

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:09,190

2

00:01:09,190 --> 00:01:11,980

Are you starting with
a question, right?

3

00:01:11,980 --> 00:01:12,480

Yeah.

4

00:01:12,480 --> 00:01:13,750

OK, Tami.

5

00:01:13,750 --> 00:01:16,500

Today is August 25, 1992.

6

00:01:16,500 --> 00:01:20,040

And this is the second
interview with Leon Benson

7

00:01:20,040 --> 00:01:22,080

for the Holocaust
Oral History Project.

8

00:01:22,080 --> 00:01:24,440

We're here with the main
interviewer, myself,

9

00:01:24,440 --> 00:01:27,706

Tami Newnham, second
interviewer Paul van der

10

00:01:27,706 --> 00:01:29,790

Carr and John Grant.

11

00:01:29,790 --> 00:01:32,550

12

00:01:32,550 --> 00:01:38,220

Let's just start with a general
comment about how did you feel,

13

00:01:38,220 --> 00:01:41,790

or how did the first interview
affect you after the-- ?

14

00:01:41,790 --> 00:01:45,190

Well, obviously it was
an emotional experience.

15

00:01:45,190 --> 00:01:50,710

And it gave me a lot of
thought after I left here.

16

00:01:50,710 --> 00:01:56,170

And as I mentioned, a lot
of pieces to the puzzle

17

00:01:56,170 --> 00:01:57,570

reappeared to me suddenly.

18

00:01:57,570 --> 00:02:00,720

I didn't know where to put
them, but they were there.

19

00:02:00,720 --> 00:02:05,610

And to be very frank, I think
that particular night I really

20

00:02:05,610 --> 00:02:14,010

didn't sleep, and just a lot
of thoughts just to refresh

21

00:02:14,010 --> 00:02:18,840

my memory of the past,
you know, just...

22

00:02:18,840 --> 00:02:26,430

As soon as I left here, I knew
that some things were missing.

23

00:02:26,430 --> 00:02:29,460

Perhaps not very pertinent
to the entire story,

24
00:02:29,460 --> 00:02:34,230
but little things that
kept coming to my mind.

25
00:02:34,230 --> 00:02:37,020
So I had a total different--

26
00:02:37,020 --> 00:02:39,300
not really total different,
but a lot of things

27
00:02:39,300 --> 00:02:41,010
kept coming to my mind.

28
00:02:41,010 --> 00:02:42,720
I felt good.

29
00:02:42,720 --> 00:02:46,500
I felt kind of open,
you know, like you'd

30
00:02:46,500 --> 00:02:52,980
open a window in a very hot
room, and fresh air comes in.

31
00:02:52,980 --> 00:02:58,020
It kind of was perhaps
that I kept it so long

32
00:02:58,020 --> 00:03:01,620
and never talked about it.

33
00:03:01,620 --> 00:03:03,360
You'd never talked so much?

34
00:03:03,360 --> 00:03:03,975
Not really.

35
00:03:03,975 --> 00:03:06,870
You're right.

36

00:03:06,870 --> 00:03:11,610

You described an analogy
earlier about an attic.

37

00:03:11,610 --> 00:03:14,040

Well, it's like-- yes, I did.

38

00:03:14,040 --> 00:03:17,190

It's like coming across
something that's very old

39

00:03:17,190 --> 00:03:21,880

and put away for years, in
an attic or in a basement

40

00:03:21,880 --> 00:03:22,380

or whatever.

41

00:03:22,380 --> 00:03:25,602

And it accumulated a lot
of dust, maybe cobwebs.

42

00:03:25,602 --> 00:03:27,810

And all of a sudden, you
come across it, and you say,

43

00:03:27,810 --> 00:03:28,680

hm, what is that?

44

00:03:28,680 --> 00:03:31,770

And you kind of clean
it off, dusting it off,

45

00:03:31,770 --> 00:03:33,540

and it looks totally fresh.

46

00:03:33,540 --> 00:03:37,110

And you say, how could I
have left that for so long

47

00:03:37,110 --> 00:03:40,410

and not looked at it?

48
00:03:40,410 --> 00:03:42,480
So I'm comparing
that to something

49
00:03:42,480 --> 00:03:45,900
that I let go on for so long.

50
00:03:45,900 --> 00:03:48,090
Did you remember some
things that you hadn't

51
00:03:48,090 --> 00:03:50,490
thought of for a long time?

52
00:03:50,490 --> 00:03:55,260
My first interview, probably
I would say what I tried to do

53
00:03:55,260 --> 00:03:58,560
is go in a
chronological sequence

54
00:03:58,560 --> 00:04:02,910
from the very beginning,
as I best remembered,

55
00:04:02,910 --> 00:04:08,640
and also most
things that gave me

56
00:04:08,640 --> 00:04:12,660
a lasting impression, so to
speak, traumatic or whatever.

57
00:04:12,660 --> 00:04:15,690
Certainly not pleasant.

58
00:04:15,690 --> 00:04:20,820
Certainly something that
you always remember with--

59

00:04:20,820 --> 00:04:23,520
well, I don't know if the
word sorrow would be the word,

60
00:04:23,520 --> 00:04:34,980
but probably so, because no one
can plan on anything like that.

61
00:04:34,980 --> 00:04:37,890
No one imagined that
anything like this

62
00:04:37,890 --> 00:04:43,500
could physically happen to you.

63
00:04:43,500 --> 00:04:48,210
Yet, it did occur, and
much worse, in many cases.

64
00:04:48,210 --> 00:04:50,820
And seeing others
being affected,

65
00:04:50,820 --> 00:04:52,950
then you came into it.

66
00:04:52,950 --> 00:04:55,620
And so you had hoped--

67
00:04:55,620 --> 00:04:58,620
you always hear about bad things
that may not happen to you,

68
00:04:58,620 --> 00:05:01,980
and here you are, right in
the center of this thing,

69
00:05:01,980 --> 00:05:06,940
and seeing family separated,
immediate family separated

70
00:05:06,940 --> 00:05:09,000
and taken away, split up.

71
00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:12,000
Relatives, uncles, aunts,
cousins disappear, and not

72
00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:13,710
hear from them.

73
00:05:13,710 --> 00:05:19,290
And so it was total turmoil.

74
00:05:19,290 --> 00:05:27,630
I don't think history has really
described it as it affected me.

75
00:05:27,630 --> 00:05:31,260

76
00:05:31,260 --> 00:05:33,360
Do you think doing
these interviews will

77
00:05:33,360 --> 00:05:35,610
have an effect on what you
share with your children

78
00:05:35,610 --> 00:05:36,780
or [INAUDIBLE]?

79
00:05:36,780 --> 00:05:40,720
Well, I probably will be--

80
00:05:40,720 --> 00:05:45,360
it'll come to me a lot easier
to share with them once the lid

81
00:05:45,360 --> 00:05:47,430
has been opened, so to speak.

82
00:05:47,430 --> 00:05:52,140
It probably will
converse easier.

83
00:05:52,140 --> 00:05:55,680
It'll come to me easier
to retell the story

84
00:05:55,680 --> 00:05:58,850
of the Holocaust, yeah.

85
00:05:58,850 --> 00:06:03,340
Do you know why you didn't
share much with them before?

86
00:06:03,340 --> 00:06:05,970
That is something
that I can't explain.

87
00:06:05,970 --> 00:06:10,150
I could talk to
people that are not

88
00:06:10,150 --> 00:06:17,170
related to me or people that
were coworkers or friends,

89
00:06:17,170 --> 00:06:20,080
go on and make comments
about the things,

90
00:06:20,080 --> 00:06:25,510
or answer questions, and just
not feel any emotion about it.

91
00:06:25,510 --> 00:06:27,820
Of course, I would
feel emotions, but not

92
00:06:27,820 --> 00:06:29,825
as to share with the family.

93
00:06:29,825 --> 00:06:31,450
And I think it's
really protecting them

94

00:06:31,450 --> 00:06:39,790
from a traumatic
experience for themselves.

95

00:06:39,790 --> 00:06:42,460
You can hear-- you read
a lot in the newspaper

96

00:06:42,460 --> 00:06:45,730
of terrible events,
and it doesn't

97

00:06:45,730 --> 00:06:49,000
seem to affect as
much as you heard

98

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:54,250
from someone that was involved
and that's very close to you.

99

00:06:54,250 --> 00:06:57,930
Perhaps that is-- I really
cannot answer that question.

100

00:06:57,930 --> 00:07:01,042

101

00:07:01,042 --> 00:07:02,500
What would you say
to your children

102

00:07:02,500 --> 00:07:05,710
when they would ask
about your experiences?

103

00:07:05,710 --> 00:07:07,720
I really don't know how
I would approach it.

104

00:07:07,720 --> 00:07:12,160
But I know one thing, that I
would probably on an answer

105

00:07:12,160 --> 00:07:16,120

and question basis

as a beginner,

106

00:07:16,120 --> 00:07:22,450

and then it probably might

just flow out, and just

107

00:07:22,450 --> 00:07:25,090

go on and tell them.

108

00:07:25,090 --> 00:07:27,735

When they were children and

they asked, what did you say?

109

00:07:27,735 --> 00:07:32,710

Well, I-- that is

hypothetical, really.

110

00:07:32,710 --> 00:07:33,640

I don't know.

111

00:07:33,640 --> 00:07:35,500

I probably would not.

112

00:07:35,500 --> 00:07:40,692

I probably would not tell

them horrible stories.

113

00:07:40,692 --> 00:07:43,470

But I mean, when they

were children in the past,

114

00:07:43,470 --> 00:07:44,470

you didn't say anything?

115

00:07:44,470 --> 00:07:46,420

No, I did not, no.

116

00:07:46,420 --> 00:07:48,100

Well, they haven't

asked, really.

117
00:07:48,100 --> 00:07:51,610
And I think they probably
had the same feeling,

118
00:07:51,610 --> 00:07:57,160
not asking me by hurting
me, perhaps, or bringing up

119
00:07:57,160 --> 00:07:59,140
emotions of the past.

120
00:07:59,140 --> 00:08:02,080
And I think kids, you
have to be mature, really,

121
00:08:02,080 --> 00:08:05,110
to ask questions of that nature.

122
00:08:05,110 --> 00:08:09,910
Now that they're adults and
married, I'm sure they'll be--

123
00:08:09,910 --> 00:08:11,770
I'm sure that they
talk about it.

124
00:08:11,770 --> 00:08:14,200
Perhaps not in my presence.

125
00:08:14,200 --> 00:08:16,960
My presence, yeah.

126
00:08:16,960 --> 00:08:20,110
Do you remember when, or do you
know when your children first

127
00:08:20,110 --> 00:08:25,680
found out that you were
a survivor [INAUDIBLE]??

128
00:08:25,680 --> 00:08:28,470

I cannot put my finger on
it, but I remember there was

129

00:08:28,470 --> 00:08:30,420
a project in high
school, one they had.

130

00:08:30,420 --> 00:08:34,620
But I'm sure it was before
high school, because there were

131

00:08:34,620 --> 00:08:39,780
certain events in San
Francisco that I participated

132

00:08:39,780 --> 00:08:45,240
as a spectator, you might say,
not as an active participant.

133

00:08:45,240 --> 00:08:48,090
And I'm sure they pondered
why I chose that unhappy

134

00:08:48,090 --> 00:08:51,150
event to come to celebrate it.

135

00:08:51,150 --> 00:08:53,250
You know?

136

00:08:53,250 --> 00:08:58,110
So I am sure my
wife, Lillian, she

137

00:08:58,110 --> 00:08:59,970
must have talked with the kids.

138

00:08:59,970 --> 00:09:02,790
I'm certain she did, you know?

139

00:09:02,790 --> 00:09:06,270
And they did not
talk to me about it.

140

00:09:06,270 --> 00:09:10,380

My daughter did occasionally
ask me some questions.

141

00:09:10,380 --> 00:09:15,880

And I don't remember what
I answered, but never went

142

00:09:15,880 --> 00:09:16,380

into detail.

143

00:09:16,380 --> 00:09:19,710

144

00:09:19,710 --> 00:09:23,650

She was the one who
seemed most interested

145

00:09:23,650 --> 00:09:27,960

in the event of the Holocaust.

146

00:09:27,960 --> 00:09:29,775

What were some of
those events that you

147

00:09:29,775 --> 00:09:30,900

said you went through then?

148

00:09:30,900 --> 00:09:35,760

Kind of like Yom
HaShoah, for instance.

149

00:09:35,760 --> 00:09:42,090

Or Temple Emanuel has
an event where they

150

00:09:42,090 --> 00:09:46,080

honor the certain Christians.

151

00:09:46,080 --> 00:09:47,580

I don't remember
what the event--

152
00:09:47,580 --> 00:09:49,110
there's a name for
that event, the--

153
00:09:49,110 --> 00:09:50,445
Righteous Gentiles?

154
00:09:50,445 --> 00:09:51,480
Pardon me?

155
00:09:51,480 --> 00:09:52,350
Righteous Gentiles?

156
00:09:52,350 --> 00:09:53,520
Righteous Gentiles, yes.

157
00:09:53,520 --> 00:09:55,650
Yeah, which I went this
year, as well, yeah.

158
00:09:55,650 --> 00:09:58,650
One time, I think
Elie Wiesel was there.

159
00:09:58,650 --> 00:10:01,200
And there's another
time someone else,

160
00:10:01,200 --> 00:10:04,440
which is an international
man of law--

161
00:10:04,440 --> 00:10:06,330
I can't think of his name--

162
00:10:06,330 --> 00:10:08,520
very well-known.

163
00:10:08,520 --> 00:10:13,320
And anyway, I did participate,
or I just went to listen to,

164
00:10:13,320 --> 00:10:14,590
and my wife came with me.

165
00:10:14,590 --> 00:10:17,370
And then we talked about it.

166
00:10:17,370 --> 00:10:21,900
And I think it kind of must
have trickled down to my kids.

167
00:10:21,900 --> 00:10:25,020
If I say trickle down, I don't
know what form, you know?

168
00:10:25,020 --> 00:10:26,970
Yeah.

169
00:10:26,970 --> 00:10:29,040
So but I'm sure
they were aware of.

170
00:10:29,040 --> 00:10:32,580
And they're avid
readers, and I'm

171
00:10:32,580 --> 00:10:36,540
sure that they read
on the Holocaust.

172
00:10:36,540 --> 00:10:41,120

173
00:10:41,120 --> 00:10:44,220
Let's start with some
of the many memories

174
00:10:44,220 --> 00:10:46,225
that the last thing stirred up.

175
00:10:46,225 --> 00:10:48,860

176
00:10:48,860 --> 00:10:52,670
Well, some details, yes.

177
00:10:52,670 --> 00:10:57,230
But I remembered my
brother had a camera.

178
00:10:57,230 --> 00:10:59,690
It was kind of-- in
comparison to today's cameras,

179
00:10:59,690 --> 00:11:02,390
it would be a primitive
type of camera on a tripod,

180
00:11:02,390 --> 00:11:04,213
on a wooden tripod.

181
00:11:04,213 --> 00:11:05,880
Of course, my brother
was older than me.

182
00:11:05,880 --> 00:11:07,920
I was the youngest.

183
00:11:07,920 --> 00:11:13,730
And we were told that Jews
cannot have cameras or radios,

184
00:11:13,730 --> 00:11:14,270
you know?

185
00:11:14,270 --> 00:11:16,520
And I couldn't see how
my brother would give up

186
00:11:16,520 --> 00:11:17,360
that camera.

187
00:11:17,360 --> 00:11:20,810
It was really the thing for him.

188
00:11:20,810 --> 00:11:24,830
And somehow, my
dad convinced him

189
00:11:24,830 --> 00:11:27,390
we don't want to be caught
with this camera in the house,

190
00:11:27,390 --> 00:11:32,300
you know, because it would
be a lot of trouble for us.

191
00:11:32,300 --> 00:11:34,700
What they did with the
camera, I really can't tell.

192
00:11:34,700 --> 00:11:37,820
But I remember that was
a little detail that

193
00:11:37,820 --> 00:11:39,338
just came to my mind, you know?

194
00:11:39,338 --> 00:11:40,880
How did you find
out that you weren't

195
00:11:40,880 --> 00:11:41,963
supposed to have a camera?

196
00:11:41,963 --> 00:11:42,620
[INAUDIBLE]

197
00:11:42,620 --> 00:11:47,900
Well, it must have been
some kind of publication.

198
00:11:47,900 --> 00:11:51,350
I remember that we had a
Telefunken radio, quite

199

00:11:51,350 --> 00:11:53,540
a big, nice box.

200
00:11:53,540 --> 00:11:56,210
And we listened-- you
could get Europe or even

201
00:11:56,210 --> 00:11:59,210
foreign countries,
not just friends.

202
00:11:59,210 --> 00:12:01,970
And after dinner, my dad
enjoyed turning it on,

203
00:12:01,970 --> 00:12:05,600
and the family would kind of sit
together and listen to things,

204
00:12:05,600 --> 00:12:07,070
you know?

205
00:12:07,070 --> 00:12:11,380
We remember when Hitler made his
famous speeches before the war.

206
00:12:11,380 --> 00:12:14,900
My dad listened to it intently.

207
00:12:14,900 --> 00:12:20,150
And there was an announcement
that Jews must not

208
00:12:20,150 --> 00:12:25,550
listen to radio broadcasts
of any nature, you know.

209
00:12:25,550 --> 00:12:27,560
And we had to--

210
00:12:27,560 --> 00:12:32,000
my dad did take it to a
center, and delivered it

211
00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:35,720
or turned it in, yeah.

212
00:12:35,720 --> 00:12:37,940
I would think the same
applied to cameras.

213
00:12:37,940 --> 00:12:41,660
You know, a camera is
like a spying object

214
00:12:41,660 --> 00:12:42,770
or whatever it might be.

215
00:12:42,770 --> 00:12:50,780
And so we were totally kind
of shut out of no newspapers.

216
00:12:50,780 --> 00:12:56,720
Obviously, you could buy
newspapers, but it was limited,

217
00:12:56,720 --> 00:12:57,353
you know.

218
00:12:57,353 --> 00:12:59,270
And the news you would
read would probably not

219
00:12:59,270 --> 00:13:03,470
be the greatest to cheer you up.

220
00:13:03,470 --> 00:13:05,870
But we did know someone
that had a crystal radio.

221
00:13:05,870 --> 00:13:09,830
It was a neighbor, I think
I might have said last time.

222
00:13:09,830 --> 00:13:12,500

And he listened, and
was some good news

223
00:13:12,500 --> 00:13:16,430
from London or from De
Gaulle someone else,

224
00:13:16,430 --> 00:13:26,220
he came and he kind of, in a
hushed form, relayed it to us.

225
00:13:26,220 --> 00:13:29,960
Other than that, it was just
curfew after 5:00 or 6:00

226
00:13:29,960 --> 00:13:32,840
in the evening.

227
00:13:32,840 --> 00:13:36,380
No lights were permitted
on, unless your windows were

228
00:13:36,380 --> 00:13:37,820
totally covered in darkness.

229
00:13:37,820 --> 00:13:41,600

230
00:13:41,600 --> 00:13:46,250
Mainly things like that within
the house that I recall.

231
00:13:46,250 --> 00:13:49,550
Of course also, I don't know
if I told you the last time,

232
00:13:49,550 --> 00:13:55,070
when we were liberated
from Buchenwald,

233
00:13:55,070 --> 00:13:57,260
we discovered that there
were some biscuits,

234
00:13:57,260 --> 00:14:03,350
there was a depot,
a food deposit.

235
00:14:03,350 --> 00:14:08,330
The German guards had
shepherds with them, dogs.

236
00:14:08,330 --> 00:14:10,490
And apparently,
this was supply food

237
00:14:10,490 --> 00:14:14,330
for the dogs, very
hard biscuits.

238
00:14:14,330 --> 00:14:17,810
And after we got
liberated, we just

239
00:14:17,810 --> 00:14:20,878
went wild and looked for
things, you know, as kids do.

240
00:14:20,878 --> 00:14:22,920
We found those biscuits,
and they were very hard.

241
00:14:22,920 --> 00:14:24,420
And we tried to
bite them, and there

242
00:14:24,420 --> 00:14:27,620
was no way one could
sink his teeth into that.

243
00:14:27,620 --> 00:14:30,830
So we soaked them in
cold water, you know,

244
00:14:30,830 --> 00:14:32,030
and still they were hard.

245
00:14:32,030 --> 00:14:34,950
Little things like that,
you know, probably.

246
00:14:34,950 --> 00:14:35,450
But--

247
00:14:35,450 --> 00:14:37,400
Did you ever manage
to eat them, or?

248
00:14:37,400 --> 00:14:42,410
No, we just sucked them like you
would a candy sucker, you know?

249
00:14:42,410 --> 00:14:44,792
Something like that, yeah.

250
00:14:44,792 --> 00:14:48,240
Do you remember-- you
say your parents watching

251
00:14:48,240 --> 00:14:50,130
Hitler, or listening to Hitler.

252
00:14:50,130 --> 00:14:52,270
Do you remember any
comments they made about him

253
00:14:52,270 --> 00:14:53,480
or what was going on?

254
00:14:53,480 --> 00:14:56,480
I was probably too young and
preoccupied with other things,

255
00:14:56,480 --> 00:15:02,090
but they were
concerned and scared.

256
00:15:02,090 --> 00:15:03,260

That's certain.

257

00:15:03,260 --> 00:15:07,250

You could see the
expression on their faces.

258

00:15:07,250 --> 00:15:14,870

And he shouts as he spoke,
and he came to certain points.

259

00:15:14,870 --> 00:15:16,490

It was really frightening.

260

00:15:16,490 --> 00:15:18,335

We hadn't experienced
anything like that.

261

00:15:18,335 --> 00:15:21,650

262

00:15:21,650 --> 00:15:28,700

Being the age of
10 or thereabouts,

263

00:15:28,700 --> 00:15:31,370

I don't think I was
politically oriented that much,

264

00:15:31,370 --> 00:15:35,600

or even though I heard
what might happen,

265

00:15:35,600 --> 00:15:37,790

paid much attention to it.

266

00:15:37,790 --> 00:15:42,680

You know, it's just the
age factor, you know,

267

00:15:42,680 --> 00:15:45,290

until it actually happened.

268

00:15:45,290 --> 00:15:48,622

Do you think they ever talked
about leaving France, or or

269

00:15:48,622 --> 00:15:49,580

trying to go somewhere?

270

00:15:49,580 --> 00:15:51,470

Yes, they did, because
we had relatives

271

00:15:51,470 --> 00:15:54,200

that did escape to Switzerland.

272

00:15:54,200 --> 00:15:56,330

And they survived.

273

00:15:56,330 --> 00:15:59,990

But I think my father was
a believer in good things,

274

00:15:59,990 --> 00:16:02,810

you might say.

