

Who is also an interviewer, and John Grant, who is the cameraman, and mainly to interview Henry Nash. We're here in Berkeley. Today is the 25th of February, 1990. Henry?

Yes?

I know that first of all, you had a different name at your birth.

Yes.

And could you tell us what your name was then and when and where you were born?

I was born 1909, May the 20th. And my name was Henik Nusynowicz.

Nusynowicz?

Yes. N-U-N-Y-N-O-W-I-C-Z. Nusynowicz. This was our family. I changed my name and I become a citizen in the United States. Then Henry Nash.

And where were you born?

I was born in Poland.

In what town?

It was a small town. I can say Kielce. Kielce. You know, this is they. My father was Kielce, my mother was [PLACE NAME].

And--

I have trouble with my throat.

That's OK. And did you have sisters and brothers?

Yes, I have two brothers and one sister.

Yes. It's very difficult to bring back those memories.

Yeah.

And your parents? What kind of work did your parents do?

It was in business.

What kind of business?

We had candies, chocolate, wholesale, retail, my father. But I lost my mother when I was 11 years old.

Wow.

So my mother died many years ago, about 67 years. And--

You were 11 years old?

11.

And where were you in the family? Were you the youngest, the oldest?

I was the youngest.

The youngest?

Yeah.

I have one brother. He was in Israel, finished Conservatorium.

Was your family a religious family?

Very. Very orthodox.

Very Orthodox.

Yeah. I was brought up in Orthodox. Matter of fact, I don't care the Conservative thing. But we going along with it.

And so how did you all get along after your mother died?

Well, my father remarried, and it didn't work out and they separated. And I was like a street boy.

So you were practically an orphan?

I know, right, when my father went back to the small town. And I learned a trade. I went to work to Israel. So I learned that trade, boat trade, building construction type.

Did you have any other relatives in that town? Grandparents?

Oh, yeah. Well, I had-- my grandparents died when I was a young kid. I remember them, too. And this is from my mother's side. And my father's dad was alive and died in the time when I lived with my father in the bigger city.

And then I took off when I was, I think, 17 years old. I went to a big city, to Warsaw. I didn't like that. I was lonesome from my father. I still missed him.

Did you live with your father and your stepmother until you were 17?

No.

No?

When my father separated-- I have a brother here from my father's side. He is with one father, not from the same mother. He lives--

Oh, it was different.

Yes. But they say, really, the same name. And he went with his mother, and I didn't. And I went to the big city. And I wind up-- I was visiting Warsaw, and I didn't care. So I went to Lodz. I had an uncle, my mother's brother. And I just wanted to visit. And he didn't let me go.

He wanted you to stay and live with him.

Yeah. So I stayed there. He was a very nice, nice guy. And I stayed there till the war come out.

You stayed there?

From the time I got married till I was-- I think I was-- I met somebody. I was about 22, engaged. And I married in '37.

You married in 1937?

'37.

What was your wife's name? Her name was Rose-- Ruska, you know, Rose.

What was the political climate in Poland then in 1937? How was life for Jews in--

Nothing, we had not so bad. I don't know. Even they used to say pogrom, but we wouldn't worry about them, the Gentiles. Well, the city was occupied all Jews. Matter of fact, I lived in Lodz. There were about 300,000 Jews there.

So the whole city, all the business, was in Jewish hands, mostly, from the richest to the poorest was the thing. And so we weren't afraid. And nothing scared us. You'd never think about it, till the war come out the first day, in 19--

So you had no trouble with the Polish people up until then?

No, we never had that. We lived in the city. We didn't bother with them. And nothing to worry about it.

When did you first have any sense of the war coming on or the prejudice against the Jews?

No, when the war come out, I wasn't-- I don't know there were prejudice in Poles so much. But we didn't think about it. There was other kind of things. Poland got trouble with Ukraine, I think, too. Stay one part of Ukraine and things before Hitler come into power.

And just like this, one day, I did some work for some lady, a very rich lady. She used to stay in Paris, always. They had a dressmaker. Big-- she used to go four times a year to Paris.

So she wrote me a letter. They knew Paris already was going out. But Poland, we didn't know. We didn't have televisions. We just had a radio. There is trouble, that Poland thing. And here we heard it, that Hitler moved in through Poland overnight in 19-- this was in 1939, September the 1st.

And at the same time, a day later, we find people would escape. They couldn't escape. He killed them, all of them, in that city. We have movies even about it.

What city?

I don't remember the name exactly. There was the borderline with Germany. We had a lot of borderlines with Germany. Poland had it, like the Russians. Romania had it.

So we got warning, and we didn't know what to do. There was a mix-up in the whole city. And here there is. At the same time, I had, from the government, from the military, to come to register to the military. And when I went down there to register, they were mixed up, Poland. Well, the Germans sabotaged the [INAUDIBLE].

Well, we had in Lodz, in the city where I was, there were about 100,000 Polish-Germans. You know, like Mexican-American? We had German and Polish-German. But they was Germans. They wasn't like Polacks. They were like Germans. They sabotaged on the radio, announced all kinds of foolish things and all. And here, we heard that we're in bad trouble.

So when I went down to this office in the military, and they told me, you go to Warsaw. We're going to put a front there. We're going to fight it. Well, how to go? No way. Walk. There was--

No transportation.

--no transportation.

What happened to all the transportation?

They didn't have it. I tell you, they sabotaged everything. All the guns were taken apart. And they had the horses and buggy. Maybe the military took off some of it. And for those that knew people, they'll say, go. There was a mix-up.

How were the economics at the time? Was there enough food and enough work?

Well, the food was-- people prepared themselves right away. It was trouble a little. But there was organized-- the military-- I mean, the government organized that there shouldn't be a house, shouldn't hide everything. You should be selling for the people what they have and not to raise prices and stay in line.

Did you have rations?

To tell you the truth, I don't know. When that happened, I tell you, I was gone. I went to Warsaw.

So you said there was no transportation. You had to walk.

Walk. So what happened, they make walk. And people were walking. The Germans come down right in Lodz. They did, a day before, I think, a plane came down. They knocked down a train station and put a bomb there, a bomb here, just to show that they were coming.

And they used to come down. When the people used to walk, they come down low, and they were shooting all these things. So I used to walk in the fields. We used to walk. We have a group of about 10 people. And we went together. And we walked in the night. And when the daytime we are laying on the barns, you know, by the farmers.

It took us five days to go there. And we tore all the shoes and the socks. We're going like--

You wore out your shoes and your socks?

Yeah.

What did you do for food along the way?

I didn't have it. We went into farmers, and they used to bake the bread. It was like paste. It wasn't even baked. And they used to roast it just enough. I have a little cube shape on with this. I left it. Leave it there.

But in the long run, when we came close to Warsaw, we couldn't go through. The Germans already knocked down the bridges crossing the rivers. And we tried to hide out. And we figured we're going to go away in the field. The farmers, they were staying safe till it's all settled.

The first day, we come over there. We were laying in the barns, where they have hay and straw. And we look. There used to be spaces. And we're looking out and take a look. And a gentleman comes there with a motorcycle. But he didn't come for us. They just come looking in the farmers. They're looking for food, for eggs or things.

But we wait there a couple days. And then we went out to see if the road is clear. We want to go back home. But there was no use. They were shooting and-- so one of us went down and looked at the road and says, it's OK, we can--

In the meantime, when we started walking, they surrounded us and took us a place they used to--

Who's they?

The Germans. They was going on bicycles, and we were walking back where we used to be. And they made a land that they're going to fill and put around wires and the guards. And they kept us there.

It was raining. It was wet. And we were laying on the floor, on the grass. And then they took us--

How long were you there in that outside space?

We left a few days. Well, they took us to walk from there across the street. There was a big factory for mattresses, big lumbers. So they had, over there, big trucks with bombs used to come in there. And then we'd load, unload it, and load it to smaller pickups to deliver the [INAUDIBLE].

Were you being fed?

No, they didn't have it themselves. This was soldiers, not the real Nazis. They were just-- soldiers wasn't so-- so they said, they don't have it themselves, that they couldn't give anything.

But in the long run, they said it's not existing. So I saw some trucks coming with people. They didn't know what they're doing. They carried one place to the other. So I jumped on one of those trucks. And I figured, whatever is going to be is going be. And we drove and drove and drove.

Finally, we come to a city. We were almost close to the city where I come from. But they went away in another part. Finally, we wind up in a city, maybe you heard it lately in the television, Tschenschow, where the-- who was there? They were visiting, the American. I forgot the [INAUDIBLE] there. There's some big churches there.

So there was some Jews walking in the street. And we went on the trucks. Oh, they said, don't worry. They'll let you go. They left yesterday. They let some people go. And they took us to their military kasernes, military camps where their horses are, their cavalry, the horses.

And so we were assured that tomorrow-- we were going to stay overnight. And there was a lot of other people. They accumulated a lot of people. And the next morning, everybody was standing in the field. And they gave out some bread-- not theirs, what the Polacks left there. It was old pumpnickel or something.

And matter of fact, as we stayed in the line, they called all the Jews out separate. So they separated, already, us from the Jews. And then they gave us bread and blankets, those military blankets.

And they gave us for us, too. But the one where they carry it, there was a Nazi guy. So they didn't give us nothing. They throw the bread between the Gentiles, not to the Jews.

So the Jews didn't get the bread.

Nothing. We didn't get it.

Did you get the blankets?

No, nothing.

Nothing.

And then, hurry up. You're going. Where are we going? We thought they were going to release us. And this was in September yet, while it was the holidays. It was Arab Yom Kippur, day before Yom Kippur. And so in the meantime,

they took us where there was a railroad track. And there was a train, like a horses-- a horse train.

