

The Holocaust Center
of Northern California
639 - 14th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94118

Interview with HENRY NASH

Holocaust Media Project

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2 HOLOCAUST CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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4 HENRY NASH

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6 EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. BENDAYAN:

8 Q We are here in Berkeley. Today is the
9 25th of February, 1990.

10 Henry?

11 A Yes.

12 Q I know that, first of all, you had a different
13 name at your birth?

14 A Yes.

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

17 A I was born 1909, May the 20th. My name was
18 Henrick Nunynowicc.

19 Q Nunynowicc?

20 A Yes, N-U-N-Y-N-O-W-I-C-C, Nunynowicc. This was
21 our family. I changed my name when I become a citizen for
22 the United States to Henry Nash.

23 Q And where were you born?

24 A I was born Poland.

25 Q In what town?

1 A It was a small town -- I can't say (Kielce) as
2 (Kielce). My father was (Kielce) and my mother was
3 (VINYENCHA).

4 Q Uh-huh.

5 A I have trouble with my throat.

6 Q That's okay. And did you have sisters and
7 brothers?

8 A Yes, I have two brothers and one sister.

9 Q Yes, it's very difficult to bring back those
10 memories.

11 A Yeah.

12 Q And your parents, what kind of work did your
13 parents do?

14 A He was in business.

15 Q What kind of business?

16 A We had a candy chocolate house there, my
17 father. But I lost my mother when I was 11 years old.

18 A So my father -- and my mother died many years
19 ago, you know, when I was six, seven years.

20 Q You were 11 years old? And where were you in
21 the family? Were you the youngest or the older?

22 A I was the youngest.

23 Q The youngest?

24 A Yeah. I have one brother, he was in Israel,
25 that finished Consolitorium.

1 Q Was your family a religious family?

2 A Very orthodox.

3 Q Very orthodox?

4 A Yeah. I was brought up orthodox. Matter of
5 fact, I don't care the conservatory, think but --

6 Q So how did you all get along after your mother
7 died?

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

10 Q So were you practically an orphan?

11 A An orphan, right. When my father went back to
12 the small town, and I learned a trade. I wanted to go to
13 Israel so I learned a trade, a boat trade, building
14 construction trade.

15 Q Did you have any other relatives in that town,
16 grandparents?

17 A Well, yeah. I have both my grandparents died
18 when I was a young kid. I remember them, too. And this is
19 on my mother's side. And my father's dad was alive and died
20 the time when I lived with my father in the bigger city.

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

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

1 A No. I was -- when my father separated -- I
2 have a brother here on my father's side. He is with my
3 father and not the same mother.

4 Q Different mother?

5 A Yes, really the same name that I have.

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A And he went with his mother and I didn't. And
8 I went to the big city. I wind up I was visiting Russia,
9 and I didn't care, so I went to the Lodz. I had an uncle,
10 my mother's brother, and he -- I just went visiting. And he
11 didn't let me go.

12 Q He wanted you to stay and live with him?

13 A Yeah. So I stayed there. He was very nice,
14 nice guy. And I stayed there until the war come out.

15 Q Stayed --

16 A From the time I got married until I was -- I
17 think I was -- I met somebody. I was about 22, engaged and
18 married in '37.

19 Q You married in 1937?

20 A '37.

21 Q What was your wife's name?

22 A Her name was Rose, Roseka, Rose, and --

23 Q What was the political climate in Poland then
24 in 1937? How was life for Jews?

25 A Nothing. We had not so bad, I don't know.

1 Even they used to say (Berkholm). But we weren't worried
2 about the gentiles when the city was occupied all Jews.
3 Matter of fact, I lived in Lodz, about three hundred
4 thousand Jews there. So the whole city, the business was
5 Jewish families, most the richest to the poorest was -- so
6 we weren't afraid and nothing scared us, never think about
7 it until the war come out the first day.

8 Q So you had no trouble with the Polish people?

9 A No, we didn't have. We lived in the city. We
10 didn't bother with them. Nothing to worry about.

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

13 A No, when the war come out, I don't know if
14 there were prejudice for us so much. But we didn't think
15 about it. There was other kind of things. You know, Poland
16 got trouble with the Ukraine I think, too, one part of
17 Ukraine, before Hitler come into power.

18 And then just like this one day I did some work
19 for some lady where -- a very rich lady. She used to stay
20 in Paris always. I had dressmaking. Big -- she used to go
21 four times a year to Paris. She wrote me a letter. They
22 knew in Paris what was going on. From Poland we didn't
23 know. We didn't have television. We just had the radio.
24 That's that is trouble, that Poland.

25 And here we had it that Hitler moved into

1 Poland overnight in 1939, September the 1st. And at the
2 same time a day later we find people had escaped. They
3 couldn't escape. He killed them all, all them in that city,
4 you know. You have movies about it.

5 Q What city?

6 A I don't remember the name exactly. There was
7 the borderline with the Germany. We had a lot of borderline
8 with Germany, Poland had it, Russia and Rumania had it.

9 So we got worried, you know, we didn't know
10 what to do. There was a mix-up in the whole city. And here
11 there is -- so at the same time I had undercover man in the
12 military out come to register to America. I went down there
13 to register. There were mixed up Poland and the Germans
14 sabotaged. We had in Lodz, in the city, in the city where I
15 was, we had about a hundred thousand folks, German, like
16 Mexican/American, we had German and Polish/German. But
17 there was Germans. They weren't like Polacks. They were
18 like Germans.

19 They sabotaged the radio, announced all kinds
20 of foolish things. Here we heard there's very bad trouble.
21 So when I went down to this office in the military and they
22 told me, "You go to Russia. We're going to put a front
23 there. We're going to fight them." I had to go. No way.
24 Walk, you know.

25 Q No transportation?

1 A No transportation.

2 Q What happened to all the transportation?

3 A They didn't have it. I tell you, it was
4 sabotaged, everything, all the cars were taken apart and
5 they had the horses and buggy, might be military took off
6 with some of them. They knew, people, they say, "go."
7 There was a mix-up.

8 Q How were the economics at the time? Was there
9 enough food, enough work?

10 A The food was -- people prepared themselves
11 right away. It was trouble, a little, but there was
12 organized. The mill -- the government organized that
13 shouldn't be -- how's, shouldn't hide everything. You
14 should be selling for the people what they have, and not to
15 raise prices and stay in line.

16 Q Did you have rations?

17 A Oh, to tell the truth, I don't know. When that
18 happened, I tell you, I was stunned. I went to Russia.

19 Q So you said there was no transportation and you
20 had to walk?

21 A Walk. And so what happened, they make walk and
22 people were walking. The Germans came right down. They did
23 I think before the day before a plane come down and knocked
24 down the train station, put a bomb there, a bomb here, just
25 show that they coming.

1 And they used to come down when the people used
2 to walk. They come down low and they were shooting. So I
3 used to walk in the fields, we used to walk. We have a
4 group about ten people, we walked together. And we walked
5 at night. And when the daytime, we were laying in the barns
6 by the farmers. It took us five days to go there. I tore
7 up the shoes and socks, were gone, like.

8 Q You wore out your shoes and socks?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q What did you do for food along the way?

11 A We didn't have it. We went into farmers and
12 they just baked the bread. It was like paste, you know. It
13 wasn't even baked. They used to roast it, just enough. It
14 have a little cube shape. In the Lodz -- but in the Lodz
15 how when we come close to Russia we couldn't go through.
16 The Germans already knocked down the bridges crossing the
17 rivers.

18 And we try to hide out. We figure we can go
19 away in the field, the farmers there, and stay until it's
20 settled. The first day we come up there and we are laying
21 in the barns, you know, where they have hay and straw. And
22 we look.

23 There used to be spaces, you know, and looking
24 out and take a look. The German comes down with a
25 motorcycle. He didn't come for us. They just come looking

1 for the farmers, looking for food, eggs and things.

2 But we wait there a couple of days and then we
3 went out to see if the road is clear. We want to go back
4 home. But there was no use. They were shooting. And so
5 one of us went down and looked out the road, says, "It's
6 okay, we can." In the meantime, we start walking. They
7 surrendered us and took us a place.

8 Q Who is "they"?

9 A The Germans. They was going on bicycles. We
10 were walking back where we used to be. And they make like a
11 land, a field, put around wires and the guards, and kept us
12 there.

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

15 Q How long were you there in that outside?

16 A A few days. They took us to work from there
17 across the street. They had a rather big factory for
18 matches, big lumbers. And so they had over there big trucks
19 with the bombs used to come in there. And we load, unloaded
20 and loaded the smaller pickups to deliver to the frontline.

21 Q Were you being fed?

22 A No, they didn't have it themselves. The
23 soldiers was soldiers, not the real Nazis. They were just
24 soldiers. So they said they don't have it themselves. They
25 couldn't give it. But the one guy says it's not existing.

1 I saw some trucks coming with people. They
2 didn't know what they doing, carry one place to the other.
3 So I jumped on one of those trucks. I figure whatever's
4 going to be, going to be. And we drove, and drove and
5 drove. Finally, we come to a city. We were almost close to
6 the city where I come from. But they went away in another
7 part.

8 Finally, we wind up in a city, might be late --
9 I and the television chance to, you know -- where was that,
10 visiting from American -- I forgot -- big churches and
11 everything. So there was some Jews walking in the street.
12 And we were on the trucks. Others say, "Don't worry. They
13 let you go. They left yesterday. They let some people go."

14 They took us there military (CUSHAUS), military
15 camps where there are horses, where they're cavalry, the
16 horses.

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 A So we were sure that tomorrow we going to stay
19 overnight. And there was a lot of other people there,
20 accumulated, a lot of people. And then the next morning
21 everybody was standing on the field and they give out some
22 bread. Not their's, but the Polacks left it there, was old
23 pumpernickel or something.

24 And matter of fact, as we stayed in the line
25 they called all the Jews out separate. So they separate

1 already us from the Jews. And then they gived us bread and
2 blankets, you know, those military blankets. They give us
3 for us, too, but they wanted carry, to carry it. There was
4 some Nazis. They didn't give us nothing. They throw the
5 bread between the gentiles.

6 Q So the Jews didn't get the bread?

7 A No.

8 Q Did you get the blankets?

9 A No, nothing.

10 Q Nothing?

11 A So and then, hurry up, going. Where we go? We
12 thought they're going to release us. And this was in
13 September yet, while it was the holidays. It was a day
14 before Yom Kippur. And so in the meantime, they took us --
15 where there was a railroad track. And there was a train,
16 you know, like for horses, horse train.

17 Q A cattle car?

18 A Cattle, yeah, with no windows, just a little
19 window, one. And they put us in and we stayed the whole
20 day. The heat was terrible, you know, September, like in
21 here sometimes. It's almost the same. It was burning. And
22 that's it. No water, no food, and laying there, a hundred
23 people, and we were in the car.

24 So finally, it was some guy saved a few
25 dollars, might be had it hidden, something. So we give out

1 some outside those -- what you call? Tried to sell you
2 water bottled fresh water. They figure whoever had money
3 and we shared it after that, our bread, half a bread, that's
4 all we could get for all the people. So we used to cut
5 little squares, like an inch square, might be, bread.

6 Q You shared it with a hundred people?

7 A Yeah. And finally, towards the evening we --
8 the train started moving. Where we go, we didn't know
9 nothing. So in the night, around 12:00 o'clock in the night
10 I know we arrived at a station. And I saw it was a
11 (BREZLAW). I know where (BREZLAW) was. There was some --
12 there was this woman watching the train, the tracks. And we
13 asked them. They didn't know where we going.

14 So the next morning then they start called
15 ahead and next morning we lined up someplace. And they call
16 -- it's LANDSDORF, LANDSDORF in German it was LANDSDORF, a
17 DOFER is a barn, a farms, you know, farm thing, DOFER is a
18 farm.

19 Q Uh-huh.

20 A And the land is the land of the farm or
21 something like that. And it was a barn, wire around, and
22 they have towers with the guards watching us.

23 Q Did everybody survive in your car?

24 A One died, I think, one was die for sure, died
25 before when the car was moving. They took him out right

1 there.

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

4 A No, nothing, never at that time. So anyways,
5 next morning they start took us out. So the guard that come
6 with the train went back and a different gaurd with -- that
7 belong to the camp, they come and picked us up and we
8 marched there to the inside.

9 It was tents. And they have rooms, some of
10 them, small rooms. Who come first got the rooms, who come
11 later got the tent. But then it started raining. It was
12 the season, after September. It was raining, pouring. It
13 was wet. But we didn't do nothing.

14 But they was treat different. It was good
15 treatment there.

16 Q You got food?

17 A We got when we arrived they give us coffee in
18 the morning, and they give us salt herring, no bread,
19 nothing, just the herring by itself.

20 Q Did you get water?

21 A Yes, water, there was outside, you know, used
22 to wash for the military's camp. You have to go out, and
23 not inside, in the room but outside. And so we didn't eat
24 the herring at that time between the Jews. Says, it's Yom
25 Kippur, you know, still was a little religious. So we says,

1 "Well, we could fast so many days. We can wait another day
2 until evening."

3 In the evening they give us bread. Like there
4 was, you know, German bread, five people to a bread, that
5 was their style. And matter of fact, I think they gave us
6 butter one time.

7 Q Butter?

8 A Butter, I think one time we had butter on the
9 bread and coffee. And we had the herring. We didn't do
10 nothing, just walking around.

11 And then they bring in more people next day and
12 next day. And some of them have cigarettes. We used to
13 sell the bread for the cigarettes, you know.

14 Q You sold bread for cigarettes?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q Weren't you hungry?

17 A We were, but we were more for smoking than
18 bread. Just like dope, they're selling, they're stealing.
19 And we stayed another few days and one day they get together
20 all of us and back to the train. And we drove and we don't
21 know where.

22 Finally we find out that they took us to the
23 Russian border. They want us to go to Russia. But the
24 Russian didn't want to take us. So they didn't know what to
25 do with us. We travel around with the car from one place to

1 another. And they haven't got no place to go. So finally
2 we wind up in the city in Poland, back in Poland. And our
3 city was Krakow. It's a big city, a very big. But they
4 didn't have anywhere to put us, too. So they kept us in --
5 it was stables, you know, you know, steps, and just boards.
6 It was terrible.

7 Q A ramp, you mean?

8 A There was no place to sleep, to lay down. So
9 they started going around sickness there, typhus. And they
10 were very afraid for the typhus, the Germans. So they went
11 ahead and took us to a steambath, first time after weeks.

12 So as we were walking in the street, we were
13 walking in the street. They didn't walk on the sidewalk, in
14 the middle of the street like military. And they had a
15 camera along with the truck, was a pickup truck driving in
16 front of the officer, but not the whole gang. A hundred, a
17 hundred people at a time, one hundred, and the next.

18 And as we were walking in the street, in
19 Krakow, I had a relative there. But just happened
20 coincidence, this girl, I didn't see her face, the back.
21 She was walking on the sidewalk. And I called her by the
22 name. She was my sister-in-law, my oldest brother's wife,
23 so my sister. She lived in Krakow. I had other friends in
24 Krakow, too, but I didn't know their addresses. They used
25 to be neighbors in the small town.

1 But I called her, and she wanted to go to me
2 and they wouldn't let her. But she followed us all the way
3 to the steambath. And there I got to talk to her, friends
4 of hers. And I told her that I heard we going this place
5 again to the -- where your horses used to be, military, and
6 five kilometers from the place where we were.

7 And next day they come in there, she, and it
8 was another woman, a neighbor. They didn't want it. They
9 was more afraid in Krakow as Jews.

10 Q Who was more afraid?

11 A These friends of ours, the Jews was more afraid
12 from the gentiles in that city.

13 Q More afraid of of the Polish people?

14 A Yes, Polish, right. But they didn't want it to
15 know. So there was a woman in the same building with this
16 friend of ours. She was born in Germany, was born there,
17 but her parents was from Poland. They did in '39 -- sent
18 out all in '38 when Hitler come to power, sent all the
19 Poland back, all those Polish from the Third Reich, the
20 third generation.

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 A Send it. But we accept them and we were in
23 Poland long kitchens, with food and everything.

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

1 A Right, that time, in '38, they send them back.
2 I don't know as a young boy, I didn't pay attention. I
3 looked to make a dollar where to eat, you know. But in the
4 long run it was that she come up with this friend of hers.
5 She notified the other friends. And they give her some
6 money to give me and some clothing.

7 And it was in Krakow, the same time in Krakow
8 there was the Jewish, the Jewish community organized
9 themselves, too. And they brought bread out. It wasn't
10 edible. It was bread, just like, like clay, you know. But
11 anyways, I had already 20 (SLATAS) as the -- and I had it
12 good. So in the meantime, they come around, that the
13 doctors there could free you if you had money.

14 Q The doctors?

15 A Yeah, in the camp they had doctors, you know,
16 the Germans, the doctor. So there used to be a doctor and
17 he could free you if you got a hundred (SLATAS) or two
18 hundred (SLATAS). And I never had it and I didn't think
19 that I had 20. He says, you sick or something, they free
20 you.

21 But one day this girl come out, the two of
22 them. And she speak German. And I told them there is a day
23 that there was mainly in this Krakow was for (LURCH), the
24 people. And the woman find out already that there is
25 something going on in Krakow so they come over there. And

1 they all come to that camp and talk with the Germans, you
2 know, the husbands and the children.

3 So he got some kind of pity, you know, and he
4 give him a number to go in to free their husbands. So I
5 heard about this. There's two friends come. I told them.
6 So they went into the office and they got it, too, and they
7 freed me. And not just me. They freed a few more. They
8 took about five, six people. They say they're cousins, and
9 this and that, and they got the paper.

10 And at that time it was pouring raining. It
11 was a Thursday night. I remember just like today. It was
12 on a Thursday night. And we went out, just out from the
13 fence not to be there, see the fences.

14 They rented a house in (BORGIA). And we went
15 to her house in the city.

16 Q How do you understand that the Germans would
17 let people go so easily?

18 A Well, they let a lot of them. You know,
19 sometimes they didn't -- there was no rules. They did
20 whatever they feel like. They come in their head, whatever
21 come in their head, they did it. Said this thing, too. But
22 another, there wasn't the SS and, you know, all the young
23 guys that trained themselves, it wasn't bad, too. There
24 were certain places that we didn't have -- they didn't
25 punish you. You could talk to them, too.

1 So as we come there to the house of my friends,
2 and that's when I know they was afraid of the gentiles
3 living in that same building. So they want it to be quiet.
4 They shouldn't know about it, that they did this. So next
5 morning, this was Friday. But the meantime, I was in a
6 place and there were some young boys and they freed those
7 boys and sent them home. And they sent those boys home.

8 And we didn't have no paper, no pencils,
9 nothing to write. So I had a postcard that was addressed to
10 my house. So I took this postcard and I give it one of the
11 boys to go to the house and tell them that I'm alive. So
12 they knew that I am alive and that I went to Germany and
13 this was at that time that we went to Germany.

14 So as we got free already we was in Krakow. So
15 we went -- this friend of ours had a maid in the house,
16 which had come in. And she feed us whatever she have in the
17 house, you know, something, all things, give us baths and
18 everything, all night. The next morning I talked to the
19 boys. I says, "Look, we eat up all their bread and
20 everything. It's not right."

21 We used to have a paper with a (HAWKENCROTCH),
22 the swastika seal to help us, to help us going home. So
23 next morning we walk in the street and we went into those
24 lines the bakeries. And I went in and I wasn't afraid for
25 them anymore. We went through so much with them, you just

1 -- and I showed them the paper.

2 They said, "Come in." Go inside. I remember
3 like this. And it was inside. It was a Jewish bakery, and
4 they didn't want to take money. I said, "I have 20
5 (SLATAS)." And the others, we bought bread and we give it
6 to the maid. We told the maid, "Take it home." And we said
7 goodbye to them. And I went to -- we all got separated, you
8 know, each went his different way.

9 And I went to see one of those people that send
10 me 20 (SLASTAS). And there wasn't too many people. They
11 all went to Russia to escape.

12 Q Who went to Russia?

13 A The friends of ours, a lot of friends. You
14 could go for Lodz, too. They make open when they make the
15 pact, the Russian make the pact with Germany. So there was
16 one city belonged to Poland where it become Russia. Like
17 Lodz. This was a Polish city. But it was terrible.
18 Everybody come and there was no place where to stay, where
19 to sleep. So they went away.

