

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:11,400

2

00:01:11,400 --> 00:01:13,620

This is the Holocaust
Oral History Project

3

00:01:13,620 --> 00:01:19,080

interview of Maurice Blane
taking place on April 14, 1993.

4

00:01:19,080 --> 00:01:23,650

This is a continuation of the
interview from April 1, 1993.

5

00:01:23,650 --> 00:01:25,955

My name is Sylvia Prozan
and assisting in interview

6

00:01:25,955 --> 00:01:28,283

is Richard Kirshman.

7

00:01:28,283 --> 00:01:29,700

Maurice, I'd like
to take you back

8

00:01:29,700 --> 00:01:32,760

to the years you
spent in Dijon when

9

00:01:32,760 --> 00:01:35,430

you were working for a baker.

10

00:01:35,430 --> 00:01:36,150

Correct.

11

00:01:36,150 --> 00:01:37,820

What do you remember
about Dijon?

12

00:01:37,820 --> 00:01:39,030

What did it look like?

13

00:01:39,030 --> 00:01:40,980

The first thing I
would say, we had

14

00:01:40,980 --> 00:01:44,580

left an area near
the German border,

15

00:01:44,580 --> 00:01:50,940

and it was September, 1939.

16

00:01:50,940 --> 00:01:54,600

And in normal
circumstances, we knew

17

00:01:54,600 --> 00:01:56,580

that artillery
from Germany could

18

00:01:56,580 --> 00:02:00,070

hit the place you were living.

19

00:02:00,070 --> 00:02:04,710

So the government evacuated
all civilians from that area.

20

00:02:04,710 --> 00:02:08,490

Also, the Maginot
Line was nearby

21

00:02:08,490 --> 00:02:11,970

where a lot of
concentration of troops

22

00:02:11,970 --> 00:02:15,000

went into the Maginot
Line which was

23

00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:21,120

some kind of a defense against
the Germans, and so we left.

24
00:02:21,120 --> 00:02:27,150
My father, mother, my
oldest brother's wife,

25
00:02:27,150 --> 00:02:32,370
and she was pregnant
at the time.

26
00:02:32,370 --> 00:02:37,020
And in January, 1940,
my sister-in-law

27
00:02:37,020 --> 00:02:42,120
or my brother's wife
gave birth to a girl,

28
00:02:42,120 --> 00:02:48,390
and we reached Dijon I would
say sometime in September, 1939.

29
00:02:48,390 --> 00:02:50,430
Like I said, I had
had three years

30
00:02:50,430 --> 00:02:52,710
of apprenticeship in a bakery.

31
00:02:52,710 --> 00:02:58,350
Therefore, I was not
at a loss to find work.

32
00:02:58,350 --> 00:03:00,780
Basically, I went
to work in a bakery

33
00:03:00,780 --> 00:03:05,580
where the son of the
owner was a pastry man.

34
00:03:05,580 --> 00:03:07,770
He would make pastry,
and he was strictly

35

00:03:07,770 --> 00:03:14,290
a bread baker, which made
breads fresh for the morning.

36

00:03:14,290 --> 00:03:16,740
So he started at
2:00 in the morning,

37

00:03:16,740 --> 00:03:22,740
and I would go in at 6:00
and make not the fancy fancy

38

00:03:22,740 --> 00:03:24,870
but mainly like
pound cake to put

39

00:03:24,870 --> 00:03:29,730
in packages for the soldiers
that were drafted for the war.

40

00:03:29,730 --> 00:03:32,280
And again, you had to
remember the war was declared

41

00:03:32,280 --> 00:03:34,710
in August '39,
but nothing really

42

00:03:34,710 --> 00:03:39,870
happened till
about May 10, 1940.

43

00:03:39,870 --> 00:03:44,350
That was the day that the
German pushed through Holland,

44

00:03:44,350 --> 00:03:48,690
Belgium, and France and
came around to the back door

45

00:03:48,690 --> 00:03:51,450
into the Maginot Line.

46

00:03:51,450 --> 00:03:58,950
And so we had a period between
August in 1939 and May of 1940

47

00:03:58,950 --> 00:04:03,180
where we had pretty
much a normal life.

48

00:04:03,180 --> 00:04:04,840
There was a curfew.

49

00:04:04,840 --> 00:04:08,400
You had to lights out at
a certain time at night,

50

00:04:08,400 --> 00:04:12,210
so the planes that would have
reconnaissance over France

51

00:04:12,210 --> 00:04:18,010
wouldn't see lights, and
that's where I really--

52

00:04:18,010 --> 00:04:19,149
how would I say--

53

00:04:19,149 --> 00:04:23,560
I was becoming a person,
a man, in the sense

54

00:04:23,560 --> 00:04:24,980
that I was working.

55

00:04:24,980 --> 00:04:26,680
My father couldn't work.

56

00:04:26,680 --> 00:04:30,850
My brother was drafted
for a short time

57

00:04:30,850 --> 00:04:33,450

because he had heart
beat irregular.

58
00:04:33,450 --> 00:04:35,860
They let him go,
but for the time,

59
00:04:35,860 --> 00:04:41,410
I was like the bread earner
of everybody at the age of 17.

60
00:04:41,410 --> 00:04:44,340
And I made friends here.

61
00:04:44,340 --> 00:04:49,000
You know, guys that used to come
to the bakery, deliver milk,

62
00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:50,960
and all the stuff we needed.

63
00:04:50,960 --> 00:04:55,090
And I had a little social
life because prior to this,

64
00:04:55,090 --> 00:04:58,600
you work seven days a
week for three years.

65
00:04:58,600 --> 00:05:04,210
I had half a day to go home with
a bus that took about a half

66
00:05:04,210 --> 00:05:08,200
hour to bring my dirty
clothes to have them washed.

67
00:05:08,200 --> 00:05:11,140
So you see, it gets
to where you get

68
00:05:11,140 --> 00:05:15,550
a little more freedom, a

little more leisure time,

69

00:05:15,550 --> 00:05:18,020

and it looks good.

70

00:05:18,020 --> 00:05:24,250

Unfortunately, May 10, when the
Germans started their attack

71

00:05:24,250 --> 00:05:29,170

to a greater extent, we again
were evacuated from Dijon,

72

00:05:29,170 --> 00:05:30,400

and that's not everybody.

73

00:05:30,400 --> 00:05:33,670

Just the people that were
from Alsace-Lorraine.

74

00:05:33,670 --> 00:05:38,410

They had in the South of
France, places set aside

75

00:05:38,410 --> 00:05:40,330

for all these refugees.

76

00:05:40,330 --> 00:05:43,090

We were like refugees.

77

00:05:43,090 --> 00:05:44,560

So we left.

78

00:05:44,560 --> 00:05:48,900

But again, we never reached
that place due to the fact

79

00:05:48,900 --> 00:05:53,040

that lines were hit
by bombs, and we

80

00:05:53,040 --> 00:06:01,380

landed in the Southwest of
France about 100 kilometers

81
00:06:01,380 --> 00:06:04,660
North of Bordeaux.

82
00:06:04,660 --> 00:06:07,060
And so that was
near a place called

83
00:06:07,060 --> 00:06:11,350
La Rochelle, Rochefort where
they make the roquefort cheese.

84
00:06:11,350 --> 00:06:13,660
That's where it
came, and Cognac was

85
00:06:13,660 --> 00:06:16,120
one of the town which I recall.

86
00:06:16,120 --> 00:06:17,950
It was called Cognac.

87
00:06:17,950 --> 00:06:21,970
And so what happened, I'm
there with my father, mother,

88
00:06:21,970 --> 00:06:24,250
my sister, the youngest
brother, and me.

89
00:06:24,250 --> 00:06:30,590
And again, I was the one that
was in charge of everybody.

90
00:06:30,590 --> 00:06:33,880
I dwell a little bit on this
because it's very interesting

91
00:06:33,880 --> 00:06:36,280
how when you're young--

92

00:06:36,280 --> 00:06:39,460

I forget to mention,
the month in Dijon

93

00:06:39,460 --> 00:06:43,390

where I was too young to
be drafted into the war,

94

00:06:43,390 --> 00:06:47,980

I went to get what is
called military preparation.

95

00:06:47,980 --> 00:06:52,130

In other words, you take
some courses in Morse code.

96

00:06:52,130 --> 00:06:58,300

You learn how to handle
a rifle, and so I

97

00:06:58,300 --> 00:07:01,930

went to get this training
because I knew at 18

98

00:07:01,930 --> 00:07:05,020

I'd be drafted, and at
least with that training,

99

00:07:05,020 --> 00:07:09,040

I might get a higher grade
than just a regular soldier

100

00:07:09,040 --> 00:07:10,990

in the French army.

101

00:07:10,990 --> 00:07:16,030

And I did this as
a spare after work.

102

00:07:16,030 --> 00:07:20,140

So what happened when the
Germans made an attack,

103

00:07:20,140 --> 00:07:23,170

we went down that
way, and you got

104

00:07:23,170 --> 00:07:28,950

to realize when you're at that
age, the Germans are the enemy.

105

00:07:28,950 --> 00:07:32,410

It's like in every country
you think about the Germans,

106

00:07:32,410 --> 00:07:33,560

regardless of the Nazi.

107

00:07:33,560 --> 00:07:36,650

This was a normal thing
with France and Germany.

108

00:07:36,650 --> 00:07:40,030

All of a sudden, I find
myself in a small town

109

00:07:40,030 --> 00:07:45,370

north of Bordeaux, and we are
told the Germans are going down

110

00:07:45,370 --> 00:07:47,710

from Paris all the way
to the Spanish border,

111

00:07:47,710 --> 00:07:51,010

and there'll be about 10
miles on a main highway where

112

00:07:51,010 --> 00:07:52,390

we were.

113

00:07:52,390 --> 00:07:54,790

So young guy and I, we
went on our bicycle,

114

00:07:54,790 --> 00:07:59,320
and we figured we'd
go see the Germans.

115
00:07:59,320 --> 00:08:00,988
What you're going to
be worrying about?

116
00:08:00,988 --> 00:08:02,280
You're not in military clothes.

117
00:08:02,280 --> 00:08:03,670
You're a civilian.

118
00:08:03,670 --> 00:08:05,590
So the first thing
that occurred,

119
00:08:05,590 --> 00:08:06,880
there's a little plane coming.

120
00:08:06,880 --> 00:08:10,570
It was a German reconnaissance
in front of the troops going

121
00:08:10,570 --> 00:08:12,550
down that was there,
and they start

122
00:08:12,550 --> 00:08:15,100
to shoot with a machine gun.

123
00:08:15,100 --> 00:08:17,680
So we hid in the
sides in the bushes.

124
00:08:17,680 --> 00:08:19,300
We weren't seen,
and all of a sudden,

125
00:08:19,300 --> 00:08:24,100
you see the first German
with their motorized--

126
00:08:24,100 --> 00:08:27,790
in their motorcycles
with the green--

127
00:08:27,790 --> 00:08:30,970
it looked like bigger
than life to me.

128
00:08:30,970 --> 00:08:32,620
We saw these guys go down.

129
00:08:32,620 --> 00:08:36,520
That's the first Germans I saw,
and the sad part, I'd call,

130
00:08:36,520 --> 00:08:39,220
where the headlights
were, there was casks.

131
00:08:39,220 --> 00:08:42,250
Military casks, English,
French, that they

132
00:08:42,250 --> 00:08:46,900
had taken from prisoners
or people that got killed.

133
00:08:46,900 --> 00:08:51,430
That was hanging in front
of their big trucks,

134
00:08:51,430 --> 00:08:53,810
and that sticks in my mind.

135
00:08:53,810 --> 00:08:55,840
And this is just about 1940.

136
00:08:55,840 --> 00:08:58,220
I had never seen
the Germans before.

137

00:08:58,220 --> 00:09:03,690

So we went back to the
place where we're staying,

138

00:09:03,690 --> 00:09:08,580

and it turns out
Petain had armistice.

139

00:09:08,580 --> 00:09:12,030

On May the 25th, there
was no more fighting.

140

00:09:12,030 --> 00:09:20,040

Everything stopped on May 25,
and so we went back to Dijon,

141

00:09:20,040 --> 00:09:25,740

because Dijon was where my
sister-in-law had some family.

142

00:09:25,740 --> 00:09:29,310

And I had already,
and my folks felt,

143

00:09:29,310 --> 00:09:30,850

we had made some acquaintances.

144

00:09:30,850 --> 00:09:32,940

We were not completely
strangers there.

145

00:09:32,940 --> 00:09:35,040

Anywhere else,
we'd have to start

146

00:09:35,040 --> 00:09:37,650

from scratch, who
are we going to meet,

147

00:09:37,650 --> 00:09:39,330

what was going to be what.

148

00:09:39,330 --> 00:09:44,790

So we went back,
and sure enough,

149
00:09:44,790 --> 00:09:51,270
at that particular time, I was
very close to a fellow my age,

150
00:09:51,270 --> 00:09:57,600
and he was born near Dijon,
and he wasn't Jewish.

151
00:09:57,600 --> 00:09:59,940
And his name was Paul--

152
00:09:59,940 --> 00:10:00,600
is Paul.

153
00:10:00,600 --> 00:10:06,690
He's still alive, and my
whole life from that time

154
00:10:06,690 --> 00:10:10,410
on has been the only person
over all these years I've been

155
00:10:10,410 --> 00:10:13,380
close and still in contact.

156
00:10:13,380 --> 00:10:16,830
Now, the reason I
have to go now to what

157
00:10:16,830 --> 00:10:21,210
happened after the war ended in
armistice like, the war didn't

158
00:10:21,210 --> 00:10:25,520
ended, but the French
troops were finished.

159
00:10:25,520 --> 00:10:30,000
So you had to
register in City Hall

160
00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:32,823
because everybody
has an identity card.

161
00:10:32,823 --> 00:10:35,490
Here, we have a driver's license
instead of that. but in France,

162
00:10:35,490 --> 00:10:38,400
you get an identity
card with a picture,

163
00:10:38,400 --> 00:10:42,620
and also it says
what profession, even

164
00:10:42,620 --> 00:10:44,460
the religion at that time.

165
00:10:44,460 --> 00:10:47,730
So naturally,
whoever had this, we

166
00:10:47,730 --> 00:10:53,100
had to go as Jews to the City
Hall to get ration cards.

167
00:10:53,100 --> 00:10:56,520
We had to go to City
Hall, and everybody

168
00:10:56,520 --> 00:10:58,740
got a yellow Jewish star.

169
00:10:58,740 --> 00:11:02,400
A yellow band with a Jewish star
to be known that you're Jewish.

170
00:11:02,400 --> 00:11:03,090
I didn't go.

171

00:11:03,090 --> 00:11:07,335

172

00:11:07,335 --> 00:11:08,370

I have to explain.

173

00:11:08,370 --> 00:11:12,030

Some people submit to
anything you tell them.

174

00:11:12,030 --> 00:11:13,440

I at that time was young.

175

00:11:13,440 --> 00:11:18,690

I really didn't figure what can
they do to me if they catch me

176

00:11:18,690 --> 00:11:21,510

that they wouldn't do
if I went for rationing,

177

00:11:21,510 --> 00:11:24,690

and that's another
way how it saved me

178

00:11:24,690 --> 00:11:27,930

all the trouble because
they had no record of me

179

00:11:27,930 --> 00:11:30,810

because I didn't register.

180

00:11:30,810 --> 00:11:34,512

So by that time, I worked
in different bakeries.

181

00:11:34,512 --> 00:11:35,970

We made what's
called [INAUDIBLE]..

182

00:11:35,970 --> 00:11:39,540

I mentioned that before,
and the French people never

183
00:11:39,540 --> 00:11:40,260
had any problem.

184
00:11:40,260 --> 00:11:41,970
I was a French born.

185
00:11:41,970 --> 00:11:45,090
Nobody asked me what
I was, no anything.

186
00:11:45,090 --> 00:11:47,190
To tell you the truth, my
best friend at that time

187
00:11:47,190 --> 00:11:51,070
didn't know anything
that I was Jewish.

188
00:11:51,070 --> 00:11:54,330
So what happened,
all of a sudden,

189
00:11:54,330 --> 00:11:58,050
they come and pick up my
father in February, 1942.

190
00:11:58,050 --> 00:12:00,250
You got to realize,
I'm talking about 1940,

191
00:12:00,250 --> 00:12:01,670
and all of a sudden
I jump to '42.

192
00:12:01,670 --> 00:12:04,860
That year '41, the Germans
didn't do anything.

193
00:12:04,860 --> 00:12:08,490
Maybe they were doing it in
Paris or other big towns,

194

00:12:08,490 --> 00:12:10,950

but where we were
in Dijon, nothing

195

00:12:10,950 --> 00:12:16,260

had been decided to take
Jews away from their home.

196

00:12:16,260 --> 00:12:20,260

It reassures you maybe
they're not that bad, OK,

197

00:12:20,260 --> 00:12:22,350

and that's how my
folks looked at it.

198

00:12:22,350 --> 00:12:26,130

They could have very easily
gone to the Swiss border.

199

00:12:26,130 --> 00:12:30,030

It's about two hours by car,
two and a half hours by car,

200

00:12:30,030 --> 00:12:33,720

into the woods going
to Switzerland.

201

00:12:33,720 --> 00:12:36,330

At that time, we
didn't know that there

202

00:12:36,330 --> 00:12:41,070

was extermination camps, that
people that were a certain age

203

00:12:41,070 --> 00:12:42,270

were gassed.

204

00:12:42,270 --> 00:12:44,130

We didn't know this.

205

00:12:44,130 --> 00:12:48,210
Maybe the people in Germany
knew, but the communication

206
00:12:48,210 --> 00:12:49,290
weren't as they are now.

207
00:12:49,290 --> 00:12:51,600
There was no news per se.

208
00:12:51,600 --> 00:12:54,310
There was no TV, no radio.

209
00:12:54,310 --> 00:12:56,130
We didn't know period.

210
00:12:56,130 --> 00:12:58,680
So finally, I decide--
well, they took my father.

211
00:12:58,680 --> 00:13:00,240
I had already gone to work.

212
00:13:00,240 --> 00:13:03,280
The neighbors came to
the factory and said,

213
00:13:03,280 --> 00:13:04,410
you better not go home.

214
00:13:04,410 --> 00:13:06,730
They're going to come
and pick you up too.

215
00:13:06,730 --> 00:13:09,010
So through the underground,
they put me on a train.

216
00:13:09,010 --> 00:13:15,770
I got to a place at the border
which one part was occupied.

217

00:13:15,770 --> 00:13:18,530

The other part was not
occupied, and I find myself

218

00:13:18,530 --> 00:13:20,840

on free zone, French zone.

219

00:13:20,840 --> 00:13:24,600

But the problem is,
I was born in 1922.

220

00:13:24,600 --> 00:13:27,680

This is 1942, draft age.

221

00:13:27,680 --> 00:13:31,100

So the Vichy government that
collaborated with the Germans

222

00:13:31,100 --> 00:13:34,400

had youth camps and
green uniform which

223

00:13:34,400 --> 00:13:36,350

resembled a German uniform.

224

00:13:36,350 --> 00:13:41,510

So I didn't want to do this,
but I was given some advice

225

00:13:41,510 --> 00:13:44,480

by some military people.

226

00:13:44,480 --> 00:13:48,980

What you call here
recruiting groups.

227

00:13:48,980 --> 00:13:50,750

They were recruiting people.

228

00:13:50,750 --> 00:13:55,700

France had a right to have
100,000 men under uniform

229

00:13:55,700 --> 00:13:58,070

and it was called
Armistice Army.

230

00:13:58,070 --> 00:14:00,230

There must have
been about 300,000,

231

00:14:00,230 --> 00:14:02,720

because there was
a lot of Alsatian

232

00:14:02,720 --> 00:14:05,390

from Lorraine that
escaped not to be

233

00:14:05,390 --> 00:14:08,126

put in the German army
that escaped and enlisted

234

00:14:08,126 --> 00:14:09,440

in the French army.

235

00:14:09,440 --> 00:14:14,240

So they told you, if you enlist,
you have six months of training

236

00:14:14,240 --> 00:14:18,290

and then you're going to
be sent to the colonies.

237

00:14:18,290 --> 00:14:22,880

And the colonies in France
was Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia,

238

00:14:22,880 --> 00:14:24,960

Indochina, a lot of places.

239

00:14:24,960 --> 00:14:29,900

So I had figured I'd go after my
training to Algeria or Morocco,

240

00:14:29,900 --> 00:14:33,380
wherever I was going to be able
to go, and then go to Gibraltar

241
00:14:33,380 --> 00:14:38,120
where the English forces
joined to go in England.

242
00:14:38,120 --> 00:14:39,080
Never happened.

243
00:14:39,080 --> 00:14:40,730
My destiny wasn't that way.

244
00:14:40,730 --> 00:14:44,510
I might have been dead going
into the army this way.

245
00:14:44,510 --> 00:14:48,110
And so I was in the army.

246
00:14:48,110 --> 00:14:54,370
And as things happen beyond your
control, those American troops

247
00:14:54,370 --> 00:14:56,980
land in Morocco
before I was able to--

248
00:14:56,980 --> 00:14:58,690
I had already my training.

249
00:14:58,690 --> 00:15:02,560
I had a month of rest.

250
00:15:02,560 --> 00:15:04,800
I had a month furlough.

251
00:15:04,800 --> 00:15:07,860
And I hadn't gone back to
Dijon, because in July, I

252

00:15:07,860 --> 00:15:09,300
heard that they took my mother.

253
00:15:09,300 --> 00:15:13,390
My sister sent a postcard
to me and everything.

254
00:15:13,390 --> 00:15:17,460
So what I do, I
can't go to Africa,

255
00:15:17,460 --> 00:15:20,340
because the Americans are there.

256
00:15:20,340 --> 00:15:23,370
And the Germans pushed all the
way down to the Mediterranean

257
00:15:23,370 --> 00:15:25,290
and sent everybody home.

258
00:15:25,290 --> 00:15:26,370
There was no more troops.

259
00:15:26,370 --> 00:15:28,080
I had a three year enlistment.

260
00:15:28,080 --> 00:15:32,820
And I was in the army
maybe eight or nine month.

261
00:15:32,820 --> 00:15:35,855
So my friend Paul
had joined me--

262
00:15:35,855 --> 00:15:37,230
and I had mentioned
this before--

263
00:15:37,230 --> 00:15:38,610
and we both went back to Dijon.

264

00:15:38,610 --> 00:15:39,950
He had his folks there.

265
00:15:39,950 --> 00:15:42,000
His folks were very
nice with our folks.

266
00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:44,670
And we were friendly.

267
00:15:44,670 --> 00:15:46,200
Now my mother and
father was gone.

268
00:15:46,200 --> 00:15:47,190
I go back to Dijon.

269
00:15:47,190 --> 00:15:50,340
My sister is there
with my little brother.

270
00:15:50,340 --> 00:15:54,960
And my sister had
married at 16 and a half.

271
00:15:54,960 --> 00:16:01,020
And so I come back
in end of '42.

272
00:16:01,020 --> 00:16:04,800
And in early '43, we get
from the Vichy government

273
00:16:04,800 --> 00:16:09,960
a paper saying, we know you're
enlisted for three years.

274
00:16:09,960 --> 00:16:12,090
You have to finish
your enlistment working

275
00:16:12,090 --> 00:16:16,350
in Germany in the factories.

276
00:16:16,350 --> 00:16:18,690
So my friend and I, we
were kidding, you know.

277
00:16:18,690 --> 00:16:20,190
We were going to
ask you because I'm

278
00:16:20,190 --> 00:16:23,670
a baker to work on a farm,
which that was like a joke.

279
00:16:23,670 --> 00:16:25,480
You couldn't go
where you wanted.

280
00:16:25,480 --> 00:16:28,230
You had no choice where
were they going to send you.

281
00:16:28,230 --> 00:16:32,697
But it occurred to me,
being born in Lorraine,

282
00:16:32,697 --> 00:16:33,780
they don't know I'm a Jew.

283
00:16:33,780 --> 00:16:36,150
And I'm not in any way
they're going to find.

284
00:16:36,150 --> 00:16:37,590
They put me in a German army.

285
00:16:37,590 --> 00:16:40,650
Put me in the Russian front.

286
00:16:40,650 --> 00:16:42,790
If they find out I'm a
Jew, I'm going to camp.

287

00:16:42,790 --> 00:16:47,220
So I didn't report
to Germany, but I

288
00:16:47,220 --> 00:16:49,530
went to see the fellow
that was instructed

289
00:16:49,530 --> 00:16:53,010
on the military
preparation in 1939.

290
00:16:53,010 --> 00:16:56,470
He was some kind of
official in City Hall

291
00:16:56,470 --> 00:17:00,360
or it's called a prefecture.

292
00:17:00,360 --> 00:17:02,400
I told him exactly my situation.

293
00:17:02,400 --> 00:17:05,130
And he advised me that
he can requisition

294
00:17:05,130 --> 00:17:09,480
me to work in a restaurant
by the railroad station

295
00:17:09,480 --> 00:17:14,490
where it was a turning point
when German soldiers went

296
00:17:14,490 --> 00:17:16,829
on the African front.