A cattle car.

Cattle, yeah. There was no windows. Just a little window-- one. And they put us in, and we stayed all day. The heat was terrible. September, like in here sometimes, it's almost the same. It was burning. And that's it. No water, no food, and laying there. 100 people in a car.

So finally, it was that-- some guy saved a few dollars. Maybe had it hidden or something. So he gave out some-- it was outside those-- what do you call them? They tried to sell you water, a bottle of plain water.

And they figured, whoever had money. And we shared it after that. Our bread, half a bread, that's all we could get for all the people. So we used to cut little squares, like, an inch square it might be-- bread.

And you shared it with 100 people?

Yeah. And finally, towards the evening, the train stopped moving. Where did we go? We didn't know nothing.

So in the night, around 12 o'clock in the night, I know we arrived-- it was a station. And I saw-- and there was Breslau. I knew what Breslau was. And there was some noises, women, watching the train, the tracks, and things. And we asked them. They didn't know where we were going.

So the next morning, then they start going. The next morning, we wind up someplace, and they called-- it's [GERMAN]. I mean, [GERMAN] in German, it was [GERMAN]. A dorf is a barn.

Farms, you know? Farms. Dorf is a farm. And the land is the land of the farmers or something like that. And there was barbed wire around. And they have towers with the guards watching us.

Did everybody survive in your car?

One died, I think. One was dying for sure. He died before the car was moving. And they took him out right there.

Did the Germans give you any food or water along the way?

No, nothing, never. Not a drop. So anyways, next morning, like I said, they took us out. So the guard, where they come with their train, went back. And a different guard with the-- belonged to that camp, they come and picked us up. And we marched to the inside.

There was tents. And they have rooms, some of them-- small rooms. Who come first got the rooms. Who come later got the tents. But then it started raining. There was a season. You know, Sukkot was rain after September. It was raining, pouring. It was bad. But we didn't do nothing.

But there was treat different. There was good treatment there.

You got food?

We got, when we arrived, they gave us coffee in the morning. And they gave us salt herring. No bread, nothing. Just a herring by itself.

Did you get water?

Yes. Water there was outside, where they used to wash for the military. There's a camp there that's out. You have to go out. They're not inside in the room. They're outside.

And so we didn't eat the herring at that time. Between the Jews which says it's Yom Kippur, it still was a little religious then. So we says, well, we could fast so many days so we can wait another day till the evening. And in the evening, they gave us bread.

There was German bread. There's five people to a bread. This was their style, all of them. And a matter of fact, I think they gave us butter one time, if I wouldn't say.

Butter.

Butter. I think at one time they had butter on the bread and coffee. And then we had the herring. And we didn't do nothing, just walking around.

No work.

No work. And then they bring in more people the next day and next day. And some of them had cigarettes. We used to sell the bread for the cigarette. Some of us smoked--

You sold bread for cigarettes?

Yeah.

Weren't you hungry?

We were. But we want more for smoking than for our bread. It's just like [INAUDIBLE]. Selling-- the stealing and the thing. And we stayed another few days. And one day, they get together all of us and back to the train. And we drove, and drove where?

Finally, we find out that they took us to the Russian border. And they want us to go to Russia. But the Russians didn't want to take us. So they didn't know what to do with us. So they traveled around with the cars from one place to the other. And they haven't got no place to go.

So finally, we wind up in the city in Poland-- back in Poland. And the city was Krakow. It's a big city, very famous. But they didn't have where to put us, too. So they kept us in where there was stables, no steps, and just boards. It was terrible.

A ramp, you mean?

Yeah, there was no place where to sleep, where to lay down. So there started going around a sickness there, typhus. And they were very afraid for the typhus, the Germans.

So they went ahead and took us to a steam bath, the first time after weeks. So as we were walking in the steam-- we were walking in the street. They didn't walk on the sidewalk-- in the middle of the street, like military. And they had a camera. One with the truck, was in a pickup truck, driving. One of the officers, they said, undress.

But not the whole gang was going. 100 people at the time-- 100 and the next. And as we were walking in the street in Krakow, I had a relative there. But it just happened, coincidence, this girl didn't even-- I didn't see her face, the back. She was walking on the sidewalk.

And I called her by the name. She was my sister-in-law's-- my oldest brother's wife. So my sister, and she lived in Krakow. I know. And I had some other friends in Krakow, too, but I didn't know their addresses. They used to be neighbors in the small town. But I called her. And she wanted to go to me. And they wouldn't let her.

But she followed us all the way to the steam bath. And there, I got to talk through the fence. There was fence around. And I told her that I had to be going this and this place to the-- again, to where the horses used to be, military. And

there's 5 kilometer in the place where we were.

And next day, they come in there. And there was another woman, a neighbor. They didn't want it. They was more afraid than Krakow, us Jews.

Who was more afraid?

These friends of ours. The Jews was more afraid from the guards-- Gentiles in that city.

They were more afraid of the Polish people in Krakow?

Right. But they didn't want it to know. So there was a woman in the same building with this friend of ours. And she was born in Germany-- was born in the army. But her parents was from Poland.

They did, in '39, send out all-- or in '38, or whatever Hitler come to power-- send all to Poland back, all those Polish. And those were the Third Reich, the ones that-- third generation, send them down. But we accepted them when we were in Poland. Lodz makes kitchens with food and everything.

So that was a hint of how the Germans were treating the Jews already?

Yeah, right, right. That time in '38 when we saw they send them back. I don't know. As a young boy, I didn't pay attention. I looked to make a dollar to where to eat.

But in the long run, there was that-- she come up with this friend of her. She notified the other friends. And they gave her some money to give me and some clothing.

[SOBBING]

And there was, in Krakow-- at the same time, in Krakow, there were the Jewish gemeinde, The Jewish community organized themselves, too. And they brought bread out. But it wasn't edible. It was bread just like-- like clay, you know?

But anyways, I had already 20 zlotys, and I had things. And I had it good. So in the meantime, they come around. The doctors there could free you if you had money.

The doctors?

Yeah, in the camp, they had doctors. The Germans, they have a doctor. So, yes, we had a doctor. And he could free you if you got 100 zlotys or 200 zlotys. But I didn't have it, and I never think that. I had 20.

Well, he says, if you're sick or something, they'll free you. But one day, this girl comes out, the two of them. And she speaks to the Germans. And I told them, there is a day that there was-- mainly, in this Krakow, was from Lodz, the people.

And the women find out already that there is something going on in Krakow. So they come over there. And they all come to that camp and talk with the Germans. Their husbands and their children are there.

So he got some kind of pity. And he gave them a number to go in to free their husbands. So I heard this about these two friends come. And I told them. So they went into the office, and they got it, too. And they freed me.

And not just me, they freed a few more. They took out about five, six people. They saved their cousins and this and that. And they got the paper.

And that time was-- they-- it was pouring raining. It was a Thursday night. I remember, just like today. It was on a Thursday night. And we went out just out from the fence, not to be there to see the fences. They rented a horse and



buggy. And we went to her house in the city.

How do you understand that the Germans would let-- would let people go so easily?

But they let a lot of them. Sometimes they didn't. There was no rules. They did whatever they feel like it. But when they come in their head, they did it. You know, said this, the thing, too.

But a lot of them-- if there wasn't the SS and all the young guys who they trained them. So it wasn't bad, too. There were certain places that we didn't have-- they didn't punish you. So you could talk to them, too.

So as we come to the house and my friends-- and that's why I know they was afraid about Gentiles living in that same building. So they want to be quiet. They shouldn't know about that they did this.

So the next morning, this was Friday. But in the meantime, I was in a place, and there were some young boys. And they freed those boys and sent them home. And they sent those boys home.

And we didn't have no paper, no pencils, nothing that I-- so I had a postcard which was addressed to my house. So I took this postcard, and I give it to one of the boys to go to the house and tell them that I'm alive, so they know that I am alive and that I went to Germany. This was in that time when we went to Germany.

So as we got free already, we was in Krakow. So we went. This friend of ours had a maid in the house. And she had guards. So we come in. And she'd feed us whatever she had in the house. We ate something. They give us baths and everything, and all night.

And the next morning, I talked to the boys. I says, look, we eat up all their bread and everything. It's not right. And we used to have a paper with the hakenkreuz, the swastika.

A seal.

Yeah, a seal to help us-- to help us going home. So next morning, we walked in the street. And we went into-- there was lines at bakeries. And I went in.

And I wasn't afraid for them anymore. But we went through so much with them, you just [INAUDIBLE]. And I showed him the paper. And he says, come on in. Go inside.

I remember like this. Inside, there was a Jewish bakery. They didn't want to take money. And I didn't want to. I said, I had 20 zlotys to pay. I didn't want to take. So the others and we bought bread. And we gave her, the maid-- we told the maid to take it home. And we said goodbye to them. And that's it.

And I went to the-- we all got separated. Each one went a different way. And I went to see one of those people that sent me 20 zlotys. And there wasn't too many people there. They all went to Russia-- to Russia, they escaped.

Who went to Russia?

Those friends I was-- a lot of friends. Well, we could go from Lodz, too. There was open. When they made the pact, the Russians made the pact with Germany. So there was one city belonged to Poland where they become Russian. The Russians took over, like Latvia and this. And this was a Polish city.

But it was terrible that Bialystok, everybody come there. There was no place where to stay, where to sleep. So they went away. But anyways, I went to the train station. How do you know where a train goes? There was all military. And there was nothing-- all filled with military.

So I jumped anyways. The train started going. I know some part towards Warsaw, but it's in a place where they transfer.

You were hoping to get to Lodz.

