1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:59,000

2

00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:00,186 And we are back 10 seconds.

3

00:01:00,186 --> 00:01:05,790

4

00:01:05,790 --> 00:01:06,510 OK.

5

00:01:06,510 --> 00:01:07,770 OK.

6

00:01:07,770 --> 00:01:08,550 All right.

7

00:01:08,550 --> 00:01:14,430 So I was talking about Dr. [? Lavacheck ?] and his family.

8

00:01:14,430 --> 00:01:21,210 And they're very caring and very supportive,

9

00:01:21,210 --> 00:01:26,250 simply because they also understood, related

10

00:01:26,250 --> 00:01:29,740 to the predicament we were in.

11

00:01:29,740 --> 00:01:31,950 And so they're very eager to help,

12

00:01:31,950 --> 00:01:35,190 and they were the ones who were the major suppliers of all

13 00:01:35,190 --> 00:01:40,980

the things which they sent to me, which included medication,

14

00:01:40,980 --> 00:01:46,860 which certainly helped me to save my father's life because

15

00:01:46,860 --> 00:01:49,150 of his dysentery and whatever.

16

00:01:49,150 --> 00:01:56,850 Because some medication which countervail whatever dysentery

17

00:01:56,850 --> 00:01:57,550 and all that.

18

00:01:57,550 --> 00:02:01,650 And so I was able to get many of the things which helped him

19

00:02:01,650 --> 00:02:05,550 because he was beginning to get into bad shape and anyone who

20

00:02:05,550 --> 00:02:07,260 was at that particular time.

21

00:02:07,260 --> 00:02:16,170 He was 44 years old, 44.

22

00:02:16,170 --> 00:02:18,890 And when you are 44, you were already an old person

23

00:02:18,890 --> 00:02:20,400 in a concentration camp.

24

00:02:20,400 --> 00:02:23,770 I mean, an old person, which was a very interesting thing, 25 00:02:23,770 --> 00:02:25,520 which, by the way, I want to bring up

26 00:02:25,520 --> 00:02:28,830 that I'm very dismayed about the fact

27 00:02:28,830 --> 00:02:30,600 that not enough research has been done

28 00:02:30,600 --> 00:02:36,000 with survivors, particularly from a medical point of view

29 00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:39,570 because I think much could be learned.

30 00:02:39,570 --> 00:02:43,350 Much could be learned and had been totally neglected.

31 00:02:43,350 --> 00:02:47,610 And for reasons which escape me because it's either

32 00:02:47,610 --> 00:02:52,680 unbelievable ignorance or indifference or whatever.

33 00:02:52,680 --> 00:02:55,920 And anyway, because of some of the things which I've noticed

34 00:02:55,920 --> 00:02:59,400 the way people responded to infections in extreme stress

35 00:02:59,400 --> 00:03:02,940 situations and Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

deprivation and all that.

36

00:03:02,940 --> 00:03:06,480 Anyway, so he was in that particular predicament

37

00:03:06,480 --> 00:03:10,440 that he was on the verge of dying.

38

00:03:10,440 --> 00:03:12,435 He was actually in a sick barrack,

39

00:03:12,435 --> 00:03:15,700 as I was also for a while.

40

00:03:15,700 --> 00:03:24,450 And that was a deadly situation because they

41

00:03:24,450 --> 00:03:29,790 had periodic selections and selected those people who

42

00:03:29,790 --> 00:03:35,870 were in such bad shape that they could not

43

00:03:35,870 --> 00:03:37,910 be used as workers anymore.

44

00:03:37,910 --> 00:03:41,730 And they send them to Auschwitz, where they can now gas them.

45 00:03:41,730 --> 00:03:42,300 And--

46 00:03:42,300 --> 00:03:44,850 He slept out of the sick bay. 00:03:44,850 --> 00:03:45,350 Yeah.

48

00:03:45,350 --> 00:03:47,390 Out of the sick's bay, yeah.

49

00:03:47,390 --> 00:03:48,530 In the sick's bay, yeah.

50

00:03:48,530 --> 00:03:49,220 Sick barrack.

51

00:03:49,220 --> 00:03:51,590 And so my father was in--

52 00:03:51,590 --> 00:03:56,630

53

00:03:56,630 --> 00:04:01,440 particularly towards the end, when it no longer mattered,

54 00:04:01,440 --> 00:04:05,550 because then, they didn't send them anymore

55

00:04:05,550 --> 00:04:10,950 because the Russians were already

56

00:04:10,950 --> 00:04:13,615 their own-- they had other problems.

57

00:04:13,615 --> 00:04:15,990 So they weren't going to send people to sick bay anymore?

58 00:04:15,990 --> 00:04:16,600 No, no, no.

59 00:04:16,600 --> 00:04:20,459

From the sick bay to Auschwitz to gas people,

60

00:04:20,459 --> 00:04:22,140 because they had stopped doing that.

61

00:04:22,140 --> 00:04:25,800 It was no longer-- they destroyed things and all that

62

00:04:25,800 --> 00:04:29,970 towards the end of '44, end of '44, summer '44.

63

00:04:29,970 --> 00:04:32,310 They still were doing up to summer '44.

64

00:04:32,310 --> 00:04:39,310 They'd still be gassing people and in large quantities,

65 00:04:39,310 --> 00:04:39,810 numbers.

66 00:04:39,810 --> 00:04:43,160

67 00:04:43,160 --> 00:04:46,690 So I was able to get that through with medication

68 00:04:46,690 --> 00:04:51,890 and food stuff and all sorts of preparation which

69 00:04:51,890 --> 00:04:55,640 give you some energy and all this and that.

70 00:04:55,640 --> 00:04:59,050 And so I was able to share that with him.

71

00:04:59,050 --> 00:05:04,120 These people had access to this material.

72

00:05:04,120 --> 00:05:06,440 And what this fellow got and said, well,

73

00:05:06,440 --> 00:05:10,060 what can we do for you so that you continue these services,

74 00:05:10,060 --> 00:05:12,640 you know, they go between.

75 00:05:12,640 --> 00:05:15,610

And he was collecting stamps or something else,

76

00:05:15,610 --> 00:05:18,230 so they gave him stamps or whatever things like that.

77

00:05:18,230 --> 00:05:21,320 So that there'd be something in for him as well.

78

00:05:21,320 --> 00:05:21,820 Yes.

79

00:05:21,820 --> 00:05:24,310 I was going to ask what his motivation was.

80

00:05:24,310 --> 00:05:34,300 Well, his motivation was partially compassion and also,

81

00:05:34,300 --> 00:05:38,350 trying to get something for him because he was also 82 00:05:38,350 --> 00:05:39,400 be deprived.

83 00:05:39,400 --> 00:05:42,310 I mean, the deprivation there, too.

84

00:05:42,310 --> 00:05:45,940 So I mean, I wouldn't hold it against him.

85

00:05:45,940 --> 00:05:47,620 I met him after the war.

86

00:05:47,620 --> 00:05:48,700 What's his name?

87

00:05:48,700 --> 00:05:49,960 I forget.

88 00:05:49,960 --> 00:05:51,280 I forget.

89 00:05:51,280 --> 00:05:53,150 And I've met him.

90 00:05:53,150 --> 00:05:55,780 I made a point in meeting him after the war.

91

00:05:55,780 --> 00:06:04,870 And we got some jewelry back, the least significant jewelry.

92 00:06:04,870 --> 00:06:08,480 Just for example, in a tie needles--

93 00:06:08,480 --> 00:06:13,780 whatever you call it-- tie pins, things of that need.

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

94

00:06:13,780 --> 00:06:17,500 And so I gave him with ruby and all that.

95

00:06:17,500 --> 00:06:20,740 So I gave him a tie pin after the war and all that.

96

00:06:20,740 --> 00:06:22,210 I just said, I don't want it.

97

00:06:22,210 --> 00:06:24,110 But he was very happy to get.

98

00:06:24,110 --> 00:06:25,780 Is he a prisoner of war or what?

99

00:06:25,780 --> 00:06:26,280 What was--

100 00:06:26,280 --> 00:06:28,100 No, he was a Czech worker.

101

00:06:28,100 --> 00:06:29,140 Just that was a--

102 00:06:29,140 --> 00:06:32,320

103

00:06:32,320 --> 00:06:35,410 so they rounded up instead of sending them to war

104

00:06:35,410 --> 00:06:38,980 because they didn't send them to war, Czechs,

105

00:06:38,980 --> 00:06:42,430 unless they were a special group of people or whatever. 106 00:06:42,430 --> 00:06:46,870 And viewed by the SS as acceptable.

107 00:06:46,870 --> 00:06:50,320 And it's a very small number of Czechs

108

00:06:50,320 --> 00:06:55,210 who would have been used by the Nazis.

109

00:06:55,210 --> 00:07:01,430 And sent into the SS.

110

00:07:01,430 --> 00:07:06,830 So they used all workers, all over occupied Europe

111

00:07:06,830 --> 00:07:11,480 and sent them to important industries, war industries

112

00:07:11,480 --> 00:07:12,830 and rounded them up.

113

00:07:12,830 --> 00:07:15,080 They didn't have a choice not to go,

114

00:07:15,080 --> 00:07:18,950 except the conditions were much better in concentration camps,

115

00:07:18,950 --> 00:07:25,020 but they're still rather inhuman and very confined and hard

116

00:07:25,020 --> 00:07:28,010 and all that because the Russians were bad and all this. 00:07:28,010 --> 00:07:30,470 But I mean, still, it was much better

118

00:07:30,470 --> 00:07:36,440 than what people suffered in concentration camps.

119

00:07:36,440 --> 00:07:39,020 Was it difficult for this family that was sending the goods?

120

00:07:39,020 --> 00:07:41,240 Was it difficult to get those goods at that time.

121

00:07:41,240 --> 00:07:42,860 Oh, yeah, of course.

122

00:07:42,860 --> 00:07:45,080 But I mean, they were well connected.

123

00:07:45,080 --> 00:07:47,540 So many of the things which were perhaps not

124

00:07:47,540 --> 00:07:51,500 as easy for other people to obtain, they were able to

125

00:07:51,500 --> 00:07:54,590 and therefore did what they could.

126 00:07:54,590 --> 00:07:58,622

And I had a very close relationship with them,

127 00:07:58,622 --> 00:07:59,330 and I still have.

128 00:07:59,330 --> 00:08:00,997 One of the daughter-they all are dead.

129 00:08:00,997 --> 00:08:06,260 That one daughter committed suicide after the war.

130 00:08:06,260 --> 00:08:14,960 And the other, the parents of these two girls died of old age

131 00:08:14,960 --> 00:08:15,470 in Vienna.

132 00:08:15,470 --> 00:08:18,050

133 00:08:18,050 --> 00:08:22,970 They had to leave Czechoslovakia because they

134 00:08:22,970 --> 00:08:27,590 are viewed as select Germans and therefore, are wanted

135 00:08:27,590 --> 00:08:28,970 because they all deported.

136 00:08:28,970 --> 00:08:31,370 And then they went to--

137 00:08:31,370 --> 00:08:37,159 so they went to Vienna and the tragic situation.

138 00:08:37,159 --> 00:08:38,450 OK.

139 00:08:38,450 --> 00:08:41,299 How about how often did you get a package? Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

00:08:41,299 --> 00:08:48,380 Oh, quite-- every two weeks or so, three weeks.

141 00:08:48,380 --> 00:08:51,650 Quite frequently and periodically.

142 00:08:51,650 --> 00:08:54,310 And that was mainly decide the difference.

143 00:08:54,310 --> 00:08:55,930 It was not enough, I mean, obviously.

144 00:08:55,930 --> 00:09:00,110 But it did decide the difference.

145 00:09:00,110 --> 00:09:00,610 All right.

146 00:09:00,610 --> 00:09:03,850 Now, then the other thing with the shoes.

147 00:09:03,850 --> 00:09:08,020 I woke up and saw that my shoes were gone.

148 00:09:08,020 --> 00:09:10,750 Well, then I mean, that's the end you know.

149 00:09:10,750 --> 00:09:14,937 So I went to the barrack and looked for my shoes

150 00:09:14,937 --> 00:09:16,270 because someone had stolen them.

151 00:09:16,270 --> 00:09:19,000 And they are shoes which they had sent to me, too,

152

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:23,660 which were leather shoes which was unheard of.

153

00:09:23,660 --> 00:09:29,470 And they turned out to be a curse, another blessing.

154

00:09:29,470 --> 00:09:33,490 Later on, that's March, because they pretty much contributed

155

00:09:33,490 --> 00:09:35,470 towards the fact that I had frozen

156

00:09:35,470 --> 00:09:46,280 feet because once leather shoes get wet and soaked and freeze,

157

00:09:46,280 --> 00:09:50,740 they are much worse than the canvas actually.

158

00:09:50,740 --> 00:09:53,230 Anyway, so--

159 00:09:53,230 --> 00:09:55,360 How did you find shoes?

160 00:09:55,360 --> 00:09:58,210 Well I want-- I just saw them.

161 00:09:58,210 --> 00:09:59,900 Someone had taken them and put them--

162 00:09:59,900 --> 00:10:05,380 they didn't put them up-put them under the bunk.

163 00:10:05,380 --> 00:10:10,750 And so I just took them and retrieve them.

164 00:10:10,750 --> 00:10:13,990 But that was while all the other people slept.

165 00:10:13,990 --> 00:10:18,100 And people slept there, not just like you wake up very easily.

166 00:10:18,100 --> 00:10:18,755 You know.

167 00:10:18,755 --> 00:10:23,455 But somehow, I woke up because I sort of sense--

168 00:10:23,455 --> 00:10:26,760

169 00:10:26,760 --> 00:10:28,940 because if I had not, it would have been--

170 00:10:28,940 --> 00:10:31,560

171 00:10:31,560 --> 00:10:33,870 could have meant death.

172 00:10:33,870 --> 00:10:35,190 You would have been no shoes.

173 00:10:35,190 --> 00:10:36,330 No shoes.

174 00:10:36,330 --> 00:10:39,258 What had happened to your canvas shoes? 175 00:10:39,258 --> 00:10:40,550 I didn't have the canvas shoes.

176 00:10:40,550 --> 00:10:41,402 You didn't have any.

177 00:10:41,402 --> 00:10:44,260 No, no.

178 00:10:44,260 --> 00:10:47,050 I just gave them to someone else or whatever

179 00:10:47,050 --> 00:10:50,440 and just use those instead.

180 00:10:50,440 --> 00:10:54,850 If say, the camp guards had seen you with these shoes,

181 00:10:54,850 --> 00:10:56,710 would that have been a problem?

182 00:10:56,710 --> 00:10:57,520 No.

183 00:10:57,520 --> 00:11:00,730 It was not a problem for some reason.

184 00:11:00,730 --> 00:11:02,620 Because obviously, they could see me,

185 00:11:02,620 --> 00:11:04,390 but they didn't look at it.

186 00:11:04,390 --> 00:11:07,250 But no, no. 00:11:07,250 --> 00:11:08,835 We certainly haven't had any problems.

188 00:11:08,835 --> 00:11:13,520

189 00:11:13,520 --> 00:11:17,510 Wasn't it a problem, generally, if say,

190 00:11:17,510 --> 00:11:20,940 you got these special things and other prisoners

191 00:11:20,940 --> 00:11:24,320 would try to steal them?

192 00:11:24,320 --> 00:11:26,270 Well, we had to be very careful.

193 00:11:26,270 --> 00:11:30,530 And of course, I kept quiet about it.

194 00:11:30,530 --> 00:11:33,440 And I only had a buddy, and he knew about it

195 00:11:33,440 --> 00:11:35,000 because I confided in him.

196 00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:36,650 And I talked to him, and he wanted

197 00:11:36,650 --> 00:11:43,710 to somehow join in on the spoils without contributing anything

198 00:11:43,710 --> 00:11:44,210 at all. 199 00:11:44,210 --> 00:11:54,700 I said, well, let's have kind of a group,

200 00:11:54,700 --> 00:11:57,260 be part of a group to support each other.

