

Interview with MORRIS FARKAS

Holocaust Oral History Project

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Q HI. THIS IS ANN FEIBELMAN TODAY INTERVIEWING MORRIS FARKAS AT THE HOLOCAUST CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND IT'S FOR THE HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY PROJECT. JOHN ANGEL GRANT IS PRODUCING THE SHOW AND SHOOTING IT AND TODAY WE HAVE BRIAN PARIS AND SYLVIA PROSAN WITH US.

MORRIS, COULD YOU SPELL YOUR NAME, PLEASE?

A M-o-r-r-i-s, F-a-r-k-a-s, Morris Farcas.

Q THANKS. MORRIS, I'M GOING TO START WITH THE HARDEST QUESTION, SO YOU HAVE TO LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY.

A Okay.

Q I NEED TO KNOW WHERE YOU WERE BORN AND WHAT YEAR.

A I was born in Romania, 1912, December the 28th.

Q AND WHAT KIND OF FAMILY DID YOU COME FROM? HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS? WAS IT RELIGIOUS? WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE?

A We were not too religious, but middle of the road, and we are four brothers and two sisters and we all came back from the concentration camp. My mother, my father didn't come back, and we still alive, all four and two.

Q WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

1 AND WHAT WAS THE TOWN?

2 A The town Halmu, if it means anything. It was
3 Romania.

4 Q COULD YOU SPELL THE TOWN, PLEASE?

5 A H-a-l-m-u.

6 Q AND WHERE IN ROMANIA WAS IT?

7 A It -- can you change it?

8 Q SURE.

9 A Okay. Because one's Romania, one's Hungary. When
10 I was born it was Hungary in 1912 and then in 1918 we became
11 Romania, and then when the war started, Hitler give it to the
12 Hungarians, you know, and after the second war it still Romania,
13 fifty years ago, you know. So let me tell you again, in 1918 we
14 became Romanian and in 1942 we became Hungarian and after the
15 war we became Romanian again.

16 Q MORRIS, I AM GOING TO FOCUS ON YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR
17 INDIVIDUAL STORY.

18 A Okay.

19 Q SO I GUESS THE FIRST THING I WANT TO KNOW IS A
20 LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. WHAT WERE THE NAMES OF YOUR
21 SISTERS AND BROTHERS AND YOUR PARENTS?

22 A My mother was Hunker, my father was Loish Ludvig,
23 my brothers Sal, Joe, Alex, three brothers, Morris, myself, and
24 two sisters, Lilly and Rosie.

25 Q WHERE WERE YOU IN THE FAMILY, WHAT NUMBER CHILD?

26 A I was the first.

27 Q AND TELL ME A LITTLE BIT ABOUT GROWING UP. DID YOU
28 GO TO A REGULAR SCHOOL? DID YOU GO TO A JEWISH SCHOOL? WHAT

1 WAS LIFE LIKE?

2 A We went to Jewish school, too, first. We went to
3 regular school and we went Jewish school. You know, in the
4 morning we got up six o'clock and we went in the Hader and then
5 after we came back and we went to the regular school.

6 And like I said, we were not too religious, but
7 what happened, they took my father in first world war, 1914,
8 when it started and I was the first child and I was -- I went to
9 Halby and my grandfather, my grandmother took care of me.

10 They were very religious, so religious that when I
11 was eight years old I didn't speak Hungarian, just Jewish, and
12 now I forget it today almost. And then my father came back from
13 the war, luckily, 1918, and then we moved in Suttmeier, it's a
14 big city, you know, like Halby was like a village, small city,
15 and then we moved in and then I was very young and I grew up
16 there and was with my family. What else would you --

17 Q WHAT DID YOUR FATHER DO FOR A BUSINESS?

18 A Oh, he was a businessman.

19 Q WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS, LIKE SALESMAN OR --

20 A He was a salesman that time in Suttmeier, was in
21 big city, you know. He was a salesman and then later on he
22 became his own boss.

23 Q WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS?

24 A When he became his own boss, he had an office with
25 different kind of -- how should I tell you? You know, it
26 starts --

27 Q TAKE YOUR TIME.

28 A That's okay.

1 Q TAKE YOUR TIME.

2 A He had representatives from different factories,
3 you know, a big office and he had a -- I don't know -- lady's
4 hat, representative, and then how do you call it in Hungarian --
5 I mean in English, all different kind of --

6 Q WAS HE A DISTRIBUTOR?

7 A Yeah, he had samples and a big office, you know,
8 like they have here, and all different kind of shoes, lady's
9 hat, with four, five different kind of representatives, and he
10 had a salesman and he went out and he went in different cities
11 and he sold, you know, and then the factory took care of the
12 orders and he shipped out the merchandise.

13 Q SO HE WAS A WHOLESALER REPRESENTATIVE?

14 A Wholesaler representative. That's plain words.

15 Q NOW, TELL ME A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR LIFE. DID YOU
16 HAVE MANY RELATIVES AROUND, OR WHOM DID YOU PLAY WITH?

17 A Oh, we have a big family, you know. Thank God,
18 even today we have a big family, and I was playing, I played
19 mostly with friends and I had a lot of Hungarian friends besides
20 Jewish friends. And then how I grew up, we started to play
21 football, soccer, you know, and became a good soccer player
22 eventually and that saved my life in the concentration camp and
23 I was 18 years old and they took me in the city.

24 I tell you the name but probably you don't
25 remember, Navarro. Well, maybe you do. It's a Hungarian city,
26 and to play soccer, to play football, and I made money, 18, 19,
27 20 years old, and then I came back to my city and I started to
28 be a big boy, 18, 19 years old.

1 I was working in a store as a salesman and then I
2 worked for myself in lady's hats, you know, and all those kinds
3 of things that belonged to dad, and I was on the road. I was
4 very successful.

5 I still played soccer and weekdays I was on the
6 road and Saturday and Sunday I came home and I played soccer for
7 the Jewish team then. And then all of a sudden, you know, the
8 situation got bad. The Hungarians came in the city and I lost
9 all my Hungarian friends because I was a Jew and they refused to
10 be with me any more.

11 Before we were all together day and night and it
12 was a few guys who was very nice and, you know, then we started
13 the yellow star and I sit and I went outside because I didn't
14 want to embarrass him, you know, and then he came after me and
15 he said, "Morris, you don't have to worry about me because I
16 like you and I can't help it what is happening here, but I am
17 any time ready to go with you even if you have the yellow star,
18 I am not afraid." That is my friend.

19 Then I am going to job now, and then in 1942 they
20 started to send out Hungarians with the Germans, the Jewish
21 boys, you know, forced labor to Russia, and they send out about
22 55,000 young Jewish boys and, first of all, I was very lucky.
23 You know, they started to send them about 19 -- I think 1911 --
24 not 1911 -- 1942, 1941, but I was lucky because they called in
25 by when you were born, et cetera, et cetera, and I got my
26 invitation in 1942.

27 And so anyway, we went, they shipped us out to
28 Russia in boxcars and we arrived in Stariusco, that's around

1 Kiev now. You know where is Kiev? You know where is Kiev. So
2 from Kiev about 200 kilometers, Stariosco, and we arrived there.

3 We took everything, three, four pair socks, two
4 pair pajamas, shirt and everything, and when they said get out
5 from the box car, so we were standing in line and then the
6 sergeant said, "Put down everything what you have," you know, so
7 we put it down and Hungarian soldiers came and they took 80
8 percent what we had, you know.

9 They just left one pajama, two pair socks, and, you
10 know, because it was ten, 20 below zero when we arrived in
11 Stariosco in Russia. So anyway we arrived there and it was one
12 of the old timers, you know, from us, and I went to them and I
13 asked what is the situation here, what is going to be, and they
14 said it's very easy.

15 They send us out every morning, ten in a group, to
16 pick up mines. When we come back from ten, we are two and
17 three, we are lucky, because it is not like today, you know,
18 they can right away pick up, but we went there and we just step
19 on the mine and poof.

20 So what happened, we were there one day, two days,
21 and nothing happening. All of a sudden -- they didn't take us
22 out next morning or third morning. All of a sudden we see on
23 the highway the Hungarian soldiers and German soldiers, you
24 know, their uniform torn apart and everything and we didn't know
25 what is going on.

26 Finally we find out the Russians where they were
27 waiting to start pushing the Hungarians and the Germans back, so
28 finally I have a chance to talk to Hungarian soldier, what is

1 going on, so you cannot imagine by millions, you know with the
2 snow up to here, they're coming and they just killing us and so
3 they are running, thank God, what saved our lives, because if
4 they had been normal, you know, if they wouldn't break the
5 front, then still they would take us every day, and I don't know
6 how many thousands young Hungarian Jews being killed in that
7 part of Russia.

8 So anyway, then it started to come the boxcar. The
9 big shots worked there, you know. On the floor is the straw and
10 the hay, whatever you call it, and they were screaming from
11 pain.

12 One had the bullet here, one had something, because
13 the front wasn't too far, so in the evening they took us to put,
14 you know, in the box car. What is going on, it stopped and to
15 put a little straw because they were freezing there and then
16 they were crying because they said, you know, they were
17 together, the Germans and the Hungarians, and they said, "Look,
18 the Hungarians, the Germans, they are up there where it is
19 beautiful, a ranch, everything, you know, straw and pillows and
20 everything, and we are here like animals." So anyway, that
21 started in 1942 and then we were helping there, you know, in the
22 night.

23 It was a fight between the Germans and Russians,
24 you know, air fight, and we didn't know what will be, but
25 anyway, we knew that the Russians coming, you know, so we have
26 to be relocated because we cannot stay there.

27 At the same time the Russian people said, "Wait,
28 stay here, don't go away, because the Russians, they will be

1 here in a couple of days and then you will be free."

2 We didn't stay, so then they relocated us and we
3 went, and in the meantime I work where I could get a lot of food
4 and everything. I was very lucky with this and so they said
5 that tomorrow morning we are going because the Russians very
6 close and tomorrow morning, naturally we burn everything up, you
7 know how it goes in the war, and we went out and we started to
8 go and then we saw bridges and everything in flames and then on
9 the hill we saw the Russians closing in.

10 So, anyway, we started to go. For three, four
11 months we were just walking and walking and in the nights we
12 went in, no problem, we went in the Russian houses, you know,
13 and we slept there and we had a lot of trouble because, you see,
14 we were there with the yellow star by then and the Russians --
15 not the Russians -- the Germans didn't like us and the
16 Hungarians didn't like us, and in the night we went in.

17 First of all, from morning until night we were
18 walking, because we were running away from the Russians, and
19 naturally who couldn't work, boom, no question about it.

20 And now we were walking on the highway, there was
21 hundreds and hundreds young Jews, some in tolars. You know what
22 is a tolar? Dead, dead, frozen, you know, because if you
23 couldn't walk, you couldn't walk and you fall to the ground and
24 the soldier was there, German, and they just shoot you.