20 But anyways, I went to the train station. How
21 do you know where a train goes? They was all military. And
22 there was nothing, all full of military. So I jumped, run
23 away, the train start going. I know some part towards
24 Russia, but in a place where you transfer.

25 Q You were hoping to get to Lodz?

1 A Yeah. So I went in that train. I was sitting
2 on the steps. And hold on with the rails, like this, and
3 while driving all night. So finally we come in another, a
4 place there is transfer, like I transfer now to go here.

5 But they went around the -- those Polish, those
6 Polish/Germans and now with the military and looked around
7 where the Jews are. Ask where are the Jews? No Jews, and I
8 was laying under a bench hiding out at this time. Even I
9 had this paper, I didn't trust the paper.

10 And finally, it was another train. And I come
11 up and we went to Lodz, and passed Lodz, and I went in that
12 train, too, on the steps, you know, inside, you couldn't go
13 in. And it was military.

14 Q But they allowed you obviously to --

15 A Yeah, they didn't bother. The train was going.
16 They didn't bother. But this was military. Military didn't
17 bother. They didn't know I don't think so much, I'm a Jew.

18 And I arrived there. And it was bad already in
19 the city. I went up to my apartment where I used to have,
20 you know, I had my wife when we met. But she went to her
21 parent's house. I lived a little another place. So I come
22 up. Nobody was in the house, you know. So I went, knew
23 that she must be with her parents. And I went to the
24 parent's house. And there they still have everything,
25 Saturday, cans, fish and meal.

1 And I always thought I'm very picky, you know.
2 My wife told you already. I told them after this camp I
3 went through, I'm going to eat already. But it wasn't like
4 that. I didn't eat -- we have cans.

5 And everything was fine, but we went around,
6 they going to have that star, the yellow star. We have to
7 wear a yellow star.

8 Q I bet your wife was just amazed to see you
9 again?

10 A Sure, they didn't expect me. Nobody know. My
11 father was there. I have a sister living there and neices,
12 nephews. I have a lot of family in that city. And then we
13 went home to our house. And people stayed in the lines for
14 bread or food.

15 Q How long had you been gone then?

16 A Probably three months, until November,
17 September, October, November. And so I wasn't afraid. They
18 went around -- and grab you to work. David star, you had
19 it. And they took you for cleaning places where they used
20 to live. Mostly they occupied Jewish places, Jewish
21 schools. We used to have Jewish Gymnasiums, you know.

22 But one day I stayed downstairs and I wanted to
23 go across the street to the bakery. And some -- a young guy
24 come take me. I just punched him in the nose and I went
25 away. But I did wrong. I went to the house where I live.

1 And he knew where it is. And later he brought a whole bunch
2 of his (SS) come down and took me down from the house. I
3 show him the paper that I just come. And I went to a place
4 and stayed a little bit. I didn't know much --

5 Q What kind of place?

6 A A place, it was a school. And they want me to
7 wash the guys, to wash the steps, and cleaning and things.
8 I was not long there. I just sneaked out from there. And
9 after that I wasn't afraid, you know. I was -- I saw a
10 trick, a little, that I could carry tools, you know, as I'm
11 going to work. I have a tool box and tools. So they didn't
12 bother so much.

13 On the other hand, I had a place I used to work
14 in an oil refinery. And the German took it over, this
15 factory. But he was good friend with the boss from that
16 factory. He -- and they knew that I'm in Krakow. So they
17 sent a letter for me to release me. But I was freed before
18 the letter come.

19 Q You mean, they thought you were in the
20 military?

21 A Yeah -- no, in the Krakow, in that camp.

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 A So I went down there to this factory and I used
24 to work there plumbing. And mostly I set up the machineries
25 and the plumbing and everything. And that's how we stayed

1 until one day they had start the building the Ghetto, in
2 certain parts of the city. Let's say, like in San
3 Francisco, the southern district. There's a Jewish
4 district.

5 Q Can you remember what the people's feelings and
6 thoughts were at this time?

7 A I tell you the feeling it was. We talked about
8 it. People was talking, Jews, you know. They -- we thought
9 America going to come and going to kill them, the English
10 going to come. We looked every morning for the planes
11 coming. That's what we was thinking, that the England and
12 America going to help us. We didn't see it.

13 So they start building the cage around, the
14 fence, the streets and sidewalks and make in the middle was
15 you couldn't walk, just on the sidewalk in the Ghetto. So
16 anyways, between the Jews was talking we got stool pigeons
17 that come, too, a couple guys. And they work for the
18 Germans, you know, like for the FBI. And they had in the
19 Ghetto, they had an office there.

20 So between the Jews, I talking, well, about
21 three hundred thousand Jews. And they're going to transfer
22 us to the Ghettos, going to take them 20 years, you know.
23 It's impossible. So they had -- so they did one night and
24 in the main street, let's say, like Market Street, went on
25 Market Street. There was in Europe, there still might be,

1 businesses in the front and the back was apartment house.

2 You know, they lived in apartments.

3 But the gates was for closing at night. You
4 know, used to be a janitor. Every building had a janitor.
5 At 11:00 o'clock they locked it up. If you want to go in if
6 you lived there you ring the bell and the janitor come out
7 and you have to give him a quarter for doing this.

8 So one day they make a curfew. 6:00 o'clock
9 was the curfew, anyways. It was a curfew, 6:00 o'clock.
10 And they went into, knocked the doors, the janitors knocked
11 the door and they went up in each house and they were in the
12 house and they knocked the doors. Not this. (Indicating.)

13 Like they knocking now with those -- I see the
14 guys with the dope sitting, they break the doors. And arose
15 everybody in the house. They wouldn't let you even have a
16 towel. You know, you didn't expect in here.

17 So they shoot you if you went just back. If
18 you run out, they killed you. So they killed quite a few
19 people at that time this way, the other way. Naturally,
20 next morning the whole city was in a turmoil. We didn't
21 know everything.

22 So people grabbed the case like this. And
23 there was snow. And we put what we could and run away from
24 the city, from that place. And we run where the Ghetto was.
25 Where the Ghetto going to be. It wasn't closed yet. It was

1 open to going in. I lived in the city, too, in the more
2 central city.

3 Q Had you been ordered to go to the Ghetto
4 already?

5 A We didn't have to. You run by yourself. There
6 was advertising, you know, the Ghetto going to be closed by
7 this and this date. They're going to be closing the Ghetto.

8 Q So that you should go before the closing date?

9 A Sure, you run. You didn't want to be the last
10 one to be killed. You never know whether they come the next
11 night and the next night. So you didn't trust them. So you
12 didn't stay in the night anyway. You still live in the
13 city.

14 And you went to a friend, close friends and
15 neighbors. Some of them in apartments are available where
16 the Ghetto going to be, which they run away to Russian part
17 when I tell you. They left everything. Just, you could
18 take any apartment you want at that time. So we did.

19 Like, I resettled with my father-in-law was
20 living and mother-in-law in the same building. It was big
21 building, about a hundred units. And we stayed there for a
22 while. And finally they closed the Ghetto.

23 But here I had a story with this. I was
24 married three years, '37, '8 and '9. And my wife couldn't
25 become pregnant, you know, wasn't pregnant and nothing. And

1 I went and run away, say goodbye, and when I come back home
2 she tell me she's pregnant. And here it is they closed up
3 the Ghetto. But they give you help.

4 We had in the center of the city we used to
5 have a very big hospital, a Jewish hospital, like we have
6 the Cedar Sinai, or here, I don't know, in Los Angeles, I
7 know. So through -- meantime, when the Ghetto organized,
8 they organized a man by the name (AHRON KOBROVSKY), if you
9 heard about him?

10 Q Uh-huh.

11 A He was an old man. He couldn't walk even,
12 maybe. But he weared hair like all the way down, like long
13 hair, like a poet, you know. But he was a manager of a --
14 what is it called? Children without parents.

15 Q Orphanage?

16 A Orphanage home.

17 Q (KOBROVSKY)?

18 A (AHRON KOBROVSKY) was there, if you read the
19 book about him. And so they organized police department,
20 just like the police, with the policeman and everything. It
21 was kind of like a city by itself in the Ghetto.

22 Q Are you talking about the (UCKERMARK)?

23 A Yeah, when it was (UCKERMARK). They used to
24 have a big hospital. And they changed this hospital. First
25 of all, they start cleaning the Ghattos. They took all the

1 children. First they took the mentally retarded people,
2 cleaned up all those houses.

3 Q Where did they send them?

4 A We didn't know. They send them by train. We
5 know the train come back and picked up other ones. We was
6 so stupid in that time, too.

7 Q What was the talk about what was happening?

8 A Nothing. We know they clean -- what they do
9 with them, we didn't know. Might be something. They always
10 talk, the Germans, they going to put the Jews, Alibaba,
11 Africa, someplace in there. They going to send us, settle
12 us there. So anyways, so that's where the police. See, the
13 police, they had only a forum, like the policeman, the
14 police, Jewish police, and they had a way how to get to the
15 hospital. And they took my wife and she had that son.

16 Q So she had to leave the Ghetto to go to the
17 hospital?

18 A Yeah, she was in the Ghetto. This was in the
19 Ghetto.

20 Q Was the hospital in the Ghetto?

21 A No, the hospital was outside the Ghetto. You
22 know, they took it over. The Germans took it over.

23 Q So you had a son born when?

24 A May, May the 4th, 1940.

25 Q What was your son's name?

1 A Hiam.

2 Q Hiam?

3 A Okay.

4 Q What kind of living conditions did you have in
5 the Ghetto?

6 A I didn't have it bad. That's the whole thing,
7 in the Ghetto. See, I have a trade. There wasn't too many
8 Jewish boys that knew -- I used to do steam fittings and
9 everything, whatever you want to know. So I used to work in
10 the factory.

11 And they organize in the Ghetto a building, a
12 building, construction office. We had engineers builders,
13 engineers, and all kind, steam fitters and all kind of
14 engineers in the Ghetto. So they look for workers. And
15 they find out about me through somehow. And they give me
16 special treatment. I hired people myself and got money
17 paid.

18 And then the Germans says, "No, we cannot pay
19 money. We get you something special." They give me special
20 treatment.

21 Q So what --

22 A Extra, like rations, my rations, I got
23 something like an officer gets, and something.

24 Q You mean special treatment was --?

25 A With food. No money. Money was nothing.

1 Money was --

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A -- money was so that a bread you bought it,
4 costs you two marks. But if you want to buy in black market
5 it was a thousand marks.

6 Q How much would that be, more or less?

7 A It was -- what you can do with the money? You
8 could buy on black market. There was gentiles, was places
9 that they were like -- like you buy dope on black market.
10 The same you can buy food.

11 I got something from black market. I was sick
12 and I felt I have it (SMALTZ HERRING). I got a (SMALTZ
13 HERRING). You paid good money for it, but you could get it.
14 They brought it to you. They took chances, you know. Maybe
15 they bribed the officers that was guarding the fence there,
16 too.

17 Q Were the Polish people bringing the things to
18 the fence?

19 A Yeah. They want to make money. They could use
20 the money. Then was good money, black market. They could
21 buy in the city.

22 Q How many rooms were you in there?

23 A I live -- the thing is just two, kitchen and a
24 bath.

25 Q You, your wife and your child?

1 A Yeah.

2 Q In a little suite?

3 A Yeah. The story -- I live in a big apartment
4 house. And that was -- that was the thing. It wasn't two,
5 three rooms, like in here now, you have two bedrooms, a
6 dining room, living room and this everything. And comes to
7 guests, he doesn't have anywhere to go. He has to go to a
8 motel, you know. But over there you had one room, one room.
9 Comes some company, you put him up. Two, put them into the
10 back side, three in the bath or four.

11 Q What about bathing and toilet facilities?

12 A Was no toilets facility. The city of Lodz
13 wasn't nothing. The city wasn't -- I know I'm Polish but in
14 English there wasn't water yet. They brought it. They have
15 water in the city. We didn't have an ocean there. We
16 didn't have rivers. It was nothing. But the water we
17 didn't have it was muddied.

18 Q The water was what?

19 A Was brought out from the ground, you know,
20 pumps, with pumping up on the hill, reservoirs, and this
21 feed the city water.

22 Q How did you get your water?

23 A At this time we had a pump, electric one, too.
24 You didn't have to turn, you know -- or do you have water in
25 the house?

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A You live, I don't know.

3 Q Did you have to go outside for your water?

4 A Yes, downstairs in the same building where they
5 have, it was covered. You didn't see it. It was
6 underground with electricity, you know. You pushed a button
7 and the water was going. Once used be, might be water in
8 the house, there was sewage line.

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

11 A Toilet, did you see how the farmers have in the
12 barns outside, how the Indians?

13 Q You just went outside?

14 A Outside, 25 below zero, you went outside. You
15 freeze your butt. And at least we laugh. That's what it
16 was. Believe me, many times I was afraid to go. The rats
17 were running around. I was afraid from them. This was the
18 life.

19 Q Did you have cooking facilities?

20 A There used to be a stove from bricks, might be
21 made in brick and wood, and coal. And heating, we used to
22 have was five bricks was built, five bricks keep the heat.

23 Q Could you get materials for like wood?

24 A Not from the Ghetto we didn't build it. You
25 couldn't buy anything. There was no business. There was no

1 stores. You just went to work for the Germans. What was
2 the work? We worked on cleaning, laundromat. That's what I
3 was in charge on the water, to make sure that the steam and
4 the water works when we washed the uniforms for the
5 military, bring it back from the fields. So it was bloody
6 and all the things, and the underwear and everything.

7 We had a thousand women working washing things.
8 So I have to see day and night should be steam. And we have
9 a special steam houses where there used to be, before, used
10 to be like a steam house for the people.

11 We used to have a -- when I talked to my wife
12 the other day like the system in here, it's not right. The
13 fate of the Ghetto people in San Francisco they lay outside
14 day and night. How do they get clean themselves? Huh?

15 Q With difficulty, difficulty, or not at all, I
16 think.

17 A Well, we have in the Poland city steam house.
18 You could go for ten cents. The steam both, you took your
19 clothes and they put it in the boiler and steamed it out so
20 you could work.

21 Q Did that go on in the Ghetto, too?

22 A No, we took the steam houses and make
23 laundromats.

24 Q How did people in the Ghetto keep clean?

25 A Well, there was water. And it was hard to get

1 coal. You couldn't get it or they keep it just for their
2 own purpose. And wood was they took old houses apart. You
3 tear apart houses and you survived.

4 I didn't worry about it in the Ghetto. That's
5 what I want to tell you. I had the steam house and I have
6 coal, and I have an apartment right there on the property, I
7 mean, on the property. Well, I didn't want to go in the
8 night. It was curfew. I couldn't go, so I had to be there.
9 So they give me extra. (NAKAWFSKI) was a Jew like the
10 secretary of this thing, state of -- and his name was
11 (BRAUPAWSHKA). He is in Israel now. He was next -- he's
12 next right-hand. And he used to help. Whatever I wanted I
13 could have gotten from him. So long I keep going.

14 Q Why was he so good to you?

15 A Well, I kept up everything was working right,
16 you know. Used to be like one night we couldn't get hot
17 water. And I had some people work with me in the night. We
18 used to open the steam kettle and climb inside and cut the
19 pipe up. The pipe was stoned in, you know, from the water
20 you get stones. And put in sack. You don't go and did
21 things. So we did things. They appreciated that, too.

22 Q Did your wife have to work?

23 A No, she didn't or nothing. I had a child. But
24 going back, '41, when we lived in that building when the big
25 building. I didn't get yet the job. I wasn't organized. I

1 had -- what I did, I watch the building.

2 So one day they come into this big building.
3 It was a lot of people with children. The police, the
4 Jewish police come in with the horse and the buggy and a big
5 truck and took all the kids away. So I didn't want to give
6 mine. So I hide. We hide did him.

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

13 Q You hadn't gone up on the roof?

14 A No, I was downstairs. I was afraid they might
15 be going looking. They says, "Where it is?"

16 I says, "I don't know. My wife run away
17 someplace." So they took me in the truck and they took me
18 down where they collect all the treatments.

19 And the officer says, "What is he doing in
20 here?" So they told him that I -- so they put me in jail.
21 The police, not the German side but the Jewish.

22 Q The Jewish police put you in jail?

23 A Yeah. That day I remember it was raining,
24 pouring. So I talked to the officer one time. It was late
25 already in the night, about 10:00 o'clock in the night,

1 might be. And I was in the basement like now with the
2 windows had the water dripping.

3 Q The water was coming in?

4 A Yeah, not in the cell but -- so I knocked the
5 door. I said, "I want to talk to somebody." So I talked to
6 an officer. I says, "Look, I'm very important guy right
7 here in the Ghetto. You put me in here it's going to be
8 trouble." Says, "If you want to know who I am, you call up
9 and (GOODMAN), German and other Germans and ask him about
10 me." Who what I am. I says, "I didn't steal nothing," and
11 that. "I don't know. My wife run away, and that's it."

12 But he knows. He has a little sympathy. He
13 says, "Go on." I was afraid to run in the street. It was
14 pouring.

15 So when I come home I says to my wife, "You
16 can't be in the house. We have to run away. And that's
17 it." We took the child, went away a few streets, some
18 friends, you know. We saved him. After that I moved over
19 to the place where I was working.

20 Q With your family?

21 A Yeah. Then I went away from that building.

22 Q Did you have any other family there in the
23 Ghetto, your father?

24 A No, my father went back to the home town. I
25 think my sister, too, the small cities. You think in the

1 smaller cities they save themselves better but they didn't.
2 They would be there. They could save a lot of the people
3 and they would stay with me.

4 Q Did you hear any news of them?

5 A No, nothing, no, nothing. So I saved that boy
6 until 1944, September.

7 Q Did you have to keep him indoors?

8 A No. Well, I keep a place apart. Matter of
9 fact, I live in a place somebody had a child, too, saved
10 him. And he was playing in the Ghetto together with him.
11 He went fishing one day, went fishing, bought those little
12 things with the little tails, those fish.

13 Q Minnows?

14 A Yeah, something, and went to the Ghetto. He
15 was four years old. He used to pick up like nothing. You
16 know, was very strong guy.

17 Q If you were seen outside wouldn't that be --

18 A No, nobody bothered with it. He says "they're
19 gone." This is three years later, you know. He was a baby
20 -- three years later. And I didn't live in the same place
21 with him.

22 Q What about life for other people the Ghetto?
23 You had a very good position.

24 A I had a position.

25 Q But the others that you observed?

1 A Well, it was terrible. It was terrible. It
2 was terrible. There was no food. It was cold in the
3 winter. And the first year I got sick, too. I was gone for
4 it was the frost come through the walls, you know, brick
5 walls, and the frost come in. It was terrible. I think, I
6 don't remember, might be 40 below zero, 1940 was so
7 terrible. Sometimes like in here, you get cold places.

8 But people's shoes wore out. And they wear
9 wooden shoes. And it was slippery. And they didn't eat.
10 They tried to sell their bread and get the money. And they
11 bought soup. And the soup was just cold raw beef and water.
12 Just didn't give you nothing.

13 So you shrink slowly down and down to nothing
14 until you couldn't walk, typhus, and nothing. I had the
15 typhus. I was walking. I couldn't walk myself. I couldn't
16 walk on the straight floor. Used to be rocks, those streets
17 with rocks. And I would hit a little rock, my whole stomach
18 was -- they told me, oh, I have heart condition, I have
19 this, I have rocks -- they didn't know nothing anyways. I
20 was after the war even until I come in here.

21 But I didn't have cold in my house. When I
22 moved over it was a frame house. It wasn't so cold like a
23 brick wall. And I got coal downstairs. Nobody can tell me,
24 you can't have it, you know. It was come by truckloads.
25 And I have extra food. And I have the soup. I didn't even

1 -- in Germany, the soup. I worked with them, you know. I
2 was lucky, that's all.

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A But I think survived.

5 Q Did you have any medical care in the Ghetto?

6 A I don't think so. You could go to the doctor.
7 I don't remember. We used to have, but they liquidated
8 everything, the Germans. We used to have a very huge
9 building which Poland, by Poland after the first World War,
10 they built it. We have like a -- like what they call,
11 social medicine.

