

1 INTERVIEW WITH JACOB KERBEL
2 HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
3 DATE: 2/19/89 PLACE: SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
4 INTERVIEWER: HOWARD (SPELLING)
5 TRANSCRIBER: MARK KRAVEITZ
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1 Q I'M HOWARD - - AND I'M WITH THE ORAL HISTORY
2 PROJECT WITH BETH JACOB. IT'S FEBRUARY THE 19TH, 1989,
3 AND WE'RE SPEAKING WITH JACOB KERBEL.

4 A THAT'S RIGHT.

5 Q CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE YOU WERE BORN AND
6 WHEN?

7 A WHEN, A LONG TIME AGO.

8 MY NAME IS JACOB KERBEL, IN JEWISH WAS
9 YANKEE. I WAS BORN IN JUNE THE 10TH, 1922, AND IN A CITY,
10 A NICE TOWN IN POLAND, AUSTROVITZ, AUSTROVITZ.

11 YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MY PARENTS - - HOW
12 MANY - -

13 Q WHERE WAS THAT NEAR?

14 A IT WAS NEAR RADOM, NEAR KATEZ. IT WAS
15 AUSTROVITZ, WAS KATEZ, KUBANIA. IT'S LIKE A - - LET'S SAY
16 CALIFORNIA, LIKE A STATE - - AUSTROVITZ - -

17 Q WHAT DID YOUR PARENTS DO THERE?

18 A MY FATHER HAS A, A CLOTHING STORE AND A BIG
19 TAILOR SHOP.

20 MY MOTHER USED TO OWN IN, IN OUR BUILDING,
21 LIKE A NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY STORE.

22 I WAS THE OLDEST.

23 WHEN THE WAR - -

24 Q HOW MANY IN YOUR FAMILY?

25 A IN, IN MY FAMILY WERE FOUR CHILDREN, MYSELF,
26 A BROTHER, TWO YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME, THEN A SISTER, THEN
27 ANOTHER BROTHER.

28 SO, THEY ALL WERE KILLED, BECAUSE I SEEN - -

1 MY FATHER WAS KILLED RIGHT AWAY WHEN - - BEFORE WE EVEN
2 WENT TO THE CAMPS, IN THE WAR, WHEN GERMANY OCCUPIED
3 POLAND.

4 SO, THEY WERE THERE MAYBE TWO, THREE MONTHS.
5 IT WASN'T A GHETTO YET, EVERYBODY LIVED IN HIS OWN PLACE.

6 Q LIKE TO ASK YOU, BEFORE THE WAR, WHAT YOUR
7 LIFE WAS LIKE, WERE YOU AN OBSERVANT FAMILY?

8 A WE WERE VERY GOOD FAMILY, VERY CLOSE FAMILY.

9 Q WERE YOU VERY RELIGIOUS?

10 A IN - - WELL, NOT, NOT VERY RELIGIOUS BUT
11 RELIGIOUS ENOUGH, RELIGIOUS ENOUGH.

12 MY FATHER WAS MORE RELIGIOUS THAN - - WELL,
13 YOU KNOW, THE YOUNGER PEOPLE ALWAYS LOOK - - THEY THINK
14 DIFFERENTLY, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

15 BUT, I WAS A RELIGIOUS BOY, I STILL AM. I
16 STILL AM.

17 Q DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL

18 A OH, YEAH, SURE, IN POLISH, IN POLISH SCHOOL.
19 YOU HAD TO GO FROM 7 TO 14, SEVEN YEARS SCHOOL, GRAMMER
20 SCHOOL, YOU HAD TO GO. I MEAN, IT WAS BY LAW, POLISH
21 GOVERNMENT LAW, YOU HAD TO GO.

22 THEN, I WENT TO HEIDER, YOU KNOW - - THREE
23 TIMES A WEEK, SUNDAY, YOU KNOW, TO HEIDER.

24 HEIDER, YOU KNOW WHAT HEIDER IS? IN JEWISH,
25 IT IS SPEAKING, YOU KNOW, DAVENING, RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.

26 WELL, I WAS A YOUNG FELLOW, I WAS 17 YEARS
27 OLD WHEN THE WAR START.

28 Q WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER SCHOOL, WHEN YOU

1 FINISHED SCHOOL?

2 A USED TO BELONG TO ORGANIZATIONS. I WAS
3 ACTIVE IN ORGANIZATIONS, ALWAYS WAS. LIKE TO BE IN
4 ORGANIZATIONS. I WAS WITH FRIENDS, YOU KNOW, BOYS, GIRLS.
5 WE GET TOGETHER, WE MEET TOGETHER, YOU KNOW, SOCIAL LIFE.

6 Q AND AFTER 14, WHERE DID YOU GO?

7 A WELL, I WAS IN POLAND AFTER 14. AFTER 14, I
8 START TO WORK. YOU HAVE TO WORK IN POLAND, TO HELP OUT
9 THE FAMILY.

10 Q WHERE WERE YOU WORKING?

11 A EVERYBODY - - WELL, I HELPED OUT A LITTLE
12 BIT MY FATHER, AND A LITTLE, I HELPED OUT IN THE GROCERY
13 STORE.

14 YOU HAD TO DO SOMETHING, YOU HAD TO WORK
15 SOMETHING BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO HELP OUT THE FAMILY.
16 EVERYBODY HAD TO WORK, YOU KNOW. I MEAN, NOT WORK,
17 BECAUSE YOU HAD TO - - BUT, YOU KNOW, YOU HAVE TO HELP OUT
18 YOUR FAMILY; SO THAT'S WHY YOU WORK, YOU SEE, EVERYBODY
19 DID.

20 SO IN - - IN A - - THEN THE WAR COME ALONG.

21 Q YOU REMEMBER THE DAY IT STARTED?

22 A WELL, I REMEMBER WHEN THE GERMANS COME IN, I
23 REMEMBER, I REMEMBER THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF TANKS AND
24 SOLDIERS, YOU KNOW, AND THEY COME INTO - - THEY MARCH INTO
25 OUR TOWN, WENT THROUGH, GO TO - - WENT TO OTHER TOWNS.

26 AND, AND WE KNOW THE PROBLEM, THE PROBLEM
27 ALREADY STARTED, BECAUSE WE KNEW BEFORE. YOU SEE WHAT
28 KIND OF INFLUENCE THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD ON POLAND

1 BECAUSE THE POLISH PEOPLE START ALREADY TO GIVE A HARD
2 TIME TO THE JEWS, YOU KNOW, LIKE A KOSHER MEAT, THE OTHER
3 STUFF. IT WAS, IT WAS ALREADY A PROBLEM.

4 THEN WHEN THE GERMAN OCCUPIED AND THEY WERE
5 THERE ABOUT A WEEK, THEY PICKED UP ALL THE JEWISH - -
6 LIKE JEWISH LEADERS, BIG BUSINESS PEOPLE.

7 YOU KNOW, THEY ARREST THEM AND THEY BUILT
8 THE - - AND THE - - AND NEXT DAY AND, YOU KNOW, IN - -IN
9 THE SQUARE.

10 YOU KNOW, EVERY TOWN HAS A SQUARE, A BIG
11 SQUARE AND THEY BUILT AND THEY HANG THEM, ALL OF THEM, ALL
12 THE, ALL THE JEWISH PEOPLE, ALL THE JEWISH LEADERS. SO,
13 YOU KNOW WHAT THE ANSWER IS, AND WE KNOW WHAT IT WAS.

14 Q IF YOU GO BACK JUST BEFORE THE WAR, WHAT DO
15 YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAY THE POLISH PEOPLE GAVE YOU TROUBLE?

16 A WELL, THE POLISH PEOPLE, THE GERMAN ALREADY
17 HAD THE INFLUENCE, LIKE MADAM BECK AND THE OTHERS. THEY
18 ALREADY KNEW, THEY DIDN'T - - THEY GIVE US A HARD TIME.

19 YOU KNOW, LIKE JEWS, THEY STAY - - THEY
20 STAND BY THE JEWISH STORES AND WHAT, YOU KNOW, AND THEY
21 SAY, DON'T BUY BY THE JEWS, BUY BY OUR PEOPLE.

22 JEWS WHO WERE TRUE TO PALESTINE, WE DON'T
23 WANT YOU HERE. YOU KNOW, YOU HAVE EVERYTHING WE DON'T
24 HAVE, YOU TOOK EVERYTHING AWAY FROM US.

25 YOU SEE, AND IT WAS ALREADY A PROBLEM. THAT
26 WAS BEFORE, EVEN BEFORE THE GERMAN MARCH INTO POLAND,
27 BEFORE THEN. THAT WAS THE ANTISEMITE ORGANIZATION, YOU
28 KNOW, IN POLAND, USED TO CALL THEM THE ANDECKIES, YOU SEE,

1 AND THAT WHAT IT WAS.

2 AND - -

3 Q DID YOU EVER HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THEM?

4 A OH, YEAH, YEAH, ALWAYS HAD A PROBLEM. I
5 TRIED TO STAND UP, I WAS A PROBLEM, WE START TO FIGHT, AND
6 WE RUN AWAY. IT WAS, IT WAS A BIG COMMOTION, IT WASN'T
7 PLEASANT, BELIEVE ME, BUT WHAT YOU GOING TO DO.

8 IT WASN'T PLEASANT WHEN THEY SAW A JEWISH
9 PERSON WALK, YOU KNOW, A JEW WITH A BEARD. THEY START TO
10 SCARE HIM, THEY RUN AFTER HIM, YOU KNOW, THEY BEAT HIM UP,
11 AND TALKING ABOUT IN POLAND, BEFORE THE GERMAN COME IN,
12 YOU SEE. AND THAT'S HOW IT WAS, OUR LIFE, YOU KNOW.

13 THEN WHEN THE GERMAN COME IN, MY - - SO - -
14 SO, THEY TOOK OVER. THEY TOOK OVER, YOU SEE.

15 Q SO WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FAMILY?

16 A WELL, WE STILL WERE IN OUR HOME, THE WHOLE
17 FAMILY. IN THE EVENING, COME ABOUT 8 O'CLOCK, 9 O'CLOCK,
18 KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND TWO GERMANS COME IN, THAT'S WHEN THE
19 TRAGEDY BEGIN, IN MY FAMILY.

20 SO, THEY COME IN AND THEY START TO BEAT UP
21 MY FATHER, FOR NO REASON, JUST FOR FUN, JUST, YOU KNOW,
22 JUST, JUST A LITTLE FUN.

23 WELL, A GERMAN SOLDIER, IF HE WANTS A LITTLE
24 FUN, HE JUST WANTS TO BEAT UP SOME JEWS. THEN, HE GET A
25 LOT OF FUN. SO, ANYWAY, HE, HE START TO BEAT UP MY
26 FATHER, REALLY BEAT HIM HARD. HE TOOK HIM OUTSIDE,
27 AND - - LIKE IN THE BACKYARD, AND I HEARD A SHOT.