Yeah. So I went on that train. I was sitting on the steps and hold on with the rails like this. And we were driving all night. So finally, we come in another-- at that place where there is transfer, like I transfer now to go here.

But they went around-- the Germans-- those Polish-- those Polish-Germans and the others with the military and looked around where the Jews are. Asked, where are the Jews? More Jews? We're laying under a bench, hiding out at that time. Even had this paper, I didn't trust the paper.

And finally, there was another train. And I come up. And we went to Lodz and passed Lodz. And I went in that train, too, on the steps. There was no inside. You couldn't go in. It was military.

But they allowed you, obviously, to--

Yeah, they didn't bother. It was calm. The train was going, but they didn't bother. But this was military. Military didn't bother. They didn't know, I don't think so, much about Jews and things.

And I arrived there, and it was bad already in the city. I went up to my apartment, what I used to have. I had my wife and we married. But she went to her parents' house. I lived a little another place.

So I come out, nobody was in the house. So I went. I knew that she must be with her parents. And I went to the parents' house.

And there, they still have everything for Saturday. That was Saturday. There was everything-- candles, and fish and a meal. And I always thought that I'm very picky. And my wife told you already even now here.

So I told them, after this camp, what I went through, I'm going to eat dirty. But there's nothing like that. I didn't eat. We had [INAUDIBLE] and everything. It was fine. But they went around with the-- they want to have the star, the yellow star. We have to wear the yellow star.

I bet your wife was just amazed to see you again.

Sure. They didn't expect me. Nobody knew. My father was there. My sister-- I have a sister living in Florida, and children and nieces, nephews. I had a lot of family down in that city. And then we went home to our house. People stayed in the lines for bread or food.

How long had you been gone then?

Maybe three months, till November-- yeah, September, October, November. So I wasn't afraid. They went around and grabbed you to work, you know. Especially saw David's Star. You had it, and they took you for cleaning places where they used to live. Mostly, they occupied Jewish places, Jewish schools. We used to have Jewish gymnasiums and all kinds.

But one day, I stayed downstairs. And I wanted to go across the street. There was a bakery in by me. And some sort of a young guy come to pick-- take me. I just punched him in the nose, and I went away. I was not--

But I did the wrong-- I went to the house, where I lived. And he knew where it is. And later, he brought a whole bunch of SS to come down and took me down from the house. And I show him the paper that I just come in there. And anyways, they didn't look at it. And I went to a place, and I stayed a little bit. I didn't do much. And after that--

What kind of place?

The place, it was a school. And they wanted me to wash-- the guys to wash the steps and cleaning and things. It was not long, and I just sneaked out from there.

And after that, I wasn't afraid. Well, I saw a trick a little, that I could carry tools, like I'm going to work. In other words, I have a toolbox and tools, so they didn't bother so much.

On the other hand, I had a place I used to work in an oil refinery. And a German took us over to this factory. But he was good with the land-- with the boss from that factory. And they knew that I'm in Krakow. So they sent a letter for me to release me. But I was free before in the other camp.

You mean, they thought you were in the military?

No, in there, in the Krakow, in the camp. So I went down there to the sector. And I used to work there, plumbing. And mostly, I set up the machinery and the plumbing and everything.

And that's how we stayed. Till one day, they had-- building the ghetto in certain parts of the city. Let's say, like, in San Francisco, like Sunset District. There's a Jewish district.

Can you remember what the people's feelings and thoughts were at that time?

I'll tell you the feelings of us. We talked about it. People was talking, Jews. They know the war is over. We thought Americans going to come and going to kill them. The English going to come. We looked every morning at the planes coming. But that's what we was thinking, that England and America were going to help us. We didn't see it.

So they start building the ghetto around-- the fence and barbed wire, the streets and the sidewalks. And make that so in the middle, it was-- we couldn't walk. Just on the sidewalk and the ghetto.

So anyways, between the Jewish was talking. We got these stool pigeons to come, Jewish kapo guys. And they worked for the Germans over there, like how the FBI. And in the ghetto, they had an office there.

So in between, the Jews are talking. Well, we have about 300,000 Jews. And they're going to transfer us to the ghetto. It's going to take them 20 years. It's impossible.

So they had this. So they did one night, and they were in the middle of the-- in the main street, let's say, like market street. They were in a market street. And there wasn't, in Europe-- there still might be-- business was in the front. And the back was apartment houses. They lived in apartments.

But the gates was for closing in the night. There used to be a janitor always. Every building had a janitor. At 11 o'clock, they locked it up. If you want to go in, if you live there, you ring the bell. And the janitor come out, and you have to give him a quarter for doing this.

So one day, they make a curfew. 6 o'clock was the curfew anyways. It was a curfew, 6 o'clock. And they went into the city, knocked the doors. The janitors opened the door.

And they would knock on each house. And they were in the house. And they knocked the door. Not this, you know? Like, they're knocking now with those-- I see the guys heard them at the door, he said, they break the doors and arouse everybody in the house. They wouldn't let you have even a towel. You didn't expect them here.

So they shoot you. If you went just back, you didn't-- you run out, they killed you. So they killed quite a few people at that time this way and the other way. Naturally, the next morning, the whole city was in turmoil.

We didn't know everything. So people grabbed it, chased like this. And it was snow. And we put what we could and run away from the city from that place and around where the ghetto was, where the ghetto going to be. It wasn't closed yet, the ghetto. It was opened. They're going in the front. And I lived in the city, too, in the more central city.

Had you been ordered to go into the ghetto already?

You didn't have to. You went by yourself. There was advertising, you know, the ghetto going to be closed. On this and this day, they're going to be closed, the ghetto.

So that you should go before the closing date.

And showing around. By some, you didn't want to be the last one to be killed. You never know what they come to them the next night and the next night. So you didn't trust them. You didn't stay in the night, anyways. Even you still live in the city, you went to a friend-- a close friend's or neighbor's.

And some of the apartments was available where the ghetto is going to be, which they run away to Russian part, what I told you. They left everything just so you could take any apartment you want in that time.

So we did. I already settled where my father-in-law was living, and mother-in-law, in the same building. It was a big building, about 100 units. And we stayed there for a while.

And finally, they closed the ghetto. But here, I had a story of this. I was married three years-- '37, '38, and '39. And my wife couldn't become pregnant-- wasn't pregnant. Nothing. And I went, and I run away, who cared, to say goodbye. And when I come back home, she told me she's pregnant. And here there is-- they closed up the ghetto.

But they give you help. We had, in the center of the city, we used to have a very big hospital, a Jewish hospital. Like we have the Cedars-Sinai, or here-- I don't know. I never saw in Los Angeles. I don't know.

So through the guard. But the meantime, when the ghetto organized, they organized a man by the name Chaim Rumkowski, if you heard about him. He was an old man. He couldn't walk even maybe. But he went hair, like all the way down, like long hair, like a poet. But he was a manager of an-- what is it called? Children without parents.

Orphanage.

Orphanage.

Rumkowski.

Yeah, Chaim Rumkowski was there, if you read the book about him. And so they organized a police department, just like the other police, with policemen and everything. It was run like a city by itself in the ghetto. We were over there.

You're talking about the Judenrat?

Yeah, when there was Judenrat. But we used to have a big hospital, and they changed this hospital. First of all, they started cleaning the ghettos. They took all the children. First, they took the mentally retarded people, cleaned up all those crazy houses.

Where did they send them?

We didn't know. They sent them by train. We know the train come back and picked up other ones. We were so stupid in that time, too.

What was the talk about what was happening?

Nothing. We know they cleaned-- what they do with them, we didn't know. Maybe they thought-- they always talked, the Germans, they're going to put the Jews to Addis Ababa or someplace, Africa someplace. And there, they're going to send us. They're resettling us to there.

So anyways, so that's what they were, the police. You see, the police, they had uniform, like a policeman, the Jewish

police and things. And they had a way how to get to the hospital. And they took my wife. And she had our son.

So she had to leave the ghetto to go to the hospital?

She was in the ghetto. This was in the ghetto. It was in May.

Well, is the hospital in the ghetto or--

No, the hospital was outside the ghetto. They took it over. The Germans took it over.

So you had a son. Born when?

May.

May?

May the 4th, 1940.

1940.

What was your son's name?

Chaim.

Chaim.

[SOBBING]

OK.

What kind of living conditions did you have in the ghetto?

I didn't have it bad, that's the whole thing, in the ghetto. See, I have a trade. There wasn't too many Jewish boys that knew. I used to do steam fittings and everything, whatever you want.

So I used to work in the factory. And they organized and they gathered a building-- a building instructions office. We had engineers, builders engineers and all kind, and steam fitters and other kind of engineers in the ghetto.

So they look for workers. And they find out about me through some house. And they gave me special treatment. I hired people myself and got money paid.

And then the Germans says, no, we cannot pay money. We'll get you something special. So they gave me special treatment. Extra-- like our rations. In my rations, I got something like an officer gets or something.

You mean, the special treatment was, first, paid and then food?

With food-- food. No money. Money was nothing. Money was so that-- bread you bought, it costs you 2 mark. But if you want to buy in black market, it was 1,000 mark.

And how much would that be, more or less, in dollars?

Well, what they can do with the money? You could buy it on black market. There was the Gentiles. There was places, they were like-- like if I had opened black market, the same you could buy food.

I got something in black market. I was sick, and I felt to have schmaltz herring. And I got my schmaltz herring. You paid good money for it, but you could get it. They brought it to you. They took chances. It might be they bribed the officers where they was guarding the fence there, too.

Were the Polish people bringing the things to the fence?

Yeah, they want to make money. They could use the money. But then was good money, the black market. But they could buy it maybe in the city.