201 00:11:57,260 --> 00:12:00,910 And well, that was very nice for him,

202 00:12:00,910 --> 00:12:02,590 but he had nothing to contribute.

203 00:12:02,590 --> 00:12:04,990 So it was not in our interest.

204 00:12:04,990 --> 00:12:06,740 And my father said, don't be crazy.

205 00:12:06,740 --> 00:12:08,740 Don't do it.

206 00:12:08,740 --> 00:12:11,290 He's not going to contribute.

207 00:12:11,290 --> 00:12:14,310 And we don't have that much to share.

208 00:12:14,310 --> 00:12:16,180 And so we did.

209 00:12:16,180 --> 00:12:21,310 Well, as you alluded to before that it was understood

210 00:12:21,310 --> 00:12:23,240 that if prisoners Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

stole from each other,

211

00:12:23,240 --> 00:12:24,350 this was a capital crime.

212

00:12:24,350 --> 00:12:25,570 Yeah.

213

00:12:25,570 --> 00:12:29,110 And how was this capital crime affected?

214

00:12:29,110 --> 00:12:32,890 Well, I mean, they'll beat you to death.

215

00:12:32,890 --> 00:12:34,660 Was it just that there was a designated

216

00:12:34,660 --> 00:12:35,910 group that would do this, sir?

217

00:12:35,910 --> 00:12:37,390 Well, not as a designated group.

218

00:12:37,390 --> 00:12:39,070 But I mean, there would be an outrage.

219

00:12:39,070 --> 00:12:43,750 And so that if you say, well, you done this and that.

220 00:12:43,750 --> 00:12:46,570 And other people say,

they would join in,

00:12:46,570 --> 00:12:48,280 simply because they're around.

222 00:12:48,280 --> 00:12:49,750

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

Because that was totally--

223

00:12:49,750 --> 00:12:51,400 it was a taboo.

224 00:12:51,400 --> 00:12:54,380 And that happened in Dacchau the same thing in that regard.

225

00:12:54,380 --> 00:12:55,270 Which camp?

226

00:12:55,270 --> 00:12:59,280 That was a Soviet prisoner of war,

227

00:12:59,280 --> 00:13:02,380 a young kid who tried to escape was caught

228

00:13:02,380 --> 00:13:05,800 And instead of being sent back to a Stalag,

229

00:13:05,800 --> 00:13:08,050 he was sent to Dacchau.

230

00:13:08,050 --> 00:13:13,000 And poor fellow, he was hungry and all that,

231

00:13:13,000 --> 00:13:15,280 just like anyone else, but he just

232

00:13:15,280 --> 00:13:18,130 apparently came from back home where you just simply

233

00:13:18,130 --> 00:13:18,840 go and steal.

00:13:18,840 --> 00:13:23,170 He was caught stealing from a fellow inmate.

235

00:13:23,170 --> 00:13:25,321 He was beaten to death.

236 00:13:25,321 --> 00:13:28,020 It was the end of him.

237

00:13:28,020 --> 00:13:29,160 I remember that.

238 00:13:29,160 --> 00:13:32,480

239

00:13:32,480 --> 00:13:36,110 And so the other thing, same thing, you know, same thing.

240

00:13:36,110 --> 00:13:39,597 That was absolutely unacceptable.

241 00:13:39,597 --> 00:13:42,890

242 00:13:42,890 --> 00:13:48,320 Okay, so I don't know what to say about any other.

243 00:13:48,320 --> 00:13:50,490 About Blechhammer except this sort of air raids

244 00:13:50,490 --> 00:13:54,470 were very deadly because we were not

245 00:13:54,470 --> 00:14:00,620 permitted to go into any shelters, air raid shelters.

246 00:14:00,620 --> 00:14:04,970 And had to simply be in their cellars of normal buildings.

247

00:14:04,970 --> 00:14:07,790 And I remember that some of the things just bombed

248

00:14:07,790 --> 00:14:09,350 and collapsed.

249

00:14:09,350 --> 00:14:12,710 And I remember when I only used the time

250

00:14:12,710 --> 00:14:14,960 to sleep because that's what I needed most.

251

00:14:14,960 --> 00:14:19,340 So I slept through these things and because we were unobserved

252

00:14:19,340 --> 00:14:20,000 and all that.

253

00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:24,080 And that was the only freedom I enjoyed tremendously because I

254 00:14:24,080 --> 00:14:26,570 was not bothered by anyone.

255

00:14:26,570 --> 00:14:27,930 And I use that time.

256

00:14:27,930 --> 00:14:31,160 And some other people prayed and had

257

00:14:31,160 --> 00:14:34,130 the jitters I just didn't because I just

258

00:14:34,130 --> 00:14:35,630 didn't concern me very much.

259 00:14:35,630 --> 00:14:39,020 So I lay down and slept, hoped for the best.

260

00:14:39,020 --> 00:14:42,840 And one time, there was a tremendous noise and all that.

261 00:14:42,840 --> 00:14:45,140 And I could see a hole through the wall.

262

00:14:45,140 --> 00:14:48,110 Side wall and bomb come through and just get stuck.

263

00:14:48,110 --> 00:14:48,980 It doesn't explode.

264

00:14:48,980 --> 00:14:51,410 I could see it coming, boop-sh.

265

00:14:51,410 --> 00:14:55,242 And it didn't explode.

266

00:14:55,242 --> 00:14:57,160 What a luck.

267

00:14:57,160 --> 00:14:58,680 Well, I don't know at times.

268

00:14:58,680 --> 00:14:59,660 That's another thing.

269

00:14:59,660 --> 00:15:02,740 So some people say well, you're lucky that you survived. 270 00:15:02,740 --> 00:15:05,730 And you know, I mean, that's a question I don't know.

271 00:15:05,730 --> 00:15:07,760 And it's something which is--

272

00:15:07,760 --> 00:15:13,600 at times, I'm not so sure that this could be defined as luck.

273 00:15:13,600 --> 00:15:15,910 But under the circumstances--

274 00:15:15,910 --> 00:15:18,490 and we will be talking about it when

275 00:15:18,490 --> 00:15:20,740 we wrap up the thing

because I have a few things

276

00:15:20,740 --> 00:15:22,157 to say about that.

277

00:15:22,157 --> 00:15:24,490 Well, what about your father's life during this period--

278 00:15:24,490 --> 00:15:28,930 My father's life, he had a much more difficult life than I.

279 00:15:28,930 --> 00:15:32,650 And that's why he was somehow also aging more rapidly

280 00:15:32,650 --> 00:15:43,390 and was more prone to catch things and disease, 00:15:43,390 --> 00:15:45,910 susceptible to disease, by virtue

282

00:15:45,910 --> 00:15:51,160 of the fact that his major job was to carry cement

283

00:15:51,160 --> 00:15:55,550 sacks that's dreadfully heavy.

284

00:15:55,550 --> 00:15:59,030 And dreadful work, you know, and all that.

285

00:15:59,030 --> 00:16:03,010 And so I had much, physically, much easier work,

286

00:16:03,010 --> 00:16:07,060 except I was under very strict supervision,

287 00:16:07,060 --> 00:16:08,460 and I already said that.

288

00:16:08,460 --> 00:16:11,480 So that's what my father's job was.

289

00:16:11,480 --> 00:16:14,740 What about he had technical skills--

290

00:16:14,740 --> 00:16:16,900 Well, he didn't, you see.

291

00:16:16,900 --> 00:16:19,660 And he didn't have any technical skill.

292

00:16:19,660 --> 00:16:23,710 He would have wound up if he had stayed alive.

293

00:16:23,710 --> 00:16:27,220 He would have been a bank executive,

294

00:16:27,220 --> 00:16:28,200 which he was already.

295

00:16:28,200 --> 00:16:31,123 I mean, he's senior back then.

296

00:16:31,123 --> 00:16:32,540 But I thought he had [INAUDIBLE]..

297

00:16:32,540 --> 00:16:36,310 But he-- well, I mean, yeah.

298

00:16:36,310 --> 00:16:42,160 Well, I mean, he was quite capable of working

299

00:16:42,160 --> 00:16:46,630 with his hands, and did some gardening back in Prague

300

00:16:46,630 --> 00:16:49,170 when it was nothing else he could do.

301

00:16:49,170 --> 00:16:51,770 So he was employed as in a gardener kind of thing.

302

00:16:51,770 --> 00:16:52,570 You learn this.

303

00:16:52,570 --> 00:16:56,230 So I wish to god he would have come to my place 00:16:56,230 --> 00:16:58,390

and did some work, but--

305 00:16:58,390 --> 00:17:02,320 [CHUCKLES] which he didn't do.

306 00:17:02,320 --> 00:17:09,970 But he didn't have any real skills in this regard,

307 00:17:09,970 --> 00:17:14,950 except that he could work as a laborer-- as unskilled labor.

308 00:17:14,950 --> 00:17:18,069 And whatever he said, I forget actually what he said.

309 00:17:18,069 --> 00:17:19,510 Because what can you do?

310 00:17:19,510 --> 00:17:22,780 So he must have said something was just a straight lie.

311 00:17:22,780 --> 00:17:25,960 Because they wanted to have people with very specific

312 00:17:25,960 --> 00:17:31,240 skills which would fit into this ? syn fuel plant, this big,

313 00:17:31,240 --> 00:17:33,250 big thing there.

314 00:17:33,250 --> 00:17:36,706 So I forget what he actually claimed to be--

315 00:17:36,706 --> 00:17:37,206 whatever. 316 00:17:37,206 --> 00:17:41,630 So they used him for whatever he could do,

317 00:17:41,630 --> 00:17:49,120 which was just schlepping these cement sacks.

318 00:17:49,120 --> 00:17:52,360 And so he was totally exhausted.

319 00:17:52,360 --> 00:17:53,900 Also, we didn't stay.

320 00:17:53,900 --> 00:17:57,340 We were not able to be in one barrack together.

321 00:17:57,340 --> 00:18:00,970 So he was in a different barrack.

322 00:18:00,970 --> 00:18:02,320 Could you meet up?

323 00:18:02,320 --> 00:18:03,040 Oh, we met.

324 00:18:03,040 --> 00:18:05,830 You know, of course we met very frequently.

325 00:18:05,830 --> 00:18:08,920 And that was possible.

326 00:18:08,920 --> 00:18:10,870 What was the food like in Blechhammer?

327 00:18:10,870 --> 00:18:15,530 Well, the food was slightly better, but not significantly 328

00:18:15,530 --> 00:18:16,030 so.

329 00:18:16,030 --> 00:18:18,290 The quality was a bit better.

330

00:18:18,290 --> 00:18:21,160 Than soup was a bit more substantive,

331

00:18:21,160 --> 00:18:23,330 although it was also turnip and all that.

332 00:18:23,330 --> 00:18:26,680 It was just a little bit more.

333 00:18:26,680 --> 00:18:29,410 And then we are able to occasionally

334 00:18:29,410 --> 00:18:32,440 get some things from other people, maybe, who worked

335 00:18:32,440 --> 00:18:37,810 and all that, and steal lots, you know, and like [INAUDIBLE]..

336 00:18:37,810 --> 00:18:38,370 And--

337 00:18:38,370 --> 00:18:40,090 You mean, like, the cabbage?

338 00:18:40,090 --> 00:18:42,350 Yeah, this sort of thing, and then be

339 00:18:42,350 --> 00:18:45,250 alert if after an air raid, you would find a few things.

340

00:18:45,250 --> 00:18:47,710 Like, I found a full thing.

341 00:18:47,710 --> 00:18:55,000 It was just like a [INAUDIBLE]--

342

00:18:55,000 --> 00:18:57,700 just find a knapsack, you know, the knapsack

343

00:18:57,700 --> 00:19:01,000 with all the stuff in it.

344

00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:02,440 And--

345

00:19:02,440 --> 00:19:06,220 What about washing and toilet facilities there?

346

00:19:06,220 --> 00:19:12,520 Well, the toilet facilities were much better,

347

00:19:12,520 --> 00:19:14,350 because there was really some place where

348

00:19:14,350 --> 00:19:18,370 you could go, and wash up, and all that, which

349

00:19:18,370 --> 00:19:21,170 did not exist at all back in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

350

00:19:21,170 --> 00:19:24,070 And also, the toilets were much different. 00:19:24,070 --> 00:19:25,690 Because Auschwitz-Birkenau, I'll never

352

00:19:25,690 --> 00:19:27,970 forget the toilets, which were just

353

 $00:19:27,970 \rightarrow 00:19:34,760$ rows of holes which people sat by in the dozens.

354

00:19:34,760 --> 00:19:38,050 And the place was infested with all sorts

355

00:19:38,050 --> 00:19:43,210 of crawling things, white worms, whatever they were,

356

00:19:43,210 --> 00:19:45,010 and just awful stuff.

357

00:19:45,010 --> 00:19:49,660 And you couldn't really wipe anything, you know--

358

00:19:49,660 --> 00:19:51,260 just awful stuff.

359

00:19:51,260 --> 00:19:55,870 And in Blechhammer and it was apparently a little bit more

360

00:19:55,870 --> 00:19:59,810 able to wash up and be clean.

361

00:19:59,810 --> 00:20:05,110 And the problem of vermin was not quite as acute

362 00:20:05,110 --> 00:20:10,570 there as it was in

Auschwitz-Birkenau.

363

00:20:10,570 --> 00:20:13,520 Were you able to keep warm?

364 00:20:13,520 --> 00:20:19,250 Well, I think it was--

365

00:20:19,250 --> 00:20:29,630 I think we had better chances to get blankets and things

366

00:20:29,630 --> 00:20:32,420 than-- it was better than back in Auschwitz-Birkenau

367

00:20:32,420 --> 00:20:35,480 or something.

368

00:20:35,480 --> 00:20:40,370 And so I can remember that the bunks were pretty much

369

00:20:40,370 --> 00:20:49,430 the same, except I think we've had better straw mats, sacks,

370

00:20:49,430 --> 00:20:51,800 whatever they were, and filled with straw,

371

00:20:51,800 --> 00:20:57,770 and blankets which were a bit superior than what we've

372 00:20:57,770 --> 00:20:59,130 had back there.

373 00:20:59,130 --> 00:21:01,330 Did do you have any days off?

374 00:21:01,330 --> 00:21:02,065 Sunday.

375 00:21:02,065 --> 00:21:04,460 You did?

376 00:21:04,460 --> 00:21:06,150 What could you do for amusement?

377 00:21:06,150 --> 00:21:06,650 Amusement?

378 00:21:06,650 --> 00:21:08,240 Mm-hmm.

379 00:21:08,240 --> 00:21:14,740 Well, amusement was none, actually, so to speak.

380 00:21:14,740 --> 00:21:19,190 We just simply tried to relax, and come to, and all that.

381 00:21:19,190 --> 00:21:22,820

382 00:21:22,820 --> 00:21:26,570 And occasionally, there is some people

383 00:21:26,570 --> 00:21:31,640 with a great deal of initiative who

384 00:21:31,640 --> 00:21:34,730 gave performances to which even SS came,

385 00:21:34,730 --> 00:21:38,090 because they felt that they themselves

386 00:21:38,090 --> 00:21:40,070 didn't have any [INAUDIBLE].

387

00:21:40,070 --> 00:21:42,980 And some of these things were, of course,

388 00:21:42,980 --> 00:21:48,350 performed by professionals, and had a very high level

389

00:21:48,350 --> 00:21:50,108 of sophistication.

390 00:21:50,108 --> 00:21:52,400 And since you've mentioned that, it was something which

391

00:21:52,400 --> 00:21:57,500 was had very important ramifications later on for me

392

00:21:57,500 --> 00:22:00,470 personally, was for other people who remember that,

393

00:22:00,470 --> 00:22:02,640 as well as for that person himself,

394

00:22:02,640 --> 00:22:04,970 who was an SS person, who--

395

00:22:04,970 --> 00:22:07,400 all the SS, they all campuses came

396

00:22:07,400 --> 00:22:08,960 to these sort of performances.