275

00:16:02,810 --> 00:16:08,270

He didn't think whatever we
hear might come to that extreme.

276

00:16:08,270 --> 00:16:12,170

And I do remember one thing,
that he compared the civil war

277

00:16:12,170 --> 00:16:15,320

in Spain, how people go
about life every day,

278

00:16:15,320 --> 00:16:17,360

and here there's a civil war.

279

00:16:17,360 --> 00:16:19,510

People go to the
movies, my dad said.

280

00:16:19,510 --> 00:16:22,740

And those are modern times.

281

00:16:22,740 --> 00:16:25,070

This was not World

War I, my dad said.

282

00:16:25,070 --> 00:16:27,440

He was a soldier in

World War I. Just

283

00:16:27,440 --> 00:16:31,910

kind of more of a positive

person, instead negative.

284

00:16:31,910 --> 00:16:40,520

And plus, he had just come back

from international fur market,

285

00:16:40,520 --> 00:16:41,435

which was in Leipzig.

286

00:16:41,435 --> 00:16:43,700

It was an annual affair.

287

00:16:43,700 --> 00:16:46,910

And had bought skins and pelts.

288

00:16:46,910 --> 00:16:52,590

And I remember my dad building

a double wall to preserve those.

289

00:16:52,590 --> 00:16:55,580

And one of the rooms had

hooks that you hung them

290

00:16:55,580 --> 00:16:58,100

with crystals to preserve.

291

00:16:58,100 --> 00:17:04,260

So they had kind of

a positive outlook.

292

00:17:04,260 --> 00:17:12,480

And although my parents did come
from Poland, as well as myself,

293

00:17:12,480 --> 00:17:16,200

they did not feel the
anti-Semitism that

294

00:17:16,200 --> 00:17:19,890

has driven them out of Poland.

295

00:17:19,890 --> 00:17:20,440

And I think--

296

00:17:20,440 --> 00:17:20,940

In France.

297

00:17:20,940 --> 00:17:24,000

In France, yeah.

298

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:26,880

I'm sure there was some
anti-Semitism in France,

299

00:17:26,880 --> 00:17:32,280

but not as violent or
pogroms or whatever

300

00:17:32,280 --> 00:17:37,380

you might call, you
know, because one just

301

00:17:37,380 --> 00:17:39,750

doesn't go pack things
and go somewhere

302

00:17:39,750 --> 00:17:41,420

else to live if you're happy.

303

00:17:41,420 --> 00:17:44,680

304
00:17:44,680 --> 00:17:45,600
So--

305
00:17:45,600 --> 00:17:47,890
So they chose to stay?

306
00:17:47,890 --> 00:17:48,612
Yes.

307
00:17:48,612 --> 00:17:51,070
I think they had a good life,
we had a good life in France,

308
00:17:51,070 --> 00:17:51,570
yeah.

309
00:17:51,570 --> 00:17:54,850

310
00:17:54,850 --> 00:17:56,200
Good business.

311
00:17:56,200 --> 00:18:02,540
You base everything on your home
economics if you-- you know.

312
00:18:02,540 --> 00:18:05,809

313
00:18:05,809 --> 00:18:11,650
Can you give us the names and
describe your extended family?

314
00:18:11,650 --> 00:18:14,032
Aunts, uncles,
grandparents [INAUDIBLE]??

315
00:18:14,032 --> 00:18:16,820

316

00:18:16,820 --> 00:18:19,970
OK, let me see.

317
00:18:19,970 --> 00:18:24,110
And my mother came
from a family of eight.

318
00:18:24,110 --> 00:18:27,920
Their four sisters
and four brothers.

319
00:18:27,920 --> 00:18:33,210
OK, my dad had I think a
brother and one sister.

320
00:18:33,210 --> 00:18:37,340
[INAUDIBLE] No I'm not
from my father's side.

321
00:18:37,340 --> 00:18:42,170
I remember, last I do remember a
lot more from my mother's side.

322
00:18:42,170 --> 00:18:45,800
I guess they were more the
center of the immediate family

323
00:18:45,800 --> 00:18:47,920
than me from my father side.

324
00:18:47,920 --> 00:18:54,720
Oh, of course, we
all come from Poland.

325
00:18:54,720 --> 00:19:00,890
My mother had two brothers and
a sister in the United States.

326
00:19:00,890 --> 00:19:04,310
One New Jersey,
one in Los Angeles.

327
00:19:04,310 --> 00:19:08,900

And my aunt, which I
came to in San Francisco.

328
00:19:08,900 --> 00:19:13,290
We had an aunt in Berlin.

329
00:19:13,290 --> 00:19:15,680
And my little sister.

330
00:19:15,680 --> 00:19:19,550
Let's see, we are four or
five, who include my mother

331
00:19:19,550 --> 00:19:24,290
and had three I think
remained in Poland,

332
00:19:24,290 --> 00:19:28,430
which they were involved
in textile industries.

333
00:19:28,430 --> 00:19:31,460
And they were well-to-do
people there I guess.

334
00:19:31,460 --> 00:19:32,780
Why didn't we leave?

335
00:19:32,780 --> 00:19:35,300
Didn't know my mother
did have correspondence.

336
00:19:35,300 --> 00:19:38,060
We had correspondence
quite often. .

337
00:19:38,060 --> 00:19:40,760
We had some relatives
come visit us

338
00:19:40,760 --> 00:19:44,810
I remember just
before the war 39,

339
00:19:44,810 --> 00:19:48,320
my aunt sent her two
kids from Berlin to us

340
00:19:48,320 --> 00:19:50,510
and stayed with us.

341
00:19:50,510 --> 00:19:58,060
And they went back just before
the war broke out probably.

342
00:19:58,060 --> 00:20:00,640
I can't remember them vividly.

343
00:20:00,640 --> 00:20:07,060
My cousin his name was Adolf
he had little lederhosen on,

344
00:20:07,060 --> 00:20:12,160
I my cousin was Rosie.

345
00:20:12,160 --> 00:20:13,157
OK.

346
00:20:13,157 --> 00:20:14,530
You remember their last name?

347
00:20:14,530 --> 00:20:20,080
The last name, no.

348
00:20:20,080 --> 00:20:22,610
I really do not.

349
00:20:22,610 --> 00:20:24,910
I do not remember my
uncle's first name,

350
00:20:24,910 --> 00:20:31,480
but I do remember Italy, which
was my aunt's first name.

351

00:20:31,480 --> 00:20:32,920

Yeah.

352

00:20:32,920 --> 00:20:34,820

You remember your mother's name?

353

00:20:34,820 --> 00:20:38,470

Yes Zemanovich.

354

00:20:38,470 --> 00:20:41,460

Zemanovich some to
that effect, Yeah.

355

00:20:41,460 --> 00:20:44,110

That I do, Yeah.

356

00:20:44,110 --> 00:20:50,330

Also my uncle has
remained retain his name.

357

00:20:50,330 --> 00:20:56,470

I just changed to Zellman,
but I see unusual story--

358

00:20:56,470 --> 00:21:01,900

that were two brothers, one in
New Jersey one in Los Angeles.

359

00:21:01,900 --> 00:21:05,680

And one was probably totally
literate they asked him,

360

00:21:05,680 --> 00:21:07,990

if he can spell his
name on Ellis Island.

361

00:21:07,990 --> 00:21:10,510

This was a story that I
remember and heard here

362

00:21:10,510 --> 00:21:12,130

in the United States.

363
00:21:12,130 --> 00:21:16,690
And he did not
understood the question.

364
00:21:16,690 --> 00:21:21,370
We asked someone whether in
Yiddish or Polish what'd he

365
00:21:21,370 --> 00:21:22,290
say.

366
00:21:22,290 --> 00:21:24,470
He said he wants
know whats your name?

367
00:21:24,470 --> 00:21:28,600
He said I don't know, and he
just put a name Cohen on him.

368
00:21:28,600 --> 00:21:31,390
And here he had two brothers
is a very true story.

369
00:21:31,390 --> 00:21:34,790
I always tell it to everyone.

370
00:21:34,790 --> 00:21:38,080
There are two brothers.

371
00:21:38,080 --> 00:21:43,870
One was Cohen Zellman
and just because he

372
00:21:43,870 --> 00:21:45,020
must have been very young.

373
00:21:45,020 --> 00:21:49,630
I know uneducated or whatever
the case might have been.

374
00:21:49,630 --> 00:21:56,560

Any other questions I--

375

00:21:56,560 --> 00:22:00,370

376

00:22:00,370 --> 00:22:04,660

From those others you and
your family how many survived?

377

00:22:04,660 --> 00:22:07,540

Oh, Yes.

378

00:22:07,540 --> 00:22:08,290

Oh, OK.

379

00:22:08,290 --> 00:22:11,570

Yes I had one aunt that
survived in France,

380

00:22:11,570 --> 00:22:13,810

which I met just a second ago.

381

00:22:13,810 --> 00:22:19,720

Her name was Whittle And
she is still alive today.

382

00:22:19,720 --> 00:22:23,200

She in the early 90s.

383

00:22:23,200 --> 00:22:27,460

She suffers
Alzheimer's she is now,

384

00:22:27,460 --> 00:22:31,480

she has two sons and
a daughter, which

385

00:22:31,480 --> 00:22:36,220

I communicate we write to
each other, which I hope

386

00:22:36,220 --> 00:22:38,800

to visit them in September.

387

00:22:38,800 --> 00:22:41,640

I will very much forward to it.

388

00:22:41,640 --> 00:22:46,210

The oldest son Albert he
is Dean of the University.

389

00:22:46,210 --> 00:22:51,160

His wife is a
professor in chemistry.

390

00:22:51,160 --> 00:22:56,800

I has a daughter that works for
Paris-Soir as a correspondent,

391

00:22:56,800 --> 00:22:59,740

foreign correspondent.

392

00:22:59,740 --> 00:23:08,230

And one is clerking for a judge
with supposedly the equivalent

393

00:23:08,230 --> 00:23:10,270

of the Supreme Court here.

394

00:23:10,270 --> 00:23:14,470

Noetic they have three girls.

395

00:23:14,470 --> 00:23:18,670

The third one I really can
to remember what anyway--

396

00:23:18,670 --> 00:23:26,290

Then my other cousin Annmarie,
she is a high school principal.

397

00:23:26,290 --> 00:23:28,490

I just found out she was
a high school teacher.

398

00:23:28,490 --> 00:23:32,110
She got promoted to principal.

399
00:23:32,110 --> 00:23:34,645
Her husband is a
psychiatrist peer.

400
00:23:34,645 --> 00:23:36,145
And they have kids,
they have twins.

401
00:23:36,145 --> 00:23:39,280

402
00:23:39,280 --> 00:23:42,560
That have another cousin Jack
Jackie with a little affection

403
00:23:42,560 --> 00:23:45,640
that Jackie, has
got a large family.

404
00:23:45,640 --> 00:23:50,290
He married someone that came
from Africa some Jews that

405
00:23:50,290 --> 00:23:54,670
escaped Egyptian or
Tunisian, I'm not quite sure.

406
00:23:54,670 --> 00:23:59,690
They read the orthodox, because
this family was not religious.

407
00:23:59,690 --> 00:24:03,700
And he-- I went to
a Shabbat meal there

408
00:24:03,700 --> 00:24:08,470
and I had to say prayers.

409
00:24:08,470 --> 00:24:12,640
And had to put the yarmulke

on, which I enjoyed.

410
00:24:12,640 --> 00:24:14,020
And everything was kosher.

411
00:24:14,020 --> 00:24:17,830
And it was about 20
at a table there.

412
00:24:17,830 --> 00:24:21,370
So it was very pleasant
experience, Yeah.

413
00:24:21,370 --> 00:24:23,500
I really love my
relatives and friends.

414
00:24:23,500 --> 00:24:26,080
Also in the United
States as well.

415
00:24:26,080 --> 00:24:32,380
But there's a certain come shit
more perhaps with my relatives

416
00:24:32,380 --> 00:24:35,200
in Europe.

417
00:24:35,200 --> 00:24:43,750
There were very small or
somewhere born post Holocaust.

418
00:24:43,750 --> 00:24:49,630
Two were born in Switzerland,
while during the escape

419
00:24:49,630 --> 00:24:51,790
you might say.

420
00:24:51,790 --> 00:24:54,010
And they in their mid 50s.

421

00:24:54,010 --> 00:25:00,250

Annmarie my cousin is
probably in their early 40s.

422

00:25:00,250 --> 00:25:07,450

And late 40s, mid 40s,
and mid 50s, I would say.

423

00:25:07,450 --> 00:25:14,362

Of course, the kids are in the
late 20s, early 30s, mid 30s.

424

00:25:14,362 --> 00:25:15,820

Here I have cousins,
I have cousins

425

00:25:15,820 --> 00:25:19,930

who lives in Berkeley,
which I'm very close with.

426

00:25:19,930 --> 00:25:23,350

That's my aunts son.

427

00:25:23,350 --> 00:25:26,320

And when I had a
cousin that lives

428

00:25:26,320 --> 00:25:30,850

in Los Angeles,
which I'm also close

429

00:25:30,850 --> 00:25:35,540

he just was up here visiting us.

430

00:25:35,540 --> 00:25:39,280

And I have other cousins from
my uncle, my mother's brother.

431

00:25:39,280 --> 00:25:43,450

My uncle live--
one was a physicist

432

00:25:43,450 --> 00:25:48,460

in UCLA, which was asked
to leave UCLA and work

433
00:25:48,460 --> 00:25:51,100
for Lockheed.

434
00:25:51,100 --> 00:25:54,550
And he is quite an
extensive resume

435
00:25:54,550 --> 00:25:57,730
of his achievement in
the missile division.

436
00:25:57,730 --> 00:26:02,730
He retired and he's a man
in the 70s, early 70s,

437
00:26:02,730 --> 00:26:09,700
perhaps very late 60s. , And
he's going through a depression

438
00:26:09,700 --> 00:26:11,650
period because of
his retirement.

439
00:26:11,650 --> 00:26:16,410

440
00:26:16,410 --> 00:26:19,507
Do you ever discuss with
some of your relatives--

441
00:26:19,507 --> 00:26:20,340
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

442
00:26:20,340 --> 00:26:20,610
Yes.

443
00:26:20,610 --> 00:26:21,390
Who were through
the same experience?

444

00:26:21,390 --> 00:26:23,920

In the early days when I
came as a matter of fact,

445

00:26:23,920 --> 00:26:27,690

the very first day when I
arrived in San Francisco,

446

00:26:27,690 --> 00:26:30,780

we had a session a prelim
and then after 3:00

447

00:26:30,780 --> 00:26:39,450

AM and a lot of questions were
asked by my uncle, by my aunt.

448

00:26:39,450 --> 00:26:40,570

Is it true?

449

00:26:40,570 --> 00:26:41,760

Was this true?

450

00:26:41,760 --> 00:26:43,230

Is this true?

451

00:26:43,230 --> 00:26:45,000

Did it happened?

452

00:26:45,000 --> 00:26:53,100

And there were a little
bit skeptical about things,

453

00:26:53,100 --> 00:26:55,650

and I was a little bit
perturbed at the beginning,

454

00:26:55,650 --> 00:27:00,120

but I started realizing that
if you're not in the fire,

455

00:27:00,120 --> 00:27:03,600

you really don't feel

the heat so to speak.

456

00:27:03,600 --> 00:27:08,940

And I-- and I don't think
it my aunt and an uncle

457

00:27:08,940 --> 00:27:15,980

where a worldly
people that would have

458

00:27:15,980 --> 00:27:22,250

read newspapers extensively, and
rationalize or analyze things.

459

00:27:22,250 --> 00:27:26,030

They were nice, good people.

460

00:27:26,030 --> 00:27:30,950

But they themselves
escaped Europe from soon

461

00:27:30,950 --> 00:27:33,740

from persecution.

462

00:27:33,740 --> 00:27:36,270

And the night of formal
education or they

463

00:27:36,270 --> 00:27:39,950

were very, very sharp
business people.

464

00:27:39,950 --> 00:27:42,170

My aunt lived on top
of that pillar, which

465

00:27:42,170 --> 00:27:47,120

I'm very proud for a person and
had quite an extensive amount

466

00:27:47,120 --> 00:27:51,560

of property in the
area, to manage

467
00:27:51,560 --> 00:27:56,450
to achieve certain Heights
with a limited education.

468
00:27:56,450 --> 00:27:58,490
I have to respect them.

469
00:27:58,490 --> 00:28:01,190

470
00:28:01,190 --> 00:28:03,020
What were they unaware of?

471
00:28:03,020 --> 00:28:05,570
Well, they were
aware of what they

472
00:28:05,570 --> 00:28:09,710
wanted they wanted me
to confirm of the events

473
00:28:09,710 --> 00:28:12,720
that they read and
heard was it true?

474
00:28:12,720 --> 00:28:13,400
Is it possible?

475
00:28:13,400 --> 00:28:15,260
Did this occurred?

476
00:28:15,260 --> 00:28:21,320
Is possible, while my
response said well,

477
00:28:21,320 --> 00:28:25,790
I was, I'm the only one left
of a large extensive family.

478
00:28:25,790 --> 00:28:30,350
Not just my immediate

family, but the relatives,

479

00:28:30,350 --> 00:28:34,010

uncles, and aunts, and
cousins from my father's

480

00:28:34,010 --> 00:28:38,540

side as well as
my mother's side.

481

00:28:38,540 --> 00:28:43,230

I'm just briefly on
my father's side.

482

00:28:43,230 --> 00:28:47,383

I remember that also came
from Poland to France.

483

00:28:47,383 --> 00:28:48,800

And there were no
French business.

484

00:28:48,800 --> 00:28:51,200

And the French in
making business.

485

00:28:51,200 --> 00:28:52,850

I remember that.

486

00:28:52,850 --> 00:28:57,950

And they also
vanished, disappeared.

487

00:28:57,950 --> 00:29:03,200

More victims of the Holocaust.

488

00:29:03,200 --> 00:29:05,330

There's no one from
your father's side?

489

00:29:05,330 --> 00:29:12,020

No, I've never-- I've searched
early in the 50s and late 40s.

490
00:29:12,020 --> 00:29:16,430
I've read lists and
lists of survivors.

491
00:29:16,430 --> 00:29:19,070
I was in contact with
many organization.

492
00:29:19,070 --> 00:29:25,550
The IRS, the Red Cross, or
any other Jewish sources that

493
00:29:25,550 --> 00:29:28,190
would have names and lists.

494
00:29:28,190 --> 00:29:32,480
And I searched and I
will never find anyone

495
00:29:32,480 --> 00:29:36,410
that I thought
was related to me.

496
00:29:36,410 --> 00:29:40,535
And we were a large family
and your cousins and cousins.

497
00:29:40,535 --> 00:29:43,580

498
00:29:43,580 --> 00:29:49,160
From my mother's side that my
mother had uncles and aunts

499
00:29:49,160 --> 00:29:53,660
that they she had cousins, which
will be second cousins to me.

500
00:29:53,660 --> 00:29:56,870
Just a large, large family.

501

00:29:56,870 --> 00:30:04,820

And I think they came
from Orthodox branch of

502

00:30:04,820 --> 00:30:07,880

and there were quite large.

503

00:30:07,880 --> 00:30:10,790

And there's hardly
any one left other

504

00:30:10,790 --> 00:30:17,620

than relatives in the United
States as well as in France.

505

00:30:17,620 --> 00:30:19,460

I think last time
we didn't cover

506

00:30:19,460 --> 00:30:21,260

this, your last name Benson?

507

00:30:21,260 --> 00:30:21,760

Yes.

508

00:30:21,760 --> 00:30:23,830

Is it an Americanised
name or what was is--

509

00:30:23,830 --> 00:30:24,190

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

510

00:30:24,190 --> 00:30:24,760

Yes.

511

00:30:24,760 --> 00:30:28,240

Actually, well, let
me put it this way.

512

00:30:28,240 --> 00:30:30,850

I had called John,
he might heard this.

513

00:30:30,850 --> 00:30:33,690

And I had called
John my wife, I told

514

00:30:33,690 --> 00:30:36,100

what I had to give my
wife a blow by blow

515

00:30:36,100 --> 00:30:39,310

description from the beginning.

516

00:30:39,310 --> 00:30:42,180

So she said that you give
me your last name originally

517

00:30:42,180 --> 00:30:42,680

allowance.

518

00:30:42,680 --> 00:30:46,120

I said Yes I did, Oh she never
says why not she says OK now

519

00:30:46,120 --> 00:30:48,310

you know.

520

00:30:48,310 --> 00:30:54,310

How I came to rename my name to
Benson when I became a citizen.

521

00:30:54,310 --> 00:30:59,150

My aunt very much wanted
me to have her name.

522

00:30:59,150 --> 00:31:04,870

She felt she adopted
me as the third son.

523

00:31:04,870 --> 00:31:07,990

I said, would you like
to, she said a few days

524

00:31:07,990 --> 00:31:11,260

before my appearance in a
courtroom in San Francisco

525
00:31:11,260 --> 00:31:15,280
superior court, I
said, Oh, I'd like,

526
00:31:15,280 --> 00:31:19,270
I was are our son she said.

527
00:31:19,270 --> 00:31:20,740
We love you just as much.

528
00:31:20,740 --> 00:31:23,610

529
00:31:23,610 --> 00:31:25,717
So I would have
any thinking, but

530
00:31:25,717 --> 00:31:26,300
To [INAUDIBLE]

531
00:31:26,300 --> 00:31:27,133
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

532
00:31:27,133 --> 00:31:31,820
The name Benson was my
uncle's Hebrew name, which

533
00:31:31,820 --> 00:31:36,330
he came from a Sephardic side.

534
00:31:36,330 --> 00:31:43,670
And another thing, my dad's
Hebrew name was Benzion.

535
00:31:43,670 --> 00:31:47,570
You know Benzion, when
call to the Torah,

536
00:31:47,570 --> 00:31:49,890

they call you for
the Hebrew name.

537
00:31:49,890 --> 00:31:54,080
His name was Benzion
Hillel something like that

538
00:31:54,080 --> 00:32:00,890
and that's how Benson or Benzion
it was converted into Benson.

539
00:32:00,890 --> 00:32:04,170

540
00:32:04,170 --> 00:32:10,410
Am I explain myself, Ben the Son
of was perhaps the son of Zion.

541
00:32:10,410 --> 00:32:12,120
So that's how I became Benson.

542
00:32:12,120 --> 00:32:14,220
And I was my aunt
was very, very happy.

543
00:32:14,220 --> 00:32:15,960
My uncles were happy too.

544
00:32:15,960 --> 00:32:18,820
So what was it in France?

545
00:32:18,820 --> 00:32:24,060
Well, it was from Halsman.

546
00:32:24,060 --> 00:32:30,660
OK, and my grandfather
had a foundry.