12 Q Socialized medicine?

13 A Yeah, but there wasn't real -- we have like
14 social security. If you work, you worked, you get now
15 social security. If you worked you have to register to
16 social -- to this medicine. There were hospitals,
17 everything, but you have to be working. If you got sick you
18 didn't work you still can, but the boss paid for it 60
19 percent. You paid 70 percent -- you paid 30 percent. Like,
20 it was ten dollars a month. He paid \$7 and you paid \$3.
21 But you had everything.

22 Q But that was before the Ghetto?

23 A Yeah. Nothing -- before the war. Since
24 between after the first World War they organized it and
25 started building big hospitals and everything. In the

1 meantime, they started up renting houses and make it
2 medically to help until they built up. So this building was
3 there, like a clinic. It wasn't a hospital. It was a
4 clinic. There was a hundred -- all the doctors was working
5 there.

6 And all kind of things was there, drugs and
7 everything. And never you -- never cost you nothing,
8 dentures and everything, you had when you work. You didn't
9 work you only -- to go to the doctor, it was terrible,
10 expensive, specialist, it was terrible. You have to work a
11 whole week to pay him for one visit. But you could go,
12 there was a Jewish, was all kind of other kind. There was
13 organization like they have big (WHOLEUM), you know.

14 Q You mean, community organizations?

15 A Organizations, we have Red Cross Jewish David.
16 Like Israel, we had it there. And it was a doctor inside.
17 When we needed, you called him up and you get it.

18 Q Uh-huh.

19 A And then there was a Jewish hospital. It was
20 nice. It was a Jew but you never -- Jewish kids never knew
21 about Jews but they built a cemetery there. They got --
22 they built a hospital. They built for the non-Jews, too, a
23 church. Think well, he had ten thousand workers in textile.
24 And one man could work on 20 machines.

25 I saw the show the other, I saw the other day,

1 yeah, the show, Dazey, Mrs. Dazey.

2 Q A movie, yeah.

3 A You saw the movie?

4 Q No, I didn't.

5 A Go see it. They show the textile. He was
6 rich, used to own the textile factory. It's nice to see how
7 they make them.

8 Q But was there any of this kind of care in the
9 Ghetto once the Ghetto was closed?

10 A When the Ghetto was closed, no, it was not the
11 Ghetto. I didn't really remember. You better -- you better
12 not to be sick. You be healthy. You get sick, it was
13 goodbye.

14 Q What about clothing, could you get clothing?

15 A Who care about clothing? Whether you have
16 clothing, we didn't care. Where did you go? There was no
17 place to go.

18 Q To keep warm, I mean.

19 A To keep it warm people, what they have before
20 the war they saved it whatever they could and they had it.

21 Q They were allowed to bring their belongings
22 into the Ghetto?

23 A Well, nobody check you out in the Ghetto. You
24 could bring a million dollars, too, and have it. And it
25 doesn't bother you. So long they didn't know you were rich

1 before the war. The Germans found out and they took you
2 over there and they knocked you -- the hell out of you out
3 and until you gave them everything what you have.

4 Q Did they do that fairly often or not?

5 A Sure, but there was a lot of stool pigeons.
6 They took -- they tell them, "Hey, Sandra was a rich woman
7 and she had a business and showed up, so you must have
8 money." So they took you downtown where you used to live
9 and dig it out from the ground and take it. People used to
10 dig it. And fortunes might be laying in the ground still,
11 we don't like, know. Like Sarah says, they did it. And
12 brother went back there and never found it. Well, the
13 neighbors used to know, the gentiles know.

14 Q How were you treated by the Jewish police?

15 A Some of them, they look for bribery, to bribe
16 them. But really, we didn't need them much. They were just
17 -- they brought them from outside the Ghetto, food. It was
18 in there a big place, like a big market, just like in Europe
19 they have those marketplaces. So they wired it around and
20 they brought the truck, come in. And they had parked. He
21 couldn't go any farther until here. The truck driver was
22 waiting there. A Jewish truck driver took it over, took it
23 in the Ghetto and loaded it in the warehouse. And they
24 brought back the truck and they went back like this. They
25 was going to exchange it.

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A So everything when they come in through the
3 city through that place. And (AHRON KOBROVSKY) had an
4 office in the same place, a rather big square. The police
5 station was there on the side. But they were watching
6 mostly, you know, people shouldn't go out of their lines.

7 You used to -- brick houses and things,
8 whatever they could. Mainly the people worked, worked in
9 shoemaking, the leather, and textile, and they call --
10 everything from leathermaking, things, they did everything.

11 Q What were the police, what were they supposed
12 to be doing?

13 A Well, one was going with (AHRON KOBROVSKY) and
14 watching him driving around in the car. And most of they
15 watch when say, say, stretch, this is the strip. In the
16 middle, you couldn't go in there. So there was a gate, but
17 some, not all, certain places was a gate here, and was a
18 gate on this side. It was a German sentry standing and a
19 Jewish policeman standing on this side, too. Someday he
20 (SAUS) clear, yeah, do it again. So the Jew open -- the
21 policeman open the gate and the other side and he let go
22 through it, if I want to go to the other side of the street.

23 Q You have to go --

24 A You have to wait in there. Some places they
25 built bridges, wood, to go over. But when there was snow

1 and ice it was so slippery you would fall down, you know.
2 And then there was in the certain places, certain streets,
3 certain streets where you have to go to the guard is there
4 and let you go over, not all over.

5 Q Who was responsible for rounding up people like
6 when they rounded up the children or when they rounded up
7 the sick ones?

8 A The police.

9 Q The Jewish police?

10 A The Jewish police. The Jewish police, they
11 give them their order, "Hey, I want to have three thousand
12 people today." And what can they do? So they started out
13 with the young ones, with the sick. Then they took the
14 older people, older age. But then we find out something,
15 the clothes, they brought back the clothing. You know, they
16 opened them up and watch, people, children, you didn't have
17 even in Auschwitz. In Auschwitz when I came in, the same
18 thing.

19 Q When the clothing was starting to come back to
20 the Ghetto?

21 A We didn't know. If I would know Auschwitz, I
22 would never go. I could hid out where I was.

23 Q What were the people thinking in the Ghetto?

24 A We thought it's better, kill them someplace.

25 Q You thought that?

1 A Sure. We didn't know where. But us, they were
2 talking, fine, they have speeches, "You all take everything
3 what you have. And we going to Germany, and we going to
4 work there. We're going to maybe live, Jew." The people
5 and that's what it is. The train come into Auschwitz.

6 Q Had you heard of any of the camps yet in the
7 Ghetto?

8 A We didn't hear it. We had -- I mean, we heard
9 what was going on Russia. We had the radio, but not
10 everybody.

11 Q What did you hear about Warsaw?

12 A When they had the fight, the Jews organized in
13 the Ghetto, you know. And they had -- they have -- they
14 closed themselves in. They didn't want to go, listen to
15 them what they wanted. So it took a few days, I don't know.
16 I don't remember how many weeks they were fighting with the
17 underground. And the longer they were in Auschwitz with me
18 together.

19 Q So you heard about that still?

20 A Yeah, we heard this, this passover thing, and
21 this was in 42 days or 43, I think. We heard from other
22 cities that brought it into the Ghetto, like from the small
23 cities around Lodz. They brought them from Berlin, people
24 Lodz was Litomerice, the Ghetto there called.

25 I had two workers. One never knew he was a Jew

1 in his life. He was married Jewish, took with his wife,
2 too, brought her into the Ghetto. He never knew from the
3 family, never heard about Jews. And they sent him over.

4 And another guy come in, he says, "I was an
5 officer for (YANKGAW)." And they brought him to the Ghetto,
6 an old man, he might be 90 years old, 85. And he worked,
7 and he was a plumber until I give in my department. He
8 worked there. And you know, if you had money in the Ghetto
9 you could survive it more. You could bribe a lot of times.
10 If you had gold, mostly what they wanted is diamonds and
11 gold.

12 Q Could you buy your way out?

13 A It might be with a lot of money you could buy
14 yourself out, take you. But they did. I know Sarah had a
15 cousin, some relation. He come to America from Hungary with
16 a separate plane in the war-time, bought it. He was so
17 rich. He could come here and brothers in Auschwitz they had
18 a big factory, American military, the underwear. And they
19 went to South America.

20 But a lot of money, you could. Matter of fact,
21 I remember on the train one time a woman come in, look for
22 her husband with two (SHAWNDA) on the side and protected
23 and they were -- sent to get him out. I wouldn't -- don't
24 know how long they would live after that, but meantime, he
25 could be.

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A And the same like in the -- when I was in the
3 Ghetto, I had people, yes, some, a few we survive together,
4 you know. Matter of fact, I met them after the war in
5 Bergen-Belsen.

6 Q You mean you were helping each other?

7 A Yeah, we tried. I thought I had a cousin, she
8 was sick. I took her to my house. It was warm. I had food
9 in the house, too.

10 Q Did you --

11 A See, what we used to do, you know, even going
12 back later might be we get to the point I won't talk to
13 towards the end, you know, but this is just in the '40's,
14 '41 and '42.

15 Q Exactly when did the Ghetto close, when you had
16 to go in there?

17 A 1940.

18 Q 1940?

19 A Exactly, I think January, 1940, you know. And
20 I come home, it was in December, you know. I was there.
21 And you had to pay. Naturally, we used to raise a baby so
22 we used to have -- but I used to help myself, you know, my
23 wife was not like my Sarah. She was aggressive. I wouldn't
24 do what she did to me.

25 Q Like what?

1 A Taking -- she used to take coal in a basket and
2 go to the store, sell the coal and bring me what I like to
3 eat, food.

4 Q This was --?

5 A She did it. And in the same time before the
6 close, she used to go to the factory. The oil factory was
7 like Wesson oil. She used to get oil and sell it and make
8 some money and things.

9 Q How did she get the oil?

10 A They could go around. They grabbed just men,
11 not women. The man -- I tell you I worked in the oil
12 factory. And they was German marks. She get not for free.
13 She paid for it and she sold it and make money, profit.

14 Q I see.

15 A She helped herself. And that, too, we needed
16 and the same, like you said, says she didn't work. I don't
17 know how we get away, anyways, I'm thinking back now. But
18 she had a small child.

19 Q Was there any opportunity to have any fun?

20 A Fun?

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 A No, there was no fun, nothing.

23 Q Nothing?

24 A No, you couldn't even -- I think they make them
25 to pray, the temples, whole thing was ruined there. We had

1 I think it was already between the Ghetto, I think the
2 biggest temples '40, I think they bombed it.

3 Q You mean, just religious like was the only
4 thing extra you could do?

5 A Yeah, and just privately get together in the
6 house and pray.

7 Q But that was it, just prayer?

8 A Nothing, I don't think so, nothing. The truth,
9 I have brought up religious.

10 Q You were what?

11 A I was brought up very religious, you know. But
12 even driving here and I think back, that I lost my whole
13 belief, you know. I just saw such a beautiful mountain when
14 I drove here. I said, people pray, this is not just nature
15 and I think, you know.

16 Q Uh-huh. So you lost your religious beliefs?

17 A And I'm going to the temple, look at that.

18 Q Yeah, I know.

19 A I don't like to reform. I go to the
20 conservatory and when I told the Rabbi, told you you better
21 to go the Berkeley and get Orthodox, the Sabbath. I didn't
22 want to tell him I didn't believe it. Mainly I wanted the
23 social life.

24 Q Uh-huh.

25 A To get the people together.

1 Q I understand.

2 A And laying there with the old people looking in
3 the walls. So at least I go one time. They call me
4 parties.

5 Q Were you practicing your religion, were you
6 believing during that period in the early '40's in the
7 Ghetto?

8 A Yeah, yeah. In the Ghetto, I don't know. I
9 didn't practice.

10 Q No?

11 A No, I didn't practice. But it make me worse
12 when I saw what in Auschwitz, the way the kids prayed and to
13 God. When they load them in the trucks I says, that's no
14 belief in nobody, just humans. I just had what you believe,
15 I would say, in the green stuff.

16 Q In the green stuff?

17 A Yeah. That's all. If you have it you can buy
18 the world, you know. If you have a billion dollars you can
19 take two million dollars a party. That's how it is. But --

20 Q So then were you in the Ghetto up to '44?

21 A I was '44, September.

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 A Just September, September or like, yeah,
24 September is before the holidays.

25 Q So what happens then?

1 A I couldn't even remember. I remember about
2 this. When I come into Auschwitz, it was the Hungarian come
3 in the same time. They took Hungarian. But I don't know,
4 they went through with all kind of stuff. When I was in
5 Auschwitz they took everything away.

6 Q Do you remember how you got to Auschwitz?

7 A Oh, yeah.

8 Q Can you talk about that? How did you leave the
9 Ghetto?

10 A How I leave, I tell you that they says
11 everybody real organized, four people, we should save
12 ourselves and stay. But that was going to happen being in a
13 place.

14 Q You mean you were going in hiding?

15 A Hiding. I had a place. It was where the
16 laundry was there and was the pump. The water was very low
17 down. It was deep and it was hiding place there. So I
18 organized and I had one, he was a chiropractor, going to
19 have raise a doctor, too. Says, we all save. We all saving
20 food and things.

21 But I don't know, the guy that organized, the
22 thing got lost. And I couldn't see him. I find out and I
23 didn't want to be alone. And I didn't know what happened to
24 them until after the war I went to Bergen-Belsen. I found
25 them there, and a son and a daughter. They over there. But

1 the wife got killed and the sister was alive.

2 So he, the guy, he talked me to going to
3 Sweden. I tell him I'm going back home. I see might be
4 somebody survive, and do it. He says, "Wait, let's go for
5 six months to Sweden" and we go home and we all --

6 Q So this is the same person you were going to
7 hide with?

8 A Yeah.

9 Q Back in the Ghetto?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q What happened to him at this point in the
12 Ghetto?

13 A He got -- they caught him. They caught him
14 something, surrounded him someplace, and they got him.
15 Matter of fact, I get now New Year's cards from his son. He
16 trade, I lives in (MARMER), the father, he died in his
17 '70's, he told me.

18 He talked me into going to Sweden and got two
19 buildings, and (MARMER), the young man, he's an engineer,
20 become an engineer.

21 Q This man's father, was he the only person you
22 were going to hide with?

23 A With another, with other two.

24 Q What happened to them?

25 A I don't know. I never saw them.

1 Q I mean --

2 A I didn't really know them. This man I worked
3 with him together. He was manager.

4 Q Uh-huh.

5 A And I was -- he supported me all what I did. I
6 could do whatever I wanted. He was close with that
7 (PRUSHKA), too, him.

8 Q So, in other words, for the whole plan for
9 hiding?

10 A Went sour.

11 Q Yeah?

12 A There were people that used to hide in the
13 Ghetto, in the Auschwitz, the cemetery, I had a lot of
14 people hiding in the Ghetto , and they survive. And the
15 Russian come in pretty soon, a little later. Nothing, and
16 then '44 yet the end, '44, Russian come into the border.

17 Q What happened to the chiropractor you were
18 going to hide with?

19 A I never saw him.

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

22 A I don't know. Didn't show up. It was become a
23 mix-up.

24 Q I see.

25 A When they start taking all the people to put

1 together all the doors, packing and get ready to go to
2 Germany. So we thought it might be true, and it was a lie.

3 Q You thought you really might be going to
4 Germany?

5 A It was a lie. It was the same thing when I was
6 in Auschwitz, and the same thing.

7 Q So you were rounded up and taken to the trains?

8 A Yeah. We went there to the train. We went
9 just like the sheeps, and then we come there. We still
10 didn't know.

11 Q Did your wife go?

12 A Yeah, with my wife, with my child, with my son.
13 And --

14 Q How long did the trip in the train last?

15 A Overnight, until the next day. And then that
16 happened, we both going the same day. They both got killed.
17 She was stubborn. A lot of woman went with the children, a
18 lot of children. But they released them, the Germans took
19 the child away, they let them go. So they went into the
20 camp, you know.

21 Q They separated?

22 A Separated women and children. So the women
23 sometimes went if they were younger and was old. But if you
24 hold the child, you didn't want to give it, they didn't
25 fight with you, "Come on, keep going." The same side I was

1 going there have a dead mother and father and a sister and
2 she was going with a cousin used to live in their home in
3 Czechoslovakia. She has a cousin still in Israel now.

4 Q This is Sarah?

5 A And Sarah, she's Sarah, too, yes, from the same
6 family.

7 Q But Roseka, she left with your boy?

8 A Yeah, this is my wife, my ex-wife.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A And I know she wouldn't give it away.

11 Q Uh-huh. Did you see her?

12 A When?

13 Q When you were entering and you were separated?

14 A When we were separated, that's it. We went off
15 in the train. They didn't let us take nothing. Everything
16 was left in the car. They said we bring it to you. And we
17 went in right there and we went into the washrooms, the
18 shower rooms. And they cut all the hair. One cut the other
19 one with a bunch of old machines. We cut the hair off.

20 They went around with the dogs with the whips.
21 The guys, you look up there and seven feet tall, you know,
22 was walking around there just looking. You lost even went
23 through whole thing, you afraid, just this guy. And they
24 had a big box and you throw everything. And then the
25 Holanders come in, too. The women with heads dressed up,

1 they like they go to the opera.

2 Q What do you mean, the Dutch?

3 A The Dutch, come in the same day, like they
4 going to the opera house. They told them the same thing,
5 "You're going to Germany and we're going to do it." And
6 they come out. They look like the (LOSSELMAN), you know, in
7 the sickness, terrible, you know, shave the heads off,
8 shave, took everything. You dressed, give a yank and tore
9 it a piece and make a tie in the hat.

10 Q So you were just with men at this point?

11 A Men. And then come a guy from the camp, you
12 know, he was limping with a stick and a cane in the hand.
13 And took us. And I remember he put us in a box, a stable
14 for horses. The Auschwitz used to be like a swap meet, swap
15 meet, horses and things. They used to sell and auction out
16 and things people brought, changing. So they have those
17 stables inside. So they put us -- it was number 25. You
18 know, there were numbers.

19 Q What kind of clothing did you get after the
20 shower?

21 A Anything, just to cover yourself, you know.
22 They took it away and they give you something again.

23 Q Did you get tattooed?

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

1 So I come in that number five, the coppers, those coppers it
2 was murderers. You go, they have a little triangle and the
3 color tells you who he is. It was a green, red. The green
4 was political, and red was murderers. This they took him
5 out from the jails and put them over us to watch us. So
6 those guys they come and hang on a string, like they show in
7 the movies how they hang people with that pull up thing.

8 Q A noose?

9 A And it says, "Now you give all your diamonds
10 that or you swallow it, the diamonds that's what you want."
11 And we had some after five years? It was in 1944. And just
12 scare us, and then we all just stand up like this, five in a
13 row. And then you lay down on the floor and spread your
14 feet and one on the other one on the other in the room in
15 front of everybody and you were like this. And you were
16 sitting, sleeping all night like this.

17 Q That's how you slept?

18 A (Nodding head.)

19 Q There was no bunks?

20 A No bunks, no. We were laying one and the
21 other. So finally I find a Polack there. You know, one
22 Polack was in there. I mean, a gentile. I said, find,
23 "Johnny, Joe."

24 He said, "What's going on?" He says, "Henry,
25 you're cross is in the cemetery already while you're still

1 walking around."

2 I said, "What they did with the people that
3 come in?"

4 He said, "You look over there, you see it." So
5 they have a fence and they put those military blankets,
6 covered it up. And there was a huge, huge hole. And that's
7 where they burn them. They used to burn them. They
8 couldn't burn enough of them. They burnt so many people
9 that their ovens wasn't enough. Their crematorium wasn't
10 enough. So they burn it, poured gasoline and burned it.

11 But they were afraid for the planes, by planes,
12 so they used to do a certain time, I think in the night --
13 or the daytime they shouldn't see it as much.

14 But that's what they used to do with the people
15 and our people used to (SHREP) in from the gas chamber to
16 there. So they undressed them, took their clothes away then
17 they used to take -- they used to bring it to the camp.

