

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:08,730

2
00:01:08,730 --> 00:01:09,950
OK.

3
00:01:09,950 --> 00:01:13,680
OK, today is June the 6th, 1991.

4
00:01:13,680 --> 00:01:16,920
I'm Sandra Bendayan, and I'm
here interviewing John Steiner.

5
00:01:16,920 --> 00:01:19,290
This is part 2 of our interview.

6
00:01:19,290 --> 00:01:22,950
And we have Brian
Paris as the second.

7
00:01:22,950 --> 00:01:26,480
And also with us, who may be
talking, is Carol Hurwitz,

8
00:01:26,480 --> 00:01:29,970
a colleague of John's.

9
00:01:29,970 --> 00:01:36,870
And I just want to start today
asking a few questions that

10
00:01:36,870 --> 00:01:39,870
relate a little bit to what we
talked about in the interview

11
00:01:39,870 --> 00:01:41,280
part number 1.

12
00:01:41,280 --> 00:01:48,030
And really that is with
focusing on the details

13
00:01:48,030 --> 00:01:51,770
of, say, your transports.

14
00:01:51,770 --> 00:01:54,390

15
00:01:54,390 --> 00:01:56,880
You're talking about the--

16
00:01:56,880 --> 00:01:59,070
from Auschwitz-Birkenau
to Blechhammer.

17
00:01:59,070 --> 00:02:03,270
And also what it was like
at the very first, going

18
00:02:03,270 --> 00:02:04,588
to Theresienstadt.

19
00:02:04,588 --> 00:02:06,790
Uh-huh.

20
00:02:06,790 --> 00:02:07,290
Right.

21
00:02:07,290 --> 00:02:10,500
Whatever details you
can remember of--

22
00:02:10,500 --> 00:02:13,200
Well, I mean, the
interesting part,

23
00:02:13,200 --> 00:02:23,040
in terms of starting the
specifics, on August 3--

24
00:02:23,040 --> 00:02:27,590
well, let me just start
earlier with that.

25

00:02:27,590 --> 00:02:34,320

In '42, and that started
just in the spring,

26

00:02:34,320 --> 00:02:37,790

there was the assassination
of Reinhard Heydrich.

27

00:02:37,790 --> 00:02:41,150

And that affected us all
by virtue of the fact

28

00:02:41,150 --> 00:02:46,040

that all houses were
searched by German army

29

00:02:46,040 --> 00:02:49,820

and other military formations.

30

00:02:49,820 --> 00:02:53,000

I have not seen actually
any SS searching the houses.

31

00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:54,748

But they also came
to us and searched.

32

00:02:54,748 --> 00:02:56,165

But they are quite
nice, actually.

33

00:02:56,165 --> 00:02:57,930

They were quite pleasant.

34

00:02:57,930 --> 00:03:03,680

Although, I think they were
told by the house manager

35

00:03:03,680 --> 00:03:07,800

that this was a Jewish
household or whatever that was.

36

00:03:07,800 --> 00:03:10,850

And so they searched
and all that,

37

00:03:10,850 --> 00:03:13,730

but nothing unusual
had happened.

38

00:03:13,730 --> 00:03:16,280

39

00:03:16,280 --> 00:03:21,960

But many of the friends who were
accused of being co-responsible

40

00:03:21,960 --> 00:03:27,010

or members of the underground--
which also related

41

00:03:27,010 --> 00:03:31,370

to us directly,
because we were accused

42

00:03:31,370 --> 00:03:33,560

of having done things before.

43

00:03:33,560 --> 00:03:36,620

And my father and my
mother was interrogated

44

00:03:36,620 --> 00:03:38,720

by the Gestapo and all that.

45

00:03:38,720 --> 00:03:44,600

But they tried to keep all these
details from me for reasons

46

00:03:44,600 --> 00:03:47,510

which really escape me now.

47

00:03:47,510 --> 00:03:49,160

And I was, at that

particular time,

48
00:03:49,160 --> 00:03:53,360
still a member of
the Boy Scouts.

49
00:03:53,360 --> 00:03:57,560
And I had a group
until the time we

50
00:03:57,560 --> 00:03:59,240
had to have stars and all that.

51
00:03:59,240 --> 00:04:03,710
And then, of course, they
disbanded the Boy Scouts,

52
00:04:03,710 --> 00:04:05,780
which I led a group of people.

53
00:04:05,780 --> 00:04:08,630
And we just tried to
have this sort of kind

54
00:04:08,630 --> 00:04:11,660
of resistance thing,
which just-- very childish

55
00:04:11,660 --> 00:04:12,590
meaningless stuff.

56
00:04:12,590 --> 00:04:14,897
But still, there was some--

57
00:04:14,897 --> 00:04:17,230
What sorts of things did you
do for resistance, childish

58
00:04:17,230 --> 00:04:18,680
as they may have been?

59
00:04:18,680 --> 00:04:21,540

Well, I mean, they're
childish in terms of, say,

60
00:04:21,540 --> 00:04:25,040
well, what can we do in terms
of sabotage or resisting?

61
00:04:25,040 --> 00:04:30,110
Maybe we should learn to use
arms and weaponry and all

62
00:04:30,110 --> 00:04:32,300
that, which we, of
course, didn't have.

63
00:04:32,300 --> 00:04:36,350
And just talking about how
we could sabotage things.

64
00:04:36,350 --> 00:04:40,850
And it was all very naive.

65
00:04:40,850 --> 00:04:44,414
The only thing is what
indeed we did, we--

66
00:04:44,414 --> 00:04:49,655
before actually the
war with Poland--

67
00:04:49,655 --> 00:04:52,460

68
00:04:52,460 --> 00:04:54,470
because Czechoslovakia,
then, was still--

69
00:04:54,470 --> 00:04:58,910
was already occupied
and under German rule--

70
00:04:58,910 --> 00:05:00,690
we met friends and all that.

71
00:05:00,690 --> 00:05:05,030
And so people who were
sought by the Gestapo.

72
00:05:05,030 --> 00:05:11,870
So the contacts we've
had and friends of ours

73
00:05:11,870 --> 00:05:15,050
simply were used in order
to get them into Poland--

74
00:05:15,050 --> 00:05:19,190
escape and go over
the borders to Poland

75
00:05:19,190 --> 00:05:22,100
and just have this
sort of escape route.

76
00:05:22,100 --> 00:05:27,440
Which, at that particular
time, was used very frequently

77
00:05:27,440 --> 00:05:29,750
of people who were desperate
and had to get away.

78
00:05:29,750 --> 00:05:33,650
Otherwise, they would have been
in very, very serious trouble.

79
00:05:33,650 --> 00:05:35,600
So that's something
which we did.

80
00:05:35,600 --> 00:05:37,160
And I was [INAUDIBLE].

81
00:05:37,160 --> 00:05:41,070
And we just thought, what
can we do in order to--

82
00:05:41,070 --> 00:05:45,680
what do you expect of a kid?

83
00:05:45,680 --> 00:05:49,550
And so that's what we did.

84
00:05:49,550 --> 00:05:51,710
And because of
some of the things,

85
00:05:51,710 --> 00:05:54,320
my mother was interrogated
by the Gestapo.

86
00:05:54,320 --> 00:05:58,640
And my father was sent,
as I mentioned last time,

87
00:05:58,640 --> 00:06:02,810
in this second transport, which
was to build up Theresienstadt

88
00:06:02,810 --> 00:06:07,160
as a ghetto in '41, which
was kind of relatively early.

89
00:06:07,160 --> 00:06:11,280
In '41, other people were sent
to Å Å³dÅ° and other ghettos from

90
00:06:11,280 --> 00:06:11,780
Prague.

91
00:06:11,780 --> 00:06:16,250
And these were
primarily people who

92
00:06:16,250 --> 00:06:18,140
had money-- who had
quite a bit of money.

93

00:06:18,140 --> 00:06:20,210
And the Germans,
the Nazis, wanted

94
00:06:20,210 --> 00:06:24,800
to get their possessions,
because that was substantive.

95
00:06:24,800 --> 00:06:28,460
And my uncle and all
that was part of that.

96
00:06:28,460 --> 00:06:32,870
And so I tried to rescue
whatever they had left

97
00:06:32,870 --> 00:06:38,480
and give it to friends
for safekeeping.

98
00:06:38,480 --> 00:06:41,180
And that was, in itself, a
very interesting sort of thing,

99
00:06:41,180 --> 00:06:43,970
because all people are very
eager to take these things.

100
00:06:43,970 --> 00:06:47,330
But after we-- some
of us had returned,

101
00:06:47,330 --> 00:06:50,150
and survived
obviously, then they

102
00:06:50,150 --> 00:06:53,120
said, well, if we had
known that you come back

103
00:06:53,120 --> 00:06:56,000
or that you want it back, then
we would have not taken it.

104

00:06:56,000 --> 00:07:00,740

And these were very serious
disappointments, which--

105

00:07:00,740 --> 00:07:03,560

in that way, we
also lost fortunes.

106

00:07:03,560 --> 00:07:09,020

Because the entire collection
of my uncle's paintings

107

00:07:09,020 --> 00:07:11,630

were in safekeeping--

108

00:07:11,630 --> 00:07:14,930

were taken into safekeeping by--

109

00:07:14,930 --> 00:07:20,750

by his landlord of the
apartment he had rented from.

110

00:07:20,750 --> 00:07:22,910

And then when I
came back and said,

111

00:07:22,910 --> 00:07:24,380

you've got all
the things, and so

112

00:07:24,380 --> 00:07:26,580

they denied everything and
said, well, who are you?

113

00:07:26,580 --> 00:07:29,550

We don't remember you,
because the only person who's

114

00:07:29,550 --> 00:07:32,550

like you was kind of small
and now-- he said something.

115

00:07:32,550 --> 00:07:34,545

Very, very flimsy
sort of excuses.

116

00:07:34,545 --> 00:07:37,110

117

00:07:37,110 --> 00:07:43,140

And they still-- so many people
have changed their lifestyle

118

00:07:43,140 --> 00:07:44,640

by virtue of the
fact what they have

119

00:07:44,640 --> 00:07:48,120

stolen from those poor
people and not returned.

120

00:07:48,120 --> 00:07:52,050

And that was called
Aryanization.

121

00:07:52,050 --> 00:07:56,340

And some people, of course,
were very nice and returned.

122

00:07:56,340 --> 00:07:58,140

And some people didn't.

123

00:07:58,140 --> 00:08:00,460

So there are this
sort of mixed thing.

124

00:08:00,460 --> 00:08:08,800

But anyway, so I've
tried to rescue things

125

00:08:08,800 --> 00:08:10,230

for my uncle and my aunt.

126

00:08:10,230 --> 00:08:13,285

And by the way, the interesting

thing, that's where it started.

127
00:08:13,285 --> 00:08:19,260
In some way, interesting sort
of psychological situation

128
00:08:19,260 --> 00:08:24,030
in terms of the breach of the--

129
00:08:24,030 --> 00:08:27,300
severing of bonds,
human family bonds

130
00:08:27,300 --> 00:08:32,580
is, my uncle, when
they were sent--

131
00:08:32,580 --> 00:08:35,520
and aunt, when
they're told they had

132
00:08:35,520 --> 00:08:37,919
to come to the assembly
place in Prague

133
00:08:37,919 --> 00:08:40,950
and be shipped to
a ghetto, they've

134
00:08:40,950 --> 00:08:44,010
asked me to volunteer
and go with them.

135
00:08:44,010 --> 00:08:47,830
And that could be done
for practical purposes.

136
00:08:47,830 --> 00:08:50,910
And so I talked to my mother
and said, you can't do that.

137
00:08:50,910 --> 00:08:55,285
And I kind of felt very

guilty that I would not do it.

138
00:08:55,285 --> 00:08:57,160
Why did they want you
to volunteer with them?

139
00:08:57,160 --> 00:09:00,240
Well, because they felt I
was young and I was very --

140
00:09:00,240 --> 00:09:02,520
And I was kind of
son-like to them.

141
00:09:02,520 --> 00:09:04,410
They didn't have any children.

142
00:09:04,410 --> 00:09:09,810
And it was a just very
close family relationship--

143
00:09:09,810 --> 00:09:13,870
very, very intimate bonding.

144
00:09:13,870 --> 00:09:16,860
And so they asked me
very specifically,

145
00:09:16,860 --> 00:09:19,030
and I didn't do it.

146
00:09:19,030 --> 00:09:21,790
And I had guilt
feelings about that.

147
00:09:21,790 --> 00:09:24,760
And I had to discuss
with my mother.

148
00:09:24,760 --> 00:09:29,220
And when I went myself, later
on, my mother didn't volunteer,

149

00:09:29,220 --> 00:09:31,290

and I never would
have asked her either.

150

00:09:31,290 --> 00:09:32,850

So it was quite a thing to ask.

151

00:09:32,850 --> 00:09:34,380

But see, that's
when it happened,

152

00:09:34,380 --> 00:09:38,220

when it started
to crack, you see?

153

00:09:38,220 --> 00:09:43,350

Because people then became
increasingly dependent

154

00:09:43,350 --> 00:09:49,800

on themselves and lost
their support system,

155

00:09:49,800 --> 00:09:53,520

even if the bonding
was very closely-knit.

156

00:09:53,520 --> 00:09:57,630

And to me, that's
a very important--

157

00:09:57,630 --> 00:10:01,260

very important
insight which I've

158

00:10:01,260 --> 00:10:05,150

gained in terms of
human relationships.

159

00:10:05,150 --> 00:10:09,150

160

00:10:09,150 --> 00:10:15,720
The transitory temporariness
of human relationships

161
00:10:15,720 --> 00:10:20,050
when the-- when the
going gets tough.

162
00:10:20,050 --> 00:10:21,750
I've seen it throughout life.

163
00:10:21,750 --> 00:10:23,100
People will abandon you.

164
00:10:23,100 --> 00:10:28,890
People will be for
themselves and renounce.

165
00:10:28,890 --> 00:10:31,560
Did you feel, in any way,
that your aunt and uncle

166
00:10:31,560 --> 00:10:33,690
were asking too much of you?

167
00:10:33,690 --> 00:10:35,100
Not at that particular time.

168
00:10:35,100 --> 00:10:37,235
I thought he was
asking quite a bit.

169
00:10:37,235 --> 00:10:39,360
But you see, you mustn't
forget that we didn't know

170
00:10:39,360 --> 00:10:41,730
all the things we know today.

171
00:10:41,730 --> 00:10:45,280
And since most of the people--
of course, all the people--

172

00:10:45,280 --> 00:10:47,370

had a very clear conscience.

173

00:10:47,370 --> 00:10:49,298

They said, what on Earth
are we getting into?

174

00:10:49,298 --> 00:10:50,340

We haven't done anything.

175

00:10:50,340 --> 00:10:51,900

They can't really
do too much to us.

176

00:10:51,900 --> 00:10:53,550

And that's something
which really

177

00:10:53,550 --> 00:10:58,170

should be stressed, because
many people went into death

178

00:10:58,170 --> 00:10:59,700

without really knowing that--

179

00:10:59,700 --> 00:11:02,310

they didn't-- they
didn't know, of course,

180

00:11:02,310 --> 00:11:04,800

what was going to
happen specifically.

181

00:11:04,800 --> 00:11:08,490

They knew that it was not going
to be milk and honey for sure.

182

00:11:08,490 --> 00:11:11,160

But anything which
it turned out to be,

183

00:11:11,160 --> 00:11:13,150

people didn't know at
that particular time.

184
00:11:13,150 --> 00:11:15,630
And I think it is
psychologically extremely

185
00:11:15,630 --> 00:11:19,830
important for us to tell that
and to make that very clear.

186
00:11:19,830 --> 00:11:22,200
Because so many
people still have

187
00:11:22,200 --> 00:11:27,510
this sort of very naive and
unrealistic notions about why

188
00:11:27,510 --> 00:11:30,060
people went like sheep and
all this sort of idiocy,

189
00:11:30,060 --> 00:11:32,370
which actually is
very annoying to me--

190
00:11:32,370 --> 00:11:34,230
very annoying to me.

191
00:11:34,230 --> 00:11:39,760
And because these people are not
any different than anyone else.

192
00:11:39,760 --> 00:11:43,710
And because of it-- and it's
something which I've talked

193
00:11:43,710 --> 00:11:46,320
about just recently
back at school,

194
00:11:46,320 --> 00:11:52,920

when we had our last session in
the Holocaust lecture series--

195
00:11:52,920 --> 00:11:55,950
that the trust into--

196
00:11:55,950 --> 00:11:59,340
fairness of authority
still was inculcated in us.

197
00:11:59,340 --> 00:12:03,780
We still had the notion of
authorities, in essence, fair.

198
00:12:03,780 --> 00:12:07,050
They always can deviate
a bit and be different.

199
00:12:07,050 --> 00:12:13,290
But in essence, people
are fair and will not

200
00:12:13,290 --> 00:12:15,450
do things to you which--

201
00:12:15,450 --> 00:12:20,400
so there was no real precedent,
in more contemporary times,

202
00:12:20,400 --> 00:12:22,320
as to treatment of people.

203
00:12:22,320 --> 00:12:25,360
Even under the
Austro-Hungarian monarchy.

204
00:12:25,360 --> 00:12:27,600
And otherwise, they could have--

205
00:12:27,600 --> 00:12:30,975
Jaroslav Hašek wouldn't have
written The Good Soldier

206

00:12:30,975 --> 00:12:33,150
Schweik, where you just--

207

00:12:33,150 --> 00:12:34,500
authority and all that.

208

00:12:34,500 --> 00:12:36,120
But you don't take
it too seriously,

209

00:12:36,120 --> 00:12:37,770
because there is
always a way you

210

00:12:37,770 --> 00:12:39,180
can circumvent and all that.

211

00:12:39,180 --> 00:12:41,460
And that was the end of
that, because you couldn't

212

00:12:41,460 --> 00:12:43,990
be Good Soldier Schweik.

213

00:12:43,990 --> 00:12:47,080
It just didn't work anymore.

214

00:12:47,080 --> 00:12:49,020
And so there was
a new precedent.

215

00:12:49,020 --> 00:12:50,520
And most people
don't understand it.

216

00:12:50,520 --> 00:12:52,320
For that, you really
have to really

217

00:12:52,320 --> 00:12:55,290
have a more social-scientific
perspective in order

218
00:12:55,290 --> 00:12:56,310
to really appreciate it.

219
00:12:56,310 --> 00:12:57,720
That's why I say that.

220
00:12:57,720 --> 00:12:59,550
Because the chances
are, the survivors

221
00:12:59,550 --> 00:13:04,770
probably would not be
as specific as I can be.

222
00:13:04,770 --> 00:13:05,300
All right.

223
00:13:05,300 --> 00:13:07,800
Did your mother not want you
to go for her personal reasons?

224
00:13:07,800 --> 00:13:10,050
Or because she foresaw some
political things that--

225
00:13:10,050 --> 00:13:14,260
Well, so I started with
my father and all that.

226
00:13:14,260 --> 00:13:16,920
And then the
assassination of Heydrich.

227
00:13:16,920 --> 00:13:19,050
And then as they
searched and all that.

228
00:13:19,050 --> 00:13:21,720
Many people got arrested and--

229
00:13:21,720 --> 00:13:25,530

certain people-- and were
accused of harboring the people

230
00:13:25,530 --> 00:13:29,400
who-- or whatever, collaborating
with the enemy or whatever

231
00:13:29,400 --> 00:13:32,520
and committing treason--

232
00:13:32,520 --> 00:13:36,750
whatever the things, idiotic
things, and shot en masse.

233
00:13:36,750 --> 00:13:40,890
And so that part I
was very conscious of,

234
00:13:40,890 --> 00:13:42,990
because I was in
the midst of it.

235
00:13:42,990 --> 00:13:47,790
And friends of ours, who'd just
taken out and accused of things

236
00:13:47,790 --> 00:13:50,400
they obviously had not
done, and then shot.

237
00:13:50,400 --> 00:13:52,990
And so that was after
the Heydrich situation.

238
00:13:52,990 --> 00:13:55,290
So I was apprehensive.

239
00:13:55,290 --> 00:13:59,730
And then there was my
birthday on the 3rd of August.

240
00:13:59,730 --> 00:14:03,180
And I woke up and

told my mother,

241
00:14:03,180 --> 00:14:04,780
something terrible
is going to happen.

242
00:14:04,780 --> 00:14:06,000
I really feel sick something.

243
00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:07,800
I have a premonition
of something terrible.

244
00:14:07,800 --> 00:14:10,380
And said, have you eaten
something bad and all that?

245
00:14:10,380 --> 00:14:11,520
It was my birthday.

246
00:14:11,520 --> 00:14:15,480
And I said, no, I just have a
churning feeling in my stomach,

247
00:14:15,480 --> 00:14:18,630
so to speak, in my guts,
that something terrible is

248
00:14:18,630 --> 00:14:19,500
going to happen.

249
00:14:19,500 --> 00:14:20,880
And I kept on repeating.

250
00:14:20,880 --> 00:14:22,980
It was just almost compulsive--

251
00:14:22,980 --> 00:14:25,500
kept on repeating,
repeating, repeating.

252
00:14:25,500 --> 00:14:27,420

And she didn't know
what, you know?

253
00:14:27,420 --> 00:14:30,930
And said, well, you must
have had something bad

254
00:14:30,930 --> 00:14:31,810
to eat and all that.

255
00:14:31,810 --> 00:14:34,200
So had no idea,
because there was no--

256
00:14:34,200 --> 00:14:36,690
And on the 10th, in
a week after that,

257
00:14:36,690 --> 00:14:39,130
then I get the
notification that I

258
00:14:39,130 --> 00:14:43,110
am to appear at this assembly
place and all this and that,

259
00:14:43,110 --> 00:14:44,280
by myself.

260
00:14:44,280 --> 00:14:46,680
So my father went first.

261
00:14:46,680 --> 00:14:50,640
Then came all the
other relatives--

262
00:14:50,640 --> 00:14:52,590
my uncle, aunt,
and what have you,

263
00:14:52,590 --> 00:14:58,470
and my grandmother
and some other--

264
00:14:58,470 --> 00:15:01,470
and my aunt, the other--

265
00:15:01,470 --> 00:15:04,600
my father's sister
and what have you.

266
00:15:04,600 --> 00:15:05,860
And then I came.

267
00:15:05,860 --> 00:15:10,270
So we all went separate ways for
reasons which still escape me.

268
00:15:10,270 --> 00:15:12,880
So you had no relatives with
you, then, when you went.

269
00:15:12,880 --> 00:15:15,180
No, I was just on my own.

270
00:15:15,180 --> 00:15:17,870
I was just totally by myself.

271
00:15:17,870 --> 00:15:19,630
And so that particular--

272
00:15:19,630 --> 00:15:26,080
going to the assembly place
in a streetcar with 20 kilos

273
00:15:26,080 --> 00:15:32,560
or 30 kilos of belongings
was, in itself, very bad.

274
00:15:32,560 --> 00:15:35,580
Because I sat down, and
then the Czechs, who

275
00:15:35,580 --> 00:15:40,270
were not known for their

philo-semitic attitude, said,

276

00:15:40,270 --> 00:15:41,060

you can't sit.

277

00:15:41,060 --> 00:15:44,410

And then kicked me out of the
seat while I was on my way.

278

00:15:44,410 --> 00:15:46,640

Because we couldn't use
any taxis and all that.

279

00:15:46,640 --> 00:15:49,370

And I just couldn't walk,
because it was too far.

280

00:15:49,370 --> 00:15:52,240

So that was the
only way to do that.

281

00:15:52,240 --> 00:15:55,870

And the interesting
part is that there

282

00:15:55,870 --> 00:15:59,470

was a person called Fredy
Hirsch, who's being quite

283

00:15:59,470 --> 00:16:01,120

well-known in the history.

284

00:16:01,120 --> 00:16:02,830

And he was a very
close friend of mine,

285

00:16:02,830 --> 00:16:04,930

and I worked with him--

286

00:16:04,930 --> 00:16:08,620

talking about
resistance, because I

287

00:16:08,620 --> 00:16:12,880

need to get that in before
I get into Theresienstadt.

288

00:16:12,880 --> 00:16:14,920

Fredy and I were
very close friends,

289

00:16:14,920 --> 00:16:21,460

although we were totally coming
from different walks of life

290

00:16:21,460 --> 00:16:23,390

and perspectives.

291

00:16:23,390 --> 00:16:29,270

But we had a very,
very unusual rapport.

292

00:16:29,270 --> 00:16:35,500

And so kids of my age, under
the leadership of Fredy,

293

00:16:35,500 --> 00:16:39,700

who had unbelievable courage--

294

00:16:39,700 --> 00:16:42,290

profile in courage,
just very unusual.

295

00:16:42,290 --> 00:16:47,470

And he just had a way to deal
with SS authorities, which

296

00:16:47,470 --> 00:16:48,400

was just singular.

297

00:16:48,400 --> 00:16:54,410

I don't know anyone else who
was a Jew and a Zionist who

298

00:16:54,410 --> 00:16:58,970

would have behaved in
this sort of manner,

299
00:16:58,970 --> 00:17:00,650
which impressed
them unbelievably.

300
00:17:00,650 --> 00:17:06,470
So he understood their
psychology and used it.

301
00:17:06,470 --> 00:17:07,595
So Fredy--

302
00:17:07,595 --> 00:17:08,270
In what way?

303
00:17:08,270 --> 00:17:08,900
How did he--

304
00:17:08,900 --> 00:17:11,690
Well, I'm just going
to talk about it.

305
00:17:11,690 --> 00:17:15,530
So Fredy understood
the tremendous trauma

306
00:17:15,530 --> 00:17:17,599
of all the people who
had the notification

307
00:17:17,599 --> 00:17:22,170
to go to the assembly places and
be without any sort of support

308
00:17:22,170 --> 00:17:22,670
system.

