

Here in about five seconds, you can continue on. Any time. OK.

You don't recall, Jack, that there were a lot of young men having health problems?

No.

Did you have a doctor come examine?

There was doctor in Buchenwald.

Did he come to your barracks?

No. We would go to him if we was sick.

Yeah. You mentioned earlier the man who told you that your father was going to be sent to Auschwitz, and he ended up at Dachau, complaining of being sick every morning?

Yeah. There were holes here in his arm.

He had a hole?

A hole. I can look through, if I'm look through. He was carried in a boot camp still on his back. And I don't know how he got a hole on here.

And this was-- but he ended up Dachau. You didn't see him again in Buchenwald?

Never. Never see him home, never see his pretty daughter, his wife, or his parents. He was richer Jews my hometown. He had a stock. My cousin take over his store after war too. My cousin don't need to buy nothing till he die. Yeah.

The Hungarian was too soon to work. They were not have no this chance to loot all the Jews' store. The biggest house, the biggest store, you name it. Like you're walking to here is a big department store, everything you wanted, he had with that.

And then there's this other man, older man, from your village who was in Buchenwald. And he told you, don't worry, you're going to forget all of this when you will leave.

Mr. Gottisman.

Gottisman, yeah. What do you remember about him?

He was a very nice guy. He come from a very good family. He's not on-- hidden. He wasn't-- he died from a heart attack. And talked to his wife when I was home. Hungary.

In Buchenwald, he died?

No, in Hungary.

After?

He go back to Hungary. He have a chance to go any place. Only he lost his daughter.

So he survived the camp?

Yeah.

Yeah. And you knew him from Mágocs.

No, I knew him from the nearest big city my hometown, Pécs.

OK, yeah.

His father-in-law have a big yard store. They had procedures done of hunger in the city.

And he was an older man when you--

Yeah.

10 years older, 20 years older?

He was 20 year older.

And what were the circumstances he said to you, you're going to forget all this after the war? Why did he say that? Were you talking about your experiences in the war?

Yeah, no, I'm talking to him what's happening outside. Whenever I bring him some canned goods, or some bread, or everything, he was very grateful. Even he tell my sister, if it was not me, he never survive the camp.

And he knew that you were in the sixth barrack?

He knew I was in here and tell everybody who knew me back home. I'm the guy to save his life.

And then he died shortly after the war of a heart attack?

Yeah.

But his wife lived on?

And his wife is still live.

Still living?

Yeah.

And you saw her when you went there?

Oh, yeah. Hungary. She's an old woman now.

Yeah. And she remembered you? Just give you an idea-- the street car go by front of his father's store. Was so prestigious part of the city in southern Hungary, very well-to-do family. They lost the daughter. I can't understand what keep him in Hungary. They were can't speak any other language, just Hungarian.

And the wife today, she has enough money to go on? Or she's doing OK? Not wealthy, but she's managing OK.

No, yeah, he have the old Jewish center. And there used to be a home there for Jewish people. And behind it, her father have a big apartment house. And she going to the Jewish center for it. All of them go there. Nothing. I don't know. All during the communist, let there the Joint supply Hungary.

How many Jews remain in Mágocs today?

Mágocs? None.

None. What about this woman? She's in Mágocs now?

No, Pécs.

I see. Yeah.

Yeah. Here were around a couple hundred, mostly old people.

Yeah. Jack, towards the end of your six months, you must have known this can't go on forever, that at some point, you have to leave the barrack 23.

Yeah, he-- my friend tell me, we need to go to a work camp.

So you had one particular good friend?

I'm no listen to him. He said, no worry about nobody else, just yourself, if you want to survive. The French guy, he was there a long time. He grew up there. And I'm no listen to him.

When you say your friend, is this the same one, this French kapo you're talking about?

Yeah.

Yeah. And he let you know that, at some point, we have to-- we're going to have to leave here?

Yeah.

Yeah. He said, we-- he knew the day before we go to the march to Czechoslovakia.