How many rooms were you living in?

I lived-- the thing is, right now, just to a kitchen and a bedroom.

You, your wife, and your child, only those two in that room?

Yeah, but the story is, I live in a big apartment house. And that was the thing. It wasn't two or three rooms like in here now. You have two bedrooms, a dining room, living room, and this type of thing. When it comes to guests, he doesn't have where to go. He have to go to motel.

[CHUCKLING]

But over there, you had one room-- one room. And comes some company, you put them up, too. Put them to the back side, three in a bed, or four there was.

What about bathing and toilet facilities?

There was no toilet facility. The city Lodz wasn't-- water, nothing. The city wasn't-- I know it in Polish. But in English, they'd say, there wasn't water yet. We worked on it to have water in the city. We didn't have an ocean there. We didn't have rivers. There was nothing.

But the water what we didn't have it is [INAUDIBLE]. After that, we had it--

The water was what?

Was brought out from the ground. You know, pumps, they were pumping up to on a hill, the reservoirs. And this feeds the water-- the city with water.

How did you get your water?

Well, in that time, we got-- we had a pump, electric one, too. You didn't have to turn, you know? Do you have water in the house--

Mm-hmm.

--where you live?

I don't know there was water. [CHUCKLES]

Did you have to go outside for your water? Or was it--

Yes, downstairs in the house, in the same building. I had to have one. It was covered. You didn't see it. It was underground with electricity. You pushed a button and the water was going.

Once there used to be, might be water in the house, where there was sewage line.

What about a toilet, though? What did you do for that?

Toilet, did you see how the farmers have in the barns outside? Or the Indians, what they had?

You just went outside.

Outside.

Not even an outhouse or anything.

25 below 0, you went outside. You freeze your butt.

[CHUCKLING]

At least we laugh. That's what that was. Believe me. Many times, I was afraid to go. The rats were running around. Everyone was afraid for them. That was the life.

Did you have cooking facilities?

Yeah. There used to be a stove from bricks. Might be made in couple plate and wood-- and wood and coal. And the heating we used to have was from fire bricks-- was built with fire bricks to keep the heat in it.

Could you get materials for-- like, wood and coal?

Well, not in the ghetto. We didn't build it. We didn't do nothing. You couldn't buy nothing. There was no business. There was no stores. You just went to work for the Germans.

Well, what was the work? We worked on cleaning a laundromat. That's what I was in charge, on the water, to make sure that the steam and the water works.

We washed the uniforms when the military bring it back from the fields. So there was bloody and all the things, and the underwear and everything. We had 1,000 women working, washing things.

And so I have to see, day and night, there would be steam. And we have a special steam house. Well, there used to be-- before, there used to be a steam house for the people. We used to have a nice-- talked to my wife the other day. The system in here, it's not right.

Where do they get-- those people in San Francisco that lay outside in the street, day and night, how do they get clean themselves?

With difficulty or not at all, I think.

Oh, but we have, in Poland, city steam houses. You could go for \$0.10 and steam bath. And they took the clothes, and they put it in a boiler, and they steamed it out so you could wore. And they don't have that--

And was that going on in the ghetto, too?

But, no, we took the steam houses and make laundromat.

How did people in the ghetto keep clean?

Well, there was water. And it was hard to get-- coal, you couldn't get it, or they kept it just for their own purpose for one thing. But wood. And wood was-- they took old houses apart. You tear apart houses and you survived.

I didn't worry about it in the ghetto. That's what I wanted to tell you. See, I had the steam [? kettles, ?] and I have coal. And I have an apartment right there on the prop-- I mean, in the property.

Well, I didn't want to go in the night. And it was curfew, and I couldn't go. So I have to be there. So they gave me-- next to Rumkowski was one to his, like, the secretary of this thing. And his name was Boruch Praszka.

He is in Israel now. He was next hand-- his hand-- the right hand. And he used to help. Whatever I wanted, I could have gotten from him so long I keep going everything.

Why was he so good to you?

Well, I kept up work-- that everything was working right.

I see.

It used to be, like, one night, we couldn't get hot water. And I had some people work with me in the night. We used to open the steam [? kettle ?] and climb inside and cut the pipe if the pipe was stoned in. From the water, you get stones. And you put in sack, and you were going in. We did things, so they appreciated that, too.

Did your wife have to work?

No, she didn't do nothing. I had a child about-- going back, in '41, where we lived in that building, in that big building. I think I didn't get yet the job. I wasn't organized.

I did very much in the building. So one day, they come in. There's a big building. There was a lot of people with children. The Jewish police come in with the horse and with a buggy, a big truck, and took all the kids away. So I didn't want to give mine. So we hid it.

We went up. There was a five-story building, I think. And we went up on the roof and hide-- find some place to save him. But the people was mad. They know mine is not in the truck. And they give all their children. So they told the cops that I am save-- I hid my child. So they took me on the truck. And I went.

You hadn't gone up on the roof?

No, I was downstairs. I was afraid maybe they're going to go looking out there. Where they is? And I said, I don't know. My wife ran away someplace and they're there.

So they took me in the truck. And they took me down where they collect all these people. And the officer says, what is he doing in here? So they told him that I-- so they put me in jail. And the police said nothing, the German side. But then the Jewish--

The Jewish police put you in jail.

Yeah. And that day, I remember it was raining, pouring. So I talked to the officer one time. It was late already in the night, about 10 o'clock in the night it might be. And I was in the basement, like now, and the windows are there. And they had the water dripping.

The water was coming in?

Yeah, not on the child, but-- so I knocked the door, and I said I want to talk to somebody. And then so I talked to the officer. I says, look, I'm a very important guy right here in the ghetto. And you put me in here, it's going to be trouble.

I says, if you want to know who I am, you call up Engineer Goodman, Engineer Berman, and the other engineers and



ask them about me, who, what I am.

I says, I didn't steal nothing. I don't know. My wife run away. And that's it. But he knows. He had a little sympathy. And he said, go on. And he's thrown me out. And I was afraid to run in the street. It was pouring.

So when I come home, I says to my wife, you can't be in the house. We have to run away. And so we took the child, ran away a few streets, some friends. We saved him. And after that, I moved over to the place where I was working.

With your family?

Yeah. I ran away from that building, but they didn't see it.

Did you have any other family there in the ghetto? Your father? Or your [CROSS TALK]

No, my father went back to the hometown where he thing, and my sister, too. They're small cities. They think in a smaller city they save themselves better, but they didn't. If they would be there, I could save a lot of the people when they would stay with me.

Did you get any news of them?

No, nothing. No transcript, nothing. So I saved that boy till 1944, September.

Did you have to keep him indoors?

No. Well, I keep him a place apart. Matter of fact, I lived in a place somebody had a child, too, saved him. And he was playing together with him. Matter of fact, they went fishing one day. He went fishing. Brought those little things with the little tails, you know, the fish--

Minnnows?

Yeah, something. And he went through the ghetto. He wasn't afraid. He was four years old. He used to pick up that like nothing. He was a very strong guy.

If he were seen outside, wouldn't that be dangerous?

No, nobody bothered it. No, they're gone. This is three years later. He was a baby-- three years later. And I didn't live in the same place where they were.

What about life for other people in the ghetto? You had a very good position.

I had a position.

But the others that you observed?

Well, it was terrible. It was terrible. It was terrible. There was no food. It was cold in the winter. And the first year, I got sick, too. I was going one doctor to another.

The frost come through the walls, brick walls. And the frost would come in. It was terrible. I think-- I don't remember-- might be 40 below 0. 1940 was so terrible. Sometimes, like in here, you get cold places.

But people, their shoes wore out. They wore wooden shoes, and it was slippery. And they didn't eat. They tried to sell their bread and get the money. And they borrowed soup. And the soup was just kohlrabi and water. They didn't give you nothing. So you shrink slowly on and on to nothing, till you couldn't walk-- arthritis and all things. I had arthritis. I was walking. I couldn't walk myself. I couldn't walk.

On a straight floor, I could walk. There used to be rocks. Those streets were with rock. And if I hit a little rock, my whole stomach was-- they told me, oh, I have a heart condition. I have this. I have that. They didn't know nothing anyways. OK. And I was after the war, even till I come in here.

But I didn't have cold in my house. When I moved over, there was a framed house-- it wasn't so cold-- like a brick wall. And I got coal downstairs. Nobody can tell me you can't have it. There was a coming truckload that's for the thing.

And I had extra food. I never ate the soup. I didn't even see it, in Germany, the soup. I worked with that-- I was lucky. That's all. But that, I think, survived.

Did you have any medical care in the ghetto?

I don't think so. You could go to a doctor. I don't remember. We used to have, but they liquidated everything, the Germans. We used to have a very huge building, which Poland-- by Poland, after the First World War. They built it. And we have what they call social medicine?

Socialized medicine?

Yeah, but it wasn't real-- we have Social Security. If you worked and you worked, you get now Social Security. If you worked, you have to register to Social-- to this medicine. There were hospitals, everything. But you have to be working.

If you got sick, and you didn't work, you still can. Well, the boss paid for it, 60%-- 70%. You pay 30%. If it was \$10 a month, they paid \$7, and you paid \$3. But you had everything.

But that was before the ghetto, I assume.

Yeah, now we get nothing. Before the war.

Before the war.

Since after the First World War, they organized it. And they started building big hospitals and everything. But in the meantime, they started out by renting houses and make it medically to help until they built up.

So this building was there like a clinic. It wasn't a hospital. It was a clinic really. All the doctors was working there. And all kinds of things was in there and drugs and everything.