397

00:22:08,960 --> 00:22:13,940 And in one particular instance, one person who actually had 398 00:22:13,940 --> 00:22:20,750 the SD, so he was really into SD room and all that, he just--

399 00:22:20,750 --> 00:22:23,690 after performance, he stood up and said in public--

400

00:22:23,690 --> 00:22:28,400 in front of all the SS people and all the inmates-- and said,

401

00:22:28,400 --> 00:22:32,210 we always are told that you are subhuman, and whatever,

402

00:22:32,210 --> 00:22:33,410 vermin, all that.

403

00:22:33,410 --> 00:22:36,470 And people who, under those circumstances,

404

00:22:36,470 --> 00:22:40,070 can give such a performance deserve our respect.

405

00:22:40,070 --> 00:22:42,020 And he said that in public.

406

00:22:42,020 --> 00:22:43,410 And then he disappeared.

407

00:22:43,410 --> 00:22:46,440 And I said, well, that's the end of him.

408

00:22:46,440 --> 00:22:48,300 But no, it was not the end of him.

409 00:22:48,300 --> 00:22:49,910 And when I was a witness--

410

00:22:49,910 --> 00:22:53,870 supposed to be a witness in the so-called Blechhammer trial,

411 00:22:53,870 --> 00:22:55,880 where I was an official witness--

412 00:22:55,880 --> 00:23:01,580 except it never came to it that I was called in and all that--

413 00:23:01,580 --> 00:23:03,530 but I had to testify.

414

00:23:03,530 --> 00:23:08,790 And here in San Francisco, the Consul was just a real SOB,

415

00:23:08,790 --> 00:23:09,290 you know?

416

00:23:09,290 --> 00:23:12,040 And you could see that the man was a Nazi, you know,

417

00:23:12,040 --> 00:23:21,740 and just really resentful, and treated me like a--

418

00:23:21,740 --> 00:23:28,070 if I had been some sort of a criminal.

419

00:23:28,070 --> 00:23:40,760 And so this fellow then was during the Blechhammer trial--

420 00:23:40,760 --> 00:23:43,640 which, apparently, none of these people really survived. 421 00:23:43,640 --> 00:23:45,110 He was one of the few who survived.

422 00:23:45,110 --> 00:23:46,250 Because they all--

423

00:23:46,250 --> 00:23:51,000 "Tom Mix" got killed, which comes to me

424 00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:52,310

as some sort of-- as a relief.

425

00:23:52,310 --> 00:23:55,520 Because, I mean, I'm not particularly bloodthirsty

426

00:23:55,520 --> 00:24:01,920 individual, but I think he certainly got what he was--

427

00:24:01,920 --> 00:24:05,600 what was coming to him.

428

00:24:05,600 --> 00:24:06,740 Anyway--

429 00:24:06,740 --> 00:24:09,344 How did he get killed?

430 00:24:09,344 --> 00:24:11,450 Somehow in combat or whatever.

431 00:24:11,450 --> 00:24:17,330

432 00:24:17,330 --> 00:24:24,770 And so this fellow didn't, and that got him off the hook. 433 00:24:24,770 --> 00:24:29,750 So he was actually in the trial and accused

434

00:24:29,750 --> 00:24:30,710 of whatever they said.

435

00:24:30,710 --> 00:24:34,028 But then he said, I've said this and that

436

00:24:34,028 --> 00:24:35,570 and there are witnesses and all that.

437

00:24:35,570 --> 00:24:40,350 Apparently found witnesses in my testimony also.

438

00:24:40,350 --> 00:24:50,030 And he was not sentenced to anything.

439

00:24:50,030 --> 00:24:53,870 Did he receive any punishment by the SS at the time?

440

00:24:53,870 --> 00:24:55,310 That I don't know because I always

441

00:24:55,310 --> 00:24:56,393 wanted to meet the fellow.

442 00:24:56,393 --> 00:24:59,760

443 00:24:59,760 --> 00:25:02,420 And I worked very closely with Ludwigsburg,

444 00:25:02,420 --> 00:25:13,970 as a matter of fact, the person in charge,

445

00:25:13,970 --> 00:25:22,410 the attorney in charge of the whole outfit

446

00:25:22,410 --> 00:25:26,750 which is to find people who committed crimes

447

00:25:26,750 --> 00:25:27,960 against humanity.

448 00:25:27,960 --> 00:25:31,080

449

00:25:31,080 --> 00:25:33,000 The attorney in charge.

450

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:37,620 Well no, not a--

451 00:25:37,620 --> 00:25:51,050

452 00:25:51,050 --> 00:25:58,280 What do you call the attorney who in chooses people?

453 00:25:58,280 --> 00:25:59,240 I don't know that.

454 00:25:59,240 --> 00:26:04,232

455 00:26:04,232 --> 00:26:06,440 You don't mean like a district attorney?

456 00:26:06,440 --> 00:26:09,630 District attorney type of Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

thing, something like that.

457

00:26:09,630 --> 00:26:14,180 So he was in something like that except in charge

458

00:26:14,180 --> 00:26:15,260 of all the things.

459

00:26:15,260 --> 00:26:18,710 So I came there to do some research

460

00:26:18,710 --> 00:26:23,690 and look into the archives, and I got to know him and said,

461

00:26:23,690 --> 00:26:24,740 you have to look at this.

462

00:26:24,740 --> 00:26:28,160 And then just didn't want to let me go or something.

463

00:26:28,160 --> 00:26:30,540 He came out with a number of interesting very important

464

00:26:30,540 --> 00:26:33,920 books, some of which have been translated into a English.

465

00:26:33,920 --> 00:26:38,030 A man called [? Rickel, ?] [? Rickarol. ?] Very

466

00:26:38,030 --> 00:26:38,740 interesting man.

467 00:26:38,740 --> 00:26:41,360

00:26:41,360 --> 00:26:43,190 So I went with him.

469

00:26:43,190 --> 00:26:46,370 He was under protection all the time.

470

00:26:46,370 --> 00:26:50,730 It's just interesting because a lot of attempts to kill him

471

00:26:50,730 --> 00:26:51,750 or whatever.

472

00:26:51,750 --> 00:26:53,970 So I've been through that with him.

473

00:26:53,970 --> 00:26:55,790 And because he told me all these stories

474

00:26:55,790 --> 00:27:00,680 and I had to work in his office with him directly

475

00:27:00,680 --> 00:27:02,450 and looking into the file and all that.

476

00:27:02,450 --> 00:27:03,740 It was very helpful.

477 00:27:03,740 --> 00:27:04,880

Died, unfortunately.

478

00:27:04,880 --> 00:27:09,590 Died of old age more than anything, I guess.

479 00:27:09,590 --> 00:27:13,910

480 00:27:13,910 --> 00:27:15,890 So then I found out from these files

481 00:27:15,890 --> 00:27:18,950 that this man was let off the hook simply because--

482

00:27:18,950 --> 00:27:22,130 This was known and obviously I was not the only one witness

483

00:27:22,130 --> 00:27:28,700 that remembered that of those survivors, which I think

484

00:27:28,700 --> 00:27:29,492 is terrific.

485

00:27:29,492 --> 00:27:30,700 I really think it's terrific.

486 00:27:30,700 --> 00:27:32,960 Was he known for--

487

00:27:32,960 --> 00:27:33,710 No, he was not.

488

00:27:33,710 --> 00:27:35,210 No, no.

489 00:27:35,210 --> 00:27:37,090 He didn't do anything.

490 00:27:37,090 --> 00:27:40,130

491 00:27:40,130 --> 00:27:42,250 And I talked to a number of people

00:27:42,250 --> 00:27:46,510 and observed a lot of SS officers and how they--

493

00:27:46,510 --> 00:27:48,510 And with the exception--

494

00:27:48,510 --> 00:27:49,720 It was terrible.

495

00:27:49,720 --> 00:27:51,970 Some assisted in the hanging of people

496

00:27:51,970 --> 00:27:55,030 and some of the weekly hangings--

497

00:27:55,030 --> 00:27:57,880 Well, actually not every week but most of the week someone

498 00:27:57,880 --> 00:27:59,710 was there and hanged.

499

00:27:59,710 --> 00:28:01,300 And then they read the whole thing

500

00:28:01,300 --> 00:28:05,080 and then they just said, OK, and then they hang them.

501

00:28:05,080 --> 00:28:10,780 They had some very strange type of strings, ropes or whatever,

502

00:28:10,780 --> 00:28:12,820 and they broke and then they hang them again.

503 00:28:12,820 --> 00:28:15,760 And they broke Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

again and you know.

504

00:28:15,760 --> 00:28:17,890 And this sort of thing was terrible to watch.

505 00:28:17,890 --> 00:28:21,130 And most of the people they hanged were very brave.

506 00:28:21,130 --> 00:28:23,350 And that's something which I won't forget.

507 00:28:23,350 --> 00:28:26,840 They also just went into their death head high

508 00:28:26,840 --> 00:28:36,580 and then addressed the crowd of inmates, this is to survive.

509 00:28:36,580 --> 00:28:38,830 You will survive.

510

00:28:38,830 --> 00:28:41,320 Don't let yourself be--

511 00:28:41,320 --> 00:28:43,090 I was terribly impressed with that

512 00:28:43,090 --> 00:28:46,640 just for us to see that, to be forced to see that.

513 00:28:46,640 --> 00:28:50,680 And There is Tom Mix, you know, just anyone who

514 00:28:50,680 --> 00:28:55,970 wanted to hide in the barracks to avoid watching it, 515 00:28:55,970 --> 00:28:58,240 so he was getting them out and shooting at them

516 00:28:58,240 --> 00:28:59,820 and all that with pistol drawn.

517 00:28:59,820 --> 00:29:04,750

518 00:29:04,750 --> 00:29:09,250 And I escaped his threats for reasons which are--

519 00:29:09,250 --> 00:29:09,790 All right.

520 00:29:09,790 --> 00:29:12,490

521 00:29:12,490 --> 00:29:18,250 Well, what was this particular play that the inmates put on?

522 00:29:18,250 --> 00:29:19,340 Well, it was a cabaret.

523 00:29:19,340 --> 00:29:21,970 It was kind of a cabaret type of thing on camp life

524 00:29:21,970 --> 00:29:28,180 and which parodied the life, including SS and all that.

525 00:29:28,180 --> 00:29:32,080 It was highly incredibly sophisticated

526 00:29:32,080 --> 00:29:33,640 and very impressive. 527 00:29:33,640 --> 00:29:36,130 Sounds very daring.

528 00:29:36,130 --> 00:29:37,030 Oh, yeah.

529 00:29:37,030 --> 00:29:40,750 It was very daring.

530

00:29:40,750 --> 00:29:47,170 But in a way which was very amusing to the SS and they just

531 00:29:47,170 --> 00:29:50,770 took it in, just thought it was great.

532

00:29:50,770 --> 00:29:52,870 How else could you pass your time?

533 00:29:52,870 --> 00:29:54,560 Well, pass your time what you did

534

00:29:54,560 --> 00:29:58,750 is you didn't pass your time because you just talked about

535 00:29:58,750 --> 00:30:01,210 pass your time.

536 00:30:01,210 --> 00:30:02,180 People are exhausted.

537 00:30:02,180 --> 00:30:03,480 They slept.

538 00:30:03,480 --> 00:30:04,630 I mean, what do you do? 539 00:30:04,630 --> 00:30:08,050 You just go around a little bit maybe the camp premises

540 00:30:08,050 --> 00:30:09,760 and talk to some friends and all that.

541 00:30:09,760 --> 00:30:11,110 Yes, that was done.

542 00:30:11,110 --> 00:30:12,556 And people you knew.

543 00:30:12,556 --> 00:30:15,340

544 00:30:15,340 --> 00:30:18,440 But there was so little energy left.

545 00:30:18,440 --> 00:30:22,300 So that if there is any time, we've got any time to spare

546 00:30:22,300 --> 00:30:26,380 and all that, you went and slept or organized some food

547 00:30:26,380 --> 00:30:28,750 or just so it could be had and talk to friends.

548 00:30:28,750 --> 00:30:30,760 That's it, period.

549 00:30:30,760 --> 00:30:32,880 How would you organize food?

550 00:30:32,880 --> 00:30:33,970 I tell you already. 551 00:30:33,970 --> 00:30:36,050 The cabbage I know, but what else?

552

00:30:36,050 --> 00:30:36,550 Oh.

553

00:30:36,550 --> 00:30:41,260 Well, just simply see where were you--

554

00:30:41,260 --> 00:30:44,850 Well, my father did one thing, for example.

555

00:30:44,850 --> 00:30:49,360 You know that some SS people through some inmates

556

00:30:49,360 --> 00:30:53,140 that they bought gold or something.

557

00:30:53,140 --> 00:30:57,340 So my father went to a dentist, had his gold fillings,

558

00:30:57,340 --> 00:31:01,160 one filling or two fillings, removed,

559

00:31:01,160 --> 00:31:03,700 and gave it to this inmate.

560

00:31:03,700 --> 00:31:10,690 And he gave it to the SS, and then they got a piece of bread

561

00:31:10,690 --> 00:31:13,330 and that's why we had some bread, which was 00:31:13,330 --> 00:31:16,720 his contribution to our things.

563 00:31:16,720 --> 00:31:18,410 And that's what he did.

564 00:31:18,410 --> 00:31:23,260 And it was very bad because my father died with false teeth,

565

00:31:23,260 --> 00:31:24,910 and he had the best teeth in the world.

566 00:31:24,910 --> 00:31:27,910 I mean, he was 40.

567 00:31:27,910 --> 00:31:29,240 During that particular time.

568

00:31:29,240 --> 00:31:32,440 He had just healthy strong teeth which hardly had any fillings,

569

00:31:32,440 --> 00:31:34,090 with just a few of these gold.

570

00:31:34,090 --> 00:31:38,170 And that gold he removed to sell for bread.

571 00:31:38,170 --> 00:31:40,780 OK, so that's one device he did.

572

00:31:40,780 --> 00:31:44,080 And then what I did, just made contacts

573

00:31:44,080 --> 00:31:49,660 with people who had more than you had and trade and organize,

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

00:31:49,660 --> 00:31:53,320 which included stealing.

575

00:31:53,320 --> 00:31:57,130 Oh, what I did too was just stole some things

576

00:31:57,130 --> 00:32:00,580 after air raids, removed it from air raids, which

577

00:32:00,580 --> 00:32:02,590 was, of some value to some people

578

00:32:02,590 --> 00:32:05,360 and sold it for a piece of bread.

579

00:32:05,360 --> 00:32:08,260 This was kind of necessary.

580 00:32:08,260 --> 00:32:12,130 There's dual morality where it was quite OK to steal

581 00:32:12,130 --> 00:32:14,440 from anybody except your peers.

582 00:32:14,440 --> 00:32:16,180 That's right.

583 00:32:16,180 --> 00:32:19,367 There was no problem with stealing from--

584 00:32:19,367 --> 00:32:21,700 Now in Theresienstadt that there was another thing which

585 00:32:21,700 --> 00:32:23,470 I thought was very interesting. 586 00:32:23,470 --> 00:32:27,790 The gendarmes, which were very close to where I stayed,

587 00:32:27,790 --> 00:32:31,520 they had their barracks, which of course are very different.

588

00:32:31,520 --> 00:32:35,170 And in the windows they had sausage hanging.

589

00:32:35,170 --> 00:32:38,710 So some people went and stole the sausage.

590

00:32:38,710 --> 00:32:40,910 I was tempted to do that, but at that time,

591

00:32:40,910 --> 00:32:43,360 I was not somehow pushed far enough to do it.

592

00:32:43,360 --> 00:32:49,050 I thought about it back in Theresienstadt,

593

00:32:49,050 --> 00:32:50,980 and I should have done it and I didn't.

594

00:32:50,980 --> 00:32:54,220 I could have, and I didn't do it.

595

00:32:54,220 --> 00:32:57,100 But then Blechhammer and Auschwitz and all

596

00:32:57,100 --> 00:33:01,960 that, then I said, hey, there was no question anymore.

597 00:33:01,960 --> 00:33:04,840 So you had a gradual sort of demoralization

598 00:33:04,840 --> 00:33:12,730 of the mundane morality, change in your mundane morality

599 00:33:12,730 --> 00:33:15,280 into the camp morality, and that was

600 00:33:15,280 --> 00:33:19,510 very different from the mundane everyday morality.