25 Then sometimes in the nights we were already asleep
26 in a barn or whatever and then they came in, you know, and rouse
27 you and we got up in pajamas, you know, and snow up to here, we
28 went out, but they made it for sport, for pleasure, you know.

1 We went out and then we went farther and then we went back in
2 and went to sleep and this went on for many, many times.

3 You see, I skip a lot, you know, because I don't
4 get it, but if I would have it would be a different story
5 absolutely. Anyway, so we were running and running and the
6 Germans was running, too, and the Hungarians.

7 You know we altogether but we were Jews, you know,
8 that was a different story, and we went in the daytime to the
9 peasants, you know, to the Russians, because it's all in
10 villages, and we asked for food, a little meal, a little miasa,
11 how they say, you know, sausage, all those kind.

12 They were very nice to us. They, the Russians, the
13 peasants, you know, because they were just as much troubled as
14 we are in trouble, you know, because the Germans, they took
15 everything. This is in Russia.

16 Then we went and one village to the next village.
17 Then we went in and we asked what is going on, so then they
18 start to tell us that yesterday in the market place, you know,
19 they got together the Jews from the village, just shot them like
20 pigs, and then went in three, four different villages. Wherever
21 we went they said they got together the Jews and shot them.

22 We were running back. We got to Kiev. We were
23 clean until Kiev, you know. We didn't have any marks, but in
24 Kiev they put us in the school in the morning.

25 We were full, so they then they shipped us to a
26 village where it the Hungarian train makes you clean, you know,
27 everything steaming, so we went there and we got new uniform,
28 everything, not uniform, whatever they had to give it to us.

1 And same time the Secretary of State, Hungarian, he
2 got married to a Jewish girl, and from that time it wasn't, you
3 know, the grand, grand-grandfather was Jewish, too, and then we
4 got the same food like the Hungarian soldiers, you know, and
5 they put us in quarantine and we lived pretty good.

6 You know, they give us good schnopps in the morning
7 and everything, like the other soldiers got. We were there for
8 four or six weeks and then they got an order they have to ship
9 back guys to forced labor, the Jews, so we went back. We got
10 out, I mean, we were 55,000 young Jewish and when we went back
11 to Hungary we were 1,500.

12 And we got back, I thought we are heroes, you know.
13 We went through the avenue, big shot, everybody was kissing us
14 and beautiful and I thought that it was holiday.

15 I started to work after three, four weeks, you
16 know. I got back, I started to work. And all of a sudden
17 rumors that -- we didn't know too much, really, what is going
18 on, but still we heard that Auschwitz, et cetera, et cetera, so
19 all of a sudden we heard that they take together the Jews and
20 they put them in the ghetto.

21 Q WHAT YEAR?

22 A That was in 19 -- exactly 1943.

23 Q AND YOU WERE --

24 A No, wait a minute. '42 we were in -- '43 we came
25 back. I know exactly, 1943, December the 28th, when they packed
26 us in the boxcar and they shipped us out to Auschwitz, but
27 already you know what was going on before. I don't have to tell
28 you.

1 Q CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE WHEN YOU
2 RETURNED? WHY DID YOU GET A BIG HEROE'S WELCOME AND WHAT
3 HAPPENED?

4 A Because it was normal, you know. We came home and
5 back from the front, you know, it was like normal. We thought
6 it will be normal, but right away it started, we saw what is
7 going on.

8 Q CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT WAS GOING ON?

9 A When we got back, yeah, I tell you, very simple.
10 We lived very good when we came back, but that was just for a
11 few months and then it started, you know. They got us together
12 and then we were in the ghetto.

13 Q WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE IN THE GHETTO?

14 A Life, what kind of life is there where you cannot
15 get out, you know, and just you're closed in a certain area and
16 then every day something new.

17 Q LIKE WHAT?

18 A Well, like, for example, it was a committee who got
19 the orders from the Hungarians, you know, that you have to do
20 this and you have to do this and everything. They didn't tell
21 us what was going to be.

22 So one day they said that we are going somewhere
23 where we'll work for the government and we'll get everything,
24 food, et cetera, et cetera.

25 So what they did, you know, they packed us in
26 boxcars, and I don't know if I should go back, you know, how was
27 it, because when my friends, the Hungarians, came up to us and
28 didn't want to know me, they just said put out everything what

1 you have, gold, what do you call, dollars, and they took
2 everything away from us. You know, it was just an empty house.

3 Q MORRIS, WHAT DID THEY DO, JUST KNOCK ON YOUR DOOR
4 AND COME IN AND TAKE --

5 A Oh, yeah, they came in, simple, we want everything
6 what you hide, you know, and sometimes they were rough so
7 naturally we gave everything what we had.

8 We didn't have too much any more, you know, because
9 they didn't let us anything to do. If you were a Jew, you
10 couldn't even play tennis or baseball or soccer, whatever you
11 call it.

12 So anyway, they packed us in boxcars. My mother,
13 my father, one of my brothers was in Hungarian army because he
14 was young, and one of my brothers, he lived in Romania, Bryla,
15 and then Joe and myself, we went with my mother and my father.

16 They took us to Auschwitz in a boxcar, you know.
17 You couldn't smell, you couldn't breathe and you couldn't do
18 anything what the normal human being can do, so when we arrived
19 in Auschwitz they rouse you and right away take -- we went on --
20 thank you.

21 (Crying.)

22 Q TAKE YOUR TIME, MORRIS.

23 A We went -- anyway, we got out of boxcar, helping my
24 mother. So I tried to help my mother, my father, but I couldn't
25 because it was the German officer, and he pushed this side my
26 mother and my father, and with Sal, we went this side.

27 Q MORRIS, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT DATE THIS WAS?

28 A No, I don't think I remember. Roughly it was in

1 '44 when they put us in the boxcar, you know, and '44 it was
2 already, '44 April or May. I can't.

3 Q OKAY.

4 A Should I go back to my forced labor, because I have
5 so much to say about it, but I skipped, I went right away to --
6 I just want to tell you we had, in forced labor, we had an
7 officer, Hungarian officer. He was crazy.

8 He liked us, my brother and myself. He was very
9 religious, and one Friday night, you know, he was a Catholic,
10 very nice guy, but he was a sadist, you know, so one Friday
11 night me and, you know, hundred jews, we had a huda who prayed
12 and one of the guys from us, he noticed that he didn't pray and
13 doesn't give a damn what's going on, and he called him out, he
14 called him out and he asked, "Why don't you pray?" And he said,
15 you know, Hungarian, anyway, "I don't believe in this," he said
16 to the Hungarian officer, he said, "You don't believe in it?"

17 And so he started to hit him, you know, for ten
18 minutes, you know, because he doesn't believe in God, and then,
19 like I said, between them sometimes find nice people, too, who
20 didn't like what was going on, but you know how it is, and they
21 tried to help us, like, you know, like there are nice people who
22 see what is going on and that wants it to be over, hopefully.

23 And this officer was so good to us, to my brother,
24 to me, that when he went home to Suttmeier, to my city, he went
25 to my parents and he asked if they want to send something, so
26 anyway, they sent some shorts and shirts and everything.

27 When he came back, he called us out and he said
28 that your parents is well. And he is so crazy, the shorts that

6 1 he brought and shirts, we were in quarantine, you know, and for
2 summer, you know, and the shorts was some poplin, a light color
3 material, and I was wearing and my brother because it was summer
4 and we didn't do anything because we were in quarantine.

5 That means that you're free of everything and one
6 Sunday afternoon it was lunchtime and he comes to supervise us,
7 "How's things going," and he asks, "How was Sunday?" You know,
8 it's a big day and we had pasta, you know, that was something,
9 big thing, you know, marmelade and pasta.

10 I didn't do anything. I was eating, but he is an
11 idiot. He comes to me, Morris, "Come on, put down your cup."
12 "What did I do, Mr. Officer?" as we call in Hungarian.

13 "You didn't do anything, but I told you that once I
14 will get you," because he just here, he wanted to punish me for
15 nothing, and I have to go down and in that poplin, you know,
16 that was like fresh, beautiful, and he started to hit me and
17 after he finished after 10 or 15 times then he give me a portion
18 of my food, you know, extra, so that's what kind of guy this
19 was.

20 Then one afternoon he went into the kitchen and
21 there was a guy who he saw that he put away two carrots, you
22 know. He started to hit him. An hour later he was dying, dead;
23 how can you steal from your company. That was the reason that
24 he killed him.

25 He was very, very disappointed, you know, because
26 he didn't mean it. He just wanted to show the company that if
27 somebody started to try to steal, here's what could happen.

28 So anyway, we got back now to Auschwitz, so they

1 took us, you know probably the story, they give us the pajamas,
2 you know, the stripes.

3 Right away they put -- we went out and then all the
4 guys who were there, Polish, mainly, because they said, "You
5 stupid idiot Hungarians, you let yourself to bring it here.
6 Probably if we would know we wouldn't have let ourselves or
7 would kill ourselves, and they said, "You see that chimney
8 there?"

9 What do I know? I am in lightweight pajamas.
10 After 20 hours when we just sit, put down your suit or whatever.
11 There's where your mother and father is going out, probably two,
12 three, four hours, you know, because they gassed right away the
13 old people, you know; they were gassed right away.

14 So I said, "You're crazy." We didn't believe it.
15 We were shocked. We didn't know even where, and so we slept
16 there for two, three nights, and there were people, for example,
17 my sister, my two sisters, they stayed in Auschwitz, and they
18 got the numbers.

19 I didn't get the numbers because after two, three
20 days, right away they shipped us out somewhere over Silesia,
21 Waltzberg, they call it. It's small larger, it's not the one
22 next to Shagar just for working. We worked on the railroad.

23 So anyway, we arrived there and they shipped us out
24 to work. We came back in the evening, I mean the night, six
25 o'clock from work. You know, when you get back and they count
26 you five, ten, 15, 20, and it was there, SS stopped the whole
27 group and said, "You tall man, come on."

28 I got scared, sure, what does he want from me, I

1 didn't do anything, I worked all day, bla, bla, bla, and he said
2 to the big shot, little Polish lager fuehrer, Jewish, that this
3 guy is not going out tomorrow to work. I heard that.

4 Everybody went in and then he said, "Come here."
5 He was an SS, but he wasn't an SS, he was a Wehrmacht, but he
6 got hurt and the Russians something so they change like this,
7 they put on SS outfit and became an SS, but he was a Wehrmacht
8 and a Wehrmacht was just like us, you know.

9 So he said, "What is your occupation?" I said to
10 myself, should I tell him I am a businessman? "I am an
11 athlete." Right away he said, "I am an athlete, too. What can
12 I do for you?" I look at him.

13 I would like to stay in the larger, but he already
14 said that this guy let stay here tomorrow. So anyway, you want
15 to stay in, okay. He started to talk to me, and next morning --
16 so my brother went out to work on the railroad.

17 Next morning we were cleaning in the larger, you
18 know, a little dirt, loafing, you know how that goes in the
19 army.

