

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:01,140

2
00:01:01,140 --> 00:01:07,500
--second [? standard. ?]

3
00:01:07,500 --> 00:01:10,680
I was going to go
back to Prague.

4
00:01:10,680 --> 00:01:13,230
I wondered, when the
Nuremberg laws came in,

5
00:01:13,230 --> 00:01:16,570
how did that affect
you personally?

6
00:01:16,570 --> 00:01:21,780
And did your old non-Jewish
friends and neighbors

7
00:01:21,780 --> 00:01:24,810
change their
attitudes toward you?

8
00:01:24,810 --> 00:01:29,520
Well, first of
all, I mean, I was

9
00:01:29,520 --> 00:01:32,040
dreadfully bewildered because
it didn't make any sense

10
00:01:32,040 --> 00:01:32,970
to begin with, OK.

11
00:01:32,970 --> 00:01:33,870
That's one thing.

12
00:01:33,870 --> 00:01:35,410

It just didn't make any sense.

13
00:01:35,410 --> 00:01:37,140
It was totally arbitrary.

14
00:01:37,140 --> 00:01:39,270
It just didn't make sense.

15
00:01:39,270 --> 00:01:43,420
And yes, obviously,
because of the laws

16
00:01:43,420 --> 00:01:48,000
and because of the penalties
imposed on people associated

17
00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:54,060
with those who were
defined as racially Jewish,

18
00:01:54,060 --> 00:02:02,310
indeed the relationships
changed, with few exceptions,

19
00:02:02,310 --> 00:02:07,440
exceptions of those people who
were willing to risk something

20
00:02:07,440 --> 00:02:12,230
and willing to continue
some sort of relationship

21
00:02:12,230 --> 00:02:18,160
in a kind of undercover fashion.

22
00:02:18,160 --> 00:02:25,020
And so they continued and
then came at night, at times,

23
00:02:25,020 --> 00:02:27,130
and knocked on the
door, whatever,

24

00:02:27,130 --> 00:02:30,420

so that they would not be
observed, and were very

25

00:02:30,420 --> 00:02:34,410

secretive, for obvious reasons.

26

00:02:34,410 --> 00:02:38,020

Now, for example, there was one
thing which was interesting.

27

00:02:38,020 --> 00:02:44,580

My father was very supportive
of a painter, academic painter,

28

00:02:44,580 --> 00:02:47,310

who was impoverished
because he couldn't

29

00:02:47,310 --> 00:02:49,800

sell his very good paintings.

30

00:02:49,800 --> 00:02:52,440

He was German,
happened to be German--

31

00:02:52,440 --> 00:02:53,880

Sudeten German.

32

00:02:53,880 --> 00:02:59,700

And so he met him in the
street, after he had, years,

33

00:02:59,700 --> 00:03:02,850

supported him
financially and all that.

34

00:03:02,850 --> 00:03:05,580

And stopped and
say, how are you,

35

00:03:05,580 --> 00:03:09,330

Mr. Pinke was his name--
a painter called Pinke.

36
00:03:09,330 --> 00:03:13,450
And he just brushed
him off, and he

37
00:03:13,450 --> 00:03:18,060
said, too risky, too risky, and
brushed off and went his way.

38
00:03:18,060 --> 00:03:20,400
So these sort of things
happened very frequently.

39
00:03:20,400 --> 00:03:28,110
And [SIGHS] it was a
dreadful disappointment,

40
00:03:28,110 --> 00:03:30,510
that people didn't have
enough profile in courage

41
00:03:30,510 --> 00:03:33,180
to continue a close
relationship because

42
00:03:33,180 --> 00:03:38,295
of this sort of absurd decree.

43
00:03:38,295 --> 00:03:43,530

44
00:03:43,530 --> 00:03:44,960
Human disappointment.

45
00:03:44,960 --> 00:03:47,310
And then you had
people who continued

46
00:03:47,310 --> 00:03:50,880
to help because they felt that
something could be had then.

47
00:03:50,880 --> 00:03:53,400
That's also a very
interesting thing,

48
00:03:53,400 --> 00:04:02,220
the so-called Aryanization
of belongings.

49
00:04:02,220 --> 00:04:06,450
And so they came and
said, well, we'll

50
00:04:06,450 --> 00:04:09,630
safekeep it for you
until you come back

51
00:04:09,630 --> 00:04:11,280
and all this and that.

52
00:04:11,280 --> 00:04:17,600
And some were genuine about
it and really meant it.

53
00:04:17,600 --> 00:04:20,970
Other people said, hey,
hopefully, they croak,

54
00:04:20,970 --> 00:04:22,920
and we get some.

55
00:04:22,920 --> 00:04:24,810
And we talking about jewelry.

56
00:04:24,810 --> 00:04:30,360
We talking about exceedingly
valuable paintings.

57
00:04:30,360 --> 00:04:31,860
Some of the paintings,
if I had them

58

00:04:31,860 --> 00:04:33,180
today, I would be a rich man.

59
00:04:33,180 --> 00:04:34,320
I wouldn't have to work.

60
00:04:34,320 --> 00:04:38,020
I would live like a king.

61
00:04:38,020 --> 00:04:40,980
And when we came
back and said, what?

62
00:04:40,980 --> 00:04:42,090
I don't remember that.

63
00:04:42,090 --> 00:04:44,610
I don't remember that we
have anything and all this.

64
00:04:44,610 --> 00:04:45,760
You had that experience?

65
00:04:45,760 --> 00:04:46,890
Oh, yeah.

66
00:04:46,890 --> 00:04:51,060
And just as I was in
Prague last summer,

67
00:04:51,060 --> 00:04:52,170
I was talking about that.

68
00:04:52,170 --> 00:04:54,587
I don't know exactly who these
people are, what they took.

69
00:04:54,587 --> 00:05:01,230
They took Rembrandt, you
know, plus other things,

70
00:05:01,230 --> 00:05:04,950

which were equally valuable
and all this, a collection

71
00:05:04,950 --> 00:05:07,240
of my uncle's paintings.

72
00:05:07,240 --> 00:05:11,040
I'm the heir to my uncle's
paintings, and there are no--

73
00:05:11,040 --> 00:05:14,820
and denied everything--
furniture, antique furniture,

74
00:05:14,820 --> 00:05:17,490
you name it-- everything,
denied everything.

75
00:05:17,490 --> 00:05:22,440
The domestic help,
live-in domestic help

76
00:05:22,440 --> 00:05:24,270
took out I don't
know what, you see.

77
00:05:24,270 --> 00:05:26,460
And I remember that
because I went, even, there

78
00:05:26,460 --> 00:05:29,730
and took some things so that
the Gestapo wouldn't take it

79
00:05:29,730 --> 00:05:34,470
and gave it to safekeeping
to some friends.

80
00:05:34,470 --> 00:05:35,550
And they returned it.

81
00:05:35,550 --> 00:05:36,690
So some people returned.

82
00:05:36,690 --> 00:05:39,270
Some, I've lost sight of
who might have returned it.

83
00:05:39,270 --> 00:05:40,710
And other people when--

84
00:05:40,710 --> 00:05:42,840
these documents
and the photographs

85
00:05:42,840 --> 00:05:45,660
and some of the things
which are, to me, priceless

86
00:05:45,660 --> 00:05:52,140
because they are my
past, reflect my past--

87
00:05:52,140 --> 00:05:54,570
I would have lost
if there had not

88
00:05:54,570 --> 00:05:58,170
been some people who were indeed
honest and returned that to me.

89
00:05:58,170 --> 00:06:01,950
So that was a
tremendous problem.

90
00:06:01,950 --> 00:06:05,320
Because when you've done a
great deal for other people

91
00:06:05,320 --> 00:06:12,150
and so many other people didn't
want to risk anything in order

92
00:06:12,150 --> 00:06:14,610
to be supportive of us.

93

00:06:14,610 --> 00:06:15,553

And it was risky.

94

00:06:15,553 --> 00:06:17,220

I mean, there is no question about that.

95

00:06:17,220 --> 00:06:24,450

Because I have documents and plenty of material in which

96

00:06:24,450 --> 00:06:29,250

any sort of association with Jews meant concentration camp.

97

00:06:29,250 --> 00:06:37,890

And if you gave refuge to Jews, people,

98

00:06:37,890 --> 00:06:43,680

whatever, you were hanged.

99

00:06:43,680 --> 00:06:44,520

You were killed.

100

00:06:44,520 --> 00:06:45,825

You were shot or whatever.

101

00:06:45,825 --> 00:06:47,700

And hey, now, I've got documents and whatnot.

102

00:06:47,700 --> 00:06:50,280

So I mean, it was not something which we should simply

103

00:06:50,280 --> 00:06:51,780

brush off and just say, hey.

104

00:06:51,780 --> 00:06:53,280

The question is, how would we behave

105
00:06:53,280 --> 00:06:55,380
under those circumstances?

106
00:06:55,380 --> 00:06:56,910
And that's what I've asked?

107
00:06:56,910 --> 00:07:00,630
And I behaved-- fortunately,
I behaved differently

108
00:07:00,630 --> 00:07:01,650
after the war.

109
00:07:01,650 --> 00:07:05,400
And I rescued many Germans
who were not Nazis.

110
00:07:05,400 --> 00:07:06,810
And I'm very proud of that.

111
00:07:06,810 --> 00:07:10,800
And I'm very proud of that
and saved their lives--

112
00:07:10,800 --> 00:07:12,510
countless people,
saved their lives,

113
00:07:12,510 --> 00:07:15,960
because that is something
which I just learned.

114
00:07:15,960 --> 00:07:17,190
That's what I learned.

115
00:07:17,190 --> 00:07:20,070
And that's why I say one of
the things I've learned--

116
00:07:20,070 --> 00:07:24,660
and I'm going to, also, publicly

express it in the very near

117
00:07:24,660 --> 00:07:26,190
future--

118
00:07:26,190 --> 00:07:30,600
that people who
have survived have

119
00:07:30,600 --> 00:07:33,300
a tremendous moral
responsibility

120
00:07:33,300 --> 00:07:36,330
to behave in a way
which is exemplary,

121
00:07:36,330 --> 00:07:39,520
particularly along these lines.

122
00:07:39,520 --> 00:07:40,950
We have to be role models.

123
00:07:40,950 --> 00:07:49,380
We have to behave in a way which
reflects the maturation which

124
00:07:49,380 --> 00:07:53,535
only can come by experience
and suffering of that nature.

125
00:07:53,535 --> 00:07:55,410
And if we haven't learned
anything and behave

126
00:07:55,410 --> 00:08:00,690
like the other ones,
what do we have to offer?

127
00:08:00,690 --> 00:08:05,250
And so I take that
very seriously,

128

00:08:05,250 --> 00:08:09,406

the obligation of someone
who has survived and learned.