601 00:33:19,510 --> 00:33:20,800 And that's what I did.

602 00:33:20,800 --> 00:33:25,720 AND then I had absolutely no problem stealing, as long

603 00:33:25,720 --> 00:33:27,380 as it was not from a fellow inmate.

604 00:33:27,380 --> 00:33:32,680 But of course, then we've had back in Dachau,

605 00:33:32,680 --> 00:33:36,700 if you could see that a person was a goner

606 00:33:36,700 --> 00:33:40,570 and not going to live, then you just

607 00:33:40,570 --> 00:33:46,380 try to be around him just like a vulture, just like a hyena 608 00:33:46,380 --> 00:33:50,230 or whatever some animals who wait until someone

609 00:33:50,230 --> 00:33:52,180 dies so that you can take.

610 00:33:52,180 --> 00:33:59,628 That was acceptable

611 00:33:59,628 --> 00:34:01,420 Like the Muslim men you were talking about.

612 00:34:01,420 --> 00:34:02,050 Well, yeah.

613 00:34:02,050 --> 00:34:05,350 Particularly people who just about to croak.

614 00:34:05,350 --> 00:34:09,084 And then you just saw to it that you were around them

615 00:34:09,084 --> 00:34:15,040 and actually nursed them to their end

616 00:34:15,040 --> 00:34:18,010 so that you would inherit whatever may have been left,

617 00:34:18,010 --> 00:34:20,800 which may have been part of a ration or something they

618 00:34:20,800 --> 00:34:21,670 no longer could eat.

619 00:34:21,670 --> 00:34:23,710 620 00:34:23,710 --> 00:34:25,840 When they reached, the Muslim, that stage,

621 00:34:25,840 --> 00:34:28,090 did they go and get their food on the list?

622 00:34:28,090 --> 00:34:32,320

623 00:34:32,320 --> 00:34:34,810 Someone got it for them, which was.

624 00:34:34,810 --> 00:34:40,840 Someone else had to and just and gave it to them and sometimes

625 00:34:40,840 --> 00:34:42,190 didn't.

626 00:34:42,190 --> 00:34:47,530 I wouldn't have done that, but it was done.

627 00:34:47,530 --> 00:34:50,080 So they would have died more quickly if they weren't

628 00:34:50,080 --> 00:34:52,010 sustained by other people.

629 00:34:52,010 --> 00:34:54,570 But some people couldn't, that's right.

630 00:34:54,570 --> 00:34:56,949 But some people simply collected and didn't 631 00:34:56,949 --> 00:34:59,260 give it to them and just at it themselves and all

632 00:34:59,260 --> 00:35:02,406 that because they couldn't defend themselves.

633 00:35:02,406 --> 00:35:06,300

634 00:35:06,300 --> 00:35:08,730 Then there was an important incident

635 00:35:08,730 --> 00:35:11,610 when I had some sort of--

636 00:35:11,610 --> 00:35:15,630 I still have the marks on my leg.

637 00:35:15,630 --> 00:35:22,453 Because of the shoes I've then had the canvas shoes,

638 00:35:22,453 --> 00:35:24,120 and the severe winter, they were rubbing

639 00:35:24,120 --> 00:35:29,110 against the skin and all that, of course no socks or anything,

640 00:35:29,110 --> 00:35:32,880 just pieces of rags which were filthy,

641 00:35:32,880 --> 00:35:41,040 lice-ridden or infected, rubbed against the skin. Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

00:35:41,040 --> 00:35:46,330 And so combination with frost and infection,

643

00:35:46,330 --> 00:35:50,670 I wound up with a leg wound which

644

00:35:50,670 --> 00:35:55,170 was so infected that I just couldn't walk anymore

645

00:35:55,170 --> 00:35:58,440 and I was accepted in the sick bay.

646

00:35:58,440 --> 00:36:06,400 And the sick bay was run by I don't know what.

647

00:36:06,400 --> 00:36:07,755 I forget.

648 00:36:07,755 --> 00:36:09,330 A Polish Jew or French Jew.

649

00:36:09,330 --> 00:36:10,320 I just forget.

650

00:36:10,320 --> 00:36:13,250 I don't know why I didn't put it down when I still remember.

651 00:36:13,250 --> 00:36:14,845 Could it be Belgian?

652 00:36:14,845 --> 00:36:16,200 Yeah, could be.

653

00:36:16,200 --> 00:36:19,950 I just forget some of the things. 654 00:36:19,950 --> 00:36:25,680 And so he treated the people who were already

655 00:36:25,680 --> 00:36:34,935 dying of malnutrition in putting a suction thing

656

00:36:34,935 --> 00:36:39,930 and bleeding them so that put things

657

00:36:39,930 --> 00:36:47,670 on them, leech-like things, suction cups.

658

00:36:47,670 --> 00:36:52,850 They didn't have leeches, but suction cups.

659

00:36:52,850 --> 00:36:56,820 And just absolute sadist.

660

00:36:56,820 --> 00:37:01,260 And worked hand in hand with the SS

661

00:37:01,260 --> 00:37:05,940 and designated those people who were to be selected and sent

662

00:37:05,940 --> 00:37:06,600 into gas.

663 00:37:06,600 --> 00:37:08,670 And he was an inmate.

664 00:37:08,670 --> 00:37:13,020 And somehow he took some liking to me and he let me be there.

665 00:37:13,020 --> 00:37:17,820 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

And somehow then there was another sort of male nurse

666

00:37:17,820 --> 00:37:21,420 there and he just was very protective of me and all that.

667 00:37:21,420 --> 00:37:25,260 So they nursed me so that I was OK again and all that.

668 00:37:25,260 --> 00:37:28,440 Nothing happened and I was kind of given special attention

669 00:37:28,440 --> 00:37:29,430 and all that.

670 00:37:29,430 --> 00:37:31,740 And that happened because I don't know why.

671 00:37:31,740 --> 00:37:33,855 It just simply happened.

672 00:37:33,855 --> 00:37:39,960

673 00:37:39,960 --> 00:37:44,008 And other people he just virtually killed.

674 00:37:44,008 --> 00:37:46,300 So it was a situation where nobody would go to sick bay

675 00:37:46,300 --> 00:37:47,425 unless they were desperate.

676 00:37:47,425 --> 00:37:48,190 Oh, absolutely. 00:37:48,190 --> 00:37:50,620 Because he was deadly thing, a deadly game.

678 00:37:50,620 --> 00:37:54,190 Because you didn't know whether you would ever come out.

679 00:37:54,190 --> 00:37:56,800 But I had no option because I simply couldn't, I

680 00:37:56,800 --> 00:38:00,250 was just no longer in a position to walk.

681 00:38:00,250 --> 00:38:03,080 They did all for me that I could.

682 00:38:03,080 --> 00:38:04,880 And the whole thing healed.

683 00:38:04,880 --> 00:38:09,250 And that's precisely the thing, that under certain situations

684 00:38:09,250 --> 00:38:12,110 people had types of infectious disease

685 00:38:12,110 --> 00:38:15,230 and all that which are not normal conditions people don't

686 00:38:15,230 --> 00:38:15,730 survive.

687 00:38:15,730 --> 00:38:18,700 In concentration camps they did, and he just beats me.

688 00:38:18,700 --> 00:38:21,370 And the type of research which has been neglected

689

00:38:21,370 --> 00:38:23,180 is inexcusable.

690 00:38:23,180 --> 00:38:25,000 How do you understand that?

691

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:26,680 I don't.

692 00:38:26,680 --> 00:38:29,050 I don't have the expertise.

693

00:38:29,050 --> 00:38:32,050 But I really think that the only thing

694

00:38:32,050 --> 00:38:33,880 is the drive of self-preservation

695

00:38:33,880 --> 00:38:38,710 or that your defensive system or whatever

696

00:38:38,710 --> 00:38:42,460 is so mobilized that it countervailed

697

00:38:42,460 --> 00:38:46,730 all the other things much more than other normal conditions.

698

00:38:46,730 --> 00:38:49,150 But that's a social/psychological

699

00:38:49,150 --> 00:38:53,380 explanation and not a medical one. 700 00:38:53,380 --> 00:38:58,150 But yeah, just unbelievable.

701 00:38:58,150 --> 00:39:01,100 Things which you normally don't survive,

702 00:39:01,100 --> 00:39:02,920 disease, they survived.

703

00:39:02,920 --> 00:39:05,650 On the other hand, some people died within a day,

704

00:39:05,650 --> 00:39:11,590 just like my second cousin or whatever, Dr. Peter

705

00:39:11,590 --> 00:39:12,130 Schleissner.

706 00:39:12,130 --> 00:39:18,370 And he had the [INAUDIBLE] on the nose.

707 00:39:18,370 --> 00:39:22,210 And one day he comes to see me and says, how are you

708 00:39:22,210 --> 00:39:23,710 and all this and all that.

709 00:39:23,710 --> 00:39:25,040 And next day he's dead.

710 00:39:25,040 --> 00:39:26,430 So I said, what happened?

711 00:39:26,430 --> 00:39:28,900 He's not coming, I didn't see him.

712 00:39:28,900 --> 00:39:31,600 He died within 24 hours.

713 00:39:31,600 --> 00:39:36,070

714 00:39:36,070 --> 00:39:39,610 But I had pneumonia, I had pleurisy, I had a typhus,

715 00:39:39,610 --> 00:39:42,370 I had a jaundice.

716 00:39:42,370 --> 00:39:43,760 You name it, I've had it.

717 00:39:43,760 --> 00:39:47,530 And I survived for reasons which escape me why.

718 00:39:47,530 --> 00:39:51,010 People die here under normal conditions of pneumonia,

719 00:39:51,010 --> 00:39:54,160 and through some combination of that.

720 00:39:54,160 --> 00:39:58,170 And then I contracted tuberculosis as well.

721 00:39:58,170 --> 00:40:00,910 That I only found out after the liberation

722 00:40:00,910 --> 00:40:04,060 because we were given x-rays.

723 00:40:04,060 --> 00:40:07,060 So how long were you in Dachau? 724 00:40:07,060 --> 00:40:10,580 Well it was just about 3/4 of a year I would imagine.

725 00:40:10,580 --> 00:40:11,080 Yeah.

726 00:40:11,080 --> 00:40:18,790

727 00:40:18,790 --> 00:40:20,320 No, probably more.

728 00:40:20,320 --> 00:40:22,270 Actually more, probably.

729 00:40:22,270 --> 00:40:24,460 No, 3/4 of a year.

730 00:40:24,460 --> 00:40:29,380 Because I was shipped to Auschwitz-Birkenau '43,

731 00:40:29,380 --> 00:40:33,820 was there for about eight months.

732 00:40:33,820 --> 00:40:35,710 Yeah, just about that.

733 00:40:35,710 --> 00:40:38,920 And again you see all the inaccuracies.

734 00:40:38,920 --> 00:40:41,320 And that's what people, revisionists say,

735 00:40:41,320 --> 00:40:43,870 oh, it's inaccurate and all this because you 736 00:40:43,870 --> 00:40:45,400 didn't have calendars there.

737 00:40:45,400 --> 00:40:47,930 You only went by this season.

738 00:40:47,930 --> 00:40:50,740 And so the timing was exceedingly difficult.

739 00:40:50,740 --> 00:40:54,040 And in retrospect it is going to reflect

740 00:40:54,040 --> 00:41:00,160 on saying things which are inaccurate, very inaccurate

741 00:41:00,160 --> 00:41:02,920 in terms of time, perception.

742 00:41:02,920 --> 00:41:05,920

743 00:41:05,920 --> 00:41:12,640 All right, when it came to the end of Blechhammer

744 00:41:12,640 --> 00:41:18,940 then we heard already the Russians advancing.

745 00:41:18,940 --> 00:41:21,530 And then they rounded us up and said,

746 00:41:21,530 --> 00:41:24,650 OK, those so you can stay who just can't walk.

747 00:41:24,650 --> 00:41:28,900 And my father was in a position Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

where he just simply was

748

00:41:28,900 --> 00:41:34,300 at that time in the sick bay, and nothing very much

749

00:41:34,300 --> 00:41:37,450 could happen to him at that time because they no longer were

750

00:41:37,450 --> 00:41:41,200 selected, as I said before, and sent to the gas chambers

751 00:41:41,200 --> 00:41:43,750 to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

752

00:41:43,750 --> 00:41:46,660 And so I had that chance, of course,

753 00:41:46,60

00:41:46,660 --> 00:41:49,510 I had a choice because I was totally

754

00:41:49,510 --> 00:41:52,990 in a position to hide and all that and could have.

755

00:41:52,990 --> 00:41:55,820 And I had to make a decision.

756

00:41:55,820 --> 00:41:58,840 Am I going to risk that they will kill us

757

00:41:58,840 --> 00:42:01,270 because we counted pretty much on the fact

758

00:42:01,270 --> 00:42:05,290 that they would wipe us out before they 759 00:42:05,290 --> 00:42:07,270 let us fall into the hands of the Russians?

760 00:42:07,270 --> 00:42:11,500 Or am I going to join the majority who

761 00:42:11,500 --> 00:42:19,150 still were able to walk and start the death march?

762 00:42:19,150 --> 00:42:24,810 And then I talked it over with my father,

763 00:42:24,810 --> 00:42:28,780 and I don't know what he really said to me, but he couldn't.

764 00:42:28,780 --> 00:42:30,160 He couldn't come.

765

00:42:30,160 --> 00:42:34,720 And then I said, well I probably instead of staying with him,

766

00:42:34,720 --> 00:42:37,630 I said, I'll probably walk.

767

00:42:37,630 --> 00:42:41,980 And it was the biggest mistake that could have possibly made.

768

00:42:41,980 --> 00:42:45,490 Because he was liberated by the Russians

769

00:42:45,490 --> 00:42:48,580 and freed so many months before I was. 770 00:42:48,580 --> 00:42:54,100 And I had to go through the death march, the boxcar

771 00:42:54,100 --> 00:42:58,720 to Dachau which took about 10 days or 2 weeks

772 00:42:58,720 --> 00:43:00,800 or something of that nature.

773 00:43:00,800 --> 00:43:03,430 And then Dachau itself until the liberation,

774 00:43:03,430 --> 00:43:05,440 which was quite a few months.

775 00:43:05,440 --> 00:43:10,060 So I made the wrong decision and that saved his life

776 00:43:10,060 --> 00:43:12,530 because otherwise he would have not survived

777 00:43:12,530 --> 00:43:14,210 the death March, no way.

778 00:43:14,210 --> 00:43:15,950 Of course, how can you know?

779 00:43:15,950 --> 00:43:16,450 Of course.

780 00:43:16,450 --> 00:43:20,470 Yeah, but-- No, I couldn't.

781 00:43:20,470 --> 00:43:22,090 Now some people got killed. 00:43:22,090 --> 00:43:27,020 Because some people got killed, shot by the SS and all that.

783 00:43:27,020 --> 00:43:31,240 But he was not and he was able to survive and come through

784 00:43:31,240 --> 00:43:37,200 and got on his feet very quickly because of food and help,

785 00:43:37,200 --> 00:43:38,590 Russians, Soviets, whatever.

786 00:43:38,590 --> 00:43:41,470

787 00:43:41,470 --> 00:43:44,950 And so we went on the death march--

788 00:43:44,950 --> 00:43:47,020 I think I'd like to stop you.

789 00:43:47,020 --> 00:43:50,170 Start with that fresh next time you let anybody ask questions.

790 00:43:50,170 --> 00:43:52,527 OK, great.

791 00:43:52,527 --> 00:43:53,110 How about you?

792 00:43:53,110 --> 00:43:56,110

793 00:43:56,110 --> 00:43:59,110 Just two brief questions.

794 00:43:59,110 --> 00:44:02,530 795 00:44:02,530 --> 00:44:04,720 Was German the most common language used

796 00:44:04,720 --> 00:44:08,410 between the various ethnic groups?

797 00:44:08,410 --> 00:44:09,340 No.