28 THEN, THEY COME IN AND TOOK ME, BECAUSE I

1 WAS THE OLDEST FELLOW, YOU KNOW.

2 I WAS 17 AT THE TIME, NOT EVEN 18, 17. AND
3 THEY TOOK A SHOVEL, YOU KNOW - - THEY WAS GOING TO START
4 AND DIG AND DIG AND DIG, AND THEY BEAT ME; AND I DIG AND
5 BURIED MY FATHER, ALMOST ALIVE. AND THIS IS THE TRUTH,
6 BECAUSE I HAVE WITNESSES.

7 SO, ANYWAY, THEY GIVE HIM ONE BULLET WITH
8 THE CLOTHES, AND I - -AND I PUT HIM IN THERE AND COVERED
9 IT UP.

10 AND THEY TOLD ME TO GO UP IN THE GRAVE AND
11 JUST PUSH HIM DOWN WITH MY FEET AND DANCE AROUND. AND
12 THAT'S IT, THAT'S HOW IT BEGIN.

13 WE COULDN'T DO NOTHING ABOUT IT, WE GOT ALL
14 BEAT UP, AND THERE YOU ARE. AND THEN A FEW WEEKS LATER,
15 ABOUT TWO, THREE WEEKS LATER, THEY, THEY MAKE THAT GHETTO,
16 YOU KNOW, EVERYBODY - - THEY TOOK ABOUT THREE, FOUR
17 STREETS AND JUST BLOCKED AROUND, YOU KNOW, WITH WIRES,
18 WITH FENCES.

19 AND THEY, THEY DIDN'T CARE WHERE YOU LIVE,
20 OVER HERE OR THERE. THEY JUST PUSH IT IN OVER THERE, YOU
21 GET, YOU KNOW, YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

22 BUT, YOU SEE, BEFORE I COME TO IT, I WANT
23 YOU TO KNOW THAT ALL MY LIFE I HAD ONE DREAM, ALL MY LIFE.
24 WHEN I LIVE THROUGH THIS ALL, I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY, I
25 HAVE TO GO TO POLAND AND TAKE CARE OF MY FATHER'S BODY.

26 AND AFTER THE WAR, I WENT THERE, I WENT
27 THERE WITH MY - -WITH MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, THAT I AM
28 DIVORCING MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, AARON BROMBERG. I WENT TO

1 POLAND. I WENT INTO THE POLICE AND I REPORT WHAT I WANT
2 TO DO HERE, TO DIG A HOLE TO GET SOMEBODY OUT.

3 THEY WERE LAUGHING AT ME, THEY THOUGHT THAT
4 I GOT CRAZY IN THE WAR, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING
5 ABOUT.

6 SO ANYWAY, WE WENT OVER THERE, WE TOOK IT
7 OUT, I TOOK CARE WHAT I HAD TO TAKE CARE, WE BURIED
8 WHATEVER WAS LEFT OVER, IN THE JEWISH CEMETERY.

9 BUT MY PARENTS, AFTER THIS, WHEN THEY MAKE
10 THE GHETTO - - I DIDN'T SEE MUCH BECAUSE RIGHT IN THE
11 GHETTO, THEY TOOK ME TO THE CAMP. BY THEN, I WAS ABOUT 18
12 YEARS OLD.

13 Q WHEN WAS THIS?

14 A 19 - - WAIT A MINUTE, 1939, THEY MARCH IN
15 AROUND, BY THE TENTH MONTH. WELL, I WOULD SAY AROUND
16 1940, AROUND APRIL, MAY OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW.

17 YOU KNOW, SOMETHING LIKE - -YEAH, AROUND
18 APRIL, MAY.

19 AND THEY TOOK ME TO THE CAMP. I MEAN, IT
20 WASN'T A CAMP, BUT YOU COULDN'T GET OUT. YOU SEE, IT WAS
21 IN, IN AUSTROVITZ, THEY HAVE A BIG FACTORY WHERE THEY
22 BUILD THE TRAINS; YOU KNOW, THE TRAINS WERE BUILT OVER
23 THERE IN POLAND. I WORKED OVER THERE. IT WAS JUST A
24 SLAVE WORK, THEY GIVE YOU A LITTLE FOOD THERE.

25 BUT THEN LATER ON, THEY TOOK US TO A CAMP,
26 ABOUT 28, 30 OF US, AT NIGHT, IN A TRUCK, TO - - IT WAS
27 AROUND AN HOUR TO DRIVE. WE WENT UP THERE. WE CAME IN
28 THERE, TO THIS CAMP. IT WAS A CAMP AND IT WASN'T A CAMP,

1 BECAUSE IT WAS A CAMP, BECAUSE WE SEEN THE BARRACKS, BUT
2 THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY, ANY FENCES AROUND.

3 AND THERE WHAT WE SEE, STACKS OF, A LOT OF
4 PEOPLE, THEY WERE RUSSIAN SOLDIERS, THEY KILLED THEM OFF
5 THERE. THE NEXT MORNING, WE HAD TO DIG HOLES AND BURY
6 THEM. AND THAT'S HOW WE BUILT THAT CAMP.

7 AND I WAS IN THIS CAMP OVER THERE, I WOULD
8 SAY, AT LEAST, MAYBE TWO YEARS. WE WORKED, WE BUILT, WE
9 FIXED IT. THIS ONE HERE, THAT WAS THE CAMP WE USED TO
10 BRING IN PEOPLE, IT WAS A FEW THOUSAND, FROM OTHER CITIES,
11 FROM OTHER GHETTOS, FROM OTHER CAMPS.

12 YOU KNOW, IT WAS A TREMENDOUS, BIG CAMP, YOU
13 SEE. THEY HAVE SHOPS OVER THERE, EVERYTHING DONE, WORK
14 FOR THE GERMAN PEOPLE, OF THE GERMAN SOLDIERS, YOU KNOW,
15 JUST, YOU KNOW, JUST TREMENDOUS.

16 IT WAS JUST LIKE A LITTLE TOWN IN A TOWN,
17 THAT WAS BLIZEN. AND THERE I WAS WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE, WE
18 ARE STILL AROUND, THANK G-D.

19 AND FROM THERE, THEY TOOK US TO AUSCHWITZ.
20 WELL, I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I DIDN'T SEE ANY MORE OF MY
21 PARENTS, THAT'S IT. BUT, I KNEW THEY WERE GOING TO BE
22 KILLED BECAUSE THAT'S IT, THAT'S - - THAT'S WHAT HAPPEN.

23 AND THEN, THEN I SPENT IN AUSCHWITZ, A LONG
24 TIME.

25 Q DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR
26 MOTHER?

27 A YEAH, OH, YEAH, I KNOW. THAT WAS AFTER THE
28 WAR IN POLAND, THEY TOLD ME, THEY, THEY TOOK THEM - -

1 THEY TOOK THEM, THEY TOOK THEM, LIKE ALL OF THEM, TO THE
2 TRAIN, AND THEY JUST TOOK THEM AWAY. MAYBE, THEY TOOK
3 THEM TO TREBLINKA, MAYBE THEY TOOK THEM TO AUSCHWITZ
4 AND - - ROOMS, YOU SEE.

5 SO, I DON'T KNOW. BUT WHATEVER IT IS, YOU
6 CAN BE SURE THAT THE - -THAT THEY DIED RIGHT THERE.

7 Q AND YOUR BROTHERS?

8 A THE BROTHERS, THE SAME THING, EVERYBODY, THE
9 BROTHERS - - NOW, WITH ONE LITTLE BROTHER, THE YOUNGER
10 ONE, HE WAS STANDING WITH - - BY ME, AND, YOU KNOW, WHEN
11 WE WENT BEFORE, BEFORE THEY MAKE THE GHETTO, SO THEY TOOK
12 US AGAIN IN A SQUARE AND THEY SAY, YOU HERE, YOU HERE, YOU
13 HERE, THEY BEAT YOU, THEY BEAT YOU, YOU HERE.

14 SO ANYWAY, MY BROTHER WAS ACROSS FROM ME, HE
15 LOOKED JUST LIKE A POLISH BOY, I MEAN, BLOND, YOU KNOW,
16 LIGHT COMPLEXION. AND I TOLD HIM, YOU KNOW, THE OTHER - -
17 YOU KNOW, SOMETHING - - WHY DON'T YOU GO OVER THERE AND
18 KEEP ON GOING. GO AROUND BETWEEN THE POLES OR SOMEBODY,
19 THEY WOULDN'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, MAYBE, YOU KNOW, SOMEBODY.

20 AND THIS IS THE LAST TIME WHEN I SAW HIM,
21 AND I SEEN HIM GO THROUGH -- AND I DIDN'T HAVE, HEAR ANY
22 SHOTS, SO THAT MEANS THE GERMAN GUARD WHO WAS THERE
23 PROBABLY DIDN'T SEE HIM, OR I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT
24 HAPPENED.

25 BUT THIS WAS THE LAST TIME WHEN I SAW HIM,
26 UNTIL NOW, I'M STILL LOOKING FOR HIM. I STILL THINK MAYBE
27 HE IS - - MAYBE HE IS IN RUSSIA AND MAYBE HE IS IN POLAND,
28 AND I TRIED EVERYTHING. THEY JUST - -IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

1 AND I STILL THINK MAYBE, BECAUSE HE WOULD BE
2 NOW - - ABOUT 6, 7 YEARS, HE WOULD NOW - - 60 YEARS OLD,
3 59 YEARS OLD. SO, I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE, BUT THIS, THIS
4 WHAT IT WAS, THIS WAS THE LIFE.

5 AND THEN THEY TOOK US TO AUSCHWITZ. AND IN
6 AUSCHWITZ, IT WAS REAL HELL. IN AUSCHWITZ, THERE WAS FOUR
7 CREAMATORIUMS, THE FOUR CREAMATORIUMS BURNED DAY AND
8 NIGHT.

9 IT IS JUST LIKE YOU MAKE IN HOME, A
10 BARBEQUE, YOU SMELLED IT, JUST THE SAME SMELL. YOU SEE
11 THE FLAME DAY AND NIGHT. AND IF IT WASN'T ENOUGH TO FILL
12 IN THE OVENS, THEY COME IN THE BARRACKS AND THEY GRAB TWO,
13 THREE, FOUR OR TEN, WHATEVER, YOU KNOW, AND THAT'S IT.

14 THE OVENS, THEY WORKED 24 HOURS A DAY. WHY
15 I KNOW, BECAUSE I WORKED THERE, NOT BY THE OVENS BUT CLOSE
16 TO IT.

17 I WORKED THERE FOR, FOR AWHILE AND - -

18 Q WHAT WERE YOU DOING THERE?

19 A AND I SEEN - - IT WAS A LOT OF TRAGEDIES,
20 BELIEVE ME. BECAUSE WHEN THE OVENS WERE FILLED UP AND
21 THEY BROUGHT IN LIKE A - - TRANSPORT JEWS FROM ANOTHER
22 CITY, LIKE FROM WARSAW OR SOME PLACE ELSE, THOUSANDS OF
23 THEM, AND THEY GASSED THEM.