309
00:17:22,670 --> 00:17:26,540
Because so many people are
old, didn't have any relatives,

310

00:17:26,540 --> 00:17:29,780

no one to help, and
how did they get there?

311

00:17:29,780 --> 00:17:34,580

So under his leadership,
and with the help

312

00:17:34,580 --> 00:17:38,210

of kids like myself, we
had special permission

313

00:17:38,210 --> 00:17:43,470

from the Gestapo to
pick up these places--

314

00:17:43,470 --> 00:17:45,620

to pick up the people
from the places where

315

00:17:45,620 --> 00:17:48,770

they were to be deported and
help them to go to the assembly

316

00:17:48,770 --> 00:17:54,350

center and see to it that they
would come there in one piece.

317

00:17:54,350 --> 00:17:56,540

Well, that may not have
been viewed, in retrospect,

318

00:17:56,540 --> 00:17:59,450

as a great favor, you see?

319

00:17:59,450 --> 00:18:04,220

But on the other hand, we tried
to avoid that the Gestapo would

320

00:18:04,220 --> 00:18:06,140

come and use force, you see?

321

00:18:06,140 --> 00:18:09,350
And instead of that, we just
helped them and assisted them

322
00:18:09,350 --> 00:18:11,270
and were supportive of them.

323
00:18:11,270 --> 00:18:13,910
And that was a
tremendous important act.

324
00:18:13,910 --> 00:18:15,170
And I'm very proud of it.

325
00:18:15,170 --> 00:18:18,020
I really should get
some medals for that,

326
00:18:18,020 --> 00:18:20,480
because old, poor Fredy
didn't survive it.

327
00:18:20,480 --> 00:18:21,620
He committed suicide.

328
00:18:21,620 --> 00:18:26,660

329
00:18:26,660 --> 00:18:28,680
He was just-- he
was something else.

330
00:18:28,680 --> 00:18:30,800
I mean, he's one
person I really--

331
00:18:30,800 --> 00:18:33,890
perhaps of all the people I
came into close contact with,

332
00:18:33,890 --> 00:18:36,090
I respect most.

333

00:18:36,090 --> 00:18:40,680
And so we helped these people.

334

00:18:40,680 --> 00:18:43,190
But when it was my
turn, the whole thing

335

00:18:43,190 --> 00:18:47,690
was already disbanded,
because all the people were

336

00:18:47,690 --> 00:18:50,810
already gone, including Fredy.

337

00:18:50,810 --> 00:18:54,230
So I was without help, with
the exception of my mother.

338

00:18:54,230 --> 00:18:58,520
And she, poor soul, was
pretty helpless herself

339

00:18:58,520 --> 00:19:01,890
in that situation.

340

00:19:01,890 --> 00:19:05,750
So I went in this
streetcar up there

341

00:19:05,750 --> 00:19:09,990
and connected with some people.

342

00:19:09,990 --> 00:19:12,170
As a matter of fact,
friends of ours--

343

00:19:12,170 --> 00:19:16,016
his name was Gottlieb, I
remember that, Gottlieb--

344

00:19:16,016 --> 00:19:20,360
his son, who was slightly

older than I, and so many

345

00:19:20,360 --> 00:19:23,030

other people, and
I just connected

346

00:19:23,030 --> 00:19:25,460

with those because I knew them.

347

00:19:25,460 --> 00:19:29,630

And not so just weeks
before, the husband

348

00:19:29,630 --> 00:19:31,760

of this Mrs.
Gottlieb and the son

349

00:19:31,760 --> 00:19:33,920

was precisely
taken out and shot.

350

00:19:33,920 --> 00:19:36,720

351

00:19:36,720 --> 00:19:37,520

For no reason.

352

00:19:37,520 --> 00:19:39,660

There was no apparent reason.

353

00:19:39,660 --> 00:19:41,320

And she, then, was deported.

354

00:19:41,320 --> 00:19:45,150

And that transport
I was deported

355

00:19:45,150 --> 00:19:50,670

was a special transport, which
was called the Heydrich Penalty

356

00:19:50,670 --> 00:19:51,330

Transport.

357

00:19:51,330 --> 00:19:53,550

So that all the people
were sent to Theresienstadt

358

00:19:53,550 --> 00:19:57,120

in that particular
transport from Prague, where

359

00:19:57,120 --> 00:20:02,610

people who were sent there
in retaliation, as a penalty,

360

00:20:02,610 --> 00:20:05,370

for the assassination with
which these people didn't

361

00:20:05,370 --> 00:20:07,620

have anything to do whatsoever.

362

00:20:07,620 --> 00:20:11,160

But it was a penal
sort of transport.

363

00:20:11,160 --> 00:20:11,850

OK.

364

00:20:11,850 --> 00:20:12,960

Were they all Jews?

365

00:20:12,960 --> 00:20:13,980

They're all Jews.

366

00:20:13,980 --> 00:20:14,670

All Jews.

367

00:20:14,670 --> 00:20:15,600

All Jews.

368

00:20:15,600 --> 00:20:18,300

Mixed, like myself--

mixed up and all that.

369

00:20:18,300 --> 00:20:25,290

But they all were Jews according
to the Nuremberg racial laws.

370

00:20:25,290 --> 00:20:27,810

All right.

371

00:20:27,810 --> 00:20:30,340

So then we went into
these sort of boxcars.

372

00:20:30,340 --> 00:20:32,310

Well, first of all,
there, there was

373

00:20:32,310 --> 00:20:36,900

a fellow called [Personal
name] or [Personal name]

374

00:20:36,900 --> 00:20:39,540

[? Mandel. ?] And
he was a rabbi.

375

00:20:39,540 --> 00:20:42,000

And he was a stooge
of the Gestapo.

376

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:43,960

And he was doing
all the dirty work.

377

00:20:43,960 --> 00:20:49,080

He was kind of a
Jewish kapo type--

378

00:20:49,080 --> 00:20:51,630

[? Mandela. ?] I think it was
[? Mandela. ?] [? Mandelo? ?]

379

00:20:51,630 --> 00:20:54,005

[? Mandela? ?] I just get it

confused. [? No, Mandela. ?]

380
00:20:54,005 --> 00:20:57,690
Anyway, and so the
SS officers call,

381
00:20:57,690 --> 00:20:59,760
[? Mandela ?] here,
come here, and all that.

382
00:20:59,760 --> 00:21:01,830
And then he was just
doing the dirty work

383
00:21:01,830 --> 00:21:05,010
for them and just
mishandled and mis--

384
00:21:05,010 --> 00:21:09,170
not mishandled, but
mistreated these people there

385
00:21:09,170 --> 00:21:11,370
and was just sold out.

386
00:21:11,370 --> 00:21:14,410
He was just one of them.

387
00:21:14,410 --> 00:21:18,450
And that's where I started to
be very apprehensive, because,

388
00:21:18,450 --> 00:21:20,280
my God, what is
really happening here?

389
00:21:20,280 --> 00:21:21,780
Just people are
turned around and do

390
00:21:21,780 --> 00:21:23,350
the dirty work for the SS--

391
00:21:23,350 --> 00:21:23,850
the Gestapo.

392
00:21:23,850 --> 00:21:26,880
Not SS, Gestapo.

393
00:21:26,880 --> 00:21:29,690
SS Gestapo, but
specifically, Gestapo.

394
00:21:29,690 --> 00:21:33,800

395
00:21:33,800 --> 00:21:36,780
And that set me on a
course of apprehension.

396
00:21:36,780 --> 00:21:39,810
And then we had to stay there,
on the floor, of course,

397
00:21:39,810 --> 00:21:41,910
under dreadful conditions.

398
00:21:41,910 --> 00:21:46,200
And that, of course, was the
beginning of this odyssey,

399
00:21:46,200 --> 00:21:54,750
if you will, because there was
no transition from a relatively

400
00:21:54,750 --> 00:21:59,310
normal life, which to be
sure was full of suppression,

401
00:21:59,310 --> 00:22:02,240
repression, and--

402
00:22:02,240 --> 00:22:04,590
and discrimination
and what have you.

403
00:22:04,590 --> 00:22:07,440
But still, it was in
a different ballgame--

404
00:22:07,440 --> 00:22:10,180
of a different ballgame.

405
00:22:10,180 --> 00:22:12,080
And so that's what I--

406
00:22:12,080 --> 00:22:14,190
that was the first
time I said, my God,

407
00:22:14,190 --> 00:22:16,690
we're just getting into a
totally different situation.

408
00:22:16,690 --> 00:22:18,270
And the adjustment
will be major,

409
00:22:18,270 --> 00:22:22,920
because then, already, I had
to adjust with these people.

410
00:22:22,920 --> 00:22:26,200
And they all then started
to behave very differently.

411
00:22:26,200 --> 00:22:28,980
Everyone was beginning
to be for himself.

412
00:22:28,980 --> 00:22:32,160
And I had no one there
other than these Gottliebs.

413
00:22:32,160 --> 00:22:35,550
And they already said,
hey, don't want anything

414

00:22:35,550 --> 00:22:36,570
from us and all that.

415

00:22:36,570 --> 00:22:39,420
So they distantiated themselves.

416

00:22:39,420 --> 00:22:41,580
And that was a very
interesting sort of thing.

417

00:22:41,580 --> 00:22:44,820
Which then, the
tougher things became,

418

00:22:44,820 --> 00:22:47,070
the more this became apparent.

419

00:22:47,070 --> 00:22:53,490
So that you just totally
sever ties with people

420

00:22:53,490 --> 00:22:55,910
you used to be very close to.

421

00:22:55,910 --> 00:22:58,320
It would seem to plunge
a person into despair.

422

00:22:58,320 --> 00:22:59,610
Yeah.

423

00:22:59,610 --> 00:23:02,160
And that's the first time
I really felt the despair

424

00:23:02,160 --> 00:23:05,460
and the foreboding of
something very awful, terrible.

425

00:23:05,460 --> 00:23:07,980

426

00:23:07,980 --> 00:23:12,150

All right, so then we were
at this assembly place,

427

00:23:12,150 --> 00:23:16,320

which was pretty much centrally
located, relatively speaking.

428

00:23:16,320 --> 00:23:18,804

And we put into this--

429

00:23:18,804 --> 00:23:23,550

we had to walk into this
very quickly, under SS

430

00:23:23,550 --> 00:23:28,380

close supervision,
into this [INAUDIBLE]

431

00:23:28,380 --> 00:23:30,340

boxcars, these cars.

432

00:23:30,340 --> 00:23:34,273

433

00:23:34,273 --> 00:23:36,690

But, of course, knew that we
were going to Theresienstadt.

434

00:23:36,690 --> 00:23:39,480

That much we
anticipated, because that

435

00:23:39,480 --> 00:23:41,490

was what makes the deal.

436

00:23:41,490 --> 00:23:44,880

So then because it
was packed full,

437

00:23:44,880 --> 00:23:50,670

no provisions to speak of

people taking out of their life

438

00:23:50,670 --> 00:23:53,280
situation into something
totally different

439

00:23:53,280 --> 00:23:56,220
about which they had absolutely
no inkling what would happen

440

00:23:56,220 --> 00:23:59,580
is sort of unbelievable
uncertainty.

441

00:23:59,580 --> 00:24:04,290
And therefore insecurity,
fear, angst, existential angst.

442

00:24:04,290 --> 00:24:07,530
It's extreme.

443

00:24:07,530 --> 00:24:15,000
And so, so many people panicked
and became hysterical, and then

444

00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:19,950
virtually lost their minds
because of the pressure.

445

00:24:19,950 --> 00:24:25,650
And we arrived, because
it's not that long a ride.

446

00:24:25,650 --> 00:24:26,697
How long was it?

447

00:24:26,697 --> 00:24:30,280

448

00:24:30,280 --> 00:24:34,480
Three hours maybe or
something, four maybe.

449

00:24:34,480 --> 00:24:38,380

And so we arrived
in Theresienstadt,

450

00:24:38,380 --> 00:24:39,970

and getting out.

451

00:24:39,970 --> 00:24:43,090

And that was quick,
fast, and all this.

452

00:24:43,090 --> 00:24:44,920

And take your
things and all that.

453

00:24:44,920 --> 00:24:50,830

And who was coming into the car
looking for me was my father.

454

00:24:50,830 --> 00:24:53,770

Because he had found
out that I would be

455

00:24:53,770 --> 00:24:55,120

in that particular transport.

456

00:24:55,120 --> 00:25:00,295

And because of his position
there and all that, he had to--

457

00:25:00,295 --> 00:25:05,380

he had access to this type
of information and came to--

458

00:25:05,380 --> 00:25:07,940

to somehow take over.

459

00:25:07,940 --> 00:25:12,040

And so what he did, because so
many people panicked and were

460

00:25:12,040 --> 00:25:15,850

in hysterics, so one
particular person,

461
00:25:15,850 --> 00:25:21,010
I remember, was really, totally
mad and was just crazed.

462
00:25:21,010 --> 00:25:23,770
So he took that person
and slammed that person,

463
00:25:23,770 --> 00:25:29,095
because he was afraid that
undue attention would be--

464
00:25:29,095 --> 00:25:33,160
would be drawn to
that situation, which

465
00:25:33,160 --> 00:25:36,550
may bring into the SS
people, and then some things

466
00:25:36,550 --> 00:25:38,930
would happen which would
involve me and all that.

467
00:25:38,930 --> 00:25:40,630
So he took that person
and slammed them.

468
00:25:40,630 --> 00:25:42,220
He was a very strong fellow.

469
00:25:42,220 --> 00:25:45,490
He was not tall, but very
strong fellow-- sport type.

470
00:25:45,490 --> 00:25:51,130
He worked out and was in
very good shape, actually,

471
00:25:51,130 --> 00:25:53,110

in spite of the situation.

472

00:25:53,110 --> 00:25:56,890

So he then eased me into
the situation and took over.

473

00:25:56,890 --> 00:25:59,440

And the interesting thing
is-- because our relation

474

00:25:59,440 --> 00:26:03,670

had been very strained, the
father-son situation, virtually

475

00:26:03,670 --> 00:26:04,900

ever since I can remember.

476

00:26:04,900 --> 00:26:07,660

The interesting thing
is that that all

477

00:26:07,660 --> 00:26:09,890

had changed in the
concentration camp totally.

478

00:26:09,890 --> 00:26:12,220

I mean, we became
exceedingly close.

479

00:26:12,220 --> 00:26:14,860

And the collaboration and
cooperation between us

480

00:26:14,860 --> 00:26:18,460

was just getting
more and more close.

481

00:26:18,460 --> 00:26:21,880

And we just had a totally
different relationship, which

482

00:26:21,880 --> 00:26:23,950

changed, again, after we were--

483
00:26:23,950 --> 00:26:25,540
after our survival.

484
00:26:25,540 --> 00:26:27,970
But that was really
unbelievable.

485
00:26:27,970 --> 00:26:30,800
We were very close and we had
a tremendous relationship--

486
00:26:30,800 --> 00:26:35,080
was just in harmony
with each other,

487
00:26:35,080 --> 00:26:38,350
very different from
what it used to be.

488
00:26:38,350 --> 00:26:43,930
All right, so then I adjusted
and relatively quickly

489
00:26:43,930 --> 00:26:46,660
to the situation, because
there are very many people I

490
00:26:46,660 --> 00:26:51,490
got to know and knew from
previous life and relatives

491
00:26:51,490 --> 00:26:56,710
and what have you, including
my grandmother, who

492
00:26:56,710 --> 00:26:57,940
was actually sent--

493
00:26:57,940 --> 00:27:00,130
I said she was sent to a
ghetto, which is not true.

494

00:27:00,130 --> 00:27:01,990
She was sent to Theresienstadt.

495

00:27:01,990 --> 00:27:03,910
She didn't stay very
long, because she

496

00:27:03,910 --> 00:27:06,940
was sent from Theresienstadt
relatively early.

497

00:27:06,940 --> 00:27:09,730
And so the entire clan--

498

00:27:09,730 --> 00:27:14,740
friends and distant
relatives, relatives.

499

00:27:14,740 --> 00:27:17,810
So that was not too bad.

500

00:27:17,810 --> 00:27:19,475
And then Fredy--

501

00:27:19,475 --> 00:27:23,050
You mentioned that you had
20 or 30 kilos of goods

502

00:27:23,050 --> 00:27:23,800
you took with you.

503

00:27:23,800 --> 00:27:25,250
What kinds of things
did you bring with you?

504

00:27:25,250 --> 00:27:28,030
Well, I mean, just the things
which they're basics, you know?

505

00:27:28,030 --> 00:27:34,270
Basics and some things which
were very important to me--

506
00:27:34,270 --> 00:27:37,510
idiosyncratically important,
not really objectively.

507
00:27:37,510 --> 00:27:40,970
For example, my pillow,
small pillow, because I

508
00:27:40,970 --> 00:27:42,220
wanted to have a small pillow.

509
00:27:42,220 --> 00:27:44,980
I even took, I think,
a teddy bear and things

510
00:27:44,980 --> 00:27:49,486
of that nature, which was
still in at an age like that.

511
00:27:49,486 --> 00:27:53,200
So things which were
just bare necessities--

512
00:27:53,200 --> 00:27:54,550
clothing and whatever.

513
00:27:54,550 --> 00:27:56,945
No luxury stuff or whatever.

514
00:27:56,945 --> 00:27:58,570
Just the bare
necessities we considered

515
00:27:58,570 --> 00:28:02,390
to be the most important,
because weight was limited.

516
00:28:02,390 --> 00:28:03,910
So that's what we've had.

517
00:28:03,910 --> 00:28:05,770

And I was able to retain it.

518
00:28:05,770 --> 00:28:10,920
And then I was sent with--

519
00:28:10,920 --> 00:28:14,710
and then it was Fredy
Hirsch and some other man

520
00:28:14,710 --> 00:28:16,570
called Gustav Schorsch.

521
00:28:16,570 --> 00:28:20,320
So they then
arranged that people

522
00:28:20,320 --> 00:28:24,400
whom they knew and had
worked with before,

523
00:28:24,400 --> 00:28:27,610
they would get into
some special places

524
00:28:27,610 --> 00:28:30,250
where there were only kids--

525
00:28:30,250 --> 00:28:31,990
kids of that age.

526
00:28:31,990 --> 00:28:34,850
And then they did lots
of things with them.

527
00:28:34,850 --> 00:28:41,560
Fredy somehow was able to
arrange work for us and--

528
00:28:41,560 --> 00:28:43,390
which was relatively pleasant.

529
00:28:43,390 --> 00:28:48,010

And he looked after us
and gave us massages

530
00:28:48,010 --> 00:28:52,610
and consulted about our growth
and well-being and all that

531
00:28:52,610 --> 00:28:55,930
and was very supportive.

532
00:28:55,930 --> 00:28:59,500
And then I also got to
know people I didn't

533
00:28:59,500 --> 00:29:04,840
know from previous times.

534
00:29:04,840 --> 00:29:11,080
So we've had
discussions and the kind

535
00:29:11,080 --> 00:29:17,470
of university-level discourses
with a person who almost

536
00:29:17,470 --> 00:29:21,370
finished his doctorate, a
man called Gustav Schorsch,

537
00:29:21,370 --> 00:29:23,920
who was a writer and
playwright and all that.

538
00:29:23,920 --> 00:29:25,870
Very well-known Czech.

539
00:29:25,870 --> 00:29:30,260
He would have been a very
famous person had he survived.

540
00:29:30,260 --> 00:29:34,640
So a very closely-knit
relationship and a support

541
00:29:34,640 --> 00:29:37,940
system, which then developed.

542
00:29:37,940 --> 00:29:41,480
And my mother was in one place,
and my father was in another.

543
00:29:41,480 --> 00:29:46,160
Because they all were separated
because only women and only men

544
00:29:46,160 --> 00:29:47,540
and all this and that.

545
00:29:47,540 --> 00:29:50,540
But my father, because of
his connections and his work,

546
00:29:50,540 --> 00:29:55,820
was able to always get us
some additional food, which

547
00:29:55,820 --> 00:29:58,850
helped my mother very
much and me and all that.

548
00:29:58,850 --> 00:30:04,040
So somehow that life
in Theresienstadt

549
00:30:04,040 --> 00:30:12,090
was very superior to any
other place, in comparison,

550
00:30:12,090 --> 00:30:14,640
particularly after I had
experienced other ones.

551
00:30:14,640 --> 00:30:20,640
But what I wanted to say,
that the relationships which

552

00:30:20,640 --> 00:30:22,920

developed there were
exceedingly meaningful,

553

00:30:22,920 --> 00:30:27,030

because we could go to
tremendous performances

554

00:30:27,030 --> 00:30:32,790

and lectures and meet very
distinguished academicians

555

00:30:32,790 --> 00:30:35,460

and people who had made
major contributions.

556

00:30:35,460 --> 00:30:40,410

And there were Catholic priests
and monks and anthroposophies,

557

00:30:40,410 --> 00:30:45,600

and it was just a
center of culture.

558

00:30:45,600 --> 00:30:50,670

And I've learned more in
Theresienstadt and I've been--

559

00:30:50,670 --> 00:30:58,200

so I was able to associate with
people of tremendous stature

560

00:30:58,200 --> 00:31:00,720

more so than perhaps
in my entire life,

561

00:31:00,720 --> 00:31:02,550

because it was so concentrated.

562

00:31:02,550 --> 00:31:04,020

And that is something
which really

563

00:31:04,020 --> 00:31:05,550
should be stressed, because--

564

00:31:05,550 --> 00:31:06,840
So it was irony.

565

00:31:06,840 --> 00:31:09,030
Yeah.

566

00:31:09,030 --> 00:31:12,435
And also, the human
relations were--

567

00:31:12,435 --> 00:31:14,880
as terrible as the
conditions were,

568

00:31:14,880 --> 00:31:18,450
and as cruel some
of the people were,

569

00:31:18,450 --> 00:31:21,810
they're very unique
and somehow supportive,

570

00:31:21,810 --> 00:31:25,260
so that one didn't feel--

571

00:31:25,260 --> 00:31:26,760
but the young
people, particularly,

572

00:31:26,760 --> 00:31:28,410
were still able to--

573

00:31:28,410 --> 00:31:30,570
they didn't feel that they--

574

00:31:30,570 --> 00:31:32,820
didn't feel that they lost.

575

00:31:32,820 --> 00:31:34,110
Well, so--

576
00:31:34,110 --> 00:31:36,465
Would you think that your
parents had kind of a reunion

577
00:31:36,465 --> 00:31:37,410
in [INAUDIBLE]?

578
00:31:37,410 --> 00:31:38,940
Well, I don't know a reunion.

579
00:31:38,940 --> 00:31:41,340
My parents, yes, in a way.

580
00:31:41,340 --> 00:31:46,080
And also the relationship
between my father and my mother

581
00:31:46,080 --> 00:31:47,490
was very different.

582
00:31:47,490 --> 00:31:49,440
And they were much
closer than before,

583
00:31:49,440 --> 00:31:51,077
because they had divorced.

584
00:31:51,077 --> 00:31:51,910
That's what I meant.

585
00:31:51,910 --> 00:31:55,570
That's right, yeah,
when I was 13.

586
00:31:55,570 --> 00:31:58,740
And so that was--

587
00:31:58,740 --> 00:32:01,110
yeah, it was very unusual.

588

00:32:01,110 --> 00:32:05,430

And my father's humanity was
just astounding-- astounding.

589

00:32:05,430 --> 00:32:08,795

590

00:32:08,795 --> 00:32:10,920

And then, of course, I met
with many other friends.

591

00:32:10,920 --> 00:32:14,100

And I said that it was just a
source of tremendous learning

592

00:32:14,100 --> 00:32:18,870

and new impulses and insights,
which otherwise never

593

00:32:18,870 --> 00:32:21,780

could have been gained
in such a short time

594

00:32:21,780 --> 00:32:26,640

and in such a
concentrated fashion.

595

00:32:26,640 --> 00:32:29,160

So I'm not, by any
means, idealizing things,

596

00:32:29,160 --> 00:32:32,490

because they were terribly
tough and dreadful cruelties

597

00:32:32,490 --> 00:32:33,000

happened.

598

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:36,900

And there are some
SS people who got--

599

00:32:36,900 --> 00:32:38,970

took pleasure from
just simply running

600

00:32:38,970 --> 00:32:42,300

over people in their
vehicles and all that

601

00:32:42,300 --> 00:32:44,220

and mishandling them.

602

00:32:44,220 --> 00:32:48,870

There were also Czech gendarmes
there who were in charge

603

00:32:48,870 --> 00:32:51,690

and behaved in a
very cruel manner.

604

00:32:51,690 --> 00:32:56,670

So I stayed in different
places with young people.

605

00:32:56,670 --> 00:33:01,651

And then the interesting part
was also, the people who were--

606

00:33:01,651 --> 00:33:04,830

607

00:33:04,830 --> 00:33:11,680

they're from mixed marriages,
but were Jews of first--

608

00:33:11,680 --> 00:33:15,480

first grade-- not second
grade, but first grade.

609

00:33:15,480 --> 00:33:18,900

That means that they were
counted as Jews, although came

610

00:33:18,900 --> 00:33:21,400
from mixed marriages.

611
00:33:21,400 --> 00:33:23,730
Some of them were
very enterprising

612
00:33:23,730 --> 00:33:28,720
and left the ghetto over
the weekend and came back.

613
00:33:28,720 --> 00:33:31,172
I don't know whether I
mentioned that last time.

614
00:33:31,172 --> 00:33:32,130
We talked a little bit.

615
00:33:32,130 --> 00:33:33,840
But any repetition
is not a problem.