129

00:08:09,406 --> 00:08:09,906

Yes.

130

00:08:09,906 --> 00:08:11,670

Well, this is another form of
meaning from the suffering.

131

00:08:11,670 --> 00:08:12,300

That's right.

132

00:08:12,300 --> 00:08:13,020

That's right.

133

00:08:13,020 --> 00:08:17,980

That's right because I
still say the better of us,

134

00:08:17,980 --> 00:08:20,796

the better ones,
have not survived.

135

00:08:20,796 --> 00:08:23,130

The better ones
have not survived,

136

00:08:23,130 --> 00:08:24,826

certainly in my experience.

137

00:08:24,826 --> 00:08:28,090

138

00:08:28,090 --> 00:08:30,550

You mentioned that
your grandmother

139

00:08:30,550 --> 00:08:33,370

was in Theresienstadt and
your grandfather, also?

140
00:08:33,370 --> 00:08:38,289
No, my grandfather died also
already during the occupation.

141
00:08:38,289 --> 00:08:43,670
But he died of sclerosis of
the brain and arteriosclerosis

142
00:08:43,670 --> 00:08:45,790
and sclerosis of the brain.

143
00:08:45,790 --> 00:08:48,310
He died a sick man--

144
00:08:48,310 --> 00:08:50,000
just as well.

145
00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:52,820
And my grandmother was
sent to Theresienstadt,

146
00:08:52,820 --> 00:08:55,340
and then she was shipped
to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

147
00:08:55,340 --> 00:09:00,010

148
00:09:00,010 --> 00:09:06,610
I had a great grandmother who,
by the way, was a countess,

149
00:09:06,610 --> 00:09:08,300
come from a countess
sort of thing,

150
00:09:08,300 --> 00:09:13,510
so you can see all kind of very
strange sort of things there.

151
00:09:13,510 --> 00:09:16,060

And she lived to be 92.

152
00:09:16,060 --> 00:09:20,290
Fortunately, she died
before the dreadful thing.

153
00:09:20,290 --> 00:09:21,220
I loved her dearly.

154
00:09:21,220 --> 00:09:25,120
Just a tremend-- I
also have a photograph.

155
00:09:25,120 --> 00:09:28,450
Just a fantastic person,
just unbelievable.

156
00:09:28,450 --> 00:09:32,740
And so I was blessed with these
sort of significant other,

157
00:09:32,740 --> 00:09:36,430
these role models who somehow
gave me strength and somehow

158
00:09:36,430 --> 00:09:39,920
didn't quite also showed
me the other side,

159
00:09:39,920 --> 00:09:42,910
so balanced out that there
are human beings who behave

160
00:09:42,910 --> 00:09:45,040
like to be a mensch, you know.

161
00:09:45,040 --> 00:09:48,910
They really exemplified
this sort of thing.

162
00:09:48,910 --> 00:09:53,200
And that, in times of
dreadful stress and all that,

163
00:09:53,200 --> 00:09:56,245
a great deal of it was
a very great help to me,

164
00:09:56,245 --> 00:09:57,910
a very great help to me.

165
00:09:57,910 --> 00:10:02,650
And without that sort of, I
would be totally hopeless.

166
00:10:02,650 --> 00:10:04,900
I would be more
devastated than I am.

167
00:10:04,900 --> 00:10:08,200
Because yes, I'm desperate
in terms of what I see.

168
00:10:08,200 --> 00:10:10,810
And I'm a prophylactic
pessimist,

169
00:10:10,810 --> 00:10:17,530
not at all an optimist and
very saddened by everyday

170
00:10:17,530 --> 00:10:28,090
experience, human
disappointment,

171
00:10:28,090 --> 00:10:35,050
if you will, of many kind, which
includes America, too, my god.

172
00:10:35,050 --> 00:10:36,910
There's a few things
to say about that.

173
00:10:36,910 --> 00:10:39,160
That's crazy.

174

00:10:39,160 --> 00:10:44,080

But anyway, particularly
in regard to it's

175

00:10:44,080 --> 00:10:48,010

much easier to celebrate the
dead and ignore the survivors.

176

00:10:48,010 --> 00:10:49,840

And that's exactly what's--

177

00:10:49,840 --> 00:10:53,590

and American Jews are not
exactly dreadfully impressed

178

00:10:53,590 --> 00:10:58,120

with, if you want to generalize,
particularly the older

179

00:10:58,120 --> 00:10:59,185

generation.

180

00:10:59,185 --> 00:11:02,910

181

00:11:02,910 --> 00:11:04,877

All right.

182

00:11:04,877 --> 00:11:07,085

When I was asking you back
about your work situation,

183

00:11:07,085 --> 00:11:10,620

I was wondering if, when
you were sick so many times,

184

00:11:10,620 --> 00:11:12,780

how could you avoid work?

185

00:11:12,780 --> 00:11:13,536

I didn't.

186
00:11:13,536 --> 00:11:14,210
You had to work.

187
00:11:14,210 --> 00:11:14,750
No, no.

188
00:11:14,750 --> 00:11:17,580
You see, the thing
is, I was particularly

189
00:11:17,580 --> 00:11:20,040
sick for some reason in
Auschwitz-Birkenau, which

190
00:11:20,040 --> 00:11:22,560
was the worst possible thing.

191
00:11:22,560 --> 00:11:25,980
But when I was in
the slave labor camp,

192
00:11:25,980 --> 00:11:28,380
I was still frail, to be sure.

193
00:11:28,380 --> 00:11:31,750
Because god, I mean, we didn't
have enough food and all that.

194
00:11:31,750 --> 00:11:33,750
And I had frostbite,
and I have this

195
00:11:33,750 --> 00:11:36,150
and that-- terrible,
awful stuff.

196
00:11:36,150 --> 00:11:37,920
But somehow, I always made it.

197
00:11:37,920 --> 00:11:42,570
And then, I just developed
a support group and people

198
00:11:42,570 --> 00:11:44,340
who were very, very helpful.

199
00:11:44,340 --> 00:11:49,890
And when I was in a jam, they
just helped me to get out.

200
00:11:49,890 --> 00:11:52,080
Because I would have been--

201
00:11:52,080 --> 00:11:53,400
and then, I also was lucky.

202
00:11:53,400 --> 00:11:55,630
Because whenever
I got into this--

203
00:11:55,630 --> 00:11:58,650
one thing, for example, in
Auschwitz-Birkenau, I just

204
00:11:58,650 --> 00:12:00,180
got stopped by an SS man.

205
00:12:00,180 --> 00:12:03,120
I said, my god, that's the end.

206
00:12:03,120 --> 00:12:07,055
And he said, are you hungry?

207
00:12:07,055 --> 00:12:08,550
And I said, sure, we are.

208
00:12:08,550 --> 00:12:11,010
We're just starving.

209
00:12:11,010 --> 00:12:13,607
And say, anything
I can do for you?

210

00:12:13,607 --> 00:12:15,440
I said, well, you must
be kidding, you know.

211
00:12:15,440 --> 00:12:18,030

212
00:12:18,030 --> 00:12:19,760
So said, come with me.

213
00:12:19,760 --> 00:12:20,430
I said, OK.

214
00:12:20,430 --> 00:12:22,440
Now, that's the end of the line.

215
00:12:22,440 --> 00:12:25,870
And he took me to
the kitchen and said,

216
00:12:25,870 --> 00:12:29,460
I'd like to see that this fellow
going to get food every day,

217
00:12:29,460 --> 00:12:30,360
special extra.

218
00:12:30,360 --> 00:12:34,800

219
00:12:34,800 --> 00:12:35,830
Just out of the blue.

220
00:12:35,830 --> 00:12:36,460
Nothing?

221
00:12:36,460 --> 00:12:36,960
Nothing.

222
00:12:36,960 --> 00:12:39,600
Just it was in
the camp, B2 camp.

223
00:12:39,600 --> 00:12:43,680
I was there, just
walking and all that.

224
00:12:43,680 --> 00:12:47,760
And he just stops me--

225
00:12:47,760 --> 00:12:50,340
blonde fellow, tall, you know.

226
00:12:50,340 --> 00:12:52,980
I don't know, not an
officer-- was not an officer.

227
00:12:52,980 --> 00:12:59,330
And these sort of things, just
totally unexpected things--

228
00:12:59,330 --> 00:13:00,695
breaks, what we call breaks.

229
00:13:00,695 --> 00:13:03,880

230
00:13:03,880 --> 00:13:05,980
Did you get extra
food every day?

231
00:13:05,980 --> 00:13:07,510
Of course not.

232
00:13:07,510 --> 00:13:08,680
Just the once.

233
00:13:08,680 --> 00:13:09,220
That once.

234
00:13:09,220 --> 00:13:11,260
Because without
him, they say, hey.

235

00:13:11,260 --> 00:13:12,220

Where?

236

00:13:12,220 --> 00:13:13,735

Must be joking.

237

00:13:13,735 --> 00:13:18,670

238

00:13:18,670 --> 00:13:21,460

So yeah, if he would
have come and said yeah.

239

00:13:21,460 --> 00:13:24,100

Without any supervision,
no, they didn't do anything.

240

00:13:24,100 --> 00:13:28,680

Just only under-- of course not.

241

00:13:28,680 --> 00:13:32,050

You were able to live with your
family in the camp, that family

242

00:13:32,050 --> 00:13:33,760

camp, both your
parents, together?

243

00:13:33,760 --> 00:13:36,200

Yeah.

244

00:13:36,200 --> 00:13:36,700

Right.

245

00:13:36,700 --> 00:13:38,500

But I mean, we were
the only relatives.

246

00:13:38,500 --> 00:13:40,160

All the other ones
where elsewhere.

247

00:13:40,160 --> 00:13:42,260

My aunt, by the way, for
some reason or another,

248

00:13:42,260 --> 00:13:45,250

worked in some sort
of war industry

249

00:13:45,250 --> 00:13:49,660

type of thing, rocket parts,
things in Theresienstadt.

250

00:13:49,660 --> 00:13:51,520

And she stayed there
in Theresienstadt.

251

00:13:51,520 --> 00:13:58,480

And my then-future stepmother,
who was half Jewish,

252

00:13:58,480 --> 00:14:01,360

also stayed there,
was protected,

253

00:14:01,360 --> 00:14:04,090

was just you know
deported and survived.

254

00:14:04,090 --> 00:14:05,160

These two survived.

255

00:14:05,160 --> 00:14:08,710

256

00:14:08,710 --> 00:14:11,690

But all the other ones did not.

257

00:14:11,690 --> 00:14:16,300

And my father would have
survived in splendor

258

00:14:16,300 --> 00:14:18,630

if he had not wanted
to go with my mother.