20 "How you like it here?" You know in forced labor
21 what is the big thing, to work in the kitchen, and then he asked
22 me, "How you like it here?"

23 I say, "I like it but I would like rather there."
24 You know, that was the kitchen. He say, "You want to go in the
25 kitchen? Sure."

26 He took me in the kitchen and in the kitchen there
27 were all Polish people who was there already three years, you
28 know, in the concentration camp. And I worked, it was him and

1 he call the guy, his name was Toddy. "Come here, this man will
2 stay in the kitchen."

3 They didn't like it, you know, because this was a
4 group and they all Polish, they had enough toras, you know,
5 because they went, they took them in 1941. That is the reason
6 they said crazy Hungarians.

7 So anyway, what else can be better. So, naturally,
8 the first thing was I looked around, how can I seal something
9 for my brother, and that was life, and so it was beautiful
10 kitchen.

11 They start to put me to a table to cut meat, small
12 pieces, you know how they put it in the pot, and then I got back
13 into my barrick in the evening after I worked, but my two
14 pockets was full with meat, you know, it was wet and everything,
15 so I made a fortune -- I mean not a fortune -- I made a jackpot.

16 I had a few guys from my city, they always waiting
17 there in the evening at the kitchen door to get something, you
18 know, maybe I will have something, and naturally I always took.

19 One night the light went out and it was milk soup,
20 you know, milk soup. That is in that can. I don't know if you
21 know how it is in Europe when they deliver the milk in the
22 morning, you know, and the light went out and all this was near
23 the door to come from the barracks to pick up the milk.

24 I never forget, it was dark and it was there two,
25 three my friends and I was crawling to this pot, milk, and
26 naturally if they get me, I'm finished, and I took out a whole
27 big pot and they had holiday, you know, they had something to
28 eat.

1 So anyway, I always help them what I could. I was
2 in the kitchen, everything went nice. One day I was in the
3 kitchen, we went to pick our bread from the next village.

4 All of a sudden we heard that Roosevelt died. Now,
5 you can imagine what does it mean, because we have all our hope
6 in Roosevelt, Roosevelt, Roosevelt. Now we are finished. Now
7 this is it. No hope to get back because we always had believed
8 that we'll get home once. Besides, that is how people was
9 dying.

10 Anyway, it comes again. This is in the
11 concentration camp. The Russians in Breslow, you know, and they
12 are coming, you know, the rumors. So this guy who help me, put
13 me in the kitchen and always give me a break, like once, for
14 example, you know, it was five or six different small largers,
15 and if it was mine, how should I say, in certain largers, you
16 know, people was dying, so you have to complete the ten or 20 or
17 30 people, so they took it from the kitchen, from there, because
18 why did they take it from the kitchen? Because from the kitchen
19 he was strong, because they were eating. The rest was nothing,
20 they couldn't do anything.

21 So the head man from all of this small largas came
22 to the kitchen, we heard that, to get a few guys, healthy guys
23 because he needs some help. I'm finished, I said to myself now,
24 I'm sure they will pick me out because I look good, I mean, I am
25 healthy. I got out from the kitchen, eleven o'clock, you know,
26 to look for this guy, for this SS who was with me, and I find
27 him inspection somewhere.

28 I said, "Look, I am finished." We were very good

1 friends. I mean, I am finished and Mark or what his name coming
2 to pick out people.

3 He started to think what can he do, you know,
4 because he was just a plain soldier, you know, I mean SS, so he
5 went in the kitchen and tell this guy that he needs me for two,
6 three hours, but the guy cannot ask him why does he need me.
7 How can you ask a halfling, you know, an officer or an SS why do
8 you take him out, because I need him here or something.

9 Yes, he took me in the barrick, his barrick, and he
10 gave me some shoes to polish. I went back with him, but in the
11 meantime it was already the inspection and I was lucky, they
12 took five or six boys, you know, because they needed.

13 Anyway, so the Russians coming again. It was over
14 Silesia, you know, that was down in Kiev, I mean when I was in
15 forced labor, that was different story and this is different
16 story.

17 Q MORRIS, THE STORY YOU JUST TOLD ABOUT SHINING THE
18 SHOES?

19 A Yeah.

20 Q WHERE WERE THE PEOPLE BEING TAKEN?

21 A Oh, it was a couple of mines there and they died
22 there and they have to replace them. Just a person with a
23 person, doesn't matter. Morris Farkus or Joe Farkus or just
24 anyone. They need five guys so that guy came to inspect the
25 kitchen and took five guys with them. It's no hard feelings.

26 Q DID YOU HAVE TO WORK IN THE MINE?

27 A Yes, it was some small mines, you know.

28 Q WHAT KIND OF MINES?

1 A Oh, I think it was not gold. How you call it? It
2 is hard for me to think, not myself, I think it was zinc, you
3 know what that is. It wasn't too healthy to be there, you know.

4 Q I SEE.

5 A And so anyway, he came to me and said, "Morris, we
6 have to go, come with me, because I have to go down to the post
7 office."

8 You know, in Germany the post office has a little
9 carriage, but postman pushing, you know, when he delivers mail,
10 and so he took me down and we steal a little carriage and then
11 he had to work five or six cases, I don't know what was in it,
12 you know.

13 He puts it down and then I have to push it with my
14 brother, you know. Naturally we started to get out and we
15 pushed the carriage. He always, he took care of me, obviously,
16 it's the army, this and that, you know, and we started to go.

17 First we just walk for two weeks because we were
18 running away from the Russians. We were running. We went to
19 Czechoslovakia, but I will get back to that now.

20 So anyway, we were walking all day in the evening.
21 They put us where ever they could put us, and then we got the
22 train, open boxcar, it was February, very cold, you know,
23 freezing cold, open boxcar, and we lay down in the evening. The
24 morning we got up, that guy was frozen, other guy was dead, and
25 we went all the way to Apensay, if you heard that, Fenik
26 Duslaga, you know the story. They just burned people there,
27 big, big, big camp, and so when we arrived there, you know, we
28 have to take the dead down and put them in just like this, you

1 know, was about 50 boxcar and I don't know how many hundred
2 dead, so we went into -- they took us in a camp there, and next
3 morning they came and they selected us to go to work in ten
4 groups. I went with my brother -- no, that was evening, night
5 shift, not daytime.

6 In the evening we went and they took us in, they
7 were building there. I don't even remember, tunnels, big, big,
8 I don't know, airplanes or what the hell.

9 So anyway, we went there, they took us there and
10 the guy who was over us, it was a Polish Gentile kid, very nice
11 kid. He hit at me so that in the morning my arm here was black,
12 you know, with the steel and I went to the German, I said, "Look
13 what he is doing." I tell you even I am afraid, and that was a
14 German, you know, from this camp, you know.

15 Anyway he was hitting me. From the ten, five was
16 dead already from our group. They couldn't do anything. They
17 started pushing some carriage or what the hell was there, you
18 know, and they didn't have any sled, and me with my brother and
19 two guys, we couldn't do the job, four, when it was supposed to
20 be 50, not ten. Anyway, in the morning that was done and the
21 lager was up there.

22 Q WHAT WAS THE JOB, MORRIS?

23 A Pushing some carriage and all those things. They
24 were building, you know. They didn't even let us go farther,
25 you know, because this was under, it was a tunnel, you know,
26 big, huge. I will get to this later, but they want, so anyway
27 they put body on my neck and from down to go up the hill, so I
28 took it, my brother took one and then I went right away to a

1 doctor and the doctor was from my village, you know, good friend
2 of mine.

3 I said, "Tepor, look what they doing with me;
4 please, keep me here, because otherwise they want to kill me,
5 you know." They couldn't stand it that I wasn't a skeleton like
6 the others, and he looked at my arm because he was afraid, too.
7 Friend, friend, but they get supervisor and you get in trouble.

8 He say, "I try to keep you here." So I didn't go
9 out to work. They put me in a shishcomander. You know what
10 that is? You know, the toilet cleaning and the restroom,
11 whatever you call it. It was good because I got out two troops
12 instead one, you know, so I can give my brother now the soup
13 because he was working out there.

14 You see the trouble with -- I know I skip so many
15 interesting things. Anyway, we were there, people was dying,
16 and the Americans was coming. But we heard that and naturally
17 it was a lot of excitement because the Americans already here
18 20, 25, 30 kilometers, so we knew that in a couple of days they
19 will be in our larger, you know, because everybody was talking
20 about it and what happening, one morning, we got up, and you
21 know, the larger was up the hill and down there you could see
22 the army, the Hungarian trucks coming up, so we got down and we
23 went, you know, where they every morning where you get out and
24 they count the soldiers, so we went out and the German officer
25 came out and he said where we work, you know, in tunnels, that
26 we should go there.

27 We were 4,500, 5,000 people. The Americans will
28 bomb the camp and we should go under the tunnel until the

1 bombardment will keep on going and then you will get out, and
2 like automatically the 4,500 people, "We are not going."

3 So what did they want, you see, we go there, and
4 they put some, not too much explosive, you know, just to close
5 the door, then 4,500, we all dead because people never find out
6 that we are there, you know, so anyway, we said no, and half an
7 hour, an hour later -- but I skipped a lot -- an hour later we
8 saw the whole SS gang, you know, who was in charge with the
9 camp, they going up the hill.

10 It looks like they didn't take anything, so they
11 running away. Two, three hours later Americans came in and
12 naturally, it was -- we are saved, we are alive, you know, they
13 came, throw cigarettes and chocolate, everything, and right away
14 we were free.

15 I told my brother, "Let's go in the city to get
16 some real food," you know, so we were working on the street in
17 January, February.

18 Q MORRIS, WHEN THE AMERICANS CAME IN, WHAT DID YOU
19 DO? WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

20 A We didn't believe it, you know. We went there. We
21 talked and we didn't speak a word of English, and they were very
22 nice. Really, they give us everything. But anyway, I went in
23 the city with my brother because we went out a few times,
24 shoveled snow and people was looking down, you know, from the
25 village.

26 They couldn't do too much but they throw a few
27 potatoes, you know, from the window for us to eat and I
28 remembered one house and right away I went there with my

1 brother, and she gave me right away.

2 The husband was in war, probably dead. She didn't
3 know anything about. Two sisters there, and she gave us the
4 husband's pants and clothes and everything, so we were already
5 dressed and then we went in a few stores and asking for a little
6 butter, a little this. They all give.

7 As a matter of fact, that night the first night we
8 ate so much I thought I will die because I ate some soup and we
9 put it -- we made it for ourselves and we put it in butter and,
10 you know, big butter and our stomach was empty, you know.

11 We didn't have any real food for a long time and we
12 shouldn't have, you know, too much fat, you know, in a sick
13 stomach, so anyway, we went there and then we went and
14 everything and then I heard one of my friends, he told me that
15 he heard that my sisters Lilly and Rosie, they are in Wells. We
16 were in Leens. That's 20, 30 miles, you know, little villages
17 in Austria, but they are there, so right away, first thing,
18 let's go, let's find them, and my sister Rosie was in Difers,
19 was in the hospital, and Lilly was okay, so we got together.