And it never cost you nothing-- dentures and everything, you had it when you worked. When you didn't work and you wanted to go to a doctor, it was terrible-- expensive specialists. It was terrible.

You have to work a whole week to pay him for one visit. But you could go-- there was a Jewish-- there was all kinds of other kinds. There was organizations, like they have Bikur Cholim, you know what, in Hebrew--

You mean community organizations to help.

Organizations. We have Red Cross, Jewish-- Magen David, like the [INAUDIBLE]. We had it there. There was a doctor inside. And if we need it, you called him up, and you get it.

And then there was a Jewish hospital. Poznanski was a Jew, but you never knew about Jewishness. The kids never knew about the Jews. But they bought it-- they built a cemetery in it-- the cemetery. They got a lot. They built a hospital. And they built for the non-Jews, too, a church.

Well, he had 10,000 workers in textile. And one man could work on 20 machines and rotate. And I saw the other day-- yeah, you saw the-- what-- Daisy? Mrs. Daisy?

A movie, yeah.

You saw the movie?

No, I didn't.

Go see it. They show it. The textiles were there. He was rich. He used to own a textile factory. It's nice to see how they make them.

But was there any of this kind of care in the ghetto, once the ghetto was closed?

When the ghetto was closed, there wasn't, no. It was not, the ghetto. I really don't remember. You're better not to be sick. Be healthy. If you got sick, it was goodbye.

What about clothing? Could you get a hold of clothing?

Who would care to buy clothing and have clothing? We didn't care. Where did you go? There was no place to go.

To keep warm, I mean.

To keep it warm, people-- what they had from before the war, saved it, whatever they could. And they had it.

They were allowed to bring their belongings into the ghetto?

Well, nobody checked you out in the ghetto. You could bring a million dollars, too, and have it there and doesn't bother you. So long as they didn't know you were rich before the war. If the Germans found out, they took you over there, and they knocked the hell of you out and till you tell it-- give them everything, what you had.

Did they do that fairly often or not?

Sure, but they brought the stool pigeons, you know, that took to them to tell them, hey, Sandra was a rich woman. She had a business, she had this, and showed them. So you must have money. So they took you downtown where you used to live, and they dig it out of the ground.

And people used to dig in. Fortunes might be laying in the ground. They still don't know. Like Sarah says, they did it, and they never went back. The brother went back there and never found it. But their neighbors used to, well, the Gentiles, you know, they get out.

How were you treated by the Jewish police?

Some of them didn't behave. They looked for bribery, to bribe them. But really, we didn't need them much. They were just-- they brought them in, from outside the ghetto, food, yeah? It was in a big place, like a big market. Just in Europe, they have those market places.

So they wired it around. And they brought the truck come in. And they had a part-- he couldn't go any farther till here. The truck driver was waiting there. A Jewish truck driver took it over, took it in the ghetto, and reloaded in the warehouse. And they brought back the truck. And they went back like this. They was going to exchange it.

So everything-- but they come in through the city, through that place. And Rumkowski was-- they all have an office in the same place. It was a big square. And the police station was there on the side.

Well, they were watching. Mostly, people shouldn't go out of their lines. They used to break houses and things, whatever they could. And mainly, the people worked-- worked in the shoe-- making the leather and the textile. The

resort, the leather resort, they're called. Everything from leather, what they're making things. They did everything.

And what were the police doing?

Doing?

What were they supposed to be doing?

Well, one was going with Rumkowski and watching him, driving around in the court. And mostly, they watch-- they see the streets. Let's say this is the street. In the middle, you couldn't go in there. So there was a gate-- by some streets, not all of them, in certain places. There was a gate here, and there was a gate on this side.

There was a German gendarme standing. And there was a Jewish policeman standing. And this side, too. Some day, he saw it's clear and said, [GERMAN]. Do it again. So the Jew-- the policeman opened the gate on the other side and they let go through it. If I want to go the other side of the street--

You'd have to go--

So you would have to wait in there. Some places, they built bridges from wood to go over. But when there was snow or ice, it was so slippery you would fall down.

And then there was, in the bottom, certain places, certain streets, so you have to walk to that place where the guard is there. And they let you go through it. Not all of them.

Who was responsible for rounding up people, like when they rounded up the children or they round up the sick ones to send them?

The police.

The Jewish police.

The Jewish police. The Jewish police. They're given the order, [NON-ENGLISH]. Hey, I want to have 3,000 people today. What can you do?

So they started up with the younger ones, with the sick, and then they took all the older people-- older age. But then we find out something, where they brought back the clothing, they opened them up. And they watch it, and they take-- people sew it in. You didn't have, even in Auschwitz. In Auschwitz, when I come in, the same thing.

But when the clothing was starting to come back to the ghetto, did you then think--

We know. But we didn't-- if I would know this in Auschwitz, I would never go. I could hide it out where I was.

What were the people thinking in the ghetto when the clothing started to come in?

Well, we saw that it's bad, that they kill them someplace.

You thought that already.

Sure. But we didn't know where. But to us, they were talking lately fine. They have speeches. You all take everything, what you have, and we're going to Germany. And we're going to work there. We're going to make a living. Germany needs you. We need the people. And that's what it is. And then wind out, boom. The train comes into Auschwitz.

Had you heard about any of the camps yet in the ghetto?

We didn't hear it. I mean, we heard them-- what was going on in Warsaw. We had the radio sender. But not everybody. Some of us.

What did you hear about Warsaw?

Well, they had the fight. They had the Jews organize in the ghetto. And they have-- they closed themselves in. They didn't want to go listen to them, but they wanted so many Jews.

So it took a few days. I don't know. I cannot remember how many weeks they were fighting on the ground. And in the long run, they were in Auschwitz, with me, together.

So but you heard you heard about that still when you were in the Lodz Ghetto?

Yeah, we had this Passover thing. And there was in '42 or '43, I think, something-- we heard, in other cities, they brought it into the ghetto, like, from the small cities around Lodz from Pabianice. They brought them from Berlin-- people today, Litzmannstadt. Lodz was Litzmannstadt, a ghetto. They called it Litzmannstadt, a ghetto.

I had two workers. One never knew he was a Jew in his life. He was married to non-Jewish and took with his wife, too. Brought her into the ghetto. He never knew from the family. Never heard about Jews. And they sent him over.

And another guy come in. He says, I was in Africa for 20 years, and they brought him into the ghetto-- an old man. He couldn't-- might be 90 years old, 85. And he worked, and he was a plumber that is given in my department. He worked at that there.

And if you had money in the ghetto, you could survive it more. You could bribe a lot of time. If you had good-- mostly what they wanted is diamonds and gold.

Could you buy your way out?

I might be. With a lot of money, you could buy yourself out. They'll take you. What they did, I know Aunt Sarah had a cousin, some relation. He came to America from Hungary with a separate plane in the war time. Bought it. He was so rich.

Matter of fact, he come here on what is Canal Street. They had a big factory make for military, for the American military, their underwear and things. And they went to South America.

But with a lot of money, you could. Matter of fact, I remember on the train one time, a woman come in look for her husband with two gendarmes and decided to protect them. And they would take-- send-- get him home.

We don't know how long he would live after that. But meantime, he could be. And the same, like in there. When I was in the ghetto, I had people-- yeah, some of you, we survived, we held together. Matter of fact, I met them after the war already in Bergen-Belsen.

You mean you were helping each other?

Yeah, we tried. Yeah, we were together. I had a cousin. She was sick. I took her to my house, where it was warm. And I had food in the house, too.

Did you have any--

See, what we used to do, even going back later, maybe we get to the point. I won't talk towards the end. But this is just in the '40s-- '41, and there we lived till '42.

Exactly when did the ghetto close when you had to go in there?

In 1940.

1940.

Exactly. I think January 1940. And I come home. That was in December. I was there. And then my wife, she had the baby. Naturally, we was. We used to get-- raise a baby. So we used to have-- but I used to help myself. My wife was-- not like my Saturdays. The first wife, she was aggressive.

I wouldn't do what she did to me.

Like what?

She used to take coal in a basket and go to the store and sell it, the coal, and bring me what I like to eat, food.

This was dangerous.

Black market. She did it. And in the same time, before they closed, she used to go to the factory. The oil factory was-- like, Wesson oil. She used to get oil and sell it and make some money and things.

How did she get the oil?

Well, they could get around. They grabbed just men, not women. How they made it? Well, I tell you. I worked in the oil factory. And they were doing those. They were German [INAUDIBLE]. But she'd get not for free. She paid for it. And she sold it to make money, profit. And she helped us out.

And that, too, we needed. And the same, like you said, she didn't work. I don't know how we got away, anyways. I'm thinking back now. I don't know. But she had a small child, and then he was bigger.

Was there any opportunity to have any fun?

Fun? No, there was no fun. Nothing.

Nothing.

No, you couldn't even-- I think they make them to prayer. The temples, the whole thing was ruined. We had them-- I think there was already, between the ghetto I think, one of the biggest temples, all that fortune. And they bombed the--

You mean, just religious life was the only thing extra you could do?

Yeah, and then just privately, get together in a house in prayer, that thing.

But that was it? Just prayer? Nothing else.

That was it. I don't think so, nothing. Oh, who had it. The truth is that I were brought religious.

You what?

I were brought up very religious. But even driving here, I was thinking back that I lost my old belief. I just drove, and I saw such a beautiful mountain when I drove here. And I said, oh, people pray to this. I said, oh, this is not-- this is nature and the thing.

So you lost your religious faith, beliefs.

And I'm going to the temple. Look at that.

No, I know.

I don't like the reform. I call it the conservative. And when I told the rabbi about it, he says, you better go to Berkeley and get the Orthodox-- you know, the Chabad and thing. But I didn't want to tell him that I don't believe it. They don't know. Mainly, I wanted a social life, to get with people together.