616
00:33:33,840 --> 00:33:37,800
Well, all right, so
the interesting part

617
00:33:37,800 --> 00:33:42,420
was that they are able to do
that, the Friedman brothers

618
00:33:42,420 --> 00:33:45,810
and Tausig and
some other people.

619
00:33:45,810 --> 00:33:47,820
And they caught up
with Tausig eventually.

620
00:33:47,820 --> 00:33:50,790
He was caught doing--
he looked very Jewish.

621
00:33:50,790 --> 00:33:56,280

He looked like a [NON-ENGLISH],,
just like a Jewish--

622
00:33:56,280 --> 00:33:57,870
looked very Jewish.

623
00:33:57,870 --> 00:34:02,940
But somehow-- and he got
caught and was totally--

624
00:34:02,940 --> 00:34:05,340
was immediately
isolated, and then

625
00:34:05,340 --> 00:34:08,260
separately deported
to Auschwitz-Birkenau,

626
00:34:08,260 --> 00:34:10,650
which he didn't survive,
because they probably sent him

627
00:34:10,650 --> 00:34:11,850
to the gas immediately.

628
00:34:11,850 --> 00:34:12,659
Anyway--

629
00:34:12,659 --> 00:34:14,580
Was that the usual punishment?

630
00:34:14,580 --> 00:34:15,310
I don't know.

631
00:34:15,310 --> 00:34:17,518
I really don't know, because
there are not that many.

632
00:34:17,518 --> 00:34:21,090
I know that he was put
in very particular cells

633

00:34:21,090 --> 00:34:23,580
from other people
as a punishment.

634
00:34:23,580 --> 00:34:26,580
And the Friedman brothers,
they never were caught--

635
00:34:26,580 --> 00:34:30,090
two-- one older and one young--

636
00:34:30,090 --> 00:34:31,389
younger brother.

637
00:34:31,389 --> 00:34:32,670
And they did it all the time.

638
00:34:32,670 --> 00:34:34,570
And they didn't
look Jewish at all.

639
00:34:34,570 --> 00:34:37,230
And the last thing
which was important

640
00:34:37,230 --> 00:34:42,449
is that people were
very creative, produced

641
00:34:42,449 --> 00:34:44,610
a lot of cultural things--

642
00:34:44,610 --> 00:34:46,800
poetry, some of
which are published,

643
00:34:46,800 --> 00:34:53,010
because I was able to put my
hands on some of the things,

644
00:34:53,010 --> 00:34:54,120
in Czech actually.

645

00:34:54,120 --> 00:35:01,050

And the creativity and
the thought processes

646

00:35:01,050 --> 00:35:03,870

and the human relationships
which are very stimulating,

647

00:35:03,870 --> 00:35:05,850

were just very unique,
particularly for us,

648

00:35:05,850 --> 00:35:06,870

these young kids.

649

00:35:06,870 --> 00:35:09,970

So that is one thing
which I wanted to stress.

650

00:35:09,970 --> 00:35:13,470

Another thing is that
there was this person--

651

00:35:13,470 --> 00:35:14,730

I mentioned it before--

652

00:35:14,730 --> 00:35:19,290

this Kurt [? Steuer. ?]

And he was

653

00:35:19,290 --> 00:35:21,550

half-Jewish, blonde, blue-eyed.

654

00:35:21,550 --> 00:35:24,210

Just looked like an SS men,
for all practical purposes.

655

00:35:24,210 --> 00:35:27,570

656

00:35:27,570 --> 00:35:32,010

And he decided that he wanted to

run away, worked out the thing,

657

00:35:32,010 --> 00:35:33,900
and said he needed my support.

658

00:35:33,900 --> 00:35:37,500
So I supported him and
covered him and all that.

659

00:35:37,500 --> 00:35:39,120
And he left.

660

00:35:39,120 --> 00:35:43,110
And then after the war, I met
up with him again in Prague.

661

00:35:43,110 --> 00:35:44,220
I mentioned that before.

662

00:35:44,220 --> 00:35:46,080
And that, to me, was
a very important thing

663

00:35:46,080 --> 00:35:51,030
because of my part in his
escape, which was successful.

664

00:35:51,030 --> 00:35:54,937
And I'm dreadfully happy
that I did what I could do,

665

00:35:54,937 --> 00:35:56,400
which was--

666

00:35:56,400 --> 00:35:59,310
which was not only keep
my mouth shut, but just

667

00:35:59,310 --> 00:36:03,330
being supportive, preparing the
thing, until the time he really

668

00:36:03,330 --> 00:36:03,870
could do it.

669
00:36:03,870 --> 00:36:06,630
And then covering for him
until he was discovered,

670
00:36:06,630 --> 00:36:10,140
so that by that time he was
already far away and all that.

671
00:36:10,140 --> 00:36:12,600
So that, to me,
is very important,

672
00:36:12,600 --> 00:36:19,510
because psycho-emotionally it
was important that one resists.

673
00:36:19,510 --> 00:36:20,550
Just don't take it.

674
00:36:20,550 --> 00:36:23,280
After you could
see what happened,

675
00:36:23,280 --> 00:36:25,050
you just do something, you see?

676
00:36:25,050 --> 00:36:27,360
And the more you could do
something, the more active

677
00:36:27,360 --> 00:36:32,380
you were, the better
you could cope.

678
00:36:32,380 --> 00:36:35,270

679
00:36:35,270 --> 00:36:35,870
All right.

680

00:36:35,870 --> 00:36:39,200

And then there was an
interesting episode

681

00:36:39,200 --> 00:36:41,570

specifically, which
was a different week.

682

00:36:41,570 --> 00:36:45,620

I was in a detail,
which was to--

683

00:36:45,620 --> 00:36:50,300

which was to collect items
from people who had died

684

00:36:50,300 --> 00:36:51,890

and put it to the--

685

00:36:51,890 --> 00:36:53,060

give it to the--

686

00:36:53,060 --> 00:36:56,420

being transported
to the people who

687

00:36:56,420 --> 00:36:58,370

were in charge of
that, which means they

688

00:36:58,370 --> 00:37:02,330

all stole and gave it
to the Jewish elite.

689

00:37:02,330 --> 00:37:05,300

So we took soap and all
that, and someone saw us.

690

00:37:05,300 --> 00:37:10,100

And then they-- they
told the authorities,

691

00:37:10,100 --> 00:37:11,360
and I was in deep trouble.

692
00:37:11,360 --> 00:37:16,870
And Fredy Hirsch stepped in
and intervened on our behalf.

693
00:37:16,870 --> 00:37:19,850
So the penalty was
that we had to clean

694
00:37:19,850 --> 00:37:23,060
the toilets for about a week.

695
00:37:23,060 --> 00:37:25,910
And that was not--

696
00:37:25,910 --> 00:37:28,365
What style did Fredy use in
dealing with the authorities,

697
00:37:28,365 --> 00:37:29,240
that he was able to--

698
00:37:29,240 --> 00:37:34,490
Well, I mean, he was a
very athletic individual.

699
00:37:34,490 --> 00:37:38,000
And being German
himself, he understood

700
00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:40,700
the German-Prussian
sort of military type.

701
00:37:40,700 --> 00:37:45,620
And he just confronted them
without really kind of fear

702
00:37:45,620 --> 00:37:49,460
or just kissing their
legs or whatever.

703
00:37:49,460 --> 00:37:54,530
But he just simply responded
to them as equals--

704
00:37:54,530 --> 00:37:56,930
kind of superiors, but equals.

705
00:37:56,930 --> 00:37:58,730
And that was his style.

706
00:37:58,730 --> 00:38:03,710
And because he was athletic
and had a tremendous physique

707
00:38:03,710 --> 00:38:11,630
and looked good and was
so forward in his manners

708
00:38:11,630 --> 00:38:15,650
and unafraid, they
just were impressed.

709
00:38:15,650 --> 00:38:20,090
Even the people who were
just killers, just--

710
00:38:20,090 --> 00:38:24,080
and that helped him that
he was, at all times,

711
00:38:24,080 --> 00:38:31,070
until the last day of his
life, when he committed suicide

712
00:38:31,070 --> 00:38:41,170
prior to being
gassed, he maintained

713
00:38:41,170 --> 00:38:44,080
a privileged position
on that basis.

714

00:38:44,080 --> 00:38:48,250

Because he was able to
handle the most vicious

715

00:38:48,250 --> 00:38:57,430

of the SS in a way which they
could respect and treat him

716

00:38:57,430 --> 00:38:59,440

accordingly.

717

00:38:59,440 --> 00:39:01,870

So when all the other
people didn't have anything,

718

00:39:01,870 --> 00:39:05,830

he always was able to
organize and have access

719

00:39:05,830 --> 00:39:09,970

to situations which made
a significant difference

720

00:39:09,970 --> 00:39:11,980

to those people who
he was able to help.

721

00:39:11,980 --> 00:39:14,800

Which he did, because
there was all he did.

722

00:39:14,800 --> 00:39:17,110

And then when we
get to Auschwitz,

723

00:39:17,110 --> 00:39:18,550

we'll talk about the resistance.

724

00:39:18,550 --> 00:39:24,340

Anyway, so then came the day
when I was supposed to go

725

00:39:24,340 --> 00:39:27,550
and was ordered to go
to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

726
00:39:27,550 --> 00:39:29,470
And that, again, was
some sort of special--

727
00:39:29,470 --> 00:39:33,230
I don't know-- transport, which
I, at that particular time,

728
00:39:33,230 --> 00:39:33,730
didn't know.

729
00:39:33,730 --> 00:39:39,040
So some people accompanied me
to the boxcars, which happened

730
00:39:39,040 --> 00:39:40,900
to be also closed ones--

731
00:39:40,900 --> 00:39:43,120
covered ones, not open ones.

732
00:39:43,120 --> 00:39:45,248
And so--

733
00:39:45,248 --> 00:39:47,290
Did you take your personal
things with you still?

734
00:39:47,290 --> 00:39:51,310
Well, whatever I had, I could
take with me, and I did.

735
00:39:51,310 --> 00:39:56,620
Wasn't much, to be sure, because
there was just less and less.

736
00:39:56,620 --> 00:40:00,640
And by that time,
many of our group--

737
00:40:00,640 --> 00:40:03,070
some of the kids who belonged
to that particular group--

738
00:40:03,070 --> 00:40:05,470
we had 13 people, as a matter
of fact, in that group--

739
00:40:05,470 --> 00:40:09,880
already had been shipped to
Auschwitz prior to my coming.

740
00:40:09,880 --> 00:40:12,220
And one of them
was Hans Fischer,

741
00:40:12,220 --> 00:40:17,620
son of a very well-known
Prague psychiatrist,

742
00:40:17,620 --> 00:40:22,510
a professor at the
university of psychiatrists.

743
00:40:22,510 --> 00:40:26,290
And he was there already
and some other people

744
00:40:26,290 --> 00:40:27,730
were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

745
00:40:27,730 --> 00:40:29,950
Other people are sent elsewhere.

746
00:40:29,950 --> 00:40:31,990
But he was there already.

747
00:40:31,990 --> 00:40:36,370
So this Auschwitz-Birkenau thing
was, of course, very different,

748

00:40:36,370 --> 00:40:42,030
because lots of my
cousins came and gave me

749
00:40:42,030 --> 00:40:46,450
his-- some sort of talisman
and said goodbye to me.

750
00:40:46,450 --> 00:40:49,360
He stayed, and my aunt
stayed, my father stayed,

751
00:40:49,360 --> 00:40:50,890
my mother stayed.

752
00:40:50,890 --> 00:40:53,320
And it did not occur
to me to ask them,

753
00:40:53,320 --> 00:40:55,030
why don't you volunteer?

754
00:40:55,030 --> 00:40:57,130
I never would have
thought of that.

755
00:40:57,130 --> 00:40:59,980
So I went just by
myself, totally,

756
00:40:59,980 --> 00:41:02,885
just without any sort
of people I knew.

757
00:41:02,885 --> 00:41:05,260
Did you know you were headed
for Auschwitz at that point?

758
00:41:05,260 --> 00:41:06,530
Well, I didn't know.

759
00:41:06,530 --> 00:41:09,100
I just-- we went someplace else.

760
00:41:09,100 --> 00:41:14,080
And someplace else meant it
would be a much worse place.

761
00:41:14,080 --> 00:41:15,820
That much we knew.

762
00:41:15,820 --> 00:41:17,680
You already had rumors
or whatever back--

763
00:41:17,680 --> 00:41:19,450
Well, I don't know these rumors.

764
00:41:19,450 --> 00:41:21,670
Yeah, that's going to
be awful places, yeah.

765
00:41:21,670 --> 00:41:25,240
But, I mean, gassing
and all this, forget it.

766
00:41:25,240 --> 00:41:27,320
You don't want to
deal with that.

767
00:41:27,320 --> 00:41:29,900

768
00:41:29,900 --> 00:41:33,680
And so some of the friends
that accompanied me,

769
00:41:33,680 --> 00:41:36,180
they're just like
brothers, like my brothers.

770
00:41:36,180 --> 00:41:39,760
And we said goodbye, and we
just, whatever, embraced,

771

00:41:39,760 --> 00:41:40,970
all these sort of things.

772
00:41:40,970 --> 00:41:43,760
And that was all
dreadfully traumatic.

773
00:41:43,760 --> 00:41:49,540
And so then the bucket
for all the things

774
00:41:49,540 --> 00:41:51,880
we've had in that
particular carriage--

775
00:41:51,880 --> 00:41:53,530
not carriage, in the boxcar--

776
00:41:53,530 --> 00:41:55,990
and hardly any
water and all that.

777
00:41:55,990 --> 00:41:58,150
And then people just
really fell apart.

778
00:41:58,150 --> 00:41:59,470
And it took a long time.

779
00:41:59,470 --> 00:42:04,670
It was days, days, many days.

780
00:42:04,670 --> 00:42:11,530
Deprivation, stench, people
who were sick and all that.

781
00:42:11,530 --> 00:42:14,090
It was just like in a
haze, a terrible thing.

782
00:42:14,090 --> 00:42:15,770
We had no idea
where we were going.

783
00:42:15,770 --> 00:42:16,853
I remember that very well.

784
00:42:16,853 --> 00:42:20,050
Because we just tried to get
some orientation looking out

785
00:42:20,050 --> 00:42:22,660
of these small holes, which we--

786
00:42:22,660 --> 00:42:24,100
no idea.

787
00:42:24,100 --> 00:42:24,920
No idea.

788
00:42:24,920 --> 00:42:27,260
No idea where we were going.

789
00:42:27,260 --> 00:42:30,490
And so then we finally arrived.

790
00:42:30,490 --> 00:42:35,020
People were absolutely
in dreadful condition

791
00:42:35,020 --> 00:42:39,170
when we arrived at the ramp
at Auschwitz during the night.

792
00:42:39,170 --> 00:42:40,000
It was late night.

793
00:42:40,000 --> 00:42:41,230
It was dark, late night.

794
00:42:41,230 --> 00:42:46,810
And all the-- the
lights were on the--

795

00:42:46,810 --> 00:42:50,475
reflect also what you--

796
00:42:50,475 --> 00:42:53,214
the-- what I'd call the--

797
00:42:53,214 --> 00:42:54,130
The floodlights?

798
00:42:54,130 --> 00:42:55,690
Floodlights.

799
00:42:55,690 --> 00:42:57,830
And that was terrible, just out.

800
00:42:57,830 --> 00:42:59,950
And so we had these people.

801
00:42:59,950 --> 00:43:04,000
They're from-- Canada people
and all that coming out.

802
00:43:04,000 --> 00:43:07,360
And they said run and all that.

803
00:43:07,360 --> 00:43:08,275
Were there dogs?

804
00:43:08,275 --> 00:43:08,980
Huh?

805
00:43:08,980 --> 00:43:09,850
Were there dogs?

806
00:43:09,850 --> 00:43:11,380
Dogs, whatever you have.

807
00:43:11,380 --> 00:43:13,330
And then they searched
through the place.

808

00:43:13,330 --> 00:43:16,930
And a lot of Russian
kick, and they can run

809
00:43:16,930 --> 00:43:18,730
and all this and that.

810
00:43:18,730 --> 00:43:20,297
Which is the kind
of typical thing,

811
00:43:20,297 --> 00:43:21,880
because all the
people had been there.

812
00:43:21,880 --> 00:43:25,600
But this was particularly
awful because it was nighttime.

813
00:43:25,600 --> 00:43:28,150
You didn't know the
floodlights and the fear

814
00:43:28,150 --> 00:43:30,580
and the uncertainty
and the cruelty

815
00:43:30,580 --> 00:43:34,990
and the kicking and the beating
and all this sort of thing--

816
00:43:34,990 --> 00:43:36,230
the pushing and all that.

817
00:43:36,230 --> 00:43:38,970
It was just more because you
just couldn't orient yourself.

818
00:43:38,970 --> 00:43:39,970
You didn't see anything.

819
00:43:39,970 --> 00:43:44,050
It was all pitch dark, with the

exception of the floodlights.

820

00:43:44,050 --> 00:43:52,510

Anyway, so then we got
sent to the various places.

821

00:43:52,510 --> 00:43:55,470

And I don't know whether
it was even a selection.

822

00:43:55,470 --> 00:43:59,010

I'm not even sure that we
went through a selection.

823

00:43:59,010 --> 00:44:08,910

And sent to the sauna, which was
next-- close to the gas thing.

824

00:44:08,910 --> 00:44:11,820

But, of course, we had no
idea about gassing anyway.

825

00:44:11,820 --> 00:44:13,800

And so we went through
a Canada thing.

826

00:44:13,800 --> 00:44:15,240

And then they shaved us.

827

00:44:15,240 --> 00:44:19,800

And then they gave us-- they
shaved us everywhere, but did

828

00:44:19,800 --> 00:44:20,940

not cut our hair.

829

00:44:20,940 --> 00:44:22,470

And that was a
very strange thing.

830

00:44:22,470 --> 00:44:24,120

They didn't cut our hair.

831

00:44:24,120 --> 00:44:25,170

They shaved it.

832

00:44:25,170 --> 00:44:29,260

And then they made fun of,
because I'm uncircumcised.

833

00:44:29,260 --> 00:44:31,390

So they said, what
are you doing here?

834

00:44:31,390 --> 00:44:33,840

And they just kind of
laughed at the fact

835

00:44:33,840 --> 00:44:35,130

that I'm uncircumcised.

836

00:44:35,130 --> 00:44:36,510

And they shaved
everything here--

837

00:44:36,510 --> 00:44:38,550

all the armpits and
all this and that--

838

00:44:38,550 --> 00:44:41,610

839

00:44:41,610 --> 00:44:42,780

and laughed at me.

840

00:44:42,780 --> 00:44:45,660

Put powder on my penis
and all this sort of thing

841

00:44:45,660 --> 00:44:46,810

and all this sort of thing.

842

00:44:46,810 --> 00:44:49,950

And I just, to me,
it was not terrible.

843
00:44:49,950 --> 00:44:53,730
But I was a young kid, naive,
all these sort of things.

844
00:44:53,730 --> 00:44:57,130
Hey, what's this terrible stuff?

845
00:44:57,130 --> 00:44:59,040
And so I was embarrassed.

846
00:44:59,040 --> 00:45:01,980
But it's not really
cruel, except I

847
00:45:01,980 --> 00:45:04,380
was a target, you know, because
what are you doing here?

848
00:45:04,380 --> 00:45:07,680

849
00:45:07,680 --> 00:45:11,010
But there are some other ones
who were very helpful and said,

850
00:45:11,010 --> 00:45:12,040
you do this and that.

851
00:45:12,040 --> 00:45:15,720
And then I took
some things which--

852
00:45:15,720 --> 00:45:18,840
and that was-- took
some things and was

853
00:45:18,840 --> 00:45:22,830
able to hide them in my behind.

854
00:45:22,830 --> 00:45:24,180
For example, a knife.

855
00:45:24,180 --> 00:45:27,570
A beautiful, beautiful
very expensive sort of kind

856
00:45:27,570 --> 00:45:28,650
of Swiss type of thing.

857
00:45:28,650 --> 00:45:31,230
It was not a Swiss type,
but a lot of things in it

858
00:45:31,230 --> 00:45:31,980
and all that.

859
00:45:31,980 --> 00:45:33,840
So I put that in and all this.

860
00:45:33,840 --> 00:45:37,620
And that's when I started
to develop this ability

861
00:45:37,620 --> 00:45:44,910
to organize and play
the role of a survivor.

862
00:45:44,910 --> 00:45:46,590
What else were you able to hide?

863
00:45:46,590 --> 00:45:51,090
Well, I took a lot of
books and all that.

864
00:45:51,090 --> 00:45:56,340
And there, someone came in
looking for me or someone else.

865
00:45:56,340 --> 00:45:59,700
It was Hans Fischer, one
of my closest friends,

866
00:45:59,700 --> 00:46:05,340

who was part of
the camp orchestra

867
00:46:05,340 --> 00:46:07,890
of Auschwitz-Birkenau,
because he

868
00:46:07,890 --> 00:46:12,000
was a well-known
musician in Prague,

869
00:46:12,000 --> 00:46:14,580
very accomplished
in Theresienstadt.

870
00:46:14,580 --> 00:46:18,450
And was older than I and was
just like a brother to me.

871
00:46:18,450 --> 00:46:23,670
And he was the son
of this psychiatrist

872
00:46:23,670 --> 00:46:25,050
and his very beautiful wife.

873
00:46:25,050 --> 00:46:27,193
She was a beauty, a
well-known Jewish beauty.

874
00:46:27,193 --> 00:46:28,110
She was just a beauty.

875
00:46:28,110 --> 00:46:29,880
She was just out of the world.

876
00:46:29,880 --> 00:46:32,200
Even I knew that
in my young age.

877
00:46:32,200 --> 00:46:35,310
She was just terrific.

878

00:46:35,310 --> 00:46:36,790

And he wasn't.

879

00:46:36,790 --> 00:46:42,650

The father was just kind of
a small, bald-headed, very--

880

00:46:42,650 --> 00:46:45,500

not that really
good-looking fellow.

881

00:46:45,500 --> 00:46:49,440

But a very, very intelligent,
very resourceful.

882

00:46:49,440 --> 00:46:54,440

Well, so he said, anything
you have here, just give me

883

00:46:54,440 --> 00:46:56,250

and I'll be able to
take in the camp.

884

00:46:56,250 --> 00:46:58,583

So I gave him books, I gave
him this and that and that--

885

00:46:58,583 --> 00:47:00,960

some of the things which I
still had in my possession.

886

00:47:00,960 --> 00:47:04,460

And he took it to the camp
and gave it to me there.

887

00:47:04,460 --> 00:47:05,840

That's the type
of friend he was.

888

00:47:05,840 --> 00:47:09,250

Just unbelievable.

889

00:47:09,250 --> 00:47:10,210
The loss, you know?

890
00:47:10,210 --> 00:47:14,170
And I've said just
recently, when I gave a--

891
00:47:14,170 --> 00:47:17,488
a speech back at the--

892
00:47:17,488 --> 00:47:23,330
the Lincoln Park Memorial
there was something,

893
00:47:23,330 --> 00:47:24,790
and I gave a speech.

894
00:47:24,790 --> 00:47:29,140
Neighbors asked me to
give the speech thing.

895
00:47:29,140 --> 00:47:33,820
So I said, and I still say,
there's one thing which came--

896
00:47:33,820 --> 00:47:37,480
actually, I just assessed it
just relatively recently, not--

897
00:47:37,480 --> 00:47:42,200
on several occasions,
that the best people,

898
00:47:42,200 --> 00:47:45,490
the most valued people
as far as I remember,

899
00:47:45,490 --> 00:47:49,990
friends and acquaintances,
relatives-- the best people

900
00:47:49,990 --> 00:47:51,430
did not survive.

901
00:47:51,430 --> 00:47:53,140
It is the ones
which I considered

902
00:47:53,140 --> 00:47:56,590
to be of lesser human
value, if one can put it

903
00:47:56,590 --> 00:48:01,300
that cruelly, who have survived.

904
00:48:01,300 --> 00:48:02,440
Why do you say that?

905
00:48:02,440 --> 00:48:04,173
Well, because I
remember Hans Fischer.

906
00:48:04,173 --> 00:48:05,590
All these people
would have been--

907
00:48:05,590 --> 00:48:09,070
they towered over me
intellectually, emotionally,

908
00:48:09,070 --> 00:48:10,840
gift-wise and all that.

909
00:48:10,840 --> 00:48:12,850
These were the people
who were the elite,

910
00:48:12,850 --> 00:48:16,420
the crÃ©me de la crÃ©me in
terms of their talents,

911
00:48:16,420 --> 00:48:19,040
in terms of what
they were able to do.

912

00:48:19,040 --> 00:48:21,310
And these people are just
simply out of this world.

913
00:48:21,310 --> 00:48:24,970
I mean, these people would have
really made major contributions

914
00:48:24,970 --> 00:48:29,500
to humanity if they had
been allowed to-- to live.

915
00:48:29,500 --> 00:48:31,660
And I'm reminded of
that particularly when I

916
00:48:31,660 --> 00:48:34,780
see some of the survivors,
whom I have no reason

917
00:48:34,780 --> 00:48:37,210
to respect whatsoever,
not only because how

918
00:48:37,210 --> 00:48:39,790
they survived under
what circumstances

919
00:48:39,790 --> 00:48:41,710
and what they are now.

920
00:48:41,710 --> 00:48:46,030
And to say that is just a
hard, harsh thing to say.

921
00:48:46,030 --> 00:48:51,970
But I say it, because that's my
conclusion based on many years

922
00:48:51,970 --> 00:48:55,660
of interaction and observation.