259
00:14:18,630 --> 00:14:23,010

260
00:14:23,010 --> 00:14:26,310
Well, I think maybe other people
would like a turn for now.

261
00:14:26,310 --> 00:14:28,600
Some of the other questions
we can take up next time

262
00:14:28,600 --> 00:14:30,392
if they come up in the
course of your talk.

263
00:14:30,392 --> 00:14:32,672

264
00:14:32,672 --> 00:14:34,640
So Brian, why don't you
ask what you've got.

265
00:14:34,640 --> 00:14:35,140
OK.

266
00:14:35,140 --> 00:14:38,030

267
00:14:38,030 --> 00:14:40,850
When you were in
Theresienstadt, did you

268
00:14:40,850 --> 00:14:45,230
have any idea at
that time that there

269
00:14:45,230 --> 00:14:48,680
were other camps
surrounding that were,

270

00:14:48,680 --> 00:14:51,230

other than relocation, that they
were actually extermination.

271

00:14:51,230 --> 00:14:53,540

At what point did that become--

272

00:14:53,540 --> 00:14:54,650

Extermination camps?

273

00:14:54,650 --> 00:14:57,070

No, I had no idea.

274

00:14:57,070 --> 00:15:01,370

The rumors-- not extermination
in the very specific meaning

275

00:15:01,370 --> 00:15:03,200

of the word--

276

00:15:03,200 --> 00:15:06,410

that it was worse, that
there is that, yes.

277

00:15:06,410 --> 00:15:08,840

That was pretty clear
to us, all of us,

278

00:15:08,840 --> 00:15:12,280

that it was going to be worse.

279

00:15:12,280 --> 00:15:15,470

And Theresienstadt
was bad enough,

280

00:15:15,470 --> 00:15:17,910

although it was one of the
best, if you want to compare,

281

00:15:17,910 --> 00:15:19,670

relatively speaking.

282

00:15:19,670 --> 00:15:21,650

But no, that we knew.

283

00:15:21,650 --> 00:15:23,240

I mean, we knew
that that was going

284

00:15:23,240 --> 00:15:26,900

to be a horrible, the
worst possible, ordeal,

285

00:15:26,900 --> 00:15:28,310

but not extermination.

286

00:15:28,310 --> 00:15:32,186

Extermination, specific
terms-- gassing, all this-- no.

287

00:15:32,186 --> 00:15:35,990

Some very strange rumors,
things of that nature, you know,

288

00:15:35,990 --> 00:15:38,120

but nothing really specific, no.

289

00:15:38,120 --> 00:15:40,710

And then, some weeks after you
arrive at Auschwitz that you--

290

00:15:40,710 --> 00:15:41,210

Yeah.

291

00:15:41,210 --> 00:15:41,710

Well, yeah.

292

00:15:41,710 --> 00:15:44,322

Well, but then-- yeah.

293

00:15:44,322 --> 00:15:47,810

Was your general physical
condition fairly good

294

00:15:47,810 --> 00:15:50,630

when you were transported
out of Theresienstadt.

295

00:15:50,630 --> 00:15:51,770

Oh, yeah.

296

00:15:51,770 --> 00:15:55,735

Because I wasn't
sick there at all.

297

00:15:55,735 --> 00:15:59,360

The part that puzzles me is,
obviously, your transport

298

00:15:59,360 --> 00:16:05,298
was not meant for extermination
on arrival at Auschwitz.

299

00:16:05,298 --> 00:16:05,840

That's right.

300

00:16:05,840 --> 00:16:08,607

But you weren't put into a job?

301

00:16:08,607 --> 00:16:09,440

We are not selected.

302

00:16:09,440 --> 00:16:11,060

We didn't go to any selection.

303

00:16:11,060 --> 00:16:12,430

And you weren't given any job?

304

00:16:12,430 --> 00:16:13,340

No.

305

00:16:13,340 --> 00:16:14,120

Job?

306

00:16:14,120 --> 00:16:15,710

Well, just hanging
around, really.

307
00:16:15,710 --> 00:16:16,520
No real job.

308
00:16:16,520 --> 00:16:20,720
I mean, it's just not really
hanging out, just work details,

309
00:16:20,720 --> 00:16:23,570
you see, and not really
something consistent.

310
00:16:23,570 --> 00:16:26,480
You know, the why don't you
put these bricks or something.

311
00:16:26,480 --> 00:16:28,790
There was nothing
really which I remember

312
00:16:28,790 --> 00:16:30,890
would have been
really heavy work.

313
00:16:30,890 --> 00:16:33,540
I don't recall it
at all, just hanging

314
00:16:33,540 --> 00:16:38,180
around most of the time, really,
not doing very much at all.

315
00:16:38,180 --> 00:16:42,703
Did that type of arbitrariness--
that and the SS man offering

316
00:16:42,703 --> 00:16:44,120
you food, that
type of arbitrary--

317
00:16:44,120 --> 00:16:46,190

do you think that was arbitrary
or do you think it was

318
00:16:46,190 --> 00:16:47,390
a planned arbitrariness--

319
00:16:47,390 --> 00:16:47,890
No.

320
00:16:47,890 --> 00:16:49,155
--to keep you off--

321
00:16:49,155 --> 00:16:49,655
No.

322
00:16:49,655 --> 00:16:50,990
No, Absolutely, no.

323
00:16:50,990 --> 00:16:54,200
That was so spontaneous, I
mean, there was no question.

324
00:16:54,200 --> 00:16:56,210
And I have many other
examples of that

325
00:16:56,210 --> 00:16:58,850
later on, in
different situation--

326
00:16:58,850 --> 00:17:01,808
totally spontaneous, absolutely
spontaneous, nothing planned.

327
00:17:01,808 --> 00:17:02,600
There was no logic?

328
00:17:02,600 --> 00:17:04,400
No, no, no.

329
00:17:04,400 --> 00:17:06,680
I mean, this man had compassion.

330
00:17:06,680 --> 00:17:08,609
I mean, they had some
sort of human feeling.

331
00:17:08,609 --> 00:17:11,300
And SS, you know,
I met quite a few

332
00:17:11,300 --> 00:17:13,990
who would and said so publicly.

333
00:17:13,990 --> 00:17:15,650
They totally
dissociated themselves

334
00:17:15,650 --> 00:17:17,794
from the actual role.

335
00:17:17,794 --> 00:17:18,650
It'll come out.

336
00:17:18,650 --> 00:17:20,680
Actually, it's
part of my written.

337
00:17:20,680 --> 00:17:24,440

338
00:17:24,440 --> 00:17:24,970
No, no.

339
00:17:24,970 --> 00:17:28,380
There was nothing not to--

340
00:17:28,380 --> 00:17:29,060
no.

341
00:17:29,060 --> 00:17:33,365
It was just, it was
absolutely authentic.

342

00:17:33,365 --> 00:17:34,720

I have one more here.

343

00:17:34,720 --> 00:17:39,910

Your father's status from the AK

II transport to Theresienstadt

344

00:17:39,910 --> 00:17:44,100

did not follow him out

of Theresienstadt, then?

345

00:17:44,100 --> 00:17:45,863

No, no, no.

346

00:17:45,863 --> 00:17:47,530

The very moment you

left Theresienstadt,

347

00:17:47,530 --> 00:17:48,730

it was finished.

348

00:17:48,730 --> 00:17:51,370

Then, you were assigned,

just like, for example, I

349

00:17:51,370 --> 00:17:54,090

have a number from

Auschwitz-Birkenau,

350

00:17:54,090 --> 00:17:56,350

which was invalidated

when I arrived in Dachau.

351

00:17:56,350 --> 00:17:58,990

They gave me a different number.

352

00:17:58,990 --> 00:18:01,750

And I had to start writing

the records and all

353

00:18:01,750 --> 00:18:03,940

that from scratch, you know.

354

00:18:03,940 --> 00:18:06,970

All the other things just was
no longer-- it was invalidated.

355

00:18:06,970 --> 00:18:09,560

A different number
or different tattoo?

356

00:18:09,560 --> 00:18:12,880

Different number,
which, of course,

357

00:18:12,880 --> 00:18:17,950

in Auschwitz-Birkenau,
Auschwitz, they tattooed you.

358

00:18:17,950 --> 00:18:19,780

But in Dachau, they
didn't, you see.

359

00:18:19,780 --> 00:18:23,080

So I was given a
different number.

360

00:18:23,080 --> 00:18:27,460

As a matter of fact, when I
was doing a film two years ago,

361

00:18:27,460 --> 00:18:29,580

I went back to
Dachau because that's

362

00:18:29,580 --> 00:18:32,170

about a thing which they
took, also, interview and all

363

00:18:32,170 --> 00:18:33,490

this and that.

364

00:18:33,490 --> 00:18:37,690

And I went to the archives,
the registrar thing,

365

00:18:37,690 --> 00:18:41,050

and they found my number
and everything and my name

366

00:18:41,050 --> 00:18:45,350

and all that on the registry
with my number, my Dachau

367

00:18:45,350 --> 00:18:45,850

number.

368

00:18:45,850 --> 00:18:49,050

369

00:18:49,050 --> 00:18:52,290

You started to study
German in primary school?

370

00:18:52,290 --> 00:18:52,890

That's right.

371

00:18:52,890 --> 00:18:54,650

And by the time
you were, you say,

372

00:18:54,650 --> 00:18:56,730

13, were you already fluent?

373

00:18:56,730 --> 00:18:57,660

Oh, yes, absolutely.

374

00:18:57,660 --> 00:19:00,480

I mean, fluent-- we
spoke German at home.

375

00:19:00,480 --> 00:19:02,880

We spoke Czech at home.

376

00:19:02,880 --> 00:19:07,710

And my relatives spoke English,
particularly during the earlier

377
00:19:07,710 --> 00:19:09,780
time when I didn't understand
any English at all.

378
00:19:09,780 --> 00:19:12,120
You see, when they
talked, the most frequent

379
00:19:12,120 --> 00:19:17,310
the English used word
used was husband.

380
00:19:17,310 --> 00:19:20,160
And so they would say,
husband, what is husband?

381
00:19:20,160 --> 00:19:23,420
I said, well, husband is just
a support thing, supporter,

382
00:19:23,420 --> 00:19:27,960
a support thing, which
we kind of said German,

383
00:19:27,960 --> 00:19:29,460
some of the German
equivalent, which

384
00:19:29,460 --> 00:19:33,180
sounds like Hosenbund, which
keeps up your trousers,

385
00:19:33,180 --> 00:19:35,755
you see, called Hosenbund.

386
00:19:35,755 --> 00:19:36,630
So it was a husband--

387
00:19:36,630 --> 00:19:37,260
Hosenbund.