24 SO THEN THEY HAVE A HALL, A SQUARE, IS SO
25 LARGE, LIKE THIS SOCIAL HALL, THREE TIMES AS LARGE. YOU
26 TOOK THE BODIES OUT FROM THE - - FROM THE - - FROM THE
27 GAS CHAMBER. YOU KNOW, WHEN, WHEN THEY TOOK THEM OUT,
28 SOME OF THEM WERE STILL ALIVE.

1 I HAD A LOT OF OVENS, AND SAY OUY, OUY, YOU
2 KNOW, A JEW WOULD GIVE HIM A LITTLE - - THEY WERE STILL
3 ALIVE, BECAUSE IT DEPENDS WHERE YOU STAY INSIDE IN THE GAS
4 CHAMBER, YOU KNOW, SO - -

5 YOU SEE, YOU PUSHED THEM WITH LITTLE CRANES,
6 YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. YOU WOULD JUST TURN THEM OVER, TURN
7 THEM OVER. IF THE BODY DIDN'T, YOU JUST PUSH IN THE BODY.
8 YOU JUST THROW THEM, JUST LIKE A PIECE OF GARBAGE.

9 I WORKED THERE FOR AWHILE, I SEEN IT, AND I
10 KNOW WHAT IT IS. SO THIS WAS - - THIS WAS THE MOST TRAGIC
11 THING WHAT HAPPENED, WHAT I SEEN SO FAR.

12 THIS WAS AUSCHWITZ, I WORKED THERE FOR
13 AWHILE. THEN, THEY TOOK ME IN ANOTHER PLACE AND I WORKED
14 THROUGH, YOU KNOW, HELPING OUT, LIKE WITH BRICKS, THE
15 GUYS, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY WERE BUILDING OVER THERE,
16 WHATEVER, A VAULT, A HELL. IN, IN THERE, I WAS
17 THERE - - I WAS - - I WOULD SAY ABOUT A YEAR FOR SURE.

18 I DIDN'T HAVE A CALENDAR, I DON'T KNOW,
19 EXACTLY, BUT I WAS THERE ABOUT A YEAR FOR SURE.

20 AND FROM THERE, FROM THERE, THEY TOOK US TO
21 A PLACE I NEVER HEARD NOTHING LIKE IT. I MEAN, IT WAS
22 IN BETWEEN - - I MEAN, BETWEEN TREES, LIKE IN THE, IN THE
23 FOREST. IT'S NOT - - IT WASN'T A FOREST, YOU DIDN'T SEE
24 NOTHING.

25 LIEBERLOSEN, NOW, THERE THEY KEPT US,
26 JUST - - WHEN THEY HAD TRAINS COMING DOWNTOWN, THEY HAD TO
27 UNLOAD, YOU KNOW, COALS OR WHATEVER OTHER STUFF. THEN,
28 THEY TOOK US THERE AND - - TO WORK AND THEN - - BUT THERE

1 YOU WALKED AROUND ABSOLUTE NAKED, YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE
2 NOTHING ON. I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE THEY WERE
3 AFRAID YOU WERE GOING TO RUN AWAY, OR SOMETHING.

4 BUT THERE YOU WERE KEPT AROUND THERE
5 ABSOLUTE NAKED, DAY AND NIGHT. SO, WE - - WE WERE OVER
6 THERE FOR, YOU KNOW, FOR AWHILE.

7 Q WHAT TIME OF YEAR WAS THAT?

8 A WELL, IT WAS PRETTY -- I DON'T KNOW, I
9 COULDN'T REMEMBER. BUT, I REMEMBER WHEN THEY TOOK US,
10 WHEN THEY TOOK US FROM LIEBERLOSEN, THEY WERE OUT OF
11 TRAINS, THEY DON'T HAVE ANY TRAINS. THEY TRIED TO PUSH
12 US FARTHER, FARTHER, BECAUSE THE RUSSIANS START TO, YOU
13 KNOW, ATTACK THEM, YOU KNOW, TO START TO COME IN.

14 AND THEY START TO PUSH US, SO THEY TOOK A
15 WHOLE BUNCH OF THEM, A FEW THOUSAND OF US, I DON'T KNOW,
16 TWO, THREE THOUSAND, AND THEY JUST - - WE START TO MARCH,
17 AND WE MARCHED, WE MARCHED, WE MARCHED FOR THIRTEEN DAYS.

18 WE MARCHED AND, AND THEN WAS COLD, IT WAS
19 LIKE AROUND JANUARY, FEBRUARY. IT WAS SNOW, YOU KNOW, IN
20 GERMANY, THAT'S - - IT'S WINTER, IT'S REALLY REGULAR
21 COLD.

22 AND IT WOULD COME IN THE EVENING AND
23 APPEARED - - THEY SAY, OKAY, HERE WE START - - SO, WE
24 JUST LAY DOWN. YOU LAID DOWN AND THAT'S IT AND YOU FALL
25 ASLEEP.

26 IN THE MORNING, A LOT OF THEM WHO COULDN'T
27 GET UP, BECAUSE THEY WERE FROZEN TO THE, TO THE GROUND, WE
28 LEFT THEM THERE. I HAD A LOT OF GOOD FRIENDS, REALLY. WE

1 ALL WERE ALTOGETHER, AND WE HELP ONE ANOTHER. THEY LIFT
2 ME UP, THEY PUSH ME UP - - WE MARCHED AGAIN, WE MARCHED
3 AGAIN UNTIL WE COME IN.

4 WE MARCH FOR 13 DAYS. WE WAS OVER, MAYBE A
5 HUNDRED AND 10, MAYBE A HUNDRED AND 20, FROM ALL OF US,
6 BECAUSE THEY ALL DIED. IF YOU COULDN'T WALK - - YOU KNOW,
7 WHEN YOU WALK, YOU WALK AND YOU WALK AND YOU JUST STOP,
8 YOU COULDN'T WALK, YOU WERE SHOT AND PUT IN A WAGON. THEY
9 HAD WAGONS AND OUTSIDE THE CITY, YOU DIG A HOLE AND THEY
10 BURY YOU, YOU SEE.

11 AND WHEN WE WALKED THROUGH ONCE BERLIN, IT
12 WAS LIKE AROUND, OUTSKIRT BERLIN, AND GERMAN PEOPLE WALKED
13 IN THE STREET, AND THEY SAW US, THE LITTLE KIDS, GERMAN
14 KIDS, BOYS, 10, 12 YEARS OLD. THEY - - TO KICK YOU IN
15 YOUR FEET AND SAY (IN YIDDISH) - - THAT MEANS, WE ARE
16 THE - - (IN YIDDISH) THE ROTTEN, THE STINKING JEWS. WE
17 DIDN'T HAVE A NAME. WE WERE A JEW. THAT'S ALL WHAT IT
18 WAS, SEE, DIDN'T CARE TO THEM. TO THEM, THEY DIDN'T CARE,
19 WERE YOU RICH OR YOU'RE POOR OR YOU OLD OR YOU'RE YOUNG,
20 IT DON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENT.

21 THE ONLY, THE ONLY THING WHAT IT WAS AGAINST
22 US IS, BECAUSE WE WERE ALL JEWS AND THAT'S IT. THAT'S
23 WHAT, THAT'S WHAT IT WAS AND THAT'S WHAT IT IS.

24 YOU SEE - - AND THEN WE WERE IN MAUTHAUSEN.
25 NOW, MAUTHAUSEN, WELL, WE WERE ALL WORE OUT ALREADY, YOU
26 KNOW, WE DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH. MAUTHAUSEN, THEY
27 CALLED IT A SHINEHOOT. YOU SIT ALL DAY, YOU TAKE BIG
28 ROCKS LIKE THIS AND CUT IT AND MAKE LITTLE, YOU KNOW, LIKE

1 LITTLE ROCKS OUT OF THEM, YOU JUST HAD TO, AND THEY TOLD
2 YOU THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

3 NOW, IF YOU DON'T GOING TO DO THIS TODAY,
4 YOU BE DEAD. AND HERE AGAIN IT WAS VERY HIGH, YOU HAD TO
5 GO UP IN A HILL, VERY HIGH. IF THEY DON'T LIKE SOMEBODY,
6 TOOK THEM TO THE, TO THE EDGE OF THAT, OF THAT HILL,
7 PUSHED THEM DOWN THERE. THAT'S ALL.

8 EVEN HERE AGAIN, THEY WERE PLAYING AROUND,
9 TOOK A BIG ROCK, PUT IT THERE. ONE SOLDIER TO THE OTHER
10 SAYS, NOW, LET'S SEE HOW FAST YOU CAN SHOOT, THEY SAY,
11 WHERE YOU WANT TO SHOOT, HOW YOU WANT TO SHOOT. HE SAYS,
12 LET'S FIRE. SO, HE SHOOT ONCE IN THE ROCKS AND SECOND
13 ONE, HE GIVE HIM IN THE HEAD, IT WAS NOTHING.

14 A GERMAN SOLDIER, I WANT YOU TO KNOW AND I
15 WANT TO KNOW THE PEOPLE, IF THEY GOING TO LISTEN SOMETIME
16 TO THIS TAPE, A GERMAN SOLDIER DIDN'T HAVE TO REPORT, IF
17 HE KILLED SOME JEWS. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO HAVE AN EXCUSE, HE
18 DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY NOTHING.

19 THE MORE JEWS HE KILLED, A BETTER SOLDIER HE
20 WAS. WE USED TO GO OUT FROM THE CAMP IN, IN AUSCHWITZ
21 EVERY DAY. AUSCHWITZ WAS - -IT WAS JUST LIKE A BIG CITY,
22 YOU COULD WALK IN AUSCHWITZ.

23 BUT, WE WALKED IN PLACE. TOOK US, LET'S
24 SAY, ONE LEADER, HE TOOK 50 OF US; AND LET'S SAY TWO OF
25 THEM, HE KILLED, OR THREE. SOMETIMES, HE DIDN'T HAVE TO
26 KILL WITH A GUN. HE TOLD THE GERMAN, THE DOG, THE DOG HAD
27 A NAME, WE DIDN'T HAVE A NAME, HEINZ (IN YIDDISH) - -
28 THAT MEANS, FINISH UP THE JEW AND THAT'S IT, HE DIDN'T

1 HAVE TO SAY ONE MORE WORD.

2 THIS GERMAN DOG TOOK THE JEW APART AND SAYS,
3 GOOD DOG, GOOD DOG, DONE A GOOD JOB. THAT'S ALL, THAT'S
4 ALL. IT'S SIMPLE.