I understand.

I'm laying in there, in the [INAUDIBLE], with the old people, looking at the walls. So at least I go one time. They call me-- parties.

Were you practicing your religion? I mean, were you believing it during that period in the early '40s when you were in the ghetto?

Yeah. In the ghetto, I don't know. I didn't practice it.

No.

No. I didn't practice. But it made me worst when I saw what in Auschwitz, the way the kids prayed and hollered to God when they load them in the trucks. That says that nobody even know what, just human. I just had mine. If someone asked me, what you believe, I would say in the green stuff.

In the green stuff.

Yeah. That's all. If you have it, you can buy the world. If you have a billion dollars, I give there \$2 million on a party. So that's how that is.

So there you were in the ghetto up to, what did you say, '44?

I was there '44 September. Just September-- September, like-- yeah, September is before the holidays.

So what happened now?

I couldn't even remember. But I remember by days. When I come into Auschwitz, it was the Hungarians come in the same time. They took the Hungarians. But I don't know. They went through with all kinds of stuff. When I was in Auschwitz, they took everything away.

Do you remember how you got to Auschwitz?

Oh, yeah.

Can you talk about that? How did you leave the ghetto? Were you [CROSS TALK]?

They tell you. They says, everybody and around. Really, I organized three or four people, we should save ourselves and stay in the-- but that was going to happen to be in a place.

You mean, go in hiding?

Hiding. I had a place. It was a-- what-- where the laundry was there. And it was the pump. The water was very low down. It was deep. And there was hiding places there.

So I organized. And I had one. He was a chiropractor, you know. One have his own way is a doctor, too. He says, we all

save. We start saving food and things.

But I don't know. The guy-- well, the organize, the [INAUDIBLE] thing got lost. And I couldn't see him. And I find out. And I didn't want to be alone in there.

And I didn't know what happened to them till after the war. I went to Bergen-Belsen. I found them there. And a son and a daughter. They all were there. But the wife got killed. And the sister was alive.

So he, the guy, he talked me into go to Sweden. But I tell him, I'm going back home and I see if maybe somebody survived and do it. He says, wait, let's go for six months to Sweden. And we go home. We all packed our bag.

So this is the same person you were going to hide with back in the ghetto?

Yeah. So he talked me--

Well, what happened to him at that point in the ghetto? Where was he?

They caught him. They caught him something. Surrounded him in some place, and they got him, his son, and nephew. Matter of fact, I get now New Year's cards from his son. He treat me right. I was in Malmo. He lives in Malmo. The father, he died in the '70s, he told me.

He talked me into going to Sweden. And we stayed there. And he got rich. And he got two buildings in Malmo. The young man is an engineer-- become an engineer.

But is he-- this man's father-- was he the only person you were going to hide with, your family and him?

No, with another-- with other two.

And what happened to them?

I don't know. I never saw them.

I mean, when you were there in the ghetto.

I didn't really know them. But this man, I worked with him together. He was a manager. And I was doing the plumbing. And he supported me all what I did. I could do it whatever I wanted. He wore clothes with that Praszka, too. So to him--

So in other words, but the whole plan for hiding went--

It went sour.

Yep.

There are people who used to hide in the ghetto on the outskirts, towards the cemetery. I heard a lot of people hide in there. And they survived. And the Russians came in, and they went there pretty soon, a little later. And then '44 year, the end '44, the Russians come in to Poland.

And what happened to the chiropractor you had been hiding?

I never saw him.

I mean, what happened at the time that it didn't work out?

I don't know.



Did he change his mind?

He didn't show up. It was become a mix-up. When they start taking all the people to put together all the tools, packing and doing and get ready to go to Germany. So we trusted. We thought it might be they say it was true. It was a lie.

You thought that you really were going to Germany.

It was a lie. The same, I didn't believe it. And I was in Auschwitz and the same thing.

So you were rounded up and taken to the train?

Yeah. We went there to the train. We went just like the sheeps. And then we come there.

Were you with your wife?

We still didn't know. Yeah, with my wife, with my child-- with my son.

How long of the trip in the train was?

Overnight, and we were there the next day. And then that happened. They're both gone the same day. They both got killed.

She was stubborn. A lot of women went with the children. There were a lot of children. But they released them. The German took the child away and let them go. So they went into the camp.

You mean separated the women and the children?

Separated women, children. So the women sometimes went too, if they were younger or was old. But if you hold the child, you didn't want to give it, they didn't fight with you. Come on. Keep going.

The same side, I was going to have that mother, the father, and sister. And she was going with her cousin, used to live in their home in Slovakia. She had a cousin still in Israel.

This is Sarah, you said.

Sarah. And she is Sarah, too. They're from the same family.

But Rushka, she left your boy. She went with your boy.

Yeah, this is my wife-- my ex-wife. And I know she wouldn't give it away.

Did you see her?

When?

When you were entering and you were separated. I suppose.

When we were separated, that's it. We went up in the train. They didn't let us take nothing. Everything was left in the car. They said, we'll bring it to you. And we went in right there.

We went into the washrooms, the shower rooms. And we cut all the hair. One cut the other one. We had a bunch of old machines. And we cut the hair off.

They went around with the dogs, with the whips. The guys, you look up, they were 7 feet tall-- was walking around there just looking at you, you lost. Even when I went through all the things, I wasn't afraid. But just this guy, was.

And they had a big box. And you throw everything. And then, the Hollanders would come into the room. They'd all come with hats, dressed up, like they're going to the opera.

What do you mean, the Dutch?

The Dutch come in the same day, like they're going to the opera house, you hear? They tell them the same thing. You're going to Germany, and we're going to do it. And they come out. They look like the Muselmans, you know, like in the-- those with sickness, terrible. Shaved their heads up.

Sarah told you. It was shaved. Took everything you had to have a dress. They give a yank, and they tore out a piece and make a tie in their hat.

So you were just with the men, though, at this point?

I'm with the men. And then come a guy from the camp. He was limping, with a stick and a cane in the hand. He took us. And I remember, he put us in Barrack 25 on the other side of the stable of the horses.

The Auschwitz used to be like a swap meet-- swapping horses and things. They used to sell and auction it out and thing. People brought them and you see changing. So they had those stables inside. So they put us in. There was number 25. There was numbers from 1.

What kind of clothing did you get after the shower?

Anything, just to cover yourself. They just take. They took it away, and they give you something where they can.

Did you get tattooed?

No, they didn't tattoo there. They tattooed later. So I didn't have my tattoo, but I took off in there.

So I come in that number 25 barrack. The kapos, you know? And those kapos, there was murderers. You go by-- they have a little triangle. And the color tells you who he is. It was a green, red. The green was political. And the red was you are a murderer.

And this, they took him out from the jails. And they put him over us to watch us. So those guys coming out and hanging a string, like they show in the movies, how they hang the people with that puller thing?

A noose.

A noose. And they hang it there and then says, now, you give me all your diamonds, what you swallow it. The diamonds, that's what they want. They had some after five years-- the fourth or fifth year. That was in 1944.

And to just scare us around. We do this. And then we all just stand up like this, five in the row. And then lay down on the floor and spread your feet. And one in the other, one in the other. There wasn't room for everybody like this. And you were sitting all night like that.

That's how you slept? There was no bunks?

No bunk. No no place. No room even. We were laying one on the other. So finally, I find a Polack there. One Polack was in the-- a Polack, I mean, a Gentile in the thing. And he says, trying to tell me, Johnny, Joe. He says, what's going on? And he says, Henry, your cross is in the cemetery already, but you're still walking around.

I said, what they did with the people? We had several come in. He said, you look at over there and see it. So they have a fence. And they put those military blankets, covered it up. And there was a huge, huge hole.

And that's where they burned them. They used to burn them. They couldn't burn enough of them. They brought in so many people, that the ovens wasn't enough. The crematorium wasn't enough. So they'd pour them. And then they poured gasoline, and they burned it.

But they were afraid for the planes, spy planes, you know? So they used to do a certain time, I think, in the night or in the daytime. They shouldn't see it, that smoke.

But that's what they used to do with the people. And our people used to schlep them from the gas chamber to there. So they undressed them. Took the clothes away. And then they used to take-- they used to bring it to the camp later that day.

The camp-- and I was inside this part of it-- they used to call the Zigeunerlager, the Gypsy thing. The Gypsies was before we come in, so they give them-- a day before, or two days, they give them French bread-- the French bread, the chocolate, they make with the family together. And put them to the crematorium. Maked room for us.

So we come in now. And then they cleaned up. And inside, every day, they have a selection, they call it. They picked the people. Mengele went around there between one block and the other one.

And every morning, he used to go out and take everything down. And he went by, and he checked you. See, if he didn't like you, he put you this side. So they put you in a barrack. And this goes to the crematorium.

So you went through the selections with Mengele?

Oh, yeah, many times. But I got away in Auschwitz, too, I'll tell you. You have to know.

Yeah, well, you were saying how when you asked this Polish person what happened to the people that I arrived with? They pushed you--

They shown you. They all in crematoriums. They burned it. They're all in gas chamber.

So was that the first you knew of the crematorium?

Yeah, that's what I know. I never-- I didn't know what they're doing. I thought just overnight it was all mixed up. And then we find out that's what it is.

So we were there. Finally--

Were you assigned to work?

Yeah, I could. But, listen. So then they come a day later or two days later. This was Barrack 25, all the way up at the top. They started from 1 to 11, one side of us. Odds and-- the numbers was plural and not. You know, like 25 this side, 26 on this side.

Odd and even.