923
00:48:55,660 --> 00:48:59,500

Do you think that some
[? weak-minded ?] people

924
00:48:59,500 --> 00:49:02,140
survived, say, by luck?

925
00:49:02,140 --> 00:49:04,510
Oh, yeah, well, luck played
always an important role.

926
00:49:04,510 --> 00:49:10,430
But somehow, the people
who did not survive,

927
00:49:10,430 --> 00:49:12,400
they behaved in a
way which would not

928
00:49:12,400 --> 00:49:14,050
be injurious to others.

929
00:49:14,050 --> 00:49:18,633
And by virtue of that, they
had a better chance to survive.

930
00:49:18,633 --> 00:49:20,050
And that is something
which hasn't

931
00:49:20,050 --> 00:49:22,660
been said, because it's not
a very popular thing to say.

932
00:49:22,660 --> 00:49:26,730

933
00:49:26,730 --> 00:49:30,600
And these were precisely people
who were giving of themselves

934
00:49:30,600 --> 00:49:32,190
and sacrificing themselves.

935
00:49:32,190 --> 00:49:34,410
They're altruists
in so many ways.

936
00:49:34,410 --> 00:49:36,960

937
00:49:36,960 --> 00:49:39,962
Jewish rescuers so to speak.

938
00:49:39,962 --> 00:49:41,858
Hmm, a good point.

939
00:49:41,858 --> 00:49:44,560

940
00:49:44,560 --> 00:49:49,090
And so therefore, they were
not necessarily obsessed

941
00:49:49,090 --> 00:49:54,640
with survival as so many other
people, including myself, up--

942
00:49:54,640 --> 00:49:59,030
in certain situations,
obsessed, driven.

943
00:49:59,030 --> 00:50:01,070
But somehow they
are not that driven,

944
00:50:01,070 --> 00:50:04,820
and therefore were
not as circumspect

945
00:50:04,820 --> 00:50:09,500
as some other people in
terms of their own survival.

946
00:50:09,500 --> 00:50:12,220

947
00:50:12,220 --> 00:50:18,050
And I think that contributed,
to some extent, to their demise.

948
00:50:18,050 --> 00:50:18,550
Mm-hmm.

949
00:50:18,550 --> 00:50:22,270

950
00:50:22,270 --> 00:50:26,460
All right, so Hans Fischer
was there and helped me

951
00:50:26,460 --> 00:50:28,910
a great deal and
helped me to adjust.

952
00:50:28,910 --> 00:50:33,600
And then you have
these sort of changes

953
00:50:33,600 --> 00:50:36,100
from one ball game to one--

954
00:50:36,100 --> 00:50:40,750
one-stage phase of
horror to another one,

955
00:50:40,750 --> 00:50:43,940
increasingly getting worse.

956
00:50:43,940 --> 00:50:48,450
So the first shock was
Prague, Theresienstadt.

957
00:50:48,450 --> 00:50:51,030
And the other one,
which was double that,

958
00:50:51,030 --> 00:50:53,130

was, of course, Auschwitz.

959

00:50:53,130 --> 00:50:56,520

Because from that very
moment, you heard--

960

00:50:56,520 --> 00:50:58,050

you wanted to survive.

961

00:50:58,050 --> 00:51:00,710

You had to guard--

962

00:51:00,710 --> 00:51:05,610

be fearful of your
life every second,

963

00:51:05,610 --> 00:51:09,620

every minute, in terms
of every step you took.

964

00:51:09,620 --> 00:51:12,110

And that was, of course, very
different in Theresienstadt.

965

00:51:12,110 --> 00:51:16,940

So you just went
from bad to worse.

966

00:51:16,940 --> 00:51:19,190

You must have learned that
instantly, then, is that --

967

00:51:19,190 --> 00:51:22,370

Oh, yeah, because they
already-- we went to the block,

968

00:51:22,370 --> 00:51:24,050

then we went through
the whole thing.

969

00:51:24,050 --> 00:51:24,800

And then went to--

970
00:51:24,800 --> 00:51:28,790

971
00:51:28,790 --> 00:51:34,010
we went to the family camp
in Auschwitz-Birkenau,

972
00:51:34,010 --> 00:51:37,520
which was B2 next
to the A camp--

973
00:51:37,520 --> 00:51:40,550
B2 camp.

974
00:51:40,550 --> 00:51:43,250
And so we got into a barrack.

975
00:51:43,250 --> 00:51:46,880
And the barrack senior--

976
00:51:46,880 --> 00:51:52,040
the barrack senior then
immediately told us,

977
00:51:52,040 --> 00:51:53,070
you do this and that.

978
00:51:53,070 --> 00:51:54,650
And then just let us have it--

979
00:51:54,650 --> 00:51:57,290
merciless, talked
about the gassing,

980
00:51:57,290 --> 00:51:58,870
killing, all this sort of thing.

981
00:51:58,870 --> 00:52:02,270
So we were totally all just--

982
00:52:02,270 --> 00:52:06,110

And then the whole thing changed
from a very conscious state,

983
00:52:06,110 --> 00:52:11,180
where you're just really present
and in touch with reality.

984
00:52:11,180 --> 00:52:16,590
Everything became just, like,
that instant is a nightmare.

985
00:52:16,590 --> 00:52:21,070
It was no longer a
reality in the real sense

986
00:52:21,070 --> 00:52:24,820
of the word in terms
of the way some of us,

987
00:52:24,820 --> 00:52:27,100
and I, certainly experienced.

988
00:52:27,100 --> 00:52:30,130
It became a dreamlike nightmare.

989
00:52:30,130 --> 00:52:33,070

990
00:52:33,070 --> 00:52:42,720
So that you responded to
the reality as if it'd be

991
00:52:42,720 --> 00:52:46,230
a-- it would be a nightmare.

992
00:52:46,230 --> 00:52:47,490
Do you mean [INAUDIBLE]?

993
00:52:47,490 --> 00:52:59,040
And that gave you some sort of
a feeling of just numbness--

994

00:52:59,040 --> 00:53:01,290
numbness.

995
00:53:01,290 --> 00:53:13,370
So that you try to deflect
the pain by protecting

996
00:53:13,370 --> 00:53:17,225
yourself due to this state--

997
00:53:17,225 --> 00:53:19,436
the response, the reaction.

998
00:53:19,436 --> 00:53:23,810

999
00:53:23,810 --> 00:53:33,140
And so then it was just
100%, 24-hour harassment

1000
00:53:33,140 --> 00:53:35,810
in the worst possible sense.

1001
00:53:35,810 --> 00:53:37,460
What was daily life like?

1002
00:53:37,460 --> 00:53:40,970
Well, daily life, like,
was just being harassed.

1003
00:53:40,970 --> 00:53:44,060
And going up early
in the morning

1004
00:53:44,060 --> 00:53:47,210
and be counted twice a day.

1005
00:53:47,210 --> 00:53:53,390
And trying to get the minimal
food and do this and that.

1006
00:53:53,390 --> 00:53:56,570

Work details of all sorts.

1007
00:53:56,570 --> 00:54:01,220
And trying to interact,
because then--

1008
00:54:01,220 --> 00:54:05,210
with the friends and trying
to organize and all that.

1009
00:54:05,210 --> 00:54:11,310
And the books, which were saved
by Hans Fischer, circulated.

1010
00:54:11,310 --> 00:54:13,940
And I always got them back.

1011
00:54:13,940 --> 00:54:15,950
Because they're the only
books which existed.

1012
00:54:15,950 --> 00:54:16,970
So everything was read.

1013
00:54:16,970 --> 00:54:19,070
Which one was a medical
book, and the other one

1014
00:54:19,070 --> 00:54:20,540
was the Bible.

1015
00:54:20,540 --> 00:54:24,050
And some other things were
anthroposophic writings

1016
00:54:24,050 --> 00:54:26,030
by Rudolf Steiner.

1017
00:54:26,030 --> 00:54:27,651
Would you have been
punished if you'd

1018

00:54:27,651 --> 00:54:29,550
been found with the books?

1019
00:54:29,550 --> 00:54:30,710
I don't know.

1020
00:54:30,710 --> 00:54:33,230
I didn't care.

1021
00:54:33,230 --> 00:54:36,560
Besides, he took the risk
to smuggle it into the camp.

1022
00:54:36,560 --> 00:54:37,610
I didn't, you see?

1023
00:54:37,610 --> 00:54:42,410
He gave all these things to
me which he was able to take.

1024
00:54:42,410 --> 00:54:44,320
But had you been
found with the books,

1025
00:54:44,320 --> 00:54:48,280
would that be a punishable act?

1026
00:54:48,280 --> 00:54:49,030
I don't know.

1027
00:54:49,030 --> 00:54:51,280
I don't think it
was-- it was an issue.

1028
00:54:51,280 --> 00:54:53,800

1029
00:54:53,800 --> 00:54:55,660
I don't think it was
an issue at that point.

1030
00:54:55,660 --> 00:55:01,720

But I was one of the few, if
not the only one of thousands,

1031
00:55:01,720 --> 00:55:02,950
who had these sort of books.

1032
00:55:02,950 --> 00:55:05,338
And they circulated and
always came back to me.

1033
00:55:05,338 --> 00:55:09,010

1034
00:55:09,010 --> 00:55:11,330
What work details were you on?

1035
00:55:11,330 --> 00:55:14,170
Well, that was an
interesting-- one work detail--

1036
00:55:14,170 --> 00:55:15,840
well, just all sorts of things.

1037
00:55:15,840 --> 00:55:17,860
Some of them I
remember, some I don't.

1038
00:55:17,860 --> 00:55:23,530
Just odd stuff,
nonsensical things usually

1039
00:55:23,530 --> 00:55:27,100
to justify some sort of
interaction with the SS

1040
00:55:27,100 --> 00:55:30,250
so that they could do some
certain things which gave them

1041
00:55:30,250 --> 00:55:30,890
an opportunity.

1042

00:55:30,890 --> 00:55:36,730
Just give you an example,
they just rounded up and said,

1043
00:55:36,730 --> 00:55:39,300
you have to, whatever,
carry bricks or something

1044
00:55:39,300 --> 00:55:41,790
and in some sort of
totally different camp.

1045
00:55:41,790 --> 00:55:42,910
So the camp was--

1046
00:55:42,910 --> 00:55:46,720

1047
00:55:46,720 --> 00:55:48,490
I don't know which
one we went through.

1048
00:55:48,490 --> 00:55:49,840
And then we stopped--

1049
00:55:49,840 --> 00:55:51,460
given the order to stop--

1050
00:55:51,460 --> 00:55:52,150
the SS.

1051
00:55:52,150 --> 00:55:53,112
It was not just kapo.

1052
00:55:53,112 --> 00:55:55,570
It was not-- actually, I don't
even know where we had kapo.

1053
00:55:55,570 --> 00:55:57,220
It was just an SS.

1054
00:55:57,220 --> 00:56:01,120

And then he met with
some sort of female SS.

1055
00:56:01,120 --> 00:56:03,370
And then they started,
in front of us,

1056
00:56:03,370 --> 00:56:06,190
just if you will not exist,
talk sex-type of sort of thing

1057
00:56:06,190 --> 00:56:08,570
and say, let's go
and-- go and screw.

1058
00:56:08,570 --> 00:56:10,480
And so they went, and we waited.

1059
00:56:10,480 --> 00:56:12,310
They did their business,
and he came back.

1060
00:56:12,310 --> 00:56:14,860
And then we went again
into the women's camp.

1061
00:56:14,860 --> 00:56:20,590
And that is something which
we discussed and had problems

1062
00:56:20,590 --> 00:56:23,140
discussing, because then we
went to the women's camp,

1063
00:56:23,140 --> 00:56:25,900
and I had a chance to observe.

1064
00:56:25,900 --> 00:56:29,050
And I thought it was bad
in B2, the women camp.

1065
00:56:29,050 --> 00:56:31,510
The cruelty was

just unbelievable.

1066
00:56:31,510 --> 00:56:33,820
Also because, of
course, you anticipated

1067
00:56:33,820 --> 00:56:35,950
women-- the sort of
prejudicial notion

1068
00:56:35,950 --> 00:56:38,860
that women would be kind
of nicer and more kind.

1069
00:56:38,860 --> 00:56:39,970
The contrary was true.

1070
00:56:39,970 --> 00:56:43,720
They were just absolutely
10 times more vicious.

1071
00:56:43,720 --> 00:56:45,490
Meaning the kapos and the--

1072
00:56:45,490 --> 00:56:47,770
That's right, what
had happened there.

1073
00:56:47,770 --> 00:56:49,510
And we were just
absolutely shocked.

1074
00:56:49,510 --> 00:56:52,450
And we came from hell,
and went into another hell

1075
00:56:52,450 --> 00:56:54,490
which was even worse than
the hell we came from.

1076
00:56:54,490 --> 00:56:56,170
And that was very
hard to take, because

1077
00:56:56,170 --> 00:56:59,260
also because of
the sort of notions

1078
00:56:59,260 --> 00:57:00,640
in terms of how women are.

1079
00:57:00,640 --> 00:57:03,250
They're kinder, more
gentler, all this and that.

1080
00:57:03,250 --> 00:57:04,660
Hell no.

1081
00:57:04,660 --> 00:57:06,520
The cruelty was
just unbelievable.

1082
00:57:06,520 --> 00:57:07,900
For example?

1083
00:57:07,900 --> 00:57:09,400
Well, the beating
and the kicking

1084
00:57:09,400 --> 00:57:14,040
and how the SS women
behaved towards the other--

1085
00:57:14,040 --> 00:57:16,823
the kapos behaved to
each other and all that.

1086
00:57:16,823 --> 00:57:17,865
It was just unbelievable.

1087
00:57:17,865 --> 00:57:21,160
It was just unbelievable.

1088
00:57:21,160 --> 00:57:25,540
And so all these sort

of things we saw.

1089
00:57:25,540 --> 00:57:26,620
And then we returned.

1090
00:57:26,620 --> 00:57:28,150
That was one of
the work details.

1091
00:57:28,150 --> 00:57:29,192
I don't know what we did.

1092
00:57:29,192 --> 00:57:30,970
We didn't do anything,
really, any work.

1093
00:57:30,970 --> 00:57:34,330
But I think he used it as an
excuse to get to one point

1094
00:57:34,330 --> 00:57:37,480
where he would meet
with the female SS,

1095
00:57:37,480 --> 00:57:41,110
they'd do their business, and
then go into the women camp

1096
00:57:41,110 --> 00:57:42,690
just for an excuse or something.

1097
00:57:42,690 --> 00:57:43,690
We're here and all that.

1098
00:57:43,690 --> 00:57:44,650
We've done-- I don't--

1099
00:57:44,650 --> 00:57:45,940
there was no real work.

1100
00:57:45,940 --> 00:57:48,760
We stood around and

walked most of the time.

1101
00:57:48,760 --> 00:57:50,050
And then we returned.

1102
00:57:50,050 --> 00:57:52,720
So that was one thing.

1103
00:57:52,720 --> 00:57:58,180
Then, I had developed jaundice.

1104
00:57:58,180 --> 00:58:01,570
And then I was yellow.

1105
00:58:01,570 --> 00:58:04,013
Did I talk about that already?

1106
00:58:04,013 --> 00:58:05,680
You talked about being
sick in the camp.

1107
00:58:05,680 --> 00:58:06,850
As I say, it doesn't matter.

1108
00:58:06,850 --> 00:58:07,060
Just keep going.

1109
00:58:07,060 --> 00:58:10,030
Well, anyway, so the jaundice
happened and all this and that.

1110
00:58:10,030 --> 00:58:17,170
So and then, for some
reason, SS responded to me

1111
00:58:17,170 --> 00:58:22,000
in a way which most of
the time was favorable,

1112
00:58:22,000 --> 00:58:23,630
for whatever reason.

1113
00:58:23,630 --> 00:58:27,640
And so he wanted me
to have in the kitchen

1114
00:58:27,640 --> 00:58:29,350
detail, peel potatoes.

1115
00:58:29,350 --> 00:58:32,980
And they said, look, he's
sick, you can't take him.

1116
00:58:32,980 --> 00:58:34,242
And he said, I want him.

1117
00:58:34,242 --> 00:58:35,950
So then I really
Couldn't last very long,

1118
00:58:35,950 --> 00:58:37,420
because I got so
sick that they had

1119
00:58:37,420 --> 00:58:39,580
to put me in the sick
barrack and all that.

1120
00:58:39,580 --> 00:58:41,890
And then I was rescued
from the sick barrack,

1121
00:58:41,890 --> 00:58:43,820
because then a
friend of ours, who

1122
00:58:43,820 --> 00:58:47,260
was this pediatrician, he came
and said, you have to get out--

1123
00:58:47,260 --> 00:58:50,380
I was much better then--

1124
00:58:50,380 --> 00:58:54,890

because there's going to
be a selection tomorrow.

1125
00:58:54,890 --> 00:58:59,080
And if you're here, they
will send you to the gas.

1126
00:58:59,080 --> 00:59:00,550
All right, so I got out--

1127
00:59:00,550 --> 00:59:01,300
selection.

1128
00:59:01,300 --> 00:59:03,080
And then I got--

1129
00:59:03,080 --> 00:59:06,670
then I had pleurisy and
pneumonia and went back again.

1130
00:59:06,670 --> 00:59:09,610
And I got a little
medication they had,

1131
00:59:09,610 --> 00:59:12,670
only because of the
contacts-- sheer luck.

1132
00:59:12,670 --> 00:59:15,070
Because of the
pediatrician was one

1133
00:59:15,070 --> 00:59:20,560
of the most intimate
assistants of Josef Mengele.

1134
00:59:20,560 --> 00:59:25,220

1135
00:59:25,220 --> 00:59:28,830
So it sounds like you
didn't have any severe work

1136
00:59:28,830 --> 00:59:30,080
details that you can remember.

1137
00:59:30,080 --> 00:59:33,050
No, no, no.

1138
00:59:33,050 --> 00:59:34,790
What about the
food that you ate?

1139
00:59:34,790 --> 00:59:36,706
Well, the food was just--

1140
00:59:36,706 --> 00:59:38,730
just the typical sort of thing.

1141
00:59:38,730 --> 00:59:43,460
Just occasionally, during
the-- during the weekend,

1142
00:59:43,460 --> 00:59:47,210
we occasionally
had some pea soup.

1143
00:59:47,210 --> 00:59:48,350
And that was a feast.

1144
00:59:48,350 --> 00:59:53,720
That was just like you
win a million bucks.

1145
00:59:53,720 --> 00:59:56,390
And most of the other
time, it was watery turnip.

1146
00:59:56,390 --> 00:59:59,300
That's exactly what it was,
without potatoes to speak of.

1147
00:59:59,300 --> 01:00:02,840
But the more substance
you had, so you had to--

1148
01:00:02,840 --> 01:00:05,450
and that was the difference
between older people,

1149
01:00:05,450 --> 01:00:06,320
young people.

1150
01:00:06,320 --> 01:00:10,800
Young people being still more
alert, having more vitality.

1151
01:00:10,800 --> 01:00:13,790
So you could adjust.

1152
01:00:13,790 --> 01:00:19,560
You had to be as alert as
possible in order to survive.

1153
01:00:19,560 --> 01:00:25,200
And that, one way, is to be
the last, in case of soup,

1154
01:00:25,200 --> 01:00:28,890
so that you get from the
bottom of the barrel and not

1155
01:00:28,890 --> 01:00:31,350
the beginning, where
there was pure water.

1156
01:00:31,350 --> 01:00:34,170
And then there you had some
little bit more substance.

1157
01:00:34,170 --> 01:00:38,040
Or when there was some danger,
you were the-- you would just

1158
01:00:38,040 --> 01:00:41,444
immediately avoid it and
went the other way, became--

1159

01:00:41,444 --> 01:00:44,700
became invisible so to speak.

1160

01:00:44,700 --> 01:00:45,660
And I've learned that.

1161

01:00:45,660 --> 01:00:46,780
And I can be--

1162

01:00:46,780 --> 01:00:50,310
for example, I still have that
ability, and I still train it.

1163

01:00:50,310 --> 01:00:58,470
I can go to movies
without a ticket,

1164

01:00:58,470 --> 01:00:59,910
because I've learned this.

1165

01:00:59,910 --> 01:01:03,480
I can make myself
virtually invisible.

1166

01:01:03,480 --> 01:01:05,490
So that when I need
to be invisible,

1167

01:01:05,490 --> 01:01:09,390
I'll just blend
in and, you know?

1168

01:01:09,390 --> 01:01:11,442
And I still train that.

1169

01:01:11,442 --> 01:01:12,692
For some reason, I don't know.

1170

01:01:12,692 --> 01:01:14,080
I have this sort
of strange idea.

1171
01:01:14,080 --> 01:01:18,360
I still train that, because
I don't want to lose it,

1172
01:01:18,360 --> 01:01:20,840
because I think I may
get into hard times.

1173
01:01:20,840 --> 01:01:24,790
I'm in hard times already
in one way or another.

1174
01:01:24,790 --> 01:01:28,378
So that was the art which you
developed-- the organizing--

1175
01:01:28,378 --> 01:01:30,170
And it sounds like
there's hypersensitivity

1176
01:01:30,170 --> 01:01:30,870
to other people.

1177
01:01:30,870 --> 01:01:34,680
Hypersensitivity, where you
have tremendous alertness,

1178
01:01:34,680 --> 01:01:37,080
where you can see where
these dangers were something

1179
01:01:37,080 --> 01:01:41,420
to be had, so that you're
there and take advantage,

1180
01:01:41,420 --> 01:01:47,380
or you're just out of sight
when they is killing--

1181
01:01:47,380 --> 01:01:49,050
beating.

1182

01:01:49,050 --> 01:01:53,400
And then someone,
for example, escaped.

1183
01:01:53,400 --> 01:01:56,100
And then, we still
had the long hair.

1184
01:01:56,100 --> 01:01:59,310
And then we had to stand
for an entire night,

1185
01:01:59,310 --> 01:02:03,750
and people collapsed
and died like flies.

1186
01:02:03,750 --> 01:02:10,140
I got pneumonia and had to get
into the sick barrack again.

1187
01:02:10,140 --> 01:02:14,640
And then people came
and visited me as much

1188
01:02:14,640 --> 01:02:16,260
as they could from the window.

1189
01:02:16,260 --> 01:02:19,200
And there was one
friend of mine,

1190
01:02:19,200 --> 01:02:20,830
a relative, distant relative.

1191
01:02:20,830 --> 01:02:24,090
And Dr. Peter Schleisner
was a very gifted--

1192
01:02:24,090 --> 01:02:27,570
again, talking gifted person--

1193
01:02:27,570 --> 01:02:28,935
biologist and chemist.

1194
01:02:28,935 --> 01:02:31,440

1195
01:02:31,440 --> 01:02:33,150
And he came, too,
wanting to know

1196
01:02:33,150 --> 01:02:36,930
how I was, very concerned,
just like a brother.

1197
01:02:36,930 --> 01:02:39,180
And came one day, the
next he doesn't come.

1198
01:02:39,180 --> 01:02:40,580
And said, what
happened to Peter?

1199
01:02:40,580 --> 01:02:41,580
They said, he died.

1200
01:02:41,580 --> 01:02:43,980
He had just an
infection of the nose.

1201
01:02:43,980 --> 01:02:46,398
Overnight, he was dead.

1202
01:02:46,398 --> 01:02:47,940
So all these sort
of things happened.

1203
01:02:47,940 --> 01:02:50,520
Fredy Hirsch came and
brought me some food.

1204
01:02:50,520 --> 01:02:52,890
And there we had this
sort of organization,

1205

01:02:52,890 --> 01:02:55,860
which he had young
people talking

1206
01:02:55,860 --> 01:02:57,780
resistance, what we
can do all throughout

1207
01:02:57,780 --> 01:02:59,430
the Auschwitz-Birkenau.

1208
01:02:59,430 --> 01:03:02,430
Just all laughable
stuff, you know?

1209
01:03:02,430 --> 01:03:06,510
But yes, we did it, and he
did it, until that time,

1210
01:03:06,510 --> 01:03:08,940
where we could do
something and all this.

1211
01:03:08,940 --> 01:03:11,820
And so there was the preparation
of resistance, absolutely,

1212
01:03:11,820 --> 01:03:15,330
except with means, which to me,
in retrospect, were laughable.

1213
01:03:15,330 --> 01:03:16,413
We took it very seriously.

1214
01:03:16,413 --> 01:03:18,913
You mean, you talked about it
and this kept your spirits up?

1215
01:03:18,913 --> 01:03:20,340
Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

1216
01:03:20,340 --> 01:03:21,800
But did anybody act on all--

1217
01:03:21,800 --> 01:03:24,795
Oh, well, I mean, sabotage
and all this sort of thing.

1218
01:03:24,795 --> 01:03:26,670
But I said, just waiting
for the moment where

1219
01:03:26,670 --> 01:03:27,900
we could take over.

1220
01:03:27,900 --> 01:03:30,780
And that was Fredy Hirsch
very, very effectively

1221
01:03:30,780 --> 01:03:32,910
trying to do that
and prepare us.

1222
01:03:32,910 --> 01:03:36,510
And I was part of that group,
until the time Fredy Hirsch

1223
01:03:36,510 --> 01:03:38,900
and the old people who had--

1224
01:03:38,900 --> 01:03:42,180
had come before me, for some
reason, there was an order.

1225
01:03:42,180 --> 01:03:44,880
And I've tried to find it
from the SS people myself.

1226
01:03:44,880 --> 01:03:48,690
I was not able to find out, but
I've tried-- out after the--

1227
01:03:48,690 --> 01:03:50,670
after the war-- find out what--

1228

01:03:50,670 --> 01:03:53,490
All the transport
which came before us,

1229
01:03:53,490 --> 01:03:55,185
for some reason or
other, all the people

1230
01:03:55,185 --> 01:03:56,310
had been there for a while.