5 SO WHEN WE WENT BACK, WHEN WE COME BACK TO
6 THE CAMP, SO WE TOOK THE TWO, THREE BODIES AND CARRIED
7 THEM. AND WHEN WE COME IN THROUGH THE GATE, HE SAYS, GOT
8 A LIST, HE SAY, YOU TOOK OUT 50. HE SAYS, I HAVE 50. SO,
9 HE COUNTED THAT BODY AND EXACTLY LIKE HE COUNTED US,
10 BECAUSE TO HIM IT WASN'T ANY DIFFERENT, YOU STILL ALIVE OR
11 YOU ALREADY DEAD, IT DON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE, AS LONG AS
12 THE NUMBER WAS RIGHT.

13 HE TOOK OUT 50 AND BROUGHT IT BACK 50.
14 THAT'S HOW IT WAS. THE SAME THING WAS IN THE BARRACKS.
15 SOMEBODY DIED AT NIGHT, WE TOOK HIM OUT, WE LAID HIM DOWN
16 AND THEN WE SAY - - (IN YIDDISH) SO, WE PUT IT IN - -
17 THREE HUNDRED ALIVE AND TEN DEAD JEWS, ALTOGEHTER 310,
18 THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE, THE NUMBER IS RIGHT.

19 YOU SEE, THIS WAS IN THE CAMPS AND THAT'S
20 HOW IT WAS. IT'S HARD TO SAY, IT'S HARD TO - -IT'S HARD
21 TO EXPLAIN TO PEOPLE. I MEAN, I TRY HARD. I'M, I'M
22 INVOLVED, AND I WANT EVERYBODY TO KNOW AND I WANT THE
23 WORLD TO KNOW AND ESPECIALLY OUR JEWISH KIDS, THE
24 GENERATION AFTER US, THE YOUNG GENERATION, THE THIRD
25 GENERATION, THE FOURTH GENERATION.

26 I WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT WE JEWS, WE WENT
27 THROUGH THIS HELL. I HOPE IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN. BUT, WE
28 HAVE TO KEEP OUR EYES OPEN SO IT WOULDN'T HAPPEN, YOU SEE

1 WHAT I'M TALKING. THIS, WHAT IT IS.

2 LET'S NOT SAY NOW, IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN. WE
3 DIDN'T KNOW IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN, WE DIDN'T KNOW 50 YEARS
4 AGO IT WILL EVER HAPPEN. YOU SEE, JEWS LIVE PRETTY GOOD
5 IN GERMANY, THEY HAVE A GOOD LIFE, MIXED MARRIAGES AND
6 EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING WAS NICE UNTIL HITLER COME ALONG
7 AND HE DIG THROUGH THE JEWISH HISTORY, TO THE FIFTH
8 GENERATION. SO, WHAT CAN I SAY.

9 WHEN THE WAR FROM, FROM MAUTHAUSEN, WE
10 MARCHED AND THEY TOOK US TO - - TO GUSEN. THEY HAD A
11 CAMP, GUSEN, IT BELONGED TO MAUTHAUSEN, IT WAS ABOUT SIX
12 MILES AWAY.

13 NOW, GUSEN, WHEN YOU COME IN, IN GUSEN, IN
14 THE CAMP, IT WASN'T IN A BARRACKS, IT WAS NICE.

15 IT WAS FLAT, LIKE THIS. YOU WENT IN, IN, IN
16 LIKE, LIKE IN, IN A CAVE AND THERE WHERE, WHERE YOU SLEPT,
17 I MEAN OVERNIGHT, THAT WAS GUSEN.

18 I WORK - - AND AT THAT TIME I WORK IN
19 MESSERSCHMIDT AND HELPED, YOU KNOW, BY THE LITTLE
20 SCHOOLS, BY THE PLANES. THEY GOT LABOR FREE. THAT'S WHY
21 THEY BUILD SO FAST, ALL THE PLANES, ALL THE, YOU KNOW,
22 MACHINERY, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE IT WAS NOTHING - - GIVE US A
23 LITTLE SOUP AND A SLICE OF BREAD.

24 GIVE YOU A SLICE OF BREAD, NOW, LET'S SAY,
25 TONIGHT AROUND 5 O'CLOCK WHEN YOU COME HOME FROM WORK,
26 IT'S GOT TO LAST TILL TOMORROW, UNTIL 5 O'CLOCK.

27 A LITTLE BREAD AND SOUP, JUST ABSOLUTE LIKE
28 PLAIN OLD WATER, IT WAS NOTHING THERE. THIS WHAT I HAD TO

1 LAST FOR YOU. YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW HUNGER IS SUCH A
2 TERRIBLE THING. A FELLOW, WHAT I KNOW FROM MY OWN TOWN, I
3 WOULDN'T MENTION THE NAME, HE SLEPT WITH HIS FATHER IN
4 ONE, YOU KNOW, IN, IN THE, IN THE BARRACK, WHAT DO YOU
5 CALL, YOU KNOW, THE BEDS, YOU KNOW, LIKE THEY ARE - - WE
6 WERE FOUR, IN THE, TWO FROM THIS SIDE AND TWO FROM THIS
7 SIDE.

8 HIS FATHER TRIED TO SAVE A LITTLE BREAD FOR
9 TOMORROW, HE WAS, HE WAS AN OLDER MAN, YOUNG FELLOW TOOK
10 THAT PIECE OF BREAD, EAT IT RIGHT AWAY.

11 WELL, HE TOOK A LITTLE BREAD, HE SAVED IT,
12 HIMSELF, FOR TOMORROW MORNING, MAYBE FOR THE SON OR - -
13 YOU KNOW. YOU KNOW, AND THIS IS THE TRUTH, THIS SON
14 CHOKED HIS OWN FATHER, HE CHOKED HIM TO DEATH, TO GET OUT
15 THAT PIECE OF BREAD FROM UNDER HIS HEAD, BECAUSE HE PUT IT
16 IN THE PANTS AND ROLL IT UP AND USED TO LAY LIKE THIS.

17 JUST FOR THAT PIECE OF BREAD, HE CHOKED HIS
18 OWN FATHER. THIS IS HUNGER. I SEEN PEOPLE IN MAUTHAUSEN,
19 THIS IS THE TRUTH, I SEE PEOPLE IN MAUTHAUSEN, THEY EAT
20 HUMAN FLESH. THIS IS HUNGER.

21 I EAT GRASS IN MY LIFE, A LOT OF GRASS.

22 WHEN WE WENT TO WALK THROUGH THE FIELDS, I
23 GRAB A BUNCH OF THIS AND JUST GRASS AND MAKE OUT A LITTLE
24 BALL OUT OF IT, AND I EAT. IF A GERMAN WOULD SEE WHAT I
25 EAT, I HAVE TO OPEN MY MOUTH, HE WOULD BEAT ME. YOU SEE,
26 HE WOULD, HE WOULD BEAT THE HELL OUT OF ME. WHY, BECAUSE
27 HE DON'T WANT YOU TO EAT NOTHING YET.

28 I USED TO HAVE COALS, WHEN, WHEN I UNLOAD A

1 TRAIN, YOU KNOW, WE WERE WORKING BY THE COALS AND THE
2 LITTLE PIECES, YOU KNOW, LIKE THE LEFT OVER, YOU KNOW,
3 FROM THE, FROM THE COALS, IT'S JUST - - IT'S LIKE
4 FLOWERS, ONLY BLACK, AND TOOK THIS IN THE MOUTH AND I EAT
5 THIS. THIS IS HUNGER. SEE, HUNGER.

6 AND WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THIS. THIS WHAT IT
7 IS. WE HAVE TO REMEMBER ONE THING, BECAUSE WE ARE JEWISH
8 PEOPLE AND, AND WE ALWAYS HAVE TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED.

9 Q WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT - -

10 A AFTER, IN, IN, IN, IN GUSEN, IN GUSEN WAS
11 THE LAST CAMP. GUSEN, IN THE MORNING, WE HEARD A WHOLE
12 NIGHT SHOOTING, SHOOTING AND SHOOTING; AND WE DIDN'T KNOW
13 WHO'S GOING TO COME, OR THE RUSSIANS OR THE AMERICAN - - I
14 NEVER SEEN AN AMERICAN SOLDIER, AND I DIDN'T CARE, AS
15 LONG AS SOMEBODY COMES IN, IN - -

16 WELL, ANYWAY, IN THE MORNING, WHAT WE LOOKED
17 OUT - - FROM THE BARRACKS, WE DIDN'T SEE ANY GERMANS, WE
18 WOULD SEE THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS WALK, WALK
19 THROUGH, WE DIDN'T - - THE, THE G.I., THE AMERICAN
20 SOLDIERS.

21 NOW, ABOUT TWO MILES FARTHER, THE OTHER
22 SIDE, THE RUSSIAN COME IN - - SO - - AND AUSTRIA, IT
23 WASN'T FAR FROM LITZ, RIGHT THERE. THEN, THEY WENT OVER
24 THERE, IT WASN'T - - THEY DIDN'T MAKE ANY BORDERS, YOU
25 KNOW, THEY JUST, THEY JUST GO BACK. THEY - - SO COME IN
26 THERE, THE AMERICAN, THIS ONE COME IN, THIS ONE GET UP.
27 NOW, THAT WAS ORGANIZED, I WOULD SAY THAT, THAT TIME I WAS
28 PROUD.

1 COME IN ORGANIZED, CAPTAIN OR WAS - - AN
2 AMERICAN, GOT UP, AND HE SAYS YOU ARE ALL FREE, WE ARE
3 AMERICANS, YOU ARE ALL FREE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID
4 OF THEM. HE WORE A NICE MAZUZA, YOU KNOW. AND ALL OF A
5 SUDDEN, HE PULLED THE - - PULLED OUT ABOUT 4, 5 YIDDISH
6 AND JEWISH FLAGS, AND HE STAND UP, AND HE SAYS WHO IS A
7 JEW? BECAUSE, WE HAD A FEW FRENCH PEOPLE OVER THERE, MOST
8 OF THEM JEWS. HE SAY, YOU STAY HERE AND WE GOING TO PLAY
9 THE JEWISH HYMM.

10 NOW, THAT WAS SOMETHING, THAT WAS RIGHT - -
11 THE DAY WE WERE LIBERATED, THAT WAS MAY THE 5TH, 1945.

12 Q THE G.I. PULLED OUT THE FLAG?

13 A HONEST TO GOODNESS, HE WAS A JEWISH CAPTAIN,
14 I MEAN A JEW IN THE AMERICAN - - YOU KNOW, WELL, THEY
15 SEND THIS KIND OF PEOPLE OVER THERE TO - - THEY KNOW - -
16 THEY FEEL IT - -

17 WELL, ANY WAY, IT WAS GOOD, BUT I WAS SO
18 WEAK, SO SICK. A LOT OF THEM DIED, BECAUSE THEY WENT INTO
19 THE KITCHEN, TO THE GERMAN KITCHEN, TO THE GERMANS AND
20 START TO EAT EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW, AND THEY GOT SICK. A
21 LOT OF THEM DIED, A COUSIN OF MINE DIED.

