

Interview with HERMAN SHINE
Holocaust Media Project
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Interviewers: Judy Wellisch, Lorene Wilk
Transcribers: Jessica Bryan, Patricia Fink

A: My name is Herman Shine. My former name was Mende (Scheingeschist).

Q: YOUR BIRTHPLACE?

A: I was born in Berlin.

Q: YOUR DATE OF BIRTH?

A: October 4, 1922.

Q: WHEN DID YOU FIRST NOTICE THAT JEWS WERE IN DANGER?

A: Well, I was born in Berlin, but my father was born in Russia. When I became 13 years, bar mitzvah, I had to have a Polish passport. I had to be registered as a Polish citizen. I had to go to the Polish consulate in Berlin and I received a Polish pass so I could, if I needed to, travel to Poland. If I had known what it meant, I would have never taken it. I would have never even gone there, because in 1938 Hitler started the first action against Polish Jews. And we were shipped there early in the morning, I think it was around September 2, to Poland.

I was on a train there for about three and a half days and the train completely locked up. Nobody knew what they would do with us if Poland won't accept us and the Germans, of course, wouldn't take us back. So after three and a half days the Polish authorities came and I had to show my pass and I got a red stamp in there that meant I was accepted. I could travel now through Poland.

I knew my father was very important, but I didn't know where he was and I didn't speak Polish, so I didn't really intend to stay there. So I walked around all these railroad tracks and I saw the same train that brought us there turned around and now the sign was switched and it says, "Berlin (Lamerstadtdaneuf)," you know, a huge railroad station in Berlin, from where we originally came from.

So I went and boarded the train illegally and inside the train there were 15 to 20 more Jews from Vienna who had no knowledge that this train goes back toward Germany again, and they were very upset. And actually, I'm the only one who knew that this train goes back to Germany. So as soon as we arrived at the station, the German station -- the name is (Neuvensen) -- the authorities came in and asked for our identification. So I showed my pass and then they saw my registration stamps, they knew that I was accepted already into Poland. So we were all more or less arrested to stay there for 24 hours at the station, so as soon as the authorities decided what to do with us, then they shipped us all back to Germany.

I was put in jail for approximately eight to ten days and sent again with a German policeman to Poland to get rid of me, because I was an accepted Polish citizen now. When I saw in Poland at the border the Polish soldiers with guns walking around, and the German commissar asked me to start running, I said, "I go with you. If you want to get rid of me, you come together with me." So he said, "I'm not going to go, you have to go there." So I refused and he had no choice but taking me back to Germany.

As soon as I came back to Germany, the authorities told me I have to leave Germany within four months or I will be coming into the concentration camp. So I told them I have no passport because my passport was taken away. They had to find out who's going to pay the expense for a ticket back to Germany. By the time I got my passport back it was eight months, so there was already a war starting.

September 20, 1939 my mother asked me to go to the police headquarters for registration. All the foreign-born people with passes have to register like in the First World War. As soon as I came there, there was already a car waiting -- they called it the (Brienminna), which transported me with quite a few other Jewish people to a concentration camp, Sachsenhausen, where I would stay until 1942. I worked as a roofer there, and I worked in the brick factory.

In Sachsenhausen we were, after about a year and a half, shipped to a separate camp which was called (Klinger Barrack), where they built a camp, and we would stay there all night now. And I worked there as a roofer. We worked approximately eight to ten hours every day and, of course, the prominent people, most of them, we called them the VIPs, they were non-Jews and they would lead the camp. They were the supervisors. They were in charge of all the prisoners. They would do a lot of illegal activities and we, the Jews, lower prisoners, would have to help them to a great degree do their illegal things.

The German prisoners, they would work in all prominent places, among others, the SS kitchen. They would get excellent

food and, of course, would organize more or less stealing food. But then there needed to be a way to get this food into the camp, so my job was at one time to go there and lift up (the roof of the barracks). And I was ordered to repair a section over the SS canteen. And the supervisor told me that I should pick out the big package with a huge piece of wire on the bottom. I had no idea what was in it, so I just did what I was ordered. I lifted up one of these sections of the roof, put the hook on, and it was Number 42. I dug it out, put it in a wheelbarrow, put some paper on top and threw a towel over it and I went into the main gate.

Generally, the SS sitting at the gate asked me where am I going, because we were working outside the camp. The guards were in and outside, of course. I said, "I have to do a repair job in the back of the camp." So I was lucky he did not ask me to turn the wheelbarrow over; otherwise, he would have found what was in there. Maybe it was too messy.

So I brought it in the back and I delivered what turned out to be a huge ham. I got a slice and I had to wait on the outside and watch while they were eating and drinking, those prominent prisoners. I was eating this.

So approximately a week later I was ordered to come to the commander and they told me, "Who stole this ham?" I said, "I have never seen a ham and I am Jewish, I don't even eat ham." Of course, I could not talk. If I would have said what happened, I would have been dead, and so the

other way I just had to hope. After all the punishment I am still surviving it. You cannot talk, you cannot sing.

The way the whole story came out was the general inspector of all the concentration camps -- and his name was General (Obergruppenfelders Pohl), he was supposed to inspect this camp and entertain, and brought some other prominent people from the outside. The way the Germans are, they have everything listed in a huge book. This guy wanted to be served something special, so the chief of the SS kitchen says to the head prisoner in the kitchen, "You serve (Obergruppenfelders Pohl) ham Number 42." 42 is in the book and I have no idea what the ham was, so naturally, the ham he was supposed to get was delivered to the prisoners and I got a piece of it, too! So they looked all over and they found 41 and all the other hams, but not 42, because it was especially lean. They were so mad.

And this is the way it happened, you see? Now a Jew had to steal this ham for the German prisoners. So I got about a hundred over my back, but I didn't say nothing, because after all, I'd been in the camp long enough and I knew that there was only one way to survive. So I came in camp and the prominent prisoners, the Aryans, the non-Jews, ordered hospital treatment for me. They had to get some doctors and do massage and everything, until they get the next punishment the next day again.

Q: WHAT KIND OF PUNISHMENT WAS IT?