18 The camp I was inside this part of it they used
19 called it the (GINALAGA), the gypsy I think. The gypsies
20 was before we come in. So they give them a day before, two
21 days, they give them French bread, you know. The French
22 bread, the chocolate, make the family together and put them
23 in the crematorium, make room for us. Then we come in and
24 then they cleaned up from inside.

25 Every day they have a selection, they called

1 it, picked the people. (MANGLERS) went around there from
2 one block and the other one and every morning used to go
3 around and take everything down, he went around see, checked
4 you. If he didn't like you he put you this side. He put
5 you this side, going to the crematorium.

6 Q So you went through the selections with the
7 selections with (MANGLIA)?

8 A Yeah, many time. I got away in Auschwitz, too.

9 Q You're saying how you asked this Polish person
10 what happened to the people that I arrived with?

11 A He's showing you, they all in the crematorium,
12 they burned.

13 Q Was that the first you knew of the crematorium?

14 A Yeah, that's what I know. I didn't know what
15 they doing. I thought, you know, it was just overnight it
16 was all mixed up. And then we find out that's where they
17 is. So we were there, finally --

18 Q Were you assigned to work?

19 A Yeah, I could. But listen, so then they come a
20 day later or two days later. This was bar 25, all the way
21 up the top. They start from 1 to 11, one side of us, odds
22 and ends, the numbers was, you know, plural and that, you
23 know, like 25, this side, 26, this side.

24 Q Odd and even?

25 A Odd and even, yeah. I can't think. So one guy

1 I could smell it at night. You couldn't stand it, this
2 smell was so terrible, terrible. And so then he come a man
3 and he look for workers, you know, trade people. So there
4 was carpenters and plumbers and things. So they picked out
5 all those workers in a line. And matter of fact, they
6 already had bread for us. You know, they used to get bread
7 in Auschwitz. You get every day a slice five people for a
8 bread. And so they were organizing this barracks, was the
9 German.

10 I told you about that German bandits, murderers
11 there, he was the copper. But we need more people. So
12 between us the Jews organize there a group for ten people
13 there. But there was about a hundred, about nine hundred
14 people there in the barracks, in that one barracks.

15 So we make one of the top men gives the orders
16 and the others were still the helpers or the watch. So we
17 taught the people to behave so you didn't get the beatings.
18 That's what we paid that guy, we bribed him that Nazi. We
19 bribed. Like I say, there was nine hundred people.

20 We have, I don't know, two hundred or three
21 hundred bread. We have to slice it. So we used to slice --
22 they used to slice six slices instead of five. And this
23 slice that we accumulate a few bread, then people used to go
24 out when Auschwitz, working outside every morning coming
25 back. So we used to give them some bread and they sold the

1 bread and they brought sugar, meat, liquor, cigarettes.
2 Cigarettes, you smoked like hell. And everything to give
3 them to Fritz, he shouldn't bother to us.

4 Q To the copper?

5 A To the copper. When you walked in was here, on
6 this side he had a room. Oh, he had a room on this side.
7 And then this side was a room with two cots, you know, for
8 the helper. So anyways, going to it I didn't know he -- I
9 had just find out. As we got the bread from that place and
10 we all going down to number 10, block 10, barrack 10. And
11 we go through the hall and it's, like I said, straight ahead
12 is the brick place. And here stays two men and here is the
13 copper. But there's two is one of our people the survivor.
14 And as we walk I was going on this side, five in a line.
15 And each one had their bread so they didn't have to give us
16 back.

17 As I go some guy got -- grabs me, like, grabs
18 me, says, mention my name. And I got so excited I couldn't
19 -- I lost my voice. And there was a cousin of mine. And he
20 was one of the men pick up the top men from that group. And
21 a brother was there, too, two cousins which I used to live
22 with me a lot. And he grabbed me, took me inside and I
23 never went over there. I stayed in that house with them.
24 And --

25 Q How was that accomplished? I mean, you didn't

1 have to go back into the main bunk again?

2 A No. Nothing.

3 Q He had fixed it for you?

4 A He didn't have to fix. No one named, they
5 never ask your name. In Auschwitz they never write your
6 name.

7 Q Didn't you have a number?

8 A No, no numbers, no names, no nothing. And the
9 numbers was in the tattoo, if they pick you, you go to work
10 to this plant and they want you to tattoo, in local -- in
11 Auschwitz and around the neighborhood of Auschwitz. But if
12 you went to Germany and others, they didn't want, the
13 Germans didn't want you tattoo. They put you their number,
14 you know.

15 Q Uh-huh. So is that why you weren't tattooed?

16 A I wasn't tattooed. I tell you now everything.
17 So this cousin of mine grabbed me with the other one and
18 they took me into that room. There was two cots. I didn't
19 sleep on the floor. I slept on that bunk bed, you know,
20 with his brother, and he slept. And he says, "Henry, I want
21 you to help him." He was has a lot of work to do, to bring
22 people -- brought the boys -- brought coffee, give out the
23 bread, and watch him, you know.

24 So I says, "Okay, I help you." So I helped
25 cutting the bread. I helped them inside, naturally.

1 But I had so many friends there in Auschwitz,
2 people they worked with me and things and everybody want me
3 help, they want to help. So I said, it's not good for me.
4 I couldn't give everybody. And to give one and not the
5 other one is no good either. I tried to help a few what I
6 could. It's not knowing. And so finally I told my cousin
7 to leave me alone. I'm not going to do nothing, you know.
8 I says, you want to give me an extra slice of bread what I
9 need and that's all. I know you couldn't give me butter or
10 cheese and other things, just bread was there and coffee. I
11 don't think if they give soup. I forgot already if they
12 served soup.

13 Q So just bread was what you ate every day?

14 A A slice of bread and coffee.

15 Q And coffee?

16 A Coffee make from oats, you know, burned oats,
17 smoked oats, I think. I don't remember about soup. We got
18 soup -- I can't remember.

19 Q What about again washing facilities or toilets?

20 A They had one, a house, you know, like no water.
21 Might be there was water. I don't remember. I don't
22 remember washing. Who wants to wash? I wasn't too long
23 there, you know. So in the meantime, so people and they
24 were doing some work there in the washrooms and things. And
25 they ask me if I want to work through plumbing and I go.

1 No, I didn't want to take no jobs. I didn't need it. I had
2 what I -- I had what I need. I had it. So I didn't want to
3 do nothing.

4 But I didn't want to be there in Auschwitz. So
5 I talked my cousin, I says, "I'm going to go away. I'm not
6 going to stay in Auschwitz." So he went in and talked with
7 the German, that copper. He says, "Your cousin" -- he told
8 him I'm his cousin -- he says, he told there is an engineer
9 and advised --

10 Q He what?

11 A He call us a slave. You're the slave. You
12 know how was it this -- the factory in Germany needed some
13 slavery work. Send him and he come into Auschwitz and have
14 a contract, and five thousand or two thousand and took them
15 to Germany. In Germany they built houses there for us.

16 So there was an engineer. And he asked people,
17 carpenters, trade people. But this German told me, the
18 copper, he said, "If your cousin stays tonight if they
19 tattoo him he should go out from the line, he shouldn't stay
20 and come back. He shouldn't buy that."

21 Q Why?

22 A Well, these tattoo working around the
23 neighborhood, around the surrounding there. Said I better
24 go to Germany, which there was always better. Remember, I
25 tell you in the beginning in Germany we were treated a

1 little different. So I did it. Finally like this we come
2 and they just took me to the train and I went. And here I
3 am in Germany.

4 Q How had you been coping with all this you had
5 gone through? I mean, how did you manage to cope with that,
6 losing your wife and child?

7 A What could you do? You couldn't take and burn,
8 bury yourself? With help might be, but we know there is no
9 way. I talked -- my cousin was there longer. He was there
10 long time. They disappeared anyways. I wish he had gone
11 with me. He would be smart and at that time he would
12 survive. Even in Germany I could help him. I could in
13 Germany I had 14 guys working under my hand plumbing, big
14 pipes we used to lay in the streets and things.

15 But meantime, I'm going to Germany, again in
16 that cars. I remember taking the same cars. But there was
17 a couple of guys. They were doctors. And they went in
18 between us. And I used to help them a little there. Might
19 give them a little coffee or soup or something. So they
20 were on the same car with me.

21 But going on the way I got sick, from laying on
22 the floor there and I don't know what I had, an infection,
23 blood infection. And I had here like a rose, you know, a
24 chick, I had chicks in there. So when we arrived in Germany
25 it wasn't bad. We come down. They didn't kill us, hit or

1 nothing. We stayed in the line.

2 Finally, and I think they -- that was on a
3 Saturday. And they was giving up boiled potatoes, cooked
4 and they're peeled potatoes, cooked and peeled. I'm pretty
5 sure they didn't barbecue or roast them. But they was
6 cooked and peeled to be able to eat it. And ahead and hold
7 the head, the guy looked at you, he liked you, he gave you
8 three potatoes. He didn't like your face, he give you two,
9 you know.

10 Such a barn, this is for the Germans they give
11 you this, the hungered, starving. Comes to me to me, this
12 doctor, whatever there, knows I need help. So they went to
13 the (UNDERSTUMPFER), the guy in charge of the camp, the
14 whole camp. Was a little short fellow, could have blown
15 away, I think. But he had the power.

16 And so these doctors went in and says how
17 (UNDERSTUMPFER), have a sick person here. We need a little
18 -- some kind of antibiotics. We didn't have penicillin at
19 this time. I don't know what was available. It wasn't
20 available. But there was, and we have call ceptozyn,
21 antibiotic pills they give you. So they thought they going
22 to bring something, a big camp. There was a lot of people
23 from before, we come in there was already people where they
24 come in might be months before.

25 Q What was the name of that camp, do you

1 remember?

2 A This was in Bissing. But this was in
3 (BRAUNSWIEG), which I'm going to work with them now. I
4 didn't collect nothing, money from them yet.

5 So anyways, come and they said, (LICRAWKA) come
6 and grabbed me and took me out of the line. I didn't get
7 the potato, nothing to it, nothing. Put me in a corner to
8 wait. He called out maybe some police and a truck came in,
9 a big truck, two officers. One is say kiddycorner, this
10 way, one in this corner, and this. And I was laying there
11 on the top, sitting there. And they drive and go, drive and
12 drive. I thought they going to shoot me, you know. You can
13 imagine, we go so many hours driving. And you don't know.

14 So finally we come to a place, it was there two
15 survivors, was another town, a little town out of this
16 place. And they had a doctor there. He was a Frenchman.
17 If he lives -- he living hell. He was a son of a gun. He
18 was Frenchman, bastard.

19 So they brought me there. And there was some
20 Polish gentile, I work in (STUPEMELL), helping. So he come
21 and took me and put me in a room, a very big square room.
22 Nothing was in the room, just one bath. And they put me in
23 this bath. Then I found out that I'm sick.

24 So the boys come where they used to live. And
25 they come home from work and they want to see me. There was

1 a lot of them from the same town. They knew me. A lot of
2 them knew me there. They didn't let them to me. I couldn't
3 go to them. I couldn't go. My temperature was so high. I
4 know I'm sick. Matter of fact, they put down food and I
5 didn't eat it. I couldn't eat it. I was three weeks, three
6 weeks I was there.

7 Q Do you want to stop for a minute? Would you
8 like to?

9 A No, I go on.

10 Q Okay.

11 A In three weeks they come again. And they took
12 me back where I was before.

13 Q Were you all well then?

14 A Yeah, looks like three weeks come again. Then
15 they know nothing. I don't remember medicine might be the
16 antibiotics or something. I have no food. And then I went
17 back to the place. This is towards the city where the more
18 people around, surrounding. And there was built special
19 houses like (PEETHAWKTAW), you know.

20 I remember we had cots, two layers. But the
21 same thing, it was no washing, no bed. They have the sinks.
22 We could wash your face, not bathing, no showers, nothing.
23 You wore the same clothes. And as I come over there they
24 picked me before when I stand in the line. The
25 (UNDERSTUMPFER) asked for trade people, asked names,

1 carpenters, plumbers, real plumbers. If there's a trade,
2 sheet metal and plumber is one trade, "Klempner." They say,
3 "Klempner" is a guy what does sheet metal work in plumbing.
4 It's one trade. If it's "Klempner," I know the work.

5 And I work with them before. So I have some
6 people, they know me. Matter of fact, he's here in America,
7 in Los Angeles. He says, "Henry, don't go. Don't go with
8 them. Don't say nothing. If they ask for our trade so then
9 you're going to go to the factory with us. With the factory
10 you can help yourself with the (DUTCH) and (PRIMY)." So I
11 didn't say nothing. Some guy crazy, tell them that I am a
12 plumber. So they pulled me out and they picked up, hit me.

13 Q He was going to hit you?

14 A No, he didn't hit me. He make believe he's
15 going to hit me. And he took me out at this time. Then I
16 was sick and I went away. When I come back, that's it.
17 They took me over as a plumber. And so this place where we
18 were belonged to a factory engineer, belonged to the
19 company. They paid for the food and everything. And so he
20 had private people, designers, architects and foreman's and
21 everything. So they were building more buildings when we
22 were there. This is going to be for the American. They
23 thought they going to arrest -- which I saw American
24 prisoners they go this way and we were going this way. So
25 they need water. We make shower rooms and everything and

1 plumbing.

2 So when I come back, come foreman for the
3 factory with the prints, and they explained to me, "We went
4 through the prints." And he give it to me over. I'm the
5 leader of the plumbing.

6 Q Were you fluent in German too?

7 A Huh?

8 Q Did you speak German fluently?

9 A Not fluent. I learned at the time. Yiddish is
10 a little German too. If you know a lot of Yiddish it's a
11 dialect a little different. You know "IR," is Yiddish and
12 it's in German (GASANSTAUN).

13 Q Okay.

14 A I make it in German. So he give me the prints
15 and that's how. And says, "Here. Pick your people to
16 work." And I picked guys which I know for the longest time.
17 And he died and got sick. I met a brother of his still in
18 LA now. And told them that they're going to die. I tried
19 to survive him but couldn't help him. I took him out from
20 the line and told them I need him. He was really in the
21 plumbing supply. He had a very huge plant in Poland in
22 large big warehouses. But he got sick. He was mainly
23 picked into the gas chamber and he escaped the hide out
24 there. They open a hole in the wall and they came out and
25 he survived. He went with us to Germany.

1 Q Who opened a hole in the wall?

2 A The guy, the survivor.

3 Q So they could hide within the wall?

4 A No, they sneaked out. It was wooden, stucco
5 houses. Like I said, so anyway, so I worked there. I got
6 sick, too, again. So I had a Russian person, an older
7 person, see, they took from whole world of Germany people,
8 Italian, Russian. So this man was between the factory and
9 us, where we were there. He bring the materials what I
10 need. I told him, very nice person used to be, very nice.

11 I still had a cold and something. I gave him
12 the -- still didn't know I'm going to survive and live. I
13 tell him, "Take your coat and sell to your people." They
14 were free labor people. They took him and they couldn't
15 walk around in the box street but they have to be home by
16 6:00 o'clock to be in the camp. This was a different kind
17 of camp.

18 Q They weren't slaved?

19 A They were slaved. They must pay them to --
20 they live. But they worked in the factories.

21 Q Uh-huh. They did pay them?

22 A They must have paid them. Matter of fact, they
23 brought me money for the coat. I didn't want. I don't want
24 money. I want bread. Bring me bread. Then they come in
25 and says, "It's hard to get bread." Well, there was a

1 mix-up but he brought me a half a bread.

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

4 A The same thing, a cup of soup and sliced bread,
5 five to a bread.

6 Q When you didn't have your coat did you have
7 enough warm clothing to wear?

8 A Yeah, it was already -- it was 1944. And I
9 would be -- hold it. It was 1945 already. Sure. Then we
10 went to Berlin. It was 1945, might have been January. So
11 one day -- and it was true -- one day they come without
12 saying a word and they took everybody and we walked to a
13 factory, and the name was Hermann Goering. You've heard of
14 Hermann Goering? You heard of Hermann Goering?

15 Q Yes.

16 A And it was under his name the workers, the
17 factory, the worker. And we walked 50 kilometers. 12:00
18 o'clock in the night we arrived there. We have to get
19 undressed, everything, again. Those bandits there to give
20 him gold and some diamonds and everything, in '45. And they
21 have the same thing. And they had us walk around naked,
22 took away the clothes and put them and steamed, had a
23 steamed.

24 Finally, you went in there. We grabbed up
25 whatever we could. And we were doing some all kind of work.

1 I was digging grave. Took off bodies, they saved them up
2 and couldn't bury them. They didn't have enough people to
3 do it. So we come in, dead bodies, we couldn't pick them
4 off from the basement, the steps that go out. They put
5 three, four bodies into one box. And we couldn't -- say
6 kill us. So we took and took them out and took the box out,
7 then the bodies, each one, and put them in a trailer and
8 went away to a cemetery where they buried just people, our
9 people.

10 Q Who were these dead bodies?

11 A The slaves. It was us. Not from our group,
12 from the group when they were there. They changed it. They
13 keep you until they took the whole body, one drop is left.
14 And then they buried you. That's what it was.

15 Q How long a day did you have to work back in the
16 factory?

17 A We have to go in Bissing, it was we usually get
18 up 5:00 o'clock in the morning. Get up a little, if you
19 didn't left your bread from the night you didn't have bread.
20 You went without bread all day until the next day, 6:00
21 o'clock. I mean, you went in the morning about 6:00 o'clock
22 until 6:00 o'clock in the night.

23 Q Twelve hours?

24 A Yeah, about twelve. Well, you walked about
25 five miles I think to go to the place, took you an hour

1 walking and an hour coming. So the long run, I had -- I had
2 plumbing there. I think I helped myself again. I couldn't
3 get nothing. The leader what he was, the German, he was in
4 the military. He went to the Russian front and got wounded.
5 He got shot. So they healed him up and give him a job as a
6 foreman, private with no -- he heard Russian front, oh, he
7 couldn't hear the word Russian. They're afraid to death,
8 all the Germans, to go to the Russian front.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A But he used to tell us in the newspaper how the
11 situation is. But he could come and eat an apple and peel
12 it, peel an apple and he wouldn't give us the peeling. I
13 don't know if the reason why he did it. He wasn't such a
14 bad guy, but all he didn't want to give us, all he didn't --
15 get sick on it. He used to tell us -- but I used to do,
16 again, I couldn't eat the soup. So I used to save the soup.

17 If the guys going out to work to the trains
18 loading potatoes and things. So they used to fill
19 themselves with package with raw potato and bring it in.
20 But they couldn't have a chance to cook them. So I took
21 from them the potatoes and I give them my soup. And I used
22 to cook them with water. I had an oven where I used to heat
23 the soldering irons.

24 Q Soldering irons?

25 A Soldering irons, heat the part to solder. So

1 we had an oven always and burner and I used to cook just the
2 potato, clean it up, cut in pieces, just potato and the
3 water. But I couldn't eat the (COLDRABI). So the water and
4 potato it made like a mashed potato. Made like a starch.
5 But it gives me something in my body. And I had a bread.
6 Sometimes I bought a piece of bread for -- but this was over
7 too we went that night I tell you one day disappear we went
8 50 kilometer Hermann Goering.

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

11 A Start out afternoon until 12:00 o'clock in the
12 night. And but about a couple of days. And third day they
13 give us each one a bread, a whole bread. And they says,
14 "This bread, I don't know for how long it's going to last
15 you. Don't eat it up at one time. It's going to take you a
16 long time, might be. Save it." Some could do it, some
17 couldn't. They ate. And back in the train.

18 Q Did you save yours or did you eat it?

19 A I most saved it. I wasn't so hungry. I wasn't
20 so hungry. I was hungry, but I didn't eat just anything
21 just to eat. That's what keep me healthy. You know, I
22 didn't eat the junk.

23 Q What junk?

24 A Well, the people eat anything. They get -- I
25 ate one time we digged a hole and we find a cow, might be

1 from a horse, from the bottom part.

2 Q The hoof?

3 A The hoof. We cleaned it, and we made like I
4 did from the potato. We cooked it and in the water make a
5 little fire outside and we drink that water, too. So I says
6 after this I'm going to eat dirt. But it's not when you
7 come to food after that you don't like to eat dirt.