22 BUT - -BUT, I DON'T KNOW, I WAS LUCKY
23 BECAUSE MAYBE I WAS SO WEAK, THEY TOOK ME TO, LIKE A, LIKE
24 A RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS, YOU KNOW, LIKE A HOSPITAL, CALL
25 IT, HOSPITAL, A MEDICAL CENTER.

26 AND WHY I KNOW, BECAUSE THEY WEIGHED ME
27 THERE, AND SAY I WEIGHED 72 POUNDS. THAT'S WHAT I
28 WEIGHED, 72, 72 POUNDS, 23 YEAR OLD MAN, WEIGHED 72 POUND.

1 WELL, I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE IF IT WOULD BE
2 ANOTHER TWO, THREE DAYS, MAYBE, I WOULDN'T, MAYBE - - I
3 BEGGED A LOT OF GERMANS, A LOT OF TIMES TO SHOOT ME, I
4 COULDN'T HOLD IT ANY LONGER. THEY SAY, NAH, I DON'T WANT
5 TO SPOIL A BULLET ON YOU, WE NEED A BULLET - - FOR SOME
6 OTHER JEWS. SEE, YOU GOING TO DROP DEAD LIKE THIS - -

7 WELL, THIS WAS - - UNLESS I - -

8 WELL, I DON'T KNOW, IT'S - - YOU KNOW,
9 WHATEVER I TOLD YOU, BELIEVE ME, I DIDN'T TELL YOU, NOT
10 EVEN A HALF PERCENT, BUT I THINK THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.

11 I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THE BASIC THING AND
12 WHAT I WANT TO SAY - - LIKE I SAY BEFORE, REMEMBER, DON'T
13 HATE SOMEBODY ELSE. I MEAN, I DON'T SAY THIS. BUT
14 REMEMBER ALWAYS, WHOEVER YOU ASSOCIATE WITH, WHOEVER YOU
15 ARE WITH, YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE A JEW.

16 IF YOU DON'T GOING TO REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE
17 A JEW, THEY GOING TO REMIND YOU THAT YOU ARE A JEW. YOU
18 SEE, THIS IS THE DIFFERENT, YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER. AND, AND
19 ALWAYS BE PROUD AND YOU ALWAYS SAY, BECAUSE I KNOW FROM
20 EXPERIENCE, NEVER BE AFRAID TO SAY - - YOU ARE SOMETIMES
21 IN A SITUATION, YOU SAY, WELL, I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T LIKE
22 IT TOO MUCH, MAYBE I DON'T KNOW, NO, NO.

23 YOU SAY IT, YOU ARE A JEW. YOU SEE WHO YOUR
24 ENEMY IS, WHO'S NOT - - WHY NOT TELL THEM I AM A JEW.
25 NOW, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT.

26 WHY DID THE OTHER GUY CAN SAY I AM ITALIAN,
27 OR I AM A PORTUGUESE, WHY COULDN'T I SAY PROUDLY I AM A
28 JEW. NO, YOU DON'T LIKE ME, SO DON'T TALK TO ME. I

1 DON'T NEED FRIENDS LIKE YOU OR ASSOCIATES LIKE YOU, BUT
2 I'M A JEW.

3 YOU SEE, THIS WOULD KEEP US ALL ALIVE, IT
4 WOULD KEEP US ALIVE. IT WOULD KEEP THE JEWISH PEOPLE
5 ALIVE, BECAUSE WE HAVE TO BE PROUD, JUST LIKE BECAUSE I
6 DON'T SAY MORE PROUD, BUT PROUD LIKE EVERY NATIONALITY AND
7 EVERYBODY ELSE.

8 AND I HOPE WHOEVER GONNA TO LISTEN TO THIS
9 TAPE, I MEAN TO THIS VIDEO, REMEMBER, AND DO EVERYTHING
10 THAT'S POSSIBLE, SUPPORT ISRAEL. THAT'S THE MAIN THING
11 THAT KEEPS US ALIVE, SUPPORT ISRAEL.

12 IF YOU GOING TO HAVE A STRONG ISRAEL, YOU
13 GOING TO BE A PROUD JEW. MAY GOD LISTEN, IF YOU DON'T
14 REMEMBER THE PAST, IF WE JEWS WOULDN'T REMEMBER THE PAST,
15 WE DON'T HAVE ANY FUTURE. WITHOUT THE PAST, YOU DON'T
16 HAVE A FUTURE - - REMEMBER THE PAST, SUPPORT ISRAEL, BE A
17 GOOD JEW AND SAY ISRAEL - -

18 IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE, IN WHICH
19 COUNTRY YOU ARE, BUT ISRAEL IS YOUR COUNTRY BY BIRTH, BY
20 BIBLICAL TIMES. ISRAEL IS OUR COUNTRY. ISRAEL IS MY
21 HOME. WHENEVER I FEEL LIKE TO GO HOME, I HAVE A PLACE TO
22 GO HOME.

23 ISRAEL IS YOUR MOTHER, A POOR MOTHER, BUT A
24 MOTHER. AMERICA IS A STEPMOTHER, A RICH MOTHER BUT A
25 STEMOTHER.

26 SOMETIMES SHE CAN SAY GET OUT OF HERE, I
27 DON'T LIKE YOU ANY MORE, LIKE - - IN GERMANY, I DON'T
28 LIKE YOU. SEE, NOW YOU HAVE A PLACE WHERE TO GO, I GO

1 HOME TO MY MOTHER AND MY MOTHER IS ISRAEL.

2 Q WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AFTER THE WAR, WHAT DID
3 YOU DO AFTER LIBERATION?

4 A I MET MY WIFE AND LIVED - - I LIVED IN THE
5 D.P. CAMP.

6 Q WHERE?

7 A YOU KNOW, D.P., IN LANDSBERG, IN GERMANY.
8 THIS IS NOT FAR FROM MENSCHEN, MUNICH - - WHEN I WERE
9 MARRIED, I HAVE MY CHILD, MY DAUGHTER.

10 Q IN - - I REGISTERED TO TWO PLACES, TO
11 ISRAEL AND TO AMERICA. WHATEVER GONNA COME FIRST, I GOING
12 TO GO. SO, THEY CALLED ME FIRST, THE CONSULATE - - THEY
13 START TO PREPARE THE PAPERS, BUT - - AND THEN I CAME OVER
14 HERE TO, TO - - OAKLAND. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE
15 OAKLAND IS. I HAD TO ASK, I HAD THE PAPERS, SAYS OAKLAND.

16 SO, I MET A G.I. IN LANDSBERG, YOU KNOW,
17 OVER THERE, STATIONED, AMERICAN SOLDIERS. I SAY, TELL ME,
18 WHERE IS OAKLAND? I NEVER HEARD ABOUT OAKLAND. I KNOW
19 THERE IS AMERICA, LOS ANGELES, CHICAGO, NEW YORK. WHAT
20 DID I KNOW ABOUT AN OAKLAND.

21 SO, HE SAYS, OH, A NICE PLACE, I BRING YOU
22 TOMORROW A PICTURE, SHOW YOU A MAP, SAYS, HERE'S SAN
23 FRANCISCO, HERE'S OAKLAND. SO, I CAME TO OAKLAND,
24 JEWISH FEDERATION BROUGHT ME OVER HERE.

25 AND I CAME TO OAKLAND, AND WE START TO BUILD
26 A LIFE. IT WAS A STRUGGLE, IT WAS A LOT, A LOT OF
27 STRUGGLE, IT WAS TOUGH, VERY, VERY, VERY TOUGH, DIDN'T
28 KNOW THE LANGUAGE.

1 NOW, THERE IS ANOTHER SITUATION, COME A
2 PROBLEM, YOU ARE IN A COUNTRY, COULDN'T SPEAK TO
3 NOBODY - - IN A BUS. BUS DRIVER, I WANT TO TELL THE BUS
4 DRIVER WHERE I WANT TO GO, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO GO.

5 SO, I JUST THINK HERE I SHOULD GO OUTSIDE
6 AND GO OUTSIDE AND - - TOO MUCH BEFORE OR TOO MUCH
7 LATE - - FARTHER AWAY, YOU KNOW - - IT WAS A PROBLEM.
8 BUT LISTEN, IN A WAY LIKE THIS, YOU CAN SURVIVE. YOU SEE,
9 SO GOT LOST A COUPLE OF TIMES, DIDN'T HAVE ANY PEOPLE.

10 THEN, WE GOT TOGETHER WITH THE JEWISH
11 FEDERATION, USED TO BE IN, IN EAST 14TH STREET, THE OLD
12 JEWISH FEDERATION. SO THERE, WE MET WITH ALL THE OTHER,
13 YOU KNOW, CALLE'S, YOU KNOW, THE NEWCOMERS. AND WE ARE
14 FRIENDS TILL NOW.

15 Q WHAT YEAR DID YOU COME HERE?

16 A I COME HERE IN OCTOBER THE 10TH, 1949, NOT
17 RIGHT TO WORK. I CAME TO, TO, TO NEW YORK. FROM NEW
18 YORK, THEY WERE OVER THERE WAITING FOR ME. YOU KNOW, IT
19 WAS ORGANIZED FROM THE I.S. AND - - WENT TO CHICAGO, AND
20 CHICAGO CHANGED THEIR TRAINS, CAME OVER HERE, HERE, LADY
21 WAIT FOR ME, YOU KNOW, AND STAND BY THE TRAIN, SAID YOUR
22 NAME IS SO AND SO.

23 TOOK US HOME, GIVE US A DINNER AND, AND THEY
24 ALREADY GOT PREPARED AN APARTMENT FOR ME, YOU SEE, IN
25 OAKLAND, IN BELLA VISTA. SO IT WAS - -YOU KNOW, IT WAS
26 GOOD. IT WASN'T SO GOOD, THE BEGINNING. LIFE ISN'T FAIR,
27 LIFE ISN'T FAIR. ANY WAY, SO SOMETIMES IT'S GOOD,
28 SOMETIMES IT ISN'T.

1 Q AND WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOU DO HERE?

2 A WELL, I TAILORING. I WENT TO, I WENT TO
3 TAILORING, I DIDN'T MAKE MUCH. I DIDN'T WANT THE, THE
4 HELP FROM THE JEWISH FEDERATION. THEY PAID FOR THE RENT,
5 THEY GAVE ME EVERY WEEK A FEW DOLLARS.

6 AND I WAS VERY ANXIOUS, I COULDN'T STAND IT,
7 I DIDN'T WANT IT. I MEAN, I DIDN'T COME TO AMERICA TO
8 LIVE ON CHARITY. YOU KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT, I JUST
9 DIDN'T WANT THIS.

10 SO I FIND ME A JOB, AND THEY PAID 75 CENTS
11 AN HOUR. IT WAS ABOUT 25 DOLLARS A WEEK. I SAID,
12 TERRIFIC, IT'S GOOD, I LIKE IT. I GONNA WORK THERE,
13 BECAUSE I HAD OTHER JOBS, YOU KNOW, OFFERED THROUGH THE
14 JEWISH FEDERATION. I MEAN, THEY COULDN'T GIVE ME THE JOB,
15 BECAUSE I COULDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH. HE COULDN'T TELL ME
16 WHAT HE WANTS, AND, AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WANTS,
17 SO I COULDN'T DO IT.