A: They call it a pipe. In other words, they call it a whip and the whip was approximately at the handle two

inches, tapered down to nothing. It was filled with (sugar sand). It was approximately four to five feet long and you get hit with this on two sides and you were struck to what we call a dead horse, you know, very, very -- they make you put your feet in there and your hand strapped in and your back in a position, and then -- but, of course, I didn't talk, so I was saved. But I was fired from my position as a roofer. I had to start from scratch again. But the Aryan prisoners, the non-Jews, helped me survive.

We were in camp then until the order came from Himmler in 1942, September, to be transported to another camp. We had no idea where, but what happened before was we were allowed by the commander to keep several utensils which were necessary for daily life, like a pocket knife, handkerchief, pencil, to have with us. On this particular day, September 20, 1942, we were ordered to the prisoner baths. They surrounded these baths with armed guards, which had never happened before, and inside the lower commanders came and they said, "Clean out your pockets, everything on the table, including your belts and all."

Some of our prisoners, our older prisoners, and some of the political prisoners, Communists, Jews, they said, "What they are doing with us means only one thing: They're going to execute us and we don't want to die like animals. What we're going to do now is we're going to plan a mutiny." And this mutiny is going to be planned in conjunction when the main prisoners walking into the camp from work at evening.

So now the time was about 3:30 and we knew about 15

to 20 minutes they open the large gates and thousands of prisoners coming back from work into the camp. This one prisoner, his name was (Josjonas), he was a political prisoner, also Jewish, he said, "When I give the signal, we're going to jump out of here into the main place where we'll be counted. And whoever is in our way, if they draw a gun, we're going to jump him." Because we want to do this whole thing, like when the prisoners coming in, try to incite a whole riot at the same time.

Q: WHAT CAMP WAS THIS?

A: Sachsenhausen. This was the day we were supposed to go on transport and we didn't know where.

So he gave us a signal, we all ran out there and some of the Nazis pulled the guns and one of them was a sturmfuehrer lieutenant and he ordered "Fire!" but everything went too fast and nobody even got a chance to fire. All of a sudden the main gate went open, the first prisoners walked in, but at the same time also the head commandant came. And he said, "What's going on?" And he saw several Nazis on the floor inside the camp. And this lieutenant says, "Commander, the Jews tried to mutiny here and I ordered machine gun number one to fire." He said, "You son of a B, you ordered the machine gun to fire on Jews who are not armed? You are surrounded by 20,000 SS troops and you tell me that the Jews could do anything like this, they would do any harm to you?"

He ordered all the troops outside the camp and he ordered all the prioners, without being counted, instantly to run as fast as they could to the barracks. As soon as that happened,

when we finished about a half an hour later, he ordered to form a half circle around and he said, "I want to know who are the leaders of this so-called mutiny here." He said, "I give you exactly 60 seconds; if not, I have all of you shot."

Nothing happened. After 60 seconds this (Josjonas), who was, like I said, a former Communist, a political prisoner, a Jew, he said, "Commander, we had no leader. We all agreed." He said, "You agreed to what?" He said, "You yourself gave us permission to have our necessary utensils with us, like belts, knives, what we need for daily living, and we knew that if we are ordered to give all this away and put it on the table and we have done nothing wrong except that we are Jews and we do our job and everything, we know this means we are going to be shot. And we don't want to be shot like animals, and if we should die, we should die like men."

He said, "Who told you anything like that?" He said, "I'm Colonel (Weiss)," he said, "and I give you my word, if I don't want to dirty my hand, I can give an order. And wherever you go -- I'm not permitted to tell you where you go, but," he says, "I guarantee you my officer's word, this will be forgotten, provided you go and transport in an orderly way."

He ordered everything returned to us, including food and everything, and then we went on the transport. We had the trains waiting there already and we were loaded into wagons where they transport livestock. And we were about 500 Jews and they put us in three different cabins in there, and it was so crowded that many of them unfortunately died

before we even reached the first station. Our locomotive was taken away after we were received from Sachsenhausen to Auschwitz.

We had no idea where we were going, but we knew that it was east and the war was going on and naturally, they took the locomotive away. The military needed the locomotive to put on the trains to the front, so we had to wait sometimes ten hours until we get another locomotive.

In the meantime, there was nothing to eat, there were no sanitary conditions, so there were many people who needed medicine. And so quite a few of them died inside this wagon.

So, finally, we came at the so-called station and it was Auschwitz. In Auschwitz there were already the Nazis waiting, and one of the leaders there, he took the thumb, pointed left, you go left, if the thumb is right, you go right. Sometimes he would whistle.

We were fortunate. After several days in Auschwitz, we were ordered to a new camp. This was the -- we called it the Buna camp in (Monowitz). We had to build a brand new camp there. We went there originally with about 500 Jews, and this camp was built up then at the end to about 22,000.

There we would be put to work at the GI Farm Industry and we were doing all kinds of work. I became a qualified roofer. Roofing they needed, and so I was put in charge of all the roofs in the camp. So I worked, did all kinds of repair work and whatever was in conjunction with roofing.

Then there were also many more camps built around this

area, so one day I was ordered to go to another camp and to build also barracks for -- put roofs on different barracks. That was near Gleiwitz. Today, it's Poland.

So when we came there the camp was -- there was no walls around there and no gates, no nothing. Everything was just in preparation.

One day I saw three girls coming into the camp and they had the Magen David on their blouses. So I said to the other worker, "Let's go over there." They were lifting up a huge barrel of potato peels. I couldn't see from far away what it was, and we came closer and they dropped it and we lifted it up and dumped it in the bucket. And when we did this, dumped it in the cart, we talked to these girls. We said, "You have a Magen David. Where are you from?" They said, "We are mixed and we are living in the city."

Sooner or later I became very close with one of the girls, and as long as the gate was not completed, I would see that I worked at the barrack closest to them. And when they came I told -- I tried to talk to them and I told her the whole story of what was going on, that they killed already many millions of Jews and we in the camp have no way of surviving, "But you have a chance." And so I gave her the different names of the people, the Nazis, and told her the entire story what was going on.

I always had a pretty good voice and I used to sing. And when I couldn't talk to her anymore I would sing different songs, because she was close by, you know. The Nazi was guarding there, he always said, "You shut up. Your job is

to work here. I should report you." And I said, "You can report me. I'm doing my job."