Odd and even. Yeah, that kind of thing. So one died. I could feel it. And at night, you couldn't stand it. The smell was so terrible-- terrible.

And so then, in come a man, and he look for workers, trade people. So there was carpenters and plumbers and things. So they picked out all those working in a line. As a matter of fact, they already had bread for us. They used to get bread in Auschwitz. You get, every day, a slice. Five people for a bread.

And, yes, so they were organized at this barracks. It was a German. I told you about that German bandit's murder there. He was the kapo. But they need more people. So between us, the Jews, organized there a group with 10 people. There were about 900 people in the barracks-- in that one barrack.

So we make that. There's a top man who gives the orders. And the others then were Stubenalteste, the helpers, where they watched it. So we taught to the people to behave so they didn't get the beatings. And that's what we paid that guy. We bribed that Nazi.

So how did we bribe that? I said what it was-- 900 people. We have, I don't know, what, 200 or 300 bread. We have to slice it to get you. So we used to slice six slices instead of five. And with this slice, we accumulated a few bread.

Then, people used to go out, in Auschwitz, walking outside every morning, coming back. So we used to give them some bread. And they sold the bread and brought sugar, meat, liquor, cigarettes-- mainly cigarettes. You smoked like hell. And everything to give them to [INAUDIBLE], he shouldn't bother with us.

To the kapo.

For the kapo. When you walked in, there was a little that here. In this side, he had a room. He had a room in this side. And then this side was a room with two cots for the helper.

So anyway, he's going to it. I didn't know yet. And I just found out. I told him if-- as we got the bread from that place, and we all going down to number 10, block 10, barrack 10.

And we'll go through the hall. There is, like I said, straight ahead is the big place. And here stays two men. And here's the kapo. But this too is one of our people, the survivor.

And as we walk-- and I was going in this side. It's five in a line. And each one had their bread. So they didn't have to give us bread. And as I go, some guy grabs me, like, he grabs me. I says, you mentioned my name. And I got so excited, I couldn't-- I lost my voice.

And it was a cousin of mine. And he was one of the men picked up, the top men in that group. And a brother of his was there-- two cousins which I used to live with a lot. And he got at me and took me inside. And I never went over there. I stayed in that house with them.

How was that accomplished? I mean, you didn't have to go back into the main bunch again?

No. Nothing.

He had fixed it for you?

He didn't have to fix it. And they counted. They didn't know a name. They never asked your name in Auschwitz. They never write your name.

Didn't you have a number?

No. No numbers, no names, nothing. And the numbers was in the tattoo. If they pick you to go to work to this plant, and they want you to do it, so they tattoo in local, in Auschwitz, around in the neighborhood of Auschwitz. But if you went to Germany and others, they didn't want a-- Germans didn't want your tattoo in here. They put their number.

So is that why you weren't tattooed?

I wasn't tattooed. Well, I'll tell you everything. So this cousin of mine grabbed me with the other one. And they took me into that room. There was two cots already. I didn't sleep on the floor. I slept in that bunk bed with his brother in one,

and he slept. And he says, Henry, he wanted me to do some-- help him?

There was a lot of work to do, to bring coffee. People brought it. The boys brought coffee. They gave out the coffee, and they gave out the bread and on and on, and watch, Henry, our guys. So I says, OK, I'll help. So I help cut the bread. I helped him inside, naturally.

But I had so many friends there in Auschwitz, people that they worked with me. And everybody wanted me to help. They wanted help.

So I said, it's not good for me. I couldn't give everybody. And to give one and not the other one, it's no good either. I tried to help a few, what I could, not knowing anything.

So finally, I told my cousin to leave me alone. I'm not going to do nothing. I says, if one gave me an extra slice of bread, what I need, and that's all. I know you couldn't give me butter or cheese and other things. Just bread was there and coffee.

I don't think if they give soup. I forgot already if they had served soup.

So just bread was what you ate every day?

Bread, a slice of bread, and coffee we got.

And coffee.

Coffee they make from oats, burned oats, and they smoked the oats and things. I don't remember about soup, if we got soup. I can't remember.

What about, again, about washing facilities or a toilet?

They have one as a house, you know, like no water. Maybe there was water. I don't remember. I don't remember washing. Who wants to wash? Or what are they going to wash with? I wasn't too long there.

So I would meet them. I had some people. And they were doing some work there, worked in the washrooms and the thing. And they asked me if I wanted to work-- do plumbing. And so I'm going, no plumbing. I didn't want to take no jobs. I didn't need it. I had what I-- what I need, I had it. So I didn't want to do nothing.

But what I didn't want to be there in Auschwitz. So I talked to my cousin and says, look, Chaim, I'm going to go away. I'm not going to stay here. So that's what.

So he went and talked with the German, that kapo. And he says, look, your cousin-- he told them I'm a cousin. He says, there is now a trip to go. There's an engineer, and he buys those slaves.

He what?

We called us a slave. We were the slave. And how was it? There's a factory in Germany. They need some slavery. They send them, and they come into Auschwitz and have a contract. And they buy 1,000 or 2,000 and took them to Germany. In Germany, they built houses there, but they're for us.

So there was an engineer. And he brought-- ask people, carpenters, trade people. But this German told me, the kapo, he said, if your cousin stay in the line, if he sees, if they tattooed him, he should go out from the line. He shouldn't stay and come back. He shouldn't buy that.

Why?

Well, those tattooed walking around the neighborhood, around surrounding there, and said I should better go to Germany. Which there was always better. And I remember I told you in the beginning, in Germany, we were treated a little different.

So I did it. Finally, like this, we come in. And they just took me, put me to the train, and I went. And here I am in Germany.

How had you been coping with all of this you've gone through? I mean, how did you manage to cope with that of losing your wife and child and--

Well, what could you do? You couldn't take-- dig a hole and bury you and burn-- bury yourself. With hope, it might be. But we know there is no-- I talked, my cousin was there longer. He was there a long time. And they disappeared anyways.

I wish he would come with me. It would be smart. And that time, he would survive. Even Germany, I could help him. I could help him in Germany. I had 14 guys working under my hand, plumbing, big pipes. We used to line the streets and things.

But the meantime, I'm going to Germany. Again, in that car, I remember taking the same cars. But there was a couple guys, they were doctors. And they went in between us. And I used to help them a little there. Might be I gave them a little coffee and a little soup or something.

So they were in the same car with me. But then going on the way, I got sick. Well, from laying on the floor there, I don't know what, I had an infection-- a blood infection. And I had here, like, a rose, a cheek-- red cheeks.

So when we arrived in Germany, it wasn't bad. We come out. They didn't kill us or hit or nothing. We stayed in the line.

Finally, and I think that was on a Saturday, and they was giving up boiled potatoes cooked in the peels. You know, potatoes cooked in peels? I'm pretty sure they didn't barbecue them or they didn't roast them. But they was cooked in the peels. We were able to eat it.

And everybody, they had a hat and hold their hat. And the guy looked at you. He liked you, he gave you three potatoes. He didn't like your face, he gave you two.

And they had materials, too. Such a barbarian-- this was the Germans. They gave you the spoon. And we stayed, and I was hungered, starving. He comes to me to meet. And these doctors, they were there, saw that I need help.

So they went to the-- called Untersturmfuhrer, the guy in charge of the camp, the whole camp. He was a little, short fellow. I could blow him away and everything. But he had the power.

And so these doctors went in and says, Herr Untersturmfuhrer, [SPEAKING GERMAN]. We have a sick person here. We need a little-- some kind of antibiotics.

Well, we didn't have penicillin at that time yet. I don't know what was available. And it wasn't available I think. But there was, in Europe, we had pills called septazine, like they use now. I don't know. Antibiotic pills they give you.

So they thought, they're going to bring him something. But it was a big camp. There was a lot of people from before. When we come in, there was already people, where they come in might be months before.

What was the name of that camp? Do you remember?

This was in BÃ¼ssing. But this was in Braunschweig, which I'm going to work-- with them now. I didn't collect nothing-- money from them yet.

So anyways, so comes a little bit later, and they said that [INAUDIBLE]. There's no fear. They come and grabbed me and took me out in the line. I didn't get the potato. Nothing to it. Nothing. Put me in a corner to wait.

He called out maybe some place. And a truck come in, a big truck, with two officers. One that stayed kitty corner, this way. One in this corner and this. And I was laying over there on the top, sitting there. And they drive and go on. They drive and drive. I thought they going to shoot me.

[SOBBING]

You can imagine. You go so many hours driving, and you don't know. So finally, we come to a place. And there was, there, two survivors. It was another town, a little town, out of this place.

And they had a doctor there. It was a Frenchman. If he lives, he'll live in hell. He was a son of a gun. There was Frenchmen, bastards, though.

So they brought me there. And there was some Polish Gentile guy working, the Stubenalteste, you know, helping around. So he come and took me in. And put me in a room, a big square room. Nothing was in the room, just one bed. And they put me in this bed. Then I found out that I'm sick.

So the boys come-- what I used to live there-- come home from work. And they want to see me. There was a lot of them in the same town, what they know me. A lot of them know me there.

Then a lot of them told me-- I couldn't go to them. I couldn't go out from bed. My temperature was so high. And I know I'm sick. Matter of fact, they put down food, and I didn't eat it. I couldn't eat anymore.

Hmm, amazing.

[SOBBING]

I was three weeks. Three weeks I was there.

[CRYING]

Do you want to stop for a minute? Would you like to?

No, I'll go on.

OK.

Three weeks. They come again, a truck, another truck. And they took me back where I was before.

Were you all well then?

Yeah, looks like three weeks contained was there. And they didn't know nothing. I don't remember medicine. Might be the antibiotics or something for me, and with no food.