8 So we went in the train and opened trains. It
9 was already all kinds of trains open, like coal, they loaded
10 coal. Train where we going? We don't know. We drive day
11 and night. Away from the American. Away from the English.
12 Mostly from the American, Englishman in Europe. And the
13 prints was there, just the American.

14 Q What did you think was happening?

15 A We know that it was bad. They going to hell.
16 Finally we come to a place and the planes, airplanes are
17 coming for Berlin. They come, knock the hell out of it.
18 Oh, we were laughing. And the guards that were watching the
19 train, they run away in the fields. They were hiding in
20 their fields. They were afraid. And we was so -- laughing.

21 When finally a little bit later they opened the
22 car and allowed us in a camp there again. This was the name
23 of it was Ravensbruck.

24 -oOo-

25

1 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1990.

2 HOLOCAUST CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

3 -oOo-

4 HENRY NASH

5 -oOo-

6 EXAMINATION

7 BY SANDRA BENDAYAN:

8 Q I'm Sandra Bendayan. And I'm here with Henry
9 Nash, also known as Henry Nunynowicc?

10 A Right.

11 Q We're doing this interview on May the 17th,
12 1990, as part of the Oral History Project from the San
13 Francisco Holocaust library. And this is part two.

14 So we thought we'd start with when you first
15 arrived at Auschwitz, Henry?

16 A Uh-huh. Yeah, I arrived with my wife and my
17 child. And they told us that we going. At that time we was
18 in the Ghetto. And they closed up the Ghetto. The Russian
19 was too close already. And they were beaten from all the
20 sides. We didn't know.

21 So they come one time, they say, "You take
22 everything what you have with you. You're going to Germany.
23 You're going to work there. You're going to have
24 everything. Take whatever you can. You're going to need
25 it."

1 We thought might be it's true. So we let
2 ourselves talk it in that this is the case, that they're
3 going to take us. As we come to the place we didn't know.
4 They put us in cars, you know, like the cows with the one
5 little opening.

6 We wind up the next day, wind up we arrived,
7 heard about Auschwitz. I don't think I even remember to
8 know what Auschwitz, you know. But I still didn't know it.
9 And we come in and we saw when they unload us from the
10 train. They didn't let us take nothing with us. They left
11 everything in the cars. And but the help, they have helpers
12 from the camp there. And okay, and here they come.

13 We all stand up in the front of the car, of the
14 train. And (MANGLERS) was there. And they separated us.
15 They took the women with the kids one way, and the men on
16 the other side. And we saw mostly younger, more healthier,
17 anything. But we still didn't know where they took us away.
18 Finally we wind up the place where there was shower, the
19 shower rooms and things. They get us undressed and took
20 everything away.

21 They say that they had special people and they
22 took all the clothes and opened it up. They knew about more
23 what was real true. They said they're all hiding in the
24 shoulder pads, the diamonds, and everything, we should give
25 it to them. So they took away the clothes. And they figure

1 whatever we have they're going to have it later.

2 Q Did you have anything hidden?

3 A No, I had nothing hidden. I didn't have --
4 what I hide? I wasn't so rich before the war. But I had
5 something, watches and things along. And I throw it in over
6 there. It's no use, I couldn't have anywhere to put it.
7 And so that's what happened. Then we had the shower, which
8 was terrible, you know. They undress us. Didn't give us
9 back the clothes what we had. Whatever they could to cover
10 ourselves up, and that's it.

11 And then they come, private civilian clothes,
12 coppers from the camp. And they took us into the camp.
13 When they took us to the camp it was very tight. There
14 wasn't -- they told us the story about it again. They want
15 to have the diamonds and the gold, whatever we had hiding,
16 they want we should give it to them. If not, they going to
17 hang us. They showed us the rope in the ceiling hanging and
18 that thing.

19 And they make us all stand out in the line,
20 like five in a row. There was no room to lay down when we
21 went to sleep. We were laying and then we sit down and one
22 sit the other one.

23 Q No bunks?

24 A There wasn't no place, no bunk, nothing. There
25 was no place. There was so many people. But a day after

1 that I could feel it, you could feel the smell in the night.
2 What they used when they burn the corpse and all the people.
3 I find out some guy he was there already before, long ago.
4 So he told me the story about it.

5 And he says, "Don't worry," he says, "they are
6 already dead. They are already gone. And next you coming.
7 Your cross is already on the cemetery, too. But you still
8 walking around. That's what they" -- he looked at, he says,
9 "there."

10 So after that a day or two, naturally you
11 walked around. It looked like heaven. And so after that
12 there come an engineer. And he look for trade people, if
13 they know a trade. They looking for working guys that have
14 a trades. So I put myself in that. So they separated after
15 that. They took us from this block, this house, number 25,
16 they took over to number 12. And they accumulate all the
17 workers there that they have.

18 As I was going there they picked all up and
19 take us over to the other block. They give us a bread.
20 They give us bread at that time like five people to, German,
21 like a rye bread, for five of us or ten. And as I was going
22 then in the camp I was all mixed up the pass when we went
23 through it.

24 And here comes a guy and he grabs me, some man
25 grabs me. And I couldn't -- and I looked at him. I

1 recognized but I lost my voice. I couldn't say it. I was
2 with him just until the war was broke out in 1939. We used
3 to live at the house. And he says he has the brother, a
4 younger brother there. There were two brothers there.

5 Well, he had it, made a little, what we did
6 over there, we used to bribe those coppers, the copper where
7 that was over us, the Germans. Used to be the top men,
8 over, not over the whole unit, just over the place where we
9 were there.

10 Q In Auschwitz?

11 A In Auschwitz, in Auschwitz, in that block. We
12 were about nine hundred people there. And it was very
13 crowded. And you know, the cement wall there was no carpet,
14 nothing, no grass. It was a mess. But then there was when
15 you walked in actually there was like for the help, the guys
16 working, was a little room here and a little room this side.
17 And you walk straight in. But in here was one room, was the
18 copper used to live, they called the copper was there. And
19 the other was for the help.

20 So they picked up -- my cousin was one helping.
21 We try it, to do it to keep him quiet down, they shouldn't
22 be so rough, those coppers.

23 Q Tried to do what?

24 A They shouldn't beat us and things. So we tried
25 to bribe him.

1 Q I see.

2 A The bribery was, we didn't have money. So what
3 happened when they gave us the bread we -- that's what they
4 used to do there. So it was the help for that copper,
5 manage, he says, "You know, what we're going to have to do?
6 We're going to have to give him something special." So we
7 used to see that he should have special food what he likes
8 to have it. So we have to buy it. So what we did, they did
9 that. I took a bread, instead of five people, they cut it
10 for six people. So there were left a few bread.

11 And there always used to be people going out
12 from the camp working, coming back in the evening or in the
13 morning. So they used to take this bread, used to give him.
14 And they used to bring cigarettes, meat, you know, things
15 what he used to like to give him special treatment so he
16 never showed up. He was laying always drunk in that room
17 and doesn't bother with us, like this used to be rough.
18 There was such like pigs, such big guys.

19 Q Beating you?

20 A Yeah, they would. They used to go around, you
21 know, it was the German. So being my cousin was helping
22 doing that, so --

23 Q This was the man that grabbed you?

24 A Yeah. So he says, he took me in that room
25 where he was. And I had already -- there they used to have

1 what you call a bunk bed, you know, where they brought so
2 many. I got -- I had a bed already. I was sleeping in the
3 bed. And I had a cup of coffee. I could have an extra
4 slice of bed. That's what we needed then.

5 Q Did you ever know how your cousin got that
6 special job of the assistant?

7 A How got? They picked him, you know. It's the
8 same thing. There was -- he come from a city, not from the
9 Ghetto. I don't know where he was in the (KELTZ). He was
10 the city where I was born. And they come all of them from
11 there from that city camp, and looks like at this time there
12 wasn't too many people. And they picked those guys, make
13 them for to be the watchmen, to watch over to see everything
14 to be in order. So that's what he got this job. And they
15 picked him to be the boss over them.

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A So he got -- I didn't want to be there. And I
18 told him I could have it good, but I didn't serving to serve
19 the people a lot of guys I used to know, used to know them.
20 And they always says, "Henry, for me, Henry, give me." They
21 know, they were hungry, and I have too many guys.

22 So I told my cousin, I said, "Look, I can not
23 do the work I am doing. Too many friends and they're all
24 hungry. And I cannot help one and not the other one. So
25 you better take me away from that job. And I do anything

1 else, but not this."

2 So he realized that and he knowed this. But at
3 the same time he told him, this guy, this German, he told
4 him that I'm his cousin and he told him I wanted to go away.
5 So he says I should try to go to Germany, not to stay in
6 Auschwitz. You know, around Auschwitz they take you every
7 day to work, never was, you know.

8 Q Did you ever get tattooed?

9 A No, that's what I get to it. If you went to
10 Germany they didn't tattoo you. Sarah never had tattoo and
11 she was someplace -- in local, they tattoo.

12 Q In where?

13 A In local.

14 Q Local?

15 A They take you in the morning, they brought you
16 home back to Auschwitz. Then they picked you if you're
17 still good. If you're not good they segregate you,
18 segregate to go to the crematorium, to the gas chamber.
19 That's the way they used to do it.

20 But this German that was with my cousin told
21 him that if I stay in the line to go to work, if they tattoo
22 I should go out from the line. I shouldn't sneak out.
23 Well, there I wouldn't go to Germany. I would stay in. And
24 I wanted to go to Germany. Germany was much better. They
25 didn't punish you so. And it was true.

1 So one day I did and they come and the next day
2 I was in Germany. But I got sick on the way.

3 Q How could you choose to go to Germany?

4 A I could choose it. Well, I knew we heard about
5 it. There an engineer there from Germany, a factory come up
6 to buy the slaves. And so we were the slaves and we know
7 they pick me as a (SLAUSA), or they call (SLAUSA). In
8 German they said "Klempner," is a sheet metal and plumber is
9 one trade, sheet metal and plumber they call "Klempner."

10 Q So they picked you because of your work?

11 A Yeah, the trade. Then when I come to Germany I
12 got sick on the way. I got like here a rose on my face,
13 infection, blood infection, something from the traveling.
14 So there was doctors there with us in slavery. So they went
15 in. We stayed in the line already to get a few potatoes.
16 They was giving potatoes, cooked potatoes and I think and
17 the peels for Saturday was special for Sunday.

18 And so these doctors told me they know me from
19 Auschwitz and I was serving coffee. Used to help in the
20 Jewish town. So the doctor went into the top man from that
21 place in Germany. He was the (STUMPFUHRER) they called,
22 (STUMPFUHRER). They told him, "There's some man sick and he
23 needs some help, some medicine."

24 So he asked, "Who is it?" They call, showed
25 me. So they took me out from the line where I was standing

1 to get something to eat. They put me away in the corner.
2 They called up the truck with two soldiers. They took me
3 away. And I was sure they going to shoot me. You know,
4 well, I have infection. And they didn't want to stay close
5 to me. There was, you know, a truck. And one stayed in
6 this corner, one this one. And I was in this corner away.

7 Q They thought you were contagious?

8 A Contagious, right. Where I'm going, never told
9 me, never knew, that's it. And they were driving, driving,
10 driving. Finally, they went to a place there was another
11 camp. And there was a Frenchman, some doctor. I didn't
12 know that.

13 When I come over there there was a bigger room
14 than this. And they put me in the room and there was a
15 bath. I was hungry. But when I come over there and they
16 put me bath, I wasn't hungry anymore. I didn't eat for a
17 week. You know, I had so high temperature. So I see that I
18 am in here and the windows -- in the evening some guys come
19 home from work where they have the camp. And they couldn't
20 get to me and I could never find out from nobody, nobody got
21 to me to talk to me, you know.

22 Q Did you know what camp you were in?

23 A No, I didn't know where I was, even the place.
24 There was other on the other side of the town, let's say.
25 Might be 10 kilometer or 20 kilometer away from where I was

1 supposed to be. Meantime, I find out when they took me over
2 there, there was another camp on the other side of the city.
3 And they do it. But I couldn't talk to them. They didn't
4 allow me to talk to nobody. I was the sick guy. They kept
5 me for three weeks quarantined there.

6 Q Did they feed you?

7 A Yeah, I think I got was a little something.

8 Q Any treatment?

9 A No, they just give me pills. We used to have
10 like you got here, antibiotic.

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A And I remember before the war in Europe, you
13 know, like before they come vaccine, they call SEPTAZYNE.
14 There was a pill like here, antibiotic for infections, you
15 know.

16 And so one day again the guys come back with
17 the truck and pick me up and took me back to where I used to
18 be.

19 Q Did you ever know what you had?

20 A No, I know I had here a rose. They called it a
21 rose in our language, here you get red cheek, an infection.
22 And I got better and I went back there. Again, the same
23 thing. They look for the trademen and it wasn't a trade.

24 So I had some boys that were there before me
25 and they says, "Henry, don't stay here in the shop." They

1 look for workers, cement workers, sheet metal works,
2 workers. Those were coming from Poland. But us we wasn't
3 like the German plumber, is a plumber, a sheet metal, a
4 sheet metal, so they have to have sheet metals separate and
5 plumber separate.

6 So anyways, as they called up for trade people
7 and I didn't want to move out. And I make believe I don't
8 -- I'm not this kind of trade. But they told me the guys
9 that was there already from before says, "Henry, don't stay
10 here in the place. You never get nothing. Try to get out
11 with us to work to the factory. So in the factory sometimes
12 you get from the German a private something a piece of
13 bread, an apple. You can get some help, a little more than
14 you get there, there was none." So I did. I make believe I
15 don't know.

16 So meantime, some guys knew me, right, from the
17 Ghetto yet when I was. And they says that I am a plumber.
18 So the (STURMFUHRER) he come in, hit me, make believe, but
19 he didn't. And they took me out and they gave me all the
20 plans to do it. And a private from the factory, there was
21 private guy. He was like a foreman. And he bring me the
22 print and they gave me some guy, a Russian guy, to bring me
23 the materials what I need. And I was working the plumbing.

24 Q What factory was this?

25 A The factory was used to make trucks, four wheel

1 drive trucks in Bissing. They called it Bissing.

2 Q Bissing was the name?

3 A The name of the factory, Bissing, the city, I
4 don't know. But I worked in the buildings for them. It was
5 the same. They brought people, more. They said they built
6 more houses for the people where they going to bring in more
7 workers. So in the meantime I didn't have bad at that time,
8 too. And again I got one time sick and had a cold very bad.
9 It was terrible. But I got over, you know.

10 Q There was no medical care?

11 A No medical care, no, there was no medical.

12 Q How was the food?

13 A Food was nothing, (COLDRABI), dry, used to dry
14 like used to look like French rye, French chip, French fry.
15 But they were made not from potatoes. They were made from
16 (COLDRABI) -- those beats. They were ugly, terrible, dried.
17 They were so terrible. And water -- this was cooked in the
18 water. That's what you used to get.

19 Q Like a soup?

20 A Yeah, but I couldn't eat it. Might be when I
21 starve, might be able starve wouldn't eat it, but I help
22 myself. See, I was inside man. I had about 14 guys under
23 my hand working there. But the guy who come from the
24 private, he used to be in the military. And he got wounded
25 and they put him private work. He wasn't bad guy. But he

1 was son-of-a-gun. He used to used to eat apple, peel the
2 piece and wouldn't give you peels of apple from the apple.
3 He would throw it away in the garbage and he wouldn't give
4 it to us. But he would read the news and tell us what's
5 cooking, what's going bad with them.

6 Q So how did you help yourself, as you said?

7 A Oh, so the meantime, was like this. I couldn't
8 eat the soup. And I saved the soup. I didn't eat it. So
9 the guys used to go out to work to the train station,
10 loading, unloading potatoes and coal. So they used to sneak
11 in some potatoes in their pockets. And they bringed it in.
12 So I used to trade with them. I used to give them the soup
13 and they give me potatoes.

14 Q Why would they trade potatoes for soup?

15 A Why? They didn't have a chance to cook and how
16 to eat it. And I have a chance to cook these potatoes.
17 See, I used to use heat in the ovens to make the soldering
18 irons. We didn't have anything electrically. So we have an
19 oven, a steel stove. And we used -- so I used to cook the
20 potato, make mashed potatoes, and that's it.

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 A If you make the potato a little -- it wasn't so
23 dry like mashed potatoes. There was with water, you put
24 take a potato and you cook in the water. You get the
25 starch.

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A And I like it better and I had it bad. So I
3 help myself.

4 Q Was the normal food just one bowl of that
5 (COLDRABI) soup a day?

6 A Yeah, they give you a bowl of soup and coffee
7 from oats. They used to burn oats, used to smoke the oats.
8 And it got dark so they have like water with oats.

9 Q And that was all there was to eat?

10 A And bread, sliced a nice slice of bread. If
11 you eat up the bread in the night you didn't have nothing
12 for the morning. Some used to save it a half, what they
13 eat, they had it for the next day. So we -- I worked there.
14 We didn't have -- we were afraid for them. They stole -- we
15 used to get sugar, too, to the copper, for those coppers
16 that were there. They used to get sugar and make for
17 themselves vodka. We made for them tools to make vodka with
18 the tank and the coil and the whole operation. They used to
19 cook vodka from that soup. So we didn't care for the sugar
20 so long as they leaved us alone.

21 Q Did you ever get any of the vodka?

22 A No, we didn't even see that, whatever, they did
23 it in the night themselves. They went away real mad. There
24 were some murders anyways.

25 Q Some murders?

1 A There were gay people, all the gays, and those
2 kinds of things.

3 Q Who murdered whom?

4 A They didn't murder those. They didn't do it,
5 but they looked, they was from the jails, you know, they
6 took him out from the jails.

7 Q I see. The criminals?

8 A The criminals, because they used to have badges
9 something from material, cut from red, and blue and green.
10 And we know about the thing. The red was those murder
11 coppers, you know. The green was political, you know.
12 Hitler took all those communism, and the gays, he took care
13 of them, put them in the jails. So that's how there is.
14 And we tried, some made it. And some even there, there
15 wasn't too many deaths in the time when I was with them.

16 Q Were people treated well or brutally?

17 A They couldn't treat us bad. We couldn't do
18 nothing. They come from work and they got the copper and
19 the thing and they lay down on the bunk bed that they had
20 it. So was nothing --

21 Q How long was the workday?

22 A How long?

23 Q How long was the workday?

24 A The day?

25 Q Yeah.

1 A Who knows. Go in the morning, 5:00 o'clock.
2 They wake you up until you got the coffee then you got to
3 walk. It was about five kilometers. Then they come home in
4 the evening and they ate.

5 Q Twelve hours?

6 A Twelve hours, you know, I think. But I don't
7 know. I could run away all the time I have chances to go
8 away, but where you going to go?

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A Some guys, they let them go. Then he went to
11 the police and they bring him back. Nobody wants to go in
12 private. It's not all the Germans, nobody would take you
13 in.

14 Q I see.

15 A So you have to call the police.

16 Q Were the people that were quiet, were they
17 punished?

18 A Really they didn't punish this guy. I know
19 him. He was a plumber, too. And he run from the back, from
20 the fields. And they let him go. He come back. That's
21 what was happening. They brought him back.

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 A There was no place to go when you run away. So
24 you stayed there, except if you would be in Europe where we
25 come from, you know. But in Germany you didn't know where

1 to go from one street to the other.

2 Q What about the living conditions, the sleeping?

3 A Over there? It wasn't bad. I mean, it was a
4 cot. We have a blanket to cover yourself and that's all.

5 Q One person to a bed or --?

6 A There was two. One slept, it was such a bunk
7 bed, one on the bottom, one in the top. And it wasn't -- it
8 was cold. There was cement. They made it all cement block,
9 no heating, nothing. It was terrible. But we know we thank
10 for dead. There was places that were worser yet.

11 And one day they come home. It was April. And
12 they put them all together and we go. They didn't say what,
13 where or when. And they took us away. And we walked in the
14 night, 50 kilometer, I think. We walked to another place.
15 You know, they were afraid in here might be the American was
16 close already.

17 Q The war was ending by then?

18 A Yeah, in April. So they took us another place.
19 And we walk 50 kilometers. We come in another place, just
20 in 1944 -- no, '45, April. And we come and Hermann Goering
21 -- you heard about Hermann Goering? They have a factory
22 under Hermann Goering workers, workers is a factory. And we
23 come in the night. We arrive 12:00 o'clock in the night
24 there.

25 We undresses again. They put -- they have a

1 steam boiler. And they steam the clothes, you know. And
2 they call it and lousing. And we walked around naked and it
3 was cold. And April was too cold in Germany like now here.
4 We didn't have no clothes or nothing.

5 Finally, I don't know what, we went in. We
6 grabbed whatever we could again. And we worked a little
7 bit. One day we come home off from work and they give us a
8 whole bread, each one a rye bread. And they says, "This is
9 the bread. I don't know the next time when you going to get
10 a bread, a week, two, or a month. Try to save it. And
11 don't eat up at one time and leave it for tomorrow and next
12 day."

13 And they took us to the train again. And we
14 went to the train and we traveled and traveled. And finally
15 we come to a place always by Berlin we was already. And
16 there was a Ravensbruck, it was Ravensbruck. We come up
17 there. Planes arrive, it was American. And there were
18 bombs, throwing bombs in Berlin, shooting. And we were
19 laying. We see the planes going, you know. One they
20 dropped it on our train, was open cars.

21 And the cops, the (JAUWNDRAWN), the Germans
22 were afraid. And they run away to the fields. They were
23 hiding. They were afraid for the bombs. Finally the
24 bombing stopped and they let us out. And we went into a
25 camp again. And it wasn't a camp with crematoriums and

1 things. It was just a work camp.

2 Q Were you hopeful that the war was over?

3 A Yeah, we know we saw it was going to hell, the
4 way they was working. So this was -- the (LAUDASDAWN) was
5 Ravensbruck actually the camp. And we went there, did
6 nothing, just walking around and things. But they didn't
7 know what to do. We couldn't work. Work was out.

8 And here there is all of a sudden they bring in
9 packages of food, the Red Cross, packages. And there was a
10 box I would say about twelve by six inches wide. There was
11 a package of cigarettes, Camels. And was biscuits, what is
12 called Italian make those biscuits, the finger-type, and all
13 kind, and condensed milk. And what else? Was all kind of
14 goodies.

15 So they went ahead and they put us in line they
16 give two of us, like I walk with you, you me have to share
17 it. And the cigarettes, they took it out, those bandits,
18 themselves. And then they give us two cigarettes each. You
19 know, just teasing. They want for themselves.

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 A So we had it and we shared it. We got a little
22 nourishment while we were there. And we talk about after
23 that, see there is a Swedish Red Cross cars was standing
24 Swedish Red Cross ambulances. And they said, you know what,
25 we supposed to go in that to Sweden in that ambulance. So

1 we were sure a day, next day, next day.

2 And here they come in and they brought in some
3 woman prisoners, like we were prisoners, like our people.
4 And they put those women -- kept them there overnight in
5 that camp, too. And the next day they put them in those
6 cars and they took them to Sweden. And they left us. Then
7 they took us away to another camp, another five thousand
8 kilometers away from there.

9 Q Did you have any sense that the war was over?

10 A Yeah. That I'm going to get to it.

11 Q Oh.

12 A As we went there, so again they brought in
13 packages, bigger packages where there were a hundred
14 cigarettes in each packages, five packages of cigarettes.
15 And there was more of it. And they give each one, one by
16 himself. But they had accumulated. They had got this from
17 the Red Cross and they never give us ours. And it was
18 laying in garages there in the warehouses. And they didn't
19 want it for the Americans to come in seeing all this
20 merchandise. So they start giving us.

21 Then again in the train where we were going on
22 the way the train -- couldn't go. They stopped it in
23 places, which the Germans went this way. We went this way.
24 We got to talk to each other, you know. And they said that
25 is kaput, all this goes to hell. Hitler's dead and they

1 knew already. They looked the minute it over.

2 Finally we come to a place in another camp.
3 They just start building it, this camp. There was no
4 windows, just openings. But there was no floor. It was
5 just dirt. And there was still cold. And they find out
6 there was already people there. And they brought us in
7 there, too. They didn't know what to do with us. So as we
8 come they find out that we have with us food, that we got
9 it. We didn't -- when they robbed us of it, the coppers
10 again and those Germans want to know. They knew we had
11 cigarettes. So they went ahead, they make us stay. They
12 count us.

13 Q Roll call again?

14 A Roll call, they put us out roll call, counted.
15 But they just make believe. In the meantime they went from
16 the back side. The window was open and they took away all
17 the cigarettes and whatever, whoever didn't hide it, didn't
18 get it any more. They took it away. But I make with
19 another guy -- we dig out and we put it over and we hide it.
20 So we had it.

21 So here a day after they come out. We all
22 going back, took us again to the car. They were going to go
23 and they have a speech. Whoever cannot go there going to
24 stay here. And those that can walk goes in the train and we
25 going to walk, and we're going to go, and this and this.

1 Okay, they put us in the cars. We stayed overnight, all
2 night. We don't go no place. They couldn't go. There was
3 already bombing. You heard it in the night, shooting,
4 shooting, shooting, bombing, you know. And we saw, we could
5 smell it. It is so close, you know. But we couldn't see
6 it.

7 So finally, they come next day and they let us
8 out from the car, back to the house, to the camp, and we all
9 organize. We say we not going to go no place. Let them
10 shoot us here. We're not going. We saw it's going to hell.
11 And as we were talking and here we look out and we see that
12 they changed clothes and they had one standing escape, the
13 (SHAWDAW), the Germans. And we were free in that camp.

14 Q They put on civilian clothes?

15 A Civilian clothes, and they run away from there.
16 They afraid we going to kill them there, they would be
17 killed.

18 A You know, we were had a raw and that's it. We
19 saw that, we could see it. But we didn't -- still wasn't
20 sure. We saw that something. So finally, you know,
21 everybody was grabbing guns in the warehouses what they had
22 it. And here we says, we going on the highway.

23 Q What were your feelings at that point?

24 A Feeling?

25 Q Free?

1 A Feeling we're free. We're feeling that we are
2 free but we don't know how free, what going to happen.
3 Might be one bomb going to drop and kill us all. But we
4 start going away from that camp where it was, going on the
5 highway towards the city. There was a city there, about
6 five kilometers.

7 As we were going here comes from the forest,
8 there was a forest on the way, coming out, guys. I don't
9 know who they were. They looked like merchantists, we say
10 in Polish, the African, oh, the blacks, African, oh, call
11 merchantists, in our language, merchantists, blacks are --
12 they are -- but they were the forepost. They are military.
13 They was on the bicycle, motorcycles. They coming. And so
14 they stopped us.

15 Q The American army?

16 A Army, so they took us away, the guns. They
17 said, "You can't have guns. And you go and see it to the
18 police department. And they will let you know what to do
19 about it." So we did. We went to the police and they give
20 us a half a bread. We want bread just for the German
21 police, but they knew already that it's over. But the army
22 was before them yet, after them. They were already in the
23 hand from the military.

24 Q Uh-huh.

25 A So they said, "Look, try to look for yourself,

1 to locate it yourself until tomorrow. And tomorrow there's
2 going to come the MP's going to come. And they give you
3 leave, flat, what to do. And they talk to you and give you
4 in the languages, in the languages, then you see what to
5 do."

6 So we thought as we were going, and I saw in a
7 place. It was a huge place, with a lot of red, five or ten
8 buildings, red bricks on the roof, you know those tile
9 bricks, red, with white crosses like the Salvation Army.

10 Q Uh-huh.

11 A So we thought there's a clinic, a hospital. We
12 come over, there was. There was no soldiers, no Germans.
13 There's nobody there except they have warehouses in the
14 basements and then there's a wine loaded with the guns and
15 spam, you know, ham cans, hams and all kind of food, they
16 had it. So it was empty cellar. So there was five guys --
17 nine of us. We were from the camp. We walked together so
18 we stayed together. And we went -- we says, "Listen boys,
19 we going to stay there. We take down beds from upstairs and
20 we going to make our home here."

21 And we took in food, naturally, took in wine.
22 They used to knock, what you call, the coals there from the
23 barrels and tip it over and pour it in, in buckets, wine.
24 The floor was full. The Germans, the private people, they
25 come and they organize and took everything away, what they

1 could. But there was a lot of food, all kinds --

2 Q Were you --

3 A -- free.

4 Q -- were you starved still at this point?

5 A Nope, I didn't starve. I told you we had
6 already from this bread from the police. We had it. Then
7 we come over there, we start eating.

8 Q I was wondering if you were so starved that
9 eating a lot of food would get you sick?

10 A No, they told us and we knew. I wasn't from
11 this guy there with a lot of guys and they took sick from
12 eating too much and things. No, I watch myself and I'm
13 crazy eater as it is now, too, and I was in the camp.

14 So finally we got loaded with stuff, you know,
15 ham and cans. Matter of fact, the guys went out to the
16 farms and they brought milk and eggs, fresh eggs, you know.
17 We're having -- we save this until they going to tell us
18 what to do. We didn't know who. We saw coming, then they
19 start coming in the military. So they come in one way, come
20 in the Russian, the other way, the Frenchmen, and the
21 American and the English. We were in a place from all four
22 sides, all the four sides come together, and we were in the
23 middle.

24 Q Uh-huh.

25 A So when they come in finally we wind up under

1 the American hand. So the guys, the American says, "Nope,
2 you can't be here. You have to go with us right there. We
3 going to get to another place."

4 I says, "Look, we have everything organized
5 here. Let us stay until we can know what we going to do."

6 He says, "No." They were afraid to leave us.
7 They were not going to fight with the private Germans, going
8 to rob them. They didn't want to leave us free just like
9 that. So we were just like animals anyways, you know, after
10 that all that time, six years under their hand. Finally, we
11 have to go. We couldn't do nothing. We have to give up
12 everything they wanted. We went.

13 Q Could you speak English?

14 A No. But there was like, you know, with the
15 hand with the face we made it. Might be they have
16 interpreter.

17 Finally they took us in a place and they took
18 us in a place. And there was cement factory from (OPTICAL),
19 cements, was one of the biggest in Germany. In fact, they
20 have underground. They said, "You wait in here." They took
21 us there and they says, "Look, you from Poland. You, where
22 do you want to go? Do you want to go back to Poland?
23 Tomorrow morning you should stay here. It's going to come
24 bosses, you want to go to Poland, you stay. And you want to
25 go to England, you stay here." And so nationalities,

1 separation and thing. So we did. We were all the Polish.
2 Whoever want to go, we stayed there.

3 And meantime, the bus didn't show up. And we
4 were hungry. So we still have food in the house where we
5 used to stay there organized before. So we went in to eat.
6 And as we come out, they were all were gone. And they left
7 us there. So we were alone in that place, in that cement
8 factory. So a little bit later, a couple of hours later
9 comes the paratroopers, the American paratroopers in.

10 And says, "How come you're here? What are you
11 doing? Nobody's supposed to be here. This is supposed to
12 be cleaned up. No private people, no civilian."

13 So of course, I told him like I told you. "We
14 were standing. The buses is gone and here we are."

15 So he says, "Don't do nothing. Come." The
16 captain took us up in some rooms above the building and he
17 says, "You stay here. I'm going to call the cook from
18 there." You know, in all over in Europe was every factory
19 had lunches. They used to have cooked soups you couldn't
20 go. So he says, we're going to call the cook and the guy's
21 making hot water. They have steambaths and they had all
22 kind of baths in Germany. You know, bathtubs, sitting
23 baths, and whole house with all kinds.

24 So we had all this and beautiful fresh bedding.
25 And they warned us not to eat fat. You going to get sick.

1 You get dysentery. You get that. So they didn't let us
2 what happened. We stayed there for a week. And we used to
3 go out and bring the same thing, the eggs, fresh milk, you
4 know. And we had yet.

5 And one day the same thing even with the
6 American. They come down and here the motorcycle. And they
7 come buses, you know, not buses, those trucks, the military
8 trucks, and the military truck's here. You going. Where we
9 going? We don't know. They wouldn't tell us, nothing.
10 They took us in a place and we drove, oh, might be six
11 hours.

12 And we come over there and there was another
13 camp, so bypass. And the copper says, "Look, I don't have
14 room for my people. You have to go back." And we were back
15 there again. Then finally then again they took us a place.
16 We wait there again for it. And then they took us and they
17 give us over to the English.

18 We didn't like that. We didn't like the
19 people, the English. We know they didn't have nothing. We
20 saw the way the food at the time we were with the American.
21 We got cigarettes. We got matches. We got this, we got
22 corned beef if you wanted. We didn't want to eat any more
23 of the corned beef. We were filled up. We were spoiled
24 already. We saw for breakfast there there was a line with
25 oranges and bacon and all kind of things. The English

1 didn't have a match to give you. They were poor.

2 So we didn't want to go. But we didn't have a
3 choice. They took us over in the city which was the top,
4 the government from the English government was in that city.
5 The top like American has -- I forgot the cities where we
6 stay now there. So the English have there. And we was with
7 them. But they were rough, rough guys those Englishmen. We
8 didn't like them. Rough, swearing, you know the thing. And
9 especially for us, for the Jews. The same thing, they
10 didn't dislike the Jews, they --

11 Q Say this again. They --?

12 A They didn't -- I don't know, they didn't
13 behave, you know. So we didn't want to go with them. So
14 again the same thing. They put us together on like -- the
15 Swedish did too, after that, the thing, like the Polish
16 citizen, Polish citizen, English, French, segregated
17 everything to be together, the nationality, each nationality
18 -- not religion, but Polish nationality. So they did. But
19 we went ahead and stayed in the room. We put on the door
20 that we are Israeli. And they didn't bother us.

21 Then we complained that it was a Jewish doctor,
22 a captain, always a doctors, captain or higher rank. We
23 told him, we says, Look, for Christ's sake, six years is not
24 enough. We were punished and suffered and all the thing.
25 Now we thought we are free and we are again under the

1 restriction and thing. We didn't like that.

2 So he went ahead and he wrote a letter to the
3 city hall to go to see somebody in the city hall. And we
4 went. And the guy went ahead and called somebody from the
5 city hall, some agent, says, "You go with those people." I
6 tell you, there were eight or nine of us. "Go with them and
7 give them housing to live and things."

8 And they give us ration carts, they was
9 rationing the food. And we went in a place. They give us
10 clothes to dress up. And we work for ourselves. As we
11 ourselves, we have food. What did I need? I don't need
12 money. We had cigarettes, you know. So as we have
13 everything already, we says, two of us, we says, "Let's --
14 we going to go." We find out that it is a very large Polish
15 camp, Polish nationality camp. And we want to look. Might
16 be we find some of our family. So we did. This was in
17 (LEITENBERG). (LEITENBERG) was a big city.

18 Q (LEITENBERG)?

19 A (LEITENBERG), this is the English was there.
20 So me and my friends went to that, to the state train
21 station. As we come to the the train station they say, "No,
22 there's no trains going for private except for military keep
23 moving in and out and things."

24 So you know, if you have something to bribe,
25 you think, so we took out a pack of cigarettes. We make

1 believe we have cigarettes. With cigarettes you could get
2 anything. So we offered them a half a pack of cigarettes if
3 we can do it. And he says, "Come back 5:00 o'clock. Coming
4 a train and going to (SELA)", the city was (SELA). Next to
5 Bergen-Belsen, the big camp there, they were --

6 Q Yes.

7 A And (SELA) was a big city and Belsen was on the
8 outside. We went by horse and buggy -- no, by bus. That's
9 what happened, we come in the evening and we give them some
10 cigarettes and money. A train come in. It was going slow.
11 It didn't even stop. It was just rolling by the station.
12 He opened the door and he says, "Go and lay down on the
13 floor." And they did. And that's it.

14 And we went into (SELA). And we come into that
15 city. You didn't see a rat in the street, a mouse. There
16 was nobody in the street and we walking. But we know we
17 find out we saw this flag, the red Polish flag was red and
18 white. And we could see the flag hanging over the
19 buildings. So we know where to go to it. And we ask, too,
20 the Polish.

21 Finally we went over there. We come in the
22 night. And we checked all the registration, the books, the
23 names. I find some people which they used to live in our
24 building together. I told them that their brothers, where
25 they are. But not from my family, my family.

1 Q But you had known about the fate of some of
2 your neighbors and relatives?

3 A Yeah, I saw them and I told them their brothers
4 were alive. And I went next morning, I take a truck.

5 Q Did you find out anything about your family
6 from these people?

7 A No, I wasn't there in that (SELA) camp, in
8 Polish camp. I couldn't find nothing from my relatives, my
9 family, nobody.

10 Q Do you know why that city, nobody was there at
11 all?

12 A No, the city was there. But it was in the
13 night. There was no people walking. It was still curfew,
14 might be.

15 Q Uh-huh.

16 A This was in the camp, like a military camp and
17 it was there. So next day I heard that there's a
18 Bergen-Belsen. So I went to Bergen-Belsen and I says, I
19 didn't know where I'm going. But I figure I find somebody
20 to stay overnight. That had happened. I find those people
21 were told the (SNOWVICH), go here, go there. The (PIECE
22 KIT), the laundry thing. I went to see him. So he told me
23 I should to go his son has an apartment, to stay with him.
24 And I saw him and he told me not to go back to Poland that
25 he's going to Sweden. And at that time English, Swede, took

1 from Bergen-Belsen, he always had a train, a Red Cross train
2 from Bergen-Belsen went to a city called (LIBENHARBER).

3 Q Why didn't he want you to go back to Poland?

4 A Why? He figure, I want him, I should to be
5 with him together. Sweden, like I told you before, he want
6 we going to make a factory. He had a die factory and thing.

7 Q Did you feel like you wanted to return to
8 Poland?

9 A I wanted, I thought maybe I might have somebody
10 left there, might be somebody. I couldn't believe that
11 everything was killed and thing.

12 Q So you decided not to go back?

13 A So I decided not. I talked myself into to go
14 to Sweden. Well, I met a cousin in Bergen-Belsen. And
15 happen I help my cousin. And she told me about it, her
16 husband was really my cousin. She was my cousin's wife.
17 That he got killed in Russia, and her husband. He was a
18 close to me, very close.

19 And she told me that her brother was in Russia.
20 And he is in bad and look like he wasn't in Germany. Russia
21 how -- I still don't remember exactly how he wind out. I
22 know he went to Russia. But it might be to Russian and took
23 him and escaped it and wind up to be in Germany. And his
24 brother become a doctor in Russia. He was educated. But he
25 was not a doctor. He educated himself. You know, in the

1 war-time a shoemaker can be a doctor, too, to make.

2 Somebody's wounded, he become a doctor.

3 And they married there in Russia and the wife
4 died in Bergen-Belsen. And he went already to Sweden.
5 While the sister's supposed to go, blood relative could go
6 with them. See, my cousin was supposed to go to Sweden.
7 But she was sick, she was sick and things. So and I told
8 her -- that I could show you pictures. I have pictures from
9 her. That look, that this man talked me into going to
10 Sweden. I don't know how to go. I need somebody to go.

11 She says, "Come, let's go tomorrow. We go
12 there. And into the office and we talk about it." So
13 that's what happened. Next morning, oh, it was not right in
14 the morning, I go down to the -- and it was the English.
15 They were the bosses over that camp and things. So we go in
16 and she told the story about it.

17 She says, "I have a cousin come in. And he
18 would like to go and I'm going to him." And they says that
19 they don't come in. It's not in (BRATAWK). Better forget
20 about it. You have to be a blood relative.

21 Q Cousins?

22 A Cousins isn't close. Just brother, sister,
23 mother, father, and that's it. And my cousin is nothing.
24 So we went away.

25 Then we go out and I wait until afternoon. We

1 talked over and I talk to somebody. I says, "It's silly.
2 Why you have to say a cousin." Who checked you? They
3 didn't have no name. The whole time no name was asked, the
4 age, name, city, the nationality. So we go in after lunch.
5 They changed. It was a different officer there or a doctor
6 there. So she goes in again, and says, "My husband is
7 coming yesterday. Where does he stay? He doesn't have
8 anywhere. He stayed with a relative of mine and he come in
9 yesterday and he wasn't in (LANDSBERG)" and that's it.

10 "What is my name, my mother's name?" She said
11 (BILICALLI). She didn't know my mother, which was -- we
12 were in Lodz and my mother was in Poland. So then he called
13 me in. And I knew her mother's name. I used to know her
14 mother. I used to come to their house and things. So he
15 asked me and I told her her mother's name, and that's it.
16 And I had some stuff and everything. But friend's son, I
17 told you I slept overnight with the guy.

18 And as I stay outside this officer come out and
19 there was a train with the Red Cross train to go to
20 (LEBACK), back to the harbor, boats, ships it's called. He
21 says to me, "Where you living?"

22 I say, "I don't have an apartment. And I stay
23 with a friend."

24 He says, "Would you -- this train goes to
25 Sweden. Do you want to go there now?" I figure, he doesn't

1 change his name. I didn't have nothing to show anyways, I
2 think. I said, "Okay." And I went in the train and goodbye
3 and I left everybody there. I was in Sweden and she, my
4 cousin, was still in Germany.

5 Q You didn't need to go together?

6 A No.

7 Q Even though she was supposed to be your wife?

8 A No, but she was sick, I think. So I went, they
9 took me to (LEBACK), a city in Germany. It is a harbor.
10 And it's called (LEBACK). We -- they brought us over there
11 and put -- the Swede had set up there the Red Cross, Swedish
12 Red Cross was set up tents. And they have steambaths. And
13 all woman, here stays a woman. And I was shy, you know,
14 wash your back and rub you. I tell you, this was the first
15 time in my life, well, saw a woman coming in and things.

16 And they give us fresh underwear, you know, the
17 clothes was gone. And they put us in this was a schoolyard
18 there, a big schoolyard. And they put us in a bath, fresh
19 beddings and everything, and they told you not to walk out
20 from the house. They don't want you to get connected with
21 nobody, with other people.

22 Q Was this like a quarantined period?

23 A Something like a quarantined period.

24 You can come in if you want to listen. There's
25 nothing secret.

1 MRS. NASH: You're just talking?

2 MR. NASH: Yeah.

3 MRS. NASH: I want you to take your pill.

4 MR. NASH: Okay, just a minute. Can I have a
5 minute?

6 MS. BENDAYAN: He has to to take a pill,
7 apparently?

8 (Recess.)

9 BY MS BENDAYAN:

10 Q So you were in the school?

11 A Yeah, we were there. They didn't let you touch
12 you. They carry you, take you, feed you and everything.
13 And the next I find out coming, those ambulance are coming.
14 We go in those trucks. And it goes right in the boat. And
15 here we are. We're on the boat to go to Sweden. The next
16 morning we arrived (MALMA), Sweden. And that's all. They
17 took right there off the boat, you know, they have rooms,
18 took tests again.

19 And they give us fresh underwear, you know,
20 they know -- they took us to steambaths again, women, all
21 women. They use women in the war-time in war-time. The men
22 they used for something else. It was a -- it wasn't a big
23 country. But it was nothing, a woman, a man -- so they took
24 us into the steambath and then they took a doctor was there
25 and took us sample tests. I don't know what they call, you

1 know, tests from the throat.

2 Q Yeah, like a throat culture?

3 A Something from your throat, swab stick and they
4 took a little and took it in. And they give us fresh
5 underwear. They give me shaving cream, shavers and
6 everything. And we got dressed. And here we go and we went
7 in (MALMAR), to the museum. We stayed in the museum, used
8 to be a castle.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A King's castle, with waters surrounded, you
11 can't get up the hill, mountains around. And so what
12 happened, this castle they make a museum, an art museum.
13 They didn't have nothing to do with us. They didn't have
14 room. So they took everything, put it in the basement and
15 put up baths, and we are there.

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A And we went there for a quarantined, for three
18 weeks, 21 days.

19 Q How did you spend your time?

20 A (DRIME, DRIME, DRIME,) sugar, going crazy,
21 walking around, doctors coming every day checking you, the
22 top, the bottom. They took us there. They brought the
23 orchestra there. They brought the show. They went to see
24 odds and ends. And then they took us to cloth, us to new
25 clothing. They give us a place with where they have all the

1 clothing fitted to you, a coat, and a couple of suits, and
2 luggage and everything. And we went. We were there. And
3 about 21 days, we went in in the train and here we went to
4 Stockholm.

5 Q Did you know anybody from the war days in that
6 group?

7 A No, in the group I don't know, I must know some
8 people. Might be, I can't really remember. When I went
9 from Germany I didn't know there on the train. No, I don't
10 think so. So anyways, we went to Stockholm from there. And
11 Stockholm again, they put Polish separate, nationality,
12 Polocks and Polocks was in here off Stockholm, 15 kilometers
13 off Stockholm. But we have to come into Stockholm by train.
14 And then the bus took us down there.

15 And they went up into the forests and up in the
16 beautiful places. There's trees and all, and all those
17 animals. And again a steambath. And there was just tents
18 like you have you been to Yosemite in those tents, Yosemite
19 with a pail to wash your hands. There was no water running.
20 But a steambath is there. The first thing they do is to
21 build a steambath.

22 And we were there. We liked it very nice,
23 fine. And if I want to go to the city, I always could get.
24 It was a manager there, Swede from the Red Cross doing
25 something. If I want to go they give me a pass and a

1 ticket. So finally we were there. It was boring and
2 everything. So the manager from that camp, the Swede says,
3 "You know what, boys, I'm going to do?"

4 I said, "No, what you going to do with us?"

5 "I'm going to make -- I know you bored and
6 things. We going to make a dance. I'll get -- We going to
7 get to dance and we take some girls."

8 "Where you going to get the girls?" We were
9 just men by ourselves. And Polish girls was five hundred
10 miles away from us, from Poland. So we couldn't -- but
11 Sarah's girl camp in Romainia, Hungarian, they were -- I
12 can't get an example, let's say like from San Francisco, you
13 know, and I come from (MORAGA) and you come from the other
14 side of the city.

15 So he said, "There's girls there." And he had
16 to call, arrange with the office from the Red Cross. And
17 they allow them to have it. And that's it. So I think we
18 are saved some money, few cents to pay for their traveling
19 to hire a bus and bring them.

20 Q Where were you getting money?

21 A We used to get, I don't know, 30 cents a day,
22 20 cents. Like a military. We get food, military's food,
23 cereal in the morning. It was have -- what you call, I
24 don't want to eat now. And I didn't want to eat it at that
25 time either. We were so spoiled.

1 And anyways, one night the girls coming in with
2 the bus. And we got music there. We got dancing. And
3 Sarah was there. The way Sarah tells the story, she didn't
4 want to go. She didn't supposed to go. But a friend of
5 hers, they lived in Seattle, two sisters was close friends
6 that live, home, from the same town, same school. They
7 supposed to go. And they didn't want to go.

8 So they went ahead and supposed to give the
9 dress, Sarah didn't have a dress and they got it. So they
10 dressed her up and she went. And we were dancing. I dance
11 with another girl. Then I saw Sarah dancing. And here it
12 is. And I ask her what they get the food. There was
13 rations in Sweden, salt, I think eggs, meat, something,
14 butter was rationed. So they didn't have enough of it in
15 the war, right after the war. So and we used to get it,
16 eggs and something.

17 So I says to her, wait a minute, you go home.
18 You don't have eggs and things. I give her some. I don't
19 know a -- I don't remember if it was hard-boiled eggs. And
20 that said this was Saturday night for the holidays before
21 New Year's, '45. And she was invited to her family in
22 Stockholm, some Jewish family for the holidays that picked
23 her up from the camp. There were some Jews went to the camp
24 and picked some girls home for the holidays.

25 And so she wrote to me that she's going to be

1 in the holidays at this and this people. And Friday -- and
2 I went ahead, got a pass to go to the city and come there.
3 I think I bought some grapes. And grapes was expensive in
4 Sweden. There's fruit and everything. It was high. They
5 didn't made it. They import. And here it is, I saw her one
6 time. Matter of fact, people liked me to and I didn't want
7 to eat.

8 Q You didn't want to eat there with anybody?

9 A No, I didn't want to go to nobody's house. And
10 you wouldn't believe it. I bought a herring, a (SMALTZ)
11 herring, you know, and a rye bread for a couple of guys
12 together. And we went to sleep in the USO, UFO.

13 Q USO?

14 A USO, to the military.

15 Q The canteen?

16 A Canteens, and we went to sleep there. We used
17 to get a room. And we ate there. Nobody look in the
18 stomach what you eat. And we had a bad feeling. It was too
19 fresh, you know, to go.

20 Q To go to the holiday celebration? It would
21 make you feel too bad?

22 A Right. So I saw her. Then the next day I saw
23 two couple days then she was with a cousin of hers. She had
24 cousins, relative cousins, close relatives in
25 Czechoslovakia. Germany moved in Czechoslovakia early.

1 They had a daughter her age, I think. So they went ahead
2 and they send the daughter to Romania wasn't as bad. See
3 the Hungarian make the pact with Hitler so they let them
4 stay until 1944. They took them out from the homes and they
5 camped there. But not Sarah. So this girl was with them
6 all the time and they sent her to Hungary.

7 But at this time it had become Hungary.
8 Hungarian took over. See, Hitler told them to take whatever
9 they want. Hitler took the Russian part the (MALLAVIAN),
10 told Russia, you get this, which is now the fight to get
11 them back. So she went there. So after that this girl went
12 with her to this Sweden. But she was Czechoslovakian.

13 Q Uh-huh.

14 A So she was -- Romania so Czechoslovakian, was
15 here, but she was Czechoslovakian. And she was Romanian.
16 So Romania was here and Czechoslovakian was there. So they
17 couldn't see each other. And they were years together.

18 Q You mean because the camps were separated?

19 A The camps, the nationality. So Sarah says she
20 wants to be with her cousin together. And they have to have
21 a certain permission to do it. Finally they're allowed her
22 to go to her cousin. But they wouldn't let her go by
23 herself, a woman alone. So they send a nurse with them to
24 get -- she went to (GETERBURG) or some other city. As she
25 went over there and this girl said that she's going. She

1 found a brother alive in he's in Czechoslovakia, that she
2 wanted to go back to Czechoslovakia, that she doesn't want
3 to stay in Sweden.

4 So she wrote me a letter she would like to come
5 back. And it was hard to bring her back but she could stay
6 in that camp there.

7 Q Uh-huh.

8 A So I went to see somebody, too, and they camp
9 -- the manager from the camp that she was very nice, very
10 nice person. And I saw him and I told him the story of
11 Sarah, like she went and now the cousin went away and she
12 wants to come back here. So she told me what to do. So I
13 went and says go inside and tell her she's your cousin, and
14 try to do something. And tell -- I take her back and he was
15 in the camp and he did. And they brought her back. So she
16 wrote me she wants to come back. Then she find out we
17 didn't think about it that I never thought that we going to
18 be -- it was just as a good friend. I felt sorry for her as
19 a woman.

20 Q You didn't think of her as a potential wife?

21 A No, I didn't. I thought I never going to marry
22 after that.

23 Q Why did you think that?

24 A I don't know. I don't know. Might be I wasn't
25 too satisfied with my first marriage. So it give you a

1 lesson says, "No, I'm going to stay single the rest of my
2 life."

3 Q How did you feel, like you were completely
4 alone at this point thinking all?

5 A I know that's all there. I didn't think of
6 that. And I wouldn't do it or think I didn't know it.

7 Q Were you feeling lonesome?

8 A Sure, we were lonesome and thing, don't ask.

9 Q But you feel like having a wife?

10 A No, I didn't feel I need for my family. My
11 wife was the ex-wife wasn't included as a family. You don't
12 think about the wife just like you would, she's your wife.
13 Your close family is like your mother, your sister, in the
14 family, and every the whole family.

15 Q Were you thinking about what you were going to
16 do with your future?

17 A No, never think of it. I didn't know I'm going
18 to survive.

19 Q I mean once you were in Sweden?

20 A Yeah, not in the beginning. This is still in
21 the beginning. And then all of a sudden I don't know, I
22 thought that she asked me or I asked her. And I was the
23 first one I was ashamed to do it, too, you know, to get
24 married.

25 Q Why were you ashamed?

1 A I don't know. You know, you lost everybody and
2 here you going getting married again.

3 Q Like you shouldn't feel good so fast?

4 A Shouldn't feel that. So anyways, in the long
5 run, she come back and as we got to see it and things. So
6 we had an engagement in the camp there. There were all the
7 girls. And I have all the friends from Stockholm and a lot
8 of Jews in Stockholm. And they camp where together in
9 Sweden.

10 Q Were you glad at this point?

11 A I was glad. I don't know. I saw in her
12 something different. And then we went ahead. We got
13 engaged and we stayed away for a year, until I went through,
14 want to make sure that she not survive, my next wife is not
15 alive, which I know, but is not black and white.

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A You know. So I went there to advice in Sweden.
18 Then they says I should go ahead and do it. So I wait for
19 a year and I went through the process legal, not just
20 married. I have to get certificate from Poland when she
21 become a Polish citizen.

22 Q You mean Sarah would become a Polish citizen?

23 A So she would become Polish as well. I was a
24 Polish nationality. And as she married to me I got Polish
25 passport coming here. I still have my passport and she has

1 a Polish passport, too.

2 Q Did you ever give any thoughts to returning to
3 Poland for any reason?

4 A I want to go now and she doesn't want to go.

5 Q But then, all those years?

6 A All those years, no, I didn't. Now I'm more
7 about it. You know, but I know I wouldn't know nobody. I
8 would like to go see to the cemeterys at least where there
9 was some of them were buried and not burned. I know my
10 father died of typhus in the Ghettoes. And I'm pretty sure
11 he was buried, and mother and sister, I don't know what. I
12 still think every night I don't sleep even now.

13 Q Uh-huh.

14 A So we married. It was after a year we married
15 and we stayed in Stockholm. There was more Jewish people
16 but I lived in a small town. And engaged at this time they
17 didn't know what a Jew is. So I says go, and couldn't find
18 it, a rooms, you know, apartments you couldn't get it. Like
19 tight in here, here the money you can get it but there you
20 couldn't get the money. Finally, I have help, the Swedish
21 people, the Jews help. They loved Sarah. They was just
22 like a daughter. She was always invited for dinners and
23 things whenever we come to the city.

24 And so anyways, so once I saw an ad in the
25 paper that a girl was pregnant. She had a baby but she

1 didn't have an apartment and Swedish law they built it but
2 they come first for the people with the need it, like they
3 have children, like now in here, too, a child, woman has
4 children. So she had it but she couldn't furnish and she
5 couldn't afford it. So she want to rent it, out a room.
6 She had a two bedroom house with kitchen privileges. But it
7 was in a beautiful place in the forest, call it in
8 (MITZACRAWZEN).

9 I had a job close walking distance. There was
10 five thousand people. And the place was so beautiful, you
11 know. I had a job, I don't know. They would give me to
12 wash the floors. I took the job. But I got this
13 experimental work, mechanical. And you know, I was sitting,
14 hired the first day when I come to work 9:00 o'clock they
15 come down with donuts and coffee and they get it. And there
16 was ironing on the windows, woman come cleaning every day in
17 the morning. And there were wooden floors, parquet, you
18 know.

19 Q Uh-huh.

20 A And I'm telling you lunch you could buy a lunch
21 in American money at this time, swedish exchange was a
22 quarter, a lunch a hot meal. It was fish, (LUDE) fish with
23 potatoes and crackers and vegetables.

24 Q Sounds like a very humanitarian country?

25 A Yeah, it was. And it was beautiful. You know,

1 they had in the factory they have like a nursery. They have
2 a doctor and a nurse and a clinic.

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A And they had a library in the factory. They
5 had exercise every day, boxing, jogging, running, everything
6 was on our lunch. Saturday they make the dance parties for
7 quarter. It's like here a quarter you got a cup of tea and
8 cake, a piece of cake and the music and the dancing. Friday
9 we had dinner together, the officers, they have the big huge
10 hall, the restaurant. See, they had it wasn't a private
11 restaurant. They had a caterer. And they didn't have to
12 pay the rent, utility, they just cook, you know, whatever
13 the food. And you -- and Friday the people were there,
14 engineers and things. They were monthly wages. We worked
15 -- I worked on the hours.

16 But Friday they used to open the whole thing
17 and we were all together. There was an orchestra playing
18 all the time, lunchtime they played music. It was music, it
19 was a wonderful system, the system was marvelous. So we
20 lived there in that mid-summer camps, then I moved out to
21 the city later.

22 Q So you now were totally free, established on
23 your own in Sweden. Did you give any thought to going to
24 Israel at any point?

25 A No, no, I didn't. Well, I tell you, I found

1 out my relatives, I had here two aunts, one in Canada and
2 one in New York, Toronto, one in New York, my father's
3 sisters. And one of my aunts from New York, she run after
4 me. She found me out on the boat through the hires, you
5 know, the hires, she find me. And I looked for her, too,
6 dancing through the Red Cross and the American military they
7 took -- I mean the press. But I couldn't find them. They
8 coming (NOSTALIA).

9 Q Come to what?

10 A I couldn't find my -- I didn't know the address
11 where I know Toronto. But finally, we got connected and I
12 got \$25 through the World Congress, they sent \$25 for me, so
13 I had already money. So you know what I did with so, you
14 know, what I did with the money. I bought for Sarah a
15 watch, the first watch. I didn't know yet I'm going to
16 engage her. She was not engaged. She wasn't married and I
17 never had in mind to marry her. But as I felt bad for her.
18 She's alone. She didn't know she has anybody. She had an
19 uncle here. She didn't know where.

20 She didn't believe that. So when she was in
21 the camp going back then to her cousin, I find out that the
22 American council register people, the American. Might be
23 going, you going to have it now. I didn't know but there
24 were some guy, some Rabbi, went around said, "You should
25 register. Might be you going to find somebody somehow. You

1 going to get -- figure you going to get a way to go to
2 America, register."

3 And I called Sarah to do it. She didn't have
4 nobody. So I told her to give me her name and everything
5 exactly. And I went and registered anyways. You know, goes
6 by the quarter. And I went to the Polish quarter, matter of
7 fact, I went -- she went with me on that quarter but we had
8 it registered.

9 Q But you were married then?

10 A Yeah, I got married and I had the Visa already,
11 too. So that's the way we was fine. And we lived in
12 Stockholm. We were happy.

13 Q How was your health? Did you find that you had
14 any health breakdown?

15 A Yeah, I was sick. My back, I had trouble with
16 my back.

17 Q In what way?

18 A I don't know. It was in the war-time, I got
19 sick. They couldn't find out. See, like I could sit down
20 but I couldn't get up, you know, get up from the chair.
21 When I was riding in the bus I hold on. I didn't want to
22 sit up. I couldn't get down. I couldn't get up. I had
23 doctors, four doctors at one time checking and take X-ray.
24 They couldn't find -- finally they told me in Sweden, in
25 Stockholm, in the hospital told me I might be born with a

1 bad, what they call the bad, the spinal with a bad spine.
2 And in the war-time, in the Ghetto, when I was -- told me I
3 might have heart condition. At that time I didn't have it
4 until now just find out five years ago, three years ago.

5 Q But did you find any health problems from poor
6 nutrition or over-work?

7 A I didn't. I didn't. See, I didn't eat any
8 (HAZRYE).

9 Q (HAZRYE) being junk?

10 A Right.

11 Q I didn't.

12 Q What would be junk?

13 A For me, junk, I give you an example. We went
14 from the Hermann Goring on the trip to Berlin I told you
15 some guy run down from the car and there was potatoes in the
16 train. And they grabbed potatoes and they come with
17 potatoes and the guy give it to me. He said, "Henry, take
18 eat some." I couldn't eat a raw potato.

19 And I see after the war when I come here our
20 boy Sheri's, my daughter's girlfriend's brother, I was in
21 their house. He liked raw potatoes. He was eating raw
22 potatoes, "look at me." I was starving for hunger and I
23 couldn't eat a raw potato. You understand?

24 Q Yeah.

25 A Or the (COLDRABI), I watch myself. Whatever I

1 got I satisfy what I had it. And then that's -- I couldn't
2 -- I had the help before we left (BRUNSWAUG) when I had a
3 coat I give it away to a Russian to bring me some bread.
4 And he was a house already and he was not in a concentration
5 camp. It was a labor camp. So he used to come to me, bring
6 me materials and work for the company.