So one day we were doing the roofing in this new camp, but all these jobs were paid for and supplied by outside contractors. In other words, the Germans more or less sold every prisoner to different companies who would be willing to pay the prices. So we would be doing the job for farm industry and as a roofer, but the pay would go directly to the camp.

We were also entitled by order of Berlin to extra food. So one day a Nazi came up on the roof and introduced himself and he said, "I'm Chief Instructor Schmidt." That's not the real name, but just what I can think of today. "I'm also an SS leader, but I'm in charge of all these roofing and construction details here. I bring all the material you need, and I also want to know what's going on here, you know, as far as the working conditions. I have nothing to do with the camp; I'm over the camp. I report directly to Berlin, the headquarters. I order you right now -- I'll be back in approximately a month and then you have so many barracks done. This is on the report sheet. You understand?" I said, "Yes."

A month later he comes back and instead of 20 barracks we didn't even do two. He says, "Hey, you Jews, when I give you an order, it's just like inside the camp, because I am in charge. And when I tell you something, you'd better do it."

So I said to him -- I actually made a mistake by talking

to him, but I didn't care much. I said, "With this rotten food we get in the camp here, we're glad that we can even stay on the roof." I was an old prisoner then. I really didn't care.

So he said, "What!" And he pulled a piece of paper out of his pocket and he said, "You know, according to my list, you see what you're supposed to be getting?" We were supposed to get an extra 500 grams of butter every month, 500 grams of bread every week, extra, in addition to the camp rations. And he has a list like this.

I said to him, -- I gave him a higher rank than he was. I said, "Colonel Schmidt, what you show me on the list I have never seen, much less gotten." But this was, of course, my huge mistake. So he goes in the kitchen. I wasn't there, I was on the roof, and I even told him before he left, "Please don't make any trouble for me." But after all, he was half civilian.

And so a good friend of mine, who helped me to get to the camp, he was the valet to the assistant commander. The assistant commander is only temporary there, because he came from the same camp as we were coming now. And my luck was when this chief inspector comes to the kitchen, he spoke to the kitchen chief, the Nazi in the kitchen, and says, "Hey, listen. I'm just talking to this roofer up on the barrack there and he tells me he never saw any of these foods."

He said, "This liar, you trust him? You believe a Jew or do you believe me? They get all this stuff. You

know, those Jews are only liars, you know that!" He said, "We're going to talk some more, I tell you this."

So anyway, this man left, but the next second my friend came in there who was the valet to the assistant commander, picking up his dinner. Now, this chief of the kitchen is on the telephone and calling Birkenau, Auschwitz-Birkenau, where there is the head gas master. This man's name is Sturmfuhrer Moll. I knew him already from Sachsenhausen, a very, very brutal man, very Nazi.

So here this guy is on the telephone and my friend walks in when he talks on the phone and says, "We have a Jew. He came from another camp, a roofer. This guy is making nothing but trouble for us. You've got to get rid of him as soon as possible, because this inspector goes back to Berlin and before he reports this to Berlin, you've got to take care of this guy."

My friend listened to this. My friend comes in the evening, we are together in the barrack, and he says, "How the hell can you talk to this guy like this? There's nothing but trouble now, you know that? You have to try as soon as possible to get back to the main camp. That's your only chance."

I says, "How the heck am I going to get back to the main camp?" "Well, you tell (Stolten), who is the assistant comannder now, that your job is finished here. Maybe he will do it."

So anyway, in the evening I go to the whole count in our camp. I said, "Commander (Stolten), I would like to

talk with you, please." He said, "What do you want? I'm busy." Unfortunately, two prisoners had escaped at this time. Many times prisoners escaped but they got them back. Most of the time they committed suicide and they got them right away. Very rarely did prisoners escape and stay away very long. There was nowhere to go in Poland, you see. It was all surrounded by troops.

Anyway, "What's going on," he said. I've got to go back to the camp, but how the heck am I going to tell this man I don't want to go back? "Well, it's hard for me in this camp." And he's a Nazi! He's the assistant commander here. But he saw I'm the best roofer he ever met, for a Jew to be a roofer. Now I had to do something which I never wanted to do, but I had no choice.

I said, "Commander (Stolten), I'm supposed to be gassed." And no prisoner in the camp is supposed to know anything about gassing, and if he does and he talks about it, he is dead. If he talks to a Nazi about it, he has absolutely -- his life is worthless. I had to hope that my friend would back me up, who was his valet.

He said, "What do you know about gassing? Who told you anything?" But this commander knew me already for years, from the other camp. I said, "Your valet was in the kitchen and he overheard this on the phone." I told him about the food and all this. He called for his valet and for me, and this guy was six feet some tall and we ran after him in the kitchen.

There in the kitchen they've got SS like a sergeant.

He's in charge of both kitchens. He reports, "Commander, this is for the prisoners." He said, "Shut up. I don't want to hear what you cook. I'm telling you one thing: If anything happens to this roofer, this Jew while I'm away -- you know that I have to go to Auschwitz One, main camp to report that there are prisoners missing, but if I shouldn't come back" -- a lot of the time they don't come back because they send them to the eastern frontier, because they figure if a Nazi, with all the troops cannot guard the Jews, then they are not worth having gravy jobs like this. Then there is only one way for them, one place for them, is the eastern frontier, so they don't come back anymore. If they don't come back anymore, how can he help me? And how can a Nazi help me, anyway? I just have to take a chance.

So he said to the kitchen chief, "If it's the last thing I do," he said, "if I go to the eastern frontier," just like this -- and I'm telling you my heart was just pounding, and my friend -- and he said, "You're going to go with me, if it's the last thing I'm going to do."

And next morning -- you know, at night you sweat it out and there was no fence, no guard, no nothing, and no machine gun on the outside yet, because the camp was being built. Now the guards at night stayed directly about three feet from the barracks. They have a rite which they do many times. They call you out for no reason at all, just to have fun executing a few. If they would have called you out, you have to go. Well, I would not have gone. I would have said, "Hey, I'm much too smart for these guys. You have

to come in and get me. I know you're going to shoot me."