297
00:17:16,829 --> 00:17:18,420
They came back to
there to go back

298
00:17:18,420 --> 00:17:20,470
to Germany and back and forth.

299

00:17:20,470 --> 00:17:23,730

But they always had
to stop in Dijon.

300

00:17:23,730 --> 00:17:26,790

And they had only one place to
eat, because they had no money.

301

00:17:26,790 --> 00:17:28,630

So they ate in that place.

302

00:17:28,630 --> 00:17:31,750

So I worked there and
I served the food,

303

00:17:31,750 --> 00:17:36,000

which was called in
German eintopf, one dish.

304

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:38,460

They only had-- it's wartime--

305

00:17:38,460 --> 00:17:42,120

a cabbage and potato with
was some kind of beans

306

00:17:42,120 --> 00:17:43,170

and so forth.

307

00:17:43,170 --> 00:17:47,430

And they used to have
to give me a ticket

308

00:17:47,430 --> 00:17:49,050

to be able to serve it.

309

00:17:49,050 --> 00:17:51,630

So all they had
asked me every day

310

00:17:51,630 --> 00:17:54,750

to report to them
how many tickets

311
00:17:54,750 --> 00:17:56,940
or how many meals I served.

312
00:17:56,940 --> 00:17:58,410
I did this.

313
00:17:58,410 --> 00:18:01,750
That went on for
quite a few months.

314
00:18:01,750 --> 00:18:05,070
And also what it did, we
ate better than the Germans

315
00:18:05,070 --> 00:18:05,910
in the kitchen.

316
00:18:05,910 --> 00:18:07,050
We had the food.

317
00:18:07,050 --> 00:18:08,070
It was free.

318
00:18:08,070 --> 00:18:09,210
We had wine.

319
00:18:09,210 --> 00:18:14,250
Now the reason I mention
wine, in France, you can get--

320
00:18:14,250 --> 00:18:18,900
that ordinary wine
is about 7% alcohol.

321
00:18:18,900 --> 00:18:20,790
Now if you work
in a warm kitchen

322
00:18:20,790 --> 00:18:24,270

and we worked from eight o'clock
in the morning till about 2:00

323
00:18:24,270 --> 00:18:26,850
PM, then we went home and
came back about 4:00 PM

324
00:18:26,850 --> 00:18:29,010
until eight o'clock at night.

325
00:18:29,010 --> 00:18:32,730
And every time we ate, we had
a bottle of wine on the table.

326
00:18:32,730 --> 00:18:36,430
There was no beer, no soda, but
this wine that had no label.

327
00:18:36,430 --> 00:18:37,950
It was from a big barrel.

328
00:18:37,950 --> 00:18:39,510
They fill it up.

329
00:18:39,510 --> 00:18:43,140
And the bottle held
about 3/4 of a litter.

330
00:18:43,140 --> 00:18:47,010
And every meal, I had a bottle
of wine three meals a day.

331
00:18:47,010 --> 00:18:49,410
And I guarantee you, I
was stronger than an ox

332
00:18:49,410 --> 00:18:52,350
after when they caught me.

333
00:18:52,350 --> 00:18:54,000
How did they catch me?

334

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:55,950
And that had to be--

335
00:18:55,950 --> 00:19:00,600
I went to work there
in February of 1943.

336
00:19:00,600 --> 00:19:03,450
And I felt pretty
good, because here I

337
00:19:03,450 --> 00:19:06,030
was in the middle of the
nest of the Germans, a Jew,

338
00:19:06,030 --> 00:19:08,280
and they never knew anything.

339
00:19:08,280 --> 00:19:10,140
But, I guess, to
this day, I don't

340
00:19:10,140 --> 00:19:12,000
know exactly how it happened.

341
00:19:12,000 --> 00:19:13,590
Either because
they're meticulous

342
00:19:13,590 --> 00:19:16,560
and they saw in their
papers my father and mother

343
00:19:16,560 --> 00:19:21,180
was taken in a camp, the
same name, Blankenberg.

344
00:19:21,180 --> 00:19:23,250
And that's how they got me.

345
00:19:23,250 --> 00:19:26,310
Or its somebody-- because
you remember at that time,

346
00:19:26,310 --> 00:19:28,200
I mentioned to you
I had a girlfriend.

347
00:19:28,200 --> 00:19:30,810
And somebody maybe being
jealous or something.

348
00:19:30,810 --> 00:19:35,490
I even had a card from the
kommandatur German kommandatur

349
00:19:35,490 --> 00:19:38,280
where there was a curfew that
said nine o'clock, because I

350
00:19:38,280 --> 00:19:39,840
had this particular job.

351
00:19:39,840 --> 00:19:43,200
If they stopped me at
night after nine o'clock,

352
00:19:43,200 --> 00:19:47,550
they would look at the
card and let me go.

353
00:19:47,550 --> 00:19:49,670
This is very important
why I mention this too.

354
00:19:49,670 --> 00:19:52,820
Because, although, it has
nothing to do with the camp,

355
00:19:52,820 --> 00:19:56,630
it's my life of things
of how close you can come

356
00:19:56,630 --> 00:19:59,330
to being in very deep trouble.

357

00:19:59,330 --> 00:20:03,630

One evening after 10 o'clock,
I took my girlfriend back home.

358

00:20:03,630 --> 00:20:06,260

And as I was walking towards
the place where I lived,

359

00:20:06,260 --> 00:20:07,490

there was a big gate.

360

00:20:07,490 --> 00:20:10,280

In front of the gate,
and it was pitch black,

361

00:20:10,280 --> 00:20:13,850

there were some
German military police

362

00:20:13,850 --> 00:20:18,440

with a flashlight in my eyes
and they asked me for my papers.

363

00:20:18,440 --> 00:20:20,360

And they took me from there.

364

00:20:20,360 --> 00:20:24,110

They took me to what we
call a kommandatur which

365

00:20:24,110 --> 00:20:31,940

was a place where the soldiers
had their black police office.

366

00:20:31,940 --> 00:20:34,310

And sure enough, they
called where I worked

367

00:20:34,310 --> 00:20:36,620

to find out if this is correct.

368

00:20:36,620 --> 00:20:37,280

Sure.

369

00:20:37,280 --> 00:20:39,830

They had me there
and they let me go.

370

00:20:39,830 --> 00:20:43,790

But to be nasty, they took
my shoes, kept my shoes,

371

00:20:43,790 --> 00:20:46,970

and had me go back to
my house where I lived.

372

00:20:46,970 --> 00:20:47,930

I didn't have a house.

373

00:20:47,930 --> 00:20:50,240

I had a little apartment
in the hallway.

374

00:20:50,240 --> 00:20:53,480

And I've gone back since and
when I look at that hallway,

375

00:20:53,480 --> 00:20:57,080

I see myself in front of
that door with my shoes gone

376

00:20:57,080 --> 00:20:58,850

and have in my stocking.

377

00:20:58,850 --> 00:21:01,910

I'm walking maybe a half a
mile from the place where

378

00:21:01,910 --> 00:21:06,470

I was taken back to the house
where I. Lived now that was

379

00:21:06,470 --> 00:21:09,800

already to show
you the attitude.

380
00:21:09,800 --> 00:21:11,555
It didn't have to be Nazis.

381
00:21:11,555 --> 00:21:14,657
It was German military
that had stopped me

382
00:21:14,657 --> 00:21:15,740
in the middle of the night

383
00:21:15,740 --> 00:21:18,980
I was with good
paper and everything.

384
00:21:18,980 --> 00:21:20,660
For spite, they
took my shoes away.

385
00:21:20,660 --> 00:21:23,520
In those days, I had no
three, four pair of shoes.

386
00:21:23,520 --> 00:21:27,020
I had one pair of shoes and I
had some sandals or something.

387
00:21:27,020 --> 00:21:29,150
So I had to go with
sandals for a few days

388
00:21:29,150 --> 00:21:31,580
until I got myself
a pair of shoes.

389
00:21:31,580 --> 00:21:34,940
Anyway, to get
further after this,

390
00:21:34,940 --> 00:21:38,870
in September or early
October-- that date

391

00:21:38,870 --> 00:21:42,170

I don't have exactly
in my mind-- of 1943,

392

00:21:42,170 --> 00:21:44,330

they come at nine
o'clock in the morning

393

00:21:44,330 --> 00:21:46,100

into the kitchen where I'm at.

394

00:21:46,100 --> 00:21:50,870

And they say, you come with us.

395

00:21:50,870 --> 00:21:54,530

And I am taken out of that
kitchen in the clothes I had.

396

00:21:54,530 --> 00:21:57,950

397

00:21:57,950 --> 00:21:59,030

I guess, I changed.

398

00:21:59,030 --> 00:22:04,050

I had white cook's
uniform, but I changed.

399

00:22:04,050 --> 00:22:06,740

They let me change into
my regular street clothes.

400

00:22:06,740 --> 00:22:14,330

And they take me to that place
where it was a Nazi Gestapo.

401

00:22:14,330 --> 00:22:19,820

And I heard guys that
were not really crying,

402

00:22:19,820 --> 00:22:21,380

but they're being hit.

403

00:22:21,380 --> 00:22:24,890

And you hear-- the
French is [NON-ENGLISH]..

404

00:22:24,890 --> 00:22:29,990

They were making noises
like they were hurting.

405

00:22:29,990 --> 00:22:33,140

Not screaming, but
simply they were

406

00:22:33,140 --> 00:22:36,140

getting hurt, because they
were under-- it wasn't Jews.

407

00:22:36,140 --> 00:22:38,330

It was basically the
underground people

408

00:22:38,330 --> 00:22:41,840

that had maybe some
sabotage or whatever.

409

00:22:41,840 --> 00:22:44,390

Anyway, I get to the office
and the guy's behind the desk.

410

00:22:44,390 --> 00:22:48,442

And I'm standing there and he
says, [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]??

411

00:22:48,442 --> 00:22:49,650

Whatever he was going to say.

412

00:22:49,650 --> 00:22:52,130

That means, are you Jewish?

413

00:22:52,130 --> 00:22:54,720

It didn't take me long to
say, yes, because I really

414

00:22:54,720 --> 00:22:56,970

thought if I say no, they're
going to start beating me

415

00:22:56,970 --> 00:22:58,230

because I lied.

416

00:22:58,230 --> 00:22:59,010

They knew.

417

00:22:59,010 --> 00:23:01,750

When they got me
there, they knew.

418

00:23:01,750 --> 00:23:04,260

So when I said yes, they
didn't do anything to me.

419

00:23:04,260 --> 00:23:08,520

They took me from
there, military car

420

00:23:08,520 --> 00:23:14,100

took me to jail in Dijon, which
was so full, there was no room.

421

00:23:14,100 --> 00:23:20,940

They put us in a place
that was a workshop.

422

00:23:20,940 --> 00:23:25,380

And from there, we
stayed from October

423

00:23:25,380 --> 00:23:31,710

till the end of November,
which is quite a bit of time.

424

00:23:31,710 --> 00:23:36,330

But it was nothing to
be too worried about.

425

00:23:36,330 --> 00:23:39,240
I figured wherever I'm going
to go, I'll have to work.

426
00:23:39,240 --> 00:23:40,140
I'm not worried.

427
00:23:40,140 --> 00:23:42,810
Never knowing about--
they took my folks,

428
00:23:42,810 --> 00:23:45,940
but I still didn't know
what happened to them.

429
00:23:45,940 --> 00:23:48,240
Meanwhile, my
sister was pregnant.

430
00:23:48,240 --> 00:23:55,350
And she was to give birth to
a girl in October prior to me

431
00:23:55,350 --> 00:23:56,645
leaving Dijon.

432
00:23:56,645 --> 00:24:00,420
So here I was going to a camp.

433
00:24:00,420 --> 00:24:01,920
I knew she was
pregnant, but I never

434
00:24:01,920 --> 00:24:03,750
knew she had a boy or a girl.

435
00:24:03,750 --> 00:24:06,600
And all the time I was gone,
I said, if I don't come back,

436
00:24:06,600 --> 00:24:10,440
I never would know what
kind of a child she had.

437
00:24:10,440 --> 00:24:15,270
So we were taken
to Paris, Drancy.

438
00:24:15,270 --> 00:24:20,610
There was a camp where
everybody got together.

439
00:24:20,610 --> 00:24:24,690
And there was a Red Cross,
but we knew right away

440
00:24:24,690 --> 00:24:27,270
something was fishy.

441
00:24:27,270 --> 00:24:30,120
We are given a piece of paper.

442
00:24:30,120 --> 00:24:33,480
We had to give everything
we had in valuables.

443
00:24:33,480 --> 00:24:37,890
And on that paper, it said,
you would at your destination,

444
00:24:37,890 --> 00:24:40,260
you would be
reimbursed in zloties.

445
00:24:40,260 --> 00:24:43,500
Now zloties is Polish money.

446
00:24:43,500 --> 00:24:45,480
Now here the German
are taking you.

447
00:24:45,480 --> 00:24:48,090
So we figured, we're not
going to Holland or Denmark.

448

00:24:48,090 --> 00:24:50,800
We go going to Poland.

449
00:24:50,800 --> 00:24:52,820
That's the way I looked at it.

450
00:24:52,820 --> 00:24:56,250
And at that time, I didn't have
too close friends, except one

451
00:24:56,250 --> 00:24:58,180
guy who was taken with me.

452
00:24:58,180 --> 00:25:00,030
And he was in Dijon
and we went together

453
00:25:00,030 --> 00:25:02,850
into the camp in Drancy.

454
00:25:02,850 --> 00:25:04,920
So it's always good
to have someone

455
00:25:04,920 --> 00:25:08,310
that went through an
experience with you

456
00:25:08,310 --> 00:25:12,750
become friendly with strange
people you don't know.

457
00:25:12,750 --> 00:25:16,680
And on December
the 7th, 1943, we

458
00:25:16,680 --> 00:25:22,530
are going on this train that
goes to Germany, December 7th,

459
00:25:22,530 --> 00:25:24,190
1943.

460

00:25:24,190 --> 00:25:25,290

And they prepare you.

461

00:25:25,290 --> 00:25:27,820

They are very well
arranging things.

462

00:25:27,820 --> 00:25:29,130

They know what they're doing.

463

00:25:29,130 --> 00:25:34,590

They figure there's always going
to be some guy in the stretch

464

00:25:34,590 --> 00:25:37,950

to go to Germany
between Paris and border

465

00:25:37,950 --> 00:25:40,390

and is going to try to escape.

466

00:25:40,390 --> 00:25:43,050

So they put in every
compartment, which

467

00:25:43,050 --> 00:25:47,130

was 40 people or six horses.

468

00:25:47,130 --> 00:25:50,280

It was World War I,
they transport troops

469

00:25:50,280 --> 00:25:53,310

in these wagons, train cars.

470

00:25:53,310 --> 00:25:58,770

So they had selected a kapo
with children, two kapos.

471

00:25:58,770 --> 00:26:02,220

And in each one of them,
they said, if anybody tries

472
00:26:02,220 --> 00:26:04,650
to escape, we'll shoot you.

473
00:26:04,650 --> 00:26:06,600
So naturally, this
guy still doesn't

474
00:26:06,600 --> 00:26:09,430
know that when he gets there,
the children and the wife

475
00:26:09,430 --> 00:26:12,770
are going to be gone
within 24 hours.

476
00:26:12,770 --> 00:26:15,940
So they were very nervous.

477
00:26:15,940 --> 00:26:16,660
And here we go.

478
00:26:16,660 --> 00:26:17,920
We leave.

479
00:26:17,920 --> 00:26:20,140
And as we go east
through Germany,

480
00:26:20,140 --> 00:26:23,680
we passed and slowed down even
the town where I was born.

481
00:26:23,680 --> 00:26:25,720
I saw the town.

482
00:26:25,720 --> 00:26:28,120
There was a viaduct
between the two towns.

483
00:26:28,120 --> 00:26:31,090
And I knew this, as

a kid, the place.

484

00:26:31,090 --> 00:26:32,720

But we couldn't do anything.

485

00:26:32,720 --> 00:26:34,510

We more or less were
like sheep already.

486

00:26:34,510 --> 00:26:36,550

We didn't realize
what we're doing

487

00:26:36,550 --> 00:26:38,230

and where are you going to go.

488

00:26:38,230 --> 00:26:43,210

We reached a point
in '43, let's hope

489

00:26:43,210 --> 00:26:44,530

it's not going to be that bad.

490

00:26:44,530 --> 00:26:47,860

And that's the way
we got into Germany.

491

00:26:47,860 --> 00:26:51,890

Now we're looking at
December the 10th, 1943.

492

00:26:51,890 --> 00:26:54,490

All of a sudden, we see snow.

493

00:26:54,490 --> 00:26:55,960

There was no snow when we left.

494

00:26:55,960 --> 00:26:57,010

We see snow.

495

00:26:57,010 --> 00:27:00,700

And we passed and we could

see a place called Hindenburg,

496

00:27:00,700 --> 00:27:08,680
which was the last German town
before you got into Auschwitz.

497

00:27:08,680 --> 00:27:12,460
I still didn't know what
Auschwitz was at that time.

498

00:27:12,460 --> 00:27:14,590
I'd never heard of Auschwitz.

499

00:27:14,590 --> 00:27:19,060
Maybe a little bit was
discussed at that last camp,

500

00:27:19,060 --> 00:27:21,550
because there were a
lot of Jewish people

501

00:27:21,550 --> 00:27:24,160
and it was most nothing
but Jewish people there.

502

00:27:24,160 --> 00:27:26,170
And some of them had
already some experience.

503

00:27:26,170 --> 00:27:28,240
Maybe something was
said, but it didn't click

504

00:27:28,240 --> 00:27:29,990
in my mind what was Auschwitz.

505

00:27:29,990 --> 00:27:30,700
A work camp?

506

00:27:30,700 --> 00:27:32,770
I didn't know.

507

00:27:32,770 --> 00:27:35,200
The reaction really
became something special

508
00:27:35,200 --> 00:27:39,280
once they opened the wagon
and the German soldiers

509
00:27:39,280 --> 00:27:42,030
started screaming
at you to get out.

510
00:27:42,030 --> 00:27:43,990
Remember, there were
people for three days

511
00:27:43,990 --> 00:27:49,120
and three nights cooped up in
this particular compartment.

512
00:27:49,120 --> 00:27:51,490
So the older people had
a hard time getting out,

513
00:27:51,490 --> 00:27:53,360
the kids the same thing.

514
00:27:53,360 --> 00:27:57,400
So here we are all out
and they start to holler.

515
00:27:57,400 --> 00:27:59,980
You have to understand,
because I was born in Lorraine

516
00:27:59,980 --> 00:28:05,380
and I had German training in
school, I understood German.

517
00:28:05,380 --> 00:28:10,780
So they were saying, put all the
able working people on one side

518

00:28:10,780 --> 00:28:11,620
and--

519
00:28:11,620 --> 00:28:12,460
not the women.

520
00:28:12,460 --> 00:28:17,990
Women, older people, and
children on the other side.

521
00:28:17,990 --> 00:28:24,520
The whole train consisted
about 1,100 people.

522
00:28:24,520 --> 00:28:28,240
24 hours later, there was
a little bit over 300.

523
00:28:28,240 --> 00:28:30,580
I don't have the exact figure.

524
00:28:30,580 --> 00:28:34,840
They were taken from there to a
workplace called Buna Monowitz.

525
00:28:34,840 --> 00:28:38,430

526
00:28:38,430 --> 00:28:41,250
Now among those
that went with me

527
00:28:41,250 --> 00:28:46,860
were some guys that had been
with their wives and children.

528
00:28:46,860 --> 00:28:52,840
Once the reality of
the calamity hit them,

529
00:28:52,840 --> 00:28:56,260
they were not human anymore.

530

00:28:56,260 --> 00:28:59,140

In a sense, they lost
the will to live.

531

00:28:59,140 --> 00:29:00,130

What for?

532

00:29:00,130 --> 00:29:02,890

My wife, my kids are gone.

533

00:29:02,890 --> 00:29:05,890

And I'm not saying it happened
within an hour or two.

534

00:29:05,890 --> 00:29:08,140

That took about a day.

535

00:29:08,140 --> 00:29:10,420

As soon as you got
into the barrack--

536

00:29:10,420 --> 00:29:13,120

no, not before we got
in the barrack, we

537

00:29:13,120 --> 00:29:17,410

here with our clothes, with
shoes, and it's snowing.

538

00:29:17,410 --> 00:29:21,060

In front of a barrack,
a young military guy--

539

00:29:21,060 --> 00:29:24,460

he couldn't have been more
than in his 20s-- with a whip.

540

00:29:24,460 --> 00:29:28,150

And he starts screaming
and whipping us.

541

00:29:28,150 --> 00:29:32,320

Take all your clothes off and
hold your shoes and your belt

542
00:29:32,320 --> 00:29:33,650
in your hand.

543
00:29:33,650 --> 00:29:37,270
It's snowing, so people
didn't react too fast

544
00:29:37,270 --> 00:29:38,320
and he started to whip.

545
00:29:38,320 --> 00:29:40,660
Then you wake up and you do it.

546
00:29:40,660 --> 00:29:43,510
As we go in this
particular barrack,

547
00:29:43,510 --> 00:29:44,738
it's just like in the army.

548
00:29:44,738 --> 00:29:46,780
There's some veterans,
Jewish guys that are there

549
00:29:46,780 --> 00:29:48,670
from Poland or someplace.

550
00:29:48,670 --> 00:29:52,360
And they start talking to
Jewish, where are you from?

551
00:29:52,360 --> 00:29:53,440
How old are you?

552
00:29:53,440 --> 00:29:56,350
Stuff like this,
what's your name?

553
00:29:56,350 --> 00:29:59,710

And the first
thing we have to do

554
00:29:59,710 --> 00:30:04,240
is they clip every bit
of our hair of our body.

555
00:30:04,240 --> 00:30:06,610
And we have to go into a shower.

556
00:30:06,610 --> 00:30:09,742
And before going to shower,
they put some kind of--

557
00:30:09,742 --> 00:30:13,360
it had the smell of
petroleum, disinfectant.

558
00:30:13,360 --> 00:30:17,440
They were always very
afraid of typhus with lice.

559
00:30:17,440 --> 00:30:18,640
The Germans were afraid.

560
00:30:18,640 --> 00:30:19,780
So they do this.

561
00:30:19,780 --> 00:30:21,580
We go into a hot shower.

562
00:30:21,580 --> 00:30:23,530
Hot-- I don't know
how hot it was.

563
00:30:23,530 --> 00:30:24,550
I don't remember.

564
00:30:24,550 --> 00:30:28,690
But what I do recall, with our
shoes in our hand and our belt,

565

00:30:28,690 --> 00:30:30,490
we are thrown out in the snow.

566
00:30:30,490 --> 00:30:32,610
No towel.

567
00:30:32,610 --> 00:30:35,490
Now, again, I
couldn't see my face

568
00:30:35,490 --> 00:30:39,060
if I was affected
by all of this.

569
00:30:39,060 --> 00:30:41,460
But I could see the
other people's faces.

570
00:30:41,460 --> 00:30:43,830
And they were dehumanized.

571
00:30:43,830 --> 00:30:48,600
They had their eyes
that were cold.

572
00:30:48,600 --> 00:30:53,790
There's a shine in an eye
when you are either sad

573
00:30:53,790 --> 00:30:55,860
or even if you're very happy.

574
00:30:55,860 --> 00:30:57,540
You have an expression.

575
00:30:57,540 --> 00:31:01,350
And these people
became expressionless.

576
00:31:01,350 --> 00:31:03,930
I couldn't recognize the people.

577

00:31:03,930 --> 00:31:07,290
It's like in a different world.

578
00:31:07,290 --> 00:31:09,930
Again, I was still with
this one friend from Dijon

579
00:31:09,930 --> 00:31:10,905
and we're together.

580
00:31:10,905 --> 00:31:13,470

581
00:31:13,470 --> 00:31:15,780
We get to the work camp
and we go into our barrack.

582
00:31:15,780 --> 00:31:18,570
And they start with
a needle to write.

583
00:31:18,570 --> 00:31:21,090
So the whole convoy
that was put in there

584
00:31:21,090 --> 00:31:26,850
was in a series of
167,400 and something.

585
00:31:26,850 --> 00:31:29,940
So mine is 167,462.

586
00:31:29,940 --> 00:31:33,030
That's my number.

587
00:31:33,030 --> 00:31:36,900
And after they did this and
we were in this barrack,

588
00:31:36,900 --> 00:31:40,180
and, again, I don't
know how long it took,

589

00:31:40,180 --> 00:31:43,320

but we were assigned
to go to work.

590

00:31:43,320 --> 00:31:46,100

And this fellow that was
from Dijon, he was with me.

591

00:31:46,100 --> 00:31:51,150

We were stuck together
and we were going to work.

592

00:31:51,150 --> 00:31:56,220

I lost track of him maybe
three or four months later

593

00:31:56,220 --> 00:31:58,170

when I had--

594

00:31:58,170 --> 00:32:02,400

every week, we had to clip
the hair under there all over.