798 00:44:09,340 --> 00:44:12,150 Depends on the region and what was--

799 00:44:12,150 --> 00:44:19,120 Auschwitz-Birkenau, depending with whom you were,

800 00:44:19,120 --> 00:44:22,870 Auschwitz-Birkenau, because these people came primarily

801 00:44:22,870 --> 00:44:26,980 from Czechoslovakia and--

802 00:44:26,980 --> 00:44:29,530

803 00:44:29,530 --> 00:44:38,660 In that particular B2 family camp,

804 00:44:38,660 --> 00:44:43,730 so the most common language was Czech, German Czech

805 00:44:43,730 --> 00:44:49,040 because most of them were actually from from that people. 806 00:44:49,040 --> 00:44:56,030 And in Blechhammer, for example, most of the people,

807 00:44:56,030 --> 00:44:59,690 work detail and all that, they were I worked with Belgians,

808 00:44:59,690 --> 00:45:04,460 I worked with French Jews, Belgian Jews.

809 00:45:04,460 --> 00:45:08,490 But the majority I think were Polish and so Polish

810 00:45:08,490 --> 00:45:10,880 it was probably more frequently spoken

811 00:45:10,880 --> 00:45:12,600 than many other languages.

812 00:45:12,600 --> 00:45:14,780 But I mean you found always enough people

813 00:45:14,780 --> 00:45:18,480 to speak whatever language you wanted to

814 00:45:18,480 --> 00:45:22,890 or you were more familiar with, I should say.

815 00:45:22,890 --> 00:45:24,990 You spoke German and Czechoslovakian?

816 00:45:24,990 --> 00:45:26,870 Yeah. 00:45:26,870 --> 00:45:31,700 And then I've learned in these godforsaken places

818

00:45:31,700 --> 00:45:37,980 to speak Yiddish, which I had no absolutely no knowledge of.

819

00:45:37,980 --> 00:45:40,400 But I picked it up in the camp.

820 00:45:40,400 --> 00:45:44,490

821 00:45:44,490 --> 00:45:49,430 What was the status of the inmates

822

00:45:49,430 --> 00:45:52,400 who took the jobs of barber, Sonderkommando,

823 00:45:52,400 --> 00:45:54,200 those type of jobs?

824 00:45:54,200 --> 00:45:55,430 How were they looked upon?

825 00:45:55,430 --> 00:46:02,370

826 00:46:02,370 --> 00:46:06,660 Well, they were just viewed as something

827 00:46:06,660 --> 00:46:11,520 in between the SS and an enemy.

828 00:46:11,520 --> 00:46:14,730 They were viewed certainly as depending on how they behaved. 00:46:14,730 --> 00:46:20,430 And since most of them

misused their power

830

00:46:20,430 --> 00:46:28,410 and made the lives of those whom they supervised more difficult

831

00:46:28,410 --> 00:46:33,450 and were very frequently very cruel individuals,

832

00:46:33,450 --> 00:46:34,860 they were hated.

833 00:46:34,860 --> 00:46:37,800

834 00:46:37,800 --> 00:46:41,190 And people couldn't defend themselves against them

835 00:46:41,190 --> 00:46:44,780 because they had the power and could enforce it.

836 00:46:44,780 --> 00:46:50,490 So they are hated, and feared, obviously.

837 00:46:50,490 --> 00:47:04,488

838 00:47:04,488 --> 00:47:05,030 You want to--

839 00:47:05,030 --> 00:47:08,710

840 00:47:08,710 --> 00:47:12,310 Yeah, I've got a couple of short questions.

841 00:47:12,310 --> 00:47:16,180 I wondered if you happen to recall any of the poems

842

00:47:16,180 --> 00:47:18,130 from Theresienstadt.

843

00:47:18,130 --> 00:47:20,710 Not offhand I don't.

844

00:47:20,710 --> 00:47:23,020 No, not offhand.

845

00:47:23,020 --> 00:47:24,070 Not offhand, no.

846 00:47:24,070 --> 00:47:27,160

847

00:47:27,160 --> 00:47:35,180 I have published some of them, but even at school I

848

00:47:35,180 --> 00:47:38,070 had problems remembering poems.

849

00:47:38,070 --> 00:47:43,150 And I just always had an ordeal when I was in primary school

850 00:47:43,150 --> 00:47:48,340 and we had to go front and recite

851

00:47:48,340 --> 00:47:53,290 and I was just absolutely miserable.

852

00:47:53,290 --> 00:47:57,265 Must have been pretty comical, to be sure, but I suffered. 853 00:47:57,265 --> 00:48:01,650

854 00:48:01,650 --> 00:48:04,050 There's a Swiss psychotherapist named

855 00:48:04,050 --> 00:48:06,930 Alice Miller who's written a bunch of books

856 00:48:06,930 --> 00:48:09,000 about child psychology.

857 00:48:09,000 --> 00:48:10,770 And she's written one book in which

858 00:48:10,770 --> 00:48:14,040 she has a very long chapter on Hitler

859 00:48:14,040 --> 00:48:18,270 and German child-rearing practices of the 19th century.

860 00:48:18,270 --> 00:48:22,110 She quotes at length from child-rearing manuals

861 00:48:22,110 --> 00:48:25,140 that she said were common in households of the day.

862 00:48:25,140 --> 00:48:31,080 And there is a very severe and sadistic tone

863 00:48:31,080 --> 00:48:35,520 in these manuals, a tone in which parents

00:48:35,520 --> 00:48:38,010 are counseled to be abusive to children

865

00:48:38,010 --> 00:48:40,020 and beat them and be severe.

866 00:48:40,020 --> 00:48:44,580 And this author's theory is that these child-rearing practices

867

00:48:44,580 --> 00:48:47,070 of the 19th century in Germany and Austria

868 00:48:47,070 --> 00:48:50,580 helped to create Nazi culture in adults

869

00:48:50,580 --> 00:48:53,370 who were acting out some sort of compensation

870 00:48:53,370 --> 00:48:54,930 for this abuse as children.

871 00:48:54,930 --> 00:48:57,240 And it sounds a little glib when you summarize it

872 00:48:57,240 --> 00:49:00,390 in one sentence, but when you read her theory in detail

873 00:49:00,390 --> 00:49:01,830 it's fairly persuasive.

874 00:49:01,830 --> 00:49:03,720 I wondered if you were familiar with it.

875 00:49:03,720 --> 00:49:06,090 Well, I haven't read that particular thing,

876

00:49:06,090 --> 00:49:08,700 but I'm familiar with that notion

877

00:49:08,700 --> 00:49:13,050 and that the various theories from other sources.

878

00:49:13,050 --> 00:49:15,570

879 00:49:15,570 --> 00:49:17,550 And I have very mixed feelings about it

880

00:49:17,550 --> 00:49:20,500 because I don't think we can generalize that first of all.

881

00:49:20,500 --> 00:49:23,130 Just in Hitler's case it's certainly very true,

882

00:49:23,130 --> 00:49:28,800 and from other sources which you'd be familiar with, that he

883

00:49:28,800 --> 00:49:33,240 was beaten virtually every day by his father and all that.

884

00:49:33,240 --> 00:49:35,880 But not because it was manuals but also there's

885

00:49:35,880 --> 00:49:40,650 a difference in terms of, again, she not being a sociologist,

886 00:49:40,650 --> 00:49:43,530 she doesn't know that there are

different practices depending

887

00:49:43,530 --> 00:49:47,530 what class you belong to, what social class you belong to.

888

00:49:47,530 --> 00:49:50,220 So I think it's just absolute baloney

889

00:49:50,220 --> 00:49:53,950 to think that the severity was just universal.

890

00:49:53,950 --> 00:49:54,660 It was not.

891

00:49:54,660 --> 00:49:57,540 It was particularly the lower classes.

892

00:49:57,540 --> 00:49:59,680 That was more prevalent.

893

00:49:59,680 --> 00:50:01,860 But middle class is absolutely not.

894

00:50:01,860 --> 00:50:05,190 Because for example I have a whole book

895

00:50:05,190 --> 00:50:10,620 which goes back into the early 19th century, which

896

00:50:10,620 --> 00:50:14,580 has been translated from German into Czech,

897 00:50:14,580 --> 00:50:17,100 about child-rearing practices.

898 00:50:17,100 --> 00:50:20,680 It's an original book, and all that, which is not known,

899 00:50:20,680 --> 00:50:23,850 but then was very popular, where you

900

00:50:23,850 --> 00:50:29,700 have the most liberal psychologically insightful

901

00:50:29,700 --> 00:50:33,750 advice you can possibly find which even has is very

902

00:50:33,750 --> 00:50:37,560 direct application for today.

903

00:50:37,560 --> 00:50:40,560 And that was for the more educated people

904

00:50:40,560 --> 00:50:43,170 who could read because they uneducated people didn't

905

00:50:43,170 --> 00:50:45,150 read these sort of things.

906

00:50:45,150 --> 00:50:49,950 And so I would totally reject a universal sort of thing.

907

00:50:49,950 --> 00:50:56,010 I would certainly look into it and say, yes, the lower classes

908

00:50:56,010 --> 00:50:58,620 had this sort of punitive tendency 00:50:58,620 --> 00:51:01,140 which I think I would certainly agree that certainly--

910

00:51:01,140 --> 00:51:05,140 and Hitler falls into that category.

911

00:51:05,140 --> 00:51:10,080 Now middle class is very much more enlightened and much more

912

00:51:10,080 --> 00:51:15,190 humanistic and pedagogy was very different.

913

00:51:15,190 --> 00:51:18,180 So I think we just simply cannot--

914

00:51:18,180 --> 00:51:21,130 Now the idea is that, indeed, if you said,

915

00:51:21,130 --> 00:51:26,550 well where did these sadistic SS people come from?

916

00:51:26,550 --> 00:51:30,330 Well, they came from most of the low classes because

917

00:51:30,330 --> 00:51:32,430 and they jumped to the occasion that they

918

00:51:32,430 --> 00:51:33,930 could get a lot of power.

919 00:51:33,930 --> 00:51:36,210 Just like today we have cops.

920 00:51:36,210 --> 00:51:39,180 Cops don't have to have any education and a bachelor's

921

00:51:39,180 --> 00:51:45,420 degree, they just go to police academies.

922

00:51:45,420 --> 00:51:49,280 They don't learn very much at all except training something.

923

00:51:49,280 --> 00:51:53,340 And so SS jump to that and other people.

924

00:51:53,340 --> 00:51:54,795 They just couldn't write properly,

925

00:51:54,795 --> 00:51:59,230 their language was lousy, unpolished, what have you.

926 00:51:59,230 --> 00:52:00,330 And that's known.

927

00:52:00,330 --> 00:52:02,370 These people were low-class people.

928 00:52:02,370 --> 00:52:05,880 Low-class people.

929 00:52:05,880 --> 00:52:11,340 One I've interviewed, and I have stacks of letters written,

930 00:52:11,340 --> 00:52:15,540 I mean just unbelievable this by itself would make a book--

931 00:52:15,540 --> 00:52:19,530 was so-called the Hangman of Buchenwald,

932

00:52:19,530 --> 00:52:23,130 interviewed and also taped interviews.

933 00:52:23,130 --> 00:52:26,670 And he told me over the years, because I was the only one who

934 00:52:26,670 --> 00:52:30,690 showed interest in him, so he was very thankful, grateful,

935 00:52:30,690 --> 00:52:33,570 and he was never to get out because he was--

936 00:52:33,570 --> 00:52:38,850 If there had been a death sentence in Germany

937 00:52:38,850 --> 00:52:43,150 they would have sentenced him to death.

938 00:52:43,150 --> 00:52:49,440 So this fellow had no education, was one

939 00:52:49,440 --> 00:52:51,600 of the most powerful people.

940 00:52:51,600 --> 00:52:57,730 Relatively high non-commissioned officer rank in Buchenwald.

941 00:52:57,730 --> 00:53:01,920 And he was the lowest of the low, class-wise.

942 00:53:01,920 --> 00:53:03,120 Low class. 943 00:53:03,120 --> 00:53:05,220 I mean bottom of the barrel.

944 00:53:05,220 --> 00:53:08,580

945

00:53:08,580 --> 00:53:11,270 SS were not necessarily lower class.

946

00:53:11,270 --> 00:53:14,310 I'm trying to tell you yes.

947

00:53:14,310 --> 00:53:15,480 Yes.

948

00:53:15,480 --> 00:53:19,860 Most of them were low-class people, particularly

949

00:53:19,860 --> 00:53:21,120 in these sort of outfits.

950

00:53:21,120 --> 00:53:25,500 Not in terms of the military branch of the SS,

951

 $00:53:25,500 \rightarrow 00:53:31,200$ but this type of camp and death head, low class.

952

00:53:31,200 --> 00:53:33,330 No question.

953

00:53:33,330 --> 00:53:37,620 And I have in my book statistics in terms of the percentage

954 00:53:37,620 --> 00:53:39,670 of where they came from.

955 00:53:39,670 --> 00:53:46,410 And it's in my book, which is SS statistics, not mine.

956 00:53:46,410 --> 00:53:50,130 Official SS by the official SS statistician.

957

00:53:50,130 --> 00:53:52,590 You're not talking about the leadership,

958

00:53:52,590 --> 00:53:55,530 you're talking about the people who are running the camps.

959

00:53:55,530 --> 00:53:56,430 Right.

960

00:53:56,430 --> 00:54:00,390 But even those who became officers,

961

00:54:00,390 --> 00:54:03,930 they're not necessarily educated people at all and low class

962

00:54:03,930 --> 00:54:06,750 also.

963

00:54:06,750 --> 00:54:09,240 I mean there was 1% of people who

964

00:54:09,240 --> 00:54:12,390 went further than high school.

965

00:54:12,390 --> 00:54:13,260 1%.

966 00:54:13,260 --> 00:54:15,570 And I've got that in my book.

967 00:54:15,570 --> 00:54:16,470 It's all there.

968 00:54:16,470 --> 00:54:26,170 And it's not my statistics, it's the official statistics

969

00:54:26,170 --> 00:54:31,780 gathered by SS statisticians, official SS statisticians

970 00:54:31,780 --> 00:54:39,760 and restricted to those who have a need to know.

971 00:54:39,760 --> 00:54:40,260 OK.

972 00:54:40,260 --> 00:54:43,060

973 00:54:43,060 --> 00:54:45,010 One last question.

974 00:54:45,010 --> 00:54:47,530 There was another Holocaust movie

975 00:54:47,530 --> 00:54:49,540 that was released a couple of years ago called

976 00:54:49,540 --> 00:54:54,220 Triumph of the Spirit about a boxer in Auschwitz.

977 00:54:54,220 --> 00:54:56,740 And I was just going to ask you if you'd seen the movie

978 00:54:56,740 --> 00:54:58,660

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

and if you could tell us to what extent it

979

00:54:58,660 --> 00:55:02,620 was an accurate or inaccurate portrayal of life in Auschwitz.

980

00:55:02,620 --> 00:55:04,330 I don't think I've seen it.

981

00:55:04,330 --> 00:55:12,290

982

00:55:12,290 --> 00:55:12,895 No.

983

00:55:12,895 --> 00:55:14,050 A boxer?

984

00:55:14,050 --> 00:55:19,060 About a man in Auschwitz who had been a championship

985

00:55:19,060 --> 00:55:23,110 boxer as a boy or a teenager and who

986

00:55:23,110 --> 00:55:27,910 became a boxer performer in the camp as his way of surviving.

987 00:55:27,910 --> 00:55:29,970 I haven't seen that.

988

00:55:29,970 --> 00:55:38,340 Now most of all what I'm trying to do to the article about some

989

00:55:38,340 --> 00:55:42,960 of my whatever things I'm trying to do in the Press-Democrat, 00:55:42,960 --> 00:55:47,040 I got a lot of responses, and one of the responses

991

00:55:47,040 --> 00:55:53,430 was a lady whose brother was one of the liberators

992

00:55:53,430 --> 00:56:00,300 and a official army information officer

993

00:56:00,300 --> 00:56:03,960 of sorts and apparently who had something

994

00:56:03,960 --> 00:56:09,310 to do with a documentary which they took after the liberation.