So in the morning I was hoping this guy comes back, but he wasn't back in the morning. You know, it was the afternoon, the evening finally he comes back. And when he came back, a stone fell off my heart, that he came back. They let him off the hook. (End of Tape 1, Side A.)

So (Stolten), the commander came back, but I felt extremely uneasy because after all, what can a Jew prisoner do against Nazis? I know they're going to conspire and sooner or later they're going to get me where they want me to destroy me.

So a few days later the commandant from the main camp, Buna, our main camp, Auschwitz (Monowitz), inspected the place, our camp. I made sure I am in the area where he was. So I asked the head commander, his name was Schwartz, I said -- (Schuedel) was his name. I said, "Commander (Schuedel), my work is finished. I would ask permission to be transported back to the main camp." So he ordered this assistant commander to ship me back.

So I came back to the main camp, and before I left I said to Marianne, one of the Jewish girls I met there -- she became later, of course, my wife -- I said to her, "I'm going to be shipped back to the main camp and I would be very happy if you write to me. I don't get mail from anyone." And she said, "Yes, but I also want you to find out about a good friend for us, Werner (Peer) is his name, what became of him."

I remembered this, so a few days I was shipped back to the main camp and I worked in my position as a roofer.

The next day I went right away into the secretary of the camp and I asked about Werner (Peer) and he told me he has diarrhea. And, of course, if you get diarrhea in the camp, you are automatically shipped to another camp and you have no way of surviving, because it's a very contagious disease.

So I worked and one day a good friend of mine, Max (Drummer), who also lives here in San Francisco, he asked me if I would be interested in a possible escape from the camp. I said, "What do you mean, an escape?" I said, "How do you figure that?" I said, "You must tell me what plans." Obviously, a lot of people escape, a lot of prisoners, but they all come back and then they hang them. I'm not going to escape just to be hung. There's a little better chance here.

So he said he knows an underground officer who works in his detail on the outside. I said, "I'd like to meet him," so we made a date. I had the permission as soon as all the prisoners go to work, to the (eger) farm, which was a separate factory surrounded by barbed wire -- in the morning they all go to work and then all the guards take their positions in the machine guns up on top. I had permission to go out to talk to the civilian muster regarding supplies for the roofing.

So I walked out of the camp into the factory. It was one continuous guard line. I met this underground officer; his name was Joseph Warner. He was a Polack. He told me he works for the underground and his duties are to bring out very important prisoners who have knowledge of the entire

camp, who know the names, who know the strengths, who can be of extreme value, because sooner or later the Russian front will be coming closer and they expect the prisoners to be a help. And for this reason, they want to know that.

I said that it looks pretty good to me and I am willing to go along. I said, "But we also do need other things to escape. We need a first aid kit in case we get shot, we need some kind of civilian clothes," which we were not able to get. But we were using mechanics suits, and they had red stripes, so we have to cut them out. All these things had to be smuggled out in time. We were setting a date -- the date was set already a month ahead of time for September 20, 1944. Always the same date.

So in the meantime, I have already forgotten this girl I met at the camp I just came back from, but when I came in the barrack that night there was a note for me to appear tomorrow morning before the camp Gestapo. The camp Gestapo was very, very strict, and they had so much power. They were the internal security. They were way above every Nazi, because there were always a lot of illegal things going on and their job was to find all these things out.

So when I came in the guy asked me right away -- Marianne wrote to me, but she didn't write to me direct. They took this -- and the smart thing was she wrote to Werner (Peer), "I found out where you are." This was extreme luck and Werner (Peer) was the guy I was supposed to find out how he was. Of course, he didn't live anymore.

The guy said, "Who's Werner (Peer)?" I said, "That was a friend of ours in the camp and he got sick." The Gestapo

guy says, "If I need any more information, I will call you again."

I was so shaky, because if there was the smallest suspicion of my escaping I would have gotten a red point on the back of my uniform and front, and I wouldn't be able to go outside the work detail, no place. I would have stayed directly in the camp where anybody and everybody can see me, and if I would go anyplace else, they would have reported me, which, of course, didn't happen.

So in the meantime my friend comes in from work the next day and I tell him what happened. And he said, "Did you talk to someone?" I said, "No, I didn't talk to no one." Naturally, even if in a dream you dream about an escape, a fellow prisoner has to report you. Otherwise, they are just as guilty as you are.

So my last job was to get a first aid kit, and I had a good friend who was a Jewish prisoner who was in charge of the prison hospital. His name was (Stefan Hyman), an old Communish Jewish prisoner. And in fact, after the war he became a German ambassador to Hungary. So I said, "Stefan, I need a first aid kit." He looked at me, he said, "I know you're looking for a change of climate." He said, "But I beg of you, don't come back. You know, don't come back, because I don't like to see you coming back because there is no way you can survive. The torture is too great."

"I reassure you, I will not come back, at least not alive." So he gave me a first aid kit and now this was the

last day. And now we had already a date set. I've got to be exactly by 11:30 in the morning out in the factory where the prisoners worked. I've got to be there a little bit before lunchtime. I've got to talk to my friend, because then we've got to be separated. I've got to walk around this whole area, but before I got out, I've got to bring the first aid kit out to the place so we can hide it on the outside.

Most of the time, because I have special permission to go out there at the gate, there were several SS guards standing there and they write down your number. They never say anything, because they know. They have all the numbers, every prisoner who is allowed to go to the factory, written down. They just look at the numbers.

So this time I come and I go out to the main gate, but I was loaded. See, we got bigger pants. I have this first aid kit in here, your stomach inside, and naturally, I stay here and I say, "Prisoner 70196 asks for permission to go to the factory." And on purpose I was standing about five, six feet away from him, because a lot of times when they want to search prisoners, they go and tap them like this, and I could not afford that I get caught this time, because whatever they find on me they know this is strictly for escape reasons. I don't need a first aid kit -- for what? -- because there's a big hospital there; right?

So I stay and now he comes closer to me and when he comes closer it is unbelievable, so I walk a little bit, but just slowly. So he says to me, "Are you coming back

tonight?" (Laughs.)

In the camp you learn something. If he has one star you give him two stars. You promote him. I say, "Lieutenant, where can I have it better than here? I get good food." "Shut up. Get going!" But, you know, a lot of times on purpose they let you go 200 feet and then they call you back, still to body search you. I felt like my feet weighed a ton apiece. I couldn't get forward because I know normally, if you have nothing in your pockets, there is nothing to worry. But here!