1231
01:03:56,310 --> 01:03:59,640
All with a certain number,
regardless of their state,

1232
01:03:59,640 --> 01:04:01,710
were sent to the gas chamber.

1233
01:04:01,710 --> 01:04:06,750
And among them was this
friend of mine, Hans Fischer,

1234
01:04:06,750 --> 01:04:13,510
and many other brothers and--

1235
01:04:13,510 --> 01:04:16,050
were identical types.

1236
01:04:16,050 --> 01:04:19,470
And another,
Alexander [? Lipen ?]

1237
01:04:19,470 --> 01:04:25,680
and a lot of people I
knew, close kids my age.

1238
01:04:25,680 --> 01:04:29,190
And they were rounded up
and sent to the gas chamber.

1239
01:04:29,190 --> 01:04:31,580
And then Fredy Hirsch
committed suicide,

1240
01:04:31,580 --> 01:04:33,330
because he didn't want
to go through that.

1241
01:04:33,330 --> 01:04:36,930
And was not able-- that
was the only time when,

1242
01:04:36,930 --> 01:04:38,880
because of an
order from Berlin--

1243
01:04:38,880 --> 01:04:42,050
must have come from Berlin--

1244
01:04:42,050 --> 01:04:45,050
and they said, round them all
up, these particular people,

1245
01:04:45,050 --> 01:04:47,550
and send them to gas chamber,
for reasons which I still have

1246
01:04:47,550 --> 01:04:49,440
not been able to ascertain.

1247
01:04:49,440 --> 01:04:51,570
And I'm sure there was
some sort of reason,

1248
01:04:51,570 --> 01:04:54,300
but I just don't have it.

1249
01:04:54,300 --> 01:04:55,800
I have not been
able to find it out.

1250
01:04:55,800 --> 01:05:00,210
Anyway, so that was the
time when Fredy Hirsch

1251

01:05:00,210 --> 01:05:03,540
was unable to really prevail.

1252
01:05:03,540 --> 01:05:06,000
And because he couldn't
prevail, rather

1253
01:05:06,000 --> 01:05:07,800
than being sent to
the gas chamber,

1254
01:05:07,800 --> 01:05:10,050
he committed suicide proud.

1255
01:05:10,050 --> 01:05:13,650
And it was a terrible sting.

1256
01:05:13,650 --> 01:05:16,800
Well, the interesting thing
is there was no problem

1257
01:05:16,800 --> 01:05:19,530
in killing you, officially.

1258
01:05:19,530 --> 01:05:22,080
But if you killed
yourself unofficially,

1259
01:05:22,080 --> 01:05:24,300
then there was a
big investigation.

1260
01:05:24,300 --> 01:05:26,980
So in the barrack I
was in, for example,

1261
01:05:26,980 --> 01:05:31,860
one person decided to-- to
hang himself, successfully.

1262
01:05:31,860 --> 01:05:37,050
And the SS came in with
cameras and all that big hubbub

1263
01:05:37,050 --> 01:05:38,190
and all--

1264
01:05:38,190 --> 01:05:40,650
because he-- big investigation.

1265
01:05:40,650 --> 01:05:41,250
Why was that?

1266
01:05:41,250 --> 01:05:42,833
Why did they
investigate [INAUDIBLE]??

1267
01:05:42,833 --> 01:05:45,480
[CHUCKLES] Search me, you know?

1268
01:05:45,480 --> 01:05:48,630
I mean, official
killing was terrific.

1269
01:05:48,630 --> 01:05:49,710
It was condoned.

1270
01:05:49,710 --> 01:05:55,560
But if you unofficially killed
yourself, that was not to be--

1271
01:05:55,560 --> 01:05:56,580
that was not to be.

1272
01:05:56,580 --> 01:05:57,830
And then therefore, it was--

1273
01:05:57,830 --> 01:05:59,634
You took control
of your own life.

1274
01:05:59,634 --> 01:06:01,815
Well, you have no
right to do that.

1275

01:06:01,815 --> 01:06:03,570

You had to wait until
you were killed.

1276

01:06:03,570 --> 01:06:09,290

1277

01:06:09,290 --> 01:06:11,990

Was suicide common or uncommon?

1278

01:06:11,990 --> 01:06:13,820

Well, I mean, some--

1279

01:06:13,820 --> 01:06:15,843

sure, some people
just went into coma.

1280

01:06:15,843 --> 01:06:16,760

And I don't know how--

1281

01:06:16,760 --> 01:06:19,190

I think it was very rare,
relatively speaking,

1282

01:06:19,190 --> 01:06:23,360

because, yes, I've seen people
just threaten and go and run

1283

01:06:23,360 --> 01:06:24,690

through the electric wire.

1284

01:06:24,690 --> 01:06:25,760

That's what you did.

1285

01:06:25,760 --> 01:06:28,130

But this fellow did it.

1286

01:06:28,130 --> 01:06:30,290

During the nighttime, he
decided to hang himself

1287

01:06:30,290 --> 01:06:34,490
in the barrack of a
bad thing, a bad thing.

1288
01:06:34,490 --> 01:06:38,790
And well, there are some
sort of freak sort of things.

1289
01:06:38,790 --> 01:06:40,040
One comes to mind.

1290
01:06:40,040 --> 01:06:46,040
There was one horny
fellow from another camp,

1291
01:06:46,040 --> 01:06:49,580
the neighboring camp,
A camp, into which I

1292
01:06:49,580 --> 01:06:53,300
was-- we were
moved after we were

1293
01:06:53,300 --> 01:06:57,620
selected to go to Blechhammer.

1294
01:06:57,620 --> 01:07:01,580
And he, during the night--
and there was one--

1295
01:07:01,580 --> 01:07:03,560
Eva [? Steinhardt ?]
was-- Eva [? Steinhardt ?]

1296
01:07:03,560 --> 01:07:07,750
was a block leader, one
of the women's block.

1297
01:07:07,750 --> 01:07:13,440
Very attractive woman who was--

1298
01:07:13,440 --> 01:07:18,110
in Theresienstadt, I knew,

was just unbelievably active.

1299

01:07:18,110 --> 01:07:22,130

And I looked at some of
these acts, sexual acts.

1300

01:07:22,130 --> 01:07:23,930

And my mother got
wind of that and said,

1301

01:07:23,930 --> 01:07:24,920

you can't look at that.

1302

01:07:24,920 --> 01:07:28,040

And just took me and was very
protective-- you can't do that.

1303

01:07:28,040 --> 01:07:28,540

And she--

1304

01:07:28,540 --> 01:07:30,890

You mean you looked-- not
pictures, but the sexual act?

1305

01:07:30,890 --> 01:07:32,300

Oh, yeah, she
would have affairs.

1306

01:07:32,300 --> 01:07:35,180

And I just happened to be
in proximity, so I looked.

1307

01:07:35,180 --> 01:07:37,880

1308

01:07:37,880 --> 01:07:41,460

And my mother didn't
just go for it.

1309

01:07:41,460 --> 01:07:42,380

I said fine.

1310

01:07:42,380 --> 01:07:46,670
And she didn't like her, because
she was just very promiscuous.

1311
01:07:46,670 --> 01:07:49,070
And she continued to
be that in Auschwitz

1312
01:07:49,070 --> 01:07:52,280
because she had the means to
function, which we didn't have,

1313
01:07:52,280 --> 01:07:52,890
because--

1314
01:07:52,890 --> 01:07:56,460
because we're-- because
of malnutrition.

1315
01:07:56,460 --> 01:08:01,550
So she was a beauty,
no question about that.

1316
01:08:01,550 --> 01:08:07,640
Eva, Eva [? Alverastein. ?]
And she kind of liked me

1317
01:08:07,640 --> 01:08:10,760
and all that, but
my mother hated her.

1318
01:08:10,760 --> 01:08:14,130
[CHUCKLES]

1319
01:08:14,130 --> 01:08:19,399
So there was one block
leader in the A camp.

1320
01:08:19,399 --> 01:08:22,279
And since he couldn't
get into the B2 legally

1321
01:08:22,279 --> 01:08:25,790

in order to spend
the night with her,

1322
01:08:25,790 --> 01:08:35,740
he decided to get himself just
under the fence, barbed wire--

1323
01:08:35,740 --> 01:08:38,260
electrically-charged
barbed wire.

1324
01:08:38,260 --> 01:08:43,680
Just dig a hole beneath it
and just squeeze through it.

1325
01:08:43,680 --> 01:08:45,640
Of course, they had
towers all the place,

1326
01:08:45,640 --> 01:08:48,760
with watchtowers with SS.

1327
01:08:48,760 --> 01:08:51,950
And for whatever reason,
he had some understanding

1328
01:08:51,950 --> 01:08:54,370
or he was able to
be out of sight

1329
01:08:54,370 --> 01:08:56,680
so that he was-- it was not
noticed, the way he did it.

1330
01:08:56,680 --> 01:08:57,819
I don't know.

1331
01:08:57,819 --> 01:09:00,100
He came to spend the night,
and then they discovered

1332
01:09:00,100 --> 01:09:02,109
that he went back and all that.

1333
01:09:02,109 --> 01:09:05,410
Didn't have any proof or
anything that someone came over

1334
01:09:05,410 --> 01:09:06,790
and all that.

1335
01:09:06,790 --> 01:09:10,340
And there was a
tremendous uproar.

1336
01:09:10,340 --> 01:09:11,620
SS came and all that.

1337
01:09:11,620 --> 01:09:14,088
But they were very impressed
somehow, impressed.

1338
01:09:14,088 --> 01:09:15,880
Not punitive, but they
were very impressed.

1339
01:09:15,880 --> 01:09:18,130
Say, hey, my God, that's
quite a thing to do.

1340
01:09:18,130 --> 01:09:20,800

1341
01:09:20,800 --> 01:09:23,620
Some of these sort of
acts, they respected.

1342
01:09:23,620 --> 01:09:26,840
They had some, say, hey, this
is something unusual, I mean,

1343
01:09:26,840 --> 01:09:28,790
just-- you're not
cowards this and that.

1344

01:09:28,790 --> 01:09:29,290
Initiative.

1345
01:09:29,290 --> 01:09:30,290
And they respected that.

1346
01:09:30,290 --> 01:09:32,080
Yeah, initiative and all that.

1347
01:09:32,080 --> 01:09:35,229
So that was-- she was the one.

1348
01:09:35,229 --> 01:09:37,510
And he had a good time with
her, and then he returned.

1349
01:09:37,510 --> 01:09:38,218
Nothing happened.

1350
01:09:38,218 --> 01:09:39,970
No one got caught.

1351
01:09:39,970 --> 01:09:43,210
Well, it was different in
terms of when someone escaped,

1352
01:09:43,210 --> 01:09:44,660
because that was serious.

1353
01:09:44,660 --> 01:09:45,160
Why?

1354
01:09:45,160 --> 01:09:48,170
Not because of the fact
that the person escaped,

1355
01:09:48,170 --> 01:09:51,439
not business to escape, period.

1356
01:09:51,439 --> 01:09:53,859
But because what could
be spreading about

1357
01:09:53,859 --> 01:09:56,800
Auschwitz-Birkenau, you see?

1358
01:09:56,800 --> 01:09:57,820
Gassing and all of that.

1359
01:09:57,820 --> 01:10:00,620
And people succeeded
and all that.

1360
01:10:00,620 --> 01:10:02,625
So then we were
rounded up, and we

1361
01:10:02,625 --> 01:10:05,200
had to stand in the middle
of the winter, just ice cold.

1362
01:10:05,200 --> 01:10:07,370
I had this pneumonia
and all this and that.

1363
01:10:07,370 --> 01:10:09,910
And then our hair
was cut as a penalty.

1364
01:10:09,910 --> 01:10:11,830
And all the privilege,
we had no longer--

1365
01:10:11,830 --> 01:10:12,340
were gone.

1366
01:10:12,340 --> 01:10:14,960

1367
01:10:14,960 --> 01:10:20,050
And so that's when
the hard times began.

1368
01:10:20,050 --> 01:10:22,660

That was in 1943--

1369
01:10:22,660 --> 01:10:27,190
1942, or '43 actually,
yeah, winter.

1370
01:10:27,190 --> 01:10:29,230
It's still January,
something like that.

1371
01:10:29,230 --> 01:10:32,920
Of course, in other
things, time was only--

1372
01:10:32,920 --> 01:10:35,410
you only knew time
because of the seasons.

1373
01:10:35,410 --> 01:10:37,510
Because the days
you didn't know.

1374
01:10:37,510 --> 01:10:38,740
You had absolutely no time--

1375
01:10:38,740 --> 01:10:42,070

1376
01:10:42,070 --> 01:10:44,290
feeling for time,
because there was no way

1377
01:10:44,290 --> 01:10:46,180
you could measure it.

1378
01:10:46,180 --> 01:10:48,940
All right, so--

1379
01:10:48,940 --> 01:10:50,357
So the hair removal
was punishment

1380

01:10:50,357 --> 01:10:51,357
because someone escaped.

1381
01:10:51,357 --> 01:10:53,170
Was the beginning, that's right.

1382
01:10:53,170 --> 01:10:55,300
And was there other
punishment for that escape?

1383
01:10:55,300 --> 01:10:59,830
Well, I mean, yeah, some
of it became much tougher,

1384
01:10:59,830 --> 01:11:02,380
in general speaking, of course.

1385
01:11:02,380 --> 01:11:05,230
It may have also changed
without it for what I know.

1386
01:11:05,230 --> 01:11:10,150
But and then they brought in
Polish people, Polish inmates,

1387
01:11:10,150 --> 01:11:13,690
who were searching the
whole camp in a most

1388
01:11:13,690 --> 01:11:14,470
ruthless fashion.

1389
01:11:14,470 --> 01:11:18,190

1390
01:11:18,190 --> 01:11:20,470
Were you still allowed
to live as a family?

1391
01:11:20,470 --> 01:11:23,530
Well, we never-- you
see, it was a family camp

1392
01:11:23,530 --> 01:11:28,270
not because people lived
as a family in one barrack.

1393
01:11:28,270 --> 01:11:31,270
Female barracks
and male barracks.

1394
01:11:31,270 --> 01:11:34,540
And so the only time
we could see each other

1395
01:11:34,540 --> 01:11:41,800
was during the day,
on the main camp road.

1396
01:11:41,800 --> 01:11:43,987
Or we just could get
close to the barrack.

1397
01:11:43,987 --> 01:11:45,070
And that's what I've done.

1398
01:11:45,070 --> 01:11:47,080
I've looked into that--

1399
01:11:47,080 --> 01:11:48,860
looking for a friend of mine.

1400
01:11:48,860 --> 01:11:52,520
And I was with my mother,
as a matter of fact.

1401
01:11:52,520 --> 01:11:55,390
And I looked into a barrack,
just one you peep through,

1402
01:11:55,390 --> 01:11:56,650
if I could see some--

1403
01:11:56,650 --> 01:12:02,260
and an SS man saw me, an

older SS man, small fellow.

1404

01:12:02,260 --> 01:12:04,736

And he just took me and--

1405

01:12:04,736 --> 01:12:07,652

1406

01:12:07,652 --> 01:12:14,470

and-- slapped my
face several times,

1407

01:12:14,470 --> 01:12:15,940

in a way which was no big deal.

1408

01:12:15,940 --> 01:12:19,150

But it was terrible for
me by virtue of the fact

1409

01:12:19,150 --> 01:12:23,230

that my mother was seeing it,
and she was terribly upset

1410

01:12:23,230 --> 01:12:27,650

about that because he
slapped my face and all that.

1411

01:12:27,650 --> 01:12:29,200

And I could have
gotten into trouble.

1412

01:12:29,200 --> 01:12:30,100

I didn't see him.

1413

01:12:30,100 --> 01:12:31,600

I was not alert,
then, obviously.

1414

01:12:31,600 --> 01:12:33,880

I didn't see him.

1415

01:12:33,880 --> 01:12:35,440

But that was all.

1416
01:12:35,440 --> 01:12:37,990
So that was relatively--

1417
01:12:37,990 --> 01:12:42,490
And then, in contrast, you had
some SS person who stopped me

1418
01:12:42,490 --> 01:12:45,430
when I was with a senior.

1419
01:12:45,430 --> 01:12:48,250
As a matter of fact, the
camp senior was not a Jew.

1420
01:12:48,250 --> 01:12:56,956
He was a German professional--
professional criminal and--

1421
01:12:56,956 --> 01:13:00,400
a professional,
what you call a--

1422
01:13:00,400 --> 01:13:02,770
professional--
habitual criminal.

1423
01:13:02,770 --> 01:13:05,330
And he was there
because of that.

1424
01:13:05,330 --> 01:13:11,540
But he was senior and was a
nice guy, nice guy in terms of--

1425
01:13:11,540 --> 01:13:15,590
and he defended himself,
at that particular time,

1426
01:13:15,590 --> 01:13:18,560
against some SS
people who were there.

1427
01:13:18,560 --> 01:13:22,454
And he said, you can't
do that to me, I'm--

1428
01:13:22,454 --> 01:13:23,127
I'm an Aryan.

1429
01:13:23,127 --> 01:13:25,210
You just can't talk to me
like that, I'm an Aryan.

1430
01:13:25,210 --> 01:13:26,990
And I was terribly impressed.

1431
01:13:26,990 --> 01:13:30,040
And I was watching
nearby, listening to it.

1432
01:13:30,040 --> 01:13:32,915
And there was an SS man,
and said, hey, come here.

1433
01:13:32,915 --> 01:13:35,240
I said, my God,
now I've gotten--

1434
01:13:35,240 --> 01:13:37,410
I'm in trouble.

1435
01:13:37,410 --> 01:13:38,720
Well, you couldn't, you know?

1436
01:13:38,720 --> 01:13:41,182
He just came in and
said, are you hungry?

1437
01:13:41,182 --> 01:13:42,390
I said, what are you kidding?

1438
01:13:42,390 --> 01:13:43,098
Of course we are.

1439
01:13:43,098 --> 01:13:44,960
We're starving to death.

1440
01:13:44,960 --> 01:13:45,920
Come with me.

1441
01:13:45,920 --> 01:13:47,570
I said, OK, come with you.

1442
01:13:47,570 --> 01:13:49,190
Nice, nice kind of thing.

1443
01:13:49,190 --> 01:13:50,810
I'm looking at the
soldier, my God,

1444
01:13:50,810 --> 01:13:54,200
that's the beginning
of-- that's the end.

1445
01:13:54,200 --> 01:13:55,730
Well, so I just came with him.

1446
01:13:55,730 --> 01:13:57,540
And he just went into
the kitchen and said,

1447
01:13:57,540 --> 01:14:01,650
hey, I mean, I want him to
get some special rations.

1448
01:14:01,650 --> 01:14:04,890
These sort of things
happened also.

1449
01:14:04,890 --> 01:14:07,430
And yeah, they gave
me some special--

1450
01:14:07,430 --> 01:14:08,400
Acts of kindness.

1451
01:14:08,400 --> 01:14:11,550
Act of kindness, because the
man saw the errors of the way.

1452
01:14:11,550 --> 01:14:15,950
And he was in it to play
the game by the rules.

1453
01:14:15,950 --> 01:14:17,540
Couldn't get out.

1454
01:14:17,540 --> 01:14:19,820
And yet, tried to do
things, whatever he could,

1455
01:14:19,820 --> 01:14:20,870
in order to ease things.

1456
01:14:20,870 --> 01:14:23,540
And that is something which
also needs to be mentioned,

1457
01:14:23,540 --> 01:14:26,270
because it existed.

1458
01:14:26,270 --> 01:14:30,940
And more should be
written about it.

1459
01:14:30,940 --> 01:14:32,330
I haven't read anything.

1460
01:14:32,330 --> 01:14:36,090
Were certain guards known
for being kind if they could?

1461
01:14:36,090 --> 01:14:38,240
No, because, you see,
if they were known,

1462
01:14:38,240 --> 01:14:39,650

they were in trouble.

1463
01:14:39,650 --> 01:14:42,450
Couldn't do it.

1464
01:14:42,450 --> 01:14:44,720
And I talked to some
people who were--

1465
01:14:44,720 --> 01:14:48,800
who were at Auschwitz-Birkenau
whom I did not know personally

1466
01:14:48,800 --> 01:14:51,710
in the camp, but after when
we were in prison life--

1467
01:14:51,710 --> 01:14:52,340
in prison.

1468
01:14:52,340 --> 01:14:56,300

1469
01:14:56,300 --> 01:14:58,130
So we talked about that--

1470
01:14:58,130 --> 01:15:00,620
very meaningful, all on tape.

1471
01:15:00,620 --> 01:15:01,820
I have it all on tape.

1472
01:15:01,820 --> 01:15:04,100
And we talked about
this sort of thing.

1473
01:15:04,100 --> 01:15:06,860
And they explained to
me, you just couldn't.

1474
01:15:06,860 --> 01:15:08,718
You had to do it on the sly.

1475
01:15:08,718 --> 01:15:10,010
You just simply couldn't do it.

1476
01:15:10,010 --> 01:15:11,750
Because if you
had the reputation

1477
01:15:11,750 --> 01:15:15,230
or if you were
caught, you were in--

1478
01:15:15,230 --> 01:15:19,340
and said, well, we could
have exchanged our uniform

1479
01:15:19,340 --> 01:15:20,960
with a striped uniform.

1480
01:15:20,960 --> 01:15:22,970
So they, too, were--
and that is something

1481
01:15:22,970 --> 01:15:24,140
which people don't realize.

1482
01:15:24,140 --> 01:15:26,150
Because you have to know that--

1483
01:15:26,150 --> 01:15:28,790
most survivors don't understand
the rules of the game

1484
01:15:28,790 --> 01:15:31,370
because they don't
understand the organization

1485
01:15:31,370 --> 01:15:35,990
of the Nazi structures.

1486
01:15:35,990 --> 01:15:39,380
And I made it my business

to learn about it

1487
01:15:39,380 --> 01:15:42,450
from the people who are in it.

1488
01:15:42,450 --> 01:15:43,370
Yes.

1489
01:15:43,370 --> 01:15:45,650
In addition to all the
documentation which I read.

1490
01:15:45,650 --> 01:15:47,090
But that's incomplete.

1491
01:15:47,090 --> 01:15:48,680
You really have
to talk to people

1492
01:15:48,680 --> 01:15:51,320
to get a more fuller picture.

1493
01:15:51,320 --> 01:15:56,180
And that's why Hannah Arendt
is to be commended for coming,

1494
01:15:56,180 --> 01:15:57,590
that Eichmann is in all.

1495
01:15:57,590 --> 01:16:00,440
She didn't go into the
final sort of situation

1496
01:16:00,440 --> 01:16:02,390
as she could have
gone, as far as--

1497
01:16:02,390 --> 01:16:05,390
but she recognized that
we all have Eichmanns

1498
01:16:05,390 --> 01:16:06,830

under certain circumstances.

1499

01:16:06,830 --> 01:16:08,630

We all have Eichmanns in us.

1500

01:16:08,630 --> 01:16:11,490

And she's absolutely

100% correct.

1501

01:16:11,490 --> 01:16:14,150

I have expressed it in some

of my writings differently.

1502

01:16:14,150 --> 01:16:16,820

I say we all are sleepers.

1503

01:16:16,820 --> 01:16:18,755

And that means that we

have the good in us,

1504

01:16:18,755 --> 01:16:20,420

as well as the bad in us.

1505

01:16:20,420 --> 01:16:22,790

We are capable of--

depending on the situations.

1506

01:16:22,790 --> 01:16:25,430

Those situations trigger

certain responses

1507

01:16:25,430 --> 01:16:27,830

which may be totally

out of character.

1508

01:16:27,830 --> 01:16:29,510

Yes.

1509

01:16:29,510 --> 01:16:32,420

And that we all are

capable of certain things.

1510

01:16:32,420 --> 01:16:36,230
And that's what we've seen,
how some kapos, Jewish kapos,

1511
01:16:36,230 --> 01:16:41,600
or people who were
the stooges did

1512
01:16:41,600 --> 01:16:44,750
things which other people
never would have done.

1513
01:16:44,750 --> 01:16:47,690
And I pride myself that I've
never been in that position

1514
01:16:47,690 --> 01:16:49,700
where I would have done
anything of that nature,

1515
01:16:49,700 --> 01:16:53,450
because I would have not done
it as a matter of principle

1516
01:16:53,450 --> 01:16:55,310
and a matter of morality.

1517
01:16:55,310 --> 01:16:58,220
In spite of the stress
and the pressure I was in,

1518
01:16:58,220 --> 01:17:01,850
I never would have assumed
the kapo situation.

1519
01:17:01,850 --> 01:17:06,740
And there are kids of my
age who were in charge of--

1520
01:17:06,740 --> 01:17:13,010
of barracks, and they're
a few years older than I.

1521

01:17:13,010 --> 01:17:16,610
And they didn't shy away
from kicking and mishandling

1522
01:17:16,610 --> 01:17:22,650
their father, if need be,
in order to assert them.

1523
01:17:22,650 --> 01:17:25,430
And I remember
that very vividly.

1524
01:17:25,430 --> 01:17:28,970
One of these people was a
young kid, had a father,

1525
01:17:28,970 --> 01:17:30,410
and he just--

1526
01:17:30,410 --> 01:17:34,640
he physically abused
him and called him names

1527
01:17:34,640 --> 01:17:37,310
and behaved towards him in a
way which was unbelievable.

1528
01:17:37,310 --> 01:17:38,580
It was very cruel.

1529
01:17:38,580 --> 01:17:43,430
He was just a very cruel,
miserable sort of person.