995

00:56:09,310 --> 00:56:17,910 And so there are unbelievable factual things

996

00:56:17,910 --> 00:56:19,410 which are available.

997

00:56:19,410 --> 00:56:21,940

998

00:56:21,940 --> 00:56:29,710 And even the material which was taken by SS during the war,

999

00:56:29,710 --> 00:56:30,990 and I've seen some.

1000

00:56:30,990 --> 00:56:33,960 One of them was on the Lodz ghetto, which

1001 00:56:33,960 --> 00:56:37,080 we've seen on the Lodz ghetto, and there

1002

00:56:37,080 --> 00:56:39,940 was actual footage where I recognized

1003

00:56:39,940 --> 00:56:44,700 people I'd interviewed, one of them in particular.

1004

00:56:44,700 --> 00:56:47,820 And I think those things should be

1005

00:56:47,820 --> 00:56:51,720 used, that's my view, for teaching purposes,

1006

00:56:51,720 --> 00:56:55,380 information purposes, rather than movies which

1007

00:56:55,380 --> 00:56:58,890 have been done by people who have not done adequate research

1008

00:56:58,890 --> 00:57:02,970 and distort the situation, which starts with Holocaust,

1009 00:57:02,970 --> 00:57:04,550

one of the major first movie.

1010 00:57:04,550 --> 00:57:06,930 It was called Holocaust.

1011 00:57:06,930 --> 00:57:09,360 Unbelievable inaccuracies and all

1012 00:57:09,360 --> 00:57:13,050 that, just distortions, and just write down 1013 00:57:13,050 --> 00:57:16,710 this information I think doesn't serve any purpose

1014 00:57:16,710 --> 00:57:19,140 because people are ignorant as it is.

1015 00:57:19,140 --> 00:57:25,470 And just to inform them in a way which will further distort

1016 00:57:25,470 --> 00:57:28,260 the wrong idea, I think--

1017 00:57:28,260 --> 00:57:33,870 So I work with these things, have been for years now,

1018 00:57:33,870 --> 00:57:36,570 trying to make documentaries which are

1019 00:57:36,570 --> 00:57:39,630 based on some factual stuff.

1020 00:57:39,630 --> 00:57:43,350 And there are also movies which are, for example, Wannsee

1021 00:57:43,350 --> 00:57:45,710 Conference, which came out.

1022 00:57:45,710 --> 00:57:49,140 First-rate stuff because it's beautifully documented.

1023 00:57:49,140 --> 00:57:53,130 But it's usually done by Germans because they know what is what. 00:57:53,130 --> 00:57:55,620 If it was done by some Hollywood thing,

1025

00:57:55,620 --> 00:57:58,980 then the chances are that it's distorted

1026

00:57:58,980 --> 00:58:01,890 and highly inaccurate.

1027 00:58:01,890 --> 00:58:04,830 So you've got this and that.

1028 00:58:04,830 --> 00:58:10,620 And I say we have lots of movies which are actual documentaries,

1029

00:58:10,620 --> 00:58:13,950 why not use those instead or some--

1030

00:58:13,950 --> 00:58:16,140 Unless we know that some are really good,

1031

00:58:16,140 --> 00:58:18,810 there is no substitute for something

1032 00:58:18,810 --> 00:58:22,170

which we don't have which was not filmed

1033

00:58:22,170 --> 00:58:24,570 and all that like the documentary on the Wannsee

1034 00:58:24,570 --> 00:58:25,080 Conference.

1035 00:58:25,080 --> 00:58:27,330 But I mean the way

it was put together,

1036

00:58:27,330 --> 00:58:31,140 and I just have read very carefully Wannsee protocol,

1037 00:58:31,140 --> 00:58:33,770 and some of the things the way it is done, I think,

1038

00:58:33,770 --> 00:58:37,260 is pretty interesting.

1039

00:58:37,260 --> 00:58:39,918 probably not 100% accurate, obviously,

1040

00:58:39,918 --> 00:58:42,210 because how do you know something where you've not been

1041 00:58:42,210 --> 00:58:45,120 and it's not enough to go by.

1042 00:58:45,120 --> 00:58:52,530 But I think it's very

persuasive, some of this stuff.

1043

00:58:52,530 --> 00:58:55,170 And I've seen some, and I worked on another one which

1044 00:58:55,170 --> 00:58:59,070 is based on Heydrich many years ago,

1045 00:58:59,070 --> 00:59:07,170 for which I didn't get the recognition I should have,

1046 00:59:07,170 --> 00:59:10,350 but that's beside the point, and that was psychologically 1047 00:59:10,350 --> 00:59:12,250 and otherwise just fantastic.

1048 00:59:12,250 --> 00:59:14,310 Except it was taken out of--

1049 00:59:14,310 --> 00:59:22,920 I tried to get it brought here into the United States

1050 00:59:22,920 --> 00:59:28,330 with the synchronized whatever, and for some reason,

1051 00:59:28,330 --> 00:59:30,090 they didn't do it.

1052 00:59:30,090 --> 00:59:33,210 But I thought it was a very excellent, very accurate

1053 00:59:33,210 --> 00:59:35,820 portrayal of Heydrich.

1054 00:59:35,820 --> 00:59:40,140 And I looked into Heydrich's situation quite a bit

1055 00:59:40,140 --> 00:59:44,220 myself in going back to his relatives

1056 00:59:44,220 --> 00:59:48,360 and trying to find out what I could,

1057 00:59:48,360 --> 00:59:51,600 and I thought it was very well done.

1058 00:59:51,600 --> 00:59:52,930 So you've got this and that.

1059

00:59:52,930 --> 00:59:56,980 So I haven't seen this one you mentioned.

1060

00:59:56,980 --> 00:59:59,540 That's it.

1061

00:59:59,540 --> 01:00:04,380 I just wanted you to specifically say

1062 01:00:04,380 --> 01:00:07,450 the dates that were added.

1063

01:00:07,450 --> 01:00:10,630 You said that you didn't have specific dates that if we could

1064

01:00:10,630 --> 01:00:13,030 have an approximate month of the year,

1065

01:00:13,030 --> 01:00:16,330 starting with Theresienstadt, which was August 10th.

1066

01:00:16,330 --> 01:00:20,010 Well, that was August 10 is right.

1067

01:00:20,010 --> 01:00:21,490 No, it's not actually.

1068

01:00:21,490 --> 01:00:24,970 Because August 10 I had to go into the assembly place

1069

01:00:24,970 --> 01:00:29,530 and we stayed there overnight and we probably left there 1070 01:00:29,530 --> 01:00:33,790 on the 11th on the 12th.

```
1071
01:00:33,790 --> 01:00:41,410
And so I stayed
in Theresienstadt
```

1072 01:00:41,410 --> 01:01:00,880 I guess until roughly late spring or something '43.

1073 01:01:00,880 --> 01:01:02,400 Might be April or May?

1074 01:01:02,400 --> 01:01:06,650

1075 01:01:06,650 --> 01:01:09,380 I don't know.

1076 01:01:09,380 --> 01:01:11,730 But it was late spring.

1077 01:01:11,730 --> 01:01:15,608 Yeah, well I don't think it was hot enough for being summer

1078 01:01:15,608 --> 01:01:17,150 because I would have remembered that.

1079 01:01:17,150 --> 01:01:19,770

1080 01:01:19,770 --> 01:01:21,020 Yeah.

1081 01:01:21,020 --> 01:01:39,464 And then Auschwitz until spring, early spring '44 something.

1082

1083

01:01:43,340 --> 01:01:48,830 Yeah, early spring '44, if not earlier.

1084

01:01:48,830 --> 01:01:54,020

1085

01:01:54,020 --> 01:01:54,940 And then you said--

1086

01:01:54,940 --> 01:01:57,540 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

1087

01:01:57,540 --> 01:01:58,260 That's right.

1088

01:01:58,260 --> 01:02:05,590 And then January '45, shipped out end of December,

1089

01:02:05,590 --> 01:02:09,050 beginning of January with death march.

1090

01:02:09,050 --> 01:02:12,590 And how long would that take?

1091

01:02:12,590 --> 01:02:14,860 Well, it just took 10 days for what I--

1092

01:02:14,860 --> 01:02:21,280 10 days and then about another 10 days in the open boxcar.

1093 01:02:21,280 --> 01:02:25,520 And I must have come either at the end of January,

1094

01:02:25,520 --> 01:02:27,850 beginning of February to Dachau.

1095

01:02:27,850 --> 01:02:30,070 Actually, I have the exact date because I've got

1096

01:02:30,070 --> 01:02:32,547 the exact date in my column.

1097

01:02:32,547 --> 01:02:33,130 It's in there.

1098 01:02:33,130 --> 01:02:36,160

1099 01:02:36,160 --> 01:02:37,830 I think it was February.

1100 01:02:37,830 --> 01:02:40,420

1101 01:02:40,420 --> 01:02:43,450 And I found, because I went to Dachau when

1102 01:02:43,450 --> 01:02:54,750 I was doing the documentary with the Hitler thing which we did,

1103 01:02:54,750 --> 01:02:58,140 and then I got the official Dachau document

1104 01:02:58,140 --> 01:03:01,200 of all the signers and I found myself there when I came

1105 01:03:01,200 --> 01:03:03,120 and what happened then.

1106 01:03:03,120 --> 01:03:08,210 1107 01:03:08,210 --> 01:03:11,240 Should we save it for the next time?

1108 01:03:11,240 --> 01:03:13,670 No, go ahead.

1109 01:03:13,670 --> 01:03:19,910 You've talked about some of the material or physical reasons

1110 01:03:19,910 --> 01:03:21,990 that you've survived such as finding

1111 01:03:21,990 --> 01:03:25,930 the knapsack, such as having certain people help you,

1112 01:03:25,930 --> 01:03:27,680 the fact that you spoke several languages,

1113 01:03:27,680 --> 01:03:28,830 and a number of things.

1114 01:03:28,830 --> 01:03:31,040 No, several languages was totally unimportant.

1115 01:03:31,040 --> 01:03:34,460 The fact that I spoke German.

1116 01:03:34,460 --> 01:03:36,920 OK, so it's more specific.

1117 01:03:36,920 --> 01:03:38,180 Do you remember?

1118 01:03:38,180 --> 01:03:38,680

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

Why?

1119 01:03:38,680 --> 01:03:41,860 Because I just know that there was no accent.

1120 01:03:41,860 --> 01:03:46,483 It was just Prague German is one of the most pure German

1121 01:03:46,483 --> 01:03:48,400 But don't you think speaking other languages--

1122 01:03:48,400 --> 01:03:51,130 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

1123 01:03:51,130 --> 01:03:53,980

1124 01:03:53,980 --> 01:03:58,420 In terms of that I had something with the Czech and all that.

1125

01:03:58,420 --> 01:04:00,370 But I mean we happened to be Czech

1126 01:04:00,370 --> 01:04:02,740 and then I spoke obviously.

1127 01:04:02,740 --> 01:04:06,220 But I don't know whether that was--

1128 01:04:06,220 --> 01:04:07,270 I don't think so.

1129 01:04:07,270 --> 01:04:09,850 German was certainly the most important language

1130

01:04:09,850 --> 01:04:13,600 at that particular situation.

1131 01:04:13,600 --> 01:04:20,020 Besides that, and you and I have talked about this,

1132 01:04:20,020 --> 01:04:21,250 what helped you survive?

1133 01:04:21,250 --> 01:04:23,260 What kept you going?

1134 01:04:23,260 --> 01:04:26,350 Well, I thought I talked about it all the time.

1135 01:04:26,350 --> 01:04:28,630 You have to be more specific?

1136 01:04:28,630 --> 01:04:31,750 Well, I mean it's just like I said very specifically

1137 01:04:31,750 --> 01:04:33,880 alert, to be alert.

1138 01:04:33,880 --> 01:04:39,280 Physically in a relatively condition to be young.

1139 01:04:39,280 --> 01:04:43,870 And have a certain measure of intelligence

1140 01:04:43,870 --> 01:04:46,840 to adjust to novel conditions, which is

1141 01:04:46,840 --> 01:04:49,060 the definition of intelligence.

01:04:49,060 --> 01:04:52,360 And the ability to adjust to novel conditions,

1143 01:04:52,360 --> 01:04:54,670 the definition of intelligence.

1144 01:04:54,670 --> 01:04:59,950 And then you have a measure of luck.

1145 01:04:59,950 --> 01:05:04,630 And then the connections you make, support

1146 01:05:04,630 --> 01:05:08,680 system which you have, and that is decisive.

1147 01:05:08,680 --> 01:05:13,070 And to what extent you retain your health.

1148 01:05:13,070 --> 01:05:18,940 And then also you have to have some sort of meaning

1149 01:05:18,940 --> 01:05:24,610 and find meaning in that and somehow

1150 01:05:24,610 --> 01:05:27,130 find meaning in the suffering.

1151 01:05:27,130 --> 01:05:28,930 Or why.

1152 01:05:28,930 --> 01:05:29,710 Find meaning.

1153 01:05:29,710 --> 01:05:34,120 And that you only can do if you have some sort of belief system 1154 01:05:34,120 --> 01:05:37,340 or some sort of philosophy of life

1155 01:05:37,340 --> 01:05:40,210 which will enable you to explain and make

1156 01:05:40,210 --> 01:05:49,600 some sort of unreasonable, chaotic, dreadful stuff relate

1157 01:05:49,600 --> 01:05:52,210 to it and give it some meaning.

1158 01:05:52,210 --> 01:05:54,010 So that you can say, well, there's

1159 01:05:54,010 --> 01:05:59,290 a meaning which makes it possible

1160 01:05:59,290 --> 01:06:07,480 for me to endure because of some cause or other reasons

1161 01:06:07,480 --> 01:06:15,500 which I can use in order to make sense of it.

1162 01:06:15,500 --> 01:06:17,102 So what about your philosophy?

1163 01:06:17,102 --> 01:06:18,310 Well, that's what I'm saying.

1164 01:06:18,310 --> 01:06:20,630 That's precisely the things, yeah,

1165

01:06:20,630 --> 01:06:24,550 that I think it was very helpful for me to have been brought up

1166 01:06:24,550 --> 01:06:27,790 in this particular situation, with this type of philosophy

1167 01:06:27,790 --> 01:06:29,170 my parents had.

1168 01:06:29,170 --> 01:06:31,520 And I think that, in that particular situation,

1169 01:06:31,520 --> 01:06:33,470 was exceedingly helpful.

1170 01:06:33,470 --> 01:06:35,800 Can you speak about exactly what you believe?

1171 01:06:35,800 --> 01:06:38,680

1172 01:06:38,680 --> 01:06:40,540 Well it's just a question of--

1173 01:06:40,540 --> 01:06:45,880

1174 01:06:45,880 --> 01:06:48,410 The notion of karma, for example,

1175 01:06:48,410 --> 01:06:53,140 is very important in terms of that some of the things which

1176 01:06:53,140 --> 01:07:01,090 you have done in previous lives which will come

1177 01:07:01,090 --> 01:07:03,580 and you will have to atone for it in order

1178 01:07:03,580 --> 01:07:07,460 to make some reparations, restitution for that.

1179

01:07:07,460 --> 01:07:10,840 So that certain things you have done to other people

1180

01:07:10,840 --> 01:07:15,010 will somehow come back at some sort of future life.

1181

01:07:15,010 --> 01:07:18,010 And that, of course, is a very persuasive thing

1182

01:07:18,010 --> 01:07:20,800 in situations like that to say, hey you know I mean,

1183

01:07:20,800 --> 01:07:25,900 God, what did I do in order to have this sort of fate?

1184 01:07:25,900 --> 01:07:28,570

1185 01:07:28,570 --> 01:07:32,590 And so that may be very specific and also

1186 01:07:32,590 --> 01:07:36,940 in terms of what we have to go through in order to evolve.

1187 01:07:36,940 --> 01:07:40,570 What is the suffering which may make you 1188 01:07:40,570 --> 01:07:43,340 into a better person, a purification process,

1189 01:07:43,340 --> 01:07:44,530 so to speak.