So I was going and I was just hoping. So I got out and met and talked with my friend Max (Drummer). And now I gave him the stuff and he hid it away there. And so we, from now to about three o'clock, have to hide anyplace out in the factory, but nobody can see you. You cannot step too far, because there are a lot of places where the guards are standing and a lot of places prisoners aren't allowed to go and haven't business to go. After all, I can only go to talk to the inspector regarding materials. I cannot go someplace else, because there I'm completely off limits. So it was very hard.

But anyway, we hid away. And naturally, you cannot be seen by any prisoners, either, because some prisoner innocently might say, "Hey, I saw this roofer. I saw him 20 minutes ago." So they might just search up the area and if they find a suspicious barrier there, they just burn it up and you have to come out.

So this underground man who helped us escape worked

in the insulation factory. That means there was glass wool which was used for central heating. It was a huge magazine -- we call it a magazine -- like a storage chamber. And they had hundreds of packages of glass wool. So he put them aside and we went there approximately six feet deep. He put the glass wool on top of us. Our only breathing space was the bricks on the outside. My friend, of course, was a heavy smoker. I said, "Don't smoke," because I was scared some smoke might go through the wall to the outside.

But in the meantime, this friend where I was commanded with over there, who helped me, who actually saved my life, he overheard this talk. And he told me then, he said, "Mende," this is my name, Herman Mende, "one day, in not all too long a time, you will be so surprised. There will be something happening in the camp that you have never witnessed." And I told my friend this, but this goes back several months now, and our escape was planned. I said, "Max, I have a hunch these guys are going to escape, him and his cousin, because they both been working as valets, one for commander and one for the assistant commander. They have access to uniforms and everything. Max, I hope that they're not going to escape or try to escape the same day that we are!"

Now, we are in this fiberglass chamber when we could barely see people on the outside, but we could hear them. I would be counted last, because I'm counted in the camp. I don't work on the outside, but my friend, he's Commander 54, so they all have to go in, but when they're not complete, they have to wait. So the assistant comes out there and

he says, "Max (Drummer) is missing from Commander 54." He's the assistant foreman, you know, the assistant supervisor.

All of a sudden the commander marches in, because it got darker, you see, and then we see a motorcycle coming down. And they say, "The roofer from the camp is also missing! And he was supposed to report already an hour ago." See, I've got to be earlier before all the commands come back from the outside. I have to report back to the camp.

Then they come, "The valet to the commander and the valet to the assistant commander are missing." God! Now all the prisoners have to walk into the camp and now they throw a guardline around the whole place for 24 hours. And we hear them talk: "Those SBs, if we can put it on fire," we hear everything. And now we had to hope that nothing is going to happen, because we know that guy was in the underground and nothing is going to happen to him. How the heck are we going to get out of here? You know what I mean? There's no way of getting back now. Once you get back you are as soon as dead; one day away is like weeks.

Anyway, at six o'clock in the morning he comes and he sees all the stuff we've stolen and he says, "Tonight, everything goes well. We will hope that no other prisoner escapes." He told us before, when we made the original plans, we're going to walk approximately one mile in the dark and then we're going to be picked up by some soldiers of Tito. Tito is Yugoslavia. He was then the underground chief and in an armed carrier they're going to take us into the (Baskine), the mountains.

We put our mechanic suits on, our hats on, and we had to climb on our stomachs until we hit the wire. Every prisoner goes to the barracks, you see, then the wires are not loaded. They're only loaded while the prisoners are working there. And all the guards are withdrawn, because at night, as soon as the prisoners leave, then the civilians work the night shifts. And they are guarded, some of them full civilians, some of them half civilians, and they are guarded and supervised by the Army, nothing to do with the SS or the Luftwaffe.

So now we are going. He cuts the wires and we go through there and we walk a mile, we walk two miles, and then we stop. We talk. We said, "Hey, Joseph, what happened? Where's the armed carrier?" He said, "Something happened. They couldn't come. We have to walk. We have to walk about six miles." I said, "You must be crazy! How the heck are we going to walk six miles? These forests here are solidly guarded by the Nazis. How can we walk? We don't speak the language, we look like gangsters. How can we?"

He said, "You don't have to worry. I know the way around here. Everything will be fine." So we walk and walk. All of a sudden -- he always walks 50 feet ahead of us, always with his hands in his pockets. This guy, he's got a pistol or two in his pockets. If something goes wrong, he shoots and he collects a premium on us. But we discovered it, because one time I hit him on the pocket. I wanted to see if he's got a gun in the pocket.

So we stop and we talk and he says, "Listen, from now on I have to go a hundred feet ahead of you." I said, "Are

you crazy? We can't even see now. It's getting darker and darker." You know how you've got those milestones in the forest, the little markers, but you don't see anymore. And then all of a sudden we came to a -- I said to my friend, "Let him say he can stay ahead of us. Why argue with the damned guy?" So we walk and walk. I really got tired. And then we come to a point in the forest where all of a sudden you've got not one but you've got four different ways. I said, "Where did he go?" And it was just luck that we went right and we caught up with him again.

He walks and walks and walks. He is stopped by two soldiers from the Air Force. He shows a paper and walks. He goes and now we are stuck. So naturally, this was an area where this was Germany where you had many Germans working, mixed with Polacks and all kinds. So I said, "Those bastards, those Polacks, they stole all our clothes. Look, they left us here!" And the guy says, "You're lucky, you come from Berlin, too." He said, "Where you come from --" And it was just such luck. God! So we walked.

We told Joseph, "This cannot go on. We cannot walk any longer. There's no way." He said, "You know, there's an air shelter here, about a half a mile from here. This is where you can stay overnight." I said, "You must be nuts! An air shelter, there might be an air attack." You know, they all come to the air shelter. "You can bring us right to the Germans, to the Gestapo. It's the same thing." I mean, this is war!

So anyway, we walked and walked and walked. We sometimes

thought, "God, we're never going to get out." We walked 17 kilometers! One time a policeman came on a bike and we jumped. We just threw ourselves in the water. And he shined up the whole area with a flashlight, and of course, he didn't find us.