1530
01:17:43,430 --> 01:17:46,730
But, I mean, so some people--
they found plenty of people

1531
01:17:46,730 --> 01:17:48,620
to do the dirty work
which they needed,

1532
01:17:48,620 --> 01:17:50,960

because that saved them a
great deal of personnel.

1533
01:17:50,960 --> 01:17:55,520
And that whole structure was
dependent on that collaboration

1534
01:17:55,520 --> 01:17:57,740
of people who were--

1535
01:17:57,740 --> 01:17:59,060
collaboration of victims.

1536
01:17:59,060 --> 01:18:06,500
So are you saying that the role
that the person is cast into

1537
01:18:06,500 --> 01:18:10,970
will draw on either
the good or the evil,

1538
01:18:10,970 --> 01:18:12,620
depending on what
the role demands?

1539
01:18:12,620 --> 01:18:17,090
Well, the role, how do you
get into the role, you see?

1540
01:18:17,090 --> 01:18:22,660
You get into the role either
because you volunteer,

1541
01:18:22,660 --> 01:18:24,950
and then you have to
have some sort of idea

1542
01:18:24,950 --> 01:18:27,650
in terms of the
rule of the game.

1543
01:18:27,650 --> 01:18:29,150
But forced into the

role, let's say.

1544
01:18:29,150 --> 01:18:30,110
Huh?

1545
01:18:30,110 --> 01:18:31,902
Cast into the role or
forced into the role.

1546
01:18:31,902 --> 01:18:34,340
Well, if you're
cast in the role,

1547
01:18:34,340 --> 01:18:37,310
you can't be cast in
the role of a kapo

1548
01:18:37,310 --> 01:18:42,980
if you don't want it, because
there was always a way to say

1549
01:18:42,980 --> 01:18:50,340
no without any sort of penalty.

1550
01:18:50,340 --> 01:18:52,830
So you volunteered.

1551
01:18:52,830 --> 01:18:57,108
You assumed the role because--

1552
01:18:57,108 --> 01:19:01,470
because you wanted it, and
you were given that role.

1553
01:19:01,470 --> 01:19:05,280
We were cast into the role
of inferiors and subhumans.

1554
01:19:05,280 --> 01:19:07,860
There you were cast, because
we couldn't defend ourselves.

1555

01:19:07,860 --> 01:19:08,540
That, yes.

1556
01:19:08,540 --> 01:19:11,190

1557
01:19:11,190 --> 01:19:17,070
But in terms of the
responsibilities

1558
01:19:17,070 --> 01:19:18,570
which some people roles--

1559
01:19:18,570 --> 01:19:24,510
which some people assumed by
way of volunteering for it

1560
01:19:24,510 --> 01:19:25,950
is a very different thing.

1561
01:19:25,950 --> 01:19:27,550
Because that was their decision.

1562
01:19:27,550 --> 01:19:28,980
That's what they wanted.

1563
01:19:28,980 --> 01:19:31,500
Because they felt
that, in that role,

1564
01:19:31,500 --> 01:19:33,180
they had a better
chance to survive,

1565
01:19:33,180 --> 01:19:35,850
and they would ease
their predicament.

1566
01:19:35,850 --> 01:19:42,772
Which they did in most cases, at
the expense of fellow inmates.

1567

01:19:42,772 --> 01:19:44,730

So you could refuse, as
you say, to be a kapo--

1568

01:19:44,730 --> 01:19:45,720

Oh, yeah, you could refuse.

1569

01:19:45,720 --> 01:19:46,530

Yeah, you could refuse.

1570

01:19:46,530 --> 01:19:46,680

--without punishment.

1571

01:19:46,680 --> 01:19:47,260

Oh, yeah.

1572

01:19:47,260 --> 01:19:49,770

You could refuse, or you
just could escape it.

1573

01:19:49,770 --> 01:19:52,000

You could avoid it and all that.

1574

01:19:52,000 --> 01:19:55,110

But most people wanted
to have these jobs.

1575

01:19:55,110 --> 01:19:56,970

And therefore, they
did all they could in

1576

01:19:56,970 --> 01:19:58,800

order to endear
themselves, in order

1577

01:19:58,800 --> 01:20:00,510

to-- when there
was a competition

1578

01:20:00,510 --> 01:20:03,390

or when someone say, who's going
to, they say, I will do that.

1579

01:20:03,390 --> 01:20:04,560

They volunteer.

1580

01:20:04,560 --> 01:20:06,210

And then among those
who volunteered,

1581

01:20:06,210 --> 01:20:09,450

then they selected those
people who suited them best.

1582

01:20:09,450 --> 01:20:19,050

Doesn't mean that you
were in a situation

1583

01:20:19,050 --> 01:20:23,280

where you automatically
received that job.

1584

01:20:23,280 --> 01:20:26,250

But you had to be OK'd by
those who had the power

1585

01:20:26,250 --> 01:20:29,230

to give you these roles.

1586

01:20:29,230 --> 01:20:34,410

So the assumption of that role
was predicated on the basis

1587

01:20:34,410 --> 01:20:38,130

that they felt that
you were qualified.

1588

01:20:38,130 --> 01:20:39,330

And then they watched you.

1589

01:20:39,330 --> 01:20:41,760

And if you didn't do what
they wanted you to do,

1590

01:20:41,760 --> 01:20:45,180

then you were out
and in deep trouble.

1591
01:20:45,180 --> 01:20:47,870

1592
01:20:47,870 --> 01:20:48,370
So--

1593
01:20:48,370 --> 01:20:51,570

1594
01:20:51,570 --> 01:20:54,360
Other things, though, did you--

1595
01:20:54,360 --> 01:20:59,200
were you aware of any increases,
say, in suicide or madness when

1596
01:20:59,200 --> 01:20:59,700
the--

1597
01:20:59,700 --> 01:21:01,110
Well, madness, yes, you see?

1598
01:21:01,110 --> 01:21:04,185
I could see quite a bit of
people who just simply lost it,

1599
01:21:04,185 --> 01:21:07,800
and they became what you call
muselmanners-- muselmanners.

1600
01:21:07,800 --> 01:21:10,600
And so you could see that.

1601
01:21:10,600 --> 01:21:12,240
But the interesting
thing is that I

1602
01:21:12,240 --> 01:21:14,520
didn't see an

increase of suicide

1603
01:21:14,520 --> 01:21:16,830
at all, because
suicide was very rare.

1604
01:21:16,830 --> 01:21:20,400
And that led me
to the conclusion

1605
01:21:20,400 --> 01:21:24,810
that the more your drive
of self-preservation

1606
01:21:24,810 --> 01:21:28,590
is stimulated by
external situations,

1607
01:21:28,590 --> 01:21:31,920
the more you will want to
live rather than die, even

1608
01:21:31,920 --> 01:21:33,840
if the predicament
of such nature

1609
01:21:33,840 --> 01:21:37,300
that you don't even know whether
you'll be still alive tomorrow.

1610
01:21:37,300 --> 01:21:39,420
And that's the amazing thing.

1611
01:21:39,420 --> 01:21:41,820
And that is my conclusion.

1612
01:21:41,820 --> 01:21:43,260
I wrote about that, too.

1613
01:21:43,260 --> 01:21:44,190
I wrote about that.

1614

01:21:44,190 --> 01:21:47,010
I published that, this
particular notion,

1615
01:21:47,010 --> 01:21:51,000
that the harder you're
pressed, the more your

1616
01:21:51,000 --> 01:21:54,690
drive for self-preservation
will prevail.

1617
01:21:54,690 --> 01:21:58,170
And so most of the
suicide I remember

1618
01:21:58,170 --> 01:22:01,980
occurred prior to deportation.

1619
01:22:01,980 --> 01:22:06,960
So I knew plenty of people--
relatives, friends, associates,

1620
01:22:06,960 --> 01:22:08,460
and all that--

1621
01:22:08,460 --> 01:22:12,180
cases I know where
they committed suicide

1622
01:22:12,180 --> 01:22:14,620
prior to deportation.

1623
01:22:14,620 --> 01:22:17,200
Yes.

1624
01:22:17,200 --> 01:22:18,820
In the case of,
as we were saying,

1625
01:22:18,820 --> 01:22:23,020
madness, insanity, was
becoming a muselmann

1626
01:22:23,020 --> 01:22:27,400
the typical route this would
take, rather than, say,

1627
01:22:27,400 --> 01:22:29,410
an hysteria or--

1628
01:22:29,410 --> 01:22:32,270
Well, I mean, you just
simply couldn't cope anymore.

1629
01:22:32,270 --> 01:22:33,130
You couldn't resist.

1630
01:22:33,130 --> 01:22:36,490
You couldn't resist
by way of survival.

1631
01:22:36,490 --> 01:22:39,130
You couldn't survive
if you didn't function,

1632
01:22:39,130 --> 01:22:40,060
if you were not alert.

1633
01:22:40,060 --> 01:22:42,850
Because then you were
killed sooner or later,

1634
01:22:42,850 --> 01:22:49,082
either by a kapo or your
block senior or by an SS.

1635
01:22:49,082 --> 01:22:51,110
I mean, you just couldn't do it.

1636
01:22:51,110 --> 01:22:53,410
And it was a question of,
if someone was a muselmann,

1637
01:22:53,410 --> 01:22:56,170

you just could count
the days of the person.

1638
01:22:56,170 --> 01:22:58,160
And that means that
you physically,

1639
01:22:58,160 --> 01:22:59,900
you still may have been OK.

1640
01:22:59,900 --> 01:23:04,272
But if you mentally could not
function, that was the end.

1641
01:23:04,272 --> 01:23:05,980
Physically or mentally,
that was the end.

1642
01:23:05,980 --> 01:23:07,930
And that was the
muselmann situation.

1643
01:23:07,930 --> 01:23:09,940
You could pretty
much say-- predict

1644
01:23:09,940 --> 01:23:13,720
how long that person would make
it before he would be dead.

1645
01:23:13,720 --> 01:23:15,340
For example, how long?

1646
01:23:15,340 --> 01:23:22,990
Well, a matter of a week
at the most, or sooner.

1647
01:23:22,990 --> 01:23:27,250
Did the situation come
on quickly or gradually?

1648
01:23:27,250 --> 01:23:30,130
Well, it was a

gradual deterioration

1649
01:23:30,130 --> 01:23:32,440
of health or whatever,
emotional thing.

1650
01:23:32,440 --> 01:23:36,700
For example, this friend of
mine, Alexander [? Lipen, ?]

1651
01:23:36,700 --> 01:23:42,280
was a tall fellow, very
gifted intellectual.

1652
01:23:42,280 --> 01:23:46,580
So before he knew that he was
going to, they knew that--

1653
01:23:46,580 --> 01:23:49,540
and I was present in that
situation, in that barrack--

1654
01:23:49,540 --> 01:23:51,430
and said all the people
in certain numbers

1655
01:23:51,430 --> 01:23:53,890
have to assemble and will
be taken out and all that.

1656
01:23:53,890 --> 01:23:56,270
And here you are
looking and all that.

1657
01:23:56,270 --> 01:23:58,455
So these kids, this
one of them, said,

1658
01:23:58,455 --> 01:23:59,830
you know, they
were apprehensive,

1659
01:23:59,830 --> 01:24:02,413

because they knew exactly-- at
that particular point, already,

1660
01:24:02,413 --> 01:24:04,670
they knew what
that-- what it meant.

1661
01:24:04,670 --> 01:24:05,830
And he knew it.

1662
01:24:05,830 --> 01:24:07,750
So he escaped into mathematics.

1663
01:24:07,750 --> 01:24:10,840
And he had a piece of
pencil or something to write

1664
01:24:10,840 --> 01:24:12,520
and a kind of scrap.

1665
01:24:12,520 --> 01:24:20,360
And he started to write down
complex mathematical formulas.

1666
01:24:20,360 --> 01:24:22,215
Still remember
that, still today.

1667
01:24:22,215 --> 01:24:23,125
Just unbelievable.

1668
01:24:23,125 --> 01:24:25,860
It was just unbelievable.

1669
01:24:25,860 --> 01:24:28,430
And that's just-- totally
everything else was in --

1670
01:24:28,430 --> 01:24:31,880
He just escaped into the
world of mathematics.

1671

01:24:31,880 --> 01:24:35,670

1672

01:24:35,670 --> 01:24:39,990

Now, the other
ones were desperate

1673

01:24:39,990 --> 01:24:42,330

and showed their desperation.

1674

01:24:42,330 --> 01:24:46,160

But somehow stood their
ground, if you will,

1675

01:24:46,160 --> 01:24:51,540

or whatever you call it, and
waited for their predicament,

1676

01:24:51,540 --> 01:24:54,240

just their push to whatever--
because there was no escape.

1677

01:24:54,240 --> 01:24:55,822

There was no escape.

1678

01:24:55,822 --> 01:24:56,530

There was no way.

1679

01:24:56,530 --> 01:25:01,740

Except the only
escape, as I said,

1680

01:25:01,740 --> 01:25:05,130

Fredy Hirsch had the means,
because he apparently

1681

01:25:05,130 --> 01:25:08,610

had access to poison.

1682

01:25:08,610 --> 01:25:09,600

We didn't.

1683

01:25:09,600 --> 01:25:12,570
And then, of course, maybe
people would have done it, too.

1684
01:25:12,570 --> 01:25:16,230
But even that somehow not--

1685
01:25:16,230 --> 01:25:19,080
was not necessarily viewed
as a viable alternative,

1686
01:25:19,080 --> 01:25:20,400
because of--

1687
01:25:20,400 --> 01:25:23,460
but it was terrible to
watch all these people.

1688
01:25:23,460 --> 01:25:27,540
And by that time,
when they went,

1689
01:25:27,540 --> 01:25:29,400
I still had this
sort of reluctance

1690
01:25:29,400 --> 01:25:33,970
to accept that, as a reality,
that people were gassed

1691
01:25:33,970 --> 01:25:36,300
en masse and all that.

1692
01:25:36,300 --> 01:25:39,330
And then I remember the
father of this Hans Fischer,

1693
01:25:39,330 --> 01:25:44,015
after they had been put
and he couldn't prevent it

1694
01:25:44,015 --> 01:25:47,460
in spite of the fact that he

was working with Mengele--

1695

01:25:47,460 --> 01:25:50,400

the psychiatrist, he was
working with Mengele-- survived

1696

01:25:50,400 --> 01:25:51,930

of course.

1697

01:25:51,930 --> 01:25:55,335

Was liberated at Auschwitz,
this psychiatrist, Fischer.

1698

01:25:55,335 --> 01:25:58,460

1699

01:25:58,460 --> 01:26:02,130

As a matter of
fact, I saw him in--

1700

01:26:02,130 --> 01:26:04,990

in Prague after--
very shortly after--

1701

01:26:04,990 --> 01:26:12,330

after I came back from Dachau,
in military uniform which

1702

01:26:12,330 --> 01:26:14,700

he was put in or whatever.

1703

01:26:14,700 --> 01:26:17,610

It was kind of a survival tool.

1704

01:26:17,610 --> 01:26:20,180

The Russians made
him an officer, too.

1705

01:26:20,180 --> 01:26:22,380

It was just unbelievable stuff.

1706

01:26:22,380 --> 01:26:25,030

Anyway, so he came
to me and said,

1707
01:26:25,030 --> 01:26:28,350
well, you see,
you're still alive,

1708
01:26:28,350 --> 01:26:30,150
and they gassed my son Hans.

1709
01:26:30,150 --> 01:26:35,060
And Hansy was gassed
and you are still out.

1710
01:26:35,060 --> 01:26:39,680
And so that was the end
of all my illusions.

1711
01:26:39,680 --> 01:26:40,640
How bitter?

1712
01:26:40,640 --> 01:26:43,250
Which I didn't have any,
because at that time, I just--

1713
01:26:43,250 --> 01:26:44,630
I just didn't want to accept it.

1714
01:26:44,630 --> 01:26:47,240
But yeah, so many
people like myself

1715
01:26:47,240 --> 01:26:50,750
who refused to accept the
fact that this existed.

1716
01:26:50,750 --> 01:26:54,240
But you saw the
chimney and everything.

1717
01:26:54,240 --> 01:26:57,050
But in a way, that's
almost helpful, to not be--

1718
01:26:57,050 --> 01:26:58,520
Well, I don't know.

1719
01:26:58,520 --> 01:26:59,690
Well, maybe.

1720
01:26:59,690 --> 01:27:05,480
It's a psychological
mechanism to--

1721
01:27:05,480 --> 01:27:08,240
All right, and so
then the last stage

1722
01:27:08,240 --> 01:27:12,800
was this terrible situation,
which became worse and worse.

1723
01:27:12,800 --> 01:27:16,680
And then the food problems
and the starvation and disease

1724
01:27:16,680 --> 01:27:20,300
and people being
sent to gas chambers.

1725
01:27:20,300 --> 01:27:28,940
And then they came in '44,
again, and the liquidation

1726
01:27:28,940 --> 01:27:33,680
of B2, in a way-- beginning
of the liquidation of B2.

1727
01:27:33,680 --> 01:27:37,760
And so they are looking
for slave laborers.

1728
01:27:37,760 --> 01:27:41,240
And now we're coming
to Blechhammer.

1729

01:27:41,240 --> 01:27:43,490

And so there was an SS.

1730

01:27:43,490 --> 01:27:45,770

I don't know whether
it was Mengele or not,

1731

01:27:45,770 --> 01:27:48,380

because I really don't know.

1732

01:27:48,380 --> 01:27:51,770

But we had to be naked
and run and all that.

1733

01:27:51,770 --> 01:27:53,990

And on that basis,
we knew that we

1734

01:27:53,990 --> 01:28:00,090

would be either selected or not
selected, which meant death.

1735

01:28:00,090 --> 01:28:04,460

And so I was saying,
which was true,

1736

01:28:04,460 --> 01:28:07,280

that I was an
electrician and all that.

1737

01:28:07,280 --> 01:28:09,830

And they looked for
certain occupations.

1738

01:28:09,830 --> 01:28:12,590

And I had this type.

1739

01:28:12,590 --> 01:28:15,590

And my father, too, said
something which apparently

1740

01:28:15,590 --> 01:28:16,790

was needed or whatever.

1741
01:28:16,790 --> 01:28:18,680
And of course, you
lied and adjusted

1742
01:28:18,680 --> 01:28:20,600
to whatever they said that.

1743
01:28:20,600 --> 01:28:23,480
Well, so we had to
run, my father and I,

1744
01:28:23,480 --> 01:28:25,160
naked in front of the guy.

1745
01:28:25,160 --> 01:28:28,524
And we were selected,
yes, to go and all that.

1746
01:28:28,524 --> 01:28:30,566
You were together when
you went to the selection?

1747
01:28:30,566 --> 01:28:31,280
Yeah.

1748
01:28:31,280 --> 01:28:35,540
And so we were moved
to-- to the A camp.

1749
01:28:35,540 --> 01:28:38,090
Did you worry that you
might not be, because

1750
01:28:38,090 --> 01:28:39,320
of your physical condition?

1751
01:28:39,320 --> 01:28:40,350
Oh, yeah, absolutely.

1752
01:28:40,350 --> 01:28:41,870

And so therefore, you just--

1753
01:28:41,870 --> 01:28:42,650
absolutely.

1754
01:28:42,650 --> 01:28:44,900
So you just really--

1755
01:28:44,900 --> 01:28:46,400
which was kind of
X-ray, you know?

1756
01:28:46,400 --> 01:28:48,890
X-ray, trying to be athletic.

1757
01:28:48,890 --> 01:28:53,390
An X-ray, walking X-ray,
running X-ray, being athletic.

1758
01:28:53,390 --> 01:28:57,035
And I mean, it's
absolutely ridiculous.

1759
01:28:57,035 --> 01:28:58,160
And your father had to run.

1760
01:28:58,160 --> 01:29:00,080
Oh, my father--
my father was-- we

1761
01:29:00,080 --> 01:29:04,010
were, of course-- but my
father was in very good shape.

1762
01:29:04,010 --> 01:29:07,790
So relatively speaking,
we were viewed

1763
01:29:07,790 --> 01:29:12,260
as still capable of work.

1764
01:29:12,260 --> 01:29:15,830

And so then we were rounded
up and put into the A camp.

1765
01:29:15,830 --> 01:29:18,770
And that was the last
time I saw my mother.

1766
01:29:18,770 --> 01:29:22,070
And through that fence, A camp--

1767
01:29:22,070 --> 01:29:24,530
where the A camp
and B camp, which

1768
01:29:24,530 --> 01:29:29,150
the one-- which this block,
whatever he was, earlier,

1769
01:29:29,150 --> 01:29:31,350
just dug his way through.

1770
01:29:31,350 --> 01:29:35,060
So that's just about
where I saw my mother.

1771
01:29:35,060 --> 01:29:37,460
And we still talked
over the fence.

1772
01:29:37,460 --> 01:29:40,940
And there came a Jewish
kapo, who was not only a Jew,

1773
01:29:40,940 --> 01:29:43,430
but also had a black
triangle, which

1774
01:29:43,430 --> 01:29:45,130
means he was a
saboteur of some--

1775
01:29:45,130 --> 01:29:48,780
or was some other sort

of thing, was sent there.

1776

01:29:48,780 --> 01:29:50,970

And so he saw that.

1777

01:29:50,970 --> 01:29:53,570

And he just really

let me have it.

1778

01:29:53,570 --> 01:29:55,400

Just slapped my

face [INAUDIBLE]..

1779

01:29:55,400 --> 01:29:57,320

And then I didn't take much.

1780

01:29:57,320 --> 01:30:01,020

Then I fell on the ground, just

again, in front of my mother.

1781

01:30:01,020 --> 01:30:02,510

And so it's not what hurt me.

1782

01:30:02,510 --> 01:30:03,660

But it was just terrible.

1783

01:30:03,660 --> 01:30:06,070

And she was just-- it

was awful, while we

1784

01:30:06,070 --> 01:30:09,270

were talking and saying

goodbye to each other.

1785

01:30:09,270 --> 01:30:11,750

And so that was terrible.

1786

01:30:11,750 --> 01:30:14,870

And I just really could

have killed the man.

1787

01:30:14,870 --> 01:30:16,670

Not because of what
he had done to me

1788
01:30:16,670 --> 01:30:19,200
so much, because there was
no justification for that.

1789
01:30:19,200 --> 01:30:24,472
But he was just a real sadist
and a miserable creature.

1790
01:30:24,472 --> 01:30:26,930
But how it must have pained
your mother to see this happen.

1791
01:30:26,930 --> 01:30:27,472
That's right.

1792
01:30:27,472 --> 01:30:30,890
And that is something
which really upset me most.

1793
01:30:30,890 --> 01:30:32,510
That really upset me most.

1794
01:30:32,510 --> 01:30:35,840
You know, I remember you
once alluding to the fact

1795
01:30:35,840 --> 01:30:40,280
that you thought your mother
had some kind of connections

1796
01:30:40,280 --> 01:30:43,751
to which, if she had
struggled, she might have--

1797
01:30:43,751 --> 01:30:46,400
Yeah.

1798
01:30:46,400 --> 01:30:55,910
Well, after the war, I
stayed with the survivors--

1799

01:30:55,910 --> 01:31:01,710
with survivors of this Dr.
Otto Heller Dr. Otto Heller

1800

01:31:01,710 --> 01:31:05,690
was a pediatrician
in Prague, who

1801

01:31:05,690 --> 01:31:10,940
kind of was a deputy to my
more permanent physician, who

1802

01:31:10,940 --> 01:31:13,190
happened to be a distant
relative and a professor,

1803

01:31:13,190 --> 01:31:16,550
university professor
of pediatrics.

1804

01:31:16,550 --> 01:31:18,920
Well-known, famous individual.

1805

01:31:18,920 --> 01:31:21,140
Was very fond of my mother.

1806

01:31:21,140 --> 01:31:24,710
And they had World War
I experience together

1807

01:31:24,710 --> 01:31:27,320
or something, I don't know
what, in terms of the war.

1808

01:31:27,320 --> 01:31:30,740
And he was a physician,
my mother was a nurse,

1809

01:31:30,740 --> 01:31:33,860
during World War I.

1810

01:31:33,860 --> 01:31:37,650
And so they had a-- apart from
these sort of relative ties,

1811
01:31:37,650 --> 01:31:39,150
and they're very
fond of each other.

1812
01:31:39,150 --> 01:31:44,690
And he was my physician who came
to the house, house physician

1813
01:31:44,690 --> 01:31:45,650
and all that.

1814
01:31:45,650 --> 01:31:49,940
When he was unable to because
he was some sort vacation or not

1815
01:31:49,940 --> 01:31:52,250
in Prague or--

1816
01:31:52,250 --> 01:31:55,850
then he had a deputy, and
it was Dr. Otto Heller

1817
01:31:55,850 --> 01:31:57,510
who was a pediatrician.

1818
01:31:57,510 --> 01:32:02,600
And Dr. Otto Heller became the
right-hand man of Mengele, too.

1819
01:32:02,600 --> 01:32:06,560
And so he was able, because
of the influence he had.

1820
01:32:06,560 --> 01:32:09,320
And that is a very
interesting sort of thing,

1821
01:32:09,320 --> 01:32:15,560
because he had enough

influence with Mengele

1822
01:32:15,560 --> 01:32:21,890
to save his wife,
his daughter, and he

1823
01:32:21,890 --> 01:32:26,870
got killed by a stray bullet
during the time of liberation.

1824
01:32:26,870 --> 01:32:29,270
Otherwise, he also
would have survived,

1825
01:32:29,270 --> 01:32:32,560
because Mengele protected
him, the whole family.