18 SO, I HAD TO GO IN A PLACE, SOMEBODY SPOKE A
19 LITTLE BIT YIDDISH, A LITTLE BIT GERMAN, YOU KNOW, SO PUT
20 TOGETHER 2 AND 2, I WAS ABLE TO STAY THERE.

21 SAY, PAY 75 CENTS AN HOUR, LIKE A SWEAT
22 SHOP. I SAY, OKAY, SO 75 CENTS AN HOUR, TERRIFIC. SO, I
23 TELL THE CENTER, I DON'T NEED YOUR SUPPORT - - THAT'S IT,
24 I COULD STAY ALIVE, 25 DOLLARS, BEAUTIFUL.

25 SO THEN I - - THEN I FIND ME ANOTHER JOB, GO
26 FROM THIS JOB, LET'S SAY 5 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING, I WENT
27 IN A PLACE, I WASH DISHES TILL AROUND 11 O'CLOCK, AND I
28 GOT AN EXTRA FOUR DOLLARS FOR THE NIGHT OR THREE DOLLARS,

1 IT'S TERRIFIC - - I WAS SATISFIED, TILL I START TO LOOK
2 FOR A JOB.

3 THEN, I WORK FOR SOMEBODY FOR A FEW YEARS,
4 THEN I WENT ON MY OWN. SO, SO, I DON'T HAVE NOTHING TO
5 COMPLAIN. I DON'T COMPLAIN, IT'S NO USE TO COMPLAIN. AND
6 I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO COMPLAIN, I'M A HAPPY MAN.

7 I MARRIED 42 YEARS. I HAVE A DAUGHTER, I
8 HAVE A NICE SON THAT LIVES AROUND IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA,
9 JUST HAVE A - -JUST HAVE A BABY FOUR WEEKS AGO, SIX WEEKS
10 AGO, SO I HAVE THREE GRANDCHILDREN.

11 MY GRANDDAUGHTER GOES TO SAN DIEGO COLLEGE.
12 SO THERE YOU ARE, SO I THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT.
13 WHAT'S THE USE TO COMPLAIN, IT'S NOTHING TO COMPLAIN, I
14 HAVE A FAMILY, I HAVE GRANDCHILDREN.

15 Q DID YOU EVER TELL YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT YOUR
16 EXPERIENCE?

17 A I TOLD MY CHILDREN EVERYTHING WHAT IT IS. I
18 TALK TO MY SON, I BOUGHT MY SON A BOOK, MEIN KAMPF, WHEN
19 HE WAS AROUND 12 YEARS OLD. THIS IS THE TRUTH. HE KNOWS
20 EVERYTHING. YOU KNOW, MY DAUGHTER, ESPECIALLY. SHE TAKES
21 AN INTEREST, SHE KNOWS. MY SON IS VERY MUCH INTO - -I
22 MEAN, YOU KNOW, IS ACTIVE IN THE - -IN LOS ANGELES AREA,
23 IN THE SECOND GENERATION.

24 SEE, HE KNOWS. I EVEN TALK IN - - MY
25 GRANDCHILDREN - - MY GRANDDAUGHTER'S - - SHE'S 18 AND MY
26 GRANDSONS - - BUT, I TALK TO HIM AND EXPLAIN IT TO HIM, I
27 MEAN, SLOW, YOU KNOW, THAT - - TO YOUNG KIDS, YOU TALK
28 DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

1 LATER ON, THEY DO, THEY DO. I - - EVERYBODY DOES AND
2 EVERYBODY I TALK TO. WHENEVER I HAVE A CHANCE, IT DOESN'T
3 MATTER WHERE I AM OR WHAT I AM, BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, I WAS
4 ACTIVE HERE IN TIKVATANO CLUB FOR SO MANY YEARS. I WAS
5 ONE OF THE FOUNDERS WHO BUILT THAT MONUMENT THERE
6 DOWNSTAIRS, YOU KNOW, THE MONUMENT.

7 DID YOU SEE THE MOMUMENT?

8 AND ANYTHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH THE
9 HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, I AM READY TO DO - -I ALWAYS TRY TO
10 TELL PEOPLE AND NOT TO HIDE AND SAY WHAT IT IS, BECAUSE I
11 WANT THIS, THIS TO STAY ALIVE IN THE HISTORY, SO THAT THE
12 HISTORY, JUST LIKE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE SPANISH
13 INQUISITION. THAT WAY I AM TALKING, YOU KNOW, JEWS IN
14 EGYPT, YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW, MITZRYAN, YEDEN
15 MITZRYAN.

16 THIS IS THE SAME THING, THIS IS EVEN MAYBE
17 WORSE THAN THE OTHER ONE.

18 YOU SEE, THIS HOLOCAUST, WHAT HAPPENED HERE
19 IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THIS HOLOCAUST, WHAT THEY DID TO
20 THE JEWS, SHOULD BE WRITTEN IN THE TORAH, JUST LIKE IT'S
21 WRITTEN, JEWS IN EGYPT, YOU KNOW, YEDEN IN MITZRYAN. IT'S
22 WRITTEN THERE, IT SHOULD BE WRITTEN.

23 YOU SEE, THE JEWISH PEOPLE, THE RELIGIOUS
24 JEWS AND EVERYBODY SHOULD WRITE THIS IN THE TORAH AND
25 EVERY TORAH SHOULD BE THIS WRITTEN, IN THE HISTORY FROM
26 THE JEWISH PEOPLE, BECAUSE YOU SEE, THIS WHAT THIS
27 HAPPENED THIS TIME NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.

28 THERE IS ONE THING WHAT I SAY, YOU ALWAYS

1 REMEMBER YOU ARE A JEW, YOU BE PROUD OF THE JEWISH
2 HERITAGE AND TRY TO HELP STATE OF ISRAEL. THAT'S IT.

3 Q HOW DID YOU START THE TIKVATANO CLUB?

4 A I DIDN'T START IT, SOMEBODY ELSE START IT
5 AND START TO GET ACTIVE, THEN I BECAME PRESIDENT. AND I
6 WAS PRESIDENT AND TWO YEARS AND THEN WANTED ME FOR ANOTHER
7 TWO YEARS - - I WAS 10 YEARS PESIDENT THERE AND WE DONE A
8 LOT OF THINGS.

9 OUR GOAL WAS TO - -TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE
10 JEWISH SOLDIER. THAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT GOAL. WE
11 SENT A LOT OF MONEY TO THE SOLDIERS IN ISRAEL. WE BUILD
12 OVER THERE IN ISRAEL IN A LOT OF PLACES, IN A LOT OF
13 PLACES, WE WOULDN'T SAY WHERE IT IS. BUT, I KNOW, I BEEN
14 THERE AND I SAW IT.

15 A LOT OF PLACES, LIKE ROOMS. SEE, THE, THE
16 GOVERNMENT BUILT ROOMS, LIKE BARRACKS, YOU KNOW, FOR THE
17 SOLDIERS. I MEAN, YOU KNOW, THE - - YOU KNOW, LIKE
18 CONVALESCENT, THEY HAVE, THEY HAVE TO BE THERE ALONE AFTER
19 THE HOSPITALS, YOU KNOW, THEY ARE IN THE SWIMMING POOLS.
20 SO, WE SUPPORT, WE BUILT A LOT OF ROOMS WITH OUR NAME
21 TICKVATENO CLUB.

22 WE GIVE THEM THE FURNITURE, HI-FI, STEREO,
23 RADIOS, EVERYTHING AROUND IN THE ROOM.

24 EACH ROOM IS FOR TWO SOLDIERS. AND WE - -
25 ALL THE FURNITURE, WE SUPPORT ALL THE FURNITURE AND WE
26 HAVE OVER THERE MAYBE 20 ROOMS LIKE THIS AND WE SEND A LOT
27 OF MONEY TO THE SOLDIERS OF ISRAEL.

28 Q THIS IS FOR CONVALESCING SOLDIERS?

1 A CONVALESCING, MOST OF THEM. THEN FOR LIKE
2 THE WIDOWERS, LIKE THE HUSBAND GOT KILLED, AND SHE IS
3 SICK, EMOTIONAL SICK, EMOTIONAL SICK, SHE COULDN'T GO TO
4 WORK, SHE NEEDS A LITTLE SUPPORT. SO THIS MONEY SUPPORT
5 HER A LITTLE BIT, YOU SEE.

6 SO THIS, THIS WHAT I'M WORKING FOR. I WISH
7 I CAN DO MORE, BUT I DO WHAT I CAN, SO THERE.

8 Q DO YOU EVER HAVE ANY PROBLEMS THAT YOU
9 ATTRIBUTE TO YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE WAR, AFTER THE WAR?

10 A WHAT YOU MEAN, PROBLEMS?

11 Q ANY PHYSICAL PROBLEMS?

12 A NO, NO. WELL, I HAVE BLOOD PRESSURE, HIGH
13 BLOOD PRESSURE, VERY MUCH SO - -

14 I WAS JUST TWO YEARS AGO, AND I WAS IN SAN
15 FRANCISCO, AND I HAD AN ATTACK, I THOUGHT IT'S A HEART
16 ATTACK. THEY TOOK ME TO THE HOSPITAL, I WAS THERE OVER A
17 WEEK. BUT IT WASN'T A HEART ATTACK, WHAT HAS TO DO A
18 LITTLE BIT WITH THE HEART. I HAD HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE.

19 I AM VERY, VERY TENSE. BUT, I MEAN, WELL,
20 I'M STILL BETTER OFF THAN SOME OF THEM. BECAUSE, I KNOW A
21 LOT OF FRIEND OF MINE, THEY STILL HAVE TERRIBLE THINGS AT
22 NIGHT, YOU KNOW, THEY DREAM ABOUT IT AND IT'S - -THEY'RE
23 JUST SICK, THEY GOT SICK AND - -AND IN THAT SITUATION.

24 BUT NO, THE - - OTHERWISE, I MEAN, DON'T
25 HAVE ANY PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY.

26 Q YOU SAID RIGHT AFTER THE WAR YOU WERE SICK?

27 A YEAH, I WAS SICK, THEY KEPT ME OVER THERE A
28 COUPLE OF WEEKS AND THEN, THEN WE WENT OUT. YOU

1 JUST - -WELL, IT WASN'T A LIFE OVER THERE, I MEAN. WHAT
2 LIFE WAS IT, YOU DIDN'T HAVE NOBODY AND NOBODY AND MAYBE
3 JUST GOT TOGETHER, A GROUP OF, FEW GUYS. AND LIKE, THEY
4 GAVE US A PLACE TO LIVE OVER THERE. YOU JUST, YOU JUST
5 DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY, YOU GOT - - THE HOMES WERE EMPTY
6 FROM THE GERMANS. YOU JUST WENT IN THERE AND MOVED IN,
7 AND THAT'S ALL, YOU DIDN'T CARE MUCH, NOT - - YOU WASN'T
8 AFRAID.