20 We are four now, my two sisters and Sal and me
21 because Joe was already home and Alex was in the Romanian army.
22 The Romanians didn't give up the Jews, you know. I don't know
23 if you know. So anyway, now you can ask question because I have
24 a million. Just ask.

25 Q OKAY. I WANT TO GO BACK.

26 A Go back all the way.

27 Q GOOD. WHEN DID YOU FIRST REMEMBER ANY
28 ANTI-SEMITISM WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?

1 A Where?

2 Q WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?

3 A Oh, I tell you very honestly, I was very young and
4 that was in Suttmeier and I knew there is anti-Semitism. Why do
5 I know? Because we went out on the street and the first time,
6 you ask that, I never forget.

7 I tell you, I was a very young kid and, you know,
8 how it was -- I don't know if you know -- small city or
9 something, you know, you go Friday morning to haler, your mother
10 give you and take it to the -- it doesn't come to me, baker,
11 baker, you know, and you leave it there, in the afternoon you go
12 after it, so how we went, you see, I can see it, oh boy, I was
13 very young, probably eight, we went to the street and there is
14 some kids five, six young kids started to say, "Jew, Jew Jew,
15 stingy Jew," and they started to throw gravel.

16 I went; now how could I come back? We left the
17 moment I pick up the haler, you know, so I went another street
18 but you could see it. I don't know. Why is anti-Semitism now?
19 Why is anti-Semitism now? I ask you that question.

20 We thought everything is all right. We went home
21 from forced labor from the concentration camp and, here, look
22 what's going on. Sure, then later on when I got older every day
23 was something, you know. We knew it. We felt it. We just
24 wouldn't do anything because we were Jews.

25 Q TELL ME SOME EXAMPLES YOU REMEMBER.

26 A Pardon me?

27 Q TELL ME SOME EXAMPLES THAT YOU REMEMBER.

28 A I remember many things. I remember that I -- we

1 couldn't be in certain teams because we are Jews, you know, just
2 only reason. Naturally when the Germans came in, you know, the
3 Hungarians and then we couldn't be anywhere, just between us,
4 because they looked at us.

5 I am not talking about when we had yellow band. I
6 am talking before, too, you know, we went out. They were some
7 spitting at us just because we are Jews. We were born Jews.
8 It's always been, you know, like we say, I don't know how is but
9 I can tell you that when they were born they are anti-Seminite.

10 It just comes automatically, you know. Today we
11 were never, but anyway, in our city we couldn't go in the same
12 group like they were and all those guys were my friends.

13 They were standing there when they took out from
14 our house to the railroad station and to pack us in a boxcar,
15 they were standing there, they didn't do anything. I really
16 didn't even expect because you cannot do, you know, they are
17 watching there and there are soldiers and inside the Germans,
18 you know, who are supervising the Hungarians, if they do
19 something. Like, for example, we always said that Horti knew
20 about what is going on. You know who is Horti? The Hungarian
21 king or whatever you call it, the governor, and we always said
22 that Horti knows about it and he doesn't want to do anything.

23 No, it just happened that I read here a book last
24 time, you know, on Hungarian Jews, destruction, that he tried to
25 save us because we were the last ones, you know, who went to
26 Auschwitz because we were just one year there. You know, the
27 people was already there the year before and Horti sent
28 messenger to Hitler that, "Don't touch the Hungarian Jews."

1 Well, naturally they didn't care about it and then
2 they came back and they told Horti that they still packing the
3 Jews and then Horti said to the Hungarian soldier that you fight
4 for it and then Hitler sent back, "If you don't stop, then I am
5 going to finish you." I just read here, so it wasn't Horti.
6 Horti tried to save.

7 As a matter of fact, the Horti's daughter got
8 married to a Jewish man, you know, it was big thing, you know.
9 The governor's daughter got married to a very rich Jewish girl
10 and he tried to save but couldn't because he would be killed.
11 It was against Hitler, you know. You against Hitler and you are
12 dead, finished.

13 Q WHEN DID HITLER COME IN? WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER,
14 LIKE WHAT DATE WAS IT AND WHAT HAPPENED?

15 A To us? Oh, yeah. 1940, the Hungarians came in
16 because we were Romanian. In 1939, I don't know if you guys
17 remember because that is, 1939, Germany went into Poland. That
18 was the first.

19 It was '39, and then same time in 1940, like I told
20 you in the beginning, in 1940, yeah, 1940 Hitler give Hungary
21 back to the Hungarians, so he took everything from the Romanians
22 in 1940 and that is when started in Suttmeier the toras, Hitler,
23 you know, that the Jews has to wear a band or a star. It was
24 1940.

25 In 1939 went to Poland and then went to Sudate and
26 then started to, then he give it back to Hungary, Zimburgen, how
27 they call it, you know, a part of Hungary, I mean from Romania,
28 what is today Romania.

1 The Romanians will never give it back to the
2 Hungarians but still fighting, you know, because that is what
3 happened. Then from there on it was going, you know, life
4 changed, all my good friends.

5 After Horti came in on a beautiful horse, never
6 forget, you know, the old people, they all were Hungarians, like
7 my father almost cried. I remember, you know, we looked out on
8 the street there where the Hungarians coming in, you know, with
9 a band and Horti, with the horse, white horse, and my father was
10 crying but we knew what was going on and I said to my father,
11 "Don't cry."

12 He was crying from happiness. Said, "Daddy, you
13 better don't cry." You will see, we'll have a lot of trouble."
14 Because they grew up during Hungarian, you know, and they were
15 very bloody, they were Jews, but they were very bloody
16 Hungarians. So then it started. It went on and you know,
17 forced labor, then we came to Auschwitz and back and here we are
18 again.

19 Q TELL ME HOW LIFE CHANGED.

20 A How life changed?

21 Q YEAH, HOW LIVE CHANGED, THE ARM BANDS. WHAT ELSE?

22 A We were, you know, you go out and you on the street
23 and they say you were very good and he look at you not because
24 she or he didn't like you, because they were afraid. They were
25 afraid. Just afraid, like in communism, they were afraid one of
26 each other, you know, and it was terrible, you know, because you
27 didn't feel like a human being.

28 You couldn't go in the theater, couldn't go to the

1 movie, you were just home and nothing, business, but, you know,
2 it's a short time, the whole thing, time goes by fast, you know,
3 and and, let's see. What else. Then, you know, we all went
4 home, thank God. My mother and my father been killed, and four
5 brothers, two sisters we still alive all.

6 Q I HAVE A FEW MORE QUESTIONS, MORRIS. MAY I ASK
7 YOU?

8 A Go ahead. Sure you may.

9 Q TALKING ABOUT THE BOXCARS THAT YOU TOOK TO KIEV FOR
10 THE FORCED LABOR?

11 A Yes.

12 Q IN '32?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q TELL ME A LITTLE BIT WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE THERE. WAS
15 IT ONLY JEWS? WHAT WERE THE LIVING CONDITIONS LIKE IN KIEV?

16 A We didn't do anything. They didn't let us go away.
17 We went, you know, just from one village to the next village,
18 but we were nobody.

19 They took us, they took care of us, you know, the
20 Hungarian and the Germans. We were in the army. We were forced
21 labor. You know, I don't know how it was. I know we stopped in
22 Miens, you know, they let us stand because have to go to
23 restroom. There is no restroom in the boxcar and we went and it
24 was just -- it was a market there.

25 In a market they was selling bread, black bread,
26 you know, freezing, 20 below zero. That was the market. We
27 don't know anything what was, because after the Germans got in a
28 village they finish the Jews right away. They just got together

1 and then bang, bang, that's what they did.

2 Unfortunately, everybody knows that, you know,
3 because wherever we went in the city, right away we ask because
4 the Russians wants to talk to us, because Russians, they were
5 with us, not with the Germans, because they know that they will
6 be killed, too, because they were killing the Russians, 20
7 million people they killed, and we couldn't talk to them, we
8 just, whatever they said we did. You cannot say and if you
9 didn't like it, if you don't want to do it, then they shoot you.

10 Q MORRIS, WHEN YOU HEARD WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JEWS IN
11 THE VILLAGES, YOU KNOW?

12 A Yes.

13 Q SO WHAT DID YOU THINK YOUR FUTURE WAS?

14 A First of all, I didn't talk to Jews because they
15 were not Jews, but we arrived in the city that was already
16 cleared, you know, four, five, how many Jews in a small village,
17 hundred, 120, you know, they have been killed. Right away all
18 the Germans got together, they got altogether, they such a big
19 shot, the mayor get together the Jews right away, they didn't
20 ask anything, they just bang, bang, bang. What else did you
21 ask?

22 Q WHAT DID YOU THINK YOUR FUTURE WOULD BE?

23 A I tell you very honestly. Really, I didn't think
24 of anything. I always, I hoped that I will go. I did. You ask
25 me, I just -- I just told my wife that, too, that I never -- I
26 wasn't thinking, really.

27 You know, when we got scared, we got first time
28 when Roosevelt, I told you, I mentioned that when we find out

1 that Roosevelt died, you know, then we said we are finished,
2 because we thought that Roosevelt will save us you know, but
3 that's interesting question.

4 I didn't think. I was just going. I did the
5 things what I have to do and I went out, you know, to work,
6 where was it, I went out once in awhile, you know, with the work
7 and for some carrots there on the street and I put it here, tied
8 them here and that is how I went in the camp.

9 If they would see it, then they would finish me,
10 but, you know, everything was food. How I took out, I told you
11 that milk cans, you know, later on I start thinking, how can I
12 be so idiot, stupid. If they had seen me doing it they don't
13 even ask, they shoot, but there I was happy because I know it
14 was 20 kids, they got 20 spoon of soup because people was dying,
15 you know, like flies.

16 Q YOU HAD TALKED EARLIER ABOUT BEING IN QUARANTINE?

17 A That was when we were running away from the
18 Russians. It was a forced labor, and then, like I told you, the
19 Hungarian minister got married to a Jewish girl, you know.

20 That was a big thing, and then he ordered that to
21 give the same food to the Jews, to forced labor, what the
22 Hungarian soldiers getting, you know, because they get every
23 morning a little schnops, a piece of sausage, a piece of cheese
24 and a piece of bread, so we got the same what they got, you
25 know, and then we got stronger and stronger every day.

26 And that place where we been in quarantine was
27 beautiful place, was a beautiful river, so we lived like at
28 home, you know, after this, we get back, we got home and then

1 they took us to the concentration camp.

2 So what I went through, I don't think you will find
3 ten people to go to the concentration camp, to go to the forced
4 labor and then to get home, and I don't know how many months
5 later to go to the concentration, to Auschwitz concentration
6 camp, and then after 50 years to remember things, you know how
7 difficult it is, but I have my -- that is terrific because I
8 have my autobiography. This is terrific because this I made 20
9 years ago. I look differently than today, but I would like to
10 get back. I am so sorry that I couldn't find it.