1826
01:32:32,560 --> 01:32:35,390

1827
01:32:35,390 --> 01:32:39,880
So when I stayed with them,
we shared the apartment

1828
01:32:39,880 --> 01:32:55,233
with his widow and daughter,
Helen, she told me if--

1829
01:32:55,233 --> 01:32:56,900
and they are formed--
they are friends--

1830
01:32:56,900 --> 01:33:00,600
they were friends from Prague.

1831
01:33:00,600 --> 01:33:02,880
If your mother-- that is Ilsa--

1832
01:33:02,880 --> 01:33:10,182
if Ilsa would have come to see
me or Otto, we could have--

1833

01:33:10,182 --> 01:33:18,760

we could have helped
her and saved her.

1834

01:33:18,760 --> 01:33:23,645

And why didn't she do it?

1835

01:33:23,645 --> 01:33:30,340

And I don't know why
she didn't do it.

1836

01:33:30,340 --> 01:33:33,090

And the only thing
is, what I remember,

1837

01:33:33,090 --> 01:33:34,330

that was the last time.

1838

01:33:34,330 --> 01:33:36,600

And of course, we
always had hope.

1839

01:33:36,600 --> 01:33:39,570

But the chances are, all the
people who were left behind

1840

01:33:39,570 --> 01:33:40,260

were all gassed.

1841

01:33:40,260 --> 01:33:44,610

And just recently, we read again
some things from the documents

1842

01:33:44,610 --> 01:33:45,540

and said--

1843

01:33:45,540 --> 01:33:51,930

from Hoss, what Rudolf Hoss
said in his reports, whatever,

1844

01:33:51,930 --> 01:33:56,070

that in '44, the

people were just--

1845
01:33:56,070 --> 01:34:01,950
about 500,000-- some
up to 500,000 people

1846
01:34:01,950 --> 01:34:04,060
were gassed in '44.

1847
01:34:04,060 --> 01:34:06,640
And she was one of them.

1848
01:34:06,640 --> 01:34:09,750
And that was a terrible thing.

1849
01:34:09,750 --> 01:34:13,770
But because Otto Heller
for all practical purposes,

1850
01:34:13,770 --> 01:34:14,700
saved my life.

1851
01:34:14,700 --> 01:34:18,690
Because they gave me-- when
I had pneumonia or jaundice

1852
01:34:18,690 --> 01:34:22,680
and all that, they saved my life
by giving me the information

1853
01:34:22,680 --> 01:34:29,190
to get out and giving me some
sort of injections and things,

1854
01:34:29,190 --> 01:34:30,480
which were just--

1855
01:34:30,480 --> 01:34:32,140
no one really was--

1856
01:34:32,140 --> 01:34:34,740
So I got the attention

of physicians,

1857

01:34:34,740 --> 01:34:35,760

whatever they could do.

1858

01:34:35,760 --> 01:34:38,040

It was nothing, virtually.

1859

01:34:38,040 --> 01:34:41,670

But they gave me something
to just stimulate my heart,

1860

01:34:41,670 --> 01:34:42,480

whatever.

1861

01:34:42,480 --> 01:34:45,420

Otherwise, I would have kicked
the bucket then and there.

1862

01:34:45,420 --> 01:34:47,980

And so, yes, they could
have done a great deal.

1863

01:34:47,980 --> 01:34:49,050

No question about that.

1864

01:34:49,050 --> 01:34:50,940

Because they've done it for me.

1865

01:34:50,940 --> 01:34:53,760

Because I made it known
that I was in trouble.

1866

01:34:53,760 --> 01:34:57,870

1867

01:34:57,870 --> 01:34:59,610

And my mother, for
some reason or other,

1868

01:34:59,610 --> 01:35:03,510

didn't take advantage

of that situation.

1869
01:35:03,510 --> 01:35:04,920
I don't know.

1870
01:35:04,920 --> 01:35:06,360
I just don't know.

1871
01:35:06,360 --> 01:35:07,860
And she was very confident.

1872
01:35:07,860 --> 01:35:09,660
When we talked over
the fence about,

1873
01:35:09,660 --> 01:35:13,110
we'll see each other
in Prague, and--

1874
01:35:13,110 --> 01:35:17,130
very confident-- very
optimistic, very confident,

1875
01:35:17,130 --> 01:35:19,660
and very reassuring
and all that.

1876
01:35:19,660 --> 01:35:23,610
And I felt that her
premonitions or whatever,

1877
01:35:23,610 --> 01:35:27,300
her feelings about the
whole thing, she was very--

1878
01:35:27,300 --> 01:35:30,060
kind of had these sort of
special gifts in a way.

1879
01:35:30,060 --> 01:35:34,920
And always highly intellectual
and a terrific human being.

1880

01:35:34,920 --> 01:35:37,470

Not only that she was my
mother, but I was very--

1881

01:35:37,470 --> 01:35:40,365

I was very lucky that I had a
person like her as a mother.

1882

01:35:40,365 --> 01:35:44,700

It just was a privilege, a
tremendous stroke of luck.

1883

01:35:44,700 --> 01:35:53,370

And personally,
I don't know what

1884

01:35:53,370 --> 01:35:56,130

would have become of me
without her influence.

1885

01:35:56,130 --> 01:36:03,110

1886

01:36:03,110 --> 01:36:04,680

So you [INAUDIBLE]?

1887

01:36:04,680 --> 01:36:05,930

I really felt--

1888

01:36:05,930 --> 01:36:10,430

I really felt that her notions--

1889

01:36:10,430 --> 01:36:12,680

that she had some sort of good--

1890

01:36:12,680 --> 01:36:15,720

and she didn't.

1891

01:36:15,720 --> 01:36:16,220

She didn't.

1892

01:36:16,220 --> 01:36:21,770
And that's how I found out
that she didn't take advantage

1893
01:36:21,770 --> 01:36:23,730
of what she could have done.

1894
01:36:23,730 --> 01:36:27,020
And then came to
that end as she is.

1895
01:36:27,020 --> 01:36:29,275
And there's no question
about that fact,

1896
01:36:29,275 --> 01:36:30,650
because she was
healthy, you see?

1897
01:36:30,650 --> 01:36:32,090
The funny thing, she was--

1898
01:36:32,090 --> 01:36:33,920
she was usually--
she looked kind

1899
01:36:33,920 --> 01:36:37,250
of sickly because of
psychosomatic problems

1900
01:36:37,250 --> 01:36:38,960
with my father and all that.

1901
01:36:38,960 --> 01:36:39,530
You do that.

1902
01:36:39,530 --> 01:36:41,630
She always had some
problems-- the kidney,

1903
01:36:41,630 --> 01:36:44,090
this or that or
nerves or whatever.

1904
01:36:44,090 --> 01:36:47,720
And so she went to get cured
some place, some sanatorium

1905
01:36:47,720 --> 01:36:49,410
place, this and that.

1906
01:36:49,410 --> 01:36:53,135
And was kind of
on the frail side.

1907
01:36:53,135 --> 01:36:56,390
Ha, ha, and at
Auschwitz-Birkenau, she

1908
01:36:56,390 --> 01:37:00,350
was just as sturdy, as tough as
anyone and just unbelievable.

1909
01:37:00,350 --> 01:37:07,350
Just tough as anything and in
better shape than all of us.

1910
01:37:07,350 --> 01:37:10,030
Why do you think that happened?

1911
01:37:10,030 --> 01:37:11,600
That just beats me.

1912
01:37:11,600 --> 01:37:13,250
It just absolutely beats me.

1913
01:37:13,250 --> 01:37:15,290
It just absolutely--
unbelievable.

1914
01:37:15,290 --> 01:37:18,650
She was in better
shape than any of us.

1915
01:37:18,650 --> 01:37:19,760

Small woman, you know?

1916
01:37:19,760 --> 01:37:26,390
Very small and
slender and very nice,

1917
01:37:26,390 --> 01:37:31,010
strong, little body,
but firm and all.

1918
01:37:31,010 --> 01:37:34,500
She used to tell me, when she
was naked with other women,

1919
01:37:34,500 --> 01:37:37,160
and say, oh, these
terrible people, you know,

1920
01:37:37,160 --> 01:37:41,920
they're just bag-like
things and all that.

1921
01:37:41,920 --> 01:37:45,380
And they said she was
kind of beautiful figure

1922
01:37:45,380 --> 01:37:47,640
still, in spite of the age.

1923
01:37:47,640 --> 01:37:49,775
She was in her late 40's.

1924
01:37:49,775 --> 01:37:55,830

1925
01:37:55,830 --> 01:38:00,510
All right, so then very
shortly afterwards,

1926
01:38:00,510 --> 01:38:08,520
then we were put
into open trucks, SS,

1927

01:38:08,520 --> 01:38:11,740
and driven to Blechhammer.

1928

01:38:11,740 --> 01:38:13,240
How long did that
take to get there?

1929

01:38:13,240 --> 01:38:16,260
It was just a few
hours, two hours maybe.

1930

01:38:16,260 --> 01:38:18,900
Just a relatively short time,
because you're not talking

1931

01:38:18,900 --> 01:38:20,860
about not too far a distance.

1932

01:38:20,860 --> 01:38:22,560
Were you with your father?

1933

01:38:22,560 --> 01:38:25,740
No, no, no, separate.

1934

01:38:25,740 --> 01:38:30,700
And yeah, because you're talking
quite a number of people.

1935

01:38:30,700 --> 01:38:38,610
And so then the reception
in Blechhammer was that--

1936

01:38:38,610 --> 01:38:41,970
the few things which I've
had, which I was able to save

1937

01:38:41,970 --> 01:38:42,870
and still had--

1938

01:38:42,870 --> 01:38:45,930
talking about books and things
and all that, the knife,

1939

01:38:45,930 --> 01:38:48,457
and all these sort of things--

1940

01:38:48,457 --> 01:38:50,040
I don't know about
the knife actually.

1941

01:38:50,040 --> 01:38:51,390
I may still have saved it.

1942

01:38:51,390 --> 01:38:52,740
I'm not sure.

1943

01:38:52,740 --> 01:38:55,710
Anyway, so I virtually
lost everything.

1944

01:38:55,710 --> 01:38:57,840
Just nothing very much
I was able to keep,

1945

01:38:57,840 --> 01:39:02,160
because they took everything and
went through the same processes

1946

01:39:02,160 --> 01:39:06,450
and shower, whatever, this
and that, and different thing.

1947

01:39:06,450 --> 01:39:10,320
And then we were
assigned to the barrack.

1948

01:39:10,320 --> 01:39:13,040
And then had to march and were--

1949

01:39:13,040 --> 01:39:14,610
What was the barrack like?

1950

01:39:14,610 --> 01:39:16,800
The barrack, like,

was not very different

1951
01:39:16,800 --> 01:39:22,940
from Auschwitz-Birkenau,
except maybe it

1952
01:39:22,940 --> 01:39:24,370
was slightly more bearable.

1953
01:39:24,370 --> 01:39:26,920

1954
01:39:26,920 --> 01:39:35,270
And so then we had to get
up at 5 o'clock or something

1955
01:39:35,270 --> 01:39:40,100
in the morning, every morning,
and coming back fairly late

1956
01:39:40,100 --> 01:39:43,370
in the evening or afternoon.

1957
01:39:43,370 --> 01:39:45,470
Did you have the appell
and all that, too?

1958
01:39:45,470 --> 01:39:46,030
Oh, yes.

1959
01:39:46,030 --> 01:39:46,750
Yes, yes.

1960
01:39:46,750 --> 01:39:49,730

1961
01:39:49,730 --> 01:39:53,450
And so, but these
was a little bit more

1962
01:39:53,450 --> 01:39:55,940
freedom and more to be had--

1963
01:39:55,940 --> 01:40:01,100
more resources you
could organize in a way.

1964
01:40:01,100 --> 01:40:06,020
And so--

1965
01:40:06,020 --> 01:40:10,640
For example, what
kind of resources?

1966
01:40:10,640 --> 01:40:15,380
A mountain of cabbage
brought in for the SS

1967
01:40:15,380 --> 01:40:17,320
or for the-- for the inmates.

1968
01:40:17,320 --> 01:40:20,000
I don't even know.

1969
01:40:20,000 --> 01:40:23,900
So what I did is just
learned to steal.

1970
01:40:23,900 --> 01:40:26,750
Never stole from fellow
inmates, because that

1971
01:40:26,750 --> 01:40:31,280
was a capital crime.

1972
01:40:31,280 --> 01:40:34,130
I never would have
done it anyway.

1973
01:40:34,130 --> 01:40:36,350
So there was a
mountain of cabbage.

1974
01:40:36,350 --> 01:40:41,000

And so I just-- and I was
very fast and in good shape,

1975
01:40:41,000 --> 01:40:42,480
relatively, and was very fast.

1976
01:40:42,480 --> 01:40:43,460
Unbelievable runner.

1977
01:40:43,460 --> 01:40:48,140
I used to be an unbelievable--
very fast, very good in sports.

1978
01:40:48,140 --> 01:40:52,100
And so that helped, because
I really had a trained body.

1979
01:40:52,100 --> 01:40:58,100
And so I just rushed to
the cab-- took a cabbage,

1980
01:40:58,100 --> 01:41:01,950
put it under my
striped thing, and ran.

1981
01:41:01,950 --> 01:41:03,020
And they after me.

1982
01:41:03,020 --> 01:41:03,690
And they saw it.

1983
01:41:03,690 --> 01:41:05,940
Because I knew they would
see it and all ran after me.

1984
01:41:05,940 --> 01:41:09,440
But I was so fast, and
I ran and knew the camp.

1985
01:41:09,440 --> 01:41:12,795
So then I just went into
my block and then I just--

1986

01:41:12,795 --> 01:41:14,170

this sort of thing
you had to do.

1987

01:41:14,170 --> 01:41:17,480

1988

01:41:17,480 --> 01:41:19,880

You were never
caught, obviously.

1989

01:41:19,880 --> 01:41:22,760

If I would have caught,
I would be dead.

1990

01:41:22,760 --> 01:41:24,920

Were others-- in this
kind of instance,

1991

01:41:24,920 --> 01:41:26,855

do they punish others
or make people stand

1992

01:41:26,855 --> 01:41:28,760

in long periods [INAUDIBLE]?

1993

01:41:28,760 --> 01:41:29,750

Well, no.

1994

01:41:29,750 --> 01:41:31,560

But what was there,
if for example, there

1995

01:41:31,560 --> 01:41:34,100

are air raids or things.

1996

01:41:34,100 --> 01:41:40,670

And we had these sort of canvas
boots with not leather soles,

1997

01:41:40,670 --> 01:41:43,760

but wooden things.

1998

01:41:43,760 --> 01:41:46,100

And you had laces.

1999

01:41:46,100 --> 01:41:48,200

Laces never lasted or whatever.

2000

01:41:48,200 --> 01:41:50,770

They were just all substitute--

2001

01:41:50,770 --> 01:41:54,030

ersatz type of
substitute material.

2002

01:41:54,030 --> 01:41:58,220

So during air raids, we were
not permitted to go into--

2003

01:41:58,220 --> 01:42:02,420

into the-- into
any shelters which

2004

01:42:02,420 --> 01:42:05,450

were open to the
prisoner of wars

2005

01:42:05,450 --> 01:42:07,825

and the Germans and
all the other ones.

2006

01:42:07,825 --> 01:42:08,700

We are not permitted.

2007

01:42:08,700 --> 01:42:11,840

So we could only go into the
cellars of certain buildings we

2008

01:42:11,840 --> 01:42:14,090

worked at and all that.

2009

01:42:14,090 --> 01:42:15,920

Anyway, so after the--

2010

01:42:15,920 --> 01:42:19,940
many people got killed that
way, simply because the bombs.

2011

01:42:19,940 --> 01:42:23,063
And whenever the thing
functioned well and all that,

2012

01:42:23,063 --> 01:42:25,730
there came an air raid, and they
just destroyed the whole thing.

2013

01:42:25,730 --> 01:42:27,470
And then it was to
be built up again.

2014

01:42:27,470 --> 01:42:30,200
And it was just a
game which never--

2015

01:42:30,200 --> 01:42:31,970
never stopped.

2016

01:42:31,970 --> 01:42:35,880
And so a lot of
things were to be had.

2017

01:42:35,880 --> 01:42:38,660
And I just-- some people took--

2018

01:42:38,660 --> 01:42:44,240
I didn't-- took wiring, which
was then used it as shoelaces.

2019

01:42:44,240 --> 01:42:46,710
Now, one fellow was
caught, for example.

2020

01:42:46,710 --> 01:42:48,165
You took what?

2021

01:42:48,165 --> 01:42:48,665
Wiring.

2022
01:42:48,665 --> 01:42:51,610
Wiring, oh, OK.

2023
01:42:51,610 --> 01:42:54,070
After the air raid and all
that, because lots of things

2024
01:42:54,070 --> 01:42:57,080
were lying on the
ground and all this.

2025
01:42:57,080 --> 01:43:01,480
And so I took that, put it into
my shoelace-- into my shoes.

2026
01:43:01,480 --> 01:43:02,890
And one fellow was caught.

2027
01:43:02,890 --> 01:43:05,950
And every time someone
did something which was--

2028
01:43:05,950 --> 01:43:09,000

2029
01:43:09,000 --> 01:43:11,830
during the weekend, we had
to witness the hanging.

2030
01:43:11,830 --> 01:43:13,990
And these people were hanged.

2031
01:43:13,990 --> 01:43:16,785
And so we all, the
whole camp, had

2032
01:43:16,785 --> 01:43:19,450
to come and witness
the way that we can

2033

01:43:19,450 --> 01:43:22,836
be hung, too, as a kind of--

2034

01:43:22,836 --> 01:43:30,070

2035

01:43:30,070 --> 01:43:31,930
preventing that other
people would do it.

2036

01:43:31,930 --> 01:43:34,970

2037

01:43:34,970 --> 01:43:40,015
And so you just could do
all these sort of things,

2038

01:43:40,015 --> 01:43:41,140
because they're accessible.

2039

01:43:41,140 --> 01:43:42,640
You couldn't let
yourself be caught.

2040

01:43:42,640 --> 01:43:44,380
And I said, I think
last time also,

2041

01:43:44,380 --> 01:43:48,370
I just picked up a book,
and the whole thing--

2042

01:43:48,370 --> 01:43:51,430
picked up a book during the
winter, which was a code book,

2043

01:43:51,430 --> 01:43:53,050
and I've talked
about that I think.

2044

01:43:53,050 --> 01:43:54,786
No, go ahead, tell

that story again.

2045

01:43:54,786 --> 01:43:56,392

Tell it even if you told it.

2046

01:43:56,392 --> 01:43:57,610

Go ahead.

2047

01:43:57,610 --> 01:44:00,010

Well, this code book.

2048

01:44:00,010 --> 01:44:02,260

And because we wanted--

2049

01:44:02,260 --> 01:44:03,820

I didn't have, at
that time, anything

2050

01:44:03,820 --> 01:44:06,310

to read anymore, because
everything was taken away

2051

01:44:06,310 --> 01:44:07,240

from me.

2052

01:44:07,240 --> 01:44:09,980

So I was after reading
material and all that.

2053

01:44:09,980 --> 01:44:13,060

And so there it was after the--

2054

01:44:13,060 --> 01:44:15,700

after one of those air
raids, whatever, there

2055

01:44:15,700 --> 01:44:16,840

was a code book.

2056

01:44:16,840 --> 01:44:22,280

And I put it in
my striped thing.

2057
01:44:22,280 --> 01:44:26,620
And then because of the cold
and frozen and all that,

2058
01:44:26,620 --> 01:44:27,890
it just dropped out.

2059
01:44:27,890 --> 01:44:29,320
I was just simply--

2060
01:44:29,320 --> 01:44:31,600
because everything's
cold and frozen,

2061
01:44:31,600 --> 01:44:35,530
so I just couldn't really
keep things as well,

2062
01:44:35,530 --> 01:44:36,980
control it as well.

2063
01:44:36,980 --> 01:44:39,850
And so it just fell out,
and while we were on the--

2064
01:44:39,850 --> 01:44:42,160
while we returned to the camp.

2065
01:44:42,160 --> 01:44:46,160
And then an SS man
picked it up, and then

2066
01:44:46,160 --> 01:44:48,100
we all were then stopped.

2067
01:44:48,100 --> 01:44:50,830
And they searched us when
we came into the camp.

2068
01:44:50,830 --> 01:44:57,430
And it was just terrible, just

hours and punishments and all

2069

01:44:57,430 --> 01:45:00,530

this sort of thing,
beatings, whatever.

2070

01:45:00,530 --> 01:45:03,910

And so that was a consequence,
simply because I was careless.

2071

01:45:03,910 --> 01:45:09,850

I actually described
it in the other thing.

2072

01:45:09,850 --> 01:45:13,270

Well, and similar
things happened.

2073

01:45:13,270 --> 01:45:20,670

And whenever you
read something which

2074

01:45:20,670 --> 01:45:24,130

you're not supposed to do, and
the same thing with the shirt.

2075

01:45:24,130 --> 01:45:25,240

It was your shirt.

2076

01:45:25,240 --> 01:45:29,920

If someone stole your shirt
in the washroom or whatever,

2077

01:45:29,920 --> 01:45:31,630

you came out without the shirt.

2078

01:45:31,630 --> 01:45:36,680

It's not only that you could
have caught the worst possible

2079

01:45:36,680 --> 01:45:40,540

pneumonia or whatever,
but they would kill you

2080
01:45:40,540 --> 01:45:42,373
because you didn't
have your shirt.

2081
01:45:42,373 --> 01:45:43,540
So they'd beat you to death.

2082
01:45:43,540 --> 01:45:47,680
So you would not even have time
to develop any sort of disease,

2083
01:45:47,680 --> 01:45:51,640
because by that time, they
would have beaten you to death.

2084
01:45:51,640 --> 01:45:52,390
So what do you do?

2085
01:45:52,390 --> 01:45:54,220
So we just try to
get away with it,

2086
01:45:54,220 --> 01:45:56,380
just taking another
shirt from someone else.

2087
01:45:56,380 --> 01:45:59,140
And that's what I did.

2088
01:45:59,140 --> 01:46:01,450
And so the last
person in the game

2089
01:46:01,450 --> 01:46:03,205
is going to be the fall guy.

2090
01:46:03,205 --> 01:46:05,860

2091
01:46:05,860 --> 01:46:07,870
And then you had

these kapos and all

2092

01:46:07,870 --> 01:46:09,460
that, who some of
them more cruel,

2093

01:46:09,460 --> 01:46:11,980
some people were very
nice, depending on that.

2094

01:46:11,980 --> 01:46:16,420
And so you had to play the
game and deal with the people.

2095

01:46:16,420 --> 01:46:19,300
And then, of course,
I had a lot of--

2096

01:46:19,300 --> 01:46:20,590
tried to have contacts.

2097

01:46:20,590 --> 01:46:22,450
And I've met people
who were there,

2098

01:46:22,450 --> 01:46:25,000
sent also as slave
laborers, except it's

2099

01:46:25,000 --> 01:46:27,130
free-- kind of more
free slavery, not

2100

01:46:27,130 --> 01:46:29,320
SS convicts as inmates.

2101

01:46:29,320 --> 01:46:32,110
And made contacts, and
one of them was Czech.

2102

01:46:32,110 --> 01:46:36,850
And I've asked him to, and
he was very cooperative

2103
01:46:36,850 --> 01:46:40,930
and helped me to get
messages to my friends

2104
01:46:40,930 --> 01:46:46,210
when we were there still and
get packages, which he then

2105
01:46:46,210 --> 01:46:47,270
brought into that.

2106
01:46:47,270 --> 01:46:54,268
And I was caught once with
an SS man who was known as--

2107
01:46:54,268 --> 01:46:58,840
as Tom Mix.

2108
01:46:58,840 --> 01:47:02,245
That was his nickname, Tom Mix.

2109
01:47:02,245 --> 01:47:03,772
Why was that?

2110
01:47:03,772 --> 01:47:04,730
Why was he called that?

2111
01:47:04,730 --> 01:47:06,760
Well, because he was
shooting and all the time.

2112
01:47:06,760 --> 01:47:12,940
He was just trigger-happy and
killing people and shooting

2113
01:47:12,940 --> 01:47:14,530
at them and killing them.

2114
01:47:14,530 --> 01:47:16,280
A trigger-happy fellow.

2115

01:47:16,280 --> 01:47:22,750

And so he caught
me while I just had

2116

01:47:22,750 --> 01:47:25,900

come from this contact I
have, this Czech fellow,

2117

01:47:25,900 --> 01:47:28,960

and gave him--

2118

01:47:28,960 --> 01:47:34,600

he gave me the contraband, which
was medication and some money,

2119

01:47:34,600 --> 01:47:37,960

but primarily food
stuff, medication, just

2120

01:47:37,960 --> 01:47:39,200

unbelievable things.

2121

01:47:39,200 --> 01:47:43,060

Just like if someone would have
given you a million dollars.

2122

01:47:43,060 --> 01:47:49,390

And so my knapsack
which I had organized

2123

01:47:49,390 --> 01:47:53,050

after an air raid, which
was also a stroke of luck,

2124

01:47:53,050 --> 01:47:59,950

because one British
POW had not taken it

2125

01:47:59,950 --> 01:48:01,390

to the shelter with him.

2126

01:48:01,390 --> 01:48:04,900

And I was there, so we
stole what we could.

2127
01:48:04,900 --> 01:48:11,210
So there was a knapsack full
of powdered milk and goodies

2128
01:48:11,210 --> 01:48:12,410
and things of that nature.

2129
01:48:12,410 --> 01:48:13,090
So I took it.

2130
01:48:13,090 --> 01:48:13,980
I had a British--

2131
01:48:13,980 --> 01:48:16,480
[CHUCKLES] --British knapsack.