9 WE TOOK A WALK OVER THERE TO THE RUSSIAN
10 SOLDIERS OVER THERE. WE WALKED, I DIDN'T KNOW, THREE GUYS
11 OF US, WE WALKED OVER THERE RIGHT BY THE CREEK, WAS
12 SITTING A BUNCH OF RUSSIAN SOLDIERS. LIKE I TOLD YOU, IT
13 WAS ABOUT A MILE AWAY, TWO MILES.

14 YEAH, START TO TALK. SO, I UNDERSTAND A
15 LITTLE RUSSIAN, I DON'T SPEAK MUCH RUSSIAN, BUT I CAN
16 UNDERSTAND. SO, STARTED TO TALK TO ME, THIS ONE HERE
17 AGAIN, ANOTHER GUY, A SOLDIER - - A JEWISH FELLOW. HE
18 SAYS - - GIVE ME FOOD. I SAYS, WELL, YOU SEE, YOU HAVE A
19 PLACE WHERE TO STAY? I SAY, NOT SPECIALLY. HE SAID, COME
20 WITH ME. HE HAS A NICE HOME. HE WENT IN OVER THERE, HE
21 CHASED OUT THE GERMAN FAMILY. HE SAY, GET OUT OF HERE.
22 HERE, HE SAY, YOU STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU WANT.

23 SEE, THAT'S HOW WE LIVED, WE LIVED LIKE A
24 BUNCH OF ANIMALS, TO BE HONEST WITH YOU. IT TOOK ME A
25 LONG TIME. HONEST TO GOODNESS, I WAS INVITED TO A GERMAN
26 FAMILY. RIGHT AWAY, THEY CALL US IN AND EVERYBODY ALL OF
27 A SUDDEN THEY BECOME NICE PEOPLE. AND NOBODY KNEW, IF YOU
28 TALK TO A GERMAN, AND SAY OVEY, THEY DON'T KNOW, NOBODY

1 KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JEWS. I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THEY
2 SAY, NOBODY KNEW, NOBODY SEE. YOU CAN SEE THE
3 CREMATORIALS BURNING, YOU CAN SEE THEY TOOK OUT THE JEWS
4 FROM THE CAMP TO WALK - - YOU KNOW, WHAT IT IS, BUT NOBODY
5 KNEW, ALL OF A SUDDEN.

6 YOU KNOW, I HAD A HARD TIME TO SIT BY A
7 TABLE AND EAT WITH A FORK AND A SPOON. WE WERE LIKE A
8 BUNCH OF ANIMALS. YOU DRINK THAT LITTLE SOUP THAT THEY
9 GIVE YOU, OR YOU GRAB SOMETHING IN THE GARBAGE CAN UNDER
10 THE GERMAN WINDOW - - IN THE KITCHEN, JUST LIKE, LIKE THE
11 PEELING FROM POTATO, JUST LIKE A BUNCH OF ANIMALS.

12 YOU KNOW, FIVE YEARS, YOU DON'T EAT NORMAL,
13 YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A SPOON - - THIS, WITH A, WITH A
14 FORK, YOU KNOW - - YOU JUST DON'T KNOW, YOU SEE.

15 SO, WE LIVE LIKE A - -HONEST TO GOODNESS,
16 IT'S, IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, YOU KNOW, IT'S AMAZING, TO BE
17 HONEST WITH YOU. IF THE PEOPLE LIKE MYSELF, YOU SEE ME,
18 YOU SEE ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE, WE START A LIFE, WE MAKE A
19 NICE LIFE, AND NICE FAMILIES, EVERY ONE OF US. IT'S
20 AMAZING, REALLY.

21 IT SHOWS YOU THAT WE ARE CIVILIZED PEOPLE,
22 REALLY, I WANT TO BRAG ABOUT IT, PEOPLE LIKE US CAN START
23 FROM NOTHING, TO BUILD A LIFE AND BE - -AND BE, AND BE
24 INVOLVED IN THE SOCIETY, AND BE INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY
25 AFFAIRS. WE ARE A BUNCH OF NICE CIVILIZED PEOPLE, I TELL
26 YOU, THAT'S FOR SURE, IT'S NO QUESTION ABOUT IT.

27 Q DID YOU TRY TO GO BACK TO POLAND AFTER THE
28 WAR?

1 A I WENT TO POLAND. I HAD TO TAKE OUT THE
2 BODY FROM MY, FROM MY FATHER, AFTER THE WAR.

3 Q WHEN WAS THIS?

4 A IN 19 - - BEGINNING '46, AROUND LIKE APRIL
5 OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, MARCH, APRIL, '46, BECAUSE I
6 WAS - - '45; BUT, I WENT BACK TO POLAND. AND WHEN I COME
7 BACK TO POLAND, THEY ASK ME WHY YOU COMING BACK TO POLAND?
8 SO - - THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WAS A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT,
9 YOU KNOW, I SAY, OH, I WAIT FOR THIS - - FOR THIS PLACE TO
10 BECOME COMMUNIST ALL MY LIFE - - YOU KNOW, BECAUSE YOU
11 HAVE TO TELL THEM - -

12 WHERE YOU GOING TO STAY?

13 I SAY IN THIS, IN THIS CITY.

14 YOU HAVE TO GO EVERY SECOND DAY TO THE
15 POLICE AND REPORT.

16 SAY, SURE.

17 THEY SAID LISTEN, WHAT YOU COME BACK FOR?

18 I LIKE IT, I LIKE THAT SYSTEM OF
19 GOVERNMENT - - YOU TELL EVERYTHING, IF YOU HAVE TO.

20 SO THEN I TOOK CARE OF THE BODY, PUT IT IN
21 THE JEWISH CEMETARY AND TOOK CARE, WHATEVER WAS LEFT, FROM
22 MY FATHER'S BODY AND THIS IS THE BIGGEST THING WHAT I EVER
23 ACCOMPLISHED IN MY LIFE.

24 IT DON'T MATTER WHAT I WOULD DO, IT'S NOT
25 COMPARE, BECAUSE THAT WAS MY DREAM, ALL THIS YEARS IN
26 CONCENTRATION CAMP. IF I'M GOING TO LIVE THROUGH THIS IS
27 MY MOST IMPORTANT THING, GO TO POLAND, GET OUT WHATEVER
28 IT'S LEFT FROM THE BODY AND PUT HIM IN A JEWISH CEMETARY.

1 AND THAT'S WHAT I DID. WHEN I COME BACK,
2 THEN I MARRIED MY WIFE. I KNOW MY WIFE BEFORE. AND I
3 SAY - -NO, IF I GO TO POLAND, AND TAKE CARE OF THIS WHEN
4 I COME BACK, THEN I BE ABLE TO MARRY. BECAUSE I DON'T
5 KNOW WHAT HAPPEN TO ME IN POLAND, WHEN I GO TO POLAND, SO
6 I'M TAKING A CHANCE.

7 BUT A CHANCE LIKE THIS, I HAD TO TAKE. AND
8 THERE YOU ARE. SO THEN . - -

9 Q DID YOU THINK OF STAYING THERE?

10 A NAH, YOU KIDDING ME. TO ME, POLAND IS LIKE
11 A CEMETARY. I WALK THROUGH THE STREETS AND - - WALK
12 THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOODS, YOU DIDN'T SEE NOT ONE JEWISH
13 PERSON IN ALL THIS CITY, WE HAD 18,000 JEWS BEFORE THE
14 WAR. IT WAS NOT ONE JEWISH PERSON IN THIS WHOLE CITY, YOU
15 IMAGINE.

16 AND HERE, WALK AROUND AND I SEE - -I
17 REMEMBER THIS BUILDING AND THIS BUILDING AND ALL THE
18 THINGS AND THE SYNAGOGUE WAS DEMOLISHED, ABSOLUTELY
19 DESTROYED - - BECAUSE WHEN THE GERMAN COME IN, FIRST
20 THING, THEY PUT IN HORSES, HORSES IN THE SYNAGOGUE, IN
21 THE, SHUL, WAS ONE OF THE NICEST SYNAGOGUES, OVER A
22 HUNDRED YEARS OLD, EVERYTHING HANDMADE AND THEY MAKE A
23 STABLE OUT OF IT, YOU SEE.

24 AND THEN THE - - WHEN - - WENT OUT, ALL
25 JEWISH NEIGHBORHOOD, JUST DEMOLISH EVERYTHING, YOU SEE.
26 SO WHAT'S TO ME IN POLAND? WHAT IS TO ME GERMANY? WHAT
27 IS TO ME THIS? TO ME THIS IS - - I DON'T KNOW.

28 I WOULD LIKE TO BE ONCE MORE - -I MEAN, TO

1 BE HONEST WITH YOU, LIKE IN POLAND, I MEAN, LIKE IN
2 AUSCHWITZ, TO SEE WHAT THEY DID TO IT. THEY SAY THEY
3 MAKE A - - LIKE A MUSEUM, YOU KNOW, SOMETHING.

4 BUT HERE AGAIN, MY FAMILY IS AGAINST IT.
5 THEY SAY, NO, DON'T GO, YOU WANT TO GET TOO EXCITED, TOO
6 NERVOUS, WHAT YOU HAVE TO GO THERE FOR?

7 SO, THIS IS THE WHOLE THING, I DON'T THINK
8 I WILL EVER GO BACK OVER THERE, I DON'T HAVE ANY DESIRE TO
9 GO BACK TO POLAND OR GERMANY. WHAT IS GERMANY FOR ME, A
10 SLAUGHTER HOUSE AND POLAND IS A CEMETARY, AND I HAVE
11 NOTHING TO DO OVER THERE.

12 Q HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT
13 HAPPENED TO YOU LIKE THIS?

14 A YEAH, YEAH. I MEAN, DEPEND TO WHOM I AM
15 TALKING TO. A FELLOW WHO WAS IN THE CAMPS, I DON'T HAVE
16 TO TELL HIM, BECAUSE HE KNOWS IT. YOU DON'T - - I MEAN,
17 NOT ALL OF US WENT THROUGH THE SAME, THE SAME THING, YOU
18 SEE. BUT, WE WENT THROUGH HELL. LIKE I WAS, I FORGOT TO
19 TELL YOU ONE THING, PHILIP. THIS IS, THIS IS VERY
20 IMPORTANT.

21 I WAS IN BLIZEN, THAT CAMP, YOU KNOW,
22 BLIZEN, LIKE I TOLD YOU, RIGHT AFTER - - FROM THE
23 BEGINNING, A BIG CAMP, WE BUILT THE CAMP. THEY TAKE ME
24 AND THEY TAKE OTHER TWO, THREE GUYS, AND GIVE US THE
25 SHOVEL AND SAY, LET'S GO AND MARCH INTO THE FOREST, YOU
26 KNOW, NOT FAR.

