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Herman Shine - Part 3.

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(Opening portion of the tape is unintelligable.)

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A -- One thing I intend to do and tried to help up

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but before I can even get up, I have a gun stuck in my back,

8

you know, and she, this woman, this Rosen Van Lee

9

(phonetic), and she said Joe, I said you dirty pig, do you

10

know who am I? She is the wife of the main Commander of all

11

the camps. Weiss is her name. A Yiddishe mama, but not

12

Jewish naturally, Commandant, you know, Weiss.

13

She said this prisoner is so decent to help me because

14

I could have gotten badly hurt and you pull her down which

15

this bullet can even help me and -- unintelligable -- which

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is also an Officer he got to go to the phone, you know what

17

I mean, and here comes the big guy, the Commandant and then

18

she said this prisoner is so decent to helping me and this

19

guy pulls a gun on him.

20

You have no business running away, but he is trying to

21

help me, you know. Shut up, you know, like this, you know.

22

Where I come from. I said I am from Bomovitz (phonetic)

23

Commander. You know, who ordered you here. I said I have

24

no idea. I tell that guy, so this guy goes right on the

25

telephone and in the meantime the Commander is already back

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2 to the camp, you know.

3

Now comes the thing, and you know the Nazis, regardless
4 how they are, but everything has to be by the book. There
5 is no detail delegated unless it's really delegated.

6

You don't have any authority to do anything and by they
7 all jealous of him. They try to bury him and this is one
8 way they could because he had no power in the camp and
9 nobody had any authority to listen to his order, you know
10 what I mean.

11

He can hit me, you know. He can do anything with me,
12 but he cannot order me transferred to another camp, you see,
13 and the other guy, the secretary had no authority to take an
14 order from him because this guy is the gas master.

15

Now, he has nothing to do -- even he has not the guy
16 still not in this camp. He is in another camp. So, I got
17 back before I even looked around and I tell you I didn't
18 even know, it was such a tremendous miracle I got back into
19 the camp, but now naturally I was more curious than ever
20 before because now I got so many people directly involved
21 that if I could I would not even escape. I would escape --
22 but naturally couldn't be done, you know.

23

So, I was on fire every night and just have to hope
24 that nothing going to change the administration and it's
25 going to stay the way it is.

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2

Q Do you still carry bitter feelings now?

3

A No, I never had any bitter feelings.

4

Q Against Germans?

5

A I tell you, I have bitter feelings. I don't care

6

much for the Germans because after the war we heard

7

thousands of times said many, many Germans didn't know,

8

which is completely untrue. They all knew. They didn't

9

want to know.

10

You see, this is the thing what I mean. I really

11

don't, I mean, I don't see, I don't like to go to Germany.

12

I never like to go to Germany. The only thing I ever went

13

because I have a sister and niece there. You have no

14

choice. You must visit them, but if there is nobody there,

15

I would never even care to set a foot there.

16

Q What does Israel mean to you?

17

A Israel means a lot to me. I have a lot of family

18

in Israel. I got two nephews there and got a sister there

19

and three nieces and just a wonderful, wonderful country,

20

you know.

21

If we would have been lucky enough if there was Israel

22

when Nazi Germany would have existed I don't think the

23

Holocaust could have happened, you know, and that's why I

24

think it's very important, like I said that many times, for

25

you, the second and third and other generations to never

1
2 forget and to remember this. For us, it's not important.
3 For us, we don't have to worry, you know. For you people,
4 it's important and if the young people take it lightly,
5 unfortunately, if you think today or if you see today what's
6 going on all over the world, you know there is nobody likes
7 the Jews, nobody.

8 Who likes Israel? You think America likes Israel?
9 They don't like Israel. They like Israel in a way they need
10 Israel, but this is the unfortunate, but it's hard to
11 believe that things like could happen, like the whole
12 Holocaust could happen, but if you go through history it is
13 unfortunately not the first time this happened. It has
14 happened many times before.

15 You know, I read a book from a German journalist, The
16 2000 Year History of the Jewish People, the German Jewish
17 People and he writes how they mistreated the Jews thousand
18 and two thousand years ago already.

19 Do you know that the Jews lived in Germany before the
20 Germans even lived there? You don't know it, do you? There
21 was no Germany. The Jews lived hundreds of years before it
22 was even a German in Germany and sometimes they had rulers
23 who treated the Jews fairly well because they used the Jews'
24 knowledge, but then again, you had others who would destroy,
25 who would burn them, who would do anything to them and it's

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2 not only true for Germany.

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I think the Poles were just as bad to the Jews, maybe worse, maybe worse than the Germans and many people don't want to know it and the Russians are not any better. They used them like many of them used them. The friends are the same, that's why I say unfortunately the Jews have very, very few friends in the world and the few we have we have to try to keep them because we do need them. You can't live without.

Q Well, your story was wonderful and unforgettable and we thank you for sharing your experience and I am sure that it will do good for the project. I do want you to restate your name.

A My name is Herman Shine.

Q Okay.

A Used to be Mendel Seinizgish (phonetic). I was born in Berlin, Germany, October 4th, 1932.

Q And my name is Laureen Wilk and my partner is Judy Wellish and we are in the home of Herman Shine and the date is December 7th -- 8th 1984 and we thank you.