Only one day before, he knew?

Yeah. He say, no take nothing with you, just food. Take what clothes are on your back. He gave me a brand new pair of German boots, way up here. He said, make it sure you have the pants over it all the time.

Now, this was in Buchenwald?

Zeitz, Zeitz.

Then on your way to Zeitz? Or on your way--

We leaving Zeitz. We walked all the way to Czechoslovakia.

I'm interested to hear before that, about how you get from Buchenwald to Zeitz.

By truck.

By truck.

A couple hour.

How much warning do you have that you have to go, you have to leave Buchenwald?

In an hour.

One hour. Somebody says to you, it's time, you must go?

No, a loudspeaker.

Loudspeaker.

Yeah.

Whole barracks empty there or close to that?

Roll up your number and ring you your number on he go. That he know before, he only tell me, no take nothing. He say, then where will-- there were special truck bring everything there.

We arrived there, was an old army something who make one of the building. There were five people in a bed. Yeah. Was not a comfort was there. You see, he was walked through and tell the people, walk slower, work slower. He say, he never finish without the guns.

Do you recall his name?

No.

Yeah. Do you remember what month it is that you leave from Buchenwald to Zeitz?

It was in the fall.

Like October, maybe?

September, more or less.

September. And your entire barracks has maybe 50 people?

No. No, not everybody left, just whose number was called.

So you go away with how many of your?

Was at least 1,000 people.

Go from Buchenwald to Zeitz. And from your barrack, 10 people?

Think half of them gone there. Why everybody-- must have been Germans. The area was-- they knew it was the end of the war. And we planned to escape. We have tailors there. He worked day and night, making Russian uniform.

Who planned to escape?

The political prisoner.

So they were thinking in terms of escaping?

Yeah, from Zeitz. It's a much smaller one. And soon, we arrived Zeitz with a couple sewing machine. When the guys who know how make, he find Russian uniform, we take it. And the German never knew. He was making Russian uniform. While Russians was over the mountain on a river run through the town.

So what use is it to make Russian uniforms? To give to Russian soldiers?

No.

Or to make an escape?

To escape.

Oh, yes. OK. I'm wondering if we shouldn't take a break. I think we're getting a little tired.

No.

Yeah, we could, since we're going to come back.

Oh, you close this.

Yeah, we can close this tape.

You get running through when you go in the bridge is traffic, I'm sure you another way to go there.

To go to San Mateo?

Yeah.

Yeah, I know. I know.

I used to work down there, since I met you. Oh.

You know what? I think this is very, very nice discussion. And it's very nice to have on tape. So I think we should come back when we feel more fresh again and continue to talk.

OK.

Did you want, maybe, before we stop, though, at this point, to--

Discuss with this man.

I have one more question.

Yeah.

Yeah.

When you were at Buchenwald, do you remember a women's sex barrack also?

Was outside of my camp was a woman camp. Only have a building too.

OK. Thanks.

This was. They were known. Several people was buyer-- that on one side was a very big hilltop. One side was the women, one side was the men.

So you were on this hilltop?

Yeah. It's a big top, big mountain in Thuringia. The closest city called Dresden. The political prisoner building railroad train up there and everything. Was nothing there, just mountain, like here is Oregon or Washington. And then more clear the field and build there everything from nothing. the political prisoners tell me who was there in 1930s. Some of them survived. Can't understand how.

OK. Thanks. That's all I had.

Do you know if your French friends survived?

I don't know.

Don't know. Yeah.

And who cares?

Who cares?

Die there.

Yeah. OK.

And we need the spellings.

Yeah, that's going to be a challenge, because there's a lot of words. You know.

And Zeitz is one.

Zeitz is Z-E-I-T-Z. Yeah. And Mágocs is your native village, was--

Yeah.

--M-A-G-O-C-S.

I love to drop an atom bomb there. It was on, was Clinton, and dropped an atom bomb, the whole southern Hungary, Yugoslavia, on this whole thing was happened that Germany started. If we ever rebuilt it, only Germany come out the top. And then countries need to buy stuff from Germany.