11 Q MORRIS, WE'LL FIND IT, WE'LL FIND IT. I HAVE A FEW
12 MORE QUESTIONS.

13 A Go ahead.

14 Q IF I MAY?

15 A Sure.

16 Q LET'S SEE. DO YOU REMEMBER YOU MENTIONED THAT
17 PLAYING SOCCER --

18 A Yeah.

19 Q -- SAVED YOU IN AUSVWITCH?

20 A Oh, yeah.

21 Q WHAT WAS THAT?

22 A The reason I said that in Auschwitz saves you
23 because when this guy, you know, the SS, who is not SS, it was a
24 soldier, you know, and he saw me there and he said, "You tall,"
25 I mean in German, he said, "Come here," and I went there and I
26 was naturally scared because I didn't know what the hell he want
27 from me, you know, and then he asked me in German, naturally,
28 "What is your occupation?"

1 And I said to him, why should I tell him that I am
2 a businessman? I am really an athlete. I am a sports man and I
3 said, right away we became friends.

4 And then with him I went all the way to Apensay,,
5 what is, when the Russians came to Beslow, you know, that is
6 different part in Kiev up there north, and I went with him and
7 he always gave me, and when this journey finished us, you know,
8 when they took us from this village all the way to Abinsay,
9 which is near Vienna, then it was night and I saw he was coming
10 to my barrick and he said, "Morris, I am just a plain soldier.
11 The only difference I am a German. I cannot do anything and I
12 cannot see you any more," so because he was transferred to
13 another division, you know, where he was really nothing, just, I
14 mean you know a Wehrmacht in Germany is like here, just a plain
15 soldier, it's nothing, but he was very, very nice to me.

16 That's very nice. I should say he saved my life
17 because he put me in the kitchen. First he put me in the camp,
18 you know, where cleaning the gutter and things like this, is
19 nothing, you know, loafing, just like here in the army, and
20 after this, well, he came to me.

21 Then I said, "Yes, I like it here, but I would
22 rather like, I would like to be in the kitchen."

23 He said, "You want to go in the kitchen?"

24 "Sure, I want to go."

25 He didn't know what it means for me. Right away he
26 arranged it and I was in the kitchen and I was saved already
27 because then I help my brother and some friends, you know.

28 Everybody was stealing there, you know, that was

1 what could save your life. You know, otherwise you wouldn't
2 survive, but in the meantime you save your friend's life,
3 because I always got something besides my portion, and I was a
4 big child because who was working in the kitchen in the evening
5 can go to take a shower. Has got to be God, you were giving out
6 portions, you know, instead one, you give twice as much as you
7 would get, you know, friend, that is very important, but besides
8 that, I am going back, you know, because I know I skipped.

9 It was terrible when you arrived. Right away when
10 they took you to the forced labor, from Suttmeier to Kiev, or
11 whatever you call it, the names, you know, and naturally we know
12 we going somewhere where it's 20 below zero and ten below zero,
13 cold.

14 We brought everything, good things, you know. They
15 said we are going just to work, not to kill you, and I had like
16 any other kids, nice heavy coat, everything, but is nice, and
17 then they said right away we got out from the boxcar, open your
18 luggage, everything, right away, just throwing away everything.

19 I mean 80 percent of what you had but if they
20 wouldn't take away it would be terrific, you know, because when
21 we were running away from the Russians, if you have something,
22 you know, you have a pair of socks or whatever you have, the
23 Russian people, you give them a pair of socks and they give you
24 sausage and everything and you can go on for another week, but
25 we didn't have our to change.

26 That was the whole idea, you know, if you had, then
27 you could make a living from it because they didn't have
28 anything, and naturally, you tried to even save even a shaving

1 cream or a toothbrush because they didn't know to eat or to use
2 it for the teeth, they didn't know. They didn't have that,
3 toothpaste. They were eating, but they took everything away
4 from us. Everything.

5 Everybody was beautiful. At Kipp, you know,
6 because you go and that's it. I tell you, it's really a miracle
7 that you can't express, you know, this feeling, what was there.
8 Like you said, if I thought that I will survive, I don't know.
9 I really, I didn't think of it.

10 I was just thinking my mother, my father, what they
11 doing. They said they are dead, you know, because we heard that
12 they put in the chimney, you know. We didn't believe it, you
13 know, how was it. How the hell, "How do you know?" I asked him.
14 I am here four years already, and they were four guys but I
15 cannot blame them. Look what they went through, those Polish
16 people in the camp and then they said that in Jewish, that
17 (inaudible,) that means idiot, because we let ourselves, but we
18 didn't believe it. We knew it. Will you believe if it wouldn't
19 happen that it could happen, something like this. You tell me.

20 Unbelievable what they did with us, with kids; they
21 put them in the oven, dead, and they kick you like garbage,
22 nothing, day and night. You know, some was lucky, some, but you
23 see, the six million died. That is what they know, and how many
24 more that they don't know. That is terrible. God. And then
25 we, after so many years, we have to suffer again because we were
26 born Jews. Why? Terrible.

27 Q MORRIS, I HAVE A FEW MORE QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU.

28 A Go ahead.

1 Q AFTER YOU LEFT AUSCHWITZ, CAN YOU SPELL THE NAME OF
2 THE CAMP WHERE YOU WERE?

3 A When we left Auschwitz, it will come back to me.
4 Funny, in the morning I remember it. Oh, yeah, Wolfberb.

5 Q HOW DO YOU SPELL IT?

6 A Wolfberg, in English wolf, Germans wolf, berg,
7 b-e-r-g, berg. It means -- it's German. Berg, it means hills,
8 hills, Wolfberg in Hungarian, you know the berg, berg is German
9 and from there we went to Abensay.

10 Abensay is here. I say it's here. It's near
11 Vienna, you know. It's about a hundred kilometers from Vienna.
12 That was a vernietens leuten. The vernietens letuen. That
13 means that was for to destroy people, you know, to gas them just
14 like dako or because Rosenberg it was not a vernietens leuten.

15 Wolfberg was a small larger where they took the
16 people out to work on the railroad station or some mines, you
17 know, but Abensay, that was vernietens leuten and because
18 sometimes they called us out.

19 They called from the truck the bodies and they put
20 it here five, four, push it to the car and just with the other
21 guy, open the oven and we just throw. One of my best friend's
22 son was in Abensay, his father, too, and he died a boy and it
23 just happened that it was my turn to go and pick up the body.

24 His father was a -- he just passed away two years
25 ago in Canada. He was in the government. He was a big man in
26 Stockmeier and he was with his son and you can't imagine for a
27 father what does it mean when he is saved and his son is dead.

28 We went back. I went back once with my family, to

1 Abensay, my son, my daughter, and my wife, and we went into the
2 police station, and I said that I would like some information,
3 where is this camp, and policeman said the camp used to be there
4 but they destroyed everything, not to find them, so he destroyed
5 just, there is not in this camp, you know, just a sign that it
6 was the camp.

7 Then we went out and where like a cemetery, and
8 this little boy after I went, you know, I saw his name and I
9 light a candle, and for all who is from Stockmeier.

10 You know, naturally, you go there and then you just
11 look around and you cannot find words, you know. It is so sad
12 and so terrible, but first when we went into the police station
13 the policeman was very rude and then I said that I was here and
14 I talked to him and he changed his mind.

15 He gave me an escort, you know, two policemen in
16 the front, two in the back, and we with our rented car in the
17 middle and then we went there and then we saw it and I showed my
18 son and my daughter, you know, this is where I was working.

19 Oh, that's interesting, in Abensay we are talking
20 now, the Americans came in, you know, and we got everything, and
21 a year or two years later, more, more because five years we had
22 a meeting, the Jewish Welfare Federation, you know, and we were
23 talking there and I was talking to a guy there.

24 He said that I went in as an officer to Abensay. I
25 said you know that I was in Abensay and we started to talk and
26 we found out that he was there. Now we are very good friends,
27 Kenny, Ken Colvin. You know? You don't know him?

28 A COLVIN?

1 A Colvin, yes. Matter of fact, he wrote a book for
2 his grandchildren and he put my name that we met there. Small
3 world.

4 He is a very good man. He works now for the museum
5 that they are building in Washington D.C., and he works for the
6 Jewish Federation. He is very big. I just want to tell you,
7 you find out things, you know what, but you don't believe it
8 because he told me and I was talking about Abensay, and he
9 was -- it was very nice, a lot of people, but the biggest
10 choice, because I don't even count Auschwitz, forced labor was a
11 choice.

12 When you run away from the Russians and you're
13 nobody but you cannot do anything but you don't even run away
14 from the Germans and the Hungarians because you don't know what
15 will happen with the Russians because end of the war, like what
16 his name, Wallenberg, probably you heard it, you know.

17 My feeling is what happened with Wallenberg, that
18 he went to the Russians when it was finished, war, big shot. By
19 big shot -- I'm sorry -- not big shot, he was terrific guy.

20 He saved, I don't know, hundred thousand Jews and
21 he went to the Russians and he said, "I am Wallenberg."

22 You know what they did? Probably, I mean, just my
23 feeling, because for them, doesn't matter, that is, you or me or
24 keeping face or whatever you call, Wallenberg probably told
25 peasant soldier, "You know, come here." They throw him in the
26 open boxcar, and they didn't even ask a word until he got to
27 Siberia, so that is the reason I brought this up, because it's,
28 like for me, when we started to run away from the Russians, you

1 know, they broke down line, Russians said, "Stay here."

2 Everybody who didn't come is our friends. They
3 never came back because they, the Russians, came tomorrow, you
4 Jews, so big deal, it doesn't matter, you enemy, and they all
5 was packed and they didn't stop until Siberia and then they
6 started to work in myself.

7 Doesn't mean that you're Jew, but the Russians,
8 just only one thing, mean you are not Russians and they take you
9 and never came back. A few of my best friends, I was lucky. I
10 didn't believe it, you know.

11 I thought they said okay, now we start to run away,
12 it will take two, three months, they said, but I said to myself
13 how do I know what will be two, three months.

14 I go back to Budapest. That's what was the idea,
15 you know. Not we are running away. We don't stop until
16 Budapest, but was true we didn't stop, really, but we stopped
17 for a few days here, few days there, but really, the next stop
18 was after four or five months in Budapest, then when this Jewish
19 woman got married, it started to be better for forced labor and
20 they took us home, and it's terrible. Stay here. I can see now
21 the world, the peasants said, "Stay here, we'll take care of
22 you."

23 When the Russians army comes back they don't ask
24 you if they took care of you, who you are. They just were
25 shipped all over. That's what probably happened with Wallenberg
26 because he really -- it's a shame, you know, because what he did
27 for the Jewish population in Budapest, saved hundreds.

28 Q MORRIS, IN APENSAY, WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE IN APENSAY.

1 TELL ME ABOUT THAT.

2 A I tell you what was life. Like I told you, they
3 want to kill me. They took me because I was (inaudible.)

4 Nobody speak German or Jewish. (Inaudible) means
5 in English like somebody had a good time, had everything and
6 it's like a fat pig. Why I look that way because I was working
7 in the kitchen, you know. The first place when this guy put me
8 in. Sure, I had lot to eat. I looked good.