547
00:32:30,660 --> 00:32:35,490
And in German, must have
been from German origin,

548

00:32:35,490 --> 00:32:41,130
is the name is
Schemelts to meltdown.

549
00:32:41,130 --> 00:32:45,530
Or shemelts man, so he
was the melting men.

550
00:32:45,530 --> 00:32:48,230
There's an interesting
book about how

551
00:32:48,230 --> 00:32:51,500
Jews during the
diaspora acquired names

552
00:32:51,500 --> 00:32:55,340
like Goldberg, Sugarmann,
Kaufman, or Mrs Backman.

553
00:32:55,340 --> 00:33:01,930
It was just given them when they
came from the Babylonian exile

554
00:33:01,930 --> 00:33:04,580
to the European continent.

555
00:33:04,580 --> 00:33:07,760
They could not converse due
to the language barriers.

556
00:33:07,760 --> 00:33:12,120

557
00:33:12,120 --> 00:33:16,530
So if they see a spot
on someone's coat,

558
00:33:16,530 --> 00:33:19,940
Oh, this man is going
to be called Spider.

559
00:33:19,940 --> 00:33:21,560

He had a lump of
sugar he will became

560
00:33:21,560 --> 00:33:26,090
sugarmann, because
it's really, see

561
00:33:26,090 --> 00:33:29,540
we don't have that
like direction would

562
00:33:29,540 --> 00:33:31,610
call Ivan Ivanovich.

563
00:33:31,610 --> 00:33:34,040
Ivan the son--

564
00:33:34,040 --> 00:33:37,800
Ivan the son of one
of his father someone.

565
00:33:37,800 --> 00:33:46,340
And in Jewish is the father's
name like Harry Ben, Xian

566
00:33:46,340 --> 00:33:49,220
Hillel, that would be my name.

567
00:33:49,220 --> 00:33:54,470
Harry, which is Layon or
the lion or whatever Harry.

568
00:33:54,470 --> 00:33:57,860
And all of a sudden, they
became like Anglo-Saxonized with

569
00:33:57,860 --> 00:34:01,400
Goldberg or whatever--

570
00:34:01,400 --> 00:34:02,600
That's what I was told.

571

00:34:02,600 --> 00:34:05,480

572

00:34:05,480 --> 00:34:09,460

So that's my profession

Mr Schneider,

573

00:34:09,460 --> 00:34:12,370

which is a tailor, OK.

574

00:34:12,370 --> 00:34:15,739

Mr Cleaner Yuford

Cleaner was a man

575

00:34:15,739 --> 00:34:18,070

that ran a laundry who knows.

576

00:34:18,070 --> 00:34:23,900

But those were the names

given primarily in the Western

577

00:34:23,900 --> 00:34:24,400

Europe.

578

00:34:24,400 --> 00:34:26,929

I would say probably Germany.

579

00:34:26,929 --> 00:34:30,400

So you have your

complete birth mom was--?

580

00:34:30,400 --> 00:34:37,480

Was Leon Solomon schmelzman.

581

00:34:37,480 --> 00:34:41,440

I have a little middle

name Samuel, Pardon me.

582

00:34:41,440 --> 00:34:50,290

Leon Samuel and Frolander

was a Irio lab--

583

00:34:50,290 --> 00:34:53,800

Label and the fact,
which my aunt.

584

00:34:53,800 --> 00:34:55,239

All this information,
I've gained

585

00:34:55,239 --> 00:34:58,590

from my aunt and my uncle.

586

00:34:58,590 --> 00:35:01,550

Also I was named after
my mother's father,

587

00:35:01,550 --> 00:35:03,970

my grandfather,
which I never knew.

588

00:35:03,970 --> 00:35:07,570

Which his name was Labe, OK.

589

00:35:07,570 --> 00:35:13,780

And let's see he--

590

00:35:13,780 --> 00:35:17,050

and the middle name,
which was Samuel.

591

00:35:17,050 --> 00:35:23,050

Schmuel or whatever I don't
know why they've picked like we

592

00:35:23,050 --> 00:35:24,910

named our kids.

593

00:35:24,910 --> 00:35:28,090

We more Anglo-Saxonized
guys their names.

594

00:35:28,090 --> 00:35:30,310

Like Paul, Mark, and Janette.

595

00:35:30,310 --> 00:35:35,110

Janette was after my mother's
name, which was Yeda.

596

00:35:35,110 --> 00:35:37,510

How we drive to
Janette, I'm asking you,

597

00:35:37,510 --> 00:35:45,550

but we try to be modern
as much as we can, yet

598

00:35:45,550 --> 00:35:48,430

have some sound to.

599

00:35:48,430 --> 00:35:51,910

And my son is Paul, which
was after my dad's--

600

00:35:51,910 --> 00:35:53,950

from my father.

601

00:35:53,950 --> 00:35:54,670

OK.

602

00:35:54,670 --> 00:35:55,170

and my--

603

00:35:55,170 --> 00:35:57,040

What was his name,
your father name?

604

00:35:57,040 --> 00:36:04,490

My father was-- let me see now.

605

00:36:04,490 --> 00:36:06,970

Mixing up to the names now.

606

00:36:06,970 --> 00:36:14,670

I thought it was
Hillel Benzion, Yeah.

607

00:36:14,670 --> 00:36:20,190

And that was Harry Ben

Hillel this is me, OK.

608

00:36:20,190 --> 00:36:24,300

Benzion, Benzion, OK.

609

00:36:24,300 --> 00:36:29,070

I am not very

proficient in Hebrew

610

00:36:29,070 --> 00:36:33,630

or religious backgrounds,

because my aunt

611

00:36:33,630 --> 00:36:35,580

was relatively not--

612

00:36:35,580 --> 00:36:39,420

although she did come from

a very religious background.

613

00:36:39,420 --> 00:36:43,440

And they didn't they

had dual membership

614

00:36:43,440 --> 00:36:46,860

and shared Israel as

well and Beth Israel.

615

00:36:46,860 --> 00:36:52,560

And they just were not observant

Jews, very strong Jews, but not

616

00:36:52,560 --> 00:36:53,430

observant Jews.

617

00:36:53,430 --> 00:36:56,130

618

00:36:56,130 --> 00:36:58,320

And being as young

as I was, I vaguely

619

00:36:58,320 --> 00:37:01,500
remember learning sometimes
that the early part

620

00:37:01,500 --> 00:37:05,050
of the war some Hebrew by
tutoring from a neighbor,

621

00:37:05,050 --> 00:37:07,200
which is name was Schwartz.

622

00:37:07,200 --> 00:37:09,930
My dad did-- my
dad that selected

623

00:37:09,930 --> 00:37:14,520
us tutor me and he used to
come into the house with a book

624

00:37:14,520 --> 00:37:20,110
and with a wooden pointer,
and point to me to pointed

625

00:37:20,110 --> 00:37:24,990
and I repeated the
alphabet out from the base.

626

00:37:24,990 --> 00:37:29,940
So on honestly at my age was
quite young with the word out.

627

00:37:29,940 --> 00:37:32,310
And that's what I missed most.

628

00:37:32,310 --> 00:37:34,810
However, after the
war when I immediately

629

00:37:34,810 --> 00:37:38,310
when I came to
the United States,

630
00:37:38,310 --> 00:37:41,250
and after being married
for two or three years,

631
00:37:41,250 --> 00:37:46,710
and having offspring's young
kids we didn't join a temple.

632
00:37:46,710 --> 00:37:49,500
And as the kids grew,
I got myself involved.

633
00:37:49,500 --> 00:37:51,690
I got involved very much.

634
00:37:51,690 --> 00:37:55,860
And I became principal of
the Sunday school here.

635
00:37:55,860 --> 00:37:58,770
And I did go to the Bureau
of Jewish education.

636
00:37:58,770 --> 00:38:02,340
The courses and it this
read as much as I could.

637
00:38:02,340 --> 00:38:07,290
To how I became
principal, I really

638
00:38:07,290 --> 00:38:09,330
don't know maybe,
because I don't

639
00:38:09,330 --> 00:38:12,990
know because I was
criticizing someone else

640
00:38:12,990 --> 00:38:15,070
or whatever I really don't know.

641

00:38:15,070 --> 00:38:19,790

But I think I did a good
job I would say that.

642

00:38:19,790 --> 00:38:23,370

OK, I did this for
five or six years.

643

00:38:23,370 --> 00:38:27,130

I was the vice president of
temple for about three years,

644

00:38:27,130 --> 00:38:29,460

four years four terms.

645

00:38:29,460 --> 00:38:34,710

In the various committees
that I chaired.

646

00:38:34,710 --> 00:38:41,100

And so you might say that
my religious education

647

00:38:41,100 --> 00:38:48,180

came more as an adult than
as a young boy or a teenager.

648

00:38:48,180 --> 00:38:53,193

Do you remember you describe
I remember any holidays

649

00:38:53,193 --> 00:38:55,110

that you observed with
your family as a child?

650

00:38:55,110 --> 00:38:56,790

Yes, I do definitely.

651

00:38:56,790 --> 00:39:00,420

I do remember going with
my dad to synagogue.

652

00:39:00,420 --> 00:39:02,970

I must have been holidays,
because I am not sure

653

00:39:02,970 --> 00:39:06,930

if my dad went to
the Shabbat services.

654

00:39:06,930 --> 00:39:11,310

He might have Yes, I think
I did I remember my dad we

655

00:39:11,310 --> 00:39:12,310

holding hands.

656

00:39:12,310 --> 00:39:13,980

My dad was holding
my hand and I you

657

00:39:13,980 --> 00:39:17,290

know he had this
talet bag with him.

658

00:39:17,290 --> 00:39:19,180

I remember that, Yeah.

659

00:39:19,180 --> 00:39:24,270

And I remember my dad
putting on the factories.

660

00:39:24,270 --> 00:39:27,990

I don't know if it's on
a daily basis or not,

661

00:39:27,990 --> 00:39:29,850

but I remember he did.

662

00:39:29,850 --> 00:39:33,660

And I also recall that
he did not do that when

663

00:39:33,660 --> 00:39:35,140

the war intensified.

664
00:39:35,140 --> 00:39:44,310
But I would mention to
him about did you forget

665
00:39:44,310 --> 00:39:47,300
or did you miss today?

666
00:39:47,300 --> 00:39:50,410
And he said that-- we
pacify my mom says,

667
00:39:50,410 --> 00:39:52,360
don't worry if everything
is going to be OK,

668
00:39:52,360 --> 00:39:53,610
everything else will continue.

669
00:39:53,610 --> 00:39:55,062
Something of the fact.

670
00:39:55,062 --> 00:39:57,990
It's amazing that's another
thing that just came back

671
00:39:57,990 --> 00:39:59,070
to me.

672
00:39:59,070 --> 00:40:09,430
And things you-- also there's
another thing I remember.

673
00:40:09,430 --> 00:40:13,560
My oldest brother having a party
and Yom Kippur in the house,

674
00:40:13,560 --> 00:40:17,280
while my dad was at the
synagogue with my mom.

675
00:40:17,280 --> 00:40:24,240

And how do we know about that is
my dad sent me wasn't very far.

676
00:40:24,240 --> 00:40:27,150
This was not a synagogue
as you might know here.

677
00:40:27,150 --> 00:40:30,750
It was a professional
association

678
00:40:30,750 --> 00:40:33,030
they formed for the holidays.

679
00:40:33,030 --> 00:40:37,500
They did their own,
like my dad was

680
00:40:37,500 --> 00:40:42,300
a four-year-old the first got
together in the least a hole

681
00:40:42,300 --> 00:40:44,070
or whatever and
they hire someone

682
00:40:44,070 --> 00:40:49,710
to do the cantorial prayers.

683
00:40:49,710 --> 00:40:55,020
And it was more like a private
club you might say or whatever.

684
00:40:55,020 --> 00:40:58,995
In association of
the profession.

685
00:40:58,995 --> 00:41:00,870
So it wasn't very far
from where we lived in.

686
00:41:00,870 --> 00:41:04,620
I was 10 or

thereabouts 10 and 1/2.

687
00:41:04,620 --> 00:41:08,520
My dad said go for walk and
see if everything everything's

688
00:41:08,520 --> 00:41:09,300
OK at home.

689
00:41:09,300 --> 00:41:11,700
Just check whatever.

690
00:41:11,700 --> 00:41:13,650
And I came home that
they were in here were

691
00:41:13,650 --> 00:41:19,710
must have been about
maybe 10 or 15 teenagers

692
00:41:19,710 --> 00:41:21,040
having a good party.

693
00:41:21,040 --> 00:41:25,790
And I remember dashing out
of the house in total horror.

694
00:41:25,790 --> 00:41:29,490
[LAUGHING] And running to
my dad with my head down,

695
00:41:29,490 --> 00:41:32,250
my dad said what
happened what's going on?

696
00:41:32,250 --> 00:41:34,440
And I just couldn't talk.

697
00:41:34,440 --> 00:41:38,550
But I do remember that my dad
had a talk with my brother

698

00:41:38,550 --> 00:41:39,870
to some extent.

699
00:41:39,870 --> 00:41:42,870
Now, there's nothing comes
to mind, we had this man that

700
00:41:42,870 --> 00:41:46,440
was tutoring me, Mr Schwartz.

701
00:41:46,440 --> 00:41:49,140
I remember that name.

702
00:41:49,140 --> 00:41:55,140
So my oldest brother
smoke and the on shabbat.

703
00:41:55,140 --> 00:41:56,790
And he confronted
my father and he

704
00:41:56,790 --> 00:42:03,420
said being young you
not noticed probably,

705
00:42:03,420 --> 00:42:07,980
that's why these things go on
in your presence, where normally

706
00:42:07,980 --> 00:42:09,290
it wouldn't happen.

707
00:42:09,290 --> 00:42:11,665
This is the only explanation--

708
00:42:11,665 --> 00:42:13,040
And this meant
confronting my dad

709
00:42:13,040 --> 00:42:19,320
and said I saw your
son Julian smoking.

710

00:42:19,320 --> 00:42:20,760

I said, how come?

711

00:42:20,760 --> 00:42:23,620

My father said, I don't
know anything about it.

712

00:42:23,620 --> 00:42:24,780

I'll talk to him about it.

713

00:42:24,780 --> 00:42:29,280

He pacified Mr Schwartz, which
was a very religious person.

714

00:42:29,280 --> 00:42:33,850

And he reassured him
he'll take issue with it.

715

00:42:33,850 --> 00:42:40,950

And again, I was present when
my father confronted my brother.

716

00:42:40,950 --> 00:42:46,320

And said I heard Mr Schwartz
tell me you smoked a cigarette?

717

00:42:46,320 --> 00:42:51,210

And my dad put it this way
to him, if you must smoke

718

00:42:51,210 --> 00:42:55,190

and the shabbat smoke
when no one sees you.

719

00:42:55,190 --> 00:42:56,070

[LAUGHTER]

720

00:42:56,070 --> 00:42:58,380

Kind of a
philosophical approach.

721

00:42:58,380 --> 00:43:00,360

And that that's
stuck in my mind.

722
00:43:00,360 --> 00:43:03,720

723
00:43:03,720 --> 00:43:07,540
So these little
vignettes that keep

724
00:43:07,540 --> 00:43:12,315
reappearing certain things.

725
00:43:12,315 --> 00:43:13,710
How much older was your brother?

726
00:43:13,710 --> 00:43:16,500
My this is my oldest brother,
I had a brother in the middle.

727
00:43:16,500 --> 00:43:22,620
I would say if I was 10 he must
have been about 18 or 19, Yeah.

728
00:43:22,620 --> 00:43:24,660
Because we were, Yeah.

729
00:43:24,660 --> 00:43:27,980
I just an assumption.

730
00:43:27,980 --> 00:43:30,420
I have no dates is pathetic.

731
00:43:30,420 --> 00:43:32,740
I have no records whatsoever.

732
00:43:32,740 --> 00:43:35,970
I don't even know how
old my parents were.

733
00:43:35,970 --> 00:43:40,170
I tend to write to Polish

consulate in Warsaw

734

00:43:40,170 --> 00:43:43,440

the American
consulate in Warsaw.

735

00:43:43,440 --> 00:43:45,935

I just got the address here.

736

00:43:45,935 --> 00:43:47,310

Do you remember
any conversations

737

00:43:47,310 --> 00:43:50,550

you had with your
siblings when Nazi's first

738

00:43:50,550 --> 00:43:51,510

came into your town?

739

00:43:51,510 --> 00:43:56,400

Immediately things started
feel what you will--

740

00:43:56,400 --> 00:44:02,070

Well, you see my brothers
work with my dad.

741

00:44:02,070 --> 00:44:07,740

They were part of the
employees you might say.

742

00:44:07,740 --> 00:44:10,530

Even though my middle
brother was not all probably

743

00:44:10,530 --> 00:44:15,780

enough to I would say, but he
did give a hand in the shop.

744

00:44:15,780 --> 00:44:20,550

Whether he nailed, probably
remember nailing the skins.

745
00:44:20,550 --> 00:44:23,670
You wetten the skins first,
stretch them, you nail him.

746
00:44:23,670 --> 00:44:26,760
And he probably nailed what
was just a family affair.

747
00:44:26,760 --> 00:44:30,270

748
00:44:30,270 --> 00:44:33,300
And I really don't
remember anything,

749
00:44:33,300 --> 00:44:36,090
but it was a total
hush in the house.

750
00:44:36,090 --> 00:44:40,050
Everybody behaves
suddenly changed.

751
00:44:40,050 --> 00:44:43,980
Everyone was tiptoeing
you might say.

752
00:44:43,980 --> 00:44:47,670
Quiet, we did not
leave the house

753
00:44:47,670 --> 00:44:51,750
as often to go to play yard,
to go for a walk in the street.

754
00:44:51,750 --> 00:44:54,120
Without a non-Jewish
kids intermingle,

755
00:44:54,120 --> 00:44:59,640
was a total suddenly restricted
to stay away, staying indoors.

756

00:44:59,640 --> 00:45:04,860

That was the main theme is to
stay indoors, the main thing.

757

00:45:04,860 --> 00:45:12,510

Because we heard the motorcycles
with the German troops

758

00:45:12,510 --> 00:45:14,580

drive up and down the streets.

759

00:45:14,580 --> 00:45:22,270

The large trucks with
military personnel.

760

00:45:22,270 --> 00:45:28,410

So the best thing was
probably be protective

761

00:45:28,410 --> 00:45:30,705

not to stay out of the house.

762

00:45:30,705 --> 00:45:33,830

763

00:45:33,830 --> 00:45:39,560

I do remember when
we're finally--

764

00:45:39,560 --> 00:45:48,080

I say finally, evacuated
towards Buchenwald towards,

765

00:45:48,080 --> 00:45:51,320

not take that
back, to Auschwitz.

766

00:45:51,320 --> 00:45:53,690

I was with my little brother.

767

00:45:53,690 --> 00:45:56,660

768

00:45:56,660 --> 00:46:02,240

And until we got
separated in Birkenau,

769

00:46:02,240 --> 00:46:05,570

where I was taken to
Auschwitz camp, And he left,

770

00:46:05,570 --> 00:46:06,840

he was left there.

771

00:46:06,840 --> 00:46:10,310

And my eldest brother
he was married.

772

00:46:10,310 --> 00:46:12,260

I have no recollection
whatsoever,

773

00:46:12,260 --> 00:46:15,260

I have no track of him.

774

00:46:15,260 --> 00:46:16,940

What hasn't come with them.

775

00:46:16,940 --> 00:46:21,020

Of course, he was drafted
at the very beginning.

776

00:46:21,020 --> 00:46:24,320

And he was assigned close
by to the Maginot Line,

777

00:46:24,320 --> 00:46:29,600

that I remember, Yeah, which
was the French defense.

778

00:46:29,600 --> 00:46:36,510

And whatever I found out
much many years later,

779

00:46:36,510 --> 00:46:39,390
the Germans flooded
the Maginot Line.

780

00:46:39,390 --> 00:46:43,440
It was underground
bunkers as a defense.

781

00:46:43,440 --> 00:46:50,070
And they followed them by just
like a river of water in there,

782

00:46:50,070 --> 00:46:52,196
and just to drown everybody.

783

00:46:52,196 --> 00:46:56,170

784

00:46:56,170 --> 00:47:00,000
My sister was quite
a bit younger.

785

00:47:00,000 --> 00:47:02,790
And she had braids I remember.

786

00:47:02,790 --> 00:47:05,250
She had two braids.

787

00:47:05,250 --> 00:47:10,650
I look, I see the cute
little girl in retrospect.

788

00:47:10,650 --> 00:47:11,760
And her name was?

789

00:47:11,760 --> 00:47:12,950
Wittle witcher.

790

00:47:12,950 --> 00:47:15,030
Wittle, Yeah.

791

00:47:15,030 --> 00:47:18,240
Was my grandmother's name, OK.

792
00:47:18,240 --> 00:47:23,310
Here you go, we have tradition
has prevailed to name

793
00:47:23,310 --> 00:47:25,423
after the departed though--

794
00:47:25,423 --> 00:47:30,160

795
00:47:30,160 --> 00:47:33,550
Do you remember what you did
that night when the lights were

796
00:47:33,550 --> 00:47:34,937
out and you had to stay inside?

797
00:47:34,937 --> 00:47:35,770
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

798
00:47:35,770 --> 00:47:42,710
Well, it's probably
told stories neighbors

799
00:47:42,710 --> 00:47:43,770
did come into the house.

800
00:47:43,770 --> 00:47:50,390
So we went to visit neighbors
in the same building.

801
00:47:50,390 --> 00:47:56,390
And just I think maybe my dad
would play a game of cards

802
00:47:56,390 --> 00:47:59,780
with some neighbors.

803
00:47:59,780 --> 00:48:03,400

Or play a form of lotto,
which is like bingo today.

804
00:48:03,400 --> 00:48:07,610
I remember our prayers
that keep us busy at best.

805
00:48:07,610 --> 00:48:10,310
I know we did go
to bed early, which

806
00:48:10,310 --> 00:48:12,920
I don't think we would
go as early to bed

807
00:48:12,920 --> 00:48:14,570
and normal circumstances.

808
00:48:14,570 --> 00:48:19,010

809
00:48:19,010 --> 00:48:22,580
That's probably about the
activity that was going on.

810
00:48:22,580 --> 00:48:27,560
Of course, in the summer months
the days were somewhat longer.

811
00:48:27,560 --> 00:48:30,590
There was a court at the
yard, like you have over here

812
00:48:30,590 --> 00:48:34,340
by the court where
many kids would play.

813
00:48:34,340 --> 00:48:37,130
The kids would come down,
but there was no enthusiasm

814
00:48:37,130 --> 00:48:39,260
to be playful.

815
00:48:39,260 --> 00:48:42,830
There was no drive to go
on a swing or whatever.