Yeah.

And how do you spell it?

What? Hope this is not on. Hope this thing not on.

It's on. It's OK. We'll pan out.

I need to cut there.

Why?

Well, where I did that.

I'm sorry?

And they edit. They edit. Don't you worry.

Don't worry.

I know a little about it, which I know this guy a long time ago, when I was in Los Angeles, before I met you.

Yeah.

Oh, we going all them things-- three, four in a week.

Three to four what?

Dirty movies.

Not me. I just was part of it.

Security guard, yeah.

And there was something like that. Pardon me. I can take the book?

Yeah. They say all the time I need to go back there.

Oh, wait a minute.

Don't go.

Oh, OK.

What do you need?

Well, we need to leave it on long enough to spell the words.

Do you want to take that?

We can do that later.

Why don't you go. You go.

We'll do that later.

Yeah, you go.

Can you turn it off?

I wish I could. I can't.

Well, I'll tell John.

OK. We're all set.

Jack, the village you were born, it's pronounced Magosh?

No, it's C-S in the end.

So it's M-A-G-O-C-S?

Yes.

Now, there's a town 20 or 30 kilometers from there, which had 100,000 people, and now has a million people. What's the name of that?

Pécs.

How do you spell that? P-E, E like Ethel, C like cat, and S like Sam.

P-E-C-S?

Yes.

Yeah. And then after Buchenwald, you were in a camp, work camp called Zeitz?

Zeitz.

Zeit is Z-E-I-T-Z.

T-Z. Is in central Germany.

And your original given name was not Lieberman, it was Laubermann.

Yes.

And that's spelled L-A-U-B-E-R-M-A-N-N

M-A-N.

And your first name was not Jack, it was Geza.

Geza.

And that's spelled G-E-Z-A.

Yes.

OK. Do you remember any other Hungarian words that Jack used or-- or other?

Listen, I'll be around. Even people decide it when want do it next time.

When we'll do it again, yeah.

Arbeit Macht Frei, we might want to spell that.

What?

Arbeit Macht Frei.

Arbeit-- A-R-B-E-I-T. Macht-- M-A-C-H-T.

Arbeit Macht Frei is on--

Frei-- F-R-E-I.

It was in a big gate. Big gate, on top of it was ironwork. On it was Arbeit Mact Frei.

And that's three words?

It's a German. She will-- lots of Germans, you see. Used to be.

Yeah. And what is Baranya Megye?

Is a state.

That's the state that Mágocs is in.

Yeah.

And Baranya is--

And Pécs is in it. And Mohács is in the same state.



And the state has two words. You can pronounce?

Baranya Megye.

And that's spelled V-A-R-A-N-A, new word, M-E-G-Y-E. And then you used the word-- when we asked you about the Iron Cross, you said, no, there's no Iron Cross, but something called, like, Niyolos?

Nyilas.

How do you spell that?

Give me this here.

Yeah. Like you have. Is it OK to throw something in this?

Draw what you like. Well, that's what--

Yeah, try that.

Yeah. Here is a-- like an arro-- English arrow.

Yeah, four arrow intersecting. Yeah.

This was the who have the government, like 90 days, between Horthy and the Russian.

OK, great. Got it.

And how do you spell Niyolos, Jack? Do you remember? Is this close?

Let me put it on. Go there. Where you put it?

Well, like this here?

No.

This is just my guess.

It's pretty good.

Nyilas, which is N-Y-L-A-S. And this is the Hungarian militant antisemitic group, huh?

Yeah, used to be. Nyilas.

Now, everywhere deny it ever been.

Yeah, yeah. Never existed.

The Russians do a good job with them.

Yeah.

Sent them in the coal mine. That's why the Russians liked me, then was against the Russians too.

So that's all I can recall. Do you have any others?

No.

So decide what the next day?

Yeah. OK. Well--