595

00:32:02,400 --> 00:32:05,130

And I had been nicked.

596

00:32:05,130 --> 00:32:07,540

And we had no soap to wash.

597

00:32:07,540 --> 00:32:09,380

Must have been
dirty or something.

598

00:32:09,380 --> 00:32:11,280

I got an abscess.

599

00:32:11,280 --> 00:32:15,030

And I had to shovel
outside and dig holes.

600

00:32:15,030 --> 00:32:17,130

I couldn't lift my arm.

601

00:32:17,130 --> 00:32:20,890

And I knew if I couldn't
work, I'd go in the ovens.

602

00:32:20,890 --> 00:32:24,460

So finally, the friends that
were in the barrack with me,

603

00:32:24,460 --> 00:32:25,710

they helped me make the beds.

604

00:32:25,710 --> 00:32:27,610

If you didn't make
your bed properly,

605

00:32:27,610 --> 00:32:31,560

the kapo, the head
of the barrack,

606

00:32:31,560 --> 00:32:34,380

would call you up front
and give you on your behind

607

00:32:34,380 --> 00:32:38,190

a couple of rubber hoses because
your bed wasn't done properly.

608

00:32:38,190 --> 00:32:41,370

And you have to remember
these kapos were

609

00:32:41,370 --> 00:32:45,960

maybe 10% Jews and the rest was
all criminals, German citizen,

610

00:32:45,960 --> 00:32:50,430

or conscientious
objectors, or whatever.

611

00:32:50,430 --> 00:32:52,530

And finally, I went to--

612

00:32:52,530 --> 00:32:54,840

I couldn't anymore,
so I went and I

613

00:32:54,840 --> 00:32:58,020

had one of the greatest
surgeon from Berlin

614

00:32:58,020 --> 00:32:59,490

that operated on this.

615

00:32:59,490 --> 00:33:06,120

In other words, he gave me the
night before some black stuff

616

00:33:06,120 --> 00:33:08,040

to put on to ripen it.

617

00:33:08,040 --> 00:33:10,800

The next day, I
sat in the office

618

00:33:10,800 --> 00:33:17,220

and I heard all the [GERMAN]
in Germany was an infirmary.

619

00:33:17,220 --> 00:33:19,890

Kranken building or
something that this.

620

00:33:19,890 --> 00:33:22,980

[GERMAN] under the [GERMAN].

621

00:33:22,980 --> 00:33:27,240

And a lot of these guys,
they were called muselmann.

622

00:33:27,240 --> 00:33:30,490

Muselmann is when there is
nothing but skin and bones

623

00:33:30,490 --> 00:33:30,990

on you.

624

00:33:30,990 --> 00:33:32,100

There's nothing.

625

00:33:32,100 --> 00:33:33,690

You don't look like a human.

626

00:33:33,690 --> 00:33:37,680

And muselmann from French
means, you know you're Muslim.

627

00:33:37,680 --> 00:33:38,940

But it has no connection.

628

00:33:38,940 --> 00:33:42,250

The German have that
word, muselmann in German,

629

00:33:42,250 --> 00:33:44,910

which means you're not human.

630

00:33:44,910 --> 00:33:48,240

You're nothing but
skin and bones.

631

00:33:48,240 --> 00:33:52,260

And they wouldn't let you
live too long after that.

632

00:33:52,260 --> 00:33:55,770

They weren't going to feed
you if you couldn't work.

633

00:33:55,770 --> 00:33:57,960

Anyway, I was lucky enough.

634

00:33:57,960 --> 00:34:02,190

The guy says to me in
German, eins zvei drei.

635

00:34:02,190 --> 00:34:04,500

And I did this and he cut.

636
00:34:04,500 --> 00:34:06,270
And when he got
everything out, he

637
00:34:06,270 --> 00:34:11,100
gave me what we call
toilet paper to put around.

638
00:34:11,100 --> 00:34:12,960
And out I went.

639
00:34:12,960 --> 00:34:15,690
I was glad to leave there,
because I hated to stay there.

640
00:34:15,690 --> 00:34:18,210
So I was fortunate
that this guy was

641
00:34:18,210 --> 00:34:20,190
a Jew that operated
and didn't want

642
00:34:20,190 --> 00:34:25,139
to me to be taken to the ovens,
because I couldn't have worked.

643
00:34:25,139 --> 00:34:27,300
So he sent me back
into the barrack.

644
00:34:27,300 --> 00:34:30,010
And I always, since that time.

645
00:34:30,010 --> 00:34:35,070
I remember the things that you
see about a bully, a guy that

646
00:34:35,070 --> 00:34:36,449
is mean.

647

00:34:36,449 --> 00:34:41,770

He's mean to show off to
because of his behavior.

648

00:34:41,770 --> 00:34:43,800

But if you take him
aside and you show him

649

00:34:43,800 --> 00:34:48,480

that you're not afraid of him
or if you react kind of nice,

650

00:34:48,480 --> 00:34:50,340

he'll become a little nicer.

651

00:34:50,340 --> 00:34:54,480

Not going to become an angel,
but he'll react a little nicer.

652

00:34:54,480 --> 00:34:58,200

So when kind of backed and had
been very mean with his hose

653

00:34:58,200 --> 00:35:00,240

and he was always mean
when everybody came back

654

00:35:00,240 --> 00:35:00,990

in the barrack.

655

00:35:00,990 --> 00:35:05,550

But it was maybe two guys
with me that were sick.

656

00:35:05,550 --> 00:35:09,250

And the whole day, he
couldn't do very much with us.

657

00:35:09,250 --> 00:35:12,510

So he got a little nicer and
he said, OK, don't worry,

658

00:35:12,510 --> 00:35:13,710
I'll take care of you.

659
00:35:13,710 --> 00:35:16,890
When you're really ready
to go back to work,

660
00:35:16,890 --> 00:35:18,150
you wouldn't work outside.

661
00:35:18,150 --> 00:35:21,810
I'll put you with a group
to work inside the factory.

662
00:35:21,810 --> 00:35:25,260
This is March of 1944.

663
00:35:25,260 --> 00:35:31,760
And outside, we had what you
had to get together before going

664
00:35:31,760 --> 00:35:34,340
to work at 6:00 AM outside.

665
00:35:34,340 --> 00:35:36,110
And they would count every day.

666
00:35:36,110 --> 00:35:39,350
And you sometimes had
to stand an hour out.

667
00:35:39,350 --> 00:35:44,690
And when your nose starts
to drip, it becomes ice.

668
00:35:44,690 --> 00:35:45,830
It's that cold.

669
00:35:45,830 --> 00:35:48,410
So to keep warm, we
would shake hands

670

00:35:48,410 --> 00:35:53,180
with a guy next in the line
and do this or take us and lift

671
00:35:53,180 --> 00:35:57,200
each other just so that
it doesn't get stiff

672
00:35:57,200 --> 00:35:59,340
from the cold.

673
00:35:59,340 --> 00:36:01,250
So when I got into
work inside, I

674
00:36:01,250 --> 00:36:03,860
figured now it's a
little bit better.

675
00:36:03,860 --> 00:36:06,320
But I had no idea what
the future's going to be.

676
00:36:06,320 --> 00:36:09,500
We had no news basically.

677
00:36:09,500 --> 00:36:11,780
And then, as I
worked inside, I had

678
00:36:11,780 --> 00:36:16,280
to carry the tool of a
German, a civilian, that

679
00:36:16,280 --> 00:36:19,250
had been in the army
and discharge because he

680
00:36:19,250 --> 00:36:25,550
was in a artillery bombardment.

681
00:36:25,550 --> 00:36:28,130
And he got shell shocked.

682
00:36:28,130 --> 00:36:30,230
So they discharged him.

683
00:36:30,230 --> 00:36:32,180
He was a Prussian.

684
00:36:32,180 --> 00:36:36,480
Schultz, his name was Schultz.

685
00:36:36,480 --> 00:36:39,400
Again, you see,
maybe it's my luck

686
00:36:39,400 --> 00:36:45,160
that my behavior or my
looks give a feeling

687
00:36:45,160 --> 00:36:47,500
that I'm not such a bad guy.

688
00:36:47,500 --> 00:36:49,570
This guy, out of
the blue sky, had

689
00:36:49,570 --> 00:36:52,660
me take this toolkit, which
I took every day up to where

690
00:36:52,660 --> 00:36:54,580
we were working up in the--

691
00:36:54,580 --> 00:36:55,390
higher up.

692
00:36:55,390 --> 00:36:59,980
We're insulating these
pipes with a steel wall.

693
00:36:59,980 --> 00:37:04,030
And he had the metal
to put together

694

00:37:04,030 --> 00:37:06,460
and I put the steel
wall on there.

695

00:37:06,460 --> 00:37:09,970
He brought his toolkit and
I find about six or seven

696

00:37:09,970 --> 00:37:13,180
boiled potatoes when
I'm hidden upstairs,

697

00:37:13,180 --> 00:37:15,550
because he was afraid
if somebody sees me,

698

00:37:15,550 --> 00:37:17,440
he would be in trouble.

699

00:37:17,440 --> 00:37:19,390
And what I found
out is that he had

700

00:37:19,390 --> 00:37:22,450
been in the army in
occupation in France

701

00:37:22,450 --> 00:37:25,150
and some farmers
invited him to the house

702

00:37:25,150 --> 00:37:26,530
and gave him a dinner.

703

00:37:26,530 --> 00:37:28,570
They gave him wine and
they had a good dinner.

704

00:37:28,570 --> 00:37:31,330
That stuck in his mind.

705

00:37:31,330 --> 00:37:34,300
And my philosophy
has been since then,

706
00:37:34,300 --> 00:37:37,150
if you do it a good
turn to someone,

707
00:37:37,150 --> 00:37:39,940
regardless who he is,
eventually, if not him,

708
00:37:39,940 --> 00:37:44,680
somebody else is going to repay
you with some nice things that

709
00:37:44,680 --> 00:37:46,150
will please you.

710
00:37:46,150 --> 00:37:50,682
When this guy did this to me,
I didn't expect it, number one.

711
00:37:50,682 --> 00:37:52,390
Number two, it sure
helped me, because we

712
00:37:52,390 --> 00:37:58,060
were eating nothing but liquid
soup and bread that was dark,

713
00:37:58,060 --> 00:38:00,400
sawdust, whatever.

714
00:38:00,400 --> 00:38:04,570
Well, anyway, we got so that
the hunger persisted enough

715
00:38:04,570 --> 00:38:09,670
that you feel hunger, but you
never stopped feeling hungry.

716
00:38:09,670 --> 00:38:11,050

Or good thing there was water.

717

00:38:11,050 --> 00:38:14,380

We drink water just
wherever there was water.

718

00:38:14,380 --> 00:38:19,720

Sometimes we ate snow, just
because the body was liquid.

719

00:38:19,720 --> 00:38:23,080

Now I'm going to jump from
there where the guy helped me

720

00:38:23,080 --> 00:38:27,370

to where, all of a sudden,
you hear bombardment.

721

00:38:27,370 --> 00:38:30,880

The Russians were
moving towards Germany.

722

00:38:30,880 --> 00:38:35,170

And all of a sudden, they're in
Krakow and you hear artillery.

723

00:38:35,170 --> 00:38:40,330

About that time, most of the
able German Nazis were gone.

724

00:38:40,330 --> 00:38:46,570

I'm talking about
January of 1945.

725

00:38:46,570 --> 00:38:53,830

And they decide to evacuate
this camp towards inner Germany.

726

00:38:53,830 --> 00:39:00,820

And I had mentioned once, we
were 300 when we got there.

727

00:39:00,820 --> 00:39:07,780

One year later, December 10th,
1944, December 10th, 1944,

728
00:39:07,780 --> 00:39:10,690
we were 12 guys left around us.

729
00:39:10,690 --> 00:39:14,050
Maybe the some were still
alive someplace else.

730
00:39:14,050 --> 00:39:20,440
We got together from 167,
the guys from that convoy.

731
00:39:20,440 --> 00:39:23,890
So what happened when they
decide we're going to evacuate,

732
00:39:23,890 --> 00:39:27,100
we left at camp with--

733
00:39:27,100 --> 00:39:30,850
one place they had
food for the guys that

734
00:39:30,850 --> 00:39:35,320
were known Jews, those kapos,
and the head guys that worked.

735
00:39:35,320 --> 00:39:40,022
So we dug up some cans of--

736
00:39:40,022 --> 00:39:41,920
it's like corned beef.

737
00:39:41,920 --> 00:39:44,770
It came from Argentina.

738
00:39:44,770 --> 00:39:46,120
Bully beef it was called.

739
00:39:46,120 --> 00:39:48,100

And it's very good.

740
00:39:48,100 --> 00:39:50,960
And we ate this and
we had the cans.

741
00:39:50,960 --> 00:39:53,980
And we reached-- we
walked out of that camp

742
00:39:53,980 --> 00:39:55,960
in the middle of the night.

743
00:39:55,960 --> 00:39:57,010
There's no light.

744
00:39:57,010 --> 00:40:00,040
And we're walking like
army, six or eight across,

745
00:40:00,040 --> 00:40:02,200
and a German on each side.

746
00:40:02,200 --> 00:40:03,978
And I'm on this end.

747
00:40:03,978 --> 00:40:05,270
There's another guy next to me.

748
00:40:05,270 --> 00:40:08,170
And then I see the German
and I looked at the guy.

749
00:40:08,170 --> 00:40:11,650
He must have been
over 60 years of age.

750
00:40:11,650 --> 00:40:14,840
It wasn't a home guard, the
last people they could still

751
00:40:14,840 --> 00:40:17,020

grab to be in service.

752

00:40:17,020 --> 00:40:19,480

They were going to
escort us out of there.

753

00:40:19,480 --> 00:40:22,148

But this guy had a
sack full of stuff.

754

00:40:22,148 --> 00:40:23,190

They couldn't even carry.

755

00:40:23,190 --> 00:40:26,900

They walked one mile and
they couldn't carry it.

756

00:40:26,900 --> 00:40:28,990

So rather than drop it,
they said to the guy,

757

00:40:28,990 --> 00:40:30,250

you carry it for me.

758

00:40:30,250 --> 00:40:31,240

So I carried it.

759

00:40:31,240 --> 00:40:33,550

In the dark, this
guy never saw--

760

00:40:33,550 --> 00:40:34,690

he passed it down.

761

00:40:34,690 --> 00:40:38,530

And we emptied that sack with
whatever that was edible stuff.

762

00:40:38,530 --> 00:40:40,180

We ate it and we threw it away.

763

00:40:40,180 --> 00:40:43,480

Where was he looking to
find who the guilty is?

764
00:40:43,480 --> 00:40:45,380
We all looked like this.

765
00:40:45,380 --> 00:40:47,740
We all had the same thing.

766
00:40:47,740 --> 00:40:49,150
They couldn't
recognize anything.

767
00:40:49,150 --> 00:40:51,070
That's the experience
we went through.

768
00:40:51,070 --> 00:40:53,200
All of a sudden, we
get to a station.

769
00:40:53,200 --> 00:40:56,317
And from there, we're supposed
to take a wagon and leave.

770
00:40:56,317 --> 00:40:57,400
And there's some barracks.

771
00:40:57,400 --> 00:41:02,410
And it's a middle of night and
it's snowing in January of 1945

772
00:41:02,410 --> 00:41:03,640
already.

773
00:41:03,640 --> 00:41:06,100
I would say the
people that went out,

774
00:41:06,100 --> 00:41:11,590
2/3 didn't make it from that
January '45 that were with us.

775

00:41:11,590 --> 00:41:15,100

Because the worst
was coming now.

776

00:41:15,100 --> 00:41:17,710

We had to take this train.

777

00:41:17,710 --> 00:41:20,470

And by that time, we were
three buddies together.

778

00:41:20,470 --> 00:41:24,280

I couldn't remember their
faces, their name, nothing.

779

00:41:24,280 --> 00:41:26,140

All I know is
there were barracks

780

00:41:26,140 --> 00:41:27,550

and we couldn't get in.

781

00:41:27,550 --> 00:41:29,800

We tried to go through the
window and all of a sudden,

782

00:41:29,800 --> 00:41:32,560

there's a fist that came
out and hit you in the face.

783

00:41:32,560 --> 00:41:35,740

Because remember, it's just
the moon was a little lighting

784

00:41:35,740 --> 00:41:36,550

up the--

785

00:41:36,550 --> 00:41:40,210

you get used to the dark,
although, there's no light.

786

00:41:40,210 --> 00:41:41,290

So we couldn't.

787

00:41:41,290 --> 00:41:44,530

But we saw there was
some kind of a mound

788

00:41:44,530 --> 00:41:49,370

and we could shelter
ourselves away from the wind.

789

00:41:49,370 --> 00:41:51,250

So the three of us,
we huddled together

790

00:41:51,250 --> 00:41:55,750

on the snow behind the
thing and we slept.

791

00:41:55,750 --> 00:41:57,220

When we got up--

792

00:41:57,220 --> 00:42:01,000

when it got daytime, we got up,
the snow underneath was melted

793

00:42:01,000 --> 00:42:02,480

and it was coal.

794

00:42:02,480 --> 00:42:07,750

It was a mound of coal to put
for the engine of the trains.

795

00:42:07,750 --> 00:42:10,580

They were coal-driven.

796

00:42:10,580 --> 00:42:12,410

And that's something
that sticks in my mind

797

00:42:12,410 --> 00:42:14,150

that you can go
through so many things

798

00:42:14,150 --> 00:42:17,240

and you're not even
realize how bad it was.

799

00:42:17,240 --> 00:42:20,060

We go up on these wagons.

800

00:42:20,060 --> 00:42:24,350

Not the same as in France,
which were covered and had

801

00:42:24,350 --> 00:42:26,180

doors that open like this.

802

00:42:26,180 --> 00:42:28,970

This opened that just,
but it had no roof.

803

00:42:28,970 --> 00:42:35,660

It was about the height, about
6 foot, a little over six foot.

804

00:42:35,660 --> 00:42:40,220

Because I could
see, stretching out.

805

00:42:40,220 --> 00:42:45,200

But if I wanted to do
something, like I did,

806

00:42:45,200 --> 00:42:49,850

I had to go on the
shoulder of my friend.

807

00:42:49,850 --> 00:42:51,200

Sure enough, he really--

808

00:42:51,200 --> 00:42:53,420

no food, no water.

809

00:42:53,420 --> 00:42:57,200

And we had gone from

Auschwitz down south

810
00:42:57,200 --> 00:43:00,140
to Czechoslovakia, Austria.

811
00:43:00,140 --> 00:43:02,210
And there are some
camps, but nobody

812
00:43:02,210 --> 00:43:05,930
wants to give us the
permission to disembark,

813
00:43:05,930 --> 00:43:08,400
because there's no
place and no food.

814
00:43:08,400 --> 00:43:12,200
So we continue and we
go further up north.

815
00:43:12,200 --> 00:43:13,730
And we go to Mauthausen.

816
00:43:13,730 --> 00:43:15,230
We can't get out.

817
00:43:15,230 --> 00:43:18,360
By that time, it's not
the hunger anymore.

818
00:43:18,360 --> 00:43:19,050
It's the thirst.

819
00:43:19,050 --> 00:43:21,110
Your body requires water.

820
00:43:21,110 --> 00:43:24,210
And I have to explain,
we got 75, roughly.

821
00:43:24,210 --> 00:43:25,837

I can't tell you exactly.

822
00:43:25,837 --> 00:43:26,670
I didn't count them.

823
00:43:26,670 --> 00:43:30,480
But it looked like about
75 guys in a plane.

824
00:43:30,480 --> 00:43:35,110
And every night, fortunately
for me, the three of us,

825
00:43:35,110 --> 00:43:38,710
we had our back against the
wall of the compartment.

826
00:43:38,710 --> 00:43:42,820
And so we were more
or less protected.

827
00:43:42,820 --> 00:43:45,400
The others, the weak
ones that fell down

828
00:43:45,400 --> 00:43:49,450
from tiredness, other guys
fell on top of them and slept.

829
00:43:49,450 --> 00:43:52,180
And the bottom ones were dead.

830
00:43:52,180 --> 00:43:58,210
The next morning, they
were dead from lack of air

831
00:43:58,210 --> 00:44:00,550
or because they were
just that bad off.

832
00:44:00,550 --> 00:44:02,590
And we were thrown, as
the train was moving,

833
00:44:02,590 --> 00:44:05,230
we were throwing all
these bodies overboard.

834
00:44:05,230 --> 00:44:09,820
We arrived, we were less
than 40 from the 75.

835
00:44:09,820 --> 00:44:11,380
I mentioned this before.

836
00:44:11,380 --> 00:44:16,900
It took from a Sunday to a
Sunday, one week, no food.

837
00:44:16,900 --> 00:44:21,520
But remember I said I had
this can and a string.

838
00:44:21,520 --> 00:44:23,200
We hooked up a string.

839
00:44:23,200 --> 00:44:27,550
And I used to go up on
the shoulder of my buddy.

840
00:44:27,550 --> 00:44:29,050
And at the train--

841
00:44:29,050 --> 00:44:33,850
see some places, military or
civilian trains had priority.

842
00:44:33,850 --> 00:44:37,040
So we had to stay on the side.

843
00:44:37,040 --> 00:44:41,440
And so there was snow, I
used to go fishing with this

844
00:44:41,440 --> 00:44:42,700

and pick up snow.

845

00:44:42,700 --> 00:44:46,450

And we ate that snow
like whipped cream,

846

00:44:46,450 --> 00:44:49,120

because the liquid
was necessary.

847

00:44:49,120 --> 00:44:52,940

And among this
particular situation

848

00:44:52,940 --> 00:44:56,290

and we go through all these
different towns, and it

849

00:44:56,290 --> 00:44:59,620

it's getting to
the end of January.

850

00:44:59,620 --> 00:45:01,120

It took a week, so
it must have been

851

00:45:01,120 --> 00:45:03,160

towards the end of January.

852

00:45:03,160 --> 00:45:06,060

At one time, I'm going fishing.

853

00:45:06,060 --> 00:45:11,380

The train was stopped, but I
didn't throw it far enough.

854

00:45:11,380 --> 00:45:13,810

And when I went,
I said to myself--

855

00:45:13,810 --> 00:45:16,330

the thought took less
than two seconds--

856
00:45:16,330 --> 00:45:17,680
I'm not going to get greedy.

857
00:45:17,680 --> 00:45:18,670
I'll lift it.

858
00:45:18,670 --> 00:45:22,360
And as I lift it, here, it
was about by that table,

859
00:45:22,360 --> 00:45:26,110
there's a gun at my head.

860
00:45:26,110 --> 00:45:28,072
In the snow, I didn't
hear his boots.

861
00:45:28,072 --> 00:45:29,530
I didn't even hear
him approaching,

862
00:45:29,530 --> 00:45:32,260
because I was so
concentrating to get this.

863
00:45:32,260 --> 00:45:35,230
When I saw this, I dropped
the coat and I went like this.

864
00:45:35,230 --> 00:45:38,050
He shot and he missed me.

865
00:45:38,050 --> 00:45:41,890
So you see, you get to a point
to say, all these things,

866
00:45:41,890 --> 00:45:46,490
you could have been dead
and your life is ended.

867
00:45:46,490 --> 00:45:48,710

Somehow, there was
a reason for me

868
00:45:48,710 --> 00:45:50,760
to be able to go through this.

869
00:45:50,760 --> 00:45:53,750
And we reach now 1945.

870
00:45:53,750 --> 00:45:57,650
And we get out to the
camp and we get to a camp.

871
00:45:57,650 --> 00:45:59,570
And it was called Dora.

872
00:45:59,570 --> 00:46:02,930
Dora had very few Jews.

873
00:46:02,930 --> 00:46:08,600
Mainly Russian and French
underground people, communists

874
00:46:08,600 --> 00:46:11,030
from France were in that camp.

875
00:46:11,030 --> 00:46:15,710
Mechanics that we could
work on the machine tools,

876
00:46:15,710 --> 00:46:21,200
lathe, to make parts
of the V1 rocket.

877
00:46:21,200 --> 00:46:22,700
Now I don't know where we are.

878
00:46:22,700 --> 00:46:26,030
It looked like in
Tyrol with pine trees.

879
00:46:26,030 --> 00:46:28,850

And all the barracks were
underneath the pine trees.

880
00:46:28,850 --> 00:46:32,720
All of the prisoners were in
barracks among the pine trees.

881
00:46:32,720 --> 00:46:36,350
Like if you go up to Tahoe. you
see some homes among the trees.

882
00:46:36,350 --> 00:46:38,960
That's what it looked like,
except it wasn't Tahoe.

883
00:46:38,960 --> 00:46:41,990
And here I am walking
with these guys.

884
00:46:41,990 --> 00:46:43,130
And we're so weak.

885
00:46:43,130 --> 00:46:45,260
A week, we had not water.