9 The others didn't have lot to eat, looked like
10 skeleton. Now, you ask, when we arrived there, then I was
11 finished, then, you know. The kitchen, it's history, nothing,
12 because this guy has left. They sent someone else to that guy
13 who took care of me, you know, and so I became just like any
14 other one, you know. I didn't have anybody.

15 Now, they put me in a group and I went out for work
16 and then this Polish couple, you know, who was also a halfling
17 at forced labor but he was a gentile and they put the gentiles
18 to supervise over us and they love us, you know, and you can see
19 how they love us now, but they don't love us, but you see what
20 they doing, I don't know if you read the papers what happened
21 last week during the election there.

22 In Poland was 600 -- in Boston was 600,000 Jews and
23 now there are 10,000 but I don't think there are ten, 10,000 in
24 big Poland and they still cannot stand them.

25 During the election it was all those things, so to
26 get back, so they want to kill me and I was lucky that I went up
27 because all my arm, it was black from the hitting that, you
28 know, was something like this (indicating), a little bit

1 heavier, and it was hitting me and then I couldn't even do
2 anything with my arm and then I said to the doctor, you know,
3 from the same city, I said, "Tibor, you have to save me because
4 I cannot go out," and he looked at me and if he couldn't keep me
5 in there, you know, I'm sure they would finish me next day, but
6 I was lucky so I didn't go, because they would kill me, first of
7 all, because I am a Jew, and the second, I am a Jew. The second
8 time again.

9 Q WHAT ELSE?

10 A What else? It was in a small -- it was before we
11 got, you know, I mean the Germans know that they lost the war,
12 and we went out to work and then we came back four o'clock in
13 the afternoon from work, and we met there Germans, you know,
14 just holding other people how we marched on the street and then
15 they started to sing a song, (inaudible) when everything it
16 comes to the end, the Germans, but they saw it, all the trouble,
17 so they was -- it was a very famous song in German, (inaudible,
18 so everything comes to the end. That means that this war will
19 be over, too, but look at what they did.

20 Since World War I, 1945, I should say, '45, you
21 know, when the war was over. 1945, May the 5th, was over. I
22 didn't wait in the camp. I walked out with my brother and I
23 tried to help myself, you know, and then I find my sister.

24 Q BEFORE WE GO TO AFTER THE WAR, I WANT TO ASK YOU
25 ABOUT APENSAY. WHAT WAS YOUR LIFE LIKE THERE?

26 A In Abensay, I tell you, Abensay, we were free,
27 after that where we got free, you know, the Germans came in, and
28 then we were free and then they started to take care of the

1 people, everything, and I tell you what I did.

2 Apensay was a small, beautiful village. Well, you
3 know, in Europe 45, 50,000 people, it's a big city, and so
4 anyway, after we were free, I was together with my sister, my
5 brothers, and we went in the city and we went in a house that
6 was the Burgemeister house. You know what the Burgermeister?
7 The mayor, and we took over, we took over.

8 Two sisters, my brother, my brother, five, we took
9 the beautiful house, nobody in, and we lived like kings, but
10 what did I do? It was Hungarians, already, you know, after the
11 war, and I went there and I got from there some pillows and
12 sheets and everything, you know, and I bought it, and I went.

13 (Tape two.)

14 A You know, smarter people was there and they
15 couldn't make it because they didn't have luck, just have to be
16 always in the right time in the right place. You can be the
17 smartest. So many religious people died there. Why? Why me?
18 I'm here. I don't know how long. But anyway, every day that we
19 live, it's -- how should I say? You have to enjoy it, you know,
20 every single day because that's how they say in Jewish, you
21 know, it's --

22 Q SO HOW DO YOU ENJOY IT? HOW DO YOU ENJOY EVERY
23 DAY?

24 A I enjoy it beautifully because I have three
25 grandchildren, beautiful grandchildren, the most beautiful kids
26 anywhere in the world, and I have a son and a daughter. My
27 daughter is in New York. I don't say I'm happy about it but you
28 can't have everything, and I enjoy what I can enjoy.

1 What is there at my age? I have problem with my
2 knee, you know, my walking is very bad. I never been sick in my
3 life. Now my neck hurt. When you get older -- when I was young
4 I didn't know any sickness, especially we lived in small city,
5 you know, just lived for ourselves, but we had a good life.

6 I had a terrific life, really. In 1935 -- 1937 to
7 1942, because then it started, 1942, I enjoyed life. It was
8 good. God was good to me. I made money. I worked hard. I
9 always worked hard. I worked hard here.

10 I started in United States as a cement block worker
11 in Milwaukee. Believe me, I never did it at home. And in
12 Milwaukee again I was lucky with the football because I didn't
13 know anything else. I mean, I was introduced, it was my
14 brother, to manager of a club and he took care of us right away.

15 We got the most -- the first money what I made in
16 the United States, it was \$600 with soccer. We played football,
17 and then I could go to Chicago with my brother. He was even a
18 better player than I am, was a very good player. I was a
19 goalee, so anyway, from Chicago they find out we are there, you
20 know, the Jewish team, and they came to take us to Chicago but I
21 didn't want to go to Chicago because my wife's sister was here
22 in California and they say to us, "Look, come here, you have to
23 work there, you have to work, so why shouldn't you live here?"

24 You couldn't imagine in California, so we went. I
25 was there for a year and I was very good friend with owner who
26 owned the cement block factory. I went with the manager from
27 the soccer field to introduce me for the job and he said, "That
28 is not for you. I help many refugees, they couldn't do it, but

1 especially you won't."

2 I said, "Rudy, what is wrong with me that I cannot?
3 I will show you that I can do it."

4 He said, "Okay," and next day I went in early and I
5 cleaned the whole back yard because, you know, in a cement
6 factor there are so many and he came in and he asked the
7 foreman, "Who did this here?"

8 Foreman said, "This guy there," so naturally he
9 took me out for lunch and we talked over everything, that he
10 knew that I am not a cement block worker, and two weeks later he
11 said, "Look, Morris, I am going to build some nightclub, bowling
12 alley." That was that time the big thing, you know, bowling
13 alley. He had his own plane and he took me out Sunday to this
14 field where he showed to me, you know, but I went up with him,
15 you know, in the plane. I thought I will never come back, you
16 know.

17 He was a pilot in the second world war so he had
18 his own plane. I was so scared. Anyway, so he took me there
19 and he showed me and said I have some plan with you, some
20 partnership.

21 I said, "Rudy, I appreciate it, but my wife has a
22 sister and brother-in-law in California, San Francisco, so we
23 cannot." I can't say anything. He said, "You know what,
24 Morris" -- but in the meantime, because his father was also
25 there, he made, I don't know, chimneys, you know, to the
26 windows, you know, and was out to tell his father, he said,
27 "Morris, I want to go with you business like this."

28 So I told Rudy. He said, "Don't worry about my

1 father, he want to go in every kind of business. You come with
2 me."

3 I said, "I'm sorry, I cannot," and then he said,
4 "If you won't be lucky in California, any time you can come
5 here," and thank God, we came here, we were lucky.

6 I worked first for a shoe store down in Milbray and
7 then we went with my brother and my brother-in-law in shoe
8 outlet and El Camino, you know, and we opened another store in
9 Sincaros and another store in Sunnyvale and we worked eight days
10 a week hard and we thank God we were lucky. Here we are.

11 Now we can be finished. We can't go because we
12 have problem here, problem here, but the problem is if it
13 doesn't hurt in the morning, then you're finished and you are
14 dead.

15 Anyway, we went through lot of things, really, and
16 I have a nice family. I wish I would be 20 years younger, but
17 that is the big thing, but I tell you guys, you all, you see,
18 don't think that you're not going to get old. You will get old,
19 hopefully. Not you, and not you, and not you.

20 Now, you know, I like to see those kids, really,
21 the kids. They think they are the world. They don't give a
22 damn if somebody, they don't even see it. The kids, you know,
23 somebody, they say I went to the party but there is all old
24 guys.

25 I said, "How old were they?" "Oh, over 30, 35."
26 Like I said to my son, "Son, enjoy life, you are 43 years old.
27 You won't notice it and you will be 50 because it goes like this
28 (indicating)," and that's the truth, but that's life. What

1 else do you want? Just ask me.

2 Q OKAY.

3 A Because in the meantime I get ideas.

4 Q ALL RIGHT. I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS. BEFORE YOU
5 WERE IN APENSAY, WHAT I AM TRYING TO DO, MORRIS, IS GET A FEEL
6 FOR WHEN YOU WERE IN THE GERMAN CAMPS?

7 A Yeah.

8 Q WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE, BECAUSE PEOPLE DON'T REALLY
9 know.

10 A Before Apensay?

11 Q YES.

12 A Before Apensay we were walking from Walsberb to
13 Apensay because we were running away from the Russians so we
14 were coming, you know, open boxcar, wintertime.

15 We stopped in Czechoslovakia. I tell you, yeah, we
16 were coming and they said that tonight we will sleep in a barn,
17 you know, with hay, you know, that they show to us, the same
18 story like in Apensay, but they want us to go under the tunnel,
19 you know, and they want to explode, you know, here, again, that
20 was before.

21 They said tonight we will stop here, head officer
22 said, and we will sleep here and then in the morning we start to
23 walk again. Here again, it was a barn, a big barn with straw,
24 and we were talking and all of a sudden we decided, the whole
25 gang, we are not going to sleep in the barn because that is
26 again like it was in -- you see, always, yeah, has again that
27 was where I was forced labor, probably don't remember or maybe
28 if you were working with the Hungarian, it was something like a

1 hospital, but it was just straw and everything, and the
2 Hungarians, they burned them down with the sick people there,
3 you know. Now here, yeah, so we refused to go in the barn
4 because you need just one piece of match, you know, and we all
5 finished because we would kill each other, you know, running
6 out.

7 I don't know how many boxcar, they just wanted to
8 put them like this. They still want to kill us, so we didn't
9 go, and then it took two, three weeks. We stopped in
10 Czechoslovakia at a summer resort, how they call, and there came
11 my guy. You know, he said, "Morris, take ten men and go and
12 bring water for the train, you know." So now I could run away
13 and my brother, too. It was nothing.

14 He trusted me, but I said to myself, I was in
15 pajama, you know, because we all had the striped pajama and my
16 head had also here a cut, you know. If I go, I run away, the
17 first house would run right away where I go in to the police or
18 to the Germans that here's a Jew hiding, so I didn't run away.

19 But we went and we gave water for the -- I don't
20 know how many hundred guys, you know, and that was
21 Czechoslovakia. They are nice people. It was lunchtime and big
22 brewery. They have a brewery, the best beer they make. They
23 say that is the best beer, Pearson beer, and it was lunchtime
24 and we got to this railroad station where was the Pearson beer
25 and they were eating and they saw us and the whole people from
26 the factory, you know, they all give it to us, at lunch.