816
00:48:42,830 --> 00:48:45,320
It just didn't happen.

817
00:48:45,320 --> 00:48:49,670
everything was just
a depressed moods

818
00:48:49,670 --> 00:48:53,470
were depressed
uncertainty prevailed.

819
00:48:53,470 --> 00:48:59,930
You could hear things the
beatings in synagogues

820
00:48:59,930 --> 00:49:01,280
were destroyed.

821
00:49:01,280 --> 00:49:07,100
Or Jewish businesses were
liquidated, or raided.

822
00:49:07,100 --> 00:49:15,860
So the news was not really
pleasant to let one be cheerful

823
00:49:15,860 --> 00:49:18,800
and the one playing or things.

824
00:49:18,800 --> 00:49:22,100
So I mean was a situation
more of a protective nature

825
00:49:22,100 --> 00:49:29,150
by the parents, than to see that
there's a meal as little fuller

826

00:49:29,150 --> 00:49:30,620
was available.

827
00:49:30,620 --> 00:49:34,460
Somehow to managed it
two or three meals a day

828
00:49:34,460 --> 00:49:35,950
or some to that extent.

829
00:49:35,950 --> 00:49:40,580
And I remember that my mother
would go and she would go shop.

830
00:49:40,580 --> 00:49:43,790
We stay in lines and
alternating basis,

831
00:49:43,790 --> 00:49:45,920
because we didn't know
what time the stories would

832
00:49:45,920 --> 00:49:48,500
get the supply of
food or what time they

833
00:49:48,500 --> 00:49:50,150
would start to distribute food.

834
00:49:50,150 --> 00:49:55,330
So we-- I would stay let's say
an hour half an hour two hours,

835
00:49:55,330 --> 00:49:55,830
whatever.

836
00:49:55,830 --> 00:49:58,160
And my brother would
come or leave me,

837
00:49:58,160 --> 00:50:01,100
then eventually her
mother would come.

838
00:50:01,100 --> 00:50:05,000
Not my dad, but my mother
would, because again

839
00:50:05,000 --> 00:50:08,745
was a matter of protecting my
father more than anybody else.

840
00:50:08,745 --> 00:50:09,245
Because--

841
00:50:09,245 --> 00:50:12,670

842
00:50:12,670 --> 00:50:17,010
So your father would
wait in the lines?

843
00:50:17,010 --> 00:50:18,540
Probably not.

844
00:50:18,540 --> 00:50:20,190
Probably, I'm sure he must have.

845
00:50:20,190 --> 00:50:21,660
Yes, I'm sure he must have.

846
00:50:21,660 --> 00:50:23,970
Or if not, he would go
very early in the morning,

847
00:50:23,970 --> 00:50:27,540
in the morning hours like six
5 o'clock in the morning when

848
00:50:27,540 --> 00:50:30,772
the lines formed, then
my mother would come.

849
00:50:30,772 --> 00:50:34,920
He we would come home,

then one of us would go,

850

00:50:34,920 --> 00:50:38,530

until we heard that the food's
finally there and then news

851

00:50:38,530 --> 00:50:40,005

spread rapidly.

852

00:50:40,005 --> 00:50:43,170

That food and then others
would to come to purchase.

853

00:50:43,170 --> 00:50:47,220

We had ration tickets for
that, which I still have.

854

00:50:47,220 --> 00:50:51,240

I might have brought him with
me that I don't know yet.

855

00:50:51,240 --> 00:50:53,930

When you say to protect
your father what was the--

856

00:50:53,930 --> 00:50:54,430

Well--

857

00:50:54,430 --> 00:50:55,263

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

858

00:50:55,263 --> 00:50:59,670

Was he was probably a tradition
as the head of the family.

859

00:50:59,670 --> 00:51:04,980

I don't know, if that was
so just as my father was

860

00:51:04,980 --> 00:51:10,260

the overseer to
secure if you please,

861

00:51:10,260 --> 00:51:12,750
unless it's just my impression.

862

00:51:12,750 --> 00:51:17,040
But my mother said, I'll do
it, you stay home I'll go.

863

00:51:17,040 --> 00:51:20,700
May my father had more
features of Semitic features

864

00:51:20,700 --> 00:51:21,750
than my mother had and.

865

00:51:21,750 --> 00:51:27,390
I cannot say for sure, but
I this is my impression.

866

00:51:27,390 --> 00:51:29,590
There was never anything
mentionable of that nature,

867

00:51:29,590 --> 00:51:31,440
but this is my
impression that my father

868

00:51:31,440 --> 00:51:36,180
was spared like from going out.

869

00:51:36,180 --> 00:51:39,240
Of course is not a
point Germans would

870

00:51:39,240 --> 00:51:44,460
come up with trucks
to align and haul out.

871

00:51:44,460 --> 00:51:47,130
Jews you come here, you come
here, and load them on a truck

872

00:51:47,130 --> 00:51:48,805

and take them away.

873

00:51:48,805 --> 00:51:51,180

And I think that's probably
the main reason that you just

874

00:51:51,180 --> 00:51:53,100

came back to me see.

875

00:51:53,100 --> 00:51:56,130

My eldest brother would be also.

876

00:51:56,130 --> 00:51:59,790

My mother would not want him
to go out for that reason.

877

00:51:59,790 --> 00:52:02,100

Really that they
were afraid of that

878

00:52:02,100 --> 00:52:04,530

someone might come and
take him to forced labor

879

00:52:04,530 --> 00:52:05,970

or send them off to a camp.

880

00:52:05,970 --> 00:52:08,280

It happened you see.

881

00:52:08,280 --> 00:52:12,120

And that would probably be the
substantive reason that day

882

00:52:12,120 --> 00:52:13,350

a minute just a while ago.

883

00:52:13,350 --> 00:52:15,920

884

00:52:15,920 --> 00:52:18,460

Yeah.

885
00:52:18,460 --> 00:52:20,663
So your thought
develops a conversation.

886
00:52:20,663 --> 00:52:25,920

887
00:52:25,920 --> 00:52:31,570
When you were leaving, maybe
we can move a little bit

888
00:52:31,570 --> 00:52:33,680
of the transport question.

889
00:52:33,680 --> 00:52:35,290
Sure.

890
00:52:35,290 --> 00:52:38,740
We're getting on the
train leaving transit,

891
00:52:38,740 --> 00:52:41,740
what were you told about why
you want to get on that train

892
00:52:41,740 --> 00:52:44,290
and where was it going?

893
00:52:44,290 --> 00:52:46,240
Well, we weren't told.

894
00:52:46,240 --> 00:52:49,810
We were told as best
as I recall that we're

895
00:52:49,810 --> 00:52:59,800
going to that the Third Reich
or the German needs workers,

896
00:52:59,800 --> 00:53:02,710
will be well treated.

897
00:53:02,710 --> 00:53:07,760
Will have good places,
there'll be food for us.

898
00:53:07,760 --> 00:53:12,520
We just have to be productive,
because of the shortage of men

899
00:53:12,520 --> 00:53:13,930
in Germany right now.

900
00:53:13,930 --> 00:53:16,420
So we'll be well taken care of.

901
00:53:16,420 --> 00:53:17,590
Well, no one trusted them.

902
00:53:17,590 --> 00:53:20,140

903
00:53:20,140 --> 00:53:22,660
By merely telling you 50
years later, of course

904
00:53:22,660 --> 00:53:26,080
50 years later, there's a
lot of them are I 30 years

905
00:53:26,080 --> 00:53:28,060
my answer wouldn't be so.

906
00:53:28,060 --> 00:53:32,530
But what I've learned
and heard, and I

907
00:53:32,530 --> 00:53:37,150
can speak differently now.

908
00:53:37,150 --> 00:53:38,290
We do not believe them.

909

00:53:38,290 --> 00:53:41,610

910

00:53:41,610 --> 00:53:46,500

We feared we knew the
ultimate, Because news always

911

00:53:46,500 --> 00:53:47,940

trickled back to us.

912

00:53:47,940 --> 00:53:49,200

There were rumours?

913

00:53:49,200 --> 00:53:54,270

Rumors, we took it as
rumors, but those were really

914

00:53:54,270 --> 00:53:55,440

unfortunately facts.

915

00:53:55,440 --> 00:53:57,440

You remember specifically
the rumours you heard?

916

00:53:57,440 --> 00:54:00,480

917

00:54:00,480 --> 00:54:05,340

As a youngster, I probably
was shielded from bad news

918

00:54:05,340 --> 00:54:11,450

by my parents, but you
could look at their faces.

919

00:54:11,450 --> 00:54:16,160

And you can see the sadness in
their faces and the concern.

920

00:54:16,160 --> 00:54:19,540

It was not like a happy parent.

921

00:54:19,540 --> 00:54:23,100
It was just like everyone would
go their own way in the house

922

00:54:23,100 --> 00:54:28,160
turn away with grief or with
worry what concerns you see.

923

00:54:28,160 --> 00:54:30,680

924

00:54:30,680 --> 00:54:36,200
But there was total reassurance
given us a bundle of food

925

00:54:36,200 --> 00:54:40,325
perhaps as a sign of
reassurance by the Germans.

926

00:54:40,325 --> 00:54:41,450
That everything will be OK.

927

00:54:41,450 --> 00:54:44,090

928

00:54:44,090 --> 00:54:50,450
They packed us in the wagon,
and so subhuman conditions,

929

00:54:50,450 --> 00:54:55,190
not knowing where
the destination is.

930

00:54:55,190 --> 00:54:56,780
What we're going to do?

931

00:54:56,780 --> 00:55:01,640
Just all ages male or
female just packed in

932

00:55:01,640 --> 00:55:03,590
and slammed the door shut.

933
00:55:03,590 --> 00:55:06,780
That's not a very pleasant
experience and certainly

934
00:55:06,780 --> 00:55:10,940
experience that
frightened somebody.

935
00:55:10,940 --> 00:55:12,890
Was it difficult to keep
your family together

936
00:55:12,890 --> 00:55:14,810
as you were boarding
or did they--

937
00:55:14,810 --> 00:55:16,580
No, we just heard it.

938
00:55:16,580 --> 00:55:21,620
And just heard it on a
very primitive like a plank

939
00:55:21,620 --> 00:55:25,700
was laid against the open
doors or boards, if you please.

940
00:55:25,700 --> 00:55:29,240
And you just walked out
with bundles in your hand

941
00:55:29,240 --> 00:55:30,950
whatever you could carry.

942
00:55:30,950 --> 00:55:34,400
And usually family stayed
pretty much together.

943
00:55:34,400 --> 00:55:37,790
And you were-- there were
only Jews as I can recall,

944

00:55:37,790 --> 00:55:41,090

there one no one else.

945

00:55:41,090 --> 00:55:44,690

So pretty much I

remember that after they

946

00:55:44,690 --> 00:55:49,140

shut the doors and

a wagon on a train,

947

00:55:49,140 --> 00:55:52,970

we were there for

probably five or six hours

948

00:55:52,970 --> 00:55:55,280

until the train started moving.

949

00:55:55,280 --> 00:55:58,130

Maybe longer and though

it was an awful long time.

950

00:55:58,130 --> 00:55:59,660

Were the doors closed?

951

00:55:59,660 --> 00:56:01,070

The doors closed, Yeah.

952

00:56:01,070 --> 00:56:03,800

All we could hear, I remember

we could hear shouts,

953

00:56:03,800 --> 00:56:08,780

barks, conversations,

in German outside, Yeah.

954

00:56:08,780 --> 00:56:11,090

We could hear that.

955

00:56:11,090 --> 00:56:13,310

That I remember.

956

00:56:13,310 --> 00:56:15,800

And finally, it was
almost like a relief

957

00:56:15,800 --> 00:56:19,250

once the train started chugging.

958

00:56:19,250 --> 00:56:22,290

The rhythm of the
wheels started going.

959

00:56:22,290 --> 00:56:24,440

We didn't know where we went.

960

00:56:24,440 --> 00:56:27,590

We didn't know where we stop.

961

00:56:27,590 --> 00:56:31,220

We went, then we stop
we start going again

962

00:56:31,220 --> 00:56:33,710

for a number of days.

963

00:56:33,710 --> 00:56:36,290

Do you remember any conversation
you had with your mother

964

00:56:36,290 --> 00:56:39,320

or brother anything?

965

00:56:39,320 --> 00:56:42,530

It's probably a
reassuring conversation

966

00:56:42,530 --> 00:56:44,690

that everything will be OK.

967

00:56:44,690 --> 00:56:47,540

That's about the only
thing that my father

968

00:56:47,540 --> 00:56:48,920
was not there with us.

969

00:56:48,920 --> 00:56:52,220
My father was taken
early, because he took ill

970

00:56:52,220 --> 00:56:54,950
and he was supposed
to enter a hospital

971

00:56:54,950 --> 00:56:58,370
for some minor operation.

972

00:56:58,370 --> 00:57:01,520
And they took him from that
list they came and took him

973

00:57:01,520 --> 00:57:04,400
from the house.

974

00:57:04,400 --> 00:57:09,440
So I my oldest brother was
not with us, he was married.

975

00:57:09,440 --> 00:57:14,870
So it was just my sister, my
older brother, and myself,

976

00:57:14,870 --> 00:57:15,530
and my mother.

977

00:57:15,530 --> 00:57:16,760
It was four of us.

978

00:57:16,760 --> 00:57:19,370

979

00:57:19,370 --> 00:57:25,880
And we've eventually
arrived in Birkenau.

980

00:57:25,880 --> 00:57:27,350

We didn't know where that was.

981

00:57:27,350 --> 00:57:31,850

There was one man that kept
asking through the vents

982

00:57:31,850 --> 00:57:33,530

of the wagon, where are we?

983

00:57:33,530 --> 00:57:34,360

Where are we?

984

00:57:34,360 --> 00:57:37,460

It's a young man
I didn't know him.

985

00:57:37,460 --> 00:57:41,210

And it's obviously very, very
intelligent to ask a question.

986

00:57:41,210 --> 00:57:45,500

To ask to where are we?

987

00:57:45,500 --> 00:57:48,650

Where are we, in France.

988

00:57:48,650 --> 00:57:51,590

and they would tell him.

989

00:57:51,590 --> 00:57:53,330

And apparently he--

990

00:57:53,330 --> 00:57:54,330

People from the outside?

991

00:57:54,330 --> 00:57:55,460

From the outside, Yeah.

992

00:57:55,460 --> 00:57:59,480

Well, he kept pressure

himself up was quite high.

993

00:57:59,480 --> 00:58:02,130

Was for events like
event like this,

994

00:58:02,130 --> 00:58:09,410

but was maybe a little bit
more, a part the grill.

995

00:58:09,410 --> 00:58:10,860

And that's where are we?

996

00:58:10,860 --> 00:58:11,720

Where are we?

997

00:58:11,720 --> 00:58:13,100

And he was very close to us.

998

00:58:13,100 --> 00:58:18,750

We were in a corner like, almost
in the corner of this train

999

00:58:18,750 --> 00:58:19,250

wagon.

1000

00:58:19,250 --> 00:58:22,520

1001

00:58:22,520 --> 00:58:25,460

And he would come over
to that, each time

1002

00:58:25,460 --> 00:58:28,310

we stopped he would come
over in prep himself up,

1003

00:58:28,310 --> 00:58:30,290

or someone lifted
him up, or he stepped

1004

00:58:30,290 --> 00:58:34,790

on something like a piece of
lot baggage and would look out,

1005
00:58:34,790 --> 00:58:38,030
and if you see somebody
would say where are we?

1006
00:58:38,030 --> 00:58:40,040
I remember that.

1007
00:58:40,040 --> 00:58:43,310
Like well, why is he
always asking where are we?

1008
00:58:43,310 --> 00:58:56,160
So once we arrived and
the doors were swung open,

1009
00:58:56,160 --> 00:59:03,420
everybody was hardly aroused,
aroused, out, out, in panic.

1010
00:59:03,420 --> 00:59:06,330
Told to leave everything behind.

1011
00:59:06,330 --> 00:59:07,290
All our bundles.

1012
00:59:07,290 --> 00:59:10,000

1013
00:59:10,000 --> 00:59:14,050
There was a stench
in that wagon.

1014
00:59:14,050 --> 00:59:15,670
There were no facilities.

1015
00:59:15,670 --> 00:59:17,620
People did just where
they were sitting.

1016

00:59:17,620 --> 00:59:21,200

1017
00:59:21,200 --> 00:59:21,700
And--

1018
00:59:21,700 --> 00:59:21,940
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1019
00:59:21,940 --> 00:59:24,065
Do you remember how you
were sitting with your mom?

1020
00:59:24,065 --> 00:59:26,110
Yeah, we were sitting
on the floor, Yes.

1021
00:59:26,110 --> 00:59:31,210
All by the floor
probably stretched,

1022
00:59:31,210 --> 00:59:34,705
stood up to stretch out, but
you couldn't move or walk.

1023
00:59:34,705 --> 00:59:37,530

1024
00:59:37,530 --> 00:59:43,140
Just your people cry.

1025
00:59:43,140 --> 00:59:45,810
Do you remember how your
sister and brother were doing?

1026
00:59:45,810 --> 00:59:46,830
Very frightened.

1027
00:59:46,830 --> 00:59:51,560

1028
00:59:51,560 --> 00:59:54,040

I don't remember that conversation, if we had any.

1029
00:59:54,040 --> 00:59:57,790
I'm sure it must have been some conversation.

1030
00:59:57,790 --> 01:00:00,557
My mother kept reassuring us.

1031
01:00:00,557 --> 01:00:01,390
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1032
01:00:01,390 --> 01:00:02,290
My mother--

1033
01:00:02,290 --> 01:00:04,207
Did she try to say what thought was happening?

1034
01:00:04,207 --> 01:00:07,720
No, I said, we think we were asking for food or something,

1035
01:00:07,720 --> 01:00:09,100
are we going to get food?

1036
01:00:09,100 --> 01:00:10,550
Yes, there will be food for you.

1037
01:00:10,550 --> 01:00:12,890
We're going to get food, I'm sure.

1038
01:00:12,890 --> 01:00:16,150
I'm sure you'll get food as soon as we get there.

1039
01:00:16,150 --> 01:00:19,540
To that if something of that nature is exactly,

1040

01:00:19,540 --> 01:00:25,600
it's difficult to get to exactly
what, but I remember that.

1041
01:00:25,600 --> 01:00:27,170
Because we had no food.

1042
01:00:27,170 --> 01:00:29,350
We did bring some
food along with us.

1043
01:00:29,350 --> 01:00:32,410
And they gave us
some bundle of bread

1044
01:00:32,410 --> 01:00:34,990
or whatever else
might have been there.

1045
01:00:34,990 --> 01:00:37,660
But really not enough for
four or five or six days.

1046
01:00:37,660 --> 01:00:40,420
I don't remember exactly you
must remember with friends who

1047
01:00:40,420 --> 01:00:42,760
traverse Germany into Poland.

1048
01:00:42,760 --> 01:00:44,950
And the Stop on the road basis.

1049
01:00:44,950 --> 01:00:46,650
It was a long time.

1050
01:00:46,650 --> 01:00:48,820
Took days to get there, Yeah.

1051
01:00:48,820 --> 01:00:51,100
It was almost a relief
when we got there,

1052

01:00:51,100 --> 01:00:54,700

but kind knew what would happen.

1053

01:00:54,700 --> 01:00:58,240

Just like to get out of
that stench and a wagon.

1054

01:00:58,240 --> 01:01:01,560

1055

01:01:01,560 --> 01:01:03,210

Did your mother
ever try to find out

1056

01:01:03,210 --> 01:01:05,645

what happened to your father?

1057

01:01:05,645 --> 01:01:07,770

I don't think there was
enough time it was a very--

1058

01:01:07,770 --> 01:01:09,360

I'm sure she did.

1059

01:01:09,360 --> 01:01:11,430

I'm sure, because
she kept calling

1060

01:01:11,430 --> 01:01:14,105

the hospital hoping that he
wouldn't be in the hospital.

1061

01:01:14,105 --> 01:01:15,855

They had no record of
him in the hospital.

1062

01:01:15,855 --> 01:01:18,360

1063

01:01:18,360 --> 01:01:23,730

Yeah, my father suffered
some kind of it's- It was,

1064

01:01:23,730 --> 01:01:27,750

he had some swollen
ankle and it was gout.

1065

01:01:27,750 --> 01:01:29,260

I really can't tell
whether it was.

1066

01:01:29,260 --> 01:01:32,340

Wasn't it anything
of a serious nature.

1067

01:01:32,340 --> 01:01:34,660

but he was on a list
in the hospital.

1068

01:01:34,660 --> 01:01:37,350

And they took him off that
list and came and took him.

1069

01:01:37,350 --> 01:01:39,930

The sick, to eliminate
the sick first.

1070

01:01:39,930 --> 01:01:43,820

1071

01:01:43,820 --> 01:01:46,040

OK, I think I told you last
time what happened when

1072

01:01:46,040 --> 01:01:48,230

we walked out from the wagon.

1073

01:01:48,230 --> 01:01:51,260

We got separated.

1074

01:01:51,260 --> 01:01:53,340

I was with my
brother, and my mother

1075

01:01:53,340 --> 01:01:55,730
wanted my sister and that
was the last time that

1076
01:01:55,730 --> 01:01:58,250
hardly separate.

1077
01:01:58,250 --> 01:02:02,150
Was I think it was they assess
people in black uniforms

1078
01:02:02,150 --> 01:02:08,940
and like boots with these
sticks in their hands.

1079
01:02:08,940 --> 01:02:13,110
And they left,
right, right, left.

1080
01:02:13,110 --> 01:02:18,170
Woman to this side, man
to the side and so on.

1081
01:02:18,170 --> 01:02:20,482
After you were separated
from your brother, when

1082
01:02:20,482 --> 01:02:23,370
you went to Auschwitz,
did you find out

1083
01:02:23,370 --> 01:02:24,870
what happened to him ask?

1084
01:02:24,870 --> 01:02:32,220
No, I just-- that's a good
question, because as more

1085
01:02:32,220 --> 01:02:37,190
people kept coming in from to
Auschwitz itself, of course,

1086
01:02:37,190 --> 01:02:39,690

she didn't know where they came
from, where the Birkenau was

1087
01:02:39,690 --> 01:02:42,180
the only source of supplying.

1088
01:02:42,180 --> 01:02:46,200
Always would ask, being so
young you just don't approach

1089
01:02:46,200 --> 01:02:49,092
adults and ask questions.

1090
01:02:49,092 --> 01:02:54,570
You Just, I think your
reflexes are so mechanical,

1091
01:02:54,570 --> 01:02:56,550
more than anything else.

1092
01:02:56,550 --> 01:03:02,370
And but I did remember
ask are you from Birkenau,

1093
01:03:02,370 --> 01:03:04,470
you come from Birkenau.