886
00:46:45,260 --> 00:46:48,020
One thing I have to
come back for a second,

887
00:46:48,020 --> 00:46:49,370
by the fourth or fifth day--

888
00:46:49,370 --> 00:46:51,350
I don't recall exactly
one day-- there were so

889
00:46:51,350 --> 00:46:54,830
many bodies in different
wagons, they stopped us.

890
00:46:54,830 --> 00:46:58,850
And there was Red Cross on the
side feeding German soldiers.

891
00:46:58,850 --> 00:47:03,890
And on this side, there was
like a passageway and a ravine.

892
00:47:03,890 --> 00:47:06,980
So they wanted
guys, able bodies,

893
00:47:06,980 --> 00:47:11,690
to come out with the dead bodies
and throw them in that ravine.

894
00:47:11,690 --> 00:47:13,970
Because we used to
keep the dead bodies.

895
00:47:13,970 --> 00:47:16,520
Sure enough, I
figured, my legs--

896
00:47:16,520 --> 00:47:18,397
I'm going to get out.

897
00:47:18,397 --> 00:47:20,480
That six foot thing, I
couldn't lift me to go out.

898
00:47:20,480 --> 00:47:21,950
I couldn't lift myself.

899
00:47:21,950 --> 00:47:23,060
I was so weak.

900
00:47:23,060 --> 00:47:24,620
So I watched.

901
00:47:24,620 --> 00:47:27,800
And here I see these two guys,
one on each side on the arm.

902
00:47:27,800 --> 00:47:33,350

And like a cart, he takes the
two legs and throw them in.

903

00:47:33,350 --> 00:47:36,170
When they were all in, everybody
was there with machine gun

904

00:47:36,170 --> 00:47:38,420
and thrown in the hole.

905

00:47:38,420 --> 00:47:42,650
Even the one that survived,
everything to that point,

906

00:47:42,650 --> 00:47:47,660
because they weren't try to
do what I tried to do to,

907

00:47:47,660 --> 00:47:49,520
get my legs.

908

00:47:49,520 --> 00:47:53,270
But you can't think that is
the thing that the Germans were

909

00:47:53,270 --> 00:47:54,290
going to do.

910

00:47:54,290 --> 00:47:57,140
That's less mouth to feed.

911

00:47:57,140 --> 00:47:58,980
They didn't know
what to do with us.

912

00:47:58,980 --> 00:48:02,360
The war technically was
empty, finished for them.

913

00:48:02,360 --> 00:48:05,240
The Russians were going
into Berlin practically

914

00:48:05,240 --> 00:48:06,020
at that time.

915

00:48:06,020 --> 00:48:07,820
They were that close to Berlin.

916

00:48:07,820 --> 00:48:12,740
And we were south in that camp.

917

00:48:12,740 --> 00:48:19,490
And straight up, you would go
to the camp called Ravensbruck.

918

00:48:19,490 --> 00:48:25,470
And from east, you were west
of Berlin already by that time.

919

00:48:25,470 --> 00:48:30,260
So what happened, I would get
to that camp and I'm here.

920

00:48:30,260 --> 00:48:32,600
Now I thought when I
ate that snow, whatever

921

00:48:32,600 --> 00:48:35,570
dirt there was, that
I was having a fever

922

00:48:35,570 --> 00:48:37,970
and I heard French voices.

923

00:48:37,970 --> 00:48:40,610
Turns out, there was really
French guys in the barracks

924

00:48:40,610 --> 00:48:43,160
that I could hear
talking French.

925

00:48:43,160 --> 00:48:46,220
So we already had

gotten where there was

926

00:48:46,220 --> 00:48:48,050

no more soldiers guarding us.

927

00:48:48,050 --> 00:48:49,190

We just walked.

928

00:48:49,190 --> 00:48:51,740

We're supposed to
go to a shower.

929

00:48:51,740 --> 00:48:55,190

Next to it, they told
us there's a movie

930

00:48:55,190 --> 00:48:56,998

place they had for the Germans.

931

00:48:56,998 --> 00:48:58,790

And next to the movie,
there's a bathhouse.

932

00:48:58,790 --> 00:49:00,260

You go up there.

933

00:49:00,260 --> 00:49:01,820

So we walk and I heard this.

934

00:49:01,820 --> 00:49:04,310

And this guy says,
don't go up there.

935

00:49:04,310 --> 00:49:06,620

You never come out from there.

936

00:49:06,620 --> 00:49:10,610

They exterminate with gas,
everybody that goes in there.

937

00:49:10,610 --> 00:49:14,090

So fortunately, this

guy was like a kapo.

938

00:49:14,090 --> 00:49:18,440

And he got the three of us
into the barrack, gave us

939

00:49:18,440 --> 00:49:20,640

new clothes, and
we stayed in there.

940

00:49:20,640 --> 00:49:23,300

And we started to work like
we've been there all the time.

941

00:49:23,300 --> 00:49:24,660

There was no control anymore.

942

00:49:24,660 --> 00:49:27,710

It's not like in Auschwitz,
every single day there

943

00:49:27,710 --> 00:49:28,620

was count.

944

00:49:28,620 --> 00:49:31,130

And if they made a mistake of
one or two, they recounted.

945

00:49:31,130 --> 00:49:34,100

So sometimes you're one
hour outside in the snow.

946

00:49:34,100 --> 00:49:36,900

In this case, we were fortunate
that they didn't count.

947

00:49:36,900 --> 00:49:37,700

And here I was.

948

00:49:37,700 --> 00:49:41,840

We had three shifts
during the time.

949

00:49:41,840 --> 00:49:44,630
January till May we were there.

950

00:49:44,630 --> 00:49:47,840
They had the factory
making that rocket bomb

951

00:49:47,840 --> 00:49:53,030
inside a tunnel, an
underground tunnel that

952

00:49:53,030 --> 00:49:54,450
was like a horseshoe.

953

00:49:54,450 --> 00:49:58,940
And where the entrance was,
they had a big green net

954

00:49:58,940 --> 00:50:02,240
with fake rubber
trees that closed it.

955

00:50:02,240 --> 00:50:07,590
And so if there was planes
from the allies looking

956

00:50:07,590 --> 00:50:10,050
for where it was troops,
they couldn't see it.

957

00:50:10,050 --> 00:50:12,060
The barracks were in the trees.

958

00:50:12,060 --> 00:50:15,060
Now technology is
so much different.

959

00:50:15,060 --> 00:50:16,860
Anyway, we went to work.

960

00:50:16,860 --> 00:50:17,820
And what can I do?

961
00:50:17,820 --> 00:50:19,020
I'm not a mechanic.

962
00:50:19,020 --> 00:50:22,440
So the French guy that
was the head of the guy,

963
00:50:22,440 --> 00:50:25,620
he says to me, when I get there,
there are some guys working

964
00:50:25,620 --> 00:50:28,850
on this machine tools, lathe.

965
00:50:28,850 --> 00:50:33,000
It turns and it has a different
valve and they make a--

966
00:50:33,000 --> 00:50:35,820
so I used to take
a rag and go around

967
00:50:35,820 --> 00:50:38,250
from one machine to
the other and rubbing.

968
00:50:38,250 --> 00:50:41,190
And I got so bored,
I was reading.

969
00:50:41,190 --> 00:50:46,140
Because just like we read a
license plate, what state they

970
00:50:46,140 --> 00:50:49,260
are, I would see
Scott's, machine

971
00:50:49,260 --> 00:50:51,850
from Milan or from England.

972

00:50:51,850 --> 00:50:56,190
They had machines from all over
Europe and the United States.

973
00:50:56,190 --> 00:51:02,190
So that's how it went until,
in April, the Germans come

974
00:51:02,190 --> 00:51:07,500
into that underground tunnel,
which was a horseshoe.

975
00:51:07,500 --> 00:51:10,440
The railroad line
would go around.

976
00:51:10,440 --> 00:51:14,490
They would come in here,
load that metallic V1

977
00:51:14,490 --> 00:51:18,060
without the ammunition, and
come out someplace else,

978
00:51:18,060 --> 00:51:22,320
and go to get loaded with
whatever had to be loaded.

979
00:51:22,320 --> 00:51:26,100
So the Germans come in and
we hear a whole hullabaloo.

980
00:51:26,100 --> 00:51:29,700
And we're supposed
to quit our job

981
00:51:29,700 --> 00:51:34,260
and come in front
of a parade board.

982
00:51:34,260 --> 00:51:35,130
There was a board.

983

00:51:35,130 --> 00:51:36,780

There was a German
that had a big thing

984

00:51:36,780 --> 00:51:38,400

and he was talking and talking.

985

00:51:38,400 --> 00:51:41,400

And all I could hear
is, sabotage, sabotage.

986

00:51:41,400 --> 00:51:46,440

And it was 50 Russians they
were going to hang for sabotage.

987

00:51:46,440 --> 00:51:48,090

But hanging is one thing.

988

00:51:48,090 --> 00:51:49,740

They weren't really
hanging them.

989

00:51:49,740 --> 00:51:53,220

There was cranes and
they put a big board

990

00:51:53,220 --> 00:51:58,960

like this and put fours
cords, four bodies to hang.

991

00:51:58,960 --> 00:52:00,720

And then they lift the crane.

992

00:52:00,720 --> 00:52:06,270

And that's how the guys would be
strangled, not hung, strangled.

993

00:52:06,270 --> 00:52:09,960

And as soon as they
did this, they still

994

00:52:09,960 --> 00:52:15,180

spoke of a different

thing about sabotage.

995

00:52:15,180 --> 00:52:18,210

And then we're supposed to
pass in front of those bodies

996

00:52:18,210 --> 00:52:21,810

hanging, 50 of them.

997

00:52:21,810 --> 00:52:24,750

And with a rubber hose, we're
supposed to-- and they say,

998

00:52:24,750 --> 00:52:26,220

this is sabotage.

999

00:52:26,220 --> 00:52:30,180

And we ran by and this was
the entrance, about 200 feet

1000

00:52:30,180 --> 00:52:32,040

to the entrance.

1001

00:52:32,040 --> 00:52:34,080

And must have been
about 200 guys.

1002

00:52:34,080 --> 00:52:36,210

We ran across.

1003

00:52:36,210 --> 00:52:40,420

If you can run pretty good,
you didn't get hit at all.

1004

00:52:40,420 --> 00:52:45,060

Now the bad part of it is they
say, everybody back to work.

1005

00:52:45,060 --> 00:52:47,280

The first 50 stay here.

1006

00:52:47,280 --> 00:52:48,750

I'm among the first 50.

1007

00:52:48,750 --> 00:52:52,500

The first thing goes in my mind,
we're the next 50 to be hung.

1008

00:52:52,500 --> 00:52:53,670

It wasn't that.

1009

00:52:53,670 --> 00:52:59,170

They needed people to unhook the
bodies to put them on trucks.

1010

00:52:59,170 --> 00:53:02,700

Now remember, by that time,
all the things I went through,

1011

00:53:02,700 --> 00:53:04,080

you're not human.

1012

00:53:04,080 --> 00:53:05,640

The body was warm.

1013

00:53:05,640 --> 00:53:09,600

I'm holding the cord
to unhook the guy.

1014

00:53:09,600 --> 00:53:11,580

And the only thing
that I could remember

1015

00:53:11,580 --> 00:53:16,980

was like in France, if
you hangman's noose,

1016

00:53:16,980 --> 00:53:18,900

brings you luck.

1017

00:53:18,900 --> 00:53:21,390

I was wishing myself luck
with that hangman's noose.

1018

00:53:21,390 --> 00:53:24,900

Although, that people
was dead in front of me

1019

00:53:24,900 --> 00:53:28,320

and the misery was so great,
all I was thinking is,

1020

00:53:28,320 --> 00:53:30,030

that's going to bring me luck.

1021

00:53:30,030 --> 00:53:33,540

Now it just shows you
how you're dehumanized

1022

00:53:33,540 --> 00:53:37,680

by the effect of what these
people were doing to me.

1023

00:53:37,680 --> 00:53:40,160

Sure enough, we had to
put them in a truck.

1024

00:53:40,160 --> 00:53:41,280

And we had no problem.

1025

00:53:41,280 --> 00:53:42,420

We went back.

1026

00:53:42,420 --> 00:53:44,400

And that lasted
maybe a week or two.

1027

00:53:44,400 --> 00:53:49,110

And all of a sudden, thousands
of allied planes came over

1028

00:53:49,110 --> 00:53:50,490

and they dropped bombs.

1029

00:53:50,490 --> 00:53:51,510

Never where we were.

1030

00:53:51,510 --> 00:53:52,770

They never could see us.

1031

00:53:52,770 --> 00:53:54,840

They dropped in
the towns around.

1032

00:53:54,840 --> 00:53:57,960

And all of a sudden, there's
no more German Nazis.

1033

00:53:57,960 --> 00:54:01,710

Home guard again and one
half goes to the valley.

1034

00:54:01,710 --> 00:54:04,670

We go through the
hills where I was.

1035

00:54:04,670 --> 00:54:08,270

And the ones to the
valley, parachutists

1036

00:54:08,270 --> 00:54:10,490

saved them early April.

1037

00:54:10,490 --> 00:54:12,590

We went the other way.

1038

00:54:12,590 --> 00:54:15,710

And it must have been
about the 15th of April

1039

00:54:15,710 --> 00:54:18,350

that, all of a sudden,
there's no Germans around us.

1040

00:54:18,350 --> 00:54:23,330

The three of us in the pine
trees and we see some Germans,

1041

00:54:23,330 --> 00:54:27,830

but in their long
johns, no uniform.

1042
00:54:27,830 --> 00:54:29,660
And I see tanks.

1043
00:54:29,660 --> 00:54:33,380
The first thing I saw
was tanks with stars.

1044
00:54:33,380 --> 00:54:37,010
I thought-- but it
was Russian tanks.

1045
00:54:37,010 --> 00:54:38,990
So the first guy with
the Russian tank,

1046
00:54:38,990 --> 00:54:40,430
we're looking at them like this.

1047
00:54:40,430 --> 00:54:42,860
And he comes down,
he looks at us,

1048
00:54:42,860 --> 00:54:46,040
and he says something like
if we wanted to smoke.

1049
00:54:46,040 --> 00:54:48,500
He took a pack of
Russians cigarettes

1050
00:54:48,500 --> 00:54:49,910
with a filter like this.

1051
00:54:49,910 --> 00:54:50,930
He gave us cigarettes.

1052
00:54:50,930 --> 00:54:54,350
And he took a piece of paper,
newspaper, with some tobacco.

1053

00:54:54,350 --> 00:54:57,450

And you rolled himself a
cigarette with some newspaper.

1054

00:54:57,450 --> 00:55:01,540

And he wanted
something stronger.

1055

00:55:01,540 --> 00:55:04,600

OK, so here we are,
more or less, free.

1056

00:55:04,600 --> 00:55:05,650

We see a farm.

1057

00:55:05,650 --> 00:55:07,390

The three of us go
towards the farmer.

1058

00:55:07,390 --> 00:55:10,030

And this farmer says can
we get something to eat?

1059

00:55:10,030 --> 00:55:14,860

And it was like a barn with
potatoes, pile of potatoes.

1060

00:55:14,860 --> 00:55:19,130

And hanging was smoked ham.

1061

00:55:19,130 --> 00:55:21,140

You know what it
does to guys like us.

1062

00:55:21,140 --> 00:55:21,800

We're hungry.

1063

00:55:21,800 --> 00:55:22,610

We took that ham.

1064

00:55:22,610 --> 00:55:25,280

We built a fire outside.

1065
00:55:25,280 --> 00:55:28,970
We roasted the potatoes
in the cinders.

1066
00:55:28,970 --> 00:55:31,572
And we ate that like this.

1067
00:55:31,572 --> 00:55:32,280
This is too rich.

1068
00:55:32,280 --> 00:55:35,530
Your intestines
were-- we got so sick.

1069
00:55:35,530 --> 00:55:37,550
For two days, we were
laying on the ground.

1070
00:55:37,550 --> 00:55:39,260
We didn't know what
to do with ourselves.

1071
00:55:39,260 --> 00:55:43,420
Diarrhea, everything
you can imagine.

1072
00:55:43,420 --> 00:55:49,270
So after that-- again,
you see, as I'm talking,

1073
00:55:49,270 --> 00:55:50,710
it comes back to me.

1074
00:55:50,710 --> 00:55:54,220
Before there was no more
Germans and we went on the road

1075
00:55:54,220 --> 00:55:57,010
and we got the
Russian that saved us,

1076

00:55:57,010 --> 00:55:59,740
two, three days before,
we're leaving this camp.

1077
00:55:59,740 --> 00:56:02,710
And again, I was
always foraging to see

1078
00:56:02,710 --> 00:56:04,420
where we can find some food.

1079
00:56:04,420 --> 00:56:06,010
I see this barrack.

1080
00:56:06,010 --> 00:56:10,030
The windows open and
they were inwards, two.

1081
00:56:10,030 --> 00:56:13,420
And it's like a chalet,
a wooden chalet.

1082
00:56:13,420 --> 00:56:18,910
That's where the Germans
had their food stock.

1083
00:56:18,910 --> 00:56:24,100
So I see a German about, I would
say, 40, 50 feet in front of me

1084
00:56:24,100 --> 00:56:28,570
and I make the sign, I'm hungry.

1085
00:56:28,570 --> 00:56:32,140
And I see he's going and he
takes this and he takes this.

1086
00:56:32,140 --> 00:56:34,870
And I say, gee, the guy's
going to give me something.

1087
00:56:34,870 --> 00:56:38,590
What I didn't know is that

he had a buddy of his that

1088
00:56:38,590 --> 00:56:41,470
was on the side and he must
have said something to him.

1089
00:56:41,470 --> 00:56:43,240
And he comes around the barrack.

1090
00:56:43,240 --> 00:56:48,190
He has a stool, a leg
of a milking stool.

1091
00:56:48,190 --> 00:56:52,660
It's around thing about
this size, I would say.

1092
00:56:52,660 --> 00:56:55,090
And I see him coming
with that stool thing.

1093
00:56:55,090 --> 00:56:58,160
And I see this guy coming
and I'm looking and I say,

1094
00:56:58,160 --> 00:56:59,300
hunger is so great.

1095
00:56:59,300 --> 00:57:01,300
I figured, I don't care
if he's going to hit me,

1096
00:57:01,300 --> 00:57:02,950
but at least I'm
getting some food.

1097
00:57:02,950 --> 00:57:04,630
What he did this
guy on the inside--

1098
00:57:04,630 --> 00:57:06,940
it shows you the mentality--

1099

00:57:06,940 --> 00:57:09,010

as he come closer-- and

I was watching this--

1100

00:57:09,010 --> 00:57:12,910

he closes the window and he

catches my sleeve and my coat,

1101

00:57:12,910 --> 00:57:15,730

which was a Sing

Sing type clothes.

1102

00:57:15,730 --> 00:57:17,260

He caught me and I'm stuck.

1103

00:57:17,260 --> 00:57:18,610

And there's the guy coming.

1104

00:57:18,610 --> 00:57:20,530

He hit me on the head.

1105

00:57:20,530 --> 00:57:25,750

But I was strong enough to

rip this off and run away.

1106

00:57:25,750 --> 00:57:30,070

The first impression I had,

I have lice or something,

1107

00:57:30,070 --> 00:57:30,932

because the blood.

1108

00:57:30,932 --> 00:57:32,140

I didn't realize I had blood.

1109

00:57:32,140 --> 00:57:35,350

But the blood was

trickling very lightly.

1110

00:57:35,350 --> 00:57:37,150

Didn't even come down.

1111

00:57:37,150 --> 00:57:40,010

And so when I rejoined
the other people

1112

00:57:40,010 --> 00:57:43,030

and we went back where we got
the farmer, what I did get,

1113

00:57:43,030 --> 00:57:48,840

he opened my skull,
as you can see here.

1114

00:57:48,840 --> 00:57:49,470

Yes.

1115

00:57:49,470 --> 00:57:53,010

But it did not
bother me, except we

1116

00:57:53,010 --> 00:57:56,760

must have ate a lot of stuff
that didn't go with our stomach

1117

00:57:56,760 --> 00:57:59,430

and we drank water
that wasn't too clean.

1118

00:57:59,430 --> 00:58:01,050

I got edema.

1119

00:58:01,050 --> 00:58:03,660

My forehead swell up
and it was puffed.

1120

00:58:03,660 --> 00:58:04,710

And you could feel.

1121

00:58:04,710 --> 00:58:07,950

It was kind of funny.

1122

00:58:07,950 --> 00:58:13,620

And we reached the

camp of Ravensbruck.

1123
00:58:13,620 --> 00:58:17,010
That's where I saw the
first time, women--

1124
00:58:17,010 --> 00:58:20,040
I wouldn't be far off if
I said their legs were

1125
00:58:20,040 --> 00:58:21,330
about this size.

1126
00:58:21,330 --> 00:58:25,050
The bone, what we call,
is that the tibia?

1127
00:58:25,050 --> 00:58:26,100
That's it.

1128
00:58:26,100 --> 00:58:28,740
And I couldn't distinguish
if it was a woman

1129
00:58:28,740 --> 00:58:30,870
or not, because no hair.

1130
00:58:30,870 --> 00:58:33,510
The body was Muslim
man like the men.

1131
00:58:33,510 --> 00:58:35,760
But we were told that's
a women's camp there.

1132
00:58:35,760 --> 00:58:38,310
The women were there.

1133
00:58:38,310 --> 00:58:40,260
Sure enough, it
didn't take too long.

1134

00:58:40,260 --> 00:58:43,770

The Red Cross came
around and they gave us

1135

00:58:43,770 --> 00:58:47,580

international Red Cross
packages mostly from America.

1136

00:58:47,580 --> 00:58:52,020

Lucky Strike cigarettes,
there was a milk powder,

1137

00:58:52,020 --> 00:58:54,390

there was sugar, there was rice.

1138

00:58:54,390 --> 00:58:56,380

Sure enough, I'm
a cook, I decide

1139

00:58:56,380 --> 00:58:58,710

to make rice pudding right away.

1140

00:58:58,710 --> 00:59:00,990

First thing, I got
to have rice pudding.

1141

00:59:00,990 --> 00:59:04,780

And we get into a backyard some
place and we make some fire.

1142

00:59:04,780 --> 00:59:06,280

And as I'm making
a rice pudding,

1143

00:59:06,280 --> 00:59:10,560

somebody stole my
package, an inmate,

1144

00:59:10,560 --> 00:59:14,290

somebody else that's very
hungry or very greedy.

1145

00:59:14,290 --> 00:59:15,120

So I cried.

1146
00:59:15,120 --> 00:59:16,740
I swear to God, I
cried like a baby.

1147
00:59:16,740 --> 00:59:20,490
Because here I was and I
saw the American food that

1148
00:59:20,490 --> 00:59:22,660
was in there, I had
never seen in my life.

1149
00:59:22,660 --> 00:59:24,900
And it was a Red Cross thing.

1150
00:59:24,900 --> 00:59:29,310
But there's another sense that
afterwards it came back to me

1151
00:59:29,310 --> 00:59:32,280
that at least 50%
of the people that

1152
00:59:32,280 --> 00:59:37,450
ate the stuff from this
package died of diarrhea.

1153
00:59:37,450 --> 00:59:42,750
Because the intestines
weren't lined.

1154
00:59:42,750 --> 00:59:45,270
So what happens-- now I'm
giving you statistics.

1155
00:59:45,270 --> 00:59:46,890
They're not official statistics.

1156
00:59:46,890 --> 00:59:49,320
That's what, at the
time, they told me

1157
00:59:49,320 --> 00:59:51,720
that half of the guys
that got these packages

1158
00:59:51,720 --> 00:59:52,620
died from diarrhea.

1159
00:59:52,620 --> 00:59:55,980
So I had no more package,
but there wasn't more Germans

1160
00:59:55,980 --> 00:59:57,070
around us.

1161
00:59:57,070 --> 01:00:03,240
And here we are, the three guys,
in a kaserne, which is a depot.

1162
01:00:03,240 --> 01:00:05,380
That kaserne was
called Adolf Hitler.

1163
01:00:05,380 --> 01:00:06,510
I'll never forget.

1164
01:00:06,510 --> 01:00:11,700
And here we are with people from
Czechoslovakia, Poland, Russia.

1165
01:00:11,700 --> 01:00:12,840
And we're relaxing.

1166
01:00:12,840 --> 01:00:15,730
And all of a sudden, I hear
somebody in the hallway

1167
01:00:15,730 --> 01:00:19,140
hollering, everybody from
the west have to leave.

1168
01:00:19,140 --> 01:00:21,540

The trucks are
taking you back home.

1169
01:00:21,540 --> 01:00:25,020
All the rest of them would go
east to the countries where

1170
01:00:25,020 --> 01:00:27,450
they were taken from.

1171
01:00:27,450 --> 01:00:29,400
Sure enough, we were taken.

1172
01:00:29,400 --> 01:00:32,760
American GIs with the
trucks and we got in.

1173
01:00:32,760 --> 01:00:35,490
There up we went to--

1174
01:00:35,490 --> 01:00:38,150
we were north Dutch border.

1175
01:00:38,150 --> 01:00:39,980
From there, we took a train.