27 BUT TWO MILES AWAY WAS A FOREST AROUND
28 THERE. SO WE FIGURE, WE WALK LIKE THIS AND MAYBE SIX

1 GERMANS WITH THE DOGS AND WE FIGURE - -ONE SAYS TO THE
2 OTHER, YOU KNOW, WE ARE DEAD. BUT, WE GOT SHOVELS, WE
3 ARE GOING, WE ARE GOING TO DIG A GRAVE AND THAT'S IT AND
4 THEY GOING, THEY GOING TO KILL US.

5 SO, WE COME OVER THERE, A PLACE LIKE THIS
6 AND SAY, DIG IT, SO WE START TO DIG AND DIG AND DIG, AND
7 DIG THIS HUGE, DEEP AND HUGE - - SAY, OKAY, COME OUT, GET
8 OUT FROM THERE - -

9 THEN, THEY BRING A GROUP, MAYBE 25 PEOPLE
10 FROM THE CAMP. THIS, I WILL NEVER FORGET, IN MY LIFE.
11 SOMETHING LIKE THIS, STICKS IN YOUR MIND AND THEY TOLD THE
12 GUYS TO GO IN, IN THAT GRAVE AND WITH MACHINE GUNS, JUST
13 LIKE THIS, THEY KILL THEM ALL.

14 AND WE COVERED THEM UP AND WHEN WE WALKED
15 BACK TO THE CRAMP, LIKE THIS, LIKE - - YOU KNOW, WITH THE
16 SHOVELS, THEY TELL US TO SING AND WE WERE SINGING AND
17 WALKING AND WE COMING TO THE CAMP. THAT HAPPENED IN 19 -
18 -I WOULD SAY IN 1942, BEGINNING '43. SO, YOU SEE, THIS -
19 -THIS, I LIVED THROUGH IT.

20 NOW, SOMEBODY ELSE LIVED THROUGH A DIFFERENT
21 THING, BUT I DON'T KNOW - -I REALLY - -I REALLY WAS IN
22 HELL, BUT THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.

23 AND DAVID, A FRIEND OF MINE FROM SAN
24 FRANCISCO, YOU KNOW DAVID, HE WAS WITH ME IN THE CAMP. HE
25 WAS IN THE SAME CAMP, IN BLIZEN. DAVID WAS IN THE CAMP IN
26 BLIZEN. HE WAS THE YOUNGEST, HE WAS LIKE A CHILD TO US,
27 THAT'S WHY WE ARE SO CLOSE, DAVID AND ME, WE ARE VERY
28 CLOSE FRIENDS. WE ARE JUST LIKE BROTHERS, EVEN MORE THAN

1 SOME BROTHERS, BECAUSE WE WENT THROUGH HELL AND WE KNOW.

2 HE HUNG THEM UP ONCE LIKE THIS. HE WAS
3 HANGING A FEW HOURS, YOU KNOW; WAS A LITTLE BRIDGE AND THE
4 GERMAN, I DON'T KNOW - - BUT, THEY HUNG HIM UP LIKE THIS,
5 AND HE WAS HANGING A FEW HOURS, AND EVERY GERMAN WENT
6 THROUGH AND THEY KICKED HIM IN HIS FEET; AND HE WAS
7 ALREADY OUT LIKE THAT, AND WAS SNOW, SNOWING OVER HIM, FOR
8 FOUR, FIVE HOURS, HE WAS HANGING LIKE THIS.

9 IF YOU SHOULD SEE HIS FEET, ALL BRUISED UP,
10 ALL BEAT UP. DAVID WAS WITH ME IN THE CAMP.

11 Q IS THIS DAVID APPLEBAUM?

12 A YEAH, DAVID APPLEBAUM. I CALL HIM PENA - -
13 CALL HIM DAVID, PENA, BECAUSE HIS NAME IS PENA APPLEBAUM,
14 SO I CALL HIM PENA. WHEN I COME INTO BLIZEN, I WAS 18
15 YEARS OLD, HE WAS 12. HE WAS A BABY KID TO US. WE ALL
16 TOOK CARE OF HIM, WHO ALL WAS ABLE. SEE, THAT'S - - WHEN
17 YOU BE OVER THERE, SOMETIMES TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT, TELL
18 HIM YOU GOT AN INTERVIEW WITH ME. HE, HE'S ALL RIGHT.

19 SO, YOU SEE, I HAVE SOME FRIENDS, NOT TOO
20 MANY - - BUT HE'S THE ONE - - I HAD ANOTHER FRIEND OF
21 MINE, HE USED TO LIVE IN TORONTO, CANADA, BUT HE PASSED
22 AWAY, ABOUT TWO, THREE YEARS AGO. BUT, YOU SEE, THIS IS
23 PEOPLE, WHAT WE KNOW.

24 IF I TELL HIM, HE - - SOMETIMES HE SAYS TO
25 ME, YOU REMEMBER THIS, YOU REMEMBER THIS AND THIS? I
26 SAID, YEAH, WE REMEMBER. BUT, YOU SEE, WE REMEMBER. AND
27 WE TRYING TO REMEMBER. BUT, YOU HAVE, UNFORTUNATELY, YOU
28 HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT WENT THROUGH, THEY DON'T

1 REMEMBER BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER.

2 SEE, DAVID REMEMBERS, I REMEMBER. PEOPLE
3 LIKE US, WE REMEMBER, WE KEEP THIS ALIVE. WE KEEP THIS
4 ALIVE. AND A LOT OF PEOPLE SAY, NAH, IT'S ALREADY 40
5 YEARS, DON'T BOTHER ME, LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT.

6 I SAY, WHY SHOULDN'T WE TALK ABOUT IT? NAH,
7 LISTEN. A LOT OF PEOPLE, EVEN THAT I KNOW, THEY HAVE KIDS
8 GROWN UP, THEY NEVER TALKED TO THE CHILDREN, THEIR OWN
9 CHILDREN, WHAT THEY WENT THROUGH, THAT THEY WERE IN THE
10 CAMP. THEY ARE HIDING, I DON'T KNOW WHY. IS IT A SHAME
11 THAT YOU WAS IN THE CAMP? WHAT IS TO HIDE? IF YOU DON'T
12 TELL YOUR OWN CHILDREN, HOW YOU EXPECT THEM ALL TO KNOW.

13 WHY SHOULD YOU HIDE? WITH YOUR HIDING, YOU
14 ARE PROTECTING THE GERMANS, THE GERMANS WANT US TO BE
15 QUIET. YOU SEE, THE GERMANS ARE SPENDING MILLIONS AND
16 MILLIONS OF DOLLAR PROPAGANDA TO SAY THIS NEVER HAPPENED.
17 YOU SEE, IT NEVER HAPPEN.

18 BECAUSE THEY FIGURE 20 YEARS FROM NOW OR 25
19 OR 30, WE DON'T EVEN GOING TO BE HERE ANY MORE, YOU SEE,
20 OUR, MY GENERATION, WHAT WE LIVE THIS THROUGH, SO THEN
21 THEY FIGURE IT'S GOING TO BE QUIET ON. IT'S GOING TO BE,
22 YOU KNOW, IT'S GOING TO BE QUIET, BECAUSE NOBODY GONNA TO
23 TALK ABOUT ANY MORE. THE PEOPLE, THE JEWS ARE NOT ALIVE
24 ANY MORE, WHAT THEY WENT THROUGH, SO THAT'S IT. SEE,
25 THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT TO DO. IF WE HAD - - WE HELP THEM
26 TO DO THIS, BECAUSE WE NEVER - -WE NEVER HAVE TO FORGET
27 AND TELL.

28 EVEN YOU, IF YOU HAVE A CHANCE, SAY, YOU

1 KNOW, I JUST INTERVIEWED A GUY, OR ANOTHER GUY, OR
2 ANOTHER, YOU KNOW, WHAT HAPPENED, THIS AND THIS HAPPENED.
3 WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? SEE, KEEP THIS ALIVE, KEEP THIS
4 ALIVE. YOU HAVE TO KEEP THIS ALIVE. WE JEWS, WE ARE ALL
5 HISTORY. IT GOES ON FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. TRAGIC
6 HISTORIES, BUT IT'S HISTORIES. WE DON'T HAVE ANY PLEASANT
7 HISTORIES, IT'S ALL TRAGIC HISTORIES. AND THIS IS ONE OF
8 THEM, THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO KEEP IT ALIVE. OKAY?

9 Q ONE LAST QUESTION. WHERE, WHERE DID YOU GET
10 YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR FROM AND HOW DID YOU KEEP IT?

11 A WELL, LET ME TELL YOU, WHAT YOU MEAN A SENSE
12 OF HUMOR?

13 WHAT YOU MEAN, I HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR?

14 I DON'T EVEN KNOW FROM WHAT I HAVE A SENSE
15 OF HUMOR. WELL, I SUPPOSE I - - SOMETIMES I TELL A
16 JOKE, LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, A LITTLE JOKE OR WHATEVER.

17 BUT LIFE, I FIND OUT THAT PEOPLE DON'T LIKE
18 TOO SERIOUS PEOPLE, IT'S THE TRUTH. WHEN I WORKED ON A
19 JOB, WHEN I START TO ASSOCIATE WITH PEOPLE, I ALWAYS LIKE
20 PEOPLE, I ALWAYS LIKE TO BE AROUND PEOPLE. I FEEL GOOD
21 AROUND PEOPLE.

22 AND WHEN YOU SERIOUS, YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T
23 CRACK A SMILE, PEOPLE DON'T THINK MUCH ABOUT YOU. IT'S A
24 TIME TO BE SERIOUS, YOU HAVE TO BE A SERIOUS PERSON, A
25 RESPONSIBLE PERSON, YOU KNOW, YOU DO. BUT IT'S A TIME
26 WHEN YOU ARE AROUND A BUNCH OF GUYS OR EVEN WOMEN OR MEN,
27 COMPANY, IT'S NICE TO GIVE A - - CRACK UP A LITTLE BIT,
28 WITH A LITTLE SMILE. SO THAT'S ALL WHAT IT IS, IT'S

1 NOTHING ELSE, NOTHING ELSE. AND THAT'S IT, IT'S NOT
2 SENSE OF HUMOR. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CALL IT SENSE OF
3 HUMOR, I DON'T KNOW. A LOT OF PEOPLE TOLD ME THIS - -
4 IT'S ALL RIGHT. THAT'S THE WAY I AM. I CAN JUMP FROM
5 ONE, FROM ONE SITUATION TO THE OTHER. MAYBE, THIS WAS THE
6 REASON I AM ALIVE. I DON'T KNOW. THAT'S WHY IT KEEPS ME
7 ALIVE. OKAY.

8 Q THANKS VERY MUCH.

9 A THAT'S ALL RIGHT, IT'S A PLEASURE.

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