27 It was a nice gesture, you know, they give it to
28 us. But life, it was nothing because we always were running,

1 you know. I mean, after, when the Russians started to come
2 after us, then it was, I should say it was January, until
3 1940 -- we were always running until 1944. Just once we stopped
4 here, once we stopped there, but always was tourist. Never a
5 dull moment, you know, but still you can't forget. You know,
6 it's okay to Auschwitz, beer camp or whatever, you know, we know
7 what was, but you don't know what was the forced labor, because
8 that's what terrible.

9 When you march on the road there, 20 below zero,
10 and you just finished and they shoot you and go farther, you
11 cannot even see, just you go all over both sides, it's bodies,
12 you know, with tolars, you know, that is what the Germans did,
13 you know, and young people, 45, 30, they all laying down, they
14 are in frozen bodies, you can't do anything, just go, go,
15 because you stop.

16 My wife had the same problem, but they were smart
17 because they run away from the Germans and she was free before
18 me five months, four months, she was free already in January and
19 for us just started the tours in January.

20 Q MORRIS, WHAT WAS THE WORST MEMORY THAT YOU HAVE?

21 A I tell you, the worst memory I have is when they
22 took us, when we arrived in Auschwitz and they took my mother
23 away from me, simple, and my father and she looked back to me
24 and waved. That's it. That's -- what else can. That was
25 terrible.

26 You know, and to see and to hear the children
27 crying there, you know, because that was on the railroad
28 station, you know, you to the right, you to the left, you to the

1 right and the little girl running after the mother, 12 years
2 old, and the officer tells her, "You better go this way if you
3 want to be alive," you know, because they needed the young
4 people for work, but many was running without the officer
5 knowing after the mother and the father, you know, with the old
6 people and they went straight with the old guys in the oven.
7 You know what happened.

8 Q CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE, LIKE WHERE DID
9 YOU SLEEP AND ABOUT ROLL CALL AND WHAT A DAY WAS LIKE? WHAT WAS
10 A DAY LIKE?

11 A Where we slept?

12 Q LIKE ONE DAY, CAN YOU JUST TELL ME WHAT AN AVERAGE
13 DAY WAS LIKE?

14 A Every day was like where we were just walking and
15 walking and walking back, and once, let's see, where did I work?
16 Just like any other soldier, you know, where they take him out
17 for work to fix the railroad station or in a cement factory or
18 wherever they work and when it was over, they got together and
19 they were marched in the camp and then they got the bowl of soup
20 and piece of bread.

21 But the bread, you put it in your pocket because
22 you want to save it for morning, but you were so hungry you
23 couldn't stand it, and you said to yourself, no, I will eat half
24 of this, and then you eat a half, and you say I don't care what
25 will be in the morning, I have to finish, and then I eat this
26 little piece of bread, too, and in the morning I had just the
27 coffee.

28 But that's how was life there, you know. The

1 people was going to bed with empty stomach, just food. Nothing
2 important in the world, you know, people in America doesn't
3 know, thank God, what does it mean, food. Daughters kill the
4 mother for a piece of bread. It wasn't sister or brother, you
5 know. I cannot say generally, you know, but it was nothing, you
6 know. People was killing each other.

7 Q HOW?

8 A How? My wife says one daughter started to hit her
9 mother because a piece of bread, you know. Didn't kill her, you
10 know, just mother had, I don't know, two slices of bread and the
11 daughter was very hungry and want to take it away. It's
12 unbelievable.

13 They are not not stories, you know, that is true.
14 As a matter of fact, you cannot even say the way it was, and
15 then they were hitting each other, I mean fight, always fight,
16 you know, but then it was nice different people who really
17 sacrifice for each other, you know, they give.

18 I know one thing. I always want to give, you know.
19 If I have a chance I will give. If I didn't have, I go to
20 Israel, they bless me, but I go. I go but there is nobody any
21 more, you know. I mean they all dying, all the Holocaust
22 survivors. One is 65, one is 70, one is 75, one is 99. I have
23 an aunt, she is 97, but she is -- in one year she got mentally
24 ill, in one year, and she was very smart, very intelligent girl,
25 you know.

26 A year ago, year and a half ago, she wrote letters
27 to the senators and to the president, you know. She was smart
28 girl, but now we go to see her, she talks something what

1 happened and then she start to talk about Budapest and after
2 this she start to talk about something else and mix them, but
3 sometimes she is normal. Sometimes she is normal.

4 I went last week and started to sing a song, you
5 know, Hungarian song. She sang it way better than I did. She
6 knows the dance better than I know it, and then all of a sudden,
7 boom, it's over.

8 Q MORRIS, YOU SAID THAT YOU WOULD PUT THE BREAD IN
9 YOUR POCKET?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q FOR MONEY?

12 A Not money. No, just bread, what I got my portion
13 here. No, but I couldn't stand it, and I finish it and then the
14 next morning I didn't have it because it's something like, I
15 don't know, people can get it away from drug and you can't stop
16 because you still, as long as you feel that you have something
17 what you can eat, then you know that bread. Was terrible bread
18 but --

19 Q MORRIS, DO YOU REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO
20 SAVED YOUR LIFE?

21 A No.

22 Q NO?

23 A No, it was a German soldier. I never asked and no,
24 I never. He was a nice guy. He got shot, you know, in stomach
25 in the Russian war, and changed him because they didn't want to
26 send him home. Just needed people. They didn't have enough
27 people, but it was -- sometimes look all over the world,
28 sometimes you find good people, bad people, you know. But what

1 else?

2 Q I WANTED TO ASK YOU AFTER THE WAR, WHAT HAPPENED
3 AFTER THE WAR?

4 A After the war, like we went every day to, few days
5 to people to ask for a little food, you know, because it was --
6 you have to take care of it, people, and to say so we wouldn't
7 have -- we didn't have enough to eat but I had because I worked,
8 you know, I wasn't ashamed to go ask and they gave it, you know,
9 and then we were there for they, four months.

10 We had very good life. It was a river there,
11 because we have to wait until they take care of it, to send us
12 back to Suttmeier, you know, to my city, and after, oh, we lived
13 fantastic, four months, you know, beautiful river, warm,
14 everything. What can I tell you? And I was working. You know,
15 I told you that I got from the Hungarians some merchandise they
16 had, pillows and all those things, sheets, and then I sold them
17 to somebody else and we had a good life then, and then it came
18 the day when they said we are going home.

19 They packed us in cars, you know, and we went home,
20 and I had some money, but I left before they took us to the
21 concentration camp.

22 You remember I told you that the Hungarians came
23 in, you know, to take everything out. They couldn't take
24 everything, because we were hiding, and I had a girl friend and
25 I said, "Put this away. If I come back, okay; if not, then you
26 can keep it."

27 So anyway, she is a very nice Gentile girl and I
28 got back, I got home, I put my little reserve two places, to my

1 girl friend and to another who was a customer of mine. Who was
2 a customer of mine said that the Russians took everything, so I
3 didn't get back, but from this girl I got back everything and
4 even today I send her packages and money.

5 She is very sick and sometimes I call her by phone,
6 and so I had nothing, not even a sum of money. So we opened
7 this small shoe store with my brother who was already in the
8 city, and we started to work, you know, and we worked and then
9 people started to run away, you know, from the communism, so I
10 was a capitalist, so we have to run, too, but first they were
11 running because we were on the Hungarian border and the Romanian
12 Jews, they were coming there, you know, to our border, and
13 naturally they needed boots, shoes, because they went through --
14 they didn't have to be stamped, just have one pair shoes, and so
15 we decided we are going to Hungary and from Hungary to Vienna
16 and from Vienna to the American zone that was in Leeds, half was
17 Russians, interesting.

18 We thought of everything we had, one pair they
19 didn't know that, you know, one pair of shoes, two left foot,
20 it's a comedy, two left sandals, both left, you know, so anyway,
21 we cleaned out the store. As a matter of fact, the last day I
22 went even to pay taxes, you know, to the I.R.S. because I didn't
23 want somebody even to think that we going to be -- everybody was
24 running.

25 I had my birthday, December the 28th, and she
26 always made for me a certain cake and I didn't tell her that we
27 are going. It was a guy who got \$500 who took over from Romania
28 to Hungary, but we were so close, you know, that we could really

1 walk to it and it was Sunday night, Sunday, twelve o'clock, I
2 went home and my wife start to cut the cake. When she put in
3 the knife I said, "Tonight we are going." She couldn't cut
4 farther.

5 Now, my son, it was winter, cold, December 28th.
6 My son was few months old, eight months old, and we got a
7 beautiful heavy coat for him, you know, and seven o'clock we
8 left everything there, the girl, the servant.

9 I said, "You can take anything you want and then go
10 and tell my brother," because my brother couldn't come because
11 the guy who took us didn't want to take seven, just five, and it
12 started to get dark.

13 We got out from the house, we went to the river,
14 where there is a river and there was a car -- a truck, a truck,
15 and the truck, two cars, for an hour, an hour and a half, and
16 then we got off and then the guy who got the \$500 was waiting
17 for us there and we went.

18 What happened the night before, the patrol, you know
19 what is the patrol, was there at the same side where we were and
20 they shoot them, four guys who want to go just like me to
21 Hungary, running away, and they shoot them and still I said, "I
22 have to go, I don't want to wait."

23 Maybe we are lucky. What happened, we got to the
24 border and the patrol was on the other side, you understand, so
25 I was lucky that I had my luck, you know, because to go with an
26 eighth month old kid, beautiful kid.

27 And what happened, when we got to the -- we put
28 some drug in his pack, in the rear, you know, not to get up when

1 we get to the border, you know, two or three hours. You know how
2 the drug is. What happens, he got up, he started right at the
3 border, he start to scream, and what happened, I took the baby,
4 and I pushed my tongue in his mouth not to scream and I got
5 icicles here, you know.

6 I was sweating, and we find out why did he cry, you
7 know, on the meadow, wintertime, branches, you know, so short,
8 and it got caught and opened and his little foot was hanging in
9 the 20 below zero.

10 So anyway, we were lucky. We went over the border.
11 It was so cold, I never forget, I had a navy blue coat and navy
12 blue hat and it was white because we put the baby under the
13 carriage, you know, the type peasants and we didn't go because
14 if we were there we would freeze, you know.

15 You have to move. When it's so cold and then we
16 went in the house. We paid out the guy \$500. Then we went out
17 to the railroad station and then we were there in Hungary, you
18 know, that's from Romania to Hungary. What happens, my wife,
19 Lindi, we went train, you know, that kind of train, third class,
20 you know, cold.

21 Turn on the heat, they just pushed in the train,
22 you know and we have to wait an hour until we go, and all of a
23 sudden a guy comes and tells my wife, we were running, you know,
24 we got scared, you know, "What you doing here?" And then my
25 wife said, "Oh, I am here with my sister."