1176
01:00:39,980 --> 01:00:43,700
I sold my first white
bread in Holland.

1177
01:00:43,700 --> 01:00:44,660
We went to Belgium.

1178
01:00:44,660 --> 01:00:46,190
It didn't take too long.

1179
01:00:46,190 --> 01:00:50,360
And we got into
France and I got what

1180
01:00:50,360 --> 01:00:56,000
they call deuxieme bureau which

is like the CIA that checks you

1181
01:00:56,000 --> 01:00:59,510
out if you're really
a prisoner or you're

1182
01:00:59,510 --> 01:01:03,150
a guy that enlisted with
the Nazis and so forth.

1183
01:01:03,150 --> 01:01:07,160
And we got, I guess, at
that time 200 francs.

1184
01:01:07,160 --> 01:01:11,000
And they gave us some
khaki clothes, not uniform,

1185
01:01:11,000 --> 01:01:15,740
like a jacket and pants
with khaki and a shirt.

1186
01:01:15,740 --> 01:01:19,640
And so we are in Lille,
which I had worked

1187
01:01:19,640 --> 01:01:21,420
during the war for a while.

1188
01:01:21,420 --> 01:01:22,580
So I know the town.

1189
01:01:22,580 --> 01:01:25,820
And the first thing I bought
was a kilo of cherries.

1190
01:01:25,820 --> 01:01:32,120
We're looking at now
May, May of 1950.

1191
01:01:32,120 --> 01:01:33,410
The war is over.

1192

01:01:33,410 --> 01:01:36,410

I'm in France, back in France.

1193

01:01:36,410 --> 01:01:39,093

What happened to my sister
and the rest, I had no idea.

1194

01:01:39,093 --> 01:01:40,010

I knew about my folks.

1195

01:01:40,010 --> 01:01:41,480

That I knew.

1196

01:01:41,480 --> 01:01:43,790

And we go to Dijon and I see--

1197

01:01:43,790 --> 01:01:49,430

first people I go to see
is my friend Paul's folks

1198

01:01:49,430 --> 01:01:53,360

that had a dairy grocery.

1199

01:01:53,360 --> 01:01:56,540

And I go in the back door and
they see me and they say--

1200

01:01:56,540 --> 01:02:01,040

the mother says, my God, I
never thought I'd see you again.

1201

01:02:01,040 --> 01:02:03,410

And she puts me at the table.

1202

01:02:03,410 --> 01:02:06,140

And this is the
entrance to the kitchen.

1203

01:02:06,140 --> 01:02:07,550

[INAUDIBLE] and
I had a newspaper

1204

01:02:07,550 --> 01:02:08,840
and I had it like this.

1205

01:02:08,840 --> 01:02:10,790
When somebody came,
I put it down.

1206

01:02:10,790 --> 01:02:12,980
They all went like this.

1207

01:02:12,980 --> 01:02:15,272
But I got the whole
family that saw me.

1208

01:02:15,272 --> 01:02:16,730
And then I found
out what happened.

1209

01:02:16,730 --> 01:02:19,970
My sister was in Germany
with her daughter.

1210

01:02:19,970 --> 01:02:21,950
I found out she had a daughter.

1211

01:02:21,950 --> 01:02:26,150
And she was in the army,
French army, as a translator

1212

01:02:26,150 --> 01:02:30,710
and a postal censure for
the French government.

1213

01:02:30,710 --> 01:02:33,710
Her husband was in the army too.

1214

01:02:33,710 --> 01:02:36,530
And I found out
my little brother,

1215

01:02:36,530 --> 01:02:42,860
which we call Coco that was

born in 1933, was taken in '44--

1216

01:02:42,860 --> 01:02:46,160

he was 11-- and
didn't come back.

1217

01:02:46,160 --> 01:02:49,850

How I found out some news
about him is my friend

1218

01:02:49,850 --> 01:02:53,480

and I went to the different
organization that took care

1219

01:02:53,480 --> 01:02:55,280

of these people that came back.

1220

01:02:55,280 --> 01:02:58,490

And I was told there
was a young guy that was

1221

01:02:58,490 --> 01:03:00,920

14 that was in the hospital.

1222

01:03:00,920 --> 01:03:04,250

He came back and he
was with my mother.

1223

01:03:04,250 --> 01:03:07,250

So I went to see him
and he told me, yes, we

1224

01:03:07,250 --> 01:03:10,220

went to Buna Monowitz
That's where I was.

1225

01:03:10,220 --> 01:03:12,530

My youngest brother
was in that camp.

1226

01:03:12,530 --> 01:03:15,065

There must have been
maybe 100 barracks.

1227
01:03:15,065 --> 01:03:16,830
I could have been very close.

1228
01:03:16,830 --> 01:03:17,900
I don't remember exactly.

1229
01:03:17,900 --> 01:03:20,520
Except I never saw him.

1230
01:03:20,520 --> 01:03:25,850
And so I found out what
happened with the whole family.

1231
01:03:25,850 --> 01:03:30,530
And first thing that
happened, the government

1232
01:03:30,530 --> 01:03:36,350
gave me a card with a
picture that I was deported.

1233
01:03:36,350 --> 01:03:39,170
And I had some privileges,
which, at this time,

1234
01:03:39,170 --> 01:03:40,190
were very little.

1235
01:03:40,190 --> 01:03:43,430
Because everybody in
France was still rationed.

1236
01:03:43,430 --> 01:03:48,290
1945, '46, they still
had rations in France.

1237
01:03:48,290 --> 01:03:53,330
The situation wasn't
overnight back to normal.

1238
01:03:53,330 --> 01:03:57,810

And little by little, my
destiny was not to stay there.

1239
01:03:57,810 --> 01:04:00,650
I had met some people in Paris.

1240
01:04:00,650 --> 01:04:05,210
I went back to Paris and I found
out that there's this lady.

1241
01:04:05,210 --> 01:04:08,930
Her son works in
the Belgian Congo

1242
01:04:08,930 --> 01:04:13,310
and he has a company,
which we know here now

1243
01:04:13,310 --> 01:04:17,660
is a tire company,
the French tires.

1244
01:04:17,660 --> 01:04:19,330
Not Goodrich, it's the--

1245
01:04:19,330 --> 01:04:20,070
Michelin.

1246
01:04:20,070 --> 01:04:20,690
Michelin.

1247
01:04:20,690 --> 01:04:24,800
Had a factory in Brazzaville
in Belgian Congo.

1248
01:04:24,800 --> 01:04:28,370
This lady was Belgian and
her husband was an engineer--

1249
01:04:28,370 --> 01:04:29,630
her son.

1250

01:04:29,630 --> 01:04:31,890

And he came back to France
and he talked to me.

1251

01:04:31,890 --> 01:04:33,710

And he said, look,
there's 10,000 white.

1252

01:04:33,710 --> 01:04:35,690

If you want to come
to work for us there,

1253

01:04:35,690 --> 01:04:37,910

you get two months vacation.

1254

01:04:37,910 --> 01:04:40,730

Every two years,
you get two months.

1255

01:04:40,730 --> 01:04:42,600

And I was all set to go.

1256

01:04:42,600 --> 01:04:46,130

And at the last minute, I said,
Africa doesn't appeal to me.

1257

01:04:46,130 --> 01:04:49,040

And the French government
send me to recuperate,

1258

01:04:49,040 --> 01:04:51,170

because I had lost
weight and everything,

1259

01:04:51,170 --> 01:04:54,930

to a resort place near Vichy
in the center of France.

1260

01:04:54,930 --> 01:04:58,470

And there was a hotel
with people from all over.

1261

01:04:58,470 --> 01:04:59,990

There were Hungarian Jews.

1262

01:04:59,990 --> 01:05:03,110

There was Polish Jews
that were transient.

1263

01:05:03,110 --> 01:05:05,660

They were going to go either
to Israel, or the United

1264

01:05:05,660 --> 01:05:07,980

States, or Canada, or whatever.

1265

01:05:07,980 --> 01:05:12,070

And again, my way
of doing things,

1266

01:05:12,070 --> 01:05:16,827

sometimes, you always think
what can you do to help.

1267

01:05:16,827 --> 01:05:18,160

So I wasn't going to go to work.

1268

01:05:18,160 --> 01:05:19,540

I was still a little weak.

1269

01:05:19,540 --> 01:05:22,248

But I knew how to make eclairs.

1270

01:05:22,248 --> 01:05:24,290

And so I went in the
kitchen, I asked the people,

1271

01:05:24,290 --> 01:05:25,980

do you have some eggs?

1272

01:05:25,980 --> 01:05:26,510

They have.

1273

01:05:26,510 --> 01:05:29,180

And I made dessert for

the whole bunch of people.

1274

01:05:29,180 --> 01:05:31,460

There must have been
about 80 people, I guess.

1275

01:05:31,460 --> 01:05:32,900

So I made eclairs.

1276

01:05:32,900 --> 01:05:34,580

And everybody ate eclairs.

1277

01:05:34,580 --> 01:05:36,330

And that was right
after the war.

1278

01:05:36,330 --> 01:05:37,550

And I was a buddy.

1279

01:05:37,550 --> 01:05:39,740

Everybody was my friend.

1280

01:05:39,740 --> 01:05:41,930

And naturally,
you're in your 20s.

1281

01:05:41,930 --> 01:05:43,130

There's some young girls.

1282

01:05:43,130 --> 01:05:44,750

You get friendly with them.

1283

01:05:44,750 --> 01:05:48,380

And there was a fellow
from Poland, Mandy Black.

1284

01:05:48,380 --> 01:05:51,320

And he was very active.

1285

01:05:51,320 --> 01:05:53,030

He had lost his
family, everybody.

1286

01:05:53,030 --> 01:05:55,800
And he was going to New York.

1287

01:05:55,800 --> 01:06:00,210
And he more or less said to
me, why don't you come with us?

1288

01:06:00,210 --> 01:06:03,360
And that's how I
remember that in 1936, I

1289

01:06:03,360 --> 01:06:07,990
had my mother's sister that
sent us tickets to leave.

1290

01:06:07,990 --> 01:06:11,700
And I remember the name,
Packard, Williams Avenue,

1291

01:06:11,700 --> 01:06:13,700
Brooklyn, New York.

1292

01:06:13,700 --> 01:06:15,980
And I sent a French
letter to my aunt.

1293

01:06:15,980 --> 01:06:17,420
I didn't speak French.

1294

01:06:17,420 --> 01:06:19,430
And sure enough,
we had a connection

1295

01:06:19,430 --> 01:06:20,720
and she made me papers.

1296

01:06:20,720 --> 01:06:25,660
And I got to New York in 1947.

1297

01:06:25,660 --> 01:06:29,200
March the 4th, 1947

I got to New York.

1298

01:06:29,200 --> 01:06:32,080

And I kissed the rest
of the world goodbye.

1299

01:06:32,080 --> 01:06:35,650

My friend Paul that
I met in '39 took me

1300

01:06:35,650 --> 01:06:40,180

with his car to the Le Havre to
take me to the United States.

1301

01:06:40,180 --> 01:06:44,060

And I remember his
scar on that pier.

1302

01:06:44,060 --> 01:06:46,030

And I was leaving.

1303

01:06:46,030 --> 01:06:49,180

Now when I got the
United States in 1993,

1304

01:06:49,180 --> 01:06:55,180

I'm still friend with
that same Paul from 1939.

1305

01:06:55,180 --> 01:06:58,080

My first wife, my son
has gone to see him.

1306

01:06:58,080 --> 01:07:00,280

We are closer than brothers.

1307

01:07:00,280 --> 01:07:04,600

But born in 1922, both of us.

1308

01:07:04,600 --> 01:07:07,810

He's become very, very--

1309

01:07:07,810 --> 01:07:09,160
he doesn't move.

1310
01:07:09,160 --> 01:07:11,410
He's been here three times.

1311
01:07:11,410 --> 01:07:13,810
One on his own with
his family to visit me.

1312
01:07:13,810 --> 01:07:17,280
The second time he
came, because he

1313
01:07:17,280 --> 01:07:18,730
enjoyed so much the first time.

1314
01:07:18,730 --> 01:07:20,290
We made friends.

1315
01:07:20,290 --> 01:07:23,800
And the third time he came
when I lost my wife in '83.

1316
01:07:23,800 --> 01:07:26,710
The next day, he was on
a plane to come here.

1317
01:07:26,710 --> 01:07:29,860
That shows you, you
don't have to look

1318
01:07:29,860 --> 01:07:33,130
far to have people that
can help you or try

1319
01:07:33,130 --> 01:07:36,400
to make you feel better.

1320
01:07:36,400 --> 01:07:38,860
Although, I'd say,
all these years, I

1321

01:07:38,860 --> 01:07:42,900

had never had-- except this
year, I feel kind of the fellow

1322

01:07:42,900 --> 01:07:49,960

has gotten to a point where
he is not the self-assured man

1323

01:07:49,960 --> 01:07:51,130

that he used to be.

1324

01:07:51,130 --> 01:07:53,240

The age has taken
him to a point.

1325

01:07:53,240 --> 01:07:56,830

He retired when he was 60.

1326

01:07:56,830 --> 01:07:59,110

And now he's 70 going on 71.

1327

01:07:59,110 --> 01:08:02,200

In April this month,
he's going to be 71.

1328

01:08:02,200 --> 01:08:05,200

He was supposed to come when
the Gulf War was going on.

1329

01:08:05,200 --> 01:08:09,970

He gave me an excuse towards the
war over there, I can't come.

1330

01:08:09,970 --> 01:08:12,250

The last year, I
went to see him.

1331

01:08:12,250 --> 01:08:14,140

He said, next year, I'm coming.

1332

01:08:14,140 --> 01:08:15,810

He's not coming.

1333
01:08:15,810 --> 01:08:18,010
He doesn't want to tell
me, I don't want to come.

1334
01:08:18,010 --> 01:08:22,569
But I realized you can be
friendly all these years,

1335
01:08:22,569 --> 01:08:26,649
but somehow, along the
line, your thoughts

1336
01:08:26,649 --> 01:08:31,630
change from the time
you were 17, 1920.

1337
01:08:31,630 --> 01:08:35,680
In the army, we were
together, everything.

1338
01:08:35,680 --> 01:08:40,420
So at this particular point,
I reached the United States.

1339
01:08:40,420 --> 01:08:45,460
Everything that was my
life in Europe was erased.

1340
01:08:45,460 --> 01:08:48,250
I didn't want to get
in touch with no one.

1341
01:08:48,250 --> 01:08:50,830
And I made a new life here.

1342
01:08:50,830 --> 01:08:56,080
This Mandy Black that had been
so influential in bringing me,

1343
01:08:56,080 --> 01:08:58,090
he had lost his whole family.

1344

01:08:58,090 --> 01:09:02,200

But he found in New York
a lady that was widowed.

1345

01:09:02,200 --> 01:09:07,819

And she was in school with him
in Poland when they were kids.

1346

01:09:07,819 --> 01:09:14,340

And they still were in their
40s or late 30s at that time.

1347

01:09:14,340 --> 01:09:17,569

So they got married and
I went to his wedding.

1348

01:09:17,569 --> 01:09:21,290

And this lady had
a very good friend

1349

01:09:21,290 --> 01:09:23,029

that was my wife's cousin.

1350

01:09:23,029 --> 01:09:25,760

And that's how I met my
wife when they get married.

1351

01:09:25,760 --> 01:09:28,880

And at that time, I spoke
very little English.

1352

01:09:28,880 --> 01:09:33,560

And I took my wife to a movie
in New York, a French movie.

1353

01:09:33,560 --> 01:09:38,000

And my wife had taken
some French in school.

1354

01:09:38,000 --> 01:09:41,810

And remember, I was, at that
time in '47, when I met her,

1355

01:09:41,810 --> 01:09:43,700

I can even tell
you the day we met.

1356

01:09:43,700 --> 01:09:45,950

June the 7th, 1947.

1357

01:09:45,950 --> 01:09:49,200

We get married
July the 3rd, 1948.

1358

01:09:49,200 --> 01:09:50,330

What was her name?

1359

01:09:50,330 --> 01:09:51,410

Sarah.

1360

01:09:51,410 --> 01:09:55,220

Her maiden name was Rabinovitch.

1361

01:09:55,220 --> 01:09:58,220

Although, as I said
before, I wasn't really

1362

01:09:58,220 --> 01:10:00,650

that close to Jewish religion.

1363

01:10:00,650 --> 01:10:05,210

Because I was intermingling
with my job, with my friends,

1364

01:10:05,210 --> 01:10:10,430

I knew my Jewishness, but
I wasn't the main purpose.

1365

01:10:10,430 --> 01:10:12,710

Although, there are some
people that were in camp,

1366

01:10:12,710 --> 01:10:16,070

came back, and became very
religious, went to Israel.

1367
01:10:16,070 --> 01:10:19,610
My case was different.

1368
01:10:19,610 --> 01:10:22,460
Not that I would say
it's better or worse.

1369
01:10:22,460 --> 01:10:25,070
That's my way.

1370
01:10:25,070 --> 01:10:28,940
But I could see that I always
looked for getting closer

1371
01:10:28,940 --> 01:10:29,990
to the religion.

1372
01:10:29,990 --> 01:10:33,950
Because my wife had
lost her parents.

1373
01:10:33,950 --> 01:10:37,600
They had high blood pressure
and they died young.

1374
01:10:37,600 --> 01:10:41,910
She lived with her
grandmother in New York.

1375
01:10:41,910 --> 01:10:43,040
And so we get married.

1376
01:10:43,040 --> 01:10:48,350
And I lived with her in the
apartment with another cousin.

1377
01:10:48,350 --> 01:10:51,170
I was working at that time
at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel

1378
01:10:51,170 --> 01:10:52,040

in New York.

1379

01:10:52,040 --> 01:10:57,320

She worked as a secretary
treasurer in a fur company

1380

01:10:57,320 --> 01:10:59,910

on 7th Avenue in New York.

1381

01:10:59,910 --> 01:11:04,790

The owner was [? Schuter, ?] Mr.
[? Schuter. ?] And he helped us

1382

01:11:04,790 --> 01:11:07,880

get money to go in business.

1383

01:11:07,880 --> 01:11:10,790

In 1952, I opened
my first bakery.

1384

01:11:10,790 --> 01:11:15,240

That was my ambition,
to be my own boss.

1385

01:11:15,240 --> 01:11:16,640

I always worked very hard.

1386

01:11:16,640 --> 01:11:19,010

If I worked for a salary,
like at the Waldorf,

1387

01:11:19,010 --> 01:11:22,160

there was three or four guys
making the same salary as me

1388

01:11:22,160 --> 01:11:24,830

and they never did a day's work.

1389

01:11:24,830 --> 01:11:27,890

They took to the numbers racket.

1390

01:11:27,890 --> 01:11:30,780

They paid off the
head guy in the bakery

1391
01:11:30,780 --> 01:11:32,390
so he should let them do this.

1392
01:11:32,390 --> 01:11:34,970
So they were getting paid
and they didn't work.

1393
01:11:34,970 --> 01:11:36,590
There was 2,000 employees.

1394
01:11:36,590 --> 01:11:40,670
They go with the number
racket, which, at that time,

1395
01:11:40,670 --> 01:11:42,410
I remember was \$0.25.

1396
01:11:42,410 --> 01:11:43,860
You'd give them three numbers.

1397
01:11:43,860 --> 01:11:48,090
And if the numbers come
in, you'd get \$250.

1398
01:11:48,090 --> 01:11:50,533
And remember, I'm
talking about 1949.

1399
01:11:50,533 --> 01:11:51,450
That's a lot of money.

1400
01:11:51,450 --> 01:11:53,460
I won once.

1401
01:11:53,460 --> 01:11:56,660
For \$0.25, I played
my house number, 254.

1402
01:11:56,660 --> 01:11:59,550

and it came in.

1403

01:11:59,550 --> 01:12:02,580

These are things among
so many other things

1404

01:12:02,580 --> 01:12:05,550

that can happen in a lifetime.

1405

01:12:05,550 --> 01:12:09,260

You mentioned that 1944
was an important year.

1406

01:12:09,260 --> 01:12:11,860

Is there anything you want
to tell us about that?

1407

01:12:11,860 --> 01:12:18,390

Yeah, '44 is that you
have a single complete 365

1408

01:12:18,390 --> 01:12:20,430

days in hell.

1409

01:12:20,430 --> 01:12:23,940

See, when you go to the camp
and it's already December, well,

1410

01:12:23,940 --> 01:12:28,050

part of that year, I had
freedom of living in Dijon,

1411

01:12:28,050 --> 01:12:29,160

I was in jail.

1412

01:12:29,160 --> 01:12:33,720

But never realized till December
the 10th when we got there.

1413

01:12:33,720 --> 01:12:37,260

Now somehow, by '44,
we had an inkling

1414

01:12:37,260 --> 01:12:39,300

that the Germans weren't
going to win the war.

1415

01:12:39,300 --> 01:12:42,870

We had a feeling what
happened in Stalingrad.

1416

01:12:42,870 --> 01:12:45,660

We had some way to find out.

1417

01:12:45,660 --> 01:12:50,610

Well, the Germans
either had newspapers

1418

01:12:50,610 --> 01:12:54,750

or they had a magazine
called Der Spiegel.

1419

01:12:54,750 --> 01:12:57,150

And some German Jews
that were in this camp,

1420

01:12:57,150 --> 01:12:59,430

they were able to, once
in a while, get one.

1421

01:12:59,430 --> 01:13:04,700

And I recall vividly
two German Jews sitting

1422

01:13:04,700 --> 01:13:06,690

on the side of a barrack.

1423

01:13:06,690 --> 01:13:08,040

They're looking at the picture.

1424

01:13:08,040 --> 01:13:13,850

They showed pictures of the
German troops in Russia.

1425

01:13:13,850 --> 01:13:16,790

And they were looking at this.

1426

01:13:16,790 --> 01:13:20,690

And just say, the Germans
are getting a licking.

1427

01:13:20,690 --> 01:13:21,980

Now not the German.

1428

01:13:21,980 --> 01:13:22,910

Our troops.

1429

01:13:22,910 --> 01:13:25,520

Our troops are
getting a licking.

1430

01:13:25,520 --> 01:13:29,030

Now I know they were Jewish,
because they had a star.

1431

01:13:29,030 --> 01:13:32,390

But, you see, that goes
back to assimilation.

1432

01:13:32,390 --> 01:13:37,430

When you have generation, some
of the parents of these kids

1433

01:13:37,430 --> 01:13:41,450

could have been decorated from
World War I in the German army.

1434

01:13:41,450 --> 01:13:42,980

So they were assimilated.

1435

01:13:42,980 --> 01:13:45,930

And when they spoke of the
German army, they would say,

1436

01:13:45,930 --> 01:13:51,060

our soldiers were
getting beat in Russia.

1437

01:13:51,060 --> 01:13:54,590

And it was different
articles we heard.

1438

01:13:54,590 --> 01:13:59,150

And we had also found
out V-J Day in '44,

1439

01:13:59,150 --> 01:14:01,320

June the 6th, that
they landed in France.

1440

01:14:01,320 --> 01:14:02,720

We knew that.

1441

01:14:02,720 --> 01:14:04,220

Well, how do we know?

1442

01:14:04,220 --> 01:14:07,700

Because, as you can understand,
we were put in a tunnel

1443

01:14:07,700 --> 01:14:12,080

or in an isolated cell.

1444

01:14:12,080 --> 01:14:14,150

There was Polish people around.

1445

01:14:14,150 --> 01:14:17,240

And that connected with
me, but other people

1446

01:14:17,240 --> 01:14:20,540

around news from
the outside world.

1447

01:14:20,540 --> 01:14:24,920

And that's how we found out
through intermediaries that

1448

01:14:24,920 --> 01:14:27,840

spoke Polish or spoke German.

1449
01:14:27,840 --> 01:14:29,370
That's how we found out.

1450
01:14:29,370 --> 01:14:32,900
So I knew we were close to--

1451
01:14:32,900 --> 01:14:34,760
the Germans were
close to lose the war.

1452
01:14:34,760 --> 01:14:37,820
But our destiny, what is
going to happen to us,

1453
01:14:37,820 --> 01:14:41,030
are they going to
eliminate us or whatever?

1454
01:14:41,030 --> 01:14:44,900
And also, there was, at
times, where I said to you,

1455
01:14:44,900 --> 01:14:48,500
we're standing in line for
hours in the morning for appell.

1456
01:14:48,500 --> 01:14:52,290
Appell was they count every
single body in that camp.

1457
01:14:52,290 --> 01:14:56,990
And there was 200 barracks
that hold about 250 people.

1458
01:14:56,990 --> 01:15:01,160
That means about 50,000 people
that were in that camp working.

1459
01:15:01,160 --> 01:15:03,060
And actually, some didn't work.

1460

01:15:03,060 --> 01:15:07,730
They stayed there, do some
work assigned by the Germans.

1461
01:15:07,730 --> 01:15:09,230
I always tried to
go in the kitchen,

1462
01:15:09,230 --> 01:15:12,680
because it was warm by the
oven or I would have more food.

1463
01:15:12,680 --> 01:15:14,990
But I never got to do this.