388

00:19:37,260 --> 00:19:41,910

389

00:19:41,910 --> 00:19:44,310

So my aunt and my
mother, they spoke

390

00:19:44,310 --> 00:19:49,260

English whenever they wanted to
be sure that I don't understand

391

00:19:49,260 --> 00:19:51,450

because they're talking
about my father, you see,

392

00:19:51,450 --> 00:19:54,240

or some other things which
they didn't want me to hear.

393

00:19:54,240 --> 00:19:57,030

394

00:19:57,030 --> 00:20:01,650

Did they make extensive
use of you as a translator?

395

00:20:01,650 --> 00:20:02,790

At Dachau, yes.

396

00:20:02,790 --> 00:20:03,571

At Dachau.

397

00:20:03,571 --> 00:20:04,071

Oh, yes.

398

00:20:04,071 --> 00:20:04,946

But not in Auschwitz?

399

00:20:04,946 --> 00:20:06,240

No.

400

00:20:06,240 --> 00:20:08,190

Dachau after liberation, yes.

401
00:20:08,190 --> 00:20:11,870

402
00:20:11,870 --> 00:20:12,790
[INAUDIBLE]

403
00:20:12,790 --> 00:20:16,060
Yeah, I have a few questions.

404
00:20:16,060 --> 00:20:18,580
You made a remark
earlier in your interview

405
00:20:18,580 --> 00:20:24,130
in which you said, regarding
the question of Holocaust

406
00:20:24,130 --> 00:20:28,090
survivors, that there's
talk but no action

407
00:20:28,090 --> 00:20:30,743
and that this is one
of your big issues.

408
00:20:30,743 --> 00:20:31,535
Talk and no action.

409
00:20:31,535 --> 00:20:33,580
And I was wondering
if you could amplify

410
00:20:33,580 --> 00:20:35,560
what you were referring to.

411
00:20:35,560 --> 00:20:38,140
I don't remember that I
said talk and no action.

412
00:20:38,140 --> 00:20:40,493

413
00:20:40,493 --> 00:20:42,160
I wasn't sure whether
you were referring

414
00:20:42,160 --> 00:20:45,990
to the attitude of the rest
of the world towards survivors

415
00:20:45,990 --> 00:20:47,740
after the Holocaust
or if you were talking

416
00:20:47,740 --> 00:20:49,320
about survivors themselves.

417
00:20:49,320 --> 00:20:50,320
No, no, I said--

418
00:20:50,320 --> 00:20:54,685
no, no, what I meant, at least
that's what I think I meant,

419
00:20:54,685 --> 00:20:56,650
I remember what I've said--

420
00:20:56,650 --> 00:21:03,160
is that they tend to
celebrate the dead

421
00:21:03,160 --> 00:21:08,500
and disregard the ones
who are still alive.

422
00:21:08,500 --> 00:21:10,840
That's what I meant to say.

423
00:21:10,840 --> 00:21:13,250
You mean the world at
large tends to do that.

424

00:21:13,250 --> 00:21:13,780
Yeah.

425
00:21:13,780 --> 00:21:16,880
Well, but also the
Jewish community,

426
00:21:16,880 --> 00:21:20,800
especially because all the
dead are much more important

427
00:21:20,800 --> 00:21:22,010
than the ones who stay alive.

428
00:21:22,010 --> 00:21:25,530

429
00:21:25,530 --> 00:21:26,490
OK.

430
00:21:26,490 --> 00:21:28,530
I have a few more
questions here.

431
00:21:28,530 --> 00:21:30,090
A lot of these
questions are designed

432
00:21:30,090 --> 00:21:35,520
to get some specific detail
information about things

433
00:21:35,520 --> 00:21:36,690
that you witnessed.

434
00:21:36,690 --> 00:21:41,100
You're so steeped in
this that sometimes, I

435
00:21:41,100 --> 00:21:43,740
think, you summarize some
of your experiences quickly.

436

00:21:43,740 --> 00:21:44,400

Right.

437

00:21:44,400 --> 00:21:46,530

This tape and this
information will

438

00:21:46,530 --> 00:21:49,600

be looked at by people who
are not Holocaust experts,

439

00:21:49,600 --> 00:21:52,260

so if we can get some specific
details, it'd be helpful to us.

440

00:21:52,260 --> 00:21:53,343

Yeah, that's a good point.

441

00:21:53,343 --> 00:21:54,660

Yes, Yes.

442

00:21:54,660 --> 00:21:58,410

For example, you spoke
of a very early childhood

443

00:21:58,410 --> 00:22:01,170

memory of antisemitism,
and I wondered

444

00:22:01,170 --> 00:22:03,930

if there might be another one
or two memories that you could

445

00:22:03,930 --> 00:22:07,650

share with us of some of
your earliest experiences

446

00:22:07,650 --> 00:22:08,992

of this phenomenon.

447

00:22:08,992 --> 00:22:14,212

448
00:22:14,212 --> 00:22:15,670
Well, you see, the
thing is I don't

449
00:22:15,670 --> 00:22:19,300
think I've been exposed
to that that much,

450
00:22:19,300 --> 00:22:27,310
other than what I've
mentioned, not really.

451
00:22:27,310 --> 00:22:31,330
The whole thing
only started to be

452
00:22:31,330 --> 00:22:37,870
very obvious after the Nazis--

453
00:22:37,870 --> 00:22:40,480
the Germans-- invaded
Czechoslovakia.

454
00:22:40,480 --> 00:22:50,030
And by virtue of the fact that
I attended a German school,

455
00:22:50,030 --> 00:22:55,250
all these kids, all
my fellow schoolmates,

456
00:22:55,250 --> 00:22:58,180
joined the Hitler Youth.

457
00:22:58,180 --> 00:23:01,670
And then it became
clear, more and more,

458
00:23:01,670 --> 00:23:03,800
the teachers too, said--

459

00:23:03,800 --> 00:23:05,450
also, teachers were
very supportive,

460
00:23:05,450 --> 00:23:07,450
said, hey, he's a
nice guy and whatever.

461
00:23:07,450 --> 00:23:08,510
I don't care.

462
00:23:08,510 --> 00:23:11,150
I disagree with
this sort of thing.

463
00:23:11,150 --> 00:23:12,460
But other people don't.

464
00:23:12,460 --> 00:23:13,010
They didn't.

465
00:23:13,010 --> 00:23:17,600
And then they said, hey,
you Jew and all this.

466
00:23:17,600 --> 00:23:19,910
They never really called me
Jew or something like that.

467
00:23:19,910 --> 00:23:22,150
They just simply behaved
differently towards me,

468
00:23:22,150 --> 00:23:22,650
you know?

469
00:23:22,650 --> 00:23:27,680
I mean, they didn't really
call me or label me or call me

470
00:23:27,680 --> 00:23:32,880
names, just simply started
to behave very differently.

471
00:23:32,880 --> 00:23:37,760
So with the exception
of the bus situation,

472
00:23:37,760 --> 00:23:43,250
where this fellow said only Jews
are only, only Jews, Hitler,

473
00:23:43,250 --> 00:23:44,750
Hitler, you know.

474
00:23:44,750 --> 00:23:47,570
But that was something
which really concerned me.

475
00:23:47,570 --> 00:23:48,620
It was very direct.

476
00:23:48,620 --> 00:23:51,110
But it was very infrequent.

477
00:23:51,110 --> 00:23:52,220
It was very infrequent.

478
00:23:52,220 --> 00:23:56,270
Because we were not subjected
to any sort of antisemitism

479
00:23:56,270 --> 00:23:58,310
to speak of.

480
00:23:58,310 --> 00:24:00,690
It was infrequent.

481
00:24:00,690 --> 00:24:03,260
So I'm hard pressed to
really give you an answer.

482
00:24:03,260 --> 00:24:06,560
Because I can't
fabricate anything

483
00:24:06,560 --> 00:24:07,580
which has not occurred.

484
00:24:07,580 --> 00:24:10,550
I mean, I can, but I'm
not prepared to do that.

485
00:24:10,550 --> 00:24:11,050
That's fine.

486
00:24:11,050 --> 00:24:14,210
So it wasn't until
the advent of Hitler

487
00:24:14,210 --> 00:24:17,540
that you really experienced--

488
00:24:17,540 --> 00:24:20,300
it wasn't until the
coming of Hitler--

489
00:24:20,300 --> 00:24:21,500
Oh, yeah, well, I would say.

490
00:24:21,500 --> 00:24:23,300
Yeah, but other
than the examples

491
00:24:23,300 --> 00:24:26,210
I gave you, which somehow
alerted me, in a way.

492
00:24:26,210 --> 00:24:27,380
OK.

493
00:24:27,380 --> 00:24:31,370
Let me ask you, you said
that, during a period

494
00:24:31,370 --> 00:24:34,310
of political transition, you

actually attended some Hitler

495
00:24:34,310 --> 00:24:35,510
Youth meetings.

496
00:24:35,510 --> 00:24:36,230
One.

497
00:24:36,230 --> 00:24:37,055
Oh, one meeting.

498
00:24:37,055 --> 00:24:38,930
Could you tell us what
that meeting was like?

499
00:24:38,930 --> 00:24:41,000
Well, that was just
a propaganda meeting

500
00:24:41,000 --> 00:24:44,450
where a fellow in
an SA uniform spoke

501
00:24:44,450 --> 00:24:49,250
to the so-called
elite German youth.

502
00:24:49,250 --> 00:24:51,470
And of all the people who
were in German schools

503
00:24:51,470 --> 00:24:53,750
were supposed to
come, or many of them.

504
00:24:53,750 --> 00:24:57,020
And I've met very many friends
I've had from that time

505
00:24:57,020 --> 00:25:00,380
and were there-- just
indoctrination meeting.

506

00:25:00,380 --> 00:25:02,160

And what did he say?

507

00:25:02,160 --> 00:25:07,970

Oh, just said what great thing
national socialism was and how

508

00:25:07,970 --> 00:25:11,600

happy we should be being under
Adolf Hitler and all just

509

00:25:11,600 --> 00:25:24,170

the usual propaganda speeches,
which euphemized Nazi ideology

510

00:25:24,170 --> 00:25:29,000

and said how great that was
and Hitler and how the world is

511

00:25:29,000 --> 00:25:32,330

changing for the better and
how these people are pure

512

00:25:32,330 --> 00:25:35,660

and superior-- whatever,
these sort of--

513

00:25:35,660 --> 00:25:38,540

I don't remember in detail,
specifically, what he said.

514

00:25:38,540 --> 00:25:41,480

It was just a clear-cut
propaganda speech.

515

00:25:41,480 --> 00:25:43,100

That's the best
way to describe it.