1094
01:03:04,470 --> 01:03:12,060
And they would say Yes, I said,
do you know my brother Abie?

1095
01:03:12,060 --> 01:03:14,500
Still pay no attention
to even what I asked.

1096
01:03:14,500 --> 01:03:16,740
That this was a
different environment.

1097
01:03:16,740 --> 01:03:19,257
It was just everyone was--

1098

01:03:19,257 --> 01:03:20,090
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1099
01:03:20,090 --> 01:03:20,420
They were not
interested in answering.

1100
01:03:20,420 --> 01:03:22,550
Everyone became self centered.

1101
01:03:22,550 --> 01:03:30,470
Just me I'm the person that's
important and no one else.

1102
01:03:30,470 --> 01:03:36,270
That's the impression I
still believe in survival.

1103
01:03:36,270 --> 01:03:43,010
That was the main animalistic
perhaps, but that is the case.

1104
01:03:43,010 --> 01:03:48,540
Did you feel yourself
having the same attitude?

1105
01:03:48,540 --> 01:03:49,235
I was scared.

1106
01:03:49,235 --> 01:03:52,720

1107
01:03:52,720 --> 01:03:54,640
German was a strange
language to me.

1108
01:03:54,640 --> 01:03:57,910
It wasn't taught, it
was shouted at us.

1109
01:03:57,910 --> 01:04:01,150
And when they
called the numbers.

1110
01:04:01,150 --> 01:04:04,840
But when you returned from
work, I went to work you,

1111
01:04:04,840 --> 01:04:06,670
I remain intensely
concentrating,

1112
01:04:06,670 --> 01:04:09,520
because I kept
repeating to myself,

1113
01:04:09,520 --> 01:04:13,390
I know [NON ENGLISH SPEECH]
So when

1114
01:04:13,390 --> 01:04:19,120
I hear it I would immediately
respond you have order here,

1115
01:04:19,120 --> 01:04:21,550
Yes.

1116
01:04:21,550 --> 01:04:24,370
So you had to be
so sharply attuned

1117
01:04:24,370 --> 01:04:30,130
to someone what would a growl.

1118
01:04:30,130 --> 01:04:32,890
And wasn't in front of
you he may have been maybe

1119
01:04:32,890 --> 01:04:36,170
30 or 40 feet away from you.

1120
01:04:36,170 --> 01:04:38,800
And I would yell you number.

1121
01:04:38,800 --> 01:04:42,115

That is that certain
intense concentration.

1122
01:04:42,115 --> 01:04:47,140
And that is also makes
non-survival or punishment,

1123
01:04:47,140 --> 01:04:49,720
if you wouldn't respond
immediately and you were there.

1124
01:04:49,720 --> 01:04:52,000
And I've seen it happen.

1125
01:04:52,000 --> 01:04:56,890
Every day this is twice a day
year before we left it camp.

1126
01:04:56,890 --> 01:04:59,110
And when you returned
to camp, these numbers

1127
01:04:59,110 --> 01:05:03,220
were called in Auschwitz,
and people did not

1128
01:05:03,220 --> 01:05:06,820
catch on the number.

1129
01:05:06,820 --> 01:05:10,427
Because not every day the same
SS men would call you numbers.

1130
01:05:10,427 --> 01:05:11,260
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1131
01:05:11,260 --> 01:05:13,570
They were continually
changing guards.

1132
01:05:13,570 --> 01:05:15,370
It was one of the guards.

1133

01:05:15,370 --> 01:05:17,620

And perhaps you came from a
different part of Germany,

1134

01:05:17,620 --> 01:05:19,953

you would have a different
drawl or something like that.

1135

01:05:19,953 --> 01:05:22,780

Different voice.

1136

01:05:22,780 --> 01:05:25,390

And you had to really,
and they took a beating,

1137

01:05:25,390 --> 01:05:27,190

we took a beating.

1138

01:05:27,190 --> 01:05:34,030

You would get kicked,
whipped, punched.

1139

01:05:34,030 --> 01:05:36,040

You couldn't help him get up.

1140

01:05:36,040 --> 01:05:41,350

We had left laying there
amongst their training or

1141

01:05:41,350 --> 01:05:42,280

and leaving location.

1142

01:05:42,280 --> 01:05:46,540

And no one ever got
to see him again

1143

01:05:46,540 --> 01:05:49,270

or that I was going to be
back with us the next day.

1144

01:05:49,270 --> 01:05:54,640

1145
01:05:54,640 --> 01:05:57,055
Did you ever see prisoners
helping each other or?

1146
01:05:57,055 --> 01:06:02,005

1147
01:06:02,005 --> 01:06:05,480
[INAUDIBLE]

1148
01:06:05,480 --> 01:06:10,100
That's really, doesn't
come to mind really.

1149
01:06:10,100 --> 01:06:14,130
I wouldn't say that prisoners
were hurting one another,

1150
01:06:14,130 --> 01:06:16,250
but certainly not
helping one another.

1151
01:06:16,250 --> 01:06:19,040
Because I still
say that everyone

1152
01:06:19,040 --> 01:06:20,900
looked out for themselves.

1153
01:06:20,900 --> 01:06:23,600
Is the survival of the fittest.

1154
01:06:23,600 --> 01:06:29,180
That more or less there's no
one could help one another.

1155
01:06:29,180 --> 01:06:35,150
Not mentally by consoling, or
give you advice, or whatever.

1156
01:06:35,150 --> 01:06:40,340

You did form a friend or
a close buddy perhaps,

1157
01:06:40,340 --> 01:06:43,220
the fellow that would
sleep above your bunk.

1158
01:06:43,220 --> 01:06:47,840
That you would see most of
exchanging certain memories

1159
01:06:47,840 --> 01:06:50,450
from back home, or
certain talk about foods

1160
01:06:50,450 --> 01:06:52,340
that your mother used to cook.

1161
01:06:52,340 --> 01:06:56,360
And you left most of it in a
dish that you didn't consume.

1162
01:06:56,360 --> 01:07:00,870
And God I wish I have it right
now, some to that effect.

1163
01:07:00,870 --> 01:07:03,410
I remember that.

1164
01:07:03,410 --> 01:07:05,660
Some fantasies to
what am I going

1165
01:07:05,660 --> 01:07:07,560
to do if we get
out of here alive.

1166
01:07:07,560 --> 01:07:14,190
Some there were a lot
of fantasies really.

1167
01:07:14,190 --> 01:07:17,540
So emotionally get to

supportive each other?

1168
01:07:17,540 --> 01:07:19,520
Emotionally, Yeah.

1169
01:07:19,520 --> 01:07:28,310
We couldn't talk loud almost
none of this whispering form.

1170
01:07:28,310 --> 01:07:31,850
Once we were inside, because
after 6:00 the lights

1171
01:07:31,850 --> 01:07:36,470
were turned off or 7:00 perhaps,
I remember of quite early.

1172
01:07:36,470 --> 01:07:38,630
We had to get out quite early.

1173
01:07:38,630 --> 01:07:44,450
So you were a perpetual
there was no relaxation

1174
01:07:44,450 --> 01:07:46,698
other than perhaps on a Sunday.

1175
01:07:46,698 --> 01:07:47,990
I don't remember, if we did go.

1176
01:07:47,990 --> 01:07:51,830
I think we stayed
in on Sunday's I

1177
01:07:51,830 --> 01:07:55,400
think I don't
remember quite well.

1178
01:07:55,400 --> 01:07:58,280
Don't recall if we did or not.

1179
01:07:58,280 --> 01:08:01,760

But we had about an
hour of free time

1180
01:08:01,760 --> 01:08:05,870
after you returned
from your job.

1181
01:08:05,870 --> 01:08:10,370
And then you had to get
a bowl of soup I believe,

1182
01:08:10,370 --> 01:08:13,760
with a morsal bread.

1183
01:08:13,760 --> 01:08:16,743
And be anxious to finish it
fast before someone else might

1184
01:08:16,743 --> 01:08:17,660
take it away from you.

1185
01:08:17,660 --> 01:08:20,390

1186
01:08:20,390 --> 01:08:26,210
So we just wondered are we
going to get a little bit of jam

1187
01:08:26,210 --> 01:08:32,120
today, a little marmalade, or
occasionally that was a treat.

1188
01:08:32,120 --> 01:08:39,740
But there was, I remember, there
was quite an exchange of food

1189
01:08:39,740 --> 01:08:44,000
going on amongst the grownups.

1190
01:08:44,000 --> 01:08:48,200
Smokers looked for cigarettes
or tobacco or whatever somehow.

1191

01:08:48,200 --> 01:08:51,590

They would bring in
some cigarettes from--

1192

01:08:51,590 --> 01:08:55,077

because some people
worked with civilians.

1193

01:08:55,077 --> 01:08:57,410

And there would be maybe get
a cigarette from a civilian

1194

01:08:57,410 --> 01:08:58,462

or something like that.

1195

01:08:58,462 --> 01:08:59,920

And it would bring
it in, it didn't

1196

01:08:59,920 --> 01:09:02,020

smell they would bring it in.

1197

01:09:02,020 --> 01:09:05,810

In Camp man nationalities
you had the military people

1198

01:09:05,810 --> 01:09:06,770

as well.

1199

01:09:06,770 --> 01:09:09,830

And there would probably trade
half of their bread duration

1200

01:09:09,830 --> 01:09:11,700

for a cigarette.

1201

01:09:11,700 --> 01:09:12,200

Yeah.

1202

01:09:12,200 --> 01:09:15,788

1203

01:09:15,788 --> 01:09:17,330

Give or take any
risks anything know?

1204

01:09:17,330 --> 01:09:20,330

1205

01:09:20,330 --> 01:09:25,069

I one time, I think I
want to collect some.

1206

01:09:25,069 --> 01:09:28,220

We got some potatoes,
we got we were assigned

1207

01:09:28,220 --> 01:09:32,270

and we stole some
raw potatoes I think.

1208

01:09:32,270 --> 01:09:36,060

And we try to cook them in
when we need to make a fire.

1209

01:09:36,060 --> 01:09:40,220

And I want to get wood branches.

1210

01:09:40,220 --> 01:09:42,859

Little bracelet fell
off and I got caught.

1211

01:09:42,859 --> 01:09:44,450

And I got quite a beating, Yeah.

1212

01:09:44,450 --> 01:09:48,590

And that was the only risk
that stands out in my mind.

1213

01:09:48,590 --> 01:09:54,780

1214

01:09:54,780 --> 01:09:56,550

Just too young to

take risks I guess.

1215
01:09:56,550 --> 01:09:59,550
I mean no I was not
involved with the older

1216
01:09:59,550 --> 01:10:02,490
segment of the camp you see,
because they did their thing

1217
01:10:02,490 --> 01:10:03,390
probably if they did.

1218
01:10:03,390 --> 01:10:06,170

1219
01:10:06,170 --> 01:10:10,970
When you were working on your
job did you ever think of

1220
01:10:10,970 --> 01:10:13,760
or you hear of
anyone sabotaging?

1221
01:10:13,760 --> 01:10:14,520
[INAUDIBLE]

1222
01:10:14,520 --> 01:10:15,795
No, that did not know.

1223
01:10:15,795 --> 01:10:19,250
Because you're
making me inside of--

1224
01:10:19,250 --> 01:10:23,690
Yeah, we trade, we did
barrels to hand grenades.

1225
01:10:23,690 --> 01:10:28,190
Yeah, we analyze cut a
certain diameter and how did--

1226

01:10:28,190 --> 01:10:31,070

1227

01:10:31,070 --> 01:10:36,260

No, there would be sabotage, I
will probably not be aware of.

1228

01:10:36,260 --> 01:10:38,930

They wouldn't share with
me, I can assure you.

1229

01:10:38,930 --> 01:10:40,430

And it was a very high risk.

1230

01:10:40,430 --> 01:10:43,040

Although there were a lot
of political prisoners

1231

01:10:43,040 --> 01:10:44,720

that they might have.

1232

01:10:44,720 --> 01:10:46,670

I really can't say
anything on that.

1233

01:10:46,670 --> 01:10:51,950

But I know one Buchenwald
after we were evacuated

1234

01:10:51,950 --> 01:10:54,200

from Auschwitz to
Buchenwald, it was

1235

01:10:54,200 --> 01:10:58,220

quite a political
organization within the camp

1236

01:10:58,220 --> 01:11:04,550

of former maybe
government people.

1237

01:11:04,550 --> 01:11:11,900

Maybe not for major but

minor officials perhaps.

1238
01:11:11,900 --> 01:11:14,360
Politically oriented
to news to events

1239
01:11:14,360 --> 01:11:17,090
in the war, the progression
of the war and so on.

1240
01:11:17,090 --> 01:11:20,750
The war we overheard
all conversations

1241
01:11:20,750 --> 01:11:27,290
amongst within our black when
the doors of the confines.

1242
01:11:27,290 --> 01:11:34,520
As a matter of fact, as soon as
the SS guards left the towers,

1243
01:11:34,520 --> 01:11:36,500
those seemed like
an organization

1244
01:11:36,500 --> 01:11:40,550
was ready to take over those
towers from within the camp.

1245
01:11:40,550 --> 01:11:41,270
In Buchenwald?

1246
01:11:41,270 --> 01:11:42,990
In the Buchenwald, Yeah.

1247
01:11:42,990 --> 01:11:44,870
Yeah Buchenwald.

1248
01:11:44,870 --> 01:11:46,290
See that's where
we got liberated.

1249

01:11:46,290 --> 01:11:50,630

See in Auschwitz we
were evacuated, Yeah.

1250

01:11:50,630 --> 01:11:51,130

So--

1251

01:11:51,130 --> 01:11:51,290

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1252

01:11:51,290 --> 01:11:53,122

That was the last
camp Buchenwald

1253

01:11:53,122 --> 01:11:54,080

where it was liberated.

1254

01:11:54,080 --> 01:11:56,000

So it seemed like
they were [INAUDIBLE]

1255

01:11:56,000 --> 01:11:59,890

There were quite a few
intelligent people.

1256

01:11:59,890 --> 01:12:08,220

I understand that Leon Blum,
the prime minister of France,

1257

01:12:08,220 --> 01:12:11,160

of the mid 30s was
in turn in Buchenwald

1258

01:12:11,160 --> 01:12:15,090

in a there was a check
when they were banished.

1259

01:12:15,090 --> 01:12:18,422

After learned as much later, how
true truth is I really can say,

1260

01:12:18,422 --> 01:12:19,380

was also in Buchenwald.

1261

01:12:19,380 --> 01:12:21,420

Also it looked like
Buchenwald might

1262

01:12:21,420 --> 01:12:24,870

have been more of a political
camp, which was consolidated

1263

01:12:24,870 --> 01:12:30,460

later around towards the end
with just ordinary prisoners

1264

01:12:30,460 --> 01:12:31,400

so to speak.

1265

01:12:31,400 --> 01:12:34,660

So there might have been
a political movement

1266

01:12:34,660 --> 01:12:37,660

within the camp,
because all of a sudden

1267

01:12:37,660 --> 01:12:43,590

there was order within the
camp, within the prisoners.

1268

01:12:43,590 --> 01:12:45,090

The older prisoners.

1269

01:12:45,090 --> 01:12:51,480

I want to say older the adults,
would direct us and tell us

1270

01:12:51,480 --> 01:12:54,150

what wait till the
Americans come in.

1271

01:12:54,150 --> 01:12:56,430

But the Allies now
like troops they

1272
01:12:56,430 --> 01:13:00,460
seem to have information
like what's going on?

1273
01:13:00,460 --> 01:13:02,340
What's happening?

1274
01:13:02,340 --> 01:13:07,552
Was there, did they have
any weapons or anything

1275
01:13:07,552 --> 01:13:08,260
like that showed?

1276
01:13:08,260 --> 01:13:10,540
I really can't say,
I really don't know.

1277
01:13:10,540 --> 01:13:12,000
I doubt it very much.

1278
01:13:12,000 --> 01:13:14,473
Maybe, but I can't really say.

1279
01:13:14,473 --> 01:13:15,390
I didn't know of any--

1280
01:13:15,390 --> 01:13:18,330
If there a way they kept
control in the camp as soon--

1281
01:13:18,330 --> 01:13:20,340
Oh you mean right no weapons?

1282
01:13:20,340 --> 01:13:23,250
No they would not,
I don't think would

1283
01:13:23,250 --> 01:13:27,180
have been a good idea for
them to emulate the German SS

1284
01:13:27,180 --> 01:13:28,950
rifles on their shoulders.

1285
01:13:28,950 --> 01:13:31,980
I don't know, it wasn't
really necessary,

1286
01:13:31,980 --> 01:13:35,710
because they really
left, they disappeared.

1287
01:13:35,710 --> 01:13:39,300
And we could hear
the bombardment

1288
01:13:39,300 --> 01:13:42,330
from the distance of
closer, closer, and closer.

1289
01:13:42,330 --> 01:13:44,037
The sky was lit up.

1290
01:13:44,037 --> 01:13:45,572
Did that give you hope?

1291
01:13:45,572 --> 01:13:46,280
Did you realize--

1292
01:13:46,280 --> 01:13:47,310
Definitely, Yeah.

1293
01:13:47,310 --> 01:13:50,130
Oh, definitely, Yeah.

1294
01:13:50,130 --> 01:13:53,010
Well it's a hope
that we would, Yeah.

1295
01:13:53,010 --> 01:13:58,920
Because no one thought there was
always as much hope as one had,

1296
01:13:58,920 --> 01:14:01,507
but there was this
little negative point

1297
01:14:01,507 --> 01:14:07,040
that you would think it's
impossible to get out

1298
01:14:07,040 --> 01:14:09,110
of here alive.

1299
01:14:09,110 --> 01:14:13,190
She left it where in the bottom.

1300
01:14:13,190 --> 01:14:17,220
So what have I got to lose?

1301
01:14:17,220 --> 01:14:19,410
What have you got to lose
meaning to keep on hoping?

1302
01:14:19,410 --> 01:14:21,210
Right, Yeah, exactly.

1303
01:14:21,210 --> 01:14:23,730

1304
01:14:23,730 --> 01:14:25,410
Did you ever gets sick?

1305
01:14:25,410 --> 01:14:28,050
Yes, afterwards I was sick.

1306
01:14:28,050 --> 01:14:31,860
I many at times I
thought I had a cold had

1307
01:14:31,860 --> 01:14:34,860
fever even in
Auschwitz, but you were

1308

01:14:34,860 --> 01:14:43,380

afraid to report
to the infirmary.

1309

01:14:43,380 --> 01:14:47,700

Because once you
get quarantined,

1310

01:14:47,700 --> 01:14:49,470

the fear was great
that you would end up

1311

01:14:49,470 --> 01:14:53,070

in one of the crematories,
which was the case.

1312

01:14:53,070 --> 01:14:55,740

No one ever returned
from the infirmary.

1313

01:14:55,740 --> 01:14:58,440

Unless you drop
something on your toe.

1314

01:14:58,440 --> 01:15:02,520

But one once you
took ill regardless

1315

01:15:02,520 --> 01:15:07,820

in order called, treated from
an infirmary in Auschwitz,

1316

01:15:07,820 --> 01:15:11,010

99% didn't return.

1317

01:15:11,010 --> 01:15:16,150

You were the next lesson
to go to the crematorium.

1318

01:15:16,150 --> 01:15:18,421

So I even if you say that
just a cold is something

1319

01:15:18,421 --> 01:15:19,129
you never report?

1320

01:15:19,129 --> 01:15:23,160
You just- you never report it.

1321

01:15:23,160 --> 01:15:25,650
It's just the word
spread amongst people.

1322

01:15:25,650 --> 01:15:32,080
Don't go to the infirmary
and then go to the infirmary.

1323

01:15:32,080 --> 01:15:40,970
Everyone was afraid of, but
I was sick after liberation.

1324

01:15:40,970 --> 01:15:43,610
I had typhoid.

1325

01:15:43,610 --> 01:15:51,500
I had dysentery, we think we
were Fed food much too quickly.

1326

01:15:51,500 --> 01:15:56,660
I think it was our anxiety to
eat good food, which maybe we

1327

01:15:56,660 --> 01:16:00,080
should have approached it
systematically and gradually.

1328

01:16:00,080 --> 01:16:03,350

1329

01:16:03,350 --> 01:16:05,510
So I was quite sick, Yeah.

1330

01:16:05,510 --> 01:16:07,804
Did you ever think of
escaping while you in there?

1331
01:16:07,804 --> 01:16:10,460
[INAUDIBLE]

1332
01:16:10,460 --> 01:16:13,290
Not at my age and I
had, had too much.

1333
01:16:13,290 --> 01:16:17,150
And never occurred to me,
although I did witness

1334
01:16:17,150 --> 01:16:20,750
an escape, while in
transport from Auschwitz.

1335
01:16:20,750 --> 01:16:22,970
Some people carried
white sheets,

1336
01:16:22,970 --> 01:16:27,440
and we wondered what they going
to do with these white sheets.

1337
01:16:27,440 --> 01:16:32,930
Its snow and was the winter
and they cover themselves

1338
01:16:32,930 --> 01:16:36,290
with the white sheets
and blood into the snow.

1339
01:16:36,290 --> 01:16:40,580
While they-- we were advancing
village, they caught one

1340
01:16:40,580 --> 01:16:43,370
and they executed him.

1341
01:16:43,370 --> 01:16:46,490
He was already waiting for
the transport to arrive.

1342

01:16:46,490 --> 01:16:49,010

That I remember distinctly.

1343

01:16:49,010 --> 01:16:51,560

I'm sure there

were some escapes.

1344

01:16:51,560 --> 01:16:53,810

A lot of people were daring,

they had nothing to lose,

1345

01:16:53,810 --> 01:16:59,420

but when they get shot escaping,

or die in camp and starvation,

1346

01:16:59,420 --> 01:17:00,810

or through beating.

1347

01:17:00,810 --> 01:17:01,310

It's--

1348

01:17:01,310 --> 01:17:05,910

1349

01:17:05,910 --> 01:17:08,220

So most of the time

you were there.

1350

01:17:08,220 --> 01:17:11,140

How long would you say

that you were there?

1351

01:17:11,140 --> 01:17:13,020

Two years?

1352

01:17:13,020 --> 01:17:14,720

Had 2 and 1/2 years, Yeah.

1353

01:17:14,720 --> 01:17:22,320

That's guess 41, early

41 true liberation,

1354

01:17:22,320 --> 01:17:25,350
which was 45 wasn't it?

1355

01:17:25,350 --> 01:17:26,760
Yeah, April.

1356

01:17:26,760 --> 01:17:32,070
April 11th, because prisoner
Omar had died the same day.

1357

01:17:32,070 --> 01:17:34,920
Because the flag was
flown at half mast.

1358

01:17:34,920 --> 01:17:40,230
The American flag was raised
after the 8th Army took over.