1464
01:15:14,990 --> 01:15:18,140
I worked outside and
then up with this guy.

1465
01:15:18,140 --> 01:15:22,580
And also, in the
year '44, as I said,

1466
01:15:22,580 --> 01:15:27,320
in the year we got
to that camp in Dora

1467
01:15:27,320 --> 01:15:30,530
where I heard French, in
Auschwitz, as we went out

1468
01:15:30,530 --> 01:15:35,000
at the barbed wire into the
IG Farben Industry's factory,

1469
01:15:35,000 --> 01:15:39,420
there was English
military prisoners.

1470
01:15:39,420 --> 01:15:41,160
There were civilians.

1471
01:15:41,160 --> 01:15:42,950

And I heard some French.

1472

01:15:42,950 --> 01:15:47,000

So sure, you didn't
have the Nazi there

1473

01:15:47,000 --> 01:15:48,560

hitting you if you
stopped to talk.

1474

01:15:48,560 --> 01:15:52,870

You were in an
open area of work.

1475

01:15:52,870 --> 01:15:58,880

IG Farben Industry was making
synthetic gasoline out of coal.

1476

01:15:58,880 --> 01:16:03,320

And some civilians either went
willingly to earn a living.

1477

01:16:03,320 --> 01:16:09,290

Some were drafted and taken,
although, they didn't want to.

1478

01:16:09,290 --> 01:16:13,190

And so when I hear these people,
there was a father and son.

1479

01:16:13,190 --> 01:16:15,920

And the first thing
that went into my mind,

1480

01:16:15,920 --> 01:16:21,300

would you please get in touch
in Dijon with my girlfriend?

1481

01:16:21,300 --> 01:16:24,810

Her name is so and so
that's the address.

1482

01:16:24,810 --> 01:16:29,040

These people, as the months went
by, never said a word to me.

1483

01:16:29,040 --> 01:16:32,610
But when I came back after the
war, I have in my possession

1484

01:16:32,610 --> 01:16:35,790
in my bag, I have
postcard that they

1485

01:16:35,790 --> 01:16:39,610
send to the mother
of my girlfriend

1486

01:16:39,610 --> 01:16:42,760
at that address and
the name of these guys

1487

01:16:42,760 --> 01:16:44,500
that were in Auschwitz.

1488

01:16:44,500 --> 01:16:50,650
And the postcard is open,
because there was a censorship.

1489

01:16:50,650 --> 01:16:52,870
You couldn't send
a closed-in letter.

1490

01:16:52,870 --> 01:16:54,100
Only postcard.

1491

01:16:54,100 --> 01:16:56,822
And there's Hitler's stamp.

1492

01:16:56,822 --> 01:16:58,655
But it's not a stamp,
it's like the postcard

1493

01:16:58,655 --> 01:17:01,117
where you don't stick a stamp.

1494

01:17:01,117 --> 01:17:02,200

It's in with the postcard.

1495

01:17:02,200 --> 01:17:04,195

It's like imprinted.

1496

01:17:04,195 --> 01:17:07,660

And he writes in French and
he says, dear [INAUDIBLE]

1497

01:17:07,660 --> 01:17:09,280

or dear madam [INAUDIBLE].

1498

01:17:09,280 --> 01:17:10,510

He wasn't very educated.

1499

01:17:10,510 --> 01:17:12,670

But whatever he wrote,
he said, Maurice

1500

01:17:12,670 --> 01:17:16,660

was very glad for the food
you send him and so forth.

1501

01:17:16,660 --> 01:17:19,180

They sent several packages.

1502

01:17:19,180 --> 01:17:21,530

I never knew about it.

1503

01:17:21,530 --> 01:17:27,430

And one of the packages,
he said, next time you

1504

01:17:27,430 --> 01:17:31,420

send a package, send me a list
of what you put in the package.

1505

01:17:31,420 --> 01:17:34,090

Because what used to
happen, the robber

1506

01:17:34,090 --> 01:17:36,340
was robbed by the German.

1507

01:17:36,340 --> 01:17:37,720
So he would get less.

1508

01:17:37,720 --> 01:17:40,480
And you could see there
was something missing.

1509

01:17:40,480 --> 01:17:44,200
So it shows you, when they
stopped, not sending anymore,

1510

01:17:44,200 --> 01:17:48,660
when he said, Maurice needs
some shoes and a watch,

1511

01:17:48,660 --> 01:17:50,850
they knew I would
never ask for a watch.

1512

01:17:50,850 --> 01:17:53,160
Food, maybe, and shoes, maybe.

1513

01:17:53,160 --> 01:17:56,290
When they found out a
watch, first of all,

1514

01:17:56,290 --> 01:17:58,710
you couldn't send packages.

1515

01:17:58,710 --> 01:18:01,860
But a pair of shoes
whatever, the big thing.

1516

01:18:01,860 --> 01:18:04,350
And naturally, the
censor would open.

1517

01:18:04,350 --> 01:18:08,070
So they stopped sending, but

they gave me after the war.

1518
01:18:08,070 --> 01:18:11,190
You see, my whole life
depended on this girl

1519
01:18:11,190 --> 01:18:12,570
that was my girlfriend.

1520
01:18:12,570 --> 01:18:15,420
I put my hopes on her
that I'd come back

1521
01:18:15,420 --> 01:18:17,670
and she'll be there
waiting for me.

1522
01:18:17,670 --> 01:18:20,100
Turns out, she got married.

1523
01:18:20,100 --> 01:18:22,540
When I was back she
was married and away.

1524
01:18:22,540 --> 01:18:24,270
So I only spoke to her mother.

1525
01:18:24,270 --> 01:18:26,265
And her mother said to me that--

1526
01:18:26,265 --> 01:18:28,470
she gave me the postcard.

1527
01:18:28,470 --> 01:18:36,330
And more or less, that's why
1944 was an odd situation where

1528
01:18:36,330 --> 01:18:37,740
you get--

1529
01:18:37,740 --> 01:18:40,290
and during all that

problem and it's

1530

01:18:40,290 --> 01:18:44,250
a full year of so many things
happening, the cold, as I said.

1531

01:18:44,250 --> 01:18:47,610
And in the summer, it used
to be so damp, and wet,

1532

01:18:47,610 --> 01:18:50,730
and muggy, mosquitoes.

1533

01:18:50,730 --> 01:18:54,510
The area by pollen is swamps.

1534

01:18:54,510 --> 01:18:56,430
All around was swamps.

1535

01:18:56,430 --> 01:18:59,820
So there were guys
in daylight at 6:00

1536

01:18:59,820 --> 01:19:05,670
AM in the morning with daylight
would faint from the sun.

1537

01:19:05,670 --> 01:19:09,330
A couple of times there were
people trying to escape.

1538

01:19:09,330 --> 01:19:12,120
When they caught
them and where we

1539

01:19:12,120 --> 01:19:17,040
were all the people in
the line for the appeal,

1540

01:19:17,040 --> 01:19:18,480
they would hang them.

1541

01:19:18,480 --> 01:19:22,530

And we had to march like
military battalions in front

1542

01:19:22,530 --> 01:19:23,130

of them.

1543

01:19:23,130 --> 01:19:24,750

And some of these
guys would faint,

1544

01:19:24,750 --> 01:19:26,610

because they were too weak.

1545

01:19:26,610 --> 01:19:30,870

So we always had 10 or 20
of these guys that fainted

1546

01:19:30,870 --> 01:19:32,500

and some of them died.

1547

01:19:32,500 --> 01:19:36,120

So you see, the elements
were against you,

1548

01:19:36,120 --> 01:19:39,570

besides being weak
and not having food.

1549

01:19:39,570 --> 01:19:46,300

And you had to, more or less,
to survive have a mental picture

1550

01:19:46,300 --> 01:19:48,430

why you want to come back.

1551

01:19:48,430 --> 01:19:51,460

There is no saying
for other people

1552

01:19:51,460 --> 01:19:55,330

that had lost their families
why they were going to survive

1553
01:19:55,330 --> 01:19:57,130
or what they're looking for.

1554
01:19:57,130 --> 01:20:02,020
But I believe that if you are
into such a stressing position,

1555
01:20:02,020 --> 01:20:06,370
you have to mentally
give yourself a boost.

1556
01:20:06,370 --> 01:20:07,660
You're hungry.

1557
01:20:07,660 --> 01:20:09,820
Everything is dark.

1558
01:20:09,820 --> 01:20:14,553
But you have to have some
kind of hope for the future.

1559
01:20:14,553 --> 01:20:16,720
The end of the world wasn't
going to come if we die.

1560
01:20:16,720 --> 01:20:18,130
If we die, we die.

1561
01:20:18,130 --> 01:20:19,300
There's only one body.

1562
01:20:19,300 --> 01:20:21,520
But at that time, I
wasn't thinking that way.

1563
01:20:21,520 --> 01:20:23,510
That's what I'm saying now.

1564
01:20:23,510 --> 01:20:25,690
All I was thinking is
I wanted to survive

1565
01:20:25,690 --> 01:20:29,990
to rejoin my girlfriend.

1566
01:20:29,990 --> 01:20:32,660
So that was my goal.

1567
01:20:32,660 --> 01:20:36,290
And, as I said, as
the year wore on,

1568
01:20:36,290 --> 01:20:38,630
the Germans were getting beat.

1569
01:20:38,630 --> 01:20:44,400
And they took-- most of the SS,
they were mean in that camp.

1570
01:20:44,400 --> 01:20:47,760
They took them to
the front in Russia.

1571
01:20:47,760 --> 01:20:57,520
So we got lesser Germans
that were less bestial, less

1572
01:20:57,520 --> 01:21:00,560
heinous, so to speak.

1573
01:21:00,560 --> 01:21:02,470
Was the winter worse
than the summer?

1574
01:21:02,470 --> 01:21:03,490
Yes.

1575
01:21:03,490 --> 01:21:08,320
First of all, I would say,
summer, if you're halfway yet

1576
01:21:08,320 --> 01:21:12,730
in good shape, the sunshine

has never hurt as much

1577
01:21:12,730 --> 01:21:14,840
as ice and snow below zero.

1578
01:21:14,840 --> 01:21:17,320
And that's what we
used to have where

1579
01:21:17,320 --> 01:21:21,040
you would go to work in a
factory where you would--

1580
01:21:21,040 --> 01:21:26,710
because you had shoes made out
of wooden soles and material

1581
01:21:26,710 --> 01:21:32,380
like up to your ankle
that was-- and no socks.

1582
01:21:32,380 --> 01:21:37,870
So just sometimes by having to
walk in this and in the cold,

1583
01:21:37,870 --> 01:21:40,180
you would get sores.

1584
01:21:40,180 --> 01:21:43,840
And there was nothing
there to go to an infirmary

1585
01:21:43,840 --> 01:21:45,470
to get something for it.

1586
01:21:45,470 --> 01:21:49,250
So if your body was still
immune to all that stuff,

1587
01:21:49,250 --> 01:21:51,010
it would heal.

1588

01:21:51,010 --> 01:21:54,310

Again, as I said,
it's very difficult

1589

01:21:54,310 --> 01:21:58,660

to pinpoint now how
come I got sores,

1590

01:21:58,660 --> 01:22:04,360

I got things that were
so bad, why in the world

1591

01:22:04,360 --> 01:22:07,480

was I able to survive this?

1592

01:22:07,480 --> 01:22:10,300

Because, as I said, a year
later, which was December,

1593

01:22:10,300 --> 01:22:13,450

'44, when we got
together, we were

1594

01:22:13,450 --> 01:22:19,000

so few from the same
convoy that it makes

1595

01:22:19,000 --> 01:22:22,420

you think what happened to them.

1596

01:22:22,420 --> 01:22:24,340

You don't really know
what happened to them.

1597

01:22:24,340 --> 01:22:25,382

I'll give you an example.

1598

01:22:25,382 --> 01:22:27,580

This reminds me as I'm
saying what happened to them.

1599

01:22:27,580 --> 01:22:31,300

One at a time in

that year '44, you

1600
01:22:31,300 --> 01:22:35,290
get an officer,
a German officer,

1601
01:22:35,290 --> 01:22:37,510
come into the barracks.

1602
01:22:37,510 --> 01:22:42,220
And you had a
barrack rectangular

1603
01:22:42,220 --> 01:22:46,600
and there were three
rows of beds three high.

1604
01:22:46,600 --> 01:22:48,850
So everybody that
was in that barrack

1605
01:22:48,850 --> 01:22:52,840
had to undress
completely, and come

1606
01:22:52,840 --> 01:22:56,140
from the left side in
front of that German,

1607
01:22:56,140 --> 01:22:59,680
and go into the
aisle number one.

1608
01:22:59,680 --> 01:23:02,230
And so he could see
you from the front

1609
01:23:02,230 --> 01:23:06,390
and from the back
how skinny you were.

1610
01:23:06,390 --> 01:23:11,070
And when you show somebody

that was so skinny that he

1611

01:23:11,070 --> 01:23:14,910
realized they weren't able to
go to work, he did like this.

1612

01:23:14,910 --> 01:23:18,810
And there was a guy from
the camp, a kapo, that would

1613

01:23:18,810 --> 01:23:20,940
write the number, not the name.

1614

01:23:20,940 --> 01:23:21,930
We had all numbers.

1615

01:23:21,930 --> 01:23:24,930

1616

01:23:24,930 --> 01:23:27,840
And as we go by,
there was one fellow

1617

01:23:27,840 --> 01:23:33,940
that I had in Paris met
leaving Paris with his nephew.

1618

01:23:33,940 --> 01:23:35,520
Not his son, his nephew.

1619

01:23:35,520 --> 01:23:41,430
Both of them had a hair salon,
a barber and women's salon,

1620

01:23:41,430 --> 01:23:43,800
in Paris.

1621

01:23:43,800 --> 01:23:45,730
The son was about my--

1622

01:23:45,730 --> 01:23:47,760
the nephew was my age.

1623

01:23:47,760 --> 01:23:49,920
And the uncle was already older.

1624

01:23:49,920 --> 01:23:52,830
I wouldn't know exactly his age.

1625

01:23:52,830 --> 01:23:54,630
And they put him to--

1626

01:23:54,630 --> 01:23:57,960
but I remember he
was always, when

1627

01:23:57,960 --> 01:24:00,600
he was walking, he was
talking, and talking,

1628

01:24:00,600 --> 01:24:02,620
and talking before this.

1629

01:24:02,620 --> 01:24:07,020
So I relate to this guy, because
he was talking and giving

1630

01:24:07,020 --> 01:24:10,860
hope to the guys not to
give up, not to give up.

1631

01:24:10,860 --> 01:24:15,540
Finally, he's taken to
be going to the ovens.

1632

01:24:15,540 --> 01:24:18,750
And his nephew stayed with us.

1633

01:24:18,750 --> 01:24:24,150
And as the war got on and I got
back to Paris, who do I meet?

1634

01:24:24,150 --> 01:24:25,650
The uncle.

1635

01:24:25,650 --> 01:24:28,260

But the nephew didn't come back.

1636

01:24:28,260 --> 01:24:29,490

What happened to uncle?

1637

01:24:29,490 --> 01:24:32,610

They took him to the
place where they were

1638

01:24:32,610 --> 01:24:34,350

going to put him in the oven.

1639

01:24:34,350 --> 01:24:36,638

And he had the gift of gab.

1640

01:24:36,638 --> 01:24:38,430

He started to talk to
the Germans and said,

1641

01:24:38,430 --> 01:24:42,580

I had in Paris, big
coiffure, I make cut hair.

1642

01:24:42,580 --> 01:24:44,313

So the German had
no barber, they

1643

01:24:44,313 --> 01:24:45,730

decided they're
going to keep him.

1644

01:24:45,730 --> 01:24:48,060

And he's going to be
their private barber.

1645

01:24:48,060 --> 01:24:50,640

And they gave him
food and he survived.

1646

01:24:50,640 --> 01:24:53,580

The nephew, we never found
out what happened to him.

1647
01:24:53,580 --> 01:24:56,010
That shows you how destiny is.

1648
01:24:56,010 --> 01:25:01,380
He was destined to go to the
oven, but he gabbed to a group.

1649
01:25:01,380 --> 01:25:02,700
Maybe they weren't even Nazis.

1650
01:25:02,700 --> 01:25:06,630
The group that were
guards in the main camp,

1651
01:25:06,630 --> 01:25:10,740
because we were about eight
miles away from the ovens.

1652
01:25:10,740 --> 01:25:12,420
Once in a while, we
could see the smoke

1653
01:25:12,420 --> 01:25:14,160
where they burned the bodies.

1654
01:25:14,160 --> 01:25:18,990
Because as many convoys
in '44 that showed up,

1655
01:25:18,990 --> 01:25:20,790
among the ones that
showed up in the year

1656
01:25:20,790 --> 01:25:25,110
'44 was from Hungary,
groups of people

1657
01:25:25,110 --> 01:25:27,450
that were built like oxes.

1658

01:25:27,450 --> 01:25:31,620

They were farmers, Jewish
farmers, in Hungary.

1659

01:25:31,620 --> 01:25:36,390

And they had them walk
from Hungary to Auschwitz.

1660

01:25:36,390 --> 01:25:37,140

They walked.

1661

01:25:37,140 --> 01:25:40,470

They had no way of
transporting the people.

1662

01:25:40,470 --> 01:25:45,030

And they experienced, they
went through, they told us.

1663

01:25:45,030 --> 01:25:48,870

In the same period, they
took some Sephardic Jews

1664

01:25:48,870 --> 01:25:51,360

from the Isle of Cyprus.

1665

01:25:51,360 --> 01:25:58,230

There were little guys, skinny
guys, very skinny and tan.

1666

01:25:58,230 --> 01:26:01,140

The other ones were
rugged farmers.

1667

01:26:01,140 --> 01:26:04,650

But the ones that survived
were the guys from Cyprus.

1668

01:26:04,650 --> 01:26:12,840

The body was already not too fat
and they had ways of surviving.

1669

01:26:12,840 --> 01:26:17,790
In Cyprus, some of these guys
that died wasn't big meals.

1670
01:26:17,790 --> 01:26:19,800
They usually eat less--

1671
01:26:19,800 --> 01:26:23,080
on an island like Cyprus,
it's a different type of food.

1672
01:26:23,080 --> 01:26:25,320
The farmer in Hungary,
he had a farm,

1673
01:26:25,320 --> 01:26:27,490
he had his own vegetable
and everything.

1674
01:26:27,490 --> 01:26:29,910
So they were big
guys and strong guys.

1675
01:26:29,910 --> 01:26:34,860
But somehow, once you get into
that hell, everything changes.

1676
01:26:34,860 --> 01:26:38,340
And they got there in the summer
when I told you that was it

1677
01:26:38,340 --> 01:26:39,810
was very humid.

1678
01:26:39,810 --> 01:26:43,380
These are little things,
as I'm talking, I remember.

1679
01:26:43,380 --> 01:26:48,080
Because you get to know
people from Hungary.

1680
01:26:48,080 --> 01:26:49,930

I might repeat the
thing that stuck.

1681
01:26:49,930 --> 01:26:52,140
And I repeat this
so often when people

1682
01:26:52,140 --> 01:26:56,190
talk to me where I was in
this particular barrack

1683
01:26:56,190 --> 01:26:57,720
and I was in the middle.

1684
01:26:57,720 --> 01:27:00,720
There was a Russian
soldier above

1685
01:27:00,720 --> 01:27:03,210
and a Greek guy in the bottom.

1686
01:27:03,210 --> 01:27:05,700
Now I don't speak Greek
and I don't speak Russian.

1687
01:27:05,700 --> 01:27:13,060
But by nature, you have
to communicate somehow.

1688
01:27:13,060 --> 01:27:17,850
I found out that this guy was a
professor in Salonika in Greece

1689
01:27:17,850 --> 01:27:22,200
and he spoke French,
Spanish, actually, Greek,

1690
01:27:22,200 --> 01:27:27,780
and he was Sephardic Jew, so
he spoke Ladino Spanish, which,

1691
01:27:27,780 --> 01:27:29,140
at that time, I didn't know.

1692
01:27:29,140 --> 01:27:32,010
Since I'm here, I know that's
the Spanish from the people

1693
01:27:32,010 --> 01:27:34,710
from the Inquisition that left.

1694
01:27:34,710 --> 01:27:38,160
And I can see his face
more than anybody else,

1695
01:27:38,160 --> 01:27:43,410
because he had a pointy
nose, tan, and very sad face,

1696
01:27:43,410 --> 01:27:45,150
very sad face.

1697
01:27:45,150 --> 01:27:50,430
And the Russian reminded me
of these farmers from Hungary.

1698
01:27:50,430 --> 01:27:53,010
He had a rounder face.

1699
01:27:53,010 --> 01:27:54,060
He wasn't fat anymore.

1700
01:27:54,060 --> 01:27:59,760
But the physiognomy of
his fixtures were round.

1701
01:27:59,760 --> 01:28:02,640
And this guy was a soldier
with a Russian brigade

1702
01:28:02,640 --> 01:28:05,490
and was in Spain
during the Civil War.

1703
01:28:05,490 --> 01:28:07,530

So he learned Spanish.

1704

01:28:07,530 --> 01:28:10,950

There I came in with
my bakery experience,

1705

01:28:10,950 --> 01:28:15,180

telling to the Spanish guy in
French how to make rum baba,

1706

01:28:15,180 --> 01:28:17,100

how to make cakes.

1707

01:28:17,100 --> 01:28:20,310

He would tell this to
the Russian in Spanish,

1708

01:28:20,310 --> 01:28:21,610

he repeated them.

1709

01:28:21,610 --> 01:28:24,570

And one thing, it kept us going.

1710

01:28:24,570 --> 01:28:27,390

Although, we had no food,
I'm talking about food

1711

01:28:27,390 --> 01:28:30,240

and you're thinking
how about that food,

1712

01:28:30,240 --> 01:28:32,690

although, you have nothing
to put in your mouth.

1713

01:28:32,690 --> 01:28:34,650

It makes the time go by.

1714

01:28:34,650 --> 01:28:37,950

And the same time, one of the
answer that stuck in my mind

1715

01:28:37,950 --> 01:28:41,250
is that Russians saying to the
Spanish guy, after the war,

1716
01:28:41,250 --> 01:28:44,460
he wants to come to Paris
to work for me, the Russian.

1717
01:28:44,460 --> 01:28:48,030
And that stuck in my mind,
because this group of three

1718
01:28:48,030 --> 01:28:50,550
that we were there,
we got along fine.

1719
01:28:50,550 --> 01:28:53,010
And as it went on
and the Germans

1720
01:28:53,010 --> 01:28:55,200
took the guys that
weren't able to work,

1721
01:28:55,200 --> 01:29:00,160
things changed, especially
towards the end of December

1722
01:29:00,160 --> 01:29:05,010
of '44 when you knew that the
Russians were moving closer

1723
01:29:05,010 --> 01:29:06,720
to Germany.

1724
01:29:06,720 --> 01:29:09,780
And the Americans had
landed in June, '44.

1725
01:29:09,780 --> 01:29:13,410
So there was a year of hope
and despair at the same time.

1726

01:29:13,410 --> 01:29:14,700
Can you survive?

1727
01:29:14,700 --> 01:29:15,540
There's hope.

1728
01:29:15,540 --> 01:29:16,920
But can you survive?

1729
01:29:16,920 --> 01:29:18,570
Is there a way?

1730
01:29:18,570 --> 01:29:20,560
What's going to help you?

1731
01:29:20,560 --> 01:29:24,630
And as I said, after
we left this camp,

1732
01:29:24,630 --> 01:29:27,240
I went through this
thing you with the --

1733
01:29:27,240 --> 01:29:30,400
Now when this happened
to me, I was shook up

1734
01:29:30,400 --> 01:29:32,010
about 10, 15 minutes.

1735
01:29:32,010 --> 01:29:33,630
I was shaking.

1736
01:29:33,630 --> 01:29:37,330
Now the war is over in Germany.

1737
01:29:37,330 --> 01:29:39,830
And I'm walking in the street.

1738
01:29:39,830 --> 01:29:43,550
After Ravensbruck,
I lost my package.

1739
01:29:43,550 --> 01:29:48,140
Before the American troops
took us, one incident occurred.

1740
01:29:48,140 --> 01:29:52,820
We met military
prisoners, French.

1741
01:29:52,820 --> 01:29:55,160
They had a pushcart
with four wheels

1742
01:29:55,160 --> 01:29:57,860
and all their belongings
were in there.

1743
01:29:57,860 --> 01:30:00,350
When they saw us--

1744
01:30:00,350 --> 01:30:03,410
I forgot who was with me,
some other guys with me--

1745
01:30:03,410 --> 01:30:07,850
they gave us military
coats, so the Germans

1746
01:30:07,850 --> 01:30:09,680
wouldn't see us [INAUDIBLE].

1747
01:30:09,680 --> 01:30:12,650
And he gave me a coat
and a French beret.

1748
01:30:12,650 --> 01:30:16,100
And I'm walking with
these guys in some town.

1749
01:30:16,100 --> 01:30:18,770
And I remember that pushcart
was here, I'm on this side.