1190 01:07:44,530 --> 01:07:46,120 And that's very concrete and that

1191 01:07:46,120 --> 01:07:48,310 gives you some sort of meaning with which it just

1192 01:07:48,310 --> 01:07:52,300 helps you to cope and Yes I have that and certainly used it made

1193 01:07:52,300 --> 01:07:55,450 myself, availed myself of that.

1194 01:07:55,450 --> 01:08:00,460 And I read in some books which I was able to--

1195 01:08:00,460 --> 01:08:03,700 Steiner books which I was able to get in to Auschwitz-Birkenau

1196 01:08:03,700 --> 01:08:05,830 because of my friend Hans Fischer--

1197 01:08:05,830 --> 01:08:07,330 and so I read these things.

1198 01:08:07,330 --> 01:08:09,760 And I actually also had, by the way,

1199 01:08:09,760 --> 01:08:13,030 the Bible there too, which I've read.

1200

01:08:13,030 --> 01:08:15,550 Old and New Testaments?

1201

01:08:15,550 --> 01:08:16,990 Yeah.

1202

01:08:16,990 --> 01:08:17,710 Yeah.

1203

01:08:17,710 --> 01:08:21,290 And so that was very helpful.

1204

01:08:21,290 --> 01:08:23,200 I found it.

1205

01:08:23,200 --> 01:08:28,060 And well that's it.

1206

01:08:28,060 --> 01:08:32,109 Now you also talked to me about have been allowed [INAUDIBLE]

1207

01:08:32,109 --> 01:08:36,010 and also talk quickly about feeling

1208

01:08:36,010 --> 01:08:40,960 that the loving, strong relationships that you had

1209

01:08:40,960 --> 01:08:43,930 in your childhood, in your family

1210 01:08:43,930 --> 01:08:48,050 gave you a certain strength and a certain faith in humanity

1211 01:08:48,050 --> 01:08:56,710

or faith in family and goodness, maybe goodness or maybe

1212 01:08:56,710 --> 01:09:01,060 some other words that would be of your own choosing that gave

1213 01:09:01,060 --> 01:09:04,930 you strength in that situation.

1214 01:09:04,930 --> 01:09:08,439 Can you talk about that?

1215 01:09:08,439 --> 01:09:14,330 Well, I think that I wouldn't say faith in goodness,

1216 01:09:14,330 --> 01:09:17,240 but also the fact that there was a great deal of love

1217 01:09:17,240 --> 01:09:20,680 in this world which I experienced which gave me

1218 01:09:20,680 --> 01:09:21,180 a lot of--

1219 01:09:21,180 --> 01:09:23,359 For example, if I go into some place

1220 01:09:23,359 --> 01:09:28,399 where I have to be under dreadful pressure

1221 01:09:28,399 --> 01:09:30,979 and I go there starved and obviously I

1222 01:09:30,979 --> 01:09:35,880 won't have any sort of protective coat, so to speak.

1223 01:09:35,880 --> 01:09:46,370 And this sort of love and this sort of affection and positive

1224 01:09:46,370 --> 01:09:50,720 experience I've had, it's something which still somehow

1225 01:09:50,720 --> 01:09:53,090 nourishes me now in a way.

1226 01:09:53,090 --> 01:09:55,100 Because I've not with much of that

1227 01:09:55,100 --> 01:10:00,140 left because of circumstances.

1228 01:10:00,140 --> 01:10:03,810 And they made quite a bit of a difference,

1229 01:10:03,810 --> 01:10:06,740 yes, because I think they gave me the resources which

1230 01:10:06,740 --> 01:10:09,770 I otherwise would have not had.

1231 01:10:09,770 --> 01:10:14,820 And that I think is a very important point.

1232 01:10:14,820 --> 01:10:15,320 Yeah.

1233 01:10:15,320 --> 01:10:21,770 Because the love I've experienced is sort of,

1234 01:10:21,770 --> 01:10:27,500 yeah, well love more or less what this four-letter word

1235

01:10:27,500 --> 01:10:28,400 really stands for.

1236 01:10:28,400 --> 01:10:30,740

1237 01:10:30,740 --> 01:10:32,360 Caring.

1238 01:10:32,360 --> 01:10:34,160 Well, it's just more than care.

1239 01:10:34,160 --> 01:10:35,360

It's not strong enough.

1240

01:10:35,360 --> 01:10:44,840 It's just the type of affection and nurture

1241 01:10:44,840 --> 01:10:47,030 which I received made all the difference.

1242 01:10:47,030 --> 01:10:53,470 Nurture which gave me this sort of strength.

1243 01:10:53,470 --> 01:10:55,900 Because some people were physically much stronger

1244 01:10:55,900 --> 01:11:02,815 than I am, much more athletic, muscle big things and all that,

1245 01:11:02,815 --> 01:11:04,330 all perished.

1246 01:11:04,330 --> 01:11:05,730

And they said, how come?

1247

01:11:05,730 --> 01:11:07,540 You were one of the weakest we've had,

1248 01:11:07,540 --> 01:11:14,500 thinnest, most X-ray type looking.

1249 01:11:14,500 --> 01:11:17,710 And we are finished and that happened to the death march.

1250 01:11:17,710 --> 01:11:19,030 I remember that.

1251 01:11:19,030 --> 01:11:23,980 And so how come you still in this sort of shape?

```
1252
01:11:23,980 --> 01:11:27,250
We are the big fellow,
strong and all that.
```

1253

01:11:27,250 --> 01:11:30,800 And they didn't make it.

1254

01:11:30,800 --> 01:11:32,140 So it wasn't physical, was it?

1255

01:11:32,140 --> 01:11:37,390

1256

01:11:37,390 --> 01:11:39,700 And you know the fact that I'm still

1257

01:11:39,700 --> 01:11:42,340 relatively sane is simply that, because I haven't 01:11:42,340 --> 01:11:47,320 had much nature ever since because many people died

1259 01:11:47,320 --> 01:11:48,040 and all that.

1260 01:11:48,040 --> 01:11:50,290 People who have been--

1261 01:11:50,290 --> 01:11:53,500 And I wasn't blessed with-- moved from one place

1262 01:11:53,500 --> 01:11:55,300 to another, wasn't blessed with this sort

1263 01:11:55,300 --> 01:11:57,070 of nurturing environment.

1264 01:11:57,070 --> 01:12:00,280 And I'm still-- it's kind of wearing thin, but you know--

1265 01:12:00,280 --> 01:12:04,020

1266 01:12:04,020 --> 01:12:06,580 You had kind of a special family.

1267 01:12:06,580 --> 01:12:12,610 And you were living in kind of a special time

1268 01:12:12,610 --> 01:12:16,630 Do you think that that was a kind of accumulation of culture

1269 01:12:16,630 --> 01:12:22,520 and education and an interesting mix 1270 01:12:22,520 --> 01:12:25,410 of Jewish and Christian secular influences going on

1271 01:12:25,410 --> 01:12:30,690 during that time that you enjoyed and thrived on.

1272 01:12:30,690 --> 01:12:34,950 Do you feel that in a sense at the time

1273 01:12:34,950 --> 01:12:36,980 that we can go back to that.

1274 01:12:36,980 --> 01:12:40,790 It was a very special time that cannot be replaced.

1275 01:12:40,790 --> 01:12:42,100 Well, times have changed.

1276 01:12:42,100 --> 01:12:42,940 People have changed.

1277 01:12:42,940 --> 01:12:46,230 We have different generations with different experiences.

1278 01:12:46,230 --> 01:12:48,300 And I haven't seen it very much.

1279 01:12:48,300 --> 01:12:49,970 Yes, in certain circles you still

1280 01:12:49,970 --> 01:12:56,660 have this sort of very substantive, civilized,

1281 01:12:56,660 --> 01:13:00,050 cultured interaction.

1282 01:13:00,050 --> 01:13:03,920 But I find it that it gets rarer by the minute.

1283 01:13:03,920 --> 01:13:05,450 Also humanity.

1284 01:13:05,450 --> 01:13:09,590 I think humanity is not something which is

1285 01:13:09,590 --> 01:13:14,640 found very readily in our days.

1286 01:13:14,640 --> 01:13:16,380 More rare than it existed before.

1287 01:13:16,380 --> 01:13:17,960 At least that's my impression.

1288 01:13:17,960 --> 01:13:20,810 Also, I'm no longer in the circle of people.

1289 01:13:20,810 --> 01:13:25,250 Some have died out and there's no one,

1290 01:13:25,250 --> 01:13:28,100 not many people are left to perpetuate it.

1291 01:13:28,100 --> 01:13:31,260 And I still say, coming back to what I said earlier,

1292 01:13:31,260 --> 01:13:37,170 and some recognition, which is relatively of recent time, 1293 01:13:37,170 --> 01:13:42,290 is the fact that the elites did not survive.

1294 01:13:42,290 --> 01:13:46,160 And I know if my cousin, for example, wouldn't be around,

1295

01:13:46,160 --> 01:13:49,790 and in my aunt has, and she made the difference.

1296

01:13:49,790 --> 01:13:52,340 She has survived, my aunt, because she stayed

1297

01:13:52,340 --> 01:13:54,650 Theresienstadt because she was employed

1298

01:13:54,650 --> 01:14:02,120 in a war industry which she developed some expertise

1299

01:14:02,120 --> 01:14:04,940 and they didn't ship her to some death camp.

1300

01:14:04,940 --> 01:14:07,405

1301

01:14:07,405 --> 01:14:08,780 So I know what sort of difference

1302

01:14:08,780 --> 01:14:12,200 she did for me, although I saw her very infrequently, only

1303 01:14:12,200 --> 01:14:12,950 once a year.

1304

01:14:12,950 --> 01:14:15,020 And she was in Czechoslovakia, in Prague,

1305 01:14:15,020 --> 01:14:16,460 and all that would visit her.

1306 01:14:16,460 --> 01:14:19,250 And it made a difference in the world.

1307 01:14:19,250 --> 01:14:24,350 But less and less people are available

1308 01:14:24,350 --> 01:14:27,740 or are brought up who would have these sort of qualities.

1309 01:14:27,740 --> 01:14:29,860 I just don't see them.

1310 01:14:29,860 --> 01:14:31,010 They died out.

1311 01:14:31,010 --> 01:14:34,010 And most of them died anyway, because I said, most of them

1312 01:14:34,010 --> 01:14:34,940 died in the camps.

1313 01:14:34,940 --> 01:14:36,750 They didn't make it.

1314 01:14:36,750 --> 01:14:39,150 So we have a totally different input.

1315 01:14:39,150 --> 01:14:44,190 And what I've seen here in the United States and all that. 1316 01:14:44,190 --> 01:14:46,380 50s were still around some people

1317 01:14:46,380 --> 01:14:50,340 who went through World War II somehow and had

1318 01:14:50,340 --> 01:14:52,530 a different upbringing and a little bit.

1319 01:14:52,530 --> 01:14:55,840 What I see now in the United States

1320 01:14:55,840 --> 01:14:59,160 and the present generation, it's a catastrophe.

1321 01:14:59,160 --> 01:15:07,980 I just have absolutely not great expectations

1322 01:15:07,980 --> 01:15:09,870 of what these people will contribute

1323 01:15:09,870 --> 01:15:12,340 in terms of this type of atmosphere,

1324 01:15:12,340 --> 01:15:13,470 which would be substantive.

1325 01:15:13,470 --> 01:15:15,960 Or how we would survive difficulties.

1326 01:15:15,960 --> 01:15:16,800 That's right.

1327

01:15:16,800 --> 01:15:18,390 Well, that's right.

1328

01:15:18,390 --> 01:15:19,350 That's right.

1329

01:15:19,350 --> 01:15:20,410 That's right.

1330

01:15:20,410 --> 01:15:22,390 That's right.

1331 01:15:22,390 --> 01:15:25,810 In terms of how people will respond to stress situations,

1332

01:15:25,810 --> 01:15:30,100 how easy it will be, relatively easy before they sell out.

1333

01:15:30,100 --> 01:15:35,930 In other words, they're not going to be able to--

1334

01:15:35,930 --> 01:15:38,440 Well, we've seen that in Vietnam.

1335

01:15:38,440 --> 01:15:41,920 We've seen that in Korea to some extent.

1336

01:15:41,920 --> 01:15:48,670 And now, before people actually cave it doesn't take much.

1337 01:15:48,670 --> 01:15:50,180 How much stress can they take?

1338 01:15:50,180 --> 01:15:52,750 And it doesn't take much before they actually sell out 1339 01:15:52,750 --> 01:15:55,210 one way or another or break.

1340 01:15:55,210 --> 01:15:58,490

1341 01:15:58,490 --> 01:16:01,760 I don't know that's what you wanted me to say.

1342 01:16:01,760 --> 01:16:03,980 It didn't want you to say something specific,

1343 01:16:03,980 --> 01:16:12,380 but yeah, that's fine because I'm working on these ideas.

1344 01:16:12,380 --> 01:16:15,800 I think maybe we should wait till the next time.

1345 01:16:15,800 --> 01:16:20,210 Each of these questions is fairly complex.

1346 01:16:20,210 --> 01:16:22,340 I'll give you a list of the various subjects

1347 01:16:22,340 --> 01:16:27,550 that I presume we'll spend on.

1348 01:16:27,550 --> 01:16:30,570 Yeah but I mean that's all because we still have--

1349 01:16:30,570 --> 01:16:32,680 [INAUDIBLE]

1350 01:16:32,680 --> 01:16:33,960 Well, just go-- 1351 01:16:33,960 --> 01:16:36,280 Yeah, keep on going a little bit so that we just

1352 01:16:36,280 --> 01:16:42,850 get that behind ourselves.

1353 01:16:42,850 --> 01:16:44,446 I think it's important.

1354 01:16:44,446 --> 01:16:56,910

1355 01:16:56,910 --> 01:17:05,220 I wanted to ask, out of all your experiences in the camps,

1356 01:17:05,220 --> 01:17:08,160 you probably named a lot of the worst things

1357 01:17:08,160 --> 01:17:10,740 because they stand out in your mind, the worst

1358 01:17:10,740 --> 01:17:16,950 examples, the most horrifying events, the ones that

1359 01:17:16,950 --> 01:17:19,230 caused you to lose your faith in humanity or whatever,

1360 01:17:19,230 --> 01:17:20,230 if you have.

1361 01:17:20,230 --> 01:17:22,560 I don't know.

1362 01:17:22,560 --> 01:17:25,200 What would you say Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

was the worst thing?

1363 01:17:25,200 --> 01:17:27,610 Well, that I can point out very easily

1364 01:17:27,610 --> 01:17:33,240 was the experiences in the open boxcar.

1365 01:17:33,240 --> 01:17:37,470 I just don't hesitate only to hesitate for a moment.

1366 01:17:37,470 --> 01:17:41,400 Do you want to talk about it?

1367 01:17:41,400 --> 01:17:43,320 I thought we talked about it.

1368 01:17:43,320 --> 01:17:44,010 Not on the tape.

1369 01:17:44,010 --> 01:17:48,653

1370 01:17:48,653 --> 01:17:50,070 The details of that would be good.

1371 01:17:50,070 --> 01:17:52,083 Because it's intense.

1372 01:17:52,083 --> 01:17:54,000 Since we are going to start with a death march

1373 01:17:54,000 --> 01:18:00,630 and then move on to the boxcar, maybe we could wait till then.

1374 01:18:00,630 --> 01:18:09,624 1375 01:18:09,624 --> 01:18:11,965 It's all leading into other things.

1376 01:18:11,965 --> 01:18:15,310

1377 01:18:15,310 --> 01:18:19,540 In fact, it's 6:00 now.

1378 01:18:19,540 --> 01:18:21,940 We want it to feel relaxed and go on.

1379 01:18:21,940 --> 01:18:25,570

Which I like the fact that one thing suggests another as we

1380 01:18:25,570 --> 01:18:27,350 moved along.

1381 01:18:27,350 --> 01:18:32,220 You don't have anything else which is not that involved?