1359

01:17:40,230 --> 01:17:46,470
And it was lowered
immediately too.

1360

01:17:46,470 --> 01:17:51,390
We didn't know what it was
to the sympathy of the camp

1361

01:17:51,390 --> 01:17:52,860
or to the head of the camp.

1362

01:17:52,860 --> 01:17:57,120
But we had some soldiers tell
us that President Roosevelt

1363

01:17:57,120 --> 01:17:59,010
died today.

1364

01:17:59,010 --> 01:18:00,510
So that was the--

1365

01:18:00,510 --> 01:18:03,390

1366

01:18:03,390 --> 01:18:06,240

So you 2 and 1/2
years, you really

1367

01:18:06,240 --> 01:18:08,162

didn't come to much
contact with your--

1368

01:18:08,162 --> 01:18:11,340

Probably longer than
2 and 1/2 years, 41,

1369

01:18:11,340 --> 01:18:15,170

is more than like
3 and 1/2 years.

1370

01:18:15,170 --> 01:18:17,270

You didn't have much trouble?

1371

01:18:17,270 --> 01:18:20,120

You didn't come in contact
with officers except that one

1372

01:18:20,120 --> 01:18:21,495

instance when you
took the twigs?

1373

01:18:21,495 --> 01:18:24,780

When you tried basically--

1374

01:18:24,780 --> 01:18:26,430

In contact directly?

1375

01:18:26,430 --> 01:18:28,530

Yeah, or get in trouble?

1376

01:18:28,530 --> 01:18:32,370

No, I more I got in
trouble more on the blocks

1377

01:18:32,370 --> 01:18:36,990

by supervisors couples.

1378
01:18:36,990 --> 01:18:40,320
Got kicked by a couple for being
a little bit late, or spilling

1379
01:18:40,320 --> 01:18:49,230
some water, while washing, or
being sloppy, or Messing up,

1380
01:18:49,230 --> 01:18:51,810
or not my bed was neat.

1381
01:18:51,810 --> 01:18:54,660
You can get slapped
around by some

1382
01:18:54,660 --> 01:19:01,140
of the couples, which were
also prisoners assigned

1383
01:19:01,140 --> 01:19:02,850
to manage the block we were on.

1384
01:19:02,850 --> 01:19:06,540
Block would be--
there were ashes.

1385
01:19:06,540 --> 01:19:11,100
There were military
cozens, military quarters.

1386
01:19:11,100 --> 01:19:14,400
And they were assigned to
us two or three couples

1387
01:19:14,400 --> 01:19:16,050
per each block.

1388
01:19:16,050 --> 01:19:22,860
Block would probably hold
maybe 200 people and bunks.

1389

01:19:22,860 --> 01:19:25,140

So they made sure that we
cleaned out some of that,

1390

01:19:25,140 --> 01:19:25,820

but don't.

1391

01:19:25,820 --> 01:19:34,670

I Was not at one time I
was given a pair of gloves

1392

01:19:34,670 --> 01:19:41,960

by a German SS men to put on my
hands, while marching to work.

1393

01:19:41,960 --> 01:19:44,370

It's very unusual.

1394

01:19:44,370 --> 01:19:48,840

He shouted out to me here he
said, put it on your hands.

1395

01:19:48,840 --> 01:19:49,340

And--

1396

01:19:49,340 --> 01:19:50,690

Was it cold?

1397

01:19:50,690 --> 01:19:51,860

It was terribly cold, Yeah.

1398

01:19:51,860 --> 01:19:52,196

That's why you were--

1399

01:19:52,196 --> 01:19:53,029

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1400

01:19:53,029 --> 01:19:54,050

Southern Poland, Yeah.

1401

01:19:54,050 --> 01:19:57,530

Was the winter months

was freezing, Yeah.

1402
01:19:57,530 --> 01:20:02,630
And I couldn't figure out.

1403
01:20:02,630 --> 01:20:05,100
I was scared when
he gave it to me,

1404
01:20:05,100 --> 01:20:07,747
I was afraid of being
accused that I Stole this.

1405
01:20:07,747 --> 01:20:09,080
Where did I come up with gloves?

1406
01:20:09,080 --> 01:20:11,840
And I was really
worried, what do you do?

1407
01:20:11,840 --> 01:20:14,480
Don't take them.

1408
01:20:14,480 --> 01:20:16,700
It's a real dilemma.

1409
01:20:16,700 --> 01:20:18,950
So I took them, I didn't put
them on, but I took them.

1410
01:20:18,950 --> 01:20:22,080

1411
01:20:22,080 --> 01:20:23,850
What happened to them?

1412
01:20:23,850 --> 01:20:29,370
They got left behind probably
at the where it worked.

1413
01:20:29,370 --> 01:20:31,430
No one else had gloves.

1414
01:20:31,430 --> 01:20:34,830
I would be with gloves.

1415
01:20:34,830 --> 01:20:37,830
I also when we were in
transport from Buchenwald

1416
01:20:37,830 --> 01:20:40,680
were from Auschwitz
to Buchenwald,

1417
01:20:40,680 --> 01:20:45,470
a very old German
guard was guarding us.

1418
01:20:45,470 --> 01:20:49,080
So these were open wagons.

1419
01:20:49,080 --> 01:20:52,410
And he would be like a caboose
you climb up at the top.

1420
01:20:52,410 --> 01:20:59,130
And while we stopped you would
cut this ratios bread around

1421
01:20:59,130 --> 01:21:00,910
and he would toss it to me.

1422
01:21:00,910 --> 01:21:05,280
He would just pick me and
I say [NON ENGLISH SPEECH]

1423
01:21:05,280 --> 01:21:07,590
A young one here.

1424
01:21:07,590 --> 01:21:09,870
And the bread was
really stale, probably

1425
01:21:09,870 --> 01:21:14,290

but these were the
last days of the war.

1426
01:21:14,290 --> 01:21:16,170
Probably these were
all there and we

1427
01:21:16,170 --> 01:21:23,250
had quite a handlebar mustache
like a grandfatherly type.

1428
01:21:23,250 --> 01:21:29,850
Maybe he had some soft
feelings, some got one of those.

1429
01:21:29,850 --> 01:21:33,330
Do the names stand
out of these SS--

1430
01:21:33,330 --> 01:21:36,820
No, one knew how, we didn't
know them by name at all.

1431
01:21:36,820 --> 01:21:39,070
Did you have nicknames for them?

1432
01:21:39,070 --> 01:21:44,460
Nickname it Yes, we had
nicknames derogatory phrase

1433
01:21:44,460 --> 01:21:51,160
having all kinds of nicknames
with code names for them.

1434
01:21:51,160 --> 01:21:53,640
Before come in or
whatever you like.

1435
01:21:53,640 --> 01:21:55,500
Do remember some
these nicknames?

1436
01:21:55,500 --> 01:21:56,980

Oh.

1437

01:21:56,980 --> 01:22:04,567

Of course as you well know the
word Kraut in French was Bush.

1438

01:22:04,567 --> 01:22:07,130

1439

01:22:07,130 --> 01:22:09,570

The equivalent of Kraut.

1440

01:22:09,570 --> 01:22:12,240

So we tipped one another off.

1441

01:22:12,240 --> 01:22:15,300

Will be some Hungarian
Jews from Hungary

1442

01:22:15,300 --> 01:22:17,565

would then fight
them in Yiddish.

1443

01:22:17,565 --> 01:22:20,400

1444

01:22:20,400 --> 01:22:26,050

My code name like I don't even
remember what they call them,

1445

01:22:26,050 --> 01:22:29,580

but I know they call them the
Munzar or something like that.

1446

01:22:29,580 --> 01:22:33,090

What is that?

1447

01:22:33,090 --> 01:22:37,410

The Munzar in English
will be bastard.

1448

01:22:37,410 --> 01:22:42,150

The bastard is around or
something that equivalent.

1449
01:22:42,150 --> 01:22:46,860
So it would be like tipping off
one another who's here, just

1450
01:22:46,860 --> 01:22:50,130
look out, they come.

1451
01:22:50,130 --> 01:22:57,990
Yeah, those things would
quite often, Yeah, daily.

1452
01:22:57,990 --> 01:22:59,940
Was there ever anything
you looked forward

1453
01:22:59,940 --> 01:23:02,140
to during the day or--

1454
01:23:02,140 --> 01:23:03,100
Forward to, Yes.

1455
01:23:03,100 --> 01:23:09,740
To get back to
camp and lay down.

1456
01:23:09,740 --> 01:23:13,070
Just lay down and
just stretch out

1457
01:23:13,070 --> 01:23:17,420
that there would be a
relief, because this was not

1458
01:23:17,420 --> 01:23:20,250
an eight hour shift,
there was a 12 hour shift.

1459
01:23:20,250 --> 01:23:26,300
And probably for I would say 45
minutes, in cold or hot weather

1460
01:23:26,300 --> 01:23:28,820
to work and from work.

1461
01:23:28,820 --> 01:23:31,560
And rations were mere.

1462
01:23:31,560 --> 01:23:35,450
And a bowl of soup with a
slice of bread midday, we

1463
01:23:35,450 --> 01:23:38,930
had some chicory
coffee chicory made out

1464
01:23:38,930 --> 01:23:44,300
of in a hunk of
bread that would be

1465
01:23:44,300 --> 01:23:48,200
like a hunk clay, typical clay.

1466
01:23:48,200 --> 01:23:59,000
Just would leave to parts
and lumpy and occasionally

1467
01:23:59,000 --> 01:24:06,020
a piece of margarine or a
little square with marmalade,

1468
01:24:06,020 --> 01:24:11,292
or that's basically the diet.

1469
01:24:11,292 --> 01:24:13,750
You need to have another soup
with a little more clay bread

1470
01:24:13,750 --> 01:24:15,740
in.

1471
01:24:15,740 --> 01:24:18,470
So there would be

those, and basically I

1472

01:24:18,470 --> 01:24:24,050
would say maybe 95% of liquid
in maybe some floating potatoes,

1473

01:24:24,050 --> 01:24:29,390
or some grains of barley,
or a carrot here and there.

1474

01:24:29,390 --> 01:24:37,760
So that basically you
might say there was a diet,

1475

01:24:37,760 --> 01:24:39,680
it was not the human
diet that you see today

1476

01:24:39,680 --> 01:24:40,930
and the commercial television.

1477

01:24:40,930 --> 01:24:43,790
What do you call those
dietitians, which you see?

1478

01:24:43,790 --> 01:24:46,910
You know what I'm
talking about here.

1479

01:24:46,910 --> 01:24:48,710
So look forward to coming back--

1480

01:24:48,710 --> 01:24:50,937
Coming back, Yeah.

1481

01:24:50,937 --> 01:24:52,520
You dreaded getting
up in the morning,

1482

01:24:52,520 --> 01:24:57,590
and then getting in line,
and marching out of the camp.

1483

01:24:57,590 --> 01:25:00,305

Do you ever have to get
your clothes repaired

1484

01:25:00,305 --> 01:25:01,280

while you were--

1485

01:25:01,280 --> 01:25:05,420

Well, they did occasionally
change clothes.

1486

01:25:05,420 --> 01:25:07,520

And you would find it
on your bed ready day

1487

01:25:07,520 --> 01:25:11,750

or sometimes you have to
showered as you came back

1488

01:25:11,750 --> 01:25:14,060

from camp not all every time.

1489

01:25:14,060 --> 01:25:17,803

But I don't remember frankly
how often they would march us

1490

01:25:17,803 --> 01:25:19,220

directly after
they would call off

1491

01:25:19,220 --> 01:25:22,380

our numbers that we returned.

1492

01:25:22,380 --> 01:25:25,610

They were just directly
to the showers.

1493

01:25:25,610 --> 01:25:27,530

And that was a frightening
experience as well,

1494

01:25:27,530 --> 01:25:30,530

because there was a selection.

1495

01:25:30,530 --> 01:25:32,750

As you entered the
showers you had

1496

01:25:32,750 --> 01:25:36,380

to assess with black
uniforms black camp

1497

01:25:36,380 --> 01:25:40,765

white that the captain
of a little whip like.

1498

01:25:40,765 --> 01:25:43,300

1499

01:25:43,300 --> 01:25:46,590

And they would look
you over and then

1500

01:25:46,590 --> 01:25:53,500

and if you look maybe
bony or skinny or you

1501

01:25:53,500 --> 01:25:54,900

will go to the left.

1502

01:25:54,900 --> 01:25:59,740

Is there anything you could do
to try to look healthy and--

1503

01:25:59,740 --> 01:26:04,450

You just-- I would think
pretend a happy look.

1504

01:26:04,450 --> 01:26:09,100

I just kind of my
personally by pretend

1505

01:26:09,100 --> 01:26:16,525

a vigorous motion or whatever
instead hunch, be tired.

1506
01:26:16,525 --> 01:26:19,486

1507
01:26:19,486 --> 01:26:23,150
So put up, but
that wasn't meant.

1508
01:26:23,150 --> 01:26:28,340

1509
01:26:28,340 --> 01:26:30,560
And when you showered
and walked out

1510
01:26:30,560 --> 01:26:34,370
on the other side of the
showers, and many times

1511
01:26:34,370 --> 01:26:36,830
you look back where is he?

1512
01:26:36,830 --> 01:26:37,520
Where is he?

1513
01:26:37,520 --> 01:26:40,520
And he didn't need
to know you knew.

1514
01:26:40,520 --> 01:26:44,870
But someone was left behind and
the other end of the showers.

1515
01:26:44,870 --> 01:26:49,350
And you knew that all of
that, after your turn to black

1516
01:26:49,350 --> 01:26:53,570
you saw the bed was empty,
that he's not in the bed.

1517
01:26:53,570 --> 01:26:56,850

So what would you think?

1518
01:26:56,850 --> 01:26:59,860
That was the answer.

1519
01:26:59,860 --> 01:27:01,988
There was an empty
bed, then a day

1520
01:27:01,988 --> 01:27:03,840
or two to be filled
with someone else,

1521
01:27:03,840 --> 01:27:07,770
but that was the give away.

1522
01:27:07,770 --> 01:27:09,930
And that was quite
frightening sure.

1523
01:27:09,930 --> 01:27:12,510
You'd rather prefer not
to go to the showers

1524
01:27:12,510 --> 01:27:17,730
to take a bath, because that
was one thing that scares me.

1525
01:27:17,730 --> 01:27:19,830
And we're going to come
out on the other side.

1526
01:27:19,830 --> 01:27:23,190
You entered , on one side and
you walked out on the other

1527
01:27:23,190 --> 01:27:25,590
side, if you got to work out.

1528
01:27:25,590 --> 01:27:28,020
Could have been avoided
going to the shower?

1529

01:27:28,020 --> 01:27:29,460

I would say probably
once a week,

1530

01:27:29,460 --> 01:27:30,390

Or this was--

1531

01:27:30,390 --> 01:27:33,220

Or twice a week
maybe the beginning.

1532

01:27:33,220 --> 01:27:34,800

And once a week.

1533

01:27:34,800 --> 01:27:35,970

Weekly, Yeah.

1534

01:27:35,970 --> 01:27:39,550

1535

01:27:39,550 --> 01:27:42,460

And I really think
that the primary thing

1536

01:27:42,460 --> 01:27:46,270

was for the selection, because
as soon as they get out

1537

01:27:46,270 --> 01:27:48,790

of transports coming in,
they would continually

1538

01:27:48,790 --> 01:27:52,600

resupply with more vigorous
bodies stronger bodies,

1539

01:27:52,600 --> 01:27:55,120

and eliminate those
who were undernourished

1540

01:27:55,120 --> 01:27:56,770

in the camp itself.

1541
01:27:56,770 --> 01:28:01,810
Because there really was no
food that would sustain anyone

1542
01:28:01,810 --> 01:28:04,720
for a 12 hour shift.

1543
01:28:04,720 --> 01:28:08,080
So gradually, you would
have to deteriorate

1544
01:28:08,080 --> 01:28:10,330
to a point of inadequacy.

1545
01:28:10,330 --> 01:28:13,360

1546
01:28:13,360 --> 01:28:16,710
That was the reason for
the shower probably.

1547
01:28:16,710 --> 01:28:20,280
I'm pretty sure
that the people that

1548
01:28:20,280 --> 01:28:22,110
are involved in the
Holocaust history

1549
01:28:22,110 --> 01:28:26,240
would find it would
substantiate that.

1550
01:28:26,240 --> 01:28:30,900
The reason not for our
well-being or cleanliness

1551
01:28:30,900 --> 01:28:35,790
are basically to replenish the
working force of the working

1552

01:28:35,790 --> 01:28:38,850
Staggs so to speak.

1553
01:28:38,850 --> 01:28:41,520
What were the effects of
this starvation on you,

1554
01:28:41,520 --> 01:28:42,690
while you were working?

1555
01:28:42,690 --> 01:28:43,773
Were you ever given like--

1556
01:28:43,773 --> 01:28:50,210
[INAUDIBLE]

1557
01:28:50,210 --> 01:28:55,910
Well, being starved,
hungry at all times.

1558
01:28:55,910 --> 01:28:58,280
Dreaming of food.

1559
01:28:58,280 --> 01:29:03,320
That I remember dreaming of good
food your mother used to cook.

1560
01:29:03,320 --> 01:29:06,740
Although food yet
you did not finish

1561
01:29:06,740 --> 01:29:10,970
at the dinner table, or the
breakfast table, at lunch.

1562
01:29:10,970 --> 01:29:13,670
That you mother used to say,
why don't you finish it?

1563
01:29:13,670 --> 01:29:14,600
Why don't you eat?

1564

01:29:14,600 --> 01:29:17,960
Or the lunches you used to
take to school with you.

1565
01:29:17,960 --> 01:29:20,990
How you should have a
lunch like that now.

1566
01:29:20,990 --> 01:29:23,360
Those Yeah, those
were fantasies.

1567
01:29:23,360 --> 01:29:25,400
Food was very
predominant in our minds

1568
01:29:25,400 --> 01:29:27,450
there's no question about it.

1569
01:29:27,450 --> 01:29:30,080
But did you ever feel that
this made you physically unable

1570
01:29:30,080 --> 01:29:31,130
to do your job?

1571
01:29:31,130 --> 01:29:32,030
There's no question.

1572
01:29:32,030 --> 01:29:33,770
I have some pictures.

1573
01:29:33,770 --> 01:29:36,230
I have one picture, which was
the first picture that I've

1574
01:29:36,230 --> 01:29:38,330
taken after I was liberated.

1575
01:29:38,330 --> 01:29:43,400
And if the occasion presents
itself, I'll show it to you.

1576

01:29:43,400 --> 01:29:48,800

Because then you'll get an
idea already how I look at.

1577

01:29:48,800 --> 01:29:54,650

This picture was taken to maybe
two months after liberation,

1578

01:29:54,650 --> 01:29:58,575

or maybe even further than,
maybe three or four months.

1579

01:29:58,575 --> 01:30:00,200

So you can imagine
what we looked like?

1580

01:30:00,200 --> 01:30:03,410

What I looked like,
before this picture

1581

01:30:03,410 --> 01:30:06,830

was taken or four months before.

1582

01:30:06,830 --> 01:30:09,500

How long do you
think it took before

1583

01:30:09,500 --> 01:30:12,020

after liberation before for you
thought your body was again?

1584

01:30:12,020 --> 01:30:14,570

1585

01:30:14,570 --> 01:30:17,990

Well, it took quite a while.

1586

01:30:17,990 --> 01:30:20,915

At the beginning was
very difficult for us.

1587

01:30:20,915 --> 01:30:23,730

1588
01:30:23,730 --> 01:30:28,790
We were anxious to eat, but
the results were awesome.

1589
01:30:28,790 --> 01:30:31,130
We're sick dysentery.

1590
01:30:31,130 --> 01:30:34,400
We did not digest
the food that we ate.

1591
01:30:34,400 --> 01:30:38,840
I think it was just awful.

1592
01:30:38,840 --> 01:30:42,520
The anxiety to have some food.

1593
01:30:42,520 --> 01:30:46,120
And until doctors
came to the camp

1594
01:30:46,120 --> 01:30:52,600
from the other UNRA Yes,
status and put a stop to that.

1595
01:30:52,600 --> 01:30:57,970
And put us on cereals and milk
and some totally different diet

1596
01:30:57,970 --> 01:31:00,790
you see.

1597
01:31:00,790 --> 01:31:03,580
But the anxiety was so great.

1598
01:31:03,580 --> 01:31:05,470
When you're free
you want to eat.

1599
01:31:05,470 --> 01:31:09,400

The first thing as
you want to eat.

1600
01:31:09,400 --> 01:31:13,210
Eat and maybe sleep,
the next thing.

1601
01:31:13,210 --> 01:31:15,875
So do you think it
was months, a year?

1602
01:31:15,875 --> 01:31:17,020
How long do you think--

1603
01:31:17,020 --> 01:31:20,230
I would say probably
a good eight months.

1604
01:31:20,230 --> 01:31:22,000
I lost my hair.

1605
01:31:22,000 --> 01:31:24,910
I remember that from
typhoid fever that they had.

1606
01:31:24,910 --> 01:31:26,950
This was after liberation.

1607
01:31:26,950 --> 01:31:30,160
I completely lost my
hair just like someone

1608
01:31:30,160 --> 01:31:33,550
had has chemotherapy today.

1609
01:31:33,550 --> 01:31:38,170
And I looked like, to
give a good description is

1610
01:31:38,170 --> 01:31:40,030
like little chick
that's just been born.

1611

01:31:40,030 --> 01:31:47,470

1612

01:31:47,470 --> 01:31:52,990

OK, when you were watching
from Auschwitz to Buchenwald,

1613

01:31:52,990 --> 01:31:55,960

did you attempt to
stick by anyone?

1614

01:31:55,960 --> 01:31:58,450

Was there any sense
of any comradeship

1615

01:31:58,450 --> 01:32:01,360

that you matching on or
just were on your own?

1616

01:32:01,360 --> 01:32:03,800

Very good question.

1617

01:32:03,800 --> 01:32:12,100

Yes, you develop a
certain trust of friends

1618

01:32:12,100 --> 01:32:14,500

that really know really.

1619

01:32:14,500 --> 01:32:19,750

And we did stay together with
some other kids basically

1620

01:32:19,750 --> 01:32:21,880

the same age.

1621

01:32:21,880 --> 01:32:23,830

You always try to
stay for some reason

1622

01:32:23,830 --> 01:32:26,410

with your own contemporary.

1623

01:32:26,410 --> 01:32:30,940
And we did stick together, Yeah.

1624

01:32:30,940 --> 01:32:33,820
Matching see that we're
in the same column,

1625

01:32:33,820 --> 01:32:38,050
in the morning when we line
it's a certain comfort.

1626

01:32:38,050 --> 01:32:43,380
You might say is a known
face or known person.