Finally, we got deeper and deeper in there, so he said, "Wait for me." So he went into the little village and a few minutes later he came out and he said, "This is where you're going to stay now. You're going to go up in the hay barn and you're going to stay here for a few nights, and as soon as we make more contact, then you're going to go into the (Besgidden)."

He said, "I live in front. At night," he said, "ten or eleven o'clock, my mother's going to cook for you. You're going to get a hot meal and once in a while maybe we have a bathtub for you with some hot water and you can wash yourself."

So we stayed up there and every night he came and we drew some plans for him, for the underground, on the strength of the camp, the leaders of the camp, where all these machine guns were located, where the troops were, all these different things. We told him, "Joseph, we cannot stay here," because this was German territory. It was a Polish village, but still under German occupation.

He brought us a German paper, we listened to German radio and the Polacks in this village would keep away from the Germans livestock, so they had something extra to eat. And the Germans -- it was in the paper -- they found a pig in bed, so they executed the whole family. They said tomorrow they're going to search this village. So we said, "Joseph,

we cannot stay here. Where the heck are we going to go? It's an emergency." He said, "In order to do something, I need pictures of you to get you forged papers. So we said, "All right." We wrote to Berlin.

Another friend of ours, (Schott) was his name, he escaped before us, and we were in contact with him. He sent us a suit; luckily, we had the same figure. And this guy, this Joseph, had a bicycle. He told us in the village there was a photographer. So Max (Drummer), my friend, went there first and had his picture taken, and he told them, "My sister or cousin will pick it up next week." So after he, I put the suit on and I went with the bicycle. I went in the street there, picture taken, and so I come back.

On the way back a gendarme, a German policeman was right next to me and he asked me -- but how I look, I could have been German. He said, "Where you going?" I told him the whole story I just seen in the paper. "Lieutenant," this and this detail, "I'm here on a furlough." "Fine. Good luck, Comrade." But while I was talking with this guy, I missed already our hay barn, our village. So I circled around two or three times. All of a sudden a guy on a bicycle is close to me and he has a pistol on the side, and he says, "Halt! (Auf weis.) Identification!" His dialect is white Russian. You know, the Germans brought all those white Russians for special spy and police services.

So he says, "(Auf weis)." So I steadied my bike and I said to him in German, "You want to show papers?" He thought I was going to grab a gun. Actually, I put my hand in the

have no use for you." We asked him, "Why did you help us to get out of the damned camp? Why?" And then, naturally, he breaks down completely.

He said, "Approximately six months ago a Russian plane came over our area and they dropped (traitors) and food and ammunition for the underground. In no time the SS came and circled this whole village, arrested every man here and brought them to Auschwitz, hung them up in chains, and nobody talked. I couldn't stand it any longer and I told them where they can find the (traitor). The Nazis told me they're going to let me live."

He said, "I am the only one who is back here alive, of the younger men. The older men, they didn't take." He said, "You know what I'm telling you now? Some of my old friends told me I have to make good one deed with a better deed. Tito ordered, said he doesn't want to serve justice now. He said after the war they'll all have to stand trial, but there were many spies and traitors, but he doesn't want to serve justice now," meaning he didn't want any commanders to go inside and destroy, even though they know they are guilty now, because he said, "It's going to cost more people."

And the thing was, a few days after we had been up in the hay barn, they were supposed to come and get us. But what they did was they went into the SS headquarters first and threw a bomb in there. So the Nazis circled them all, you see, and instead of getting us out to the underground, they arrested every one of them and shot them. That's what Tito ordered. No serve justice. Then some relatives told

him, "Do a heroic act. Get some prisoners, important prisoners in the camp, and do something real good and they will testify for you."

So you know what we were now? He took us now as his security for his possible life. So he couldn't lose either way. The only ones on hot iron was us. After we knew this, we knew we had to find a way, so we wrote our friend in Berlin, "We need forged papers. We cannot stay here anymore, under any circumstances."

Our friends in Berlin, they tried to work and work and work and we were constantly in touch. Generally, every week we got some kind of a note from Berlin, either letter or card, whatever, but once a week we got something. Here, for the first time, a whole week we didn't get nothing. Every night we came down and -- you see, in the evening at ten o'clock we went into their kitchen. They all went to bed already and they had a small kitchen. She had some food prepared for us and we found food and we would stay there for two to three hours to warm up, because we were in the hay barn, open doors and all that. We lived up there for months.

So here was a paper on the couch where they were sleeping there, sticks out. I pull it out and this is a postcard and it says -- (End of Tape 1, Side B).

Joseph, when he came upstairs from work in the evening, we showed him the card, because he could also read German, and we told him, "You see what's going on there now? Something has happened in Berlin, we know it. We need a place where

we can go in an emergency, now, Joseph." He said, "If anything ever goes wrong, at the end of the village is my future father-in-law. He will help you." I said, "Does he know about us?" He said, "Yes."

Two days pass by and all of a sudden we have a big bang. Big Bang! So I put on the suit and I go downstairs. I walk and I see an American plane got shot down approximately a mile from us. At the same time I told my friend Max, "I want to take a look and see if anybody with this name lives over there." I didn't trust Joseph anymore. So I go down there and he was living there. I just looked from the outside; I wouldn't go inside, naturally.

So I came back to the hay barn and two days later, (knocking sound), we heard a knocking on the front door. We have no door, we are up in the hay barn. What we did right away was we pulled up the ladder, which meant very little, but he wanted to close up the openings to the hay barn. I said, "No, don't close them up. We don't want to create the least suspicion." (Knocking sound.) Knock on the door. "Gestapo! Where is Joseph Warner?" Joseph Warner was our accomplice.

The people inside, they don't speak Polish and the guy speaks German to them. "Where is Joseph Warner?" "We don't know. We don't know." They played dumb. "Is there another Warner here?" Before he said that, he ordered a search of the area. There were two big dogs, big German shepherds. They were looking around and we up there, I'm telling you, Max, my friend, says, "Mende, we are lost, we

are finished." I says, "Listen, shut up. We are not finished yet." We had knives. We each had a knife and we were prepared to kill ourselves, because after all, the last thing we wanted was to go alive back to the camp and be tortured. And I said, "We are not lost yet."