516

00:25:43,100 --> 00:25:46,870

517

00:25:46,870 --> 00:25:49,880
Did you find it
sinister in any way?

518
00:25:49,880 --> 00:25:51,680
I found it absurd.

519
00:25:51,680 --> 00:25:52,460
That's what I did.

520
00:25:52,460 --> 00:25:56,850

521
00:25:56,850 --> 00:25:57,980
It was absurd.

522
00:25:57,980 --> 00:26:01,250
It was just totally,
utterly absurd to me.

523
00:26:01,250 --> 00:26:06,410
That's how it struck me, as
just making heroic things

524
00:26:06,410 --> 00:26:12,510
about Hitler and the Reich
and the new movement, which

525
00:26:12,510 --> 00:26:19,610
was going to change
the conditions in, now,

526
00:26:19,610 --> 00:26:22,250
the Protectorate of
Bohemian and Moravia

527
00:26:22,250 --> 00:26:26,040
which is now the German people.

528
00:26:26,040 --> 00:26:29,030
And so that was that.

529

00:26:29,030 --> 00:26:32,840
And people up there was
just something, just

530
00:26:32,840 --> 00:26:36,080
a storyteller,
propagandistic storyteller.

531
00:26:36,080 --> 00:26:37,940
That's what he was.

532
00:26:37,940 --> 00:26:41,000
And the uniform and
all that, with flags

533
00:26:41,000 --> 00:26:49,850
and all the various
trimmings of power and yeah.

534
00:26:49,850 --> 00:26:51,650
And that was once,
and then I didn't.

535
00:26:51,650 --> 00:26:54,740
Because, by that time,
the next time, they said,

536
00:26:54,740 --> 00:26:57,540
hey, you don't belong.

537
00:26:57,540 --> 00:26:58,670
And I didn't want to go.

538
00:26:58,670 --> 00:26:59,760
I mean, I was forced.

539
00:26:59,760 --> 00:27:03,200
They said, we all go, told
all of you to come out.

540
00:27:03,200 --> 00:27:06,240
I didn't know what
to expect, anyway.

541
00:27:06,240 --> 00:27:06,740
OK.

542
00:27:06,740 --> 00:27:09,440

543
00:27:09,440 --> 00:27:11,420
You mentioned that
when you were trying

544
00:27:11,420 --> 00:27:13,220
to get on one of
the Kindertransports

545
00:27:13,220 --> 00:27:15,440
to England that
you got permission

546
00:27:15,440 --> 00:27:19,730
to exit the country from an
infamous SS officer in Prague.

547
00:27:19,730 --> 00:27:22,310
Could you give us his
full name and tell us

548
00:27:22,310 --> 00:27:26,480
a couple of reasons why he
was known as an infamous SS

549
00:27:26,480 --> 00:27:27,380
officer?

550
00:27:27,380 --> 00:27:28,310
Later on.

551
00:27:28,310 --> 00:27:32,870
At that time, I
was tough bastard.

552
00:27:32,870 --> 00:27:37,880

Turned out to be he was
the right hand of Mengele.

553
00:27:37,880 --> 00:27:40,190
And his name was Burger--

554
00:27:40,190 --> 00:27:47,810
B-U-R-G-E-R. And he was
in charge of this sort

555
00:27:47,810 --> 00:27:53,390
of situation to
grant exit visas.

556
00:27:53,390 --> 00:27:59,000
And he was sitting behind
a desk in a villa which

557
00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:02,210
was confiscated, a Jewish
villa, confiscated,

558
00:28:02,210 --> 00:28:07,370
in beautiful region of
Prague, very expensive suburb.

559
00:28:07,370 --> 00:28:11,390
And it was a villa, a
beautiful garden, everything.

560
00:28:11,390 --> 00:28:14,780
And my mother just
stepped in, and we

561
00:28:14,780 --> 00:28:16,850
had to stand in
attention and all this

562
00:28:16,850 --> 00:28:21,260
and give the papers, whatever
the documentation we needed

563
00:28:21,260 --> 00:28:22,580

to be.

564

00:28:22,580 --> 00:28:29,810

And he just put the thing and
waved us and, OK, all right.

565

00:28:29,810 --> 00:28:32,630

So the infamy that you alluded
to was infamy that he--

566

00:28:32,630 --> 00:28:35,280

Well, the infamy was already
there, to some extent.

567

00:28:35,280 --> 00:28:40,220

The infamy was there, all
right, in terms of the awe

568

00:28:40,220 --> 00:28:44,240

and the terror which
they already had spread.

569

00:28:44,240 --> 00:28:46,940

You know, that was already
there but not the actual.

570

00:28:46,940 --> 00:28:49,140

That was just the beginning.

571

00:28:49,140 --> 00:28:52,940

So we knew that these
people, what had happened up

572

00:28:52,940 --> 00:28:54,530

to that point, was bad news.

573

00:28:54,530 --> 00:29:00,400

574

00:29:00,400 --> 00:29:05,200

But later on, it
turned out he was

575

00:29:05,200 --> 00:29:08,620

one of the major
assistants of Mengele.

576

00:29:08,620 --> 00:29:12,020

577

00:29:12,020 --> 00:29:13,490

OK.

578

00:29:13,490 --> 00:29:16,650

You alluded to a slightly
later time in Prague.

579

00:29:16,650 --> 00:29:18,530

I wasn't sure if
you were talking

580

00:29:18,530 --> 00:29:21,350

about when you were in
school or if you perhaps

581

00:29:21,350 --> 00:29:23,750

had a job after school.

582

00:29:23,750 --> 00:29:27,470

You talked about the level
of abuse towards you--

583

00:29:27,470 --> 00:29:27,980

Well, yeah.

584

00:29:27,980 --> 00:29:29,230

--from the Gentile co-workers.

585

00:29:29,230 --> 00:29:35,570

I was learning a trade in
a electro-technical shop

586

00:29:35,570 --> 00:29:37,640

as an apprentice.

587

00:29:37,640 --> 00:29:41,060

Could you tell us some of
the specific moments of abuse

588

00:29:41,060 --> 00:29:41,960

that occurred?

589

00:29:41,960 --> 00:29:49,010

Well, just the abuse that some
of the fellow apprentices just

590

00:29:49,010 --> 00:29:53,990

took horse manure and threw
it at me and all that.

591

00:29:53,990 --> 00:29:59,150

And, for example, a very
specific thing is they got

592

00:29:59,150 --> 00:30:02,420

particular kick out of it
because, during that particular

593

00:30:02,420 --> 00:30:06,470

time, they were showing
a very well-known,

594

00:30:06,470 --> 00:30:12,530

infamous movie called Jud Suss--

595

00:30:12,530 --> 00:30:16,820

Jew Suss-- which was very
well-known propaganda film

596

00:30:16,820 --> 00:30:24,950

against the Jews, a history of
Jews who have a court Jew was

597

00:30:24,950 --> 00:30:29,390

hanged, an executive, because
he did so bad things--

598

00:30:29,390 --> 00:30:38,630
many bad things-- for the duke
whom he served as a court Jew

599
00:30:38,630 --> 00:30:41,140
and whose name was Jud Suss.

600
00:30:41,140 --> 00:30:43,800

601
00:30:43,800 --> 00:30:48,610
It was a very well-known, anyone
who studied that or you know

602
00:30:48,610 --> 00:30:52,700
has heard of that particular
propaganda film, antisemitism

603
00:30:52,700 --> 00:30:55,700
propaganda film.

604
00:30:55,700 --> 00:30:59,570
And so the people
in the shop said,

605
00:30:59,570 --> 00:31:01,730
we want to see you
buy the tickets.

606
00:31:01,730 --> 00:31:04,120
Of course, I was not
permitted to go to movies.

607
00:31:04,120 --> 00:31:06,500
Of course, I was not
permitted to see that.

608
00:31:06,500 --> 00:31:08,340
But they just simply debased me.

609
00:31:08,340 --> 00:31:13,280
They just wanted to humiliate me
in saying, we going to see it,

610
00:31:13,280 --> 00:31:14,850
and you buy us the ticket.

611
00:31:14,850 --> 00:31:18,480
We going to see about you
Jews and this sort of thing.

612
00:31:18,480 --> 00:31:21,620
So that is an example
which sticks to my mind

613
00:31:21,620 --> 00:31:24,950
because it just so happened
to be the movie theater which

614
00:31:24,950 --> 00:31:30,260
was just across the house
where we lived, on the street.

615
00:31:30,260 --> 00:31:35,390
| a cinema called
Radio, which I used

616
00:31:35,390 --> 00:31:37,890
to frequent with my
family and all that,

617
00:31:37,890 --> 00:31:39,650
go to movies and all this.

618
00:31:39,650 --> 00:31:46,380
And so they did that in order
to humiliate me or just beat me

619
00:31:46,380 --> 00:31:48,950
or whatever they call it,
mistreat me, whatever they

620
00:31:48,950 --> 00:31:52,250
could and just behave in a--

621

00:31:52,250 --> 00:31:55,220
because, you see, my
uncle was their boss,

622
00:31:55,220 --> 00:31:56,330
used to be their boss.

623
00:31:56,330 --> 00:31:59,360
And now they felt that
anything which they felt

624
00:31:59,360 --> 00:32:06,140
was done to them or not
done to them or just felt,

625
00:32:06,140 --> 00:32:08,720
now, we are their bosses,
now we'll show you.

626
00:32:08,720 --> 00:32:11,300
It just was a psychologically
very clear-cut sort

627
00:32:11,300 --> 00:32:14,690
of situation they
took advantage of.

628
00:32:14,690 --> 00:32:16,665
And you did buy the
tickets for them?

629
00:32:16,665 --> 00:32:18,290
Oh, yeah, I bought
the ticket for them.

630
00:32:18,290 --> 00:32:20,630
And the threat was they would
beat you up if you did not.

631
00:32:20,630 --> 00:32:22,922
Well, I mean, it was the
threat or that would just say,

632

00:32:22,922 --> 00:32:24,200
you do that for us.

633
00:32:24,200 --> 00:32:27,920
Because I was dependent on
them for the work and all that.

634
00:32:27,920 --> 00:32:30,290
Because if not, I would
have had serious trouble.

635
00:32:30,290 --> 00:32:34,100
Because the person who was
in charge was going, also.

636
00:32:34,100 --> 00:32:36,170
So I mean, I was pretty
much dependent on them.

637
00:32:36,170 --> 00:32:39,380
Because I had to have some work.

638
00:32:39,380 --> 00:32:43,130
I needed to work under
those circumstances.

639
00:32:43,130 --> 00:32:46,880
Yeah, so I bought the ticket--

640
00:32:46,880 --> 00:32:48,600
tickets, yeah.