1627

01:32:43,380 --> 01:32:46,860
Yeah, that a very good question.

1628

01:32:46,860 --> 01:32:51,750
You always seek at someone
that you already know,

1629

01:32:51,750 --> 01:32:56,670
because of such insecurity, such
insecurity and the other thing

1630

01:32:56,670 --> 01:33:00,120
that gives you some
iota of security

1631

01:33:00,120 --> 01:33:04,350
is the person that you got
acquainted in knowing him

1632

01:33:04,350 --> 01:33:06,360
by his first name.

1633

01:33:06,360 --> 01:33:09,050
And had some experience
in camp with him.

1634

01:33:09,050 --> 01:33:13,010

1635

01:33:13,010 --> 01:33:15,750

Can you just, was there any
particular attitude or feeling

1636

01:33:15,750 --> 01:33:17,390

that kept you going?

1637

01:33:17,390 --> 01:33:20,920

It was a very long distance
that you had to walk?

1638

01:33:20,920 --> 01:33:22,806

Well,

1639

01:33:22,806 --> 01:33:23,790

Keep up your stamina?

1640

01:33:23,790 --> 01:33:28,500

It's just AI I think
in the first interview,

1641

01:33:28,500 --> 01:33:35,560

I said there's a certain will
to live or will or desire.

1642

01:33:35,560 --> 01:33:38,940

And I think that
is not to give up,

1643

01:33:38,940 --> 01:33:42,900

hope is I think
is a great thing.

1644

01:33:42,900 --> 01:33:47,040

And hope is what
stimulates a person

1645

01:33:47,040 --> 01:33:51,720

to future things,
or better things,

1646
01:33:51,720 --> 01:33:54,345
or gives you a
different outlook.

1647
01:33:54,345 --> 01:33:57,960

1648
01:33:57,960 --> 01:34:01,410
Hope is something that I cannot
define really what the word

1649
01:34:01,410 --> 01:34:02,130
hope really.

1650
01:34:02,130 --> 01:34:04,830

1651
01:34:04,830 --> 01:34:08,780
It's a spark to life.

1652
01:34:08,780 --> 01:34:12,260
This could defined in
many ways what hope

1653
01:34:12,260 --> 01:34:15,980
is belief and a better day.

1654
01:34:15,980 --> 01:34:22,610
Or just hope is part
of a person that

1655
01:34:22,610 --> 01:34:27,860
keeps them going when
things are really down bad

1656
01:34:27,860 --> 01:34:33,230
or there's a balance
of hope and the stress.

1657
01:34:33,230 --> 01:34:37,610
If hope can runs out if I

can be philosophical here.

1658
01:34:37,610 --> 01:34:43,460
And if hope wins out, I
think you can really make it.

1659
01:34:43,460 --> 01:34:45,770
I don't believe in hope.

1660
01:34:45,770 --> 01:34:48,530
You destroyed your
parents that same way?

1661
01:34:48,530 --> 01:34:50,000
Yeah.

1662
01:34:50,000 --> 01:34:51,980
My father, Yeah.

1663
01:34:51,980 --> 01:34:55,610
The worst-- He dismissed things.

1664
01:34:55,610 --> 01:35:00,210
What are probably underneath,
he took it very seriously.

1665
01:35:00,210 --> 01:35:04,750
But on the surface
just it's there were,

1666
01:35:04,750 --> 01:35:07,130
there were other wars
and people live and go on

1667
01:35:07,130 --> 01:35:08,990
and come out of it and so on.

1668
01:35:08,990 --> 01:35:13,160
And maybe it's going to be
better yet after this is over

1669
01:35:13,160 --> 01:35:15,470

in this type of--

1670
01:35:15,470 --> 01:35:17,510
And that was a spark
within the family

1671
01:35:17,510 --> 01:35:22,850
to, when you're a kid you look
up to your parents, right?

1672
01:35:22,850 --> 01:35:28,160
And if a parent can reassure
you it's not so bad,

1673
01:35:28,160 --> 01:35:30,560
the trust lies in your parents.

1674
01:35:30,560 --> 01:35:38,115
And I think that was probably
a great guide into adult life.

1675
01:35:38,115 --> 01:35:42,230

1676
01:35:42,230 --> 01:35:45,590
When, you were liberated did
you, what plans did you have?

1677
01:35:45,590 --> 01:35:47,420
Do you remember anything?

1678
01:35:47,420 --> 01:35:50,480
Well, I don't think there were
any plans at the moment was

1679
01:35:50,480 --> 01:35:53,660
a total exultation I would say.

1680
01:35:53,660 --> 01:35:57,020
Total, hope of
conquered, hope won out.

1681

01:35:57,020 --> 01:36:01,580

1682

01:36:01,580 --> 01:36:03,890

The worse

1683

01:36:03,890 --> 01:36:06,670

And as you were in
infirmary later on,

1684

01:36:06,670 --> 01:36:08,420

did you any complains?

1685

01:36:08,420 --> 01:36:12,140

Well, there was perhaps
some depression,

1686

01:36:12,140 --> 01:36:15,680

but you knew you were not
in the German infirmary.

1687

01:36:15,680 --> 01:36:21,620

You're not a under German
nurse, or a German doctor.

1688

01:36:21,620 --> 01:36:23,570

They didn't even touch
you in the infirmary,

1689

01:36:23,570 --> 01:36:26,270

they just looked at
you from the distance.

1690

01:36:26,270 --> 01:36:29,510

There was a secure
feeling of being helped.

1691

01:36:29,510 --> 01:36:34,560

In that you weren't
threatened with in the end,

1692

01:36:34,560 --> 01:36:38,630

so to speak of extinction being

extinct or being dismissed.

1693

01:36:38,630 --> 01:36:40,090

You were cared for, concern.

1694

01:36:40,090 --> 01:36:42,590

That was totally different.

1695

01:36:42,590 --> 01:36:45,020

Totally different feeling.

1696

01:36:45,020 --> 01:36:47,630

You look for someone
to come to your bed,

1697

01:36:47,630 --> 01:36:52,340

whether it was
medication, or was

1698

01:36:52,340 --> 01:36:55,250

would check your
temperature, or whatever.

1699

01:36:55,250 --> 01:36:59,660

You had a reassuring feeling,
it was just can be compared,

1700

01:36:59,660 --> 01:37:01,720

There is no comparison.

1701

01:37:01,720 --> 01:37:06,380

The feeling was great
the feeling was just

1702

01:37:06,380 --> 01:37:09,410

like someone is drowning
and all of a sudden,

1703

01:37:09,410 --> 01:37:12,425

you see the edge of
water in your out of it.

1704

01:37:12,425 --> 01:37:19,120

1705

01:37:19,120 --> 01:37:21,830

When you were taking
a lighter to the boys

1706

01:37:21,830 --> 01:37:23,605

home or back to
France, did you think

1707

01:37:23,605 --> 01:37:25,355

of going to your
parents, your brother or?

1708

01:37:25,355 --> 01:37:27,695

1709

01:37:27,695 --> 01:37:28,195

Oh, Yes.

1710

01:37:28,195 --> 01:37:30,850

I Immediately, Yeah.

1711

01:37:30,850 --> 01:37:32,680

It was always on my mind.

1712

01:37:32,680 --> 01:37:37,820

1713

01:37:37,820 --> 01:37:39,050

Jack can we cut this.

1714

01:37:39,050 --> 01:37:42,640

1715

01:37:42,640 --> 01:37:47,590

Well, first instinct I admitted
when he asked me what was

1716

01:37:47,590 --> 01:37:50,830

and they said total exultation.

1717
01:37:50,830 --> 01:37:56,650
Yes, the wonderment of
my brothers, my sister,

1718
01:37:56,650 --> 01:38:01,900
and my parents,
have they made it?

1719
01:38:01,900 --> 01:38:03,470
Of course you're
not close to them,

1720
01:38:03,470 --> 01:38:07,510
or you're not next to them,
so you really don't know.

1721
01:38:07,510 --> 01:38:13,810
But you had hoped that they
would have left after my return

1722
01:38:13,810 --> 01:38:16,480
to France.

1723
01:38:16,480 --> 01:38:21,370
I remember people kept coming
to the house I lived in.

1724
01:38:21,370 --> 01:38:24,700
What information taken from me.

1725
01:38:24,700 --> 01:38:28,270
Information bringing
to us from others.

1726
01:38:28,270 --> 01:38:29,650
Do these people?

1727
01:38:29,650 --> 01:38:31,900
Are you have you
heard of these names?

1728

01:38:31,900 --> 01:38:35,470
Similar names or Do you
recognize in your relatives?

1729
01:38:35,470 --> 01:38:39,295
It was a total search continues
for months and months.

1730
01:38:39,295 --> 01:38:42,430

1731
01:38:42,430 --> 01:38:45,850
Yes, was from
Jewish organizations

1732
01:38:45,850 --> 01:38:49,720
have done that from French
government to the International

1733
01:38:49,720 --> 01:38:53,320
Red Cross has supplied
us with lists.

1734
01:38:53,320 --> 01:38:56,350
I remember reading
lists pages on the wall.

1735
01:38:56,350 --> 01:38:59,350
Just lifting pages
there maybe for an hour

1736
01:38:59,350 --> 01:39:02,620
at a time to look for names
that were literally about

1737
01:39:02,620 --> 01:39:05,230
would be familiar.

1738
01:39:05,230 --> 01:39:09,430
Sometimes you thought Yes, this
might be and then it turned

1739
01:39:09,430 --> 01:39:13,690

out, you looked the address and
the origin said no, it isn't.

1740

01:39:13,690 --> 01:39:18,880

So until I've had a reunion with
my relatives and friends, when

1741

01:39:18,880 --> 01:39:22,060

they returned from
Switzerland, they

1742

01:39:22,060 --> 01:39:26,200

found me in I believe
in the newspaper.

1743

01:39:26,200 --> 01:39:29,090

My name-- they were
listed names daily,

1744

01:39:29,090 --> 01:39:31,990

weekly, monthly names listed.

1745

01:39:31,990 --> 01:39:35,680

And my aunt found me in a
list here in San Francisco

1746

01:39:35,680 --> 01:39:42,220

and for my uncles to
make contact with me.

1747

01:39:42,220 --> 01:39:47,020

One time after lunch, in
the home I was living in.

1748

01:39:47,020 --> 01:39:50,020

The director said I have--

1749

01:39:50,020 --> 01:39:52,480

I want to talk to
you after lunch.

1750

01:39:52,480 --> 01:39:53,980

After lunch you

went into the office

1751

01:39:53,980 --> 01:39:57,760

and he said do you have
relatives that you know of San

1752

01:39:57,760 --> 01:40:00,370

Francisco, an uncle
in Los Angeles,

1753

01:40:00,370 --> 01:40:02,530

and an uncle in
Paterson, New Jersey?

1754

01:40:02,530 --> 01:40:04,870

And I distinctly
remember that they

1755

01:40:04,870 --> 01:40:08,260

had and aunt in San Francisco.

1756

01:40:08,260 --> 01:40:12,100

Because I think we
had good crispins.

1757

01:40:12,100 --> 01:40:16,630

My parents had with my aunt
and uncle in San Francisco.

1758

01:40:16,630 --> 01:40:22,840

I remember an Uncle coming to
France to visit us, a visit.

1759

01:40:22,840 --> 01:40:27,940

And I remember he wore a Derby
hat like you were in England.

1760

01:40:27,940 --> 01:40:30,050

And I remember that
vividly right now.

1761

01:40:30,050 --> 01:40:33,220

And I remember he gave me some--

1762
01:40:33,220 --> 01:40:36,640
he handed me some money to
go buy something or something

1763
01:40:36,640 --> 01:40:37,940
to that effect.

1764
01:40:37,940 --> 01:40:40,600
And instead of give it to me,
he gave this somebody else.

1765
01:40:40,600 --> 01:40:43,240
It was a kid, a
neighbor's kid mistook me.

1766
01:40:43,240 --> 01:40:48,160
[LAUGHING] Just was cute anyway.

1767
01:40:48,160 --> 01:40:51,640
So I knew that I
connected somehow.

1768
01:40:51,640 --> 01:40:58,370
He said well, we'll have to
answer Madam Benson, and Mr

1769
01:40:58,370 --> 01:41:01,070
William Benson in San
Francisco that you

1770
01:41:01,070 --> 01:41:03,860
think you are related to them.

1771
01:41:03,860 --> 01:41:06,000
And of course, he went
on for about half an hour

1772
01:41:06,000 --> 01:41:07,400
or maybe longer.

1773
01:41:07,400 --> 01:41:11,990

How I'm related to him so--

1774

01:41:11,990 --> 01:41:15,080
and I remember he
directed has said they

1775

01:41:15,080 --> 01:41:17,030
will have to go take a picture.

1776

01:41:17,030 --> 01:41:19,890
So we include a picture
with their answer.

1777

01:41:19,890 --> 01:41:24,570
So we went to on a
Saturday, I remember.

1778

01:41:24,570 --> 01:41:27,440
First, he took me
to have a haircut.

1779

01:41:27,440 --> 01:41:28,880
OK.

1780

01:41:28,880 --> 01:41:32,898
Then after the haircut we
want to take a picture.

1781

01:41:32,898 --> 01:41:34,940
I think one of the pictures
that showed you might

1782

01:41:34,940 --> 01:41:36,770
have been one of those, Yeah.

1783

01:41:36,770 --> 01:41:43,520
And then my aunt start
corresponding directly with me.

1784

01:41:43,520 --> 01:41:47,840
I didn't read English at a
time, at that particular time.

1785

01:41:47,840 --> 01:41:50,600

And the director was
translating it for me.

1786

01:41:50,600 --> 01:41:55,190

And he ans-- he kept writing
back for me in English.

1787

01:41:55,190 --> 01:41:57,140

And then packages
started coming for--

1788

01:41:57,140 --> 01:42:01,490

I started getting three or
four pages, five pages a month,

1789

01:42:01,490 --> 01:42:02,810

from my uncle's.

1790

01:42:02,810 --> 01:42:04,010

Clothes and so on.

1791

01:42:04,010 --> 01:42:06,350

Clothes I couldn't even wear.

1792

01:42:06,350 --> 01:42:09,980

But anyway, I received
money in letters.

1793

01:42:09,980 --> 01:42:13,130

Dollar bills were inserted
to 10 or 20 dollar bill.

1794

01:42:13,130 --> 01:42:14,930

I really didn't know
what to do with them.

1795

01:42:14,930 --> 01:42:21,350

They had to- I discovered maybe
there was a black market for,

1796

01:42:21,350 --> 01:42:23,720

but I did not participate.

1797
01:42:23,720 --> 01:42:28,280
I went to the
director exchanged it

1798
01:42:28,280 --> 01:42:30,530
for me officially for francs.

1799
01:42:30,530 --> 01:42:32,810
He said do you want me
to save that for you?

1800
01:42:32,810 --> 01:42:35,150
And he did save it for
me, because we really

1801
01:42:35,150 --> 01:42:37,880
didn't need any money.

1802
01:42:37,880 --> 01:42:38,880
We had everything.

1803
01:42:38,880 --> 01:42:41,970
We had allowances,
weekly allowances.

1804
01:42:41,970 --> 01:42:45,110
It was nice to know
that you had a bank

1805
01:42:45,110 --> 01:42:49,195
account through your uncles
and aunts and United States.

1806
01:42:49,195 --> 01:42:56,130

1807
01:42:56,130 --> 01:42:59,530
Can you describe, go ahead
a little bit and describe.

1808

01:42:59,530 --> 01:43:01,707

So you returned you
even been taken back

1809

01:43:01,707 --> 01:43:02,790

to your-- couple of times?

1810

01:43:02,790 --> 01:43:04,087

Yes more than--

1811

01:43:04,087 --> 01:43:04,920

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1812

01:43:04,920 --> 01:43:07,770

--a couple of times, I
would say a few times, Yeah.

1813

01:43:07,770 --> 01:43:11,100

You have been to the
camps where you were or?

1814

01:43:11,100 --> 01:43:13,590

No, I did not.

1815

01:43:13,590 --> 01:43:15,990

We planned on it we
planned on going back

1816

01:43:15,990 --> 01:43:20,730

to Auschwitz, after we heard
the latest perhaps controversy

1817

01:43:20,730 --> 01:43:24,750

about building some
chapels, or whatever,

1818

01:43:24,750 --> 01:43:29,790

or a church, or a
monastery, or a nunnery.

1819

01:43:29,790 --> 01:43:32,970

And that and suddenly
a lot of groups

1820
01:43:32,970 --> 01:43:35,430
were going back to Auschwitz.

1821
01:43:35,430 --> 01:43:39,750
But I might add there was
not to wallow in the past.

1822
01:43:39,750 --> 01:43:46,130
I kind of-- not that I dismissed
it push it aside, I just

1823
01:43:46,130 --> 01:43:51,770
it wasn't constructive whatever.

1824
01:43:51,770 --> 01:43:56,960
I just it's irretrievable,
it's irreversible.

1825
01:43:56,960 --> 01:44:02,090
And Yes my memories
were always on my mind.

1826
01:44:02,090 --> 01:44:06,350
But I just-- then suddenly I
had to change and I said perhaps

1827
01:44:06,350 --> 01:44:08,420
I'd like to go back.

1828
01:44:08,420 --> 01:44:14,060
And I even went as far as
inquiring to go to Auschwitz

1829
01:44:14,060 --> 01:44:19,580
and retrace as
best as I remember.

1830
01:44:19,580 --> 01:44:21,680
I had by car by
train or whatever

1831

01:44:21,680 --> 01:44:28,850
means of transportation to back
to Buchenwald, which is Vamar?

1832
01:44:28,850 --> 01:44:31,820
The farmer was in the
Russian occupation

1833
01:44:31,820 --> 01:44:39,810
I believe till recently,
till the world came down.

1834
01:44:39,810 --> 01:44:44,130
So I don't know if that would
have been feasible to do that.

1835
01:44:44,130 --> 01:44:46,940
But you could have
gone to Poland, Yes.

1836
01:44:46,940 --> 01:44:51,430
And most likely to
Eastern Germany as well.

1837
01:44:51,430 --> 01:44:58,060
But now, I definitely
have a desire

1838
01:44:58,060 --> 01:45:00,280
to go back and
retrace that trip.

1839
01:45:00,280 --> 01:45:04,190

1840
01:45:04,190 --> 01:45:07,550
I don't know what
emotion that awakened me.

1841
01:45:07,550 --> 01:45:10,570

1842
01:45:10,570 --> 01:45:20,470

I'm sure it what bring back
again a lot of memories

1843
01:45:20,470 --> 01:45:25,000
that are not necessarily
pleasant or not pleasant, Yeah.

1844
01:45:25,000 --> 01:45:28,030

1845
01:45:28,030 --> 01:45:31,510
Then you've been to visit,
where you lived in France?

1846
01:45:31,510 --> 01:45:33,520
Oh, Yes.

1847
01:45:33,520 --> 01:45:34,740
Many times.

1848
01:45:34,740 --> 01:45:37,660
About three times, Yeah.

1849
01:45:37,660 --> 01:45:41,500
I never entered the house,
I just from the outside,

1850
01:45:41,500 --> 01:45:45,450
I saw and I have some
pictures I took some pictures.

1851
01:45:45,450 --> 01:45:47,330
And when we lived.

1852
01:45:47,330 --> 01:45:50,175
I have them in cast really, OK.

1853
01:45:50,175 --> 01:45:53,020

1854
01:45:53,020 --> 01:45:56,270
How do you think

these experiences,

1855
01:45:56,270 --> 01:45:59,140
your experiences have
affected your values,

1856
01:45:59,140 --> 01:46:03,110
since you've raised your
children as you make choices

1857
01:46:03,110 --> 01:46:05,000
as an adult?

1858
01:46:05,000 --> 01:46:06,970
My daughter would love
that question, Yeah.

1859
01:46:06,970 --> 01:46:10,310

1860
01:46:10,310 --> 01:46:18,740
I'm probably more
sensitive to injustices.

1861
01:46:18,740 --> 01:46:25,175
I'm probably more aware of
things that you hear today.

1862
01:46:25,175 --> 01:46:27,850

1863
01:46:27,850 --> 01:46:30,740
Yugoslavia for instance,
its total slaughter

1864
01:46:30,740 --> 01:46:33,620
of two different minorities.

1865
01:46:33,620 --> 01:46:38,720
And you heard war
like ethnic cleansing,

1866

01:46:38,720 --> 01:46:41,760
it's a repeat of what
fascism stood for.

1867
01:46:41,760 --> 01:46:45,200
You just wonder by the way
the Serbs ever were well

1868
01:46:45,200 --> 01:46:49,130
known for collaborating
with the great collaborators

1869
01:46:49,130 --> 01:46:53,780
with the fascists,
with the Germans.

1870
01:46:53,780 --> 01:46:57,230
So we just wonder what is
in a person's mentality

1871
01:46:57,230 --> 01:47:00,500
or the I don't want
to categorize really.

1872
01:47:00,500 --> 01:47:04,100

1873
01:47:04,100 --> 01:47:08,990
So that makes you more aware
of two things that ended then,

1874
01:47:08,990 --> 01:47:11,600
things are still continuing.

1875
01:47:11,600 --> 01:47:14,330
People are still
suffering, whether is it

1876
01:47:14,330 --> 01:47:19,040
through religious differences,
or political, or ethnic

1877
01:47:19,040 --> 01:47:23,030

differences, or things
have not stopped.

1878
01:47:23,030 --> 01:47:32,050

1879
01:47:32,050 --> 01:47:37,570
How did you, how did you come
to choose your occupation?

1880
01:47:37,570 --> 01:47:41,770
Well, my occupationally
came to choose probably

1881
01:47:41,770 --> 01:47:45,310
by being independent
and by necessity.

1882
01:47:45,310 --> 01:47:49,320

1883
01:47:49,320 --> 01:47:49,820
Marrying--

1884
01:47:49,820 --> 01:47:50,653
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1885
01:47:50,653 --> 01:47:51,350
--probably.

1886
01:47:51,350 --> 01:47:51,920
Pardon me?

1887
01:47:51,920 --> 01:47:53,990
Maybe we should say
what it is for the tape.

1888
01:47:53,990 --> 01:48:01,040
Well, I was in retail for
35 years and had one job.

1889
01:48:01,040 --> 01:48:06,140

I worked for Carta Holy Hell,
which is the San Francisco City

1890
01:48:06,140 --> 01:48:10,400
Emporium, in the
East Bay was couples.

1891
01:48:10,400 --> 01:48:12,907
And spent 35 years there.

1892
01:48:12,907 --> 01:48:15,710

1893
01:48:15,710 --> 01:48:19,910
Well, when you get married
you've got to a heavy job.

1894
01:48:19,910 --> 01:48:24,080
I am and by nature a
very independent person.