They were looking and searching, looking maybe for 25, 30 minutes. The only reason why the dogs could not smell us was because we smelled as bad as the rest of the dirt around there. We were living up there since September and now it was January! There was no way that we could create any different smell anymore. We were stinking. I mean a dog -- we didn't bathe or nothing.

Anyway, the commissar asked if there are any other Warners and they told him at the end of the village there is another Warner, relatives. And while they were gone the guy said, "We are back." He has a brother who was then about six years, seven years old. He said, "Max, Mende," he cried. After all, they know what Gestapo is, they know what police is, they knew who we were.

"Max, Mende, you must go away. (Speaking in German.) They're going to take us away, too. Please go!" Then the sister came. She was about 14. The same thing. The mother came. So I said, "We cannot go no place. They're going to come back right now and let's see first." Then they came back again and they said, "There's only one bus station which leads from Auschwitz" to their place, one way, and so they're going to wait there for him.

Now, listen to this: I said, "Max, we have to go and

we have to go to this guy, the future father-in-law. We just have to hope that he knows about us and he will help us."

So we walk over there and it was deep snow. We walked about a mile or something like that, (knocking sound), knock on the door. And in Poland they were so crowded in the war. And in the little kitchen there were maybe six to ten people in there. They just crowded together. We came in there and we don't speak Polish, we don't speak Russian. Later, we picked up all kinds, but then, at this time, nothing, maybe five words, which was nothing. But the guy spoke a little German. He says who are we and he figures maybe we are spies. They don't trust you, anyway.

I said, "We are supposed to wait here for Joseph." "Joseph didn't tell me nothing, that anybody's going to wait here." We wait an hour, we wait two hours, and we know he is probably already in Auschwitz, because they're waiting for him on the bus. We arrived there maybe at 5:00 or 6:00 in the evening and it was in the meantime 10:00 -- no, it was 8:00. He sent his son over there twice and the third time he sends his daughter. In the meantime it's after 10:00 and all the people were there. They were scared. Nobody left. We were sitting in the corner and they looked at us very, very suspicious.

The daughter comes back and tells the father Joseph is in bed. He's in bed sleeping already! The guy says to us (speaking in German), we are Jews, we should be killed, trying to put him in the (trouble).

So he goes over, he comes back after a few minutes. He says, "Give them food. Give those guys everything." He tells us now the whole story. He said, "You know, if I had known about you, I'm a locomotive leader. I could have brought you to the real underground months ago already. He didn't tell me nothing. Now he tells me. Now he wants me to help you! And there's no way I can, because the troops are coming. The Germans are checking every point now and our lives are also in danger. There's nothing we can do. The underground doesn't operate anymore. They're waiting for the Russians."

Q: SO WHY DIDN'T JOSEPH TELL HIM EARLIER?

A: Why! He wanted us personally, you understand? His father didn't even know what he did -- the father-in-law.

So now we told him we must talk to Joseph, but you see, what we did is we did not tell Joseph about the card. We did not want to tell him about this, the card we got from Berlin, until now. It just occurred to me. If we would have told him before, we wouldn't trust him, he might have killed us, this guy. But now we showed him the card because now we had no other alternative.

We told him, "Joseph, you must go with us. Your life is in danger just like ours." So anyway, Joseph comes. We told the father we have to talk to Joseph, Joseph comes over. We told him all this and he said, "I'm going to go with you tomorrow. Tomorrow morning I'll be here."

Next morning he comes, but he said, "I can't go with you right away. My father will take you." So early in the morning, it's two o'clock in the morning, father-in-law says,

"I'm going to walk with you and we'll see what I can do. There are some people I know well. Maybe they can help you. They can hide you. I will try my best."

So we walked and walked and walked, through the valley. Deep snow. God! And we got so wet. So we come to one, he says he can do nothing, another one and he can do nothing. And then finally, it got already daylight. I said, "Wait." He didn't come, he didn't come, and there's a sign that says (speaking in German), the Nazi headquarters. He cannot be in there, and it looked like him.

But the guy came from the other side. The guy told us there's nothing he can do for us anymore. We are on our own. There's nothing. He said there is only one guy he talked to, he is willing to let us stay overnight, but in the morning we've got to be out of there before his workers come. If his workers will see us, they will report us. "They are so scared of the Nazis. The guy doesn't know anything, but he is willing, because I told him that you are so exhausted. They will let you stay overnight, but he doesn't know about you."

He takes us to the guy. We come in there, we stay there in the hay. And God, I get shivers and fever at night, you know, and my friend gets so down. He says, "Mende," he said, "I tell you we're going to go up there and we're going to hang ourselves. There is no way. We have no other way. There is no way." I said, "Wait until that guy comes," because we told this other guy, "He has to come back. Joseph has to come back," before he told us that there is nothing

that he can do for us.

He comes back in the evening and tells us Joseph wanted to come to us and at the same time that the Gestapo came. He jumped out of the window and they shot him. Now, we could have believed that or not. So that's where he told us there's nothing he can do for us anymore. We are on our own.

We asked him, "Is there any way, is there a station, just in case we have a chance to go ourselves on the railroad?" He said, "I would not advise that. The railroads are very dangerous, but if you want to go, there is a station about a half a mile from here. But remember, you've got to be out of this place, out of this hay barn," the other barn, now, "before the workers come in the morning. If they discover you, your lives are worth nothing."

So I get the chills at night and felt awful and my friend felt even worse. He said, "There's no way. We'd better kill ourselves here." I said, "I tell you what we'll do. We finish our life right now." "By the time we're going to go up there," he said, "we're going to be too frozen stiff to get up on the barn and hang ourselves." I said, "Why don't we make our testament now. Our lives are finished. We're going to go to the station in the morning. If we are lucky, we should get anyplace, we will. But one thing, we have a pact we will never get back alive to the camp!"

So we shook on this and we went to the station in the morning. There was a blonde German sitting there and we said, "We want two tickets to Gleiwitz." This is approximately 100 kilometers. She said, "To Gleiwitz? You have any special

papers? Everything over 100 kilometers you need special papers." So we told her the same story, that the Polacks stole all our clothes and all, and that we are from Berlin. She says, "I'm going to give you two tickets, but don't say nothing." Just lucky, she also came from Berlin. When you have a lot of people from the same city, they talk the same language.