1382 01:18:32,220 --> 01:18:34,340 All my questions are involved.

1383 01:18:34,340 --> 01:18:39,240 Oh, just doesn't lead one thing to another.

1384 01:18:39,240 --> 01:18:42,678 There's the whole area of the death march and the boxcar.

1385 01:18:42,678 --> 01:18:44,970 That's going to be covered, but is there anything else?

1387 01:18:50,803 --> 01:18:51,970 Well, I know what she means.

1388 01:18:51,970 --> 01:18:54,460 I think some of the philosophical questions--

1389

01:18:54,460 --> 01:18:57,850 A lot of my questions have to do with the meaning

1390

01:18:57,850 --> 01:19:00,762 of your experience and the implications for a time

1391

01:19:00,762 --> 01:19:01,720 and this sort of thing.

1392

01:19:01,720 --> 01:19:03,370 And implications in terms of what

1393

01:19:03,370 --> 01:19:06,250 you chose to do with your life from having experienced that,

1394 01:19:06,250 --> 01:19:10,510 so they're not easy to answer.

1395 01:19:10,510 --> 01:19:12,760 And especially since we haven't also

1396 01:19:12,760 --> 01:19:15,690 covered some of the chronology to refer back to.

1397 01:19:15,690 --> 01:19:20,160 1398 01:19:20,160 --> 01:19:24,450 It's just very simply it's just not a situational accident

1399 01:19:24,450 --> 01:19:29,010 that I became a sociologist after I

1400

01:19:29,010 --> 01:19:31,140 failed to continue my medical studies,

1401

01:19:31,140 --> 01:19:34,890 or was unable to finish them is more correct.

1402

01:19:34,890 --> 01:19:37,800 Because that's what I wanted to do,

1403

01:19:37,800 --> 01:19:42,300 and I still feel that I would have probably been successful

1404

01:19:42,300 --> 01:19:44,760 in that type of profession.

1405

01:19:44,760 --> 01:19:47,460 But that was not possible because I

1406

01:19:47,460 --> 01:19:49,170 had to leave for Australia.

1407

01:19:49,170 --> 01:19:50,170 I couldn't do that.

1408 01:19:50,170 --> 01:19:53,940 And I came to the United States and it was still

1409 01:19:53,940 --> 01:19:59,610 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

not impossible, but I was getting a bit old for that

1410 01:19:59,610 --> 01:20:02,580 just to start from scratch.

1411 01:20:02,580 --> 01:20:08,070 And so the next obvious thing is to understand.

1412 01:20:08,070 --> 01:20:10,260 And I'm still working on trying to understand

1413 01:20:10,260 --> 01:20:13,560 what is to be understood, what can be understood,

1414 01:20:13,560 --> 01:20:15,300 as much as they can be understood

1415 01:20:15,300 --> 01:20:19,170 or something which is known as the Holocaust.

1416 01:20:19,170 --> 01:20:21,540 And so that's why I felt sociology

1417 01:20:21,540 --> 01:20:24,210 would be the appropriate thing.

1418 01:20:24,210 --> 01:20:28,200 Certainly psychology is helpful, and I've studied that also,

1419 01:20:28,200 --> 01:20:32,850 but I think sociology, or social psychology more specifically,

1420 01:20:32,850 --> 01:20:38,820 is probably the proper discipline

1421

01:20:38,820 --> 01:20:41,550 to understand what can be understood,

1422 01:20:41,550 --> 01:20:43,695 at least as much as one can.

1423

01:20:43,695 --> 01:20:45,840 Did you sense from the beginning that you're

1424 01:20:45,840 --> 01:20:47,220 working on the Holocaust?

1425

01:20:47,220 --> 01:20:51,650 Or did you turn away from that for awhile

1426 01:20:51,650 --> 01:20:54,280 and go in another direction?

1427

01:20:54,280 --> 01:20:57,460 Well yeah, because I was still looking for my nation.

1428

01:20:57,460 --> 01:20:59,560 I was doing a number of different things

1429

01:20:59,560 --> 01:21:01,480 which had nothing to do with the Holocaust.

1430

01:21:01,480 --> 01:21:04,690 And I don't particularly think it's very healthy

1431

01:21:04,690 --> 01:21:08,430 to dwell on that subject for any length of time, 1432 01:21:08,430 --> 01:21:10,060 no question about that.

1433 01:21:10,060 --> 01:21:14,020 I do that not because I want to be in it, because I feel

1434

01:21:14,020 --> 01:21:19,690 a certain obligation towards those who have died to somehow

1435

01:21:19,690 --> 01:21:26,030 leave some sort of traces or kind of a legacy

1436

01:21:26,030 --> 01:21:30,790 in places, if you will, of what I was able to gather.

1437

01:21:30,790 --> 01:21:33,220 And that's very difficult because most people

1438

01:21:33,220 --> 01:21:34,630 don't give a hoot.

1439

01:21:34,630 --> 01:21:37,540 And they're not dreadfully interested in that.

1440

01:21:37,540 --> 01:21:40,270 Although because they think it's something which happened

1441

01:21:40,270 --> 01:21:45,340 in the past, not understanding that the material lends itself

1442

01:21:45,340 --> 01:21:51,040 or analysis of the human status and humanity itself, 01:21:51,040 --> 01:21:52,690 and if you don't understand that,

1444

01:21:52,690 --> 01:21:56,620 the chances are that we are not going to learn anything from it

1445

01:21:56,620 --> 01:22:02,290 and that, to me, is unbelievable in view of the millions who

1446

01:22:02,290 --> 01:22:12,220 were to die because of ignorance and destructiveness,

1447

01:22:12,220 --> 01:22:14,260 human destructiveness, which is I

1448

01:22:14,260 --> 01:22:17,815 think primarily based on ignorance rather than evil.

1449 01:22:17,815 --> 01:22:21,800

1450

01:22:21,800 --> 01:22:25,220 And out of that I'm doing what I do.

1451 01:22:25,220 --> 01:22:26,820 It's not that I enjoy it at all.

1452 01:22:26,820 --> 01:22:27,810

I don't enjoy it.

1453

01:22:27,810 --> 01:22:31,250 I don't enjoy every minute of it.

1454 01:22:31,250 --> 01:22:36,020 It's a sacrifice on

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

my part because--

1455 01:22:36,020 --> 01:22:38,690 And it certainly has done something to my marriage too.

1456 01:22:38,690 --> 01:22:45,860 And human relationships with everyone,

1457 01:22:45,860 --> 01:22:47,870 it's still in the Holocaust.

1458 01:22:47,870 --> 01:22:50,000 It's still in the Holocaust, and you

1459 01:22:50,000 --> 01:22:54,890 know it's still the tainted with all the corpses.

1460 01:22:54,890 --> 01:22:55,460 It smells.

1461 01:22:55,460 --> 01:22:59,240 You can smell the corpses and when he's around.

1462 01:22:59,240 --> 01:23:00,440 So who needs you?

1463 01:23:00,440 --> 01:23:02,090 And I think that has very much to do.

1464 01:23:02,090 --> 01:23:02,450 people?

1465 01:23:02,450 --> 01:23:03,783 Are not particularly attractive.

1466 01:23:03,783 --> 01:23:06,320 Not a very attractive sort of thing

1467

01:23:06,320 --> 01:23:09,230 to deal with and be associated with it

1468

01:23:09,230 --> 01:23:11,060 for the person who is doing that.

1469

01:23:11,060 --> 01:23:14,180 So I consider it to be a sacrifice on my part

1470 01:23:14,180 --> 01:23:17,060 that I do what I do.

1471 01:23:17,060 --> 01:23:20,990 On top of the fact that I'm getting very little recognition

1472 01:23:20,990 --> 01:23:25,580 for it except the rejection, more rejection than acceptance.

1473 01:23:25,580 --> 01:23:32,960 It's a very thankless job to do.

1474 01:23:32,960 --> 01:23:34,940 Sounds like a terrible legacy.

1475 01:23:34,940 --> 01:23:38,270 Not terrible, but I do it simply out of obligation

1476 01:23:38,270 --> 01:23:43,730 of those people whom I consider more useful and more

1477 01:23:43,730 --> 01:23:48,470 worthy of living than the people who have survived. 1478 01:23:48,470 --> 01:23:51,200 But I feel that's what is expected

1479 01:23:51,200 --> 01:23:54,590 of me by those who have died.

1480

01:23:54,590 --> 01:23:56,540 And that's what they would expect of me.

1481 01:23:56,540 --> 01:24:00,480 And I know them and I know how they think and all that.

1482

01:24:00,480 --> 01:24:02,970 So I'm doing it, but it just doesn't come easy.

1483

01:24:02,970 --> 01:24:04,110 And I don't enjoy it.

1484

01:24:04,110 --> 01:24:06,950 And I certainly don't enjoy it and I I'm

1485

01:24:06,950 --> 01:24:12,920 not getting any recognition out of it to speak of.

1486

01:24:12,920 --> 01:24:14,540 Certainly not rewarding.

1487

01:24:14,540 --> 01:24:15,450 And I'm doing it.

1488 01:24:15,450 --> 01:24:19,550 And maybe I should and maybe help you get out of it.

1489 01:24:19,550 --> 01:24:23,840 Because how long can you do it before you

1490 01:24:23,840 --> 01:24:24,830 say enough is enough?

1491 01:24:24,830 --> 01:24:28,470

1492 01:24:28,470 --> 01:24:33,390 Well, I certainly thank you for just

1493 01:24:33,390 --> 01:24:41,682 coming here also all the other lectures that you do at school

1494 01:24:41,682 --> 01:24:42,640 and of course you give.

1495 01:24:42,640 --> 01:24:46,318

1496 01:24:46,318 --> 01:24:46,860 You're right.

1497 01:24:46,860 --> 01:24:49,600 Most people probably don't care, but there's

1498 01:24:49,600 --> 01:24:54,620 a tiny group, maybe relatively tiny,

1499 01:24:54,620 --> 01:24:56,330 a small and tenacious group.

1500 01:24:56,330 --> 01:24:59,040

1501 01:24:59,040 --> 01:25:01,500 Well, we just talk

1502

01:25:01,500 --> 01:25:04,710 I'm forced and compelled to work with, how they view that.

1503 01:25:04,710 --> 01:25:08,170

1504 01:25:08,170 --> 01:25:12,950 We'll talk about that another time, the various motivations--

1505 01:25:12,950 --> 01:25:15,740 And why people work on that and feel

1506 01:25:15,740 --> 01:25:20,760 just totally lacking in humanity or human compassion and all

1507 01:25:20,760 --> 01:25:21,260 that.

1508 01:25:21,260 --> 01:25:25,370 And they are into it for reasons which I don't even know.

1509 01:25:25,370 --> 01:25:31,910 And to work with them, it's just--

1510 01:25:31,910 --> 01:25:36,020 it's virtually almost masochistic.

1511 01:25:36,020 --> 01:25:42,240

1512 01:25:42,240 --> 01:25:43,590 OK?

1513

01:25:43,590 --> 01:25:45,120 Is that it?

1514 01:25:45,120 --> 01:25:47,880 No?

1515 01:25:47,880 --> 01:25:49,320 That's a problem and a threat.

1516 01:25:49,320 --> 01:25:52,830 More a threat than a promise.

1517 01:25:52,830 --> 01:25:53,880 OK.

1518 01:25:53,880 --> 01:25:56,520 All right.

1519 01:25:56,520 --> 01:25:59,850 Do you have anything else other than your kind

1520 01:25:59,850 --> 01:26:03,750 last words to say which I appreciate, which I appreciate.

1521 01:26:03,750 --> 01:26:06,900 What else I have is that, again, I

1522 01:26:06,900 --> 01:26:13,870 think this is a very high-quality interview.

1523 01:26:13,870 --> 01:26:16,870 You know the thing is I really don't have any comparison.

1524 01:26:16,870 --> 01:26:24,100 Because most of the fellow survivors 01:26:24,100 --> 01:26:30,310 I know haven't told me anything very much

1526 01:26:30,310 --> 01:26:32,500 other than the very descriptive stuff which

1527

01:26:32,500 --> 01:26:43,312 has been repeated time and time again, and inside very little.

1528 01:26:43,312 --> 01:26:44,770 Well that's what I'm talking about.

1529 01:26:44,770 --> 01:26:47,890 I think it's the combination of the two

1530 01:26:47,890 --> 01:26:51,670 that I think has been going all along throughout the interview,

1531 01:26:51,670 --> 01:26:56,600 the combination of the so-called facts

1532 01:26:56,600 --> 01:26:59,020 and the physical world, your perception of the facts

1533 01:26:59,020 --> 01:27:02,080 and you're thinking about them.

1534 01:27:02,080 --> 01:27:06,520 I don't think there's anything more that we could conceivably

1535 01:27:06,520 --> 01:27:11,170 gain but that combination.

1536 01:27:11,170 --> 01:27:13,690 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

Well, that's why we hope we do something,

1537 01:27:13,690 --> 01:27:19,610 you do something, which not only has merit but can be useful.

1538 01:27:19,610 --> 01:27:22,270 Now my final question would be a question to you.

1539 01:27:22,270 --> 01:27:27,880 To what extent can you come out with some sort of excerpts

1540 01:27:27,880 --> 01:27:32,380 of the various interviews, which I'm sure you have had in mind,

1541 01:27:32,380 --> 01:27:39,940 and come up with a very massive, concentrated and substantive

1542 01:27:39,940 --> 01:27:42,700 documentary on that particular part based

1543 01:27:42,700 --> 01:27:44,830 on the type of interviews you've had?

1544 01:27:44,830 --> 01:27:46,660 And that I'd like to see.

1545 01:27:46,660 --> 01:27:48,980 Because we could use it.

1546 01:27:48,980 --> 01:27:50,200 We could use it.

1547 01:27:50,200 --> 01:27:52,430 And I think the public would use it. 1548 01:27:52,430 --> 01:27:56,410 And the interesting thing, which is on a more happy note, it's

1549 01:27:56,410 --> 01:28:01,480 I've been shamed almost by the response

1550 01:28:01,480 --> 01:28:03,970 I get from some students in terms of they

1551 01:28:03,970 --> 01:28:07,690 come and take me aside and say, we'd like to thank you.

1552 01:28:07,690 --> 01:28:10,900 The insight and changed our lives and all that.

1553 01:28:10,900 --> 01:28:14,050 And that is something which is a positive note

1554 01:28:14,050 --> 01:28:18,490 to conclude this sort of discussion.

1555 01:28:18,490 --> 01:28:22,510 Because apparently there's a great deal of receptiveness

1556 01:28:22,510 --> 01:28:23,680 in young people.

1557 01:28:23,680 --> 01:28:25,220 And it can make a difference.

1558 01:28:25,220 --> 01:28:27,440 It can make a difference in their lives. 1559 01:28:27,440 --> 01:28:29,560 So if we can come up with something

1560 01:28:29,560 --> 01:28:34,690 which is really quality and permits them to develop

1561

01:28:34,690 --> 01:28:37,690 insights which otherwise or elsewhere could not

1562

01:28:37,690 --> 01:28:41,230 be obtained, then I think we've done something which

1563

01:28:41,230 --> 01:28:45,260 might make a difference to our lives by saying,

1564

01:28:45,260 --> 01:28:46,930 hey, we haven't done that in vain.

1565

01:28:46,930 --> 01:28:51,640 And something really positive is coming out of it.

1566

01:28:51,640 --> 01:28:53,725 So that's what I have to say.

1567

01:28:53,725 --> 01:28:54,850 In know what you're saying.

1568

01:28:54,850 --> 01:28:59,740 I think the majority part of your question

1569

01:28:59,740 --> 01:29:03,040 needs to be discussed John [? Avlon. ?]

1570

01:29:03,040 --> 01:29:07,990 I don't know what you have to say about [INAUDIBLE]..

1571 01:29:07,990 --> 01:29:09,690 Yeah, I have some thoughts on that.

1572 01:29:09,690 --> 01:29:12,130 May I turn the camera off?

1573 01:29:12,130 --> 01:29:13,980 Yeah, sure.

1574 01:29:13,980 --> 01:31:13,000