26 She has a sister in a certain city, and she said,
27 "I am with Bobby in the next city, just came over here to see a
28 friend of mine."

1 Luck was that the guy was running too, but anyway,
2 he wouldn't -- just the feeling is there. After we are on the
3 train, all of a sudden somebody comes and recognized us, but
4 then we went to certain house. We went to catch a train where
5 Lindi's sister, Bobbie, lives, and it was in the evening and we
6 were knocking at the door. "Who is it?" She got scared,
7 naturally, what we doing.

8 So anyway, we were there for two, they days, and
9 then the Hungarian committee said everybody has to go to Vienna,
10 they take care of it, you know, if not we are sending you back
11 to Romania, you know.

12 So we went after two days, they days, we left them,
13 Lindi's sister, and we went to Budapest from here and from
14 Budapest with train to Vienna and between us, because that's --
15 the Jewish committee took care of everything -- between us it
16 was most the -- I am the richest man in Hungary, but if the
17 Russians, would know, they wouldn't let, you know, because first
18 of all, they could get as much money as they want; otherwise,
19 you know, because real capitalist, you know, Vice Monprey is the
20 name, he owned half Hungary, and he was hiding there near me and
21 the Russians soldiers came in, one, two, they, four, five, six.

22 They looked and they looked but finally we find out
23 that they got some big money, you know. They didn't say it. It
24 just one more, because they got money from the Jewish committee
25 for us, too. I don't know, 15 people or 20 people, you know,
26 but it wasn't -- but if they would know that Vice Monfredi, that
27 was a different story, you know.

28 So we went, we arrived in Vienna and then, see,

1 with my little boy in the Rashshield hospital, you probably
2 heard it, urine up to here, we go in the water, in the room, big
3 hospital, screaming, the kids, you know, all refugees.

4 Then we were there. Already we had friends there,
5 you know. Then we went to, they call Zaire, Leeds. I tell you,
6 maybe you heard it, it's Hungarian, not Hungarian, American
7 zone, so when we arrived there, they put us in a camp, how they
8 call it. Then we got everything good and we -- I tell you, it
9 doesn't matter. Then I started to work.

10 I had a friend. We went in partnership, imported
11 coffee, sugar and everything. What was the big item?
12 Chocolate, chocolate, from the Cadbury chocolate. Probably you
13 heard it.

14 So we became partner and this business went. This
15 was a black market business, you know. This business was -- the
16 Austrian people, you know where we were, Apensay and all, you
17 know. They didn't have after the war, you know, they couldn't
18 get chocolate, rice but a group of Jewish people went to the
19 Jewish committee in England, so anyway they arranged that they
20 can bring in hundred and hundred boxcar chocolate, coffee, salt,
21 you name it, and they already brought them in and then it was
22 under railroad station, you know, and we bought, anyway, we
23 bought from the big guys coffee, this and that, but I didn't
24 have money, but one of the guy and I still, the Polish guy, I
25 have 20 box Cadbury.

26 I said, "I would like to have it but I don't have
27 money," you know. "That's okay, you will pay for me," and that
28 is how it started, you know, so naturally, whatever you had you

1 sold them in five minutes. You went into the grocery
2 wholesaler, yacker, you know, they bought everything. And
3 naturally, once a big guy that's little bought over from the big
4 guys, you know, I get ready from this guy and I make pretty
5 good.

6 I was small, but they like me, people you know,
7 because I was clean, shaved? So anyway, this guy, big shot,
8 wherever, I went, he said, "Don't come in the office," you know,
9 because he want hundred, hundred cases. I had five. Once I got
10 from this little guy 500 cases Cadbury and I said now I will get
11 satisfaction, nobody had, and I went into the guy and he said --
12 I didn't care -- I said, "Look, you always treated me like dirt.
13 Can you use chocolate?"

14 "Sure I can use. How many you have?"

15 I said, "I have 500." Sure, he asked me the price,
16 and if nobody has it, I give the price and he will pay the
17 price, whatever I ask. So anyway, I asked more than I supposed
18 to just because he treated me like that.

19 I said, "It's just," for example, "five dollars a
20 case," just for instance. He said, "I bought yesterday for
21 four." I said, "But today you cannot buy it and I give you for
22 five."

23 So anyway, I sold him the five other cases, I made
24 a few dollars and that's what you asked me what we did. Until
25 we got the visa to come to United States we work under, you
26 know, everybody worked, and most people like it because they
27 couldn't get nowhere, and for the Jews, they got a way to get
28 the merchandise, you know, and they safe, because they got

1 hundreds and hundreds cases coffee and everything so they are
2 bought and they sold.

3 And then, really, honestly I want to go to Israel.
4 That's what was our idea, but then Truman came out, was a law
5 that who was in the concentration camp, they can go to United
6 States and my wife's sister was already in San Francisco and,
7 honestly, I rather go to America than to Israel because I don't
8 have here anything, I don't have there but still it's a better,
9 a lot better country -- not better country -- better chance to
10 do something, you know. So we waited a year there and we worked
11 on the Bonauf, and then we got visa, everything, and we came
12 home, I mean we came to Milwaukee.

13 From Milwaukee we got a visa, and then we arrived
14 in Milwaukee. Some relatives was waiting. We arrived to
15 New York and from New York to Milwaukee, and some relatives was
16 waiting. All of a sudden I saw a newspaper, a whole page,
17 "Hello Milwaukee," my son, beautiful baby, you know, I still
18 have it, and it, to me, it was something new.

19 I come to United States, my son full page, "Hello,
20 Milwaukee," is looking. It was very touching, and then I got to
21 Milwaukee and then I got the job at the cement factory.

22 Q AFTER THE WAR DID YOU EVER MEET ANY NAZIS?

23 A After the war? They all Nazis, but let me think.

24 Q YES.

25 A What do you mean Nazis?

26 Q ANY ANTI-SEMITISM?

27 A Oh, anti-Semitism, always, yeah. You always, you
28 have it here, too.

1 Q DOES IT AFFECT YOU?

2 A I don't enjoy it. Yeah. Look, I am a Jew and I am
3 a very emotional man and I would do anything for Judaism and I
4 do whatever I can, you know. I buy Israel bonds, I help Jewish
5 Welfare Federation, I give for the Holocaust Museum in
6 Washington D.C., Holocaust Museum here, and so many places, New
7 York, I give every week something, but I don't care. Probably
8 they need them, and I am plain. I think I'm a good Jew.

9 For me, everything is Judaism. I mean, I take a
10 paper, I open, if it is anything with Israel or with here
11 something, I read, and the rest, if I don't have time I just
12 throw away but first everything what is going on.

13 Naturally, lately I am sick to see this Saadam,
14 what is going on, very emotional, you know, and sometimes I
15 can't even eat after because I watch the CNN or the other one,
16 you know, and then my wife will say, "Don't take it so serious."
17 I don't take it so serious, but I can't help it, and I'm this
18 kind of guy.

19 Q MORRIS, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT GOD, YOU KNOW,
20 AFTER THE HOLOCAUST?

21 A After the Holocaust, I believe in God, I believe in
22 God. I believe there is somewhere, somehow, a God. That's it,
23 yeah.

24 Q AND WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ISRAEL?

25 A What I am thinking about Israel, we need Israel.
26 Without Israel we won't have a good life here. I am for Israel,
27 hundred percent. They have problems, they make mistakes, but it
28 is very difficult to live there, you know. They are the heroes

1 because for us here, you're okay. We help them, but today they
2 struggle and they every minute are in trouble, and they are my
3 heroes.

4 Q AND WHAT ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW IN EASTERN
5 EUROPE, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

6 A I tell you, I think that there be a lot of trouble.
7 You see, probably they thought that capitulism, they can change
8 it in six months or a year. That takes years and years. It's
9 not so easy, and besides that, it is already anti-Semitism in
10 Hungary but there always will be and always was.

11 I am not talking about Poland because they hate us,
12 you know. I don't know how many million, five or six million,
13 and now we are 10,000 and they still don't want us.

14 Unfortunately, we don't want them, but the trouble
15 is that 10,000 people there all probably all survivors.
16 Czechoslovakia is democratic, but in Hungary always was they
17 hate us, you know, and the problem was that we made mistakes,
18 too, you know, because before the war we thought that it is
19 Saturday night, they thought that the world is theirs, the Jews,
20 they went in hundreds and hundreds, restaurant, they thought it
21 belonged to them.

22 They too loud sometimes, you know. That was before
23 the war, and it brought out this, too, and today I'm sure they
24 doing okay, the Jews, but you can't let -- sometimes, you know,
25 and in Russia, I don't have to tell you because in Russia, thank
26 God, they are coming out by thousands and thousands, you know,
27 1,500 and a thousand comes a day out.

28 That's not a small job, you know, just to give them

1 a place to lay down, and at the same time they are in trouble,
2 not trouble, just always have to be ready and I don't know what
3 will be now with Shamir, what they will do. The truth is we
4 need them; they need us.

5 Q MORRIS, YOU KNOW, YOU HAVE HAD SUCH A FULL LIFE,
6 FROM THE WORST TO THE BEST.

7 A Yeah.

8 Q IS THERE ANY MESSAGE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO
9 THE WORLD OR TO JEWS, SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY?

10 A The only thing what I would like to say is that I
11 wish the world of Judaism in the future to live in peace. What
12 else? That's enough.

13 Q THAT'S A GOOD ONE. THANK YOU, MORRIS.

14 A My pleasure.

15 Q IT'S BEEN WONDERFUL, AND I THINK YOU GAVE A
16 WONDERFUL INTERVIEW.

17 A Thank you, thank you.

18 A VOICE: I wonder if either of your seconds had a
19 question.

20 Q I'M SORRY. THERE MIGHT BE A FEW QUESTIONS HERE.

21 A Okay.

22 A VOICE: I HAD ONE QUESTION. DID YOUR SISTERS
23 SURVIVE CONCENTRATION CAMPS AS WELL?

24 A My both, yeah.

25 Q WHICH WERE THEY IN?

26 A They were Auschwitz and -- first they were in
27 Auschwitz for they months. I think it is Beaker now. Yeah,
28 both had numbers and I think they were in Daho, too, but I

1 wouldn't -- but they were about they biggie, I will say.

2 Q ARE ALL YOUR SIBLINGS IN THIS COUNTRY?

3 A We are four brothers, two sisters. They are all
4 here. We live close to each other, two sisters. One came from
5 Israel. She lives 32 years in Israel but her husband passed
6 away and then she came to be with us.

7 My second sister is married and she has a daughter
8 in Los Angeles and I have a brother, Joe, brother Sal, brother
9 Alex and Morris. So I don't think, I tell you again, there is
10 another family who came back from Auschwitz from six, except my
11 father and my mother, you know. They were old. Anything else?

12 Q HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

13 A Thank you, thank you.

14 Q I HAVE BEEN FIGURING IT OUT. YOU WILL BE 78.

15 A Yeah, yeah, I will have birthday. I have beautiful
16 grandchildren and I am very happy. Thank you.

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