2132
01:48:16,480 --> 01:48:24,100
And so I had that and
filled with the contraband

2133
01:48:24,100 --> 01:48:28,780
which I had received from
this cooperative Czech.

2134
01:48:28,780 --> 01:48:33,520
And there comes the
worst SS in the camp,

2135
01:48:33,520 --> 01:48:37,030
the most cruel,
vicious, SS camp,

2136
01:48:37,030 --> 01:48:40,285
who was like an eagle--
he saw everything.

2137
01:48:40,285 --> 01:48:41,160
You couldn't get it--

2138

01:48:41,160 --> 01:48:42,700
I mean, he was--

2139
01:48:42,700 --> 01:48:45,190
so the only thing
I could do was just

2140
01:48:45,190 --> 01:48:47,230
put the knapsack
out of the sight.

2141
01:48:47,230 --> 01:48:49,613
So I put it behind me.

2142
01:48:49,613 --> 01:48:51,030
And said, what are
you doing here?

2143
01:48:51,030 --> 01:48:52,960
Well, I said, well,
foreman so-and-so.

2144
01:48:52,960 --> 01:48:56,200
And that helped me a great
deal, because my perfect German

2145
01:48:56,200 --> 01:48:57,850
without an accent,
without sounding

2146
01:48:57,850 --> 01:49:00,630
Polish or Yiddish or something.

2147
01:49:00,630 --> 01:49:03,370
So they hesitated.

2148
01:49:03,370 --> 01:49:07,030
The interesting thing is,
it was a threat to them

2149
01:49:07,030 --> 01:49:12,610
to behave in a way to certain
people who were like them,

2150
01:49:12,610 --> 01:49:16,870
or who resembled them in terms
of whom they felt related to.

2151
01:49:16,870 --> 01:49:20,230
And say, hey, you know,
he's like me, like me.

2152
01:49:20,230 --> 01:49:23,420
And somehow, subconsciously
at that time--

2153
01:49:23,420 --> 01:49:28,900
I was not as psychologically
aware as I am today.

2154
01:49:28,900 --> 01:49:33,880
But somehow, I must have been
aware of it subconsciously.

2155
01:49:33,880 --> 01:49:38,590
So then I just, precisely, like
this Fredy and all the other--

2156
01:49:38,590 --> 01:49:44,770
I knew what sort of psychology
you had to use with SS people.

2157
01:49:44,770 --> 01:49:48,210
And I said, so and so,
I've done that and--

2158
01:49:48,210 --> 01:49:52,330
and so he slapped my face and
let me go without searching me.

2159
01:49:52,330 --> 01:49:55,300
Because if he had searched me,
it would have been my death.

2160
01:49:55,300 --> 01:49:59,690
Because for just

transgressions of minor--

2161
01:49:59,690 --> 01:50:03,430
just like the wiring and
all that, they hanged you.

2162
01:50:03,430 --> 01:50:06,477
And this sort of thing would
have been just much worse.

2163
01:50:06,477 --> 01:50:08,560
Was the knapsack having
a strap like [INAUDIBLE]??

2164
01:50:08,560 --> 01:50:09,435
Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

2165
01:50:09,435 --> 01:50:10,902
He didn't notice the strap even?

2166
01:50:10,902 --> 01:50:12,610
Well, I don't know
whether he did or not.

2167
01:50:12,610 --> 01:50:13,840
He just simply didn't bother.

2168
01:50:13,840 --> 01:50:16,960
Because, you see, I
distracted him saying--

2169
01:50:16,960 --> 01:50:20,150

2170
01:50:20,150 --> 01:50:25,620
whatever I called him,
rank or whatever, I--

2171
01:50:25,620 --> 01:50:30,150

2172
01:50:30,150 --> 01:50:34,030

whatever-- I report to you
that I've been sent by this

2173
01:50:34,030 --> 01:50:36,040
and that to do this and that.

2174
01:50:36,040 --> 01:50:37,900
And then there was
a German foreman,

2175
01:50:37,900 --> 01:50:44,020
and I was-- which was
kind of a lie anyway.

2176
01:50:44,020 --> 01:50:46,030
So they just slapped my face.

2177
01:50:46,030 --> 01:50:47,620
And said, I don't
want to catch you.

2178
01:50:47,620 --> 01:50:49,630
Next time, I'll kill
you or whatever.

2179
01:50:49,630 --> 01:50:53,620
I don't want to catch you again,
because if I do, I'll kill you.

2180
01:50:53,620 --> 01:50:54,850
And let it go by that.

2181
01:50:54,850 --> 01:50:57,470

2182
01:50:57,470 --> 01:50:58,580
So these sort of things.

2183
01:50:58,580 --> 01:51:01,870
So after the air raid,
just sabotaged a great deal

2184

01:51:01,870 --> 01:51:04,870
and destroyed things,
which were not destroyed.

2185
01:51:04,870 --> 01:51:08,070
It was very important equipment,
instruments, and all that.

2186
01:51:08,070 --> 01:51:09,820
So that it looked like
it had been bombed?

2187
01:51:09,820 --> 01:51:10,610
Oh, yeah, yeah.

2188
01:51:10,610 --> 01:51:13,000
And I did that, because
there was no one around,

2189
01:51:13,000 --> 01:51:14,110
and I was very alert.

2190
01:51:14,110 --> 01:51:18,541
Or just a situation, which
I also described in the--

2191
01:51:18,541 --> 01:51:19,495
in this booklet.

2192
01:51:19,495 --> 01:51:23,470

2193
01:51:23,470 --> 01:51:25,420
After an air raid
one day, we just

2194
01:51:25,420 --> 01:51:28,090
were working on some
sort of a detail.

2195
01:51:28,090 --> 01:51:32,290
And there was a
tank, large, where

2196
01:51:32,290 --> 01:51:33,940
they had this natural,
whatever, gas,

2197
01:51:33,940 --> 01:51:35,460
or whatever, which was used.

2198
01:51:35,460 --> 01:51:38,170
And all of a sudden, I can
see sparks and all that.

2199
01:51:38,170 --> 01:51:41,540
And I said, the damn
thing is going to explode.

2200
01:51:41,540 --> 01:51:44,680
And I was sitting
there with a buddy who

2201
01:51:44,680 --> 01:51:46,720
was in the same work detail.

2202
01:51:46,720 --> 01:51:47,980
I said, run, run.

2203
01:51:47,980 --> 01:51:49,760
But he was kind of not as alert.

2204
01:51:49,760 --> 01:51:50,680
And I was.

2205
01:51:50,680 --> 01:51:53,110
And that's what really was
one of the most important

2206
01:51:53,110 --> 01:51:54,300
ingredients of survival.

2207
01:51:54,300 --> 01:51:58,630
And just that I, in spite
of all the conditions,

2208
01:51:58,630 --> 01:52:00,630
I kept on being alert--

2209
01:52:00,630 --> 01:52:02,950
alert.

2210
01:52:02,950 --> 01:52:06,983
Responded with tremendous--
much faster than I could today.

2211
01:52:06,983 --> 01:52:08,650
Although I still have
a little bit of it

2212
01:52:08,650 --> 01:52:10,750
left, but not as much.

2213
01:52:10,750 --> 01:52:13,420
And so I said, run, run.

2214
01:52:13,420 --> 01:52:15,790
And he-- he kind of,
what, what, what, what?

2215
01:52:15,790 --> 01:52:17,230
And I ran because I could see.

2216
01:52:17,230 --> 01:52:18,460
I couldn't explain to him.

2217
01:52:18,460 --> 01:52:20,050
I ran.

2218
01:52:20,050 --> 01:52:21,530
And the damn thing exploded.

2219
01:52:21,530 --> 01:52:24,040
The man was just fried--

2220
01:52:24,040 --> 01:52:26,740

fried chicken.

2221

01:52:26,740 --> 01:52:31,145

And the big thing, of course,
and he didn't survive a day.

2222

01:52:31,145 --> 01:52:31,815

He died.

2223

01:52:31,815 --> 01:52:36,670

Of course, didn't-- wasn't dead,
unfortunately, not immediately.

2224

01:52:36,670 --> 01:52:37,510

Totally fried.

2225

01:52:37,510 --> 01:52:38,550

Just unbelievable.

2226

01:52:38,550 --> 01:52:40,360

Totally fried.

2227

01:52:40,360 --> 01:52:43,900

And I was still
feeling the heat,

2228

01:52:43,900 --> 01:52:47,570

but I was a safe distance so
that nothing would happen.

2229

01:52:47,570 --> 01:52:50,430

So these are some of the--

2230

01:52:50,430 --> 01:52:52,900

What kind of work were
you assigned to do there?

2231

01:52:52,900 --> 01:52:55,960

Well, I was doing
electrical work

2232

01:52:55,960 --> 01:53:02,230

instead of just doing all the electrical wiring and all that

2233

01:53:02,230 --> 01:53:06,280

in the various places, which were

2234

01:53:06,280 --> 01:53:14,080

essential for the manufacturing of synthetic fuel, syn fuel.

2235

01:53:14,080 --> 01:53:16,960

And so I was kind of slow and all that.

2236

01:53:16,960 --> 01:53:19,780

Not the most efficient person, I guess.

2237

01:53:19,780 --> 01:53:22,720

So they punished me.

2238

01:53:22,720 --> 01:53:26,620

The German foreman was a man called [? Homan. ?]

2239

01:53:26,620 --> 01:53:28,990

I remember his name.

2240

01:53:28,990 --> 01:53:35,980

And his boss was called a fat man, [NON-ENGLISH],, a fat man.

2241

01:53:35,980 --> 01:53:37,810

But [? Homan ?] was not too bad.

2242

01:53:37,810 --> 01:53:40,510

And so he said something which I didn't do right,

2243

01:53:40,510 --> 01:53:43,120

so he just takes me by the nose, just like that,

2244
01:53:43,120 --> 01:53:44,716
and presses me in.

2245
01:53:44,716 --> 01:53:48,340
And all the the juice comes
out, out of the thing like that.

2246
01:53:48,340 --> 01:53:51,050
And he said this sort of thing.

2247
01:53:51,050 --> 01:53:55,780
And then the fat man comes,
and I don't respond in a way,

2248
01:53:55,780 --> 01:53:58,380
or I haven't done something
according to his liking.

2249
01:53:58,380 --> 01:54:02,110
So he come down and just
slaps me and all that.

2250
01:54:02,110 --> 01:54:07,130
And so these sort
of things happened.

2251
01:54:07,130 --> 01:54:09,310
But it was nothing
serious, except--

2252
01:54:09,310 --> 01:54:12,520

2253
01:54:12,520 --> 01:54:15,280
Were they particularly lenient?

2254
01:54:15,280 --> 01:54:16,480
Or was that--

2255
01:54:16,480 --> 01:54:19,528
Well, I mean, in comparison

to the SS people,

2256

01:54:19,528 --> 01:54:21,820
they were lenient, because
they didn't take any sticks.

2257

01:54:21,820 --> 01:54:24,070
They used their hand
or something else,

2258

01:54:24,070 --> 01:54:27,730
some sort of instrument
to beat you because--

2259

01:54:27,730 --> 01:54:30,970
and they didn't beat you where
they really would injure you.

2260

01:54:30,970 --> 01:54:33,010
They beat you just
simply just like they

2261

01:54:33,010 --> 01:54:37,360
would beat someone who
doesn't obey or whatever--

2262

01:54:37,360 --> 01:54:39,430
behaves in a way.

2263

01:54:39,430 --> 01:54:42,160
And what he did with my
nose, I remember that.

2264

01:54:42,160 --> 01:54:45,130
And he said, I'm going
to squeeze the juice out

2265

01:54:45,130 --> 01:54:46,360
of your nose or something.

2266

01:54:46,360 --> 01:54:48,750
It was just perverse
sort of stuff, whatever.

2267
01:54:48,750 --> 01:54:51,640

2268
01:54:51,640 --> 01:54:55,750
And so there were
lots of incidents

2269
01:54:55,750 --> 01:55:01,780
which were inappropriate
for people of a certain age

2270
01:55:01,780 --> 01:55:05,620
and all that, including
some sort of advances,

2271
01:55:05,620 --> 01:55:06,970
homosexual advances.

2272
01:55:06,970 --> 01:55:10,780
A British prisoner of war
was there with my buddy

2273
01:55:10,780 --> 01:55:13,180
and said, OK, I have this
chocolate and all that,

2274
01:55:13,180 --> 01:55:17,990
if you let me stick it
into your ear and all--

2275
01:55:17,990 --> 01:55:22,600
it was just kind of
dirty, filthy, lice-ridden

2276
01:55:22,600 --> 01:55:23,590
and all that.

2277
01:55:23,590 --> 01:55:28,610
He must be pretty desperate to
want contact of this nature.

2278

01:55:28,610 --> 01:55:32,990

So this buddy of mine, he
just felt it was a good idea.

2279

01:55:32,990 --> 01:55:36,510

And as I remember, it was more
so a fellow prisoner of war,

2280

01:55:36,510 --> 01:55:40,250

a British fellow, just a
cockney type, whatever.

2281

01:55:40,250 --> 01:55:44,440

And so I, of course, wouldn't
have anything to do with it.

2282

01:55:44,440 --> 01:55:47,810

But he-- just he did, and
whatever he did with him,

2283

01:55:47,810 --> 01:55:48,755

I just--

2284

01:55:48,755 --> 01:55:51,310

none of my business.

2285

01:55:51,310 --> 01:55:53,397

What about in general,
in your other camp

2286

01:55:53,397 --> 01:55:55,730

experiences, about sexual
abuse of men, women, children?

2287

01:55:55,730 --> 01:55:57,430

Sexual abuse?

2288

01:55:57,430 --> 01:55:58,450

Nah.

2289

01:55:58,450 --> 01:55:59,920

I mean, it never happened to me.

2290

01:55:59,920 --> 01:56:02,650

But I know some
after the war, and I

2291

01:56:02,650 --> 01:56:05,650

know some kids who were
known as the Pit Bulls.

2292

01:56:05,650 --> 01:56:10,210

And they're considerably
younger than we were.

2293

01:56:10,210 --> 01:56:15,250

And they kept by camp--

2294

01:56:15,250 --> 01:56:22,370

inmate camp dignitaries
for sexual purposes,

2295

01:56:22,370 --> 01:56:23,990

because sexually,
they functioned.

2296

01:56:23,990 --> 01:56:27,800

And there were no women
available, so they used kids.

2297

01:56:27,800 --> 01:56:30,610

And they saved them
even from being gassed.

2298

01:56:30,610 --> 01:56:35,570

And now, I know
some people, now,

2299

01:56:35,570 --> 01:56:41,360

here, got to know some people
who survived on that basis,

2300

01:56:41,360 --> 01:56:45,950

simply because of
sexual abuse by some

2301

01:56:45,950 --> 01:56:51,200
of the people in inmate--

2302

01:56:51,200 --> 01:56:59,360
inmate dignitaries,
inmate function holders.

2303

01:56:59,360 --> 01:57:03,980
And so they're usually
considerably younger

2304

01:57:03,980 --> 01:57:06,350
than me-- three,
four years younger,

2305

01:57:06,350 --> 01:57:09,170
who otherwise would
have been for-- somehow

2306

01:57:09,170 --> 01:57:14,870
they were saved by these
people from being gassed.

2307

01:57:14,870 --> 01:57:17,840
And that's something which is
a chapter which also has not

2308

01:57:17,840 --> 01:57:19,400
been written.

2309

01:57:19,400 --> 01:57:23,450
Lots of things have not been
said, simply because it's not

2310

01:57:23,450 --> 01:57:28,310
socially acceptable
or simply would

2311

01:57:28,310 --> 01:57:34,850
introduce a certain element into
the survivor situation, which

2312

01:57:34,850 --> 01:57:45,950
would not be morally or
otherwise acceptable.

2313
01:57:45,950 --> 01:57:48,740
Yes, another one that's
sometimes very obliquely

2314
01:57:48,740 --> 01:57:52,160
alluded to is cannibalism.

2315
01:57:52,160 --> 01:57:52,730
Yeah.

2316
01:57:52,730 --> 01:57:54,500
Well, that's an
interesting thing.

2317
01:57:54,500 --> 01:58:03,285
Because when we were on the
transport, two weeks from--

2318
01:58:03,285 --> 01:58:05,900

2319
01:58:05,900 --> 01:58:09,260
after the death march, from a
place called [Place name] we

2320
01:58:09,260 --> 01:58:10,250
didn't have any--

2321
01:58:10,250 --> 01:58:11,780
hardly any food anymore.

2322
01:58:11,780 --> 01:58:16,820
No food whatsoever for
days or a week, whatever.

2323
01:58:16,820 --> 01:58:18,980
I haven't seen any of it myself.

2324

01:58:18,980 --> 01:58:22,220
And I haven't seen
any situation where

2325
01:58:22,220 --> 01:58:29,090
this would have been practiced
in all my camp experience.

2326
01:58:29,090 --> 01:58:32,540
I haven't heard of
it, only afterwards--

2327
01:58:32,540 --> 01:58:33,860
or witnessed it, of course.

2328
01:58:33,860 --> 01:58:35,110
Haven't heard or witnessed it.

2329
01:58:35,110 --> 01:58:40,450

2330
01:58:40,450 --> 01:58:45,040
Or even considering
that as an alternative,

2331
01:58:45,040 --> 01:58:48,770
I don't know anyone who
would have even suggested it.

2332
01:58:48,770 --> 01:58:52,415
So that's not part of what our--

2333
01:58:52,415 --> 01:58:56,410
But I think it's interesting,
you mentioning things that

2334
01:58:56,410 --> 01:58:59,248
happened that wouldn't be
socially acceptable to look

2335
01:58:59,248 --> 01:58:59,860
into as --

2336

01:58:59,860 --> 01:59:02,868

Yeah, right.

2337

01:59:02,868 --> 01:59:05,185

But cannibalism
is something which

2338

01:59:05,185 --> 01:59:09,250

somehow is more
excusable, understandable,

2339

01:59:09,250 --> 01:59:13,330

because these people were
not killed in order to be--

2340

01:59:13,330 --> 01:59:16,720

they're usually dead
probably anyway.

2341

01:59:16,720 --> 01:59:19,870

But, I mean, that
didn't even occur.

2342

01:59:19,870 --> 01:59:23,770

I don't know anyone in my own
observations or environment

2343

01:59:23,770 --> 01:59:27,450

or whatever, all the camp--
throughout the camp time,

2344

01:59:27,450 --> 01:59:30,880

where this would have
been viewed as a viable--

2345

01:59:30,880 --> 01:59:33,100

as even an alternative,
not even viable--

2346

01:59:33,100 --> 01:59:34,370

as an alternative, period.

2347

01:59:34,370 --> 01:59:37,030

2348

01:59:37,030 --> 01:59:41,890
All right, so then Blechhammer
was another situation

2349

01:59:41,890 --> 01:59:47,200
where you could have had a
privileged situation because

2350

01:59:47,200 --> 01:59:50,740
of the air raids and
unexploded bombs,

2351

01:59:50,740 --> 01:59:55,990
that you could be in a
special work detail to--

2352

01:59:55,990 --> 01:59:59,560
to uncover these
unexploded things.

2353

01:59:59,560 --> 02:00:01,480
And many people got
killed that way.

2354

02:00:01,480 --> 02:00:05,060
And I volunteered, because
of special rations which

2355

02:00:05,060 --> 02:00:08,680
you were getting and for that.

2356

02:00:08,680 --> 02:00:13,960
And then I found that this
was not a very safe thing

2357

02:00:13,960 --> 02:00:14,860
to do, of course.

2358

02:00:14,860 --> 02:00:16,970
But I didn't care at that point.

2359
02:00:16,970 --> 02:00:18,760
And then they come--

2360
02:00:18,760 --> 02:00:23,998
they came-- the camp senior
was in charge of the camp

2361
02:00:23,998 --> 02:00:25,720
Jew, whatever that was.

2362
02:00:25,720 --> 02:00:28,718
And he said, you're
an intelligent fellow,

2363
02:00:28,718 --> 02:00:30,010
I don't want you to be in this.

2364
02:00:30,010 --> 02:00:33,698
So he just came out of his own
volition or somehow and said,

2365
02:00:33,698 --> 02:00:34,990
I don't want you to be in that.

2366
02:00:34,990 --> 02:00:35,920
You shouldn't do it.

2367
02:00:35,920 --> 02:00:38,600
Just get out of it.

2368
02:00:38,600 --> 02:00:43,300
And I didn't-- because he
simply made the arrangements,

2369
02:00:43,300 --> 02:00:47,050
whatever, I just-- so that it
wouldn't continue or whatever.

2370
02:00:47,050 --> 02:00:50,740
Well, and so many people did
that, and we were simply--

2371
02:00:50,740 --> 02:00:53,080
they used inmates, because--

2372
02:00:53,080 --> 02:00:56,740
because they didn't want
to use their own people.

2373
02:00:56,740 --> 02:00:59,293
Always under supervision,
of course, of the SS.

2374
02:00:59,293 --> 02:01:01,460
But still, they didn't want
to use their own people.

2375
02:01:01,460 --> 02:01:04,630
So instead of their
own people, the inmates

2376
02:01:04,630 --> 02:01:07,210
were expendable and got killed.

2377
02:01:07,210 --> 02:01:10,270
So you could volunteer, but
then you could unvolunteer?

2378
02:01:10,270 --> 02:01:11,020
Yeah, yeah.

2379
02:01:11,020 --> 02:01:14,200
Well, I volunteered, and
then I was told, you know,

2380
02:01:14,200 --> 02:01:18,780
I don't want you to do that
anymore, because you shouldn't.

2381
02:01:18,780 --> 02:01:19,780
So these sort of things.

2382
02:01:19,780 --> 02:01:20,920

And then, for example, other--

2383

02:01:20,920 --> 02:01:21,880

So this person helped you, then,
by getting you out [INAUDIBLE]..

2384

02:01:21,880 --> 02:01:23,770

Oh, absolutely in a way.

2385

02:01:23,770 --> 02:01:25,160

Except I didn't see it.

2386

02:01:25,160 --> 02:01:32,420

I resented that, because I
felt that it prevented me

2387

02:01:32,420 --> 02:01:37,340

from having access to
extra food, extra rations.

2388

02:01:37,340 --> 02:01:40,880

And so one day, for
example, I wake up,

2389

02:01:40,880 --> 02:01:42,320

and there was another thing.

2390

02:01:42,320 --> 02:01:46,610

Just kind of one day
wake up for some reason,

2391

02:01:46,610 --> 02:01:49,130

another also kind
of subconsciously

2392

02:01:49,130 --> 02:01:51,170

[INAUDIBLE] all night.

2393

02:01:51,170 --> 02:01:55,320

By the way, I just got
shoes also from Prague

2394

02:01:55,320 --> 02:01:59,638
with this connection I
had there, this Czech.

2395
02:01:59,638 --> 02:02:01,430
By the way, what was
their name, the person

2396
02:02:01,430 --> 02:02:03,860
who received the packages
and the person who

2397
02:02:03,860 --> 02:02:06,180
sent you the packages?

2398
02:02:06,180 --> 02:02:08,945
Well, I didn't send any packages
from the camp, for sure.

2399
02:02:08,945 --> 02:02:14,240
No, the person who sent the
packages from Czechoslovakia,

2400
02:02:14,240 --> 02:02:15,400
that person's name.

2401
02:02:15,400 --> 02:02:21,540
Well, [CHUCKLES] this
was also a pediatrician.

2402
02:02:21,540 --> 02:02:24,330
I don't know why I'm just
surrounded by pediatricians.

2403
02:02:24,330 --> 02:02:25,364
But--

2404
02:02:25,364 --> 02:02:28,450
[CHUCKLING]

2405
02:02:28,450 --> 02:02:30,780

2406

02:02:30,780 --> 02:02:39,060

This was a family who were
what were mixed-marriage.

2407

02:02:39,060 --> 02:02:43,260

And they also belonged
to the same church

2408

02:02:43,260 --> 02:02:45,390

as we did, in a way.

2409

02:02:45,390 --> 02:02:55,800

And the wife of this physician
was a German, Sudeten German,

2410

02:02:55,800 --> 02:03:00,600

was an anti-pacifist and a very
close friend of my mother's.

2411

02:03:00,600 --> 02:03:08,230

And because of his connection
this German pediatrician

2412

02:03:08,230 --> 02:03:15,920

had back in Prague,
Nazi connection,

2413

02:03:15,920 --> 02:03:20,150

and because of the
doctors who were not

2414

02:03:20,150 --> 02:03:21,650

brought up in the Jewish--

2415

02:03:21,650 --> 02:03:27,980

so they were viewed as
half-Jews, second grade,

2416

02:03:27,980 --> 02:03:30,780

and therefore, not sent
to camps-- were exempted,

2417

02:03:30,780 --> 02:03:34,820
didn't have to wear
the star and all that.

2418
02:03:34,820 --> 02:03:36,290
So they stayed.

2419
02:03:36,290 --> 02:03:41,390
But they, of course, were
very intimately concerned

2420
02:03:41,390 --> 02:03:43,790
with our fate.

2421
02:03:43,790 --> 02:03:46,700
And they went into a
great deal of trouble

2422
02:03:46,700 --> 02:03:49,700
to find out where we were and
all that, because of the--

2423
02:03:49,700 --> 02:03:54,110
and that went up to Hoss or
something, real connections.

2424
02:03:54,110 --> 02:03:57,200
I'm talking big
connections they had.

2425
02:03:57,200 --> 02:04:02,570
And so to cut a long story
short, these were the people,

2426
02:04:02,570 --> 02:04:05,480
and their name was
[? Levochik-- ?]

2427
02:04:05,480 --> 02:04:06,500
[? Levochik. ?]

2428
02:04:06,500 --> 02:04:07,000