7 So he come down, he says, "Look, Henry, I can't
8 get no bread any more. There's a mix-up. I give you
9 money."

10 I says, "I don't know money, what I need German
11 money?" So he brought me something, like a half a bread.
12 So I ate bread and then I worked in a police station, one
13 time they need some help and there was right and we have the
14 camp there's a police station. So they took us over there
15 to help them. I had in my nose, onion, I couldn't get the
16 herring. So I find some onions. I love the onion and
17 bread. So I have a cake already.

18 I had some help. I tell you, I help myself,
19 through my trade, I help. Like in the Ghetto I told you I
20 got it a little bit there, which I had a child and I tried
21 to give it a -- raise the boy until Auschwitz. Four and a
22 half years old he was, you know. And then in Auschwitz --

23 Q So you had enough food to keep him going okay?

24 A I had it not straight, not legal. See my
25 ex-wife wasn't like my Sarah. See, my Sarah is too honest.

1 She wouldn't do that what my ex-wife did. I didn't want her
2 to do. When I was working in the steam kettle we used to
3 get coal to heat the steam. The coal was like gold. And my
4 ex-wife she used to go down with a bag and put a bag of coal
5 and to go to the store. You could get herring. I liked
6 herring or get bread, more bread. And she did it. She took
7 a chance of it and she did it. So we had --

8 Q It's understandable that the morals would be
9 different in that kind of situation?

10 A Yeah. It's true. That's it.

11 Q But it was also dangerous for her, too?

12 A She -- we didn't have the (SHAWNDA) watch us
13 there, you understand. It was Jewish. Matter of fact, I
14 would show you in the book we had the Jewish police there in
15 the Ghetto organized through the Ahron Kobrovsky the Jewish
16 in the book shows it.

17 Q The large Ghetto?

18 A Yeah, but they wouldn't do it. Still it was in
19 our home, a Jew.

20 Q They wouldn't turn her in?

21 A No, they wouldn't, not for that. They couldn't
22 help it. They were watching others but I was living there.
23 They couldn't watch me what I did. And I was in it. It's
24 just like I put the flour next to you and I said don't touch
25 it. But you want to bake something, you hungry. So

1 that's what it was, the same I help myself with the soup. I
2 used to get an extra soup and I saw that --

3 My, this house is shaking. It looks like --

4 Q There's a back door there.

5 Are you saying that you feel like although you
6 suffered terribly you weren't totally starving?

7 A Sure, you never knew tomorrow. Tomorrow you be
8 dead.

9 Q Yes.

10 A You know you could kill. It was terrible,
11 terrible. You lost everybody, you know.

12 Q Yes, that was terrible.

13 A This is worse everything. You ever be dead it
14 would be over. But I'm glad I would be already. You can't
15 forget it. You know, dreamed all the time about it. I'm
16 still dreaming now with the past.

17 Q Yes, that was something I want to ask you, too.

18 A I used to carry dead bodies and buried them all
19 the time. Take them up in the cemetery and dig a twelve
20 inches deep and knocked it over and buried them.

21 Q Where was this?

22 Q In Germany, in the Hermann Goering, I told you.
23 We come up there. They accumulated. They didn't have
24 crematoriums. So there was a cemetery way far, I don't
25 know, five hours drive with a bus. They used to have you

1 come with a truck with a back.

2 Q A trailer?

3 A Trailer, and they have big boxes of bodies and
4 they come, took us us cemetery and left us. It was windy,
5 terrible. One guy died in between those. There were 19
6 guys there. They gave me a box here and they said with a
7 shovel and a pick. I was dopey. You couldn't even put the
8 pick in, make it so deep. And I just turn over the -- they
9 want the boxes back. So I have to bring it back, the box,
10 and turned it over. The man fall down with the face down
11 and cover it up and forget it. I was glad that the guard
12 didn't see it.

13 And then come back and took us back to the
14 camp. So the past and the Ghetto you saw people walking,
15 dead bodies. Or you'd transfer. They took people when they
16 were dead, a little bit alive. So they put them right with
17 the dead ones, they shouldn't have to drag them, so they
18 make them walk or take them over there. Some survived it
19 between there, all the dead bodies. People died just from
20 the sickness. It was terrible.

21 Q So you're saying --

22 A Traveling, I think for a week I didn't see a
23 drop of water, nothing. In the beginning, right in the
24 winter, and I find out we dig the hole. We find the shoe,
25 you know, from a horse or from a cow.

1 Q The foot, you mean?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q The hoof?

4 A The hoof. We took off this, the hard part, and
5 we used to cook it and water, make a gelatin, and we drink
6 this water. And here we come to a place and we got hanging,
7 make for hanging up the people and they showed her you're
8 going to behave, you're going to be hanged like this. And
9 we were (SHLEPPING) with 50 pounds of bullets, big bullets
10 from the big trucks to the smaller trucks. And it was
11 terrible, no medicine, nothing. It was terrible.

12 Q So you say you still have nightmares?

13 A Oh, sure.

14 Q And you can't sleep?

15 A I can't. I don't know, you know, it doesn't go
16 out of your brains. It's laying there.

17 Q No, it stays there ever after.

18 A It doesn't do it, you can't think about it that
19 people can do what they did, you know. Animals couldn't do
20 it what they did.

21 Q No, animals couldn't.

22 A I don't know, I still can't think about what
23 they did. Such a murders, it was murders. Now we get them
24 together and they going to be strong, stronger enough again.

25 Q I wanted to ask you what you thought about the

1 potential unification?

2 A No good, they going to be strong again
3 together. And even Americans are there and everything.
4 Another thing you find out, you know how everybody was so
5 quiet and a lot of slaughtered out. Now what in China, the
6 revolution, the thing, they kill a few people. Everybody is
7 against the whole world about it. They're not democratic.

8 Here a lot murdered off, so many millions.
9 There are Jews and there was Russian murdered, I don't know
10 15 million killed off and 25 million Russians got killed,
11 murdered. How they murdered. You see what they can do.
12 Look at now again talking, I don't want to be in this thing
13 about in Paris what's going on last week? Still again, you
14 see?

15 Q Uh-huh. So we don't learn?

16 A No, we don't learn. You see under the land
17 never --

18 Q I know that you had two children. You have two
19 grown daughters?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Did you ever talk with your daughters about
22 your experiences?

23 A They know everything. I tell you one thing I
24 wish I'm going to get for my daughter. She become a Bar
25 Mitzvah last Friday.

1 Q Your daughter did?

2 A Yeah. It was in the temple reform. It was 19
3 people, 17 or 16 girls and 3 men. So many, it was
4 beautiful. It was night. Everybody has a poem. And what
5 she wrote about it, we all cried.

6 Q This was your older daughter or your younger
7 daughter?

8 A The older one. She wrote --

9 Q And her name is --?

10 A We find that, this poem, we went in the house
11 and she wasn't there. And she didn't know. We didn't tell
12 her that we saw this, but we cried, both. She knows.
13 Matter of fact, she went ahead and sent somebody to make
14 tapes.

15 Q To make an audio tape?

16 A Audio tape. She paid for it. You see, there
17 was some woman for the JCC. So she donated the money so
18 much and the woman come to the house without telling me. I
19 didn't know. The woman come to the house and says, two
20 hours.

21 Q So she wanted your experiences to be recorded?

22 A Yeah, she didn't know I was going to wind up
23 with you.

24 Q Sure.

25 A And the same thing. So how much longer we

1 going to go?

2 Q You can stop whenever you're ready. I was just
3 going to ask you if you have anything more you would like to
4 say or anything, any message you'd want to leave?

5 A Right now I'm going here but my daughter, my
6 wife. I went through with my wife, with Sarah, since we got
7 married. And terrible she had so many surgeries. She was
8 so sick. We just talk about yesterday, Betty, we was at
9 Betty's house. She said that my last bill was \$62,000, the
10 hospital in Cedar Sinai, in Los Angeles. But I was lucky, I
11 had at that time insurance, but after that the insurance was
12 canceled. It was terrible for two years and finally
13 somebody, a cousin, did me a favor and took her into the
14 plan. And so I got plan and we got it again and we went
15 into Kaiser.

16 Q Yeah.

17 A If not, I would be in the hole.

18 Q But luckily you're both in pretty good health?

19 A Yeah, she is healthy. She eats everything,
20 everything. I wish I could eat the things. I can -- I have
21 stomach trouble. Besides, I have this with my heart.

22 Q Are these things you've gotten lately as you've
23 gotten older or have you had that for a long time?

24 A No, a lot of the time I said, "Sarah, do you
25 think I look the way I feel?" I feel like I might be 60. I

1 don't feel I'm 80. Even now I don't feel 80.

2 Q Right.

3 A She told me yesterday we saw on television was
4 an old home, some older couple they're married. So they
5 come he's going to celebrate their 100 years and she is 88.
6 And Sarah said the same, yes, we were talking about it.
7 Says, that's what you going to look like this man. He
8 looked like me now, the man going to be a hundred years.

9 Q 20 years younger?

10 A 20 years, he doesn't look like 80 at a hundred.
11 See, I can see about what his name the actor 92, George
12 Burns.

13 Q Yes.

14 A He's 92. You can see he slowed down. But this
15 guy we saw a hundred he's going to celebrate this weekend.

16 Q This is all the more a miracle after what
17 you've been through.

18 A Yes, that is what I feel like I this. Well, I
19 worked hard all my life since I was a kid. And in here I
20 was in Los Angeles. I worked lifting steel like this. My
21 muscles was like this. All the kids, "show me your
22 muscles," you know. I think this is it. I worked hard all
23 the time. I used to work, then we went into my own
24 business, worked 16 hours. I worked 80 hours a week, seven
25 days a week. Sunday I work from 8:00 o'clock until 9:00

1 o'clock in the night, both of us. We was standing together,
2 her in the liquor business, was afraid I was shaking like
3 with the Germans, somebody doesn't come in with the gun and
4 kills you. So this --

5 Q Oh, my goodness.

6 A This used to be the liquor business.

7 Q All that attention still didn't destroy your
8 health?

9 A No, a few years then says, "Let's get out while
10 we're still alive." We closed it up. We went for a trip
11 for seven weeks to Europe, travel, seven weeks.

12 Q Good.

13 A Took my daughter with us, the younger one.
14 Sheri was there twice and she went again after that. And
15 then I went again three years ago went for five weeks.

16 Q So do you have any other thoughts or feelings
17 you would like to have be on this tape?

18 A No, this is nothing. My wife, she can tell you
19 that she was in Auschwitz and lost her father and her
20 mother, her sister and her brother, everybody gone. In
21 Auschwitz she come with them together, too, but she can't
22 think.

23 Q I heard her talk on the tape.

24 A Auschwitz then they send her to (LAUDWAUT) in
25 the underwater on the under boat.

1 Q A submarine?

2 A Yeah. And they went over. They went, they
3 picked her out. She looked bad and worked ammunition in the
4 night. And she tell to all of us, look, what do you want?
5 She was afraid they going to kill her. So finally she
6 begged them, says, "I'm just I'm tired. I work in the night
7 and I didn't sleep" and this and this. Finally, they let
8 her go through it. And she survived. If not, she would be
9 killed. That's what they used to do. They let you work
10 yourself until the last of your body.

11 Q Just to exhaustion?

12 A Yeah, then kill you and that's it. That's what
13 she went through. And she was in Bergen-Belsen. She had
14 typhus that took her. I have pictures she was in Sweden in
15 the hospital. They took her to the hospital in Sweden with
16 the typhus. And after that, you know, but then we find her
17 brother and she was happy already. One brother he's in
18 Israel. But he was in -- he was home in Romania. I think
19 we found out in Sweden. And I send him papers to come into
20 Sweden to the Swedish, to the company where I was working.
21 They give me the papers. They would hire him to work.

22 To me it wind up he met somebody, married, and
23 went to Israel. And the English took him into the Cyprus.
24 It was in Cyprus for a while. And he got a son born there.
25 And she had a daughter when they married. And went to

1 Sweden to Israel.

2 And they lived -- they didn't have no water in
3 the house, have to go I don't know how many miles back to
4 get water. They lived so in Israel after that. But they
5 are up and it was terrible. Now, they have it all right.
6 But you getting older, get sick, this and that, the family.
7 But they are pretty good, well off. He is very
8 mechanically, I think. He is specializing in Lika cameras,
9 the German cameras. He is one of a kind, a fix them and all
10 the things. So they're all right.

11 And we were there and they give her my grandson
12 and my granddaughter both a thousand dollars gift. You
13 know, a thousand dollars gift, a wedding gift, a thousand
14 dollars from the younger one, a thousand the other one. Now
15 the younger one needs some money and she's something,
16 running bad, and she needed some money. She just writed to
17 them something, so they wrote me to give her some money.
18 They give me some money. Usually I used to have money for
19 him when they come here to spend it. And I had some. They
20 give it to us the money for them. She has a brother's a
21 diamond of a person. And sister is a little strict I think,
22 but she is a give her own special -- like to see us.

23 Q So you never thought to join those relatives in
24 Israel, though?

25 A To --?

1 Q To go to Israel to live?

2 A They want me to be going to take me for
3 apartments there. But we had heard they took two kids and
4 you go leave America. Is already coming in here, and
5 everything. We start getting to something's in here. One
6 thing we had it when we come here like with Sarah, she
7 didn't work. We had children, never went no working no
8 place. I didn't let her go to work. I said so long as I
9 make a living you stay home and raise the children. And
10 then we did it. That's what we did.

11 Whenever I went to college already then we went
12 into business, she helped me. One she helped me, she
13 didn't. Well, I had help. But she raised the kids and
14 didn't drag them around here and leave them with somebody.

15 Q I wanted to also ask you whether you had any
16 changes in your religious feelings after you --

17 A Yes, I had change. I have changed in my
18 belief. I don't believe in nothing.

19 Q You didn't believe in nothing?

20 A Now, after the war.

21 Q After the war, what? You didn't believe in
22 anything?

23 A No, the way I saw Auschwitz, I didn't believe
24 in it. I didn't believe when I saw the young boys they were
25 Holland, the guard, religious kids, Holland. Where is it?

1 It could happen that the world could build up Hitler and
2 kill off so many millions of people. There's no world.
3 There is no people, you cannot believe in it. I don't. But
4 I keep it up. I belong to the temple.

5 Q You follow the ritual?

6 A Yeah. And I follow, I doesn't go. They need
7 supported in here and they open that. So I give them my
8 money, whatever I can.

9 Q Uh-huh. But you don't believe in God like you
10 used to in the same way?

11 A No, I don't believe in that.

12 Q No?

13 A I don't believe it. I believe in things you
14 see. I don't need those, the food. But I wasn't used to
15 it, you see. Like I never touched it, shrimp or crab and
16 all this, the sea food, never. And I wouldn't. When they
17 give me a thousand dollars I wouldn't eat the shrimp.

18 Q You didn't even eat the ham or bacon that you
19 found that time?

20 A No. But I eat bacon. I used to eat bacon.
21 Not for kosher. I don't like ham but I like bacon. Now I
22 don't eat it. I can't afford to eat it. But up until then
23 I used to eat bacon on Sunday. I used to have toast and
24 bacon. We have it, or fish, I think. But not those sea
25 foods. I didn't eat it. We didn't get it in the house.

1 I'm not used to it.

2 Q Sure you're not used it.

3 A But I was picky. Didn't -- I didn't eat red
4 meat in the house. My mother spoiled me. She used to make
5 me meals like Sarah does now, too. I've become just like I
6 was a kid. Now she makes me special things. She tries to
7 keep me in good shape.

8 Q She must be succeeding.

9 A Yeah, she does. She does it to me, whatever I
10 want. She suffers it, too. She would like me to eat. But
11 I can't eat what she can. I don't like vegetables, cooked
12 vegetables and things. I don't eat it. I eat just like I
13 would be Italian, eating noodles and chicken soup and all
14 the other things.

15 Q But you seem pretty healthy. Is there anything
16 more you would like to add or any message you'd like to
17 leave?

18 A No, no, I wish like I would like I mention I
19 would like to see peace in the whole world, and that's all.

20 Q Oh, yes, that's a lovely message.

21 A Enough killed out. Hitler killed off enough
22 people and was killed enough not by Hitler but by the
23 Iranian. The other side doesn't know what the world is, in
24 Africa, whatever.

25 Q It's a mystery.

1 A I never had it a young boy. I tell you if I
2 would know before the war it wouldn't push me to life.

3 Q You think you wouldn't have been able to
4 survive it?

5 A Survive it.

6 Q What do you think helped you to survive, helped
7 you to cope with all those things?

8 A I don't know. I didn't -- I didn't really
9 force myself to live.

10 Q You didn't?

11 A No, I was tired of life, to see it, to hear it,
12 what was going on.

13 Q You mean when were you in Auschwitz?

14 A Even now it bothers me. Even though every day
15 when I look at the paper and see killed in the morning,
16 killed in here, killed in there. And I just said, why don't
17 they make gun control? Why don't they take all the guns
18 away like they do in Sweden, in England. In England
19 policeman don't have a gun. He has a baton and everything.
20 In Sweden I never saw a gun. Some countries in Poland, they
21 put you to jail forever for having a gun. And here
22 everybody have dozens of guns with the politics make money,
23 big shots and everything. That's what I would like to live
24 to see.

25 Q That's what?

1 A The guns should be out. And somebody kills
2 somebody they give him death sentence so the second one
3 wouldn't do it a third one. If they would do that, not a
4 guy does kill, let him out and he kills another two people.
5 Another man give him a pass for four hours to go out and
6 raped and think like the other day. Today's paper I want to
7 apologize, he apologize for the judge, that it's his fault
8 that he did. They give him a pass to go out for four hours
9 and he spoiled it for the judge.

10 But that's what is, it's terrible. Why is
11 everybody -- is enough the world is big enough for
12 everybody. There's enough green stuff, money, for everybody
13 could live, enough land here in America and everything.
14 What is it, everybody born with all those richness. Like
15 you take a guy, what's his name, Trump. What does a young
16 guy for 40 years, something, have so many billions of
17 dollars?

18 Q Good question.

19 A You know, I'm not a communist. I live and let
20 live, everybody have live. But one should have it and
21 doesn't know how to live. How can he live it? Why should
22 they have it?

23 Q I don't know.

24 A Why should it happen?

25 Q This is a mystery of life. I don't know.

1 A It's not, shouldn't be. Should be a limit. I
2 remember, I don't know where it was in Sweden like there
3 used to be a limit. If you want to go out in Sweden in the
4 years when I was there you can't go out. They give you
5 \$100, \$200, \$100. Like from Canada you want to come to
6 America --

7 Q You can't transfer a fortune?

8 A When I come to Sweden here \$820 I could go out.
9 And that's what I come in. I have spent it and gold watches
10 and things. That's they keep the money in there. Not like
11 in here everybody like today they show it, that this come
12 in, you know, we get in for a billion dollars and we send
13 out for a million dollars. You understand?

14 Q Uh-huh.

15 A This shouldn't be. Like you say, do you buy
16 for a million, we buy for a million. Japan and all the
17 other countries, and here they take all those manufacturers
18 going to Mexico and all this China doll and fabricated
19 things and let the people hunger here or people walking
20 around without their own bed to sleep and eat.

21 Q Yes.

22 A This is going on in America. It is. I am not
23 -- I live and let live. I can't see it, believe me. If I
24 say, "Sarah, we see some people sleeping in the cold and
25 with little covers, little plastic things," heart is crying,

1 bleeding.

2 Q Yes. This is true.

3 And thank you very much for doing this tape.

4 A Okay.

5 Q Thank you.

6 A It was nice to see you. I hope you come and
7 step in the house.

8 Q I'm going to.

9 A Whenever you go by.

10 Q I'm going to.

11 A You come special.

12 Q Yes.

13 A Someday might be you going to write you. So
14 far we are so busy with Sheri, the older one. She's busy.
15 She's traveling and she goes and the kids go camping
16 tomorrow going dog watching.

17 Q Maybe we can end this tape?

18 A Yes.

19 (End of Tape.)

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