1750

01:30:18,770 --> 01:30:21,950

There's a guy, a military
German, coming up.

1751

01:30:21,950 --> 01:30:23,600

And you could see he's wobbling.

1752

01:30:23,600 --> 01:30:25,250

He must have been drunk.

1753

01:30:25,250 --> 01:30:29,780

He sees me with a military
thing, grabs me by the throat

1754

01:30:29,780 --> 01:30:32,620

and has a gun in his hand.

1755

01:30:32,620 --> 01:30:35,240

He says Jude.

1756

01:30:35,240 --> 01:30:37,900

And he says some other things,
but I didn't pay attention

1757

01:30:37,900 --> 01:30:38,990

to what he said.

1758

01:30:38,990 --> 01:30:43,400

I started to speak in French,
loud, so the people around,

1759

01:30:43,400 --> 01:30:47,120

civilian, as well as my buddies,
the French guy, could hear me.

1760

01:30:47,120 --> 01:30:48,880

So this French guys
came towards the guys

1761

01:30:48,880 --> 01:30:51,940

and said in French they
said, laissez tranquil,

1762
01:30:51,940 --> 01:30:53,490
leave him alone.

1763
01:30:53,490 --> 01:30:54,980
He's with us.

1764
01:30:54,980 --> 01:30:57,720
And he let go.

1765
01:30:57,720 --> 01:31:00,990
That's another
experience which happened

1766
01:31:00,990 --> 01:31:04,350
after my package was stolen
and we are not anymore

1767
01:31:04,350 --> 01:31:05,700
in the hand of the Germans.

1768
01:31:05,700 --> 01:31:08,250
You still have
that risk element,

1769
01:31:08,250 --> 01:31:12,120
because, after all, you're still
in the condition of a prisoner.

1770
01:31:12,120 --> 01:31:14,190
You look like-- and you
must have recognized

1771
01:31:14,190 --> 01:31:16,560
in me something that
is Jewish, although, I

1772
01:31:16,560 --> 01:31:19,800
had military uniform on.

1773
01:31:19,800 --> 01:31:25,570
And I guess, this was about my

last big problem of the war.

1774

01:31:25,570 --> 01:31:29,160

After this, it was smooth sailing towards France.

1775

01:31:29,160 --> 01:31:31,830

How did you know about D-day?

1776

01:31:31,830 --> 01:31:34,650

Well, the first thing, as I said,

1777

01:31:34,650 --> 01:31:39,990

in those woods where we saw the Germans in underwear,

1778

01:31:39,990 --> 01:31:43,230

because the Russian when they captured these guys,

1779

01:31:43,230 --> 01:31:46,560

they took their uniforms away and hit them around a few times

1780

01:31:46,560 --> 01:31:48,330

and let them go.

1781

01:31:48,330 --> 01:31:50,400

They were loose.

1782

01:31:50,400 --> 01:31:53,640

We, at that time, had seen the Russians.

1783

01:31:53,640 --> 01:31:58,470

And you talked about armistice?

1784

01:31:58,470 --> 01:31:59,910

The question-- I'm sorry.

1785

01:31:59,910 --> 01:32:03,450

Actually, I was asking about
when the American troops landed

1786
01:32:03,450 --> 01:32:05,427
in France in June of '44.

1787
01:32:05,427 --> 01:32:07,260
Why don't you finish
what you're saying now?

1788
01:32:07,260 --> 01:32:11,340
Yeah, I thought you asked
me how I knew that there

1789
01:32:11,340 --> 01:32:13,410
was no more fighting.

1790
01:32:13,410 --> 01:32:14,550
There was no more fighting.

1791
01:32:14,550 --> 01:32:19,470
We found out when
we were May the 8th.

1792
01:32:19,470 --> 01:32:24,240
It must've been May the 5th that
we met with these Russians that

1793
01:32:24,240 --> 01:32:26,700
gave us cigarettes in the tank.

1794
01:32:26,700 --> 01:32:30,930
And somehow, among the people
that were prisoners in there,

1795
01:32:30,930 --> 01:32:33,300
some of them were
speaking Russian.

1796
01:32:33,300 --> 01:32:39,840
They gave us the news that
the war is going to end soon.

1797

01:32:39,840 --> 01:32:43,077

May 8th was armistice,
was end of the war.

1798

01:32:43,077 --> 01:32:44,160

And we found out this way.

1799

01:32:44,160 --> 01:32:47,130

We didn't find out
by big proclamations,

1800

01:32:47,130 --> 01:32:51,766

by word of mouth
of other people.

1801

01:32:51,766 --> 01:32:57,150

D-day, which was
June the 6th, 1944,

1802

01:32:57,150 --> 01:33:01,080

that also we found
out in the camp.

1803

01:33:01,080 --> 01:33:03,420

As I said, you're in a camp.

1804

01:33:03,420 --> 01:33:09,480

There's, I guess, 50,000 people.

1805

01:33:09,480 --> 01:33:12,600

And among these 50,000,
there are Poles.

1806

01:33:12,600 --> 01:33:17,690

There's German citizens, German
soldiers that started already

1807

01:33:17,690 --> 01:33:22,310

to think, well, we don't
want to say it openly,

1808

01:33:22,310 --> 01:33:25,250

but maybe we already finished.

1809

01:33:25,250 --> 01:33:26,780

We're not going to win the war.

1810

01:33:26,780 --> 01:33:31,070

They got along very well
with some German Jews

1811

01:33:31,070 --> 01:33:33,710

citizens that were from Germany.

1812

01:33:33,710 --> 01:33:40,640

And they gave them the news that
the American forces landed in--

1813

01:33:40,640 --> 01:33:45,350

what was that-- St. Lo
in France in Normandy.

1814

01:33:45,350 --> 01:33:46,670

That's how we found out.

1815

01:33:46,670 --> 01:33:51,200

But all it made us feel,
sure, they learned.

1816

01:33:51,200 --> 01:33:53,330

It's better than
it was last year.

1817

01:33:53,330 --> 01:33:55,160

It's better than it
was even yesterday.

1818

01:33:55,160 --> 01:33:57,840

They're already
on the continent.

1819

01:33:57,840 --> 01:34:01,830

Because, remember, they had
a fortress the Germans built.

1820

01:34:01,830 --> 01:34:05,190

But somehow, it
was a large effort

1821

01:34:05,190 --> 01:34:07,170

to land where they landed.

1822

01:34:07,170 --> 01:34:09,190

And again, after the
war, as I found out,

1823

01:34:09,190 --> 01:34:13,440

there was different
situations that these things,

1824

01:34:13,440 --> 01:34:14,580

you don't know in the camp.

1825

01:34:14,580 --> 01:34:17,140

Only thing you know
is there's hope.

1826

01:34:17,140 --> 01:34:22,260

And hope is the greatest
thing for your future

1827

01:34:22,260 --> 01:34:27,600

to think of that, the ones that
can save you are approaching,

1828

01:34:27,600 --> 01:34:28,410

are near.

1829

01:34:28,410 --> 01:34:30,900

We even knew that the
Russians were closer

1830

01:34:30,900 --> 01:34:33,960

than the people in
Normandy, because we were

1831

01:34:33,960 --> 01:34:36,990

eastern part of Germany closed.

1832

01:34:36,990 --> 01:34:38,490

We were in Poland really.

1833

01:34:38,490 --> 01:34:40,380

Silesia is in Poland.

1834

01:34:40,380 --> 01:34:44,940

By the way, Krakow and that area was always Polish.

1835

01:34:44,940 --> 01:34:47,400

At this moment, it's--

1836

01:34:47,400 --> 01:34:48,570

what we call--

1837

01:34:48,570 --> 01:34:51,165

Auschwitz is under Polish rule.

1838

01:34:51,165 --> 01:34:54,480

It always was Polish.

1839

01:34:54,480 --> 01:34:57,210

Prior of the war,
I think, in '38,

1840

01:34:57,210 --> 01:35:02,120

there was a treaty that
Danzig, that became German.

1841

01:35:02,120 --> 01:35:03,860

But it was a Polish port.

1842

01:35:03,860 --> 01:35:07,700

The President of Poland worked
in that on the shipyards

1843

01:35:07,700 --> 01:35:09,370

in Danzig.

1844

01:35:09,370 --> 01:35:12,350

And all of these I
find out after the war.

1845

01:35:12,350 --> 01:35:14,030

You learn.

1846

01:35:14,030 --> 01:35:18,880

What was your daily ration
of food in the camp?

1847

01:35:18,880 --> 01:35:21,000

I tell you what we had.

1848

01:35:21,000 --> 01:35:27,120

We had in the morning a square
what we look at right now they

1849

01:35:27,120 --> 01:35:30,870

have in some of the places you
buy bread in the supermarket.

1850

01:35:30,870 --> 01:35:36,840

It looks like-- it's called
black bread, a square.

1851

01:35:36,840 --> 01:35:40,470

And you can mix a lot of stuff.

1852

01:35:40,470 --> 01:35:42,070

It was that size.

1853

01:35:42,070 --> 01:35:45,480

A square this size and square.

1854

01:35:45,480 --> 01:35:48,330

You know what square
muenster cheese looks like?

1855

01:35:48,330 --> 01:35:50,610

Well, that was the
bread that size,

1856
01:35:50,610 --> 01:35:53,430
this size, and this square.

1857
01:35:53,430 --> 01:35:55,680
We got that in the morning.

1858
01:35:55,680 --> 01:35:58,590
Now don't ask me what
we had with this.

1859
01:35:58,590 --> 01:36:00,570
I don't remember.

1860
01:36:00,570 --> 01:36:05,260
Then when we went to work,
we worked the whole day,

1861
01:36:05,260 --> 01:36:07,830
and we came back
in the afternoon

1862
01:36:07,830 --> 01:36:11,970
at three or four
o'clock, we had a kitchen

1863
01:36:11,970 --> 01:36:20,670
that had big steam cookers
that cooked cabbage, potatoes,

1864
01:36:20,670 --> 01:36:26,100
no meat, vegetable, basically,
to such a degree and everything

1865
01:36:26,100 --> 01:36:28,860
turned to water.

1866
01:36:28,860 --> 01:36:33,360
You could drink it like liquid,
the soup that you would get.

1867
01:36:33,360 --> 01:36:36,300

The one thing that I did
at one time in the camp

1868
01:36:36,300 --> 01:36:38,910
to get a little more
food, I volunteered

1869
01:36:38,910 --> 01:36:41,610
to go get that soup
in the kitchen.

1870
01:36:41,610 --> 01:36:44,040
And as I said,
there's 250 people.

1871
01:36:44,040 --> 01:36:49,320
We had three or four
of these big containers

1872
01:36:49,320 --> 01:36:51,240
that were like servers.

1873
01:36:51,240 --> 01:36:53,700
The soup was inside and
you had to cover it.

1874
01:36:53,700 --> 01:36:56,790
And you had a ladle and
everybody got a ladle of soup.

1875
01:36:56,790 --> 01:36:59,550
Now when you ladle
out of a round ladle

1876
01:36:59,550 --> 01:37:03,210
into a square pot, the edges,
there's two or three quarts

1877
01:37:03,210 --> 01:37:06,360
of liquid that stays in there.

1878
01:37:06,360 --> 01:37:09,878
And that is for the people that

clean up those pots to bring

1879

01:37:09,878 --> 01:37:10,920
them back in the kitchen.

1880

01:37:10,920 --> 01:37:13,770
So I did this to get
a little extra food.

1881

01:37:13,770 --> 01:37:16,350
You could never do it for
a long period of time,

1882

01:37:16,350 --> 01:37:19,530
because they rotated the people
all the time to somebody.

1883

01:37:19,530 --> 01:37:24,480
But what I remember, when that
was cold, it was like jello.

1884

01:37:24,480 --> 01:37:27,030
It got thick from the cold.

1885

01:37:27,030 --> 01:37:30,630
And that soup was so
cooked in that same cooker

1886

01:37:30,630 --> 01:37:33,720
that it was something
solid you ate after.

1887

01:37:33,720 --> 01:37:36,030
As you ate it, it
was all liquid.

1888

01:37:36,030 --> 01:37:39,810
The potato or the cabbage was
completely diluted to the point

1889

01:37:39,810 --> 01:37:41,080
that it was like soup.

1890

01:37:41,080 --> 01:37:43,900

So if you let it stay for a
while, but you were so hungry,

1891

01:37:43,900 --> 01:37:48,420

you ate like a
hungry human being.

1892

01:37:48,420 --> 01:37:49,590

But that's what we get.

1893

01:37:49,590 --> 01:37:52,620

That was our ration for
the day, morning and night.

1894

01:37:52,620 --> 01:37:54,330

At lunch, nothing.

1895

01:37:54,330 --> 01:37:57,030

We work at the factory.

1896

01:37:57,030 --> 01:37:59,880

But basically, if I
recall, after the war,

1897

01:37:59,880 --> 01:38:05,070

we were talking about there
was about 250 to 300 calories

1898

01:38:05,070 --> 01:38:08,700

per day that we had been
told when we came back

1899

01:38:08,700 --> 01:38:11,610

the food we got in the
camp was between 250

1900

01:38:11,610 --> 01:38:13,980

to 300 calories a day.

1901

01:38:13,980 --> 01:38:21,450

Now an average diet of a human

being is about 2000 calories,

1902

01:38:21,450 --> 01:38:22,870
if I'm not mistaken.

1903

01:38:22,870 --> 01:38:24,840
So that gives you an
idea how much we got.

1904

01:38:24,840 --> 01:38:31,470
Just enough to sustain life,
to keep you in constant hunger.

1905

01:38:31,470 --> 01:38:35,820
You cannot eat that soup and
say you're not hungry anymore.

1906

01:38:35,820 --> 01:38:37,770
The worst part I seen
in the beginning,

1907

01:38:37,770 --> 01:38:42,870
especially, that some guy
that was smoking could not--

1908

01:38:42,870 --> 01:38:44,610
they needed a cigarette.

1909

01:38:44,610 --> 01:38:49,320
And somehow, there were some
guys that had cigarettes,

1910

01:38:49,320 --> 01:38:52,200
not among our
people, but there are

1911

01:38:52,200 --> 01:38:54,450
some people that worked
in the kitchen, let's say.

1912

01:38:54,450 --> 01:38:55,470
There were some Germans.

1913

01:38:55,470 --> 01:38:58,950

And they traded, swapped.

1914

01:38:58,950 --> 01:39:00,870

And they gave up their
bread in the morning

1915

01:39:00,870 --> 01:39:02,830

to have a cigarette.

1916

01:39:02,830 --> 01:39:04,560

It was that bad.

1917

01:39:04,560 --> 01:39:08,640

Another incident that comes
back to me in the food line

1918

01:39:08,640 --> 01:39:17,550

is the factory that we were in
had been built between fields,

1919

01:39:17,550 --> 01:39:25,010

farmer's fields, where they
were growing beets, sugar beets.

1920

01:39:25,010 --> 01:39:29,420

And if this farmer had to
bring back to their farm

1921

01:39:29,420 --> 01:39:32,180

the beets from the
field on this side,

1922

01:39:32,180 --> 01:39:34,700

they went through the factory.

1923

01:39:34,700 --> 01:39:44,020

Four guys per horsedrawn
carriage full of beets.

1924

01:39:44,020 --> 01:39:47,050

Now you see us in that

camp, being hungry,

1925

01:39:47,050 --> 01:39:51,470
not having anything solid
to eat, we attacked him.

1926

01:39:51,470 --> 01:39:53,720
But we couldn't just--

1927

01:39:53,720 --> 01:39:55,565
how do you attack him?

1928

01:39:55,565 --> 01:39:59,060
A strategy, we had
six guys together.

1929

01:39:59,060 --> 01:40:03,590
And whatever we get, we shared.

1930

01:40:03,590 --> 01:40:06,110
So two guys would
come from this side.

1931

01:40:06,110 --> 01:40:11,720
The farm with their pitch
forks would run over this side,

1932

01:40:11,720 --> 01:40:14,360
so the two other ones
came on the other side.

1933

01:40:14,360 --> 01:40:16,190
If they switched, we were six.

1934

01:40:16,190 --> 01:40:17,300
Two by two by two.

1935

01:40:17,300 --> 01:40:21,050
And we used to get
two or three or maybe

1936

01:40:21,050 --> 01:40:26,400

sometimes more of
these big sugar beets.

1937
01:40:26,400 --> 01:40:28,470
And so we ate this.

1938
01:40:28,470 --> 01:40:32,640
But I can recall it was
yesterday, we had tools.

1939
01:40:32,640 --> 01:40:35,580
We had wooden spoons,
first of all, to eat.

1940
01:40:35,580 --> 01:40:38,373
And somehow, it's just
like in the prisons

1941
01:40:38,373 --> 01:40:40,290
now, all of a sudden you
see guys with knives.

1942
01:40:40,290 --> 01:40:41,550
Where they can get a knife?

1943
01:40:41,550 --> 01:40:43,560
You find a piece of
meat on the factory

1944
01:40:43,560 --> 01:40:47,220
and you sharpen it with a
stone and you have a knife.

1945
01:40:47,220 --> 01:40:49,020
So we used to eat this raw.

1946
01:40:49,020 --> 01:40:52,020
And the teeth are OK.

1947
01:40:52,020 --> 01:40:58,050
The gums bleed, because you
have no solid food for so long.

1948

01:40:58,050 --> 01:41:01,560

So the gums were bleeding, but
you had something solid to eat.

1949

01:41:01,560 --> 01:41:05,580

That's one of the things that
happened in '44, especially,

1950

01:41:05,580 --> 01:41:08,910

I think, that had to be
around August, September

1951

01:41:08,910 --> 01:41:11,382

when they were
harvesting the things.

1952

01:41:11,382 --> 01:41:12,840

They had to go
through the factory.

1953

01:41:12,840 --> 01:41:15,390

There was no Germans around
us, but these farmers,

1954

01:41:15,390 --> 01:41:19,652

if they let us do, we
would grab the whole--

1955

01:41:19,652 --> 01:41:21,030

What did it taste like?

1956

01:41:21,030 --> 01:41:22,680

What did it taste like?

1957

01:41:22,680 --> 01:41:23,790

Very good, very good.

1958

01:41:23,790 --> 01:41:28,230

It was a little sweet and it
was raw, just like if you eat--

1959

01:41:28,230 --> 01:41:33,740

1960
01:41:33,740 --> 01:41:36,500
you know that you
make soup with?

1961
01:41:36,500 --> 01:41:38,510
In French it's navet.

1962
01:41:38,510 --> 01:41:43,190
It's got a little violent
circle and it's about this big.

1963
01:41:43,190 --> 01:41:44,060
It's not a beet.

1964
01:41:44,060 --> 01:41:47,420
It's used to make soup here.

1965
01:41:47,420 --> 01:41:51,825
You make chicken soup or
you make beef bouillon.

1966
01:41:51,825 --> 01:41:52,950
And you get that vegetable.

1967
01:41:52,950 --> 01:41:54,120
I see it every day.

1968
01:41:54,120 --> 01:41:56,720
When I look at it,
it tastes that way.

1969
01:41:56,720 --> 01:42:00,170
And it is not radish,
but it's got it's

1970
01:42:00,170 --> 01:42:04,310
white and porous inside it.

1971
01:42:04,310 --> 01:42:05,000
Not turnips.

1972
01:42:05,000 --> 01:42:07,940
It's in the turnip family.

1973
01:42:07,940 --> 01:42:09,800
Rutabaga?

1974
01:42:09,800 --> 01:42:13,500
Rutabaga we had during the war
in France instead of potatoes.

1975
01:42:13,500 --> 01:42:15,530
Rutabaga, we had that.

1976
01:42:15,530 --> 01:42:19,760
No, this is a navet,
N-A-V-E-T, in France.

1977
01:42:19,760 --> 01:42:20,850
I forget what it's called.

1978
01:42:20,850 --> 01:42:22,640
Not-- maybe it's turnips.

1979
01:42:22,640 --> 01:42:24,350
Turnips, that's it.

1980
01:42:24,350 --> 01:42:25,610
It's turnips.

1981
01:42:25,610 --> 01:42:27,710
The turnips, that's
what it tasted like.

1982
01:42:27,710 --> 01:42:31,160
Except it was more
yellow inside.

1983
01:42:31,160 --> 01:42:33,320
And it was really sugar beets.

1984

01:42:33,320 --> 01:42:35,120
I don't know if
they use it for them

1985
01:42:35,120 --> 01:42:36,710
to eat or to feed the animals.

1986
01:42:36,710 --> 01:42:37,578
I don't know.

1987
01:42:37,578 --> 01:42:39,620
That I don't know what
the farmers did with them.

1988
01:42:39,620 --> 01:42:41,930
But they were pretty big.

1989
01:42:41,930 --> 01:42:44,840
It was more like a
pineapple here, that size,

1990
01:42:44,840 --> 01:42:46,850
like a whole pineapple.

1991
01:42:46,850 --> 01:42:48,390
And so we had.

1992
01:42:48,390 --> 01:42:51,860
And then I'd call some of the
guys that cut the pieces off.

1993
01:42:51,860 --> 01:42:54,800
That's what they used
to trade for cigarettes,

1994
01:42:54,800 --> 01:42:56,780
the ones that were smoking.

1995
01:42:56,780 --> 01:43:00,360
I smoked, but so little that
it didn't bother me a bit.

1996

01:43:00,360 --> 01:43:03,500

I never had any cigarettes
when I was there.

1997

01:43:03,500 --> 01:43:05,240

My smoking started
in more or less

1998

01:43:05,240 --> 01:43:07,550

while I was in the army,
because they gave you

1999

01:43:07,550 --> 01:43:12,140

free cigarettes, five packs
of cigarettes every two weeks.

2000

01:43:12,140 --> 01:43:13,520

So you get used to it.

2001

01:43:13,520 --> 01:43:15,110

Everybody smokes
and that's the way

2002

01:43:15,110 --> 01:43:17,690

you get addicted to smoking.

2003

01:43:17,690 --> 01:43:20,000

But I smoked in this country.

2004

01:43:20,000 --> 01:43:23,450

And that's an experience
[INAUDIBLE] in France,

2005

01:43:23,450 --> 01:43:24,485

you smoke Gauloises.

2006

01:43:24,485 --> 01:43:28,640

Gauloises is a very dark
Turkish tobacco, strong.

2007

01:43:28,640 --> 01:43:29,810

So I didn't smoke.

2008

01:43:29,810 --> 01:43:32,490

Another thing, in the
bakery, I never smoked.

2009

01:43:32,490 --> 01:43:35,250

So I could smoke after work.

2010

01:43:35,250 --> 01:43:38,390

In the morning, I never
lit a cigarette in my life.

2011

01:43:38,390 --> 01:43:38,930

I couldn't.

2012

01:43:38,930 --> 01:43:41,210

It's just not in me.

2013

01:43:41,210 --> 01:43:43,580

So when in New York, when
I came and I didn't speak

2014

01:43:43,580 --> 01:43:48,050

English, all of a sudden,
I go into a tobacco

2015

01:43:48,050 --> 01:43:50,000

store on Broadway.

2016

01:43:50,000 --> 01:43:52,550

And I say, just a [INAUDIBLE].

2017

01:43:52,550 --> 01:43:53,960

And the guy says, what?

2018

01:43:53,960 --> 01:43:56,330

So I look and the next pack
next to it was a camel.

2019

01:43:56,330 --> 01:43:57,680

So I said, camel.

2020

01:43:57,680 --> 01:44:01,550
For 30 years, I smoked Camels.

2021
01:44:01,550 --> 01:44:02,880
That's the experience.

2022
01:44:02,880 --> 01:44:05,060
But again, I was an
owner of a bakery.

2023
01:44:05,060 --> 01:44:07,070
I couldn't smoke
when I was working.

2024
01:44:07,070 --> 01:44:11,120
I smoked when I watched a ball
game or something like this.

2025
01:44:11,120 --> 01:44:15,920
And I gave up
smoking about 1970.

2026
01:44:15,920 --> 01:44:20,720
Getting back to the sugar beets,
how many times did you do this?

2027
01:44:20,720 --> 01:44:21,650
Was it once?

2028
01:44:21,650 --> 01:44:27,290
No, I would say a dozen
times during the year of '44.

2029
01:44:27,290 --> 01:44:30,590
Because we never knew
when they were coming.

2030
01:44:30,590 --> 01:44:32,660
But there was not
too many roads.

2031
01:44:32,660 --> 01:44:36,910
There effectively was

buildings all over

2032

01:44:36,910 --> 01:44:38,070
and there's a main road.

2033

01:44:38,070 --> 01:44:42,870
And all of a sudden, you
see this horse-drawn wagon,

2034

01:44:42,870 --> 01:44:43,920
four wheels.

2035

01:44:43,920 --> 01:44:49,050
And it was kind of long
and it wasn't solid.

2036

01:44:49,050 --> 01:44:52,980
It was like wood separated
where just large enough

2037

01:44:52,980 --> 01:44:54,360
that the beets
wouldn't fall out.

2038

01:44:54,360 --> 01:44:56,850
And they were piled high.

2039

01:44:56,850 --> 01:44:59,590
And there were six
guys around this thing.

2040

01:44:59,590 --> 01:45:03,840
The guy that was with the horse
on top and six guys around.

2041

01:45:03,840 --> 01:45:06,750
And so we had to
outmaneuver these guys.

2042

01:45:06,750 --> 01:45:10,020
more or less some guys got hit.

2043

01:45:10,020 --> 01:45:12,330

I don't think they had
tried to kill the guy.

2044

01:45:12,330 --> 01:45:14,915

But they didn't want
to give up their stuff.

2045

01:45:14,915 --> 01:45:15,790

They worked for this.

2046

01:45:15,790 --> 01:45:16,560

It's theirs.

2047

01:45:16,560 --> 01:45:20,520

We really tried to
rob them to survive.

2048

01:45:20,520 --> 01:45:22,400

And it was not
Germans, it was Poles.

2049

01:45:22,400 --> 01:45:24,462

Did they say anything to you?

2050

01:45:24,462 --> 01:45:26,310

No, they were cursing us.

2051

01:45:26,310 --> 01:45:27,450

That's all I can say.

2052

01:45:27,450 --> 01:45:31,502

They were screaming
bloody murder, because--

2053

01:45:31,502 --> 01:45:33,210

well, I didn't understand
what they said.

2054

01:45:33,210 --> 01:45:35,700

But you can see when
a person isn't happy.

2055

01:45:35,700 --> 01:45:38,740

They weren't too happy, because
that's their livelihood.

2056

01:45:38,740 --> 01:45:40,240

They needed this.

2057

01:45:40,240 --> 01:45:42,500

Was this on the
way home from work?

2058

01:45:42,500 --> 01:45:44,580

While we were at work.

2059

01:45:44,580 --> 01:45:46,110

While we were at work.

2060

01:45:46,110 --> 01:45:47,100

While we were at work.

2061

01:45:47,100 --> 01:45:51,390

See, that's the period of
time where you could go out.

2062

01:45:51,390 --> 01:45:55,770

Because you weren't around
Nazi military troops

2063

01:45:55,770 --> 01:45:57,030

when you're in that factory.

2064

01:45:57,030 --> 01:46:01,710

You were among many working
people of all kinds,

2065

01:46:01,710 --> 01:46:03,600

except we had these stripes.

2066

01:46:03,600 --> 01:46:06,338

And so if you come
out from one place,

2067

01:46:06,338 --> 01:46:08,130

you had to go to the
bathroom or something,

2068

01:46:08,130 --> 01:46:11,580

and you could see this, we
would call some of the buddies

2069

01:46:11,580 --> 01:46:12,780

and we went.

2070

01:46:12,780 --> 01:46:16,780

The whole transaction took
maybe less than five minutes.

2071

01:46:16,780 --> 01:46:18,810

The time to run
towards it, the guy

2072

01:46:18,810 --> 01:46:20,812

come on one side, then
some on the other side,

2073

01:46:20,812 --> 01:46:22,770

and the one from the
back, and we grabbed them.

2074

01:46:22,770 --> 01:46:23,700

And I said, we.

2075

01:46:23,700 --> 01:46:24,870

Not me in particular.

2076

01:46:24,870 --> 01:46:28,650

I don't remember, but
it happened a good,

2077

01:46:28,650 --> 01:46:31,830

I guess, anywhere from
six to eight times.

2078

01:46:31,830 --> 01:46:32,950

I'm not too sure now.

2079

01:46:32,950 --> 01:46:36,060

But I do recall that
was some extra food

2080

01:46:36,060 --> 01:46:37,710

but we were able to get.

2081

01:46:37,710 --> 01:46:39,890

So you would have to
take it back with you

2082

01:46:39,890 --> 01:46:41,040

when you went to work?

2083

01:46:41,040 --> 01:46:44,460

Yeah, well, you have
to realize before we

2084

01:46:44,460 --> 01:46:47,580

got into where we were working,
we had already split up.

2085

01:46:47,580 --> 01:46:50,130

If we got two or three
of them, we're six,

2086

01:46:50,130 --> 01:46:52,170

we split it all in quarters.

2087

01:46:52,170 --> 01:46:53,580

And we put it in the pocket.

2088

01:46:53,580 --> 01:46:58,860

Each one had two quarters,
let's say, of the beets.

2089

01:46:58,860 --> 01:47:01,730

It's just like if you
cut a pineapple in six.

2090

01:47:01,730 --> 01:47:03,480

See, that piece you
can put in your pocket

2091

01:47:03,480 --> 01:47:04,710

so nobody knew what you had.

2092

01:47:04,710 --> 01:47:05,670

And it wasn't wet.

2093

01:47:05,670 --> 01:47:08,760

It was something dry
and it wasn't too clean.

2094

01:47:08,760 --> 01:47:09,960

We didn't care either.

2095

01:47:09,960 --> 01:47:11,790

We were hungry.

2096

01:47:11,790 --> 01:47:13,020

And that's how we got back.

2097

01:47:13,020 --> 01:47:20,610

And then we got into the
camp where we had bowls.

2098

01:47:20,610 --> 01:47:23,190

2099

01:47:23,190 --> 01:47:24,360

It's not wooden bowls.

2100

01:47:24,360 --> 01:47:27,930

It was metal, but it
was white outside.

2101

01:47:27,930 --> 01:47:30,870

Inside was coated.

2102

01:47:30,870 --> 01:47:32,100

It wasn't coated.

2103
01:47:32,100 --> 01:47:35,520
Enamel, outside was
like enamel white.

2104
01:47:35,520 --> 01:47:39,630
And that they must have gotten
the Germans back from military.

2105
01:47:39,630 --> 01:47:42,270
And it was large enough that
you could put about two quarts

2106
01:47:42,270 --> 01:47:43,950
of liquid in there.

2107
01:47:43,950 --> 01:47:46,110
And when they give
you a ladle, you

2108
01:47:46,110 --> 01:47:48,180
had a wooden spoon
and that's your tool

2109
01:47:48,180 --> 01:47:49,240
to eat, the wooden spoon.

2110
01:47:49,240 --> 01:47:52,050
That was the whole
tool you had to eat.

2111
01:47:52,050 --> 01:48:00,216
And like I said, we all had
fabricated a knife for this.

2112
01:48:00,216 --> 01:48:02,430
There was no really
other food that we

2113
01:48:02,430 --> 01:48:05,310
could get that I can think.

2114

01:48:05,310 --> 01:48:07,710

As I said, there
was a period of time

2115

01:48:07,710 --> 01:48:12,180

last time when I talked about
early months we were in a camp,

2116

01:48:12,180 --> 01:48:15,840

there was this French captain
from the French Air Force

2117

01:48:15,840 --> 01:48:17,430

that spoke English.

2118

01:48:17,430 --> 01:48:20,190

And so what he did,
he [? showed ?]

2119

01:48:20,190 --> 01:48:23,340

his English military
prisoners that

2120

01:48:23,340 --> 01:48:29,040

had Red Cross packages from it
was called a Queen's Red Cross

2121

01:48:29,040 --> 01:48:31,260

package, Queen of England.

2122

01:48:31,260 --> 01:48:35,130

And so he got some
food from them.

2123

01:48:35,130 --> 01:48:38,040

Naturally, he wasn't
getting that much.

2124

01:48:38,040 --> 01:48:41,910

Although, unfortunately,
this guy got pneumonia.

2125

01:48:41,910 --> 01:48:44,520

He didn't last more than
three or four months.

2126
01:48:44,520 --> 01:48:48,060
And he, more or less,
tried to support morale,

2127
01:48:48,060 --> 01:48:50,370
because he was a
captain in the army.

2128
01:48:50,370 --> 01:48:55,020
And he tried to keep
us on discipline

2129
01:48:55,020 --> 01:48:58,710
like if you were in the army
that you have to take it.

2130
01:48:58,710 --> 01:49:01,860
And as I said, my
bone of contention

2131
01:49:01,860 --> 01:49:06,100
has been my upbringing
with apprenticeship,

2132
01:49:06,100 --> 01:49:08,190
which was very
tough, and the army

2133
01:49:08,190 --> 01:49:15,000
helped me too to have my body
and my mind set to survive,

2134
01:49:15,000 --> 01:49:16,950
wanting to survive.

2135
01:49:16,950 --> 01:49:18,420
And that has helped.

2136
01:49:18,420 --> 01:49:23,370
But I would say that's about

the only source of food we had.

2137

01:49:23,370 --> 01:49:26,880

And it sounds odd now that
I talk about it, how we

2138

01:49:26,880 --> 01:49:30,540

survived with that little food.

2139

01:49:30,540 --> 01:49:33,690

And going to work,
I tell you, we

2140

01:49:33,690 --> 01:49:35,430

couldn't be very
productive working.

2141

01:49:35,430 --> 01:49:36,420

That's for sure.

2142

01:49:36,420 --> 01:49:39,345

We just went through
the motions of working.

2143

01:49:39,345 --> 01:49:40,480

What were working?

2144

01:49:40,480 --> 01:49:43,530

In the beginning, I
had to work outside

2145

01:49:43,530 --> 01:49:46,350

before they operated
on my arm here.

2146

01:49:46,350 --> 01:49:47,820

And we dug holes.

2147

01:49:47,820 --> 01:49:56,840

We were going to make large
enough holes to put a vat of--

2148

01:49:56,840 --> 01:50:01,790
to when they make that
gasoline out of coal,

2149
01:50:01,790 --> 01:50:05,840
a big vat would
hold that gasoline.

2150
01:50:05,840 --> 01:50:08,720
And what we used to do,
we had to go to work

2151
01:50:08,720 --> 01:50:10,700
and the ground was frozen.

2152
01:50:10,700 --> 01:50:14,060
So just to keep warm,
we dug with a pick

2153
01:50:14,060 --> 01:50:17,990
and we dug and we dug about
three or four hours like this.

2154
01:50:17,990 --> 01:50:20,420
But not straight,
you had to stop.

2155
01:50:20,420 --> 01:50:22,310
We weren't very strong.

2156
01:50:22,310 --> 01:50:25,160
Anyway, we were
able to make a hole.

2157
01:50:25,160 --> 01:50:29,120
Not very deep, I would say
about two or three feet deep.

2158
01:50:29,120 --> 01:50:36,200
And the thing was going
to be about the size

2159
01:50:36,200 --> 01:50:40,910

of this room, the vat that
they're going to put in.

2160
01:50:40,910 --> 01:50:44,760
But the problem what
they had, first of all,

2161
01:50:44,760 --> 01:50:49,610
it took us until noon to get
about two or three feet deep.

2162
01:50:49,610 --> 01:50:52,640
And the ground was frozen.

2163
01:50:52,640 --> 01:50:55,640
When the sun came
out and it thawed,

2164
01:50:55,640 --> 01:51:00,000
it just would collapse,
whatever we were doing.

2165
01:51:00,000 --> 01:51:04,800
So it was very counterproductive
what we were doing.

2166
01:51:04,800 --> 01:51:06,780
We never finished,
in the period of time

2167
01:51:06,780 --> 01:51:12,050
I was there, a hole large enough
to put that tank of gasoline

2168
01:51:12,050 --> 01:51:13,160
in the ground.

2169
01:51:13,160 --> 01:51:16,730
And like I said,
after I got this arm,

2170
01:51:16,730 --> 01:51:20,270
the kapo in the

barrack got me to work

2171

01:51:20,270 --> 01:51:24,740
with this German by the name of
Schultz where I worked inside.

2172

01:51:24,740 --> 01:51:26,990
And then we produced
better, because you are away

2173

01:51:26,990 --> 01:51:29,790
from the chill of
the street and you're

2174

01:51:29,790 --> 01:51:32,780
above where there's
steam in the pipes.

2175

01:51:32,780 --> 01:51:34,460
It keeps you warm.

2176

01:51:34,460 --> 01:51:36,500
And then, again, I
got some potatoes.

2177

01:51:36,500 --> 01:51:40,190
Remember, the guy would
pick them during the tonight

2178

01:51:40,190 --> 01:51:41,560
and boil them during the night.

2179

01:51:41,560 --> 01:51:43,040
And nobody saw.

2180

01:51:43,040 --> 01:51:45,500
And bring them in his toolbox.

2181

01:51:45,500 --> 01:51:49,550
I would say brought him
to me about 10 times.

2182

01:51:49,550 --> 01:51:56,210

And as we got closer,
he would tell me,

2183

01:51:56,210 --> 01:51:58,770

we practically are
going to lose the war.

2184

01:51:58,770 --> 01:52:00,650

We are not going to be
able to win the war.

2185

01:52:00,650 --> 01:52:04,130

But we'll be better off than
you, meaning the French people.

2186

01:52:04,130 --> 01:52:08,240

We will always
profit after the war

2187

01:52:08,240 --> 01:52:11,870

of the Russian,
American that eventually

2188

01:52:11,870 --> 01:52:13,340

are going to fight each other.

2189

01:52:13,340 --> 01:52:17,210

That's what he used to
tell me, that German.

2190

01:52:17,210 --> 01:52:21,590

He was a tall man, very direct.

2191

01:52:21,590 --> 01:52:24,770

And when you talk about
a German Prussian,

2192

01:52:24,770 --> 01:52:28,340

it's a person that comes
from an area where they

2193

01:52:28,340 --> 01:52:30,980

are very disciplined Germans.

2194

01:52:30,980 --> 01:52:33,470

Because you've got different
sections in Germany.

2195

01:52:33,470 --> 01:52:38,060

Some of them are very much
like the French at the border,

2196

01:52:38,060 --> 01:52:41,390

like the section above
where I was born.

2197

01:52:41,390 --> 01:52:43,850

You go into Germany,
these people

2198

01:52:43,850 --> 01:52:46,520

used to be, before the
war, going both ends.

2199

01:52:46,520 --> 01:52:49,250

The French would go into
Germany or Luxembourg.

2200

01:52:49,250 --> 01:52:50,660

That's where I was born.

2201

01:52:50,660 --> 01:52:55,460

But this fellow, I
really never would

2202

01:52:55,460 --> 01:52:59,300

have guessed this guy
would do this for me.

2203

01:52:59,300 --> 01:53:02,240

But I gave you the
reason why he did it.

2204

01:53:02,240 --> 01:53:06,110

And then you can see that even

in the worst of the worst,

2205

01:53:06,110 --> 01:53:09,170

you can always find somebody
that would help you.

2206

01:53:09,170 --> 01:53:15,110

So you can never condemn a whole
race of being bad or always

2207

01:53:15,110 --> 01:53:16,250

being good.

2208

01:53:16,250 --> 01:53:20,180

There's always rotten
apples in the best of us.

2209

01:53:20,180 --> 01:53:21,995

What was the nature
of your work inside?

2210

01:53:21,995 --> 01:53:23,750

What did you do?

2211

01:53:23,750 --> 01:53:27,680

Basically, they had
pipes where steam

2212

01:53:27,680 --> 01:53:32,780

went through to different
parts of the factory.

2213

01:53:32,780 --> 01:53:35,180

Because that factory was huge.

2214

01:53:35,180 --> 01:53:40,670

There was maybe, I would say, at
least 15 building big enough--

2215

01:53:40,670 --> 01:53:45,230

in Sunnyvale, there is
this dirigible hangar.

2216

01:53:45,230 --> 01:53:49,890

About that size, it was about
a dozen factories that high.

2217

01:53:49,890 --> 01:53:53,750

And so we used to have
to insulate these pipes.

2218

01:53:53,750 --> 01:53:55,950

This fellow was--

2219

01:53:55,950 --> 01:53:57,510

I don't know if
he was a plumber,

2220

01:53:57,510 --> 01:54:06,850

but his job was with the tin,
to shape and with a machine,

2221

01:54:06,850 --> 01:54:08,050

to put it together.

2222

01:54:08,050 --> 01:54:10,300

And it was hollow inside.

2223

01:54:10,300 --> 01:54:14,260

I used to have to take a
big bag of steel wool, which

2224

01:54:14,260 --> 01:54:16,420

would really pick--

2225

01:54:16,420 --> 01:54:20,820

not pick-- itch, because
steel wool itches.

2226

01:54:20,820 --> 01:54:22,780

It just makes you itch.

2227

01:54:22,780 --> 01:54:25,990

And I had to put this in
between that pipe that

2228
01:54:25,990 --> 01:54:32,380
was steam and the shell
to cover that pipe.

2229
01:54:32,380 --> 01:54:34,330
It's really to
insulate the pipes.

2230
01:54:34,330 --> 01:54:35,980
That's what we had to do.

2231
01:54:35,980 --> 01:54:38,590
And there I think I was
more productive at work,

2232
01:54:38,590 --> 01:54:43,150
because the environment, the
guy was halfway decent with me.

2233
01:54:43,150 --> 01:54:46,540
So after they had a whistle
blow at a certain time,

2234
01:54:46,540 --> 01:54:48,880
I couldn't even remember
until what time we worked.

2235
01:54:48,880 --> 01:54:52,330
But I know we had to be outside
the barrack at six o'clock

2236
01:54:52,330 --> 01:54:53,200
in the morning.

2237
01:54:53,200 --> 01:54:55,860
And when we got
up, we went to-- it

2238
01:54:55,860 --> 01:55:02,260
was like watersheds that
was long, like in the army,

2239

01:55:02,260 --> 01:55:06,970

with water pipes and
your wash yourself.

2240

01:55:06,970 --> 01:55:11,470

And there's no soap and you
had no hair on your head.

2241

01:55:11,470 --> 01:55:15,640

And if it's dirty or something,
we always took some sand

2242

01:55:15,640 --> 01:55:19,810

and rubbed the sand on
the head to act like soap.

2243

01:55:19,810 --> 01:55:23,350

Then we rinsed it off
and we had showers.

2244

01:55:23,350 --> 01:55:26,240

And the latrines were
outside like this.

2245

01:55:26,240 --> 01:55:28,450

You had wooden latrines.

2246

01:55:28,450 --> 01:55:34,780

But the one thing I never
could figure out how little

2247

01:55:34,780 --> 01:55:36,862

you had to go to the bathroom.

2248

01:55:36,862 --> 01:55:38,320

Because you had
nothing in the body

2249

01:55:38,320 --> 01:55:39,703

to have to go to the bathroom.

2250

01:55:39,703 --> 01:55:41,120

So I would say,
if you didn't have

2251
01:55:41,120 --> 01:55:42,670
to go to the bathroom
for two weeks,

2252
01:55:42,670 --> 01:55:44,630
it was nothing extraordinary.

2253
01:55:44,630 --> 01:55:47,093
Now you think, two weeks
you didn't go to a bathroom,

2254
01:55:47,093 --> 01:55:48,010
you've got to be sick.

2255
01:55:48,010 --> 01:55:54,970
But you had nothing going in the
body really that you had to go.

2256
01:55:54,970 --> 01:55:58,360
So it's different,
life in this sense.

2257
01:55:58,360 --> 01:56:01,740

2258
01:56:01,740 --> 01:56:05,340
Did you notice that after the
people arrived from Hungary

2259
01:56:05,340 --> 01:56:07,750
there was a tremendous
increase in the amount

2260
01:56:07,750 --> 01:56:10,710
of-- was there smoke coming
up every day that you noticed?

2261
01:56:10,710 --> 01:56:13,560
No, I couldn't see this,
because, as I said,

2262
01:56:13,560 --> 01:56:16,360
it was about eight
or 10 miles away.

2263
01:56:16,360 --> 01:56:21,120
And after a while, you're
working in a factory

2264
01:56:21,120 --> 01:56:27,330
where there is all these
pipes or chimneys with smoke

2265
01:56:27,330 --> 01:56:32,230
that when you get so hardened,
you don't pay attention.

2266
01:56:32,230 --> 01:56:33,540
I wasn't even paying attention.

2267
01:56:33,540 --> 01:56:36,750
All I knew was where I
was and where they had--

2268
01:56:36,750 --> 01:56:39,720
and again, I wouldn't have
known if nobody had told me.

2269
01:56:39,720 --> 01:56:43,800
I was told, that's where
they burn the bodies.

2270
01:56:43,800 --> 01:56:48,000
The experience I got
after we left that camp,

2271
01:56:48,000 --> 01:56:55,080
we joined in that group where
we slept in that pile of coal.

2272
01:56:55,080 --> 01:56:57,300
A guy from Holland
who was Jewish that

2273

01:56:57,300 --> 01:57:03,140
worked in that Auschwitz
place where he had

2274

01:57:03,140 --> 01:57:08,210
to put the bodies in the oven.

2275

01:57:08,210 --> 01:57:12,860
And he told me this stories
on that train for a week

2276

01:57:12,860 --> 01:57:14,180
without food.

2277

01:57:14,180 --> 01:57:19,820
He was telling me that there
was a lot of people that had--

2278

01:57:19,820 --> 01:57:23,690
his basic job was when
they came on these trains

2279

01:57:23,690 --> 01:57:28,580
and some people had
suitcases with clothes

2280

01:57:28,580 --> 01:57:33,320
and some had false lined
with gold from Antwerp,

2281

01:57:33,320 --> 01:57:34,490
some Belgian guys.

2282

01:57:34,490 --> 01:57:37,910
And what they figured, it's
a good barter thing to keep.

2283

01:57:37,910 --> 01:57:39,710
And some of the people
figured with gold

2284

01:57:39,710 --> 01:57:42,470
or whatever money they had,
they could buy it themselves

2285
01:57:42,470 --> 01:57:44,090
food or whatever.

2286
01:57:44,090 --> 01:57:47,300
Turns out some of them
went to the ovens directly.

2287
01:57:47,300 --> 01:57:52,790
And he had to dispose of the
suitcases to the Germans bags

2288
01:57:52,790 --> 01:57:56,570
where they put luggage
here, shoes here.

2289
01:57:56,570 --> 01:57:58,190
They were very methodical.

2290
01:57:58,190 --> 01:58:03,320
And he was telling me that
he has buried diamonds

2291
01:58:03,320 --> 01:58:05,990
that some Jews that worked
in Antwerp in the Diamond

2292
01:58:05,990 --> 01:58:06,980
District.

2293
01:58:06,980 --> 01:58:10,910
He buried it there and
he says, every so often,

2294
01:58:10,910 --> 01:58:15,740
the guys that did that work were
relieved and they were burned.

2295
01:58:15,740 --> 01:58:19,400
Because he was at the end,

the last one that did job.

2296

01:58:19,400 --> 01:58:22,250

The Germans that were in
charge of this were gone.

2297

01:58:22,250 --> 01:58:24,500

They want to save
their own skin.

2298

01:58:24,500 --> 01:58:28,520

He told me more than I ever
would have known of what

2299

01:58:28,520 --> 01:58:31,220

had occurred by the ovens.

2300

01:58:31,220 --> 01:58:34,220

Because we realized
why we were there.

2301

01:58:34,220 --> 01:58:38,750

We were there, they want to
exploit us to the fullest,

2302

01:58:38,750 --> 01:58:40,190

as much as we can work.

2303

01:58:40,190 --> 01:58:41,420

They needed our work.

2304

01:58:41,420 --> 01:58:44,300

So we were not on the danger
to be put in the oven,

2305

01:58:44,300 --> 01:58:47,830

except when a German officer
came and he decide who stays

2306

01:58:47,830 --> 01:58:50,690

and who goes, because
they're too skinny.

2307

01:58:50,690 --> 01:58:55,280
And I was fortunate enough when
we paraded in front of him,

2308

01:58:55,280 --> 01:59:01,050
I'm thick-boned so that it never
looked as bad as other people.

2309

01:59:01,050 --> 01:59:07,100
And as I said, the will
to live showed in my body.

2310

01:59:07,100 --> 01:59:10,520
Although, it's
physical and mental.

2311

01:59:10,520 --> 01:59:15,750
The way you walk, if you, how
are we say in Jewish, schlep

2312

01:59:15,750 --> 01:59:18,690
yourself, you're not
going to live long.

2313

01:59:18,690 --> 01:59:21,420
So I used to always
try to be straight.

2314

01:59:21,420 --> 01:59:23,500
Although, I'll
tell you one thing.

2315

01:59:23,500 --> 01:59:24,000
See here?

2316

01:59:24,000 --> 01:59:26,850
I have a stomach now.

2317

01:59:26,850 --> 01:59:31,330
I could put my fist right
underneath here in this spot.

2318

01:59:31,330 --> 01:59:35,270

There was a hole
as big as my fist.

2319

01:59:35,270 --> 01:59:40,020

Empty, because we
had very little food.

2320

01:59:40,020 --> 01:59:43,310

But again, it comes down
to being thick-boned

2321

01:59:43,310 --> 01:59:46,010

and you could walk
properly in front of them.

2322

01:59:46,010 --> 01:59:47,780

So I never was--

2323

01:59:47,780 --> 01:59:51,230

although, he could have an
idea, oh, this guy's no good,

2324

01:59:51,230 --> 01:59:54,740

he's not going to be able to
work, and put me on the side.

2325

01:59:54,740 --> 01:59:58,450

So that's another
way I survived.

2326

01:59:58,450 --> 02:01:38,000