641
00:32:48,600 --> 00:32:50,042
OK.

642
00:32:50,042 --> 00:32:51,500
Could you tell us
a little bit more

643
00:32:51,500 --> 00:32:56,180
about the affair that the maid
in your house had with the Nazi

644

00:32:56,180 --> 00:32:57,530
who used to sneak in at night?

645

00:32:57,530 --> 00:32:58,570
How did that work?

646

00:32:58,570 --> 00:32:59,570
What was going on there?

647

00:32:59,570 --> 00:33:01,730
Yeah, well, it's another
thing which I really

648

00:33:01,730 --> 00:33:04,355
have to tell you because that's
something I forgot to tell you.

649

00:33:04,355 --> 00:33:06,512
It's important because
it was in Theresienstadt.

650

00:33:06,512 --> 00:33:07,470
But I'll tell you that.

651

00:33:07,470 --> 00:33:08,610
Just remind me of that.

652

00:33:08,610 --> 00:33:09,740
I should tell you that.

653

00:33:09,740 --> 00:33:11,823
Because that was a very
interesting sort of thing.

654

00:33:11,823 --> 00:33:16,310

655

00:33:16,310 --> 00:33:19,430
It was just a
soldier in uniform.

656

00:33:19,430 --> 00:33:21,800
And she was kind
of feeble-minded.

657
00:33:21,800 --> 00:33:24,290
And she also tried
to somehow seduce me.

658
00:33:24,290 --> 00:33:27,530
And she dragged me to the
bed, and my mother came,

659
00:33:27,530 --> 00:33:30,020
and there was a big stink
about it and all this.

660
00:33:30,020 --> 00:33:34,700
And she was totally
harmless-- nice,

661
00:33:34,700 --> 00:33:37,010
slightly on the
feeble-minded side,

662
00:33:37,010 --> 00:33:39,663
and sexually
active, you know, we

663
00:33:39,663 --> 00:33:42,330
would say hyperactive, as well.

664
00:33:42,330 --> 00:33:47,660
And so she was looking
for sexual relief,

665
00:33:47,660 --> 00:33:50,770
for reasons which are obvious.

666
00:33:50,770 --> 00:33:54,050
She was not exactly the most
attractive person in the world,

667
00:33:54,050 --> 00:33:55,310

either.

668
00:33:55,310 --> 00:34:02,690
And so there, there was a
horny soldier who was there,

669
00:34:02,690 --> 00:34:04,940
and just she was available.

670
00:34:04,940 --> 00:34:06,020
And she went out.

671
00:34:06,020 --> 00:34:07,640
She had times off and all that.

672
00:34:07,640 --> 00:34:11,820
So they connected, and he
stayed overnight-- big deal.

673
00:34:11,820 --> 00:34:14,090
So my mother saw the soldier.

674
00:34:14,090 --> 00:34:17,659
He was very apologetic,
very, very polite and said,

675
00:34:17,659 --> 00:34:19,489
I'm sorry, this sort of thing.

676
00:34:19,489 --> 00:34:21,480
And I don't know what's
happening to you.

677
00:34:21,480 --> 00:34:22,400
It's not good.

678
00:34:22,400 --> 00:34:24,690
Because he found
out what was what,

679
00:34:24,690 --> 00:34:27,030
he was in, and was

very nice about it.

680
00:34:27,030 --> 00:34:32,699
So he just stayed overnight
with the domestic person

681
00:34:32,699 --> 00:34:34,310
in her very small room.

682
00:34:34,310 --> 00:34:38,540
And they had mutual relief.

683
00:34:38,540 --> 00:34:39,590
And she was happy.

684
00:34:39,590 --> 00:34:47,239
He was happy and, you know,
behaved in a very civil way,

685
00:34:47,239 --> 00:34:48,980
was not abusive or anything.

686
00:34:48,980 --> 00:34:51,170
He said, well, I'm sorry
that you people have

687
00:34:51,170 --> 00:34:52,219
these sort of problems.

688
00:34:52,219 --> 00:34:54,449
And he was very nice about it.

689
00:34:54,449 --> 00:34:56,370
So and then he came back.

690
00:34:56,370 --> 00:34:59,270
And my mother was terribly
upset that this sort of thing

691
00:34:59,270 --> 00:35:03,182
is happening in her house,
in her home and said,

692
00:35:03,182 --> 00:35:04,640
well, you really
shouldn't do that.

693
00:35:04,640 --> 00:35:07,670

694
00:35:07,670 --> 00:35:11,000
It was fault that was
inappropriate, particularly

695
00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:12,645
when there was a
child like I there,

696
00:35:12,645 --> 00:35:14,270
and I was seeing that
there was someone

697
00:35:14,270 --> 00:35:15,620
staying overnight and all this.

698
00:35:15,620 --> 00:35:17,670
She was a little bit
on the Puritanic side.

699
00:35:17,670 --> 00:35:19,250
Let's put it that way.

700
00:35:19,250 --> 00:35:22,100
Did the soldier stay over one
time only or more than that?

701
00:35:22,100 --> 00:35:26,360
No, he just came back,
two, three times, maybe.

702
00:35:26,360 --> 00:35:29,420
I wonder whether that's
such an important thing.

703

00:35:29,420 --> 00:35:32,552
You seem to be getting
a kick out of that.

704
00:35:32,552 --> 00:35:34,910
[LAUGHS]

705
00:35:34,910 --> 00:35:37,460
When you were in
Prague, you said

706
00:35:37,460 --> 00:35:41,030
that, with some
of your peers, you

707
00:35:41,030 --> 00:35:45,095
got involved in resistance
and underground-type of plans

708
00:35:45,095 --> 00:35:45,973
or activities.

709
00:35:45,973 --> 00:35:48,140
Could you specifically tell
us about what you'd do--

710
00:35:48,140 --> 00:35:48,640
Yeah.

711
00:35:48,640 --> 00:35:52,340
Well, we just felt that
we really should join--

712
00:35:52,340 --> 00:35:55,760
not join, just simply start a
movement among young people,

713
00:35:55,760 --> 00:36:05,210
Boy Scouts, and learn to handle
small arms and do something

714
00:36:05,210 --> 00:36:07,160
and to do some sabotage work.

715
00:36:07,160 --> 00:36:14,600
I mean, it was all talk, and
preparation never came to it.

716
00:36:14,600 --> 00:36:17,440
But we discussed
it-- what can we do?

717
00:36:17,440 --> 00:36:20,480
We didn't do very
much, if anything.

718
00:36:20,480 --> 00:36:24,560
And then, of course,
my parents and friends,

719
00:36:24,560 --> 00:36:35,150
they just tried to help a
person who the Gestapo tried

720
00:36:35,150 --> 00:36:36,650
to find and all
that, and we knew

721
00:36:36,650 --> 00:36:39,170
where they was and there
was a big price on his head,

722
00:36:39,170 --> 00:36:39,890
whatever.

723
00:36:39,890 --> 00:36:42,500
And I've said his name
was Walter [? Czupick, ?]

724
00:36:42,500 --> 00:36:47,060
and he was a publisher of
a social democratic paper.

725
00:36:47,060 --> 00:36:58,080
And we helped him to
find refuge and then

726
00:36:58,080 --> 00:37:01,850
helped him arranged-- four
other adults and all that--

727
00:37:01,850 --> 00:37:08,330
helped him to escape into
Poland, which, at that time,

728
00:37:08,330 --> 00:37:15,000
was just before the war with
Poland, relatively shortly.

729
00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:16,700
And then there was
an escape route,

730
00:37:16,700 --> 00:37:25,290
and he was helped to succeed
in getting to Poland.

731
00:37:25,290 --> 00:37:28,790
That's what we've done and
just some other, minor things,

732
00:37:28,790 --> 00:37:35,600
which didn't really amount
to that much at all.

733
00:37:35,600 --> 00:37:41,000
You referred to
your friend, Fredy,

734
00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:45,500
and some of his resistance work
as having been misrepresented

735
00:37:45,500 --> 00:37:48,830
in some book by an author, if
I understand that correctly.

736
00:37:48,830 --> 00:37:49,450
You did.

737
00:37:49,450 --> 00:37:52,100
Could you correct the
misrepresentations for us?

738
00:37:52,100 --> 00:37:57,350
Well, Adler-- HG Adler--

739
00:37:57,350 --> 00:37:59,330
is his name over there, also.

740
00:37:59,330 --> 00:38:01,670
And he's written a
very well-known book

741
00:38:01,670 --> 00:38:04,730
on Theresienstadt because there
are not that many books written

742
00:38:04,730 --> 00:38:05,390
about it.

743
00:38:05,390 --> 00:38:09,260
And he was, himself, kind
of a collaborator of sorts.

744
00:38:09,260 --> 00:38:10,820
And I've had several--

745
00:38:10,820 --> 00:38:13,895
one encounter in particular--

746
00:38:13,895 --> 00:38:16,980
in which I did not
endear myself to him.

747
00:38:16,980 --> 00:38:25,250
And so he said that Fredy Hirsch
was a person who was not really

748
00:38:25,250 --> 00:38:29,870
very significant and he happened

to be, also, homosexual,

749

00:38:29,870 --> 00:38:35,810
and that certainly prejudiced
this HG Adler in his writings

750

00:38:35,810 --> 00:38:37,220
about him.

751

00:38:37,220 --> 00:38:45,360
And so he somehow belittled
the role he played in camp life

752

00:38:45,360 --> 00:38:48,290
in Theresienstadt and,
later, in Auschwitz-Birkenau,

753

00:38:48,290 --> 00:38:50,480
which he did not have
any knowledge of.

754

00:38:50,480 --> 00:38:53,480
But he limited himself
to Theresienstadt.

755

00:38:53,480 --> 00:38:58,970
And I think that he played
a very important role

756

00:38:58,970 --> 00:39:02,390
in terms of being a role
model to young people

757

00:39:02,390 --> 00:39:06,380
and being supportive
and keeping them healthy

758

00:39:06,380 --> 00:39:10,440
and doing gymnastics with them
and all those sort of thing.

759

00:39:10,440 --> 00:39:14,420
And he was very, very helpful

to me, very specifically,

760
00:39:14,420 --> 00:39:16,530
for example.

761
00:39:16,530 --> 00:39:21,455
A friend of mine who also
happened to be-- the place

762
00:39:21,455 --> 00:39:23,630
was full of half
Jews, and I'm also

763
00:39:23,630 --> 00:39:26,930
in this sort of
partially category.

764
00:39:26,930 --> 00:39:30,930
So a man called Jiri
[Personal name] was his name.

765
00:39:30,930 --> 00:39:33,170
We had a particular
job in Theresienstadt

766
00:39:33,170 --> 00:39:36,530
to get the belongings
of the deceased

767
00:39:36,530 --> 00:39:43,070
and bring them to a particular
part of a warehouse.