So we came on this train and we saw that it was now 4:30, five o'clock, and this is only about 100 kilometers. An express should be easily an hour and a half there. In two hours we haven't gone 50 kilometers. It stopped. With the war, more troops come in and so we are sitting and sitting until finally, we come there and we come to the place, to Gleiwitz. Before we came to Gleiwitz, we came to (Katowitz). It was one of the big railroad stations towards the eastern frontier. Everybody had to go out. In (Katowitz) you have the Nazi security with those metal places around them that shows that they are the top. They can search anyone, the general from the Air Force, because there are many deserters. Anyone!

So when they came right we went left, the only way we could figure out they didn't stop us. In the meantime, we were up in that hay barn, the rats were in those clothes. We had holes all over. We just looked like the biggest bums you have ever seen. We were lucky that they didn't search us back in the train to Gleiwitz.

Then we came to the next one, Hindenburg, which is another -- and there was a train on the other side and it

was a children's transport to western Germany. I said, "You know, Max, maybe we try to get with this thing, maybe we can go underneath it or something." But we never made it. But we helped anyway, we tried to stall it. One of the teachers asked us to help put the luggage in the baggage containers. So we helped them and the conductor came and he said, "you don't have tickets; out!" We only had tickets, naturally, for 100 kilometers, not for going hundreds of kilometers.

So we came to Gleiwitz; out. We walk the main street and I know the street where Marianne lives, because when I was in the camp I asked if maybe one day when I pass by -- in other words, there was a lot of times when we didn't have enough work as a roofer in the camp we would be put into other work like going to the railroad station, going to the airport, help unload things. It was a change of pace.

So we went there and I saw this street (Niederwahlstrasse), where she lived, Number 11. So here I walk on the main street -- and before I continue with this, I have to tell you when I was originally in Gleiwitz meeting Marianne quite a few months back, there was another prisoner, his name was (Oscar Heim), six-some feet tall. But my big luck was he had extremely bad eyes. He had glasses that thick and unless he hit you right on the head, he wouldn't recognize you. But he, when we came both back to the camp, the original camp, he was also commanded back there as a roofer. I taught him how to roof. Now he became an accomplished roofer and when he came back to Gleiwitz the second time he told Marianne that I escaped. "Don't be surprised," he told her, "if he visits

you some day." I don't think he meant it, but he told her this.

Now we're coming back. We're walking down the street in Gleiwitz, Max (Drummer) and myself and walking. All of a sudden I see two prisoners walking there and two guards behind them. Before I even could say anything, I said to Max, "(Oscar Heim), you see him there?" But he said right away -- we almost hit together. Maybe before we met two feet, he gave him a signal. He was with another prisoner there, to cross the street. He would have never wanted to give me away, but just this instant, seeing me, you understand, maybe recognize, maybe not, it would have been enough. Those guards knew me, too. They're all the same guards from before.

So we walked. It was just such luck that that guy didn't recognize us. Now we go down the street, and as I remember -- I don't even remember the number. I don't know if she gave me the number, but that street, I know. We walked down (Niederwahlstrasse) and we walk and walk and walk. Here I see a Magen David on the wall. I said, "They must be living here." See, Marianne's father is Jewish, a lawyer, and the mother was non-Jewish. Mixed marriage. But the mother learned to be a secretary when she was in her 50s and she worked in a huge German factory for a wonderful German, social (demoguard), who helped a lot of Jews. But the mother was sick. She hadn't gone to work for a few days.

Q: WHY WOULD THEY KEEP A MAGEN DAVID IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE?

A: Well, the Nazis marked it down, you know, the Magen

David.

We came one floor, but now I wasn't sure if she still was there, if anybody's still there, because after all, a card came in the camp and now I escaped. And it could have been very well that they picked up the whole family, having me escape. See what I mean?

So we go one floor, two floors, and here I see Schlessinger. I ring the bell and Max says, "You must be very diplomatic." "How can I be diplomatic? First, see if they're still alive!" Her sister comes, she's (Erika). I said, "Is Marianne Schlessinger here?" "No," she said, "my sister's at work, but you can talk to my mother. Just a minute."

So the older sister, (Erika), goes to the mother and the mother was laying on the couch. She says, "Mother, there are two mechanics outside from (Augustin)," the mother's work. "Oh," the mother says, "(Augustin) probably sent them here to find out how I am. Let them in." So we come in. There is Mrs. Schlessinger. She's upset and she says, "You're not mechanics at (Augustin). Who are you? How do you know my daughter Marianne?"

I said, "Well, I met your daughter -- you know, we were working in the area." I couldn't tell her at first; I didn't know how sick she is. She said, "I want the truth from you or you have to leave my house right away." I said, "Mrs. Schlessinger, I met your daughter in Gleiwitz." "How did you meet her?" I said, "Well, I was commanded from Auschwitz to Gleiwitz. We escaped from the camp." I said, "I don't know what's wrong with you" -- I asked her first,

maybe her heart or something. "No," she says, "I've got something wrong with my foot."

I said, "I met your daughter when I was in Gleiwitz and I am the roofer. I worked on the roof there." And she said, "Oh, you are the roofer who was singing so nice on the roof to my daughter?" I said, "Yes." She says, "Is the police after you?" I said, "No." After all, the police were after us, but this was a few days ago. (Laughs.)

So she calls the husband Eric and right away the girls cleaned us up and sewed the clothes and all, and father already made arrangements. He was a lawyer and he defended quite a few Communists in the old times, and so he knew. And some of them came out and some of them are still in underground work. And among them was -- the guy's name was (Adolf Sauer). He hid already 19 or 20 Jewish families, or 18, whatever it was.

Q: HOW COME MARIANNE'S FAMILY WAS NOT DEPORTED?

A: I tell you, the mother was non-Jewish and they were privileged until the end.

Q: WHY WERE THEY PRIVILEGED?

A: They were mixed. You see, first of all, the story is like this: She has two brothers from the first -- you see, Marianne's mother was her mother, but she was married to a German before. And out of the first marriage they had two sons who are not related to Marianne. He adopted them, whatