the window to them.

488
00:21:36,390 --> 00:21:37,420
They saw us.

489
00:21:37,420 --> 00:21:39,430
We were standing
up, some of them.

490
00:21:39,430 --> 00:21:41,470
And we were waving to them.

491
00:21:41,470 --> 00:21:43,270
But they didn't come to us.

492
00:21:43,270 --> 00:21:45,280
They went to the town,
to the railroad junction,

493
00:21:45,280 --> 00:21:47,320
to Bergen to liberate the town.

494
00:21:47,320 --> 00:21:48,540
And we said, why?

495
00:21:48,540 --> 00:21:51,240
Everybody had a big let
down-- said, where are they?

496

00:21:51,240 --> 00:21:53,620

They went, and they
didn't see us, probably.

497

00:21:53,620 --> 00:21:55,690

They went by to the little town.

498

00:21:55,690 --> 00:21:58,330

So the following
day, in the morning,

499

00:21:58,330 --> 00:22:01,840

they came into the town
to liberate us, to camp.

500

00:22:01,840 --> 00:22:05,260

They liberated first the
camp-- the town, Bergen.

501

00:22:05,260 --> 00:22:07,450

And the next day, in
the morning, 9 o'clock,

502

00:22:07,450 --> 00:22:09,280

they showed up in the camp.

503

00:22:09,280 --> 00:22:13,390

And when they arrived, that
was the most emotional time,

504

00:22:13,390 --> 00:22:15,250

when we are liberated.

505

00:22:15,250 --> 00:22:17,680

They arrived at the time
exactly the Germans say.

506

00:22:17,680 --> 00:22:20,115

But they told us
something different.

507

00:22:20,115 --> 00:22:22,240

They told us the Red Cross
is going to take us over

508

00:22:22,240 --> 00:22:23,610
from Switzerland.