768
00:39:43,070 --> 00:39:49,460
And so we had a
two-wheel, what, cart,

769
00:39:49,460 --> 00:39:50,990
and we put these things in it.

770
00:39:50,990 --> 00:39:52,820
And that was our job.

771

00:39:52,820 --> 00:39:57,360

Now, I knew what was
happening to these things.

772

00:39:57,360 --> 00:40:01,340

All the power elite
took it and enjoyed it.

773

00:40:01,340 --> 00:40:04,760

And I'd say, hey, I'm going
to get a piece of action here.

774

00:40:04,760 --> 00:40:11,240

And so I took some piece
of soap and some books--

775

00:40:11,240 --> 00:40:13,430

medical books-- because we
wanted to read something.

776

00:40:13,430 --> 00:40:15,097

And I read anything,
you know, anything.

777

00:40:15,097 --> 00:40:19,640

It just happened to be
medical diaries, annual things

778

00:40:19,640 --> 00:40:22,080

which appear
annually or whatever.

779

00:40:22,080 --> 00:40:23,580

And soap and all that.

780

00:40:23,580 --> 00:40:29,420

And poor Jiri-- same name as
George, Czech name for George,

781

00:40:29,420 --> 00:40:30,050

Jiri--

782

00:40:30,050 --> 00:40:35,810

[Personal name] Jiri,
I led him into it

783

00:40:35,810 --> 00:40:38,240

because I was the initiator
of many of the things.

784

00:40:38,240 --> 00:40:40,370

I was kind of initiator.

785

00:40:40,370 --> 00:40:42,320

And he, poor fellow, got along.

786

00:40:42,320 --> 00:40:47,510

And someone, some sort of big
wheel or whatever, small wheel,

787

00:40:47,510 --> 00:40:52,250

saw it out of the window
and stopped us and called

788

00:40:52,250 --> 00:40:54,500

the ghetto police and whatever.

789

00:40:54,500 --> 00:40:56,510

And we were into
terrible trouble.

790

00:40:56,510 --> 00:40:59,700

And Fredy Hirsch got us out
of the trouble and said,

791

00:40:59,700 --> 00:41:01,700

I'm going to see to it
that they'll be punished.

792

00:41:01,700 --> 00:41:02,700

And he punished us.

793

00:41:02,700 --> 00:41:04,760

So we had to clean the toilets.

794
00:41:04,760 --> 00:41:05,420
Big deal.

795
00:41:05,420 --> 00:41:08,730
And other than that, we would
have been in terrible trouble.

796
00:41:08,730 --> 00:41:12,710
I mean, deportation,
possibilities-- you name it.

797
00:41:12,710 --> 00:41:14,955
That was Fredy Hirsch.

798
00:41:14,955 --> 00:41:15,455
OK.

799
00:41:15,455 --> 00:41:17,690
Do we have a
specific example now?

800
00:41:17,690 --> 00:41:18,690
[INAUDIBLE]

801
00:41:18,690 --> 00:41:21,190
OK.

802
00:41:21,190 --> 00:41:22,190
All right.

803
00:41:22,190 --> 00:41:27,290

804
00:41:27,290 --> 00:41:30,600
Let's see.

805
00:41:30,600 --> 00:41:37,560
Could you explain to me how
the sheltering of refugees,

806
00:41:37,560 --> 00:41:39,210

how that was working in Prague.

807

00:41:39,210 --> 00:41:41,530

Well, I mean sheltering
of refugees, simply,

808

00:41:41,530 --> 00:41:42,810

it's a support system.

809

00:41:42,810 --> 00:41:50,447

These people escaped from Nazi
Germany to free Czechoslovakia.

810

00:41:50,447 --> 00:41:51,280

That's clear, right?

811

00:41:51,280 --> 00:41:51,870

OK.

812

00:41:51,870 --> 00:41:52,410

OK.

813

00:41:52,410 --> 00:41:54,650

Now, these people
didn't have anything.

814

00:41:54,650 --> 00:41:55,650

They've lost everything.

815

00:41:55,650 --> 00:42:01,050

They were political refugees
in a real sense of the word.

816

00:42:01,050 --> 00:42:03,030

Saved their lives
because, otherwise, they

817

00:42:03,030 --> 00:42:07,738

would have sent to
concentration camps or whatever.

818

00:42:07,738 --> 00:42:09,030

Dire thing would have happened.

819
00:42:09,030 --> 00:42:11,620

820
00:42:11,620 --> 00:42:13,695
And so there were people--

821
00:42:13,695 --> 00:42:14,980
Were they hiding when they--

822
00:42:14,980 --> 00:42:15,480
Hiding?

823
00:42:15,480 --> 00:42:16,397
What the hell, hiding?

824
00:42:16,397 --> 00:42:16,990
No.

825
00:42:16,990 --> 00:42:19,610
They came to free
Czechoslovakia.

826
00:42:19,610 --> 00:42:20,617
OK.

827
00:42:20,617 --> 00:42:22,200
So you just were
helping [INAUDIBLE]..

828
00:42:22,200 --> 00:42:23,070
But they were penniless.

829
00:42:23,070 --> 00:42:24,195
They didn't have any means.

830
00:42:24,195 --> 00:42:24,850
That's right.

831
00:42:24,850 --> 00:42:26,800

That's exactly that.

832
00:42:26,800 --> 00:42:31,260
So that we provided, or we
were, or so many other people,

833
00:42:31,260 --> 00:42:34,980
provided a support group to
them so that they will be fed

834
00:42:34,980 --> 00:42:37,380
and that there's some
shelter, a place to live

835
00:42:37,380 --> 00:42:38,530
or a place to eat.

836
00:42:38,530 --> 00:42:41,640
So then it was parceled out
so that the burden will not

837
00:42:41,640 --> 00:42:44,160
be carried by one
but by many people.

838
00:42:44,160 --> 00:42:47,610
And they did a number of
things for them, you know.

839
00:42:47,610 --> 00:42:51,090
You know, not big deal, but I
mean, yes, it was, in a way.

840
00:42:51,090 --> 00:42:54,690
It was something
which was very--

841
00:42:54,690 --> 00:42:58,060
good dinners, food, and
money, and whatever.

842
00:42:58,060 --> 00:43:00,950
So yes, it was

something, more than

843

00:43:00,950 --> 00:43:03,243

American Jews have done for me.

844

00:43:03,243 --> 00:43:04,160

Let's put it that way.

845

00:43:04,160 --> 00:43:10,350

846

00:43:10,350 --> 00:43:14,640

Can you tell us what a typical day was like in Theresienstadt

847

00:43:14,640 --> 00:43:17,550

from when you started at the beginning of the day

848

00:43:17,550 --> 00:43:20,100

and when you ended at the end of the day, sort

849

00:43:20,100 --> 00:43:26,760

of the step-by-step activities of the day on a typical day?

850

00:43:26,760 --> 00:43:39,230

851

00:43:39,230 --> 00:43:42,170

Well, it depends very much, I think, let's say.

852

00:43:42,170 --> 00:43:53,510

I worked for the Space Allotment Administration--

853

00:43:53,510 --> 00:43:56,000

Space Allotment Administration-- for a while.

854

00:43:56,000 --> 00:44:04,450
And a fellow called Rindler,
a real son of a bitch,

855
00:44:04,450 --> 00:44:09,600
collaborator par excellence.

856
00:44:09,600 --> 00:44:20,250
And so he required that the
people working under him--

857
00:44:20,250 --> 00:44:23,160
and I'll give you very
specific sort of things--

858
00:44:23,160 --> 00:44:25,230
would come very early
in the morning-- well,

859
00:44:25,230 --> 00:44:26,250
around 7 o'clock--

860
00:44:26,250 --> 00:44:29,655
and work until they
fell apart, some might--

861
00:44:29,655 --> 00:44:33,600
OK, or whatever-- not quite
night but 6:00, all right.

862
00:44:33,600 --> 00:44:37,065
And he was supervising, a
real autocratic son of a bitch

863
00:44:37,065 --> 00:44:38,520
if I ever seen one--

864
00:44:38,520 --> 00:44:40,560
Rindler.

865
00:44:40,560 --> 00:44:47,400
And so then, I had to
put in charts, things,

866
00:44:47,400 --> 00:44:49,710
where people would
be allocated when

867
00:44:49,710 --> 00:44:51,330
they would come to
Theresienstadt, how

868
00:44:51,330 --> 00:44:52,740
many people, this thing.

869
00:44:52,740 --> 00:44:54,990
So in this connection,
I had to do

870
00:44:54,990 --> 00:44:59,340
specific jobs, including
jobs, for example,

871
00:44:59,340 --> 00:45:01,080
write calling cards--

872
00:45:01,080 --> 00:45:08,310
you know, calligraphically,
calling card for the SS.

873
00:45:08,310 --> 00:45:12,150
And I remember still I had
to write some calling--

874
00:45:12,150 --> 00:45:14,670
because I was able to do that.

875
00:45:14,670 --> 00:45:18,090
Calligraphy was
something which I could

876
00:45:18,090 --> 00:45:20,650
do quite well and all that.

877
00:45:20,650 --> 00:45:23,310

So I just wrote
this for a fellow.

878
00:45:23,310 --> 00:45:28,260
It was a SS lieutenant.

879
00:45:28,260 --> 00:45:30,630
I think it was a
Lieutenant Ott--

880
00:45:30,630 --> 00:45:32,160
O-T-T was his name.

881
00:45:32,160 --> 00:45:33,870
I still remember that name.

882
00:45:33,870 --> 00:45:35,410
And then, he tyrannized me.

883
00:45:35,410 --> 00:45:36,120
I do it.

884
00:45:36,120 --> 00:45:36,500
He'd tear it down.

885
00:45:36,500 --> 00:45:37,458
That's not good enough.

886
00:45:37,458 --> 00:45:39,600
And bang or something like that.

887
00:45:39,600 --> 00:45:40,980
And so that was a day.

888
00:45:40,980 --> 00:45:43,110
And then I worked.

889
00:45:43,110 --> 00:45:45,990
And then I went
home-- home, you know,

890

00:45:45,990 --> 00:45:52,980
we had this sort of group
of young kids and relaxed.

891
00:45:52,980 --> 00:45:54,870
On Saturdays, Sundays,
we didn't work.

892
00:45:54,870 --> 00:46:02,550
And there were some
evening activities,

893
00:46:02,550 --> 00:46:07,560
which may have been theater
or concerts or some lectures

894
00:46:07,560 --> 00:46:09,520
or meeting with people.