And then I went back to the place. This is towards the city with more people are surrounding. And there was built special houses, like the khata, you know.

I remember, we had cots, two layers-- the bottom up. Well, the same thing. There was no washing, no bedding. They had a sink. We could wash our face. But not bathing, again, no showers or nothing. You go in the same clothes.

And as I come over there, they picked me before. When I stay in the line, the Untersturmfuhrer asked for trade people, all kind-- ask names-- carpenters, plumbers. Real plumbers are there.

There's a trade. Sheet metal and a plumber is one trade. Klempner they say. Klempner is a guy who does sheet metal work in plumbing. This is one trade. If there's klempners and things, I know the work. Well, I worked with them in [INAUDIBLE] before.

So I have some people, they know me, what I was with them. Matter of fact, he's in here in America, in Los Angeles, he lives there. He says, Henry, don't go-- don't go with them. Don't say nothing if they ask for a trade. So then you're going to go to the factory with us. And the factory can help us out between the Deutsche and private.

So I didn't say nothing. But some guy-- crazy there-- he was-- and tell them that I am a plumber. So they pulled me out. They picked up-- want to hit me but never hit me anyways.

He was going to hit you?

No, he didn't hit me. He make believe that he's going to hit me. And they took me out in that time. And then I was sick, and I went away.

Well, when I come back, that's it. They took me over as a plumber. And so this place, where we were, belonged to a factory. Well, I told you, the engineer belonged to a company. They paid for the food and everything.

And so he had private people-- designers and architects and foremens and everything. So they were building more buildings where we were there. And they said, this is going to be for the Americans. They thought they're going to arrest-- which I saw American prisoners. And they're going this way, and we were going this way.

So they need water. We made shower rooms and everything in plumbing. So when I come back, they come, the foremen from the factory with the prints. And they talked-- explained to me. We went through the prints. And he give it to me over. I'm the leader in the plumbing.

Were you fluent in German, too?

Huh?

Did you speak German fluently?

Not fluent. I learned in the time. I spoke-- I still sort of speak. Yiddish is a little German, too. If you know a lot of Yiddish, their dialect a little different. They say [YIDDISH]. [YIDDISH] is Yiddish. And this, in German, it's [GERMAN]. [SPEAKING GERMAN] or [SPEAKING YIDDISH].

So you made it OK.

Yeah, I maked it in German. So he gave me the prints. And that's how-- and he says, here is-- pick your people to work. And I picked guys. I'll go what I know for the longest time. And he died. He got sick.

I met the brother. He's still in LA now. And I told him that they were all died. I tried to survive him, but I couldn't help him. Took him out on the line. I told him I need him.

But he was real in the plumbing supply. He had a very huge plant in Poland and large, big warehouses. But he got sick. Mengele's picked him to the gas chamber, and he escaped. They hide out there. They opened a hole in the wall, and they come out. And he survived. He went with us to Germany.

Who opened a hole in the wall?

That guy, that survivor.



So they could hide within the wall you mean?

No, they sneaked out from the guard. There was wooden, stucco houses. And I'll just say this. So anyway, so I worked there. I got sick, too, again.

And so I had a Russian person, an older person. See, they took the whole world into Germany, people-- Italian, Russian. So this man was between the factory and us, where we were there. He'd bring the materials, what I need. I told him. A very nice person he used to be. Very nice.

I still had a cold and something. I gave him to sell it. I still didn't know I'm going to survive and live. So I says, take your coat and sell it between your people. And they were free labor people.

They took them in. They couldn't walk around in the-- they walked street, but they have to come home by 6 o'clock to be in the camp. This was a different kind of camp.

They weren't slaves?

They were slaves. They must pay them to live. But they worked in the factories.

They did pay them?

They must be paid in money, the thing. Matter of fact, they brought me money, what they caught. And I didn't want to say. I don't want money. I want a bread. Buy me bread.

And then in the end, they come in and says, it's hard to get bread. Well, there was a mix-up. But he brought me a half a bread and thing, and I ate that.

What was your food rations at the time in that factory?

The same thing-- kohlrabi soup and sliced bread, five to a bread.

And when you didn't have your coat, did you have enough warm clothing to wear?

Yeah, well, there was already-- they don't stand. It was in 1944. And I would be-- it was 1945 already. Sure. Then we went to Berlin. It was 1945, might being general.

So one day, and it was true. One day, they come without saying a word, and they took everybody. And we walked to the factory. And the name was Hermann Goering Werke. You heard about Hermann Goering?

Yes.

And it was under his name-- the workers, the factory, the workers. And we walked 50 kilometers. 12 o'clock in the night, we arrived there. We have to get undressed, everything, again, those bandits there, to give them gold and diamonds and everything in '45.

And they had the same thing. And a lot of us walk around naked. Took away the clothes and put it in the steam. They had a steam-- finally, I went in there. We grabbed whatever we could.

And we were doing some-- all kind of work. I was digging graves, took out bodies. They saved them up. They couldn't bury them. They didn't have enough people to do it.

Were there people who--

So when we come in, they take those bodies. We couldn't pick them up off in the basement. You know the steps that go

out? They put three, four bodies in one box. And we couldn't-- we couldn't. They'd kill us if we didn't do it.

So we took them out, and took the box out. And then the bodies, each one, put them up. Put them in a trailer and went away to a cemetery, where they buried just people-- our people.

Who were these dead bodies? The slaves who had died?

The slaves. Yeah, it was us. It was our--

They died from overwork?

Not from our group. That's from the group from before when they were there. They changed it. They would keep you till they took the whole blood. One drop is left, and then they buried you. That's what it was.

How long a day did you have to work back in the factory in Germany?

Well, there was a-- we have to go in BÃ¼ssing, it was-- we usually get up 5 o'clock in the morning. Get a little water. But if you didn't left your bread from the night, you didn't have bread. You went without a bread all day till the next day, 6 o'clock.

I mean, you went in the morning, about 6 o'clock until 6 o'clock in the night.

12 hours.

Yeah, about 12. But it wasn't always work. Well, you walked about 5 miles, I think it was, to go to the place. Took you an hour of walking and an hour coming.

So I send along. And I had-- so I brought the plumbing there. And I think I helped myself again. I couldn't get nothing.

The leader, what he was, the German, he was in the military. And he went to the Russian front, and he got wounded. He got shot. So they healed him up, and they gave him a job as a plumber, in private-- no--

He heard Russian-- oh, he couldn't hear the word Russian. They were afraid to death, all the Germans, to go to the Russian front. But he wasn't bad. He used to tell us, from the newspaper, how the situation is.

But he could come and eat an apple and peel it. You hear that? Peel an apple, and he wouldn't give us the peeling, so mean guy. I don't know a reason why he did it. He wasn't such a bad guy. But all he didn't want to give us [INAUDIBLE]. All he didn't-- was afraid we were going to get sick on it. They said that, too, what he used to tell us.

Now, what I used to do, again, I couldn't eat the soup. So I used to save the soup. There was guys going out to work to the trains, loading potatoes and things. So they used to fill themselves, the pockets, with potato-- raw potato and bring it in. But they couldn't have a chance to cook him.

So I took from them the potatoes, and I gave them my soup. And I used to cook them with water. I had an oven where I used to heat the soldering irons, you know?

Soldering irons, yeah.

Yeah, soldering irons. There's a hot-- they have to be heated point, et cetera. So we had an oven always burning. And I used to cook just the potato. Cleaned it up, cut in pieces. Just potato and the water. But I couldn't eat the kohlrabi.

So the water and potato was better. It made like a mashed potato. It wasn't mashed. It made like a starch water. But that gives me something good in my body. And I had the bread. Sometimes I bought a piece of bread and I had it.

But this was over, too. And we went that night, I tell you, one day, disappeared. And we went 50 kilometers-- another-- to Hermann Goering.

How long did it take you to walk the 50 kilometers?

Well, it might be the start of the afternoon till 12 o'clock in the night. And about a couple of days. And third day, they give us each one a bread, a whole bread. And they said, this bread, I don't for how long it's going to last you. Don't eat it up in one time. It's going to take a long time, it might be. Save it.

Some could do it. Some couldn't. They ate. And back in the train.

Did you save yours, or you ate it?

I saved it. I wasn't salting. I wasn't so hungry. I don't know. I was hungry, but I didn't eat just anything just to eat. That's what kept me healthy. They need the junk.

What junk?

Well, the people eat anything. They get-- I ate one time. We dugged a hole, and we find that-- from a cow it might be, or from a horse-- from the bottom part-- from the--

The hoof.

The hoof. We cleaned it, and we made like I did from the potato. We cooked it in water. Make that little fire outside. And we drink that water, too.

So I said, after this, I'm going to eat dirt. But it's not-- when you come to food after that, you don't like to eat dirt. So we went in the train and open trains. There was already all kind of trains, open. Like, coal, they loaded coal.

The train, where we going? We don't know. We're driving at night, away from the American, away from the English and all. Mostly from the American. The English was in Europe, and the prince was there, just American.

What did you think was happening now?

We know there was bad. They're going to hell. Finally, we come to a place, and the planes-- airplanes were coming. This was before Berlin. They come knock the hell out of it.

Oh, we were laughing. And the guards, where they were watching the train, they run away in the fields. And they were hiding in their fields. They were afraid.

And we were so laughing. When finally, a little bit later, they opened up the car and allowed us in, in a camp there again.

And this was the name of it. It was Ravensbrück, by Berlin. And we stayed there. And they know they're going to hell, the Germans. And they accumulated, over there, thousands and thousands of Red Cross boxes of food, American. And they--