1895
01:48:24,080 --> 01:48:27,440
And I my aunt was
gracious to me,

1896
01:48:27,440 --> 01:48:32,390
but I did not want her
to support me then.

1897
01:48:32,390 --> 01:48:34,790
I thought I'm physically
able to manage,

1898
01:48:34,790 --> 01:48:37,160
even though I went to school.

1899
01:48:37,160 --> 01:48:40,910
At the beginning, I went to
night school Commerce High,

1900
01:48:40,910 --> 01:48:43,482
which was on Van Ness Avenue.

1901

01:48:43,482 --> 01:48:45,440

Then I went to San
Francisco state and Buchanan

1902

01:48:45,440 --> 01:48:47,857

the old San Francisco State
University, which is not there

1903

01:48:47,857 --> 01:48:50,060

anymore today.

1904

01:48:50,060 --> 01:48:53,900

And then I just married.

1905

01:48:53,900 --> 01:48:58,970

And two years later,
we had a child.

1906

01:48:58,970 --> 01:49:02,540

And that period was a
post-war period actually.

1907

01:49:02,540 --> 01:49:05,480

And employment was
very difficult.

1908

01:49:05,480 --> 01:49:11,660

And I just took whatever
came my way at a time.

1909

01:49:11,660 --> 01:49:15,320

Being young you don't
think ahead for the future,

1910

01:49:15,320 --> 01:49:20,990

you just say well let me tackle
this, and see what comes later.

1911

01:49:20,990 --> 01:49:21,720

And I ended up.

1912

01:49:21,720 --> 01:49:27,240

But I cannot say it I'm
sorry to being in retail.

1913
01:49:27,240 --> 01:49:29,790
I've done well.

1914
01:49:29,790 --> 01:49:35,700
I've managed, lived
very comfortably.

1915
01:49:35,700 --> 01:49:38,040
And did whatever I want to do.

1916
01:49:38,040 --> 01:49:42,000
Participated in
cultural events, some

1917
01:49:42,000 --> 01:49:43,710
strippers, symphony,
to the opera,

1918
01:49:43,710 --> 01:49:47,500
to members services
for the museum.

1919
01:49:47,500 --> 01:49:48,250
And other things.

1920
01:49:48,250 --> 01:49:53,310
So not wealthy but comfortable.

1921
01:49:53,310 --> 01:50:00,940
OK, and I do whatever I want
to choose from life I did.

1922
01:50:00,940 --> 01:50:04,510
Travel many times
back to Europe,

1923
01:50:04,510 --> 01:50:06,850
and enjoy every bit of it.

1924

01:50:06,850 --> 01:50:17,760

1925

01:50:17,760 --> 01:50:21,490

Very specific
questions if you can--

1926

01:50:21,490 --> 01:50:28,888

Sure [COUGHING] Let's see do
talked to them about your well,

1927

01:50:28,888 --> 01:50:30,680

actually your whole
family, because can you

1928

01:50:30,680 --> 01:50:35,000

describe the way your father
looked like is that possible?

1929

01:50:35,000 --> 01:50:42,230

My father he was tall, handsome
you've heard it before.

1930

01:50:42,230 --> 01:50:45,890

I have a picture of my dad in
the military uniform with me

1931

01:50:45,890 --> 01:50:47,640

here.

1932

01:50:47,640 --> 01:50:53,420

I was a very robust man, very
sturdy man, a positive man.

1933

01:50:53,420 --> 01:50:59,720

A man that you feel
would be with, you

1934

01:50:59,720 --> 01:51:13,960

would feel a certain strength
of firmness, decisive,

1935

01:51:13,960 --> 01:51:15,020

a good father.

1936

01:51:15,020 --> 01:51:19,330

1937

01:51:19,330 --> 01:51:24,010

He caring father,
maybe a loving husband.

1938

01:51:24,010 --> 01:51:25,975

He probably a real father image.

1939

01:51:25,975 --> 01:51:29,920

1940

01:51:29,920 --> 01:51:37,370

I remember going with my father
to concerts as a little boy.

1941

01:51:37,370 --> 01:51:41,140

I think that's where
I get my cultural

1942

01:51:41,140 --> 01:51:45,580

and of it's from my dad.

1943

01:51:45,580 --> 01:51:49,720

After concerts in
some months, my father

1944

01:51:49,720 --> 01:51:52,390

loved the theater
my mother as well.

1945

01:51:52,390 --> 01:51:54,310

I remember them
dressing up and always

1946

01:51:54,310 --> 01:51:56,900

going to when they would
sing songs afterwards,

1947

01:51:56,900 --> 01:51:58,600
when they were to return.

1948
01:51:58,600 --> 01:52:00,880
If there was a
play, would always

1949
01:52:00,880 --> 01:52:05,455
discuss the drama aspect
of it and other things.

1950
01:52:05,455 --> 01:52:08,620

1951
01:52:08,620 --> 01:52:14,500
As the character of my
father, a very positive

1952
01:52:14,500 --> 01:52:19,360
not a domineering
man, but a man that

1953
01:52:19,360 --> 01:52:25,000
would have things at a group
of physical description and.

1954
01:52:25,000 --> 01:52:28,465

1955
01:52:28,465 --> 01:52:31,270
Is there anything else
that you want to--

1956
01:52:31,270 --> 01:52:34,960
Also remember anything
about, I spoke photographs,

1957
01:52:34,960 --> 01:52:35,813
will just see that.

1958
01:52:35,813 --> 01:52:37,230
Do you like to see
the photograph.

1959

01:52:37,230 --> 01:52:38,413

Maybe we can hold
of a little off--

1960

01:52:38,413 --> 01:52:39,120

Pardon me?

1961

01:52:39,120 --> 01:52:39,980

At the end.

1962

01:52:39,980 --> 01:52:40,480

OK.

1963

01:52:40,480 --> 01:52:44,880

1964

01:52:44,880 --> 01:52:48,870

Take a little stab in
the dark of that night.

1965

01:52:48,870 --> 01:52:54,960

Are there any sounds,
or smells for example

1966

01:52:54,960 --> 01:52:58,650

that today react strongly
to, whether or not they

1967

01:52:58,650 --> 01:53:01,350

seem related to the Holocaust.

1968

01:53:01,350 --> 01:53:05,490

But I mean just say or
any for example, seasonal

1969

01:53:05,490 --> 01:53:08,460

or the annual thing
that happens to you

1970

01:53:08,460 --> 01:53:11,720

physically like every

January you get back there.

1971

01:53:11,720 --> 01:53:15,630

I mean are there
any otherwise a--

1972

01:53:15,630 --> 01:53:17,170

A lasting thing from--

1973

01:53:17,170 --> 01:53:18,900

Yeah not necessarily
it would seem

1974

01:53:18,900 --> 01:53:23,130

related to any inexplicable
or explicable thing that

1975

01:53:23,130 --> 01:53:25,320

just doesn't seem like
anything like that.

1976

01:53:25,320 --> 01:53:28,620

Other reactions to
smells, or sights, or-

1977

01:53:28,620 --> 01:53:33,030

My daughter would love to
question to just like your.

1978

01:53:33,030 --> 01:53:36,580

I know that I can't put
my finger on really.

1979

01:53:36,580 --> 01:53:44,020

As you brought up something
and lifetime occasionally,

1980

01:53:44,020 --> 01:53:47,620

you have to go to a
mortuary, see someone

1981

01:53:47,620 --> 01:53:49,990

that you knew had passed on.

1982
01:53:49,990 --> 01:53:52,480
Or someone who was close to you.

1983
01:53:52,480 --> 01:53:56,500
And until just recently, a
very good friend of mine's wife

1984
01:53:56,500 --> 01:53:58,960
had passed away.

1985
01:53:58,960 --> 01:54:02,500
Relatively, young person
in their early 60s.

1986
01:54:02,500 --> 01:54:05,020
And what disturbed
me is the smell

1987
01:54:05,020 --> 01:54:07,510
of the flowers at the mortuary.

1988
01:54:07,510 --> 01:54:13,300
I just I love flowers, we have
the rose bushes in our yard.

1989
01:54:13,300 --> 01:54:21,040
And somehow I was
really disturbed

1990
01:54:21,040 --> 01:54:23,800
by the smell of flowers.

1991
01:54:23,800 --> 01:54:25,250
And this is not the first time.

1992
01:54:25,250 --> 01:54:28,030
I don't know what
this will tell you.

1993
01:54:28,030 --> 01:54:32,260
It's just I just cannot

relate flowers with death.

1994

01:54:32,260 --> 01:54:38,600

1995

01:54:38,600 --> 01:54:45,470

I listened to

Panarina [LAUGHING]

1996

01:54:45,470 --> 01:54:47,108

You mentioned that

your daughter would

1997

01:54:47,108 --> 01:54:48,400

like a couple of our questions.

1998

01:54:48,400 --> 01:54:49,415

Why is that?

1999

01:54:49,415 --> 01:54:50,290

What kind of I mean--

2000

01:54:50,290 --> 01:54:53,350

Well, she's a

psychologist, Yeah.

2001

01:54:53,350 --> 01:54:58,000

And she I read

some of her papers.

2002

01:54:58,000 --> 01:55:04,210

Her questions is

very inquisitive.

2003

01:55:04,210 --> 01:55:08,680

Great curiosity, which is

great in the way you find

2004

01:55:08,680 --> 01:55:12,010

answers as true

questions and curiosity.

2005

01:55:12,010 --> 01:55:19,505
And somewhat remind me of
her temperament of inquiry.

2006
01:55:19,505 --> 01:55:26,220

2007
01:55:26,220 --> 01:55:28,170
Let's see the last
time you mentioned

2008
01:55:28,170 --> 01:55:30,830
that a couple of things.

2009
01:55:30,830 --> 01:55:33,570
One is that, you remember
waking up and seeing

2010
01:55:33,570 --> 01:55:35,580
a man who committed suicide.

2011
01:55:35,580 --> 01:55:38,240

2012
01:55:38,240 --> 01:55:40,290
And then you're
also going to talk

2013
01:55:40,290 --> 01:55:42,330
to the last time about hope.

2014
01:55:42,330 --> 01:55:44,190
You always had some
measure of hope.

2015
01:55:44,190 --> 01:55:47,020
But at any time did you
seriously consider suicide?

2016
01:55:47,020 --> 01:55:47,520
No.

2017

01:55:47,520 --> 01:55:50,350

2018

01:55:50,350 --> 01:55:57,010

I look at the bright
side of life, I never.

2019

01:55:57,010 --> 01:56:00,260

2020

01:56:00,260 --> 01:56:03,380

I had one perhaps instinctive
philosophy as young

2021

01:56:03,380 --> 01:56:07,710

I was, just do the opposite
what you were told to do.

2022

01:56:07,710 --> 01:56:13,010

Now, this will not
apply in family affairs.

2023

01:56:13,010 --> 01:56:18,530

But just because I did not trust
him, I was not the only one.

2024

01:56:18,530 --> 01:56:21,740

It just if he could,
if he cannot do,

2025

01:56:21,740 --> 01:56:24,560

if he can do the opposite
what they tell you.

2026

01:56:24,560 --> 01:56:27,080

And I have to remember
that I have adopt.

2027

01:56:27,080 --> 01:56:32,270

As young as I was, I have to
adopt, many things many times,

2028

01:56:32,270 --> 01:56:36,650

if I could evade this
came instinctively.

2029
01:56:36,650 --> 01:56:39,020
No one was there to tell me.

2030
01:56:39,020 --> 01:56:41,120
It's just a mistrust.

2031
01:56:41,120 --> 01:56:45,570
And if I could evade
something, in many instances I

2032
01:56:45,570 --> 01:56:49,760
did evade things
like, I brought up

2033
01:56:49,760 --> 01:56:52,790
before it the going
to the shower.

2034
01:56:52,790 --> 01:56:55,400
I've always looked
back to be the last one

2035
01:56:55,400 --> 01:56:58,160
or somehow not to
go to the shower.

2036
01:56:58,160 --> 01:57:02,630
I was afraid to
go to the shower.

2037
01:57:02,630 --> 01:57:07,160
I was small, I was skinny,
underfed for my age.

2038
01:57:07,160 --> 01:57:15,747
And it was a tremendous if there
were any fear at all that most,

2039
01:57:15,747 --> 01:57:16,955
I don't know how to say that.

2040
01:57:16,955 --> 01:57:21,230
That most affected me
was the shower episode.

2041
01:57:21,230 --> 01:57:24,980
Going to the shower, because
at all that's doomsday.

2042
01:57:24,980 --> 01:57:29,690
Who they always maybe
thought the certain amount

2043
01:57:29,690 --> 01:57:32,000
would have to come out
that shower that would not

2044
01:57:32,000 --> 01:57:32,970
go through the shower.

2045
01:57:32,970 --> 01:57:36,110
A certain amount I would not.

2046
01:57:36,110 --> 01:57:38,960
I would have to a quota system.

2047
01:57:38,960 --> 01:57:40,730
I don't know if that
was the case or not,

2048
01:57:40,730 --> 01:57:44,660
but this was my
thought, my imagination.

2049
01:57:44,660 --> 01:57:47,060
And if they wouldn't have
enough skinny little kids,

2050
01:57:47,060 --> 01:57:49,430
don't grab a certain
amount of kids.

2051

01:57:49,430 --> 01:57:52,363

And OK, we have x
amount of kids so--

2052

01:57:52,363 --> 01:57:53,780

and I would always
think that they

2053

01:57:53,780 --> 01:57:58,820

would pick the kids, before
they would pick the adults.

2054

01:57:58,820 --> 01:58:02,990

Because the kids cannot
produce as good or as much

2055

01:58:02,990 --> 01:58:05,660

as the adults would.

2056

01:58:05,660 --> 01:58:09,530

Perhaps not as I've explained
now, but in my own way then

2057

01:58:09,530 --> 01:58:11,390

this was my thought.

2058

01:58:11,390 --> 01:58:13,580

As immature and
as young as I was,

2059

01:58:13,580 --> 01:58:15,800

I've always told
it to my wife too.

2060

01:58:15,800 --> 01:58:21,980

One incident I had found a
band-aid not a band-Aid it's

2061

01:58:21,980 --> 01:58:25,670

a wrap around when you get hurt.

2062

01:58:25,670 --> 01:58:27,020

A bandage, OK.

2063
01:58:27,020 --> 01:58:29,580

2064
01:58:29,580 --> 01:58:31,860
The first thing was to
save that bandage, when

2065
01:58:31,860 --> 01:58:33,450
it's cold to wrap
around my legs,

2066
01:58:33,450 --> 01:58:37,130
because we were did
not have any socks.

2067
01:58:37,130 --> 01:58:39,930
We got a very primitive
type of a footlight,

2068
01:58:39,930 --> 01:58:41,520
you might say as a sack.

2069
01:58:41,520 --> 01:58:45,690
Then you would put in you had
wooden shoes, with a cloth top.

2070
01:58:45,690 --> 01:58:49,170
And you stomp, you couldn't--
you would walk like you would

2071
01:58:49,170 --> 01:58:50,700
walk in while wearing the shoe.

2072
01:58:50,700 --> 01:58:55,140
You would stomp in
form of walking.

2073
01:58:55,140 --> 01:59:02,700
So I thought I'd take that
bandage wrap around my legs.

2074

01:59:02,700 --> 01:59:05,730

Do you remember it
perhaps in a movie

2075

01:59:05,730 --> 01:59:07,530

that you might have
seen of World War one,

2076

01:59:07,530 --> 01:59:14,220

where the soldiers wrapped
their knickers on a tarp?

2077

01:59:14,220 --> 01:59:16,230

Do remember that,
there was a movie all

2078

01:59:16,230 --> 01:59:19,530

quiet on the Western
Front a real classic?

2079

01:59:19,530 --> 01:59:21,120

OK.

2080

01:59:21,120 --> 01:59:23,250

And that is really
what I had the idea

2081

01:59:23,250 --> 01:59:28,200

the French soldiers were
that type of a rap they had.

2082

01:59:28,200 --> 01:59:30,000

And I would save that.

2083

01:59:30,000 --> 01:59:32,430

I saved it when it's cold
I'm going to rap one foot

2084

01:59:32,430 --> 01:59:36,180

and take it put it
on my other foot.

2085

01:59:36,180 --> 01:59:39,030

It was quite a roll
thick and I wish

2086
01:59:39,030 --> 01:59:44,070
I would say maybe seven eight
inches that's quite a hunk.

2087
01:59:44,070 --> 01:59:46,290
And some of them became a
burden to me to carry it

2088
01:59:46,290 --> 01:59:50,070
or to hide it, because you
couldn't hide anything.

2089
01:59:50,070 --> 01:59:53,880
You had no nightstand
or whatever you see.

2090
01:59:53,880 --> 01:59:57,630
Whatever you could wear
or carry that's it.

2091
01:59:57,630 --> 01:59:59,790
Somehow I always had this
thing wrapped around me,

2092
01:59:59,790 --> 02:00:02,250
when I was in my mid
part of the body.

2093
02:00:02,250 --> 02:00:06,420
And I just for the
sake of keep me warm.

2094
02:00:06,420 --> 02:00:08,070
This was the only thought.

2095
02:00:08,070 --> 02:00:10,560
But this one time
it came in handy.

2096
02:00:10,560 --> 02:00:15,270

I wrapped on my arm as a sling.

2097

02:00:15,270 --> 02:00:18,270

I was asked to do a
certain job not by the SS,

2098

02:00:18,270 --> 02:00:20,490

because I would be doomsday.

2099

02:00:20,490 --> 02:00:22,920

But by the Kapos.

2100

02:00:22,920 --> 02:00:27,780

That eventually would
lead me to where SS are.

2101

02:00:27,780 --> 02:00:33,280

And I said OK, well, it was to
pick up a big kettle of soup.

2102

02:00:33,280 --> 02:00:36,270

By the ear, you know
by the military kettles

2103

02:00:36,270 --> 02:00:38,710

like and carry to the black.

2104

02:00:38,710 --> 02:00:41,710

This I was a little
guy, and I probably

2105

02:00:41,710 --> 02:00:47,040

weigh then maybe about
75 pounds and kilos

2106

02:00:47,040 --> 02:00:50,610

and we were like 36, 37 kilos.

2107

02:00:50,610 --> 02:00:53,010

And I don't think
I was afraid by not

2108

02:00:53,010 --> 02:00:55,980
being able to lift
a thing up, most

2109
02:00:55,980 --> 02:00:57,630
be strong enough to lift it.

2110
02:00:57,630 --> 02:01:00,580
And that there's not
detriment, if you can do it,

2111
02:01:00,580 --> 02:01:03,010
it's a strike against you.

2112
02:01:03,010 --> 02:01:04,330
So I put a thing quickly.

2113
02:01:04,330 --> 02:01:10,170
I said look, I said I hurt
my arm, I cannot carry it.

2114
02:01:10,170 --> 02:01:12,780
Says Oh, I said, OK.

2115
02:01:12,780 --> 02:01:15,540
Took the next person.

2116
02:01:15,540 --> 02:01:17,220
So you see I escape.

2117
02:01:17,220 --> 02:01:19,920
Now, if I were to go gone out
there and I couldn't have--

2118
02:01:19,920 --> 02:01:24,810
the SS in the kitchen
there were SS,

2119
02:01:24,810 --> 02:01:30,060
that see that you carry out
these turn to what block you

2120

02:01:30,060 --> 02:01:30,960
from.

2121
02:01:30,960 --> 02:01:37,900
And you carry was more than
one kettle these would come.

2122
02:01:37,900 --> 02:01:39,900
And I remember that
came in very handy

2123
02:01:39,900 --> 02:01:43,380
to me to just do the opposite
what I was told to do.

2124
02:01:43,380 --> 02:01:48,780
And I always said in mind
Dan, if you can get out of it,

2125
02:01:48,780 --> 02:01:49,310
do it.

2126
02:01:49,310 --> 02:01:52,420

2127
02:01:52,420 --> 02:01:56,050
It's another thing they would
give us a piece of soap,

2128
02:01:56,050 --> 02:01:57,653
when you go into to do--

2129
02:01:57,653 --> 02:01:59,070
when I was so
afraid for the soap.

2130
02:01:59,070 --> 02:02:00,850
So I just wouldn't want to--

2131
02:02:00,850 --> 02:02:04,630
I took the soap and I just
wouldn't want to use it.

2132

02:02:04,630 --> 02:02:07,400

I don't know why I was
so afraid of the soap.

2133

02:02:07,400 --> 02:02:10,750

I thought that was some
of a poisonous something.

2134

02:02:10,750 --> 02:02:15,850

The little small piece of soap,
just so I just didn't do it.

2135

02:02:15,850 --> 02:02:20,890

And I just I really see
a little bit of my dad

2136

02:02:20,890 --> 02:02:26,020

in me, because a the
strength in me then

2137

02:02:26,020 --> 02:02:29,920

instinctively no
one would tell me.

2138

02:02:29,920 --> 02:02:33,940

Just I decide what to stay
away from and what not to.

2139

02:02:33,940 --> 02:02:37,840

Or I mostly what
to stay away from.

2140

02:02:37,840 --> 02:02:41,860

You didn't have much choice
of stemming from anything,

2141

02:02:41,860 --> 02:02:45,250

but if you could then this
bandage is an example.

2142

02:02:45,250 --> 02:02:48,550

I've told it to my
wife at one time, Yeah.

2143
02:02:48,550 --> 02:02:51,250
But--

2144
02:02:51,250 --> 02:02:53,280
Another one of your
daughter would like--

2145
02:02:53,280 --> 02:02:55,410
does that have any hold
over today or do you ever

2146
02:02:55,410 --> 02:02:59,640
doubt any people's instructions
or requests, of second

2147
02:02:59,640 --> 02:03:00,660
guess them or is that--

2148
02:03:00,660 --> 02:03:04,330
No, no, no, that's not all.

2149
02:03:04,330 --> 02:03:06,870
There's no carryover, at all.

2150
02:03:06,870 --> 02:03:09,600

2151
02:03:09,600 --> 02:03:12,460
I let me--

2152
02:03:12,460 --> 02:03:15,120
There's a question,
because something comes.

2153
02:03:15,120 --> 02:03:17,970
So when I first came
to San Francisco,

2154
02:03:17,970 --> 02:03:23,320
I went to Berlitz to
learn English in Paris.

2155

02:03:23,320 --> 02:03:26,290

And a class of about eight
nine pupils per class

2156

02:03:26,290 --> 02:03:28,570

was very private.

2157

02:03:28,570 --> 02:03:31,000

Anyway my aunt was sending
me money to go learn English

2158

02:03:31,000 --> 02:03:34,150

and was great anyway.

2159

02:03:34,150 --> 02:03:37,480

But when I came here my
English was inadequate.

2160

02:03:37,480 --> 02:03:43,740

So I could, it just was the--