895
00:46:09,520 --> 00:46:11,670
And there was possible
intelligent stuff

896
00:46:11,670 --> 00:46:13,980
because that was, you know.

897
00:46:13,980 --> 00:46:16,470
And avoiding the SS
because they also

898
00:46:16,470 --> 00:46:19,800
around and all that, in the
streets-- low-ranking types who

899
00:46:19,800 --> 00:46:27,690
were just really,
really very, very cruel

900
00:46:27,690 --> 00:46:34,080
and didn't mind killing
people, you know,

901
00:46:34,080 --> 00:46:36,730

quote unquote, "accidentally."

902
00:46:36,730 --> 00:46:41,190
And so that's what
we did and just

903
00:46:41,190 --> 00:46:43,320
trying to get as
much organized--

904
00:46:43,320 --> 00:46:47,930
what we call organized--
food, extra food, and connect,

905
00:46:47,930 --> 00:46:49,050
you see.

906
00:46:49,050 --> 00:46:50,560
And that was pretty much.

907
00:46:50,560 --> 00:46:59,640
And then we slept in this
three-story bunker type

908
00:46:59,640 --> 00:47:00,900
of situations-- bunks--

909
00:47:00,900 --> 00:47:04,020

910
00:47:04,020 --> 00:47:09,100
and slept like logs because
we all were terribly exhausted

911
00:47:09,100 --> 00:47:14,580
and suffered from malnutrition.

912
00:47:14,580 --> 00:47:20,580
And Saturday,
Sundays was a break.

913
00:47:20,580 --> 00:47:22,050

We didn't have to work.

914

00:47:22,050 --> 00:47:24,760

And depending, of course, your employment.

915

00:47:24,760 --> 00:47:26,550

Some of it was physical and some--

916

00:47:26,550 --> 00:47:30,540

I actually wanted to work for the electricians.

917

00:47:30,540 --> 00:47:32,690

But they didn't want me, for whatever reason.

918

00:47:32,690 --> 00:47:34,720

I'm sure they had a good reason for that.

919

00:47:34,720 --> 00:47:42,630

And so I did some other things, like this Allotment

920

00:47:42,630 --> 00:47:47,010

of Space, this agency--

921

00:47:47,010 --> 00:47:49,020

very powerful because they could allot

922

00:47:49,020 --> 00:47:53,040

you good or bad or privileged, whatever.

923

00:47:53,040 --> 00:47:55,650

What topics were the lectures on?

924

00:47:55,650 --> 00:47:58,365

Oh, yeah, well, that just

depends on the various--

925

00:47:58,365 --> 00:48:05,100

926

00:48:05,100 --> 00:48:06,600

well, you had scientists.

927

00:48:06,600 --> 00:48:07,710

You had philosophers.

928

00:48:07,710 --> 00:48:09,030

You had professors.

929

00:48:09,030 --> 00:48:12,480

So there was a professor
of Berlin University who

930

00:48:12,480 --> 00:48:15,330

was a biologist, a
man called Dr. Klein--

931

00:48:15,330 --> 00:48:16,590

Professor Klein.

932

00:48:16,590 --> 00:48:20,720

And so I went to
his [INAUDIBLE]..

933

00:48:20,720 --> 00:48:22,380

By the way, he
was so well-known,

934

00:48:22,380 --> 00:48:25,330

I think he was a Nobel Prize
winner or something like that.

935

00:48:25,330 --> 00:48:27,090

And so that he was
a privileged person.

936

00:48:27,090 --> 00:48:29,490

He came there with privilege,
will not be deported

937
00:48:29,490 --> 00:48:32,405
and all that because of
he was world-renowned.

938
00:48:32,405 --> 00:48:35,430

939
00:48:35,430 --> 00:48:38,370
So he gave a lecture on
some biological theme.

940
00:48:38,370 --> 00:48:39,820
I forget it.

941
00:48:39,820 --> 00:48:44,730
And then there was
some other person

942
00:48:44,730 --> 00:48:47,430
who was Einstein's assistant.

943
00:48:47,430 --> 00:48:49,952
So he gave a lecture on physics.

944
00:48:49,952 --> 00:48:51,660
And there are some
philosophers, and they

945
00:48:51,660 --> 00:48:54,870
had theater productions
which are fabulous.

946
00:48:54,870 --> 00:48:56,220
Then you had jazz concerts.

947
00:48:56,220 --> 00:48:59,070
You had classical concerts.

948
00:48:59,070 --> 00:49:02,830

You had lectures of all sorts
which were just unbelievable.

949
00:49:02,830 --> 00:49:07,470
And then we also, organized
by one particular person,

950
00:49:07,470 --> 00:49:14,370
or organized this sort of
get ourselves some education.

951
00:49:14,370 --> 00:49:17,560
Because we were
kids, young kids.

952
00:49:17,560 --> 00:49:20,680
And so they gave us
a special education.

953
00:49:20,680 --> 00:49:25,470
So we had kind of free learning
classes, classes where we just

954
00:49:25,470 --> 00:49:28,750
simply discussed philosophy
and learned Latin.

955
00:49:28,750 --> 00:49:37,650
And this fellow in charge of
this group of 13 youngsters,

956
00:49:37,650 --> 00:49:40,110
which I was the
one only surviving,

957
00:49:40,110 --> 00:49:43,290
by the way, a dreadful thing.

958
00:49:43,290 --> 00:49:47,400
I still haven't
quite come to accept

959
00:49:47,400 --> 00:49:50,610

that because these
people were gifted--

960
00:49:50,610 --> 00:49:54,060
some were geniuses--
very gifted people.

961
00:49:54,060 --> 00:49:57,900
They would have made a
tremendous contribution had

962
00:49:57,900 --> 00:49:59,070
they survived.

963
00:49:59,070 --> 00:50:01,440
And that's something which
I have the greatest problems

964
00:50:01,440 --> 00:50:02,970
with, actually.

965
00:50:02,970 --> 00:50:06,870
And so we got together.

966
00:50:06,870 --> 00:50:08,490
The poets, they wrote poetry.

967
00:50:08,490 --> 00:50:10,800
And I still have
poems which I've

968
00:50:10,800 --> 00:50:14,130
been able to retrieve
which were written there,

969
00:50:14,130 --> 00:50:17,310
just fabulous stuff, just
unbelievable, by a 13-year-old

970
00:50:17,310 --> 00:50:19,350
who was part of that group.

971

00:50:19,350 --> 00:50:26,610
And so that's one activity
which we did and had discussions

972
00:50:26,610 --> 00:50:30,720
of all sorts, real discussions
about various themes,

973
00:50:30,720 --> 00:50:32,910
which were
philosophical, political,

974
00:50:32,910 --> 00:50:36,900
whatever, and
creative in one way.

975
00:50:36,900 --> 00:50:38,220
Some people into arts.

976
00:50:38,220 --> 00:50:41,100
And so lots of things--
into sculpture.

977
00:50:41,100 --> 00:50:43,710
They just took the soil
and did things out of that.

978
00:50:43,710 --> 00:50:45,870
I did that also in
Auschwitz-Birkenau.

979
00:50:45,870 --> 00:50:49,560

980
00:50:49,560 --> 00:50:53,320
So very, very many activities.

981
00:50:53,320 --> 00:50:55,360
And that was possible.

982
00:50:55,360 --> 00:50:56,490
It was not prevented.

983

00:50:56,490 --> 00:51:05,720

And the initiative
and the imagination

984

00:51:05,720 --> 00:51:09,690

and the talents which one
could experience there

985

00:51:09,690 --> 00:51:14,510

were of such natures, of
so high sophistication,

986

00:51:14,510 --> 00:51:18,620

that under normal
circumstances, even in Prague,

987

00:51:18,620 --> 00:51:22,670

I would have most likely
not encountered any of it.

988

00:51:22,670 --> 00:51:24,230

So these were some
of the activities.

989

00:51:24,230 --> 00:51:26,390

Now, I want to
mention one thing.

990

00:51:26,390 --> 00:51:28,010

I got a big kick
out of a thing when

991

00:51:28,010 --> 00:51:32,270

I was just in one of the rooms,
just looking out the window.

992

00:51:32,270 --> 00:51:40,550

And the window was just really
at the border, so to speak,

993

00:51:40,550 --> 00:51:44,480

at the headquarters--

994

00:51:44,480 --> 00:51:48,620
SS headquarters and some of
the other barracks, which were

995

00:51:48,620 --> 00:51:50,420
administration and all that.

996

00:51:50,420 --> 00:51:53,090
And one day, I just
looked out of the window.

997

00:51:53,090 --> 00:51:56,180
I can see the person
who was in charge

998

00:51:56,180 --> 00:52:02,610
of the Theresienstadt
and all, Dr. Seidl,

999

00:52:02,610 --> 00:52:06,030
trying to get into a horse
and buggy, a Nazi horse

1000

00:52:06,030 --> 00:52:11,610
and buggy type of
thing and just go

1001

00:52:11,610 --> 00:52:15,960
on a ride in a horse
and buggy with a old,

1002

00:52:15,960 --> 00:52:18,790
kind of antique,
interesting sort of thing.

1003

00:52:18,790 --> 00:52:19,940
And they're slightly drunk.

1004

00:52:19,940 --> 00:52:22,620
And another one challenged
him [INAUDIBLE]..

1005

00:52:22,620 --> 00:52:23,850
And they got into a fight.

1006
00:52:23,850 --> 00:52:27,260
And I really enjoyed that then.

1007
00:52:27,260 --> 00:52:31,410
Then a person who was
their subordinate,

1008
00:52:31,410 --> 00:52:35,190
a non-commissioned
officer, then tried

1009
00:52:35,190 --> 00:52:37,140
to separate these
commissioned officers who

1010
00:52:37,140 --> 00:52:41,370
were high people,
highly positive people

1011
00:52:41,370 --> 00:52:42,630
in Theresienstadt.

1012
00:52:42,630 --> 00:52:44,980
And they were beating into
each other and all that.

1013
00:52:44,980 --> 00:52:47,310
And I just got such
a kick out of that.

1014
00:52:47,310 --> 00:52:49,590
That was a tremendous relief--

1015
00:52:49,590 --> 00:52:50,670
tremendous.

1016
00:52:50,670 --> 00:52:54,330
Really some sort of
degree of satisfaction.

1017

00:52:54,330 --> 00:52:56,380

I have never forgotten that.

1018

00:52:56,380 --> 00:52:58,380

And to me, I just
think, oh my god, that's

1019

00:52:58,380 --> 00:53:02,240

something I'd really like
to see, these [INAUDIBLE]

1020

00:53:02,240 --> 00:53:03,350

fighting each other.

1021

00:53:03,350 --> 00:53:04,900

Bastards.

1022

00:53:04,900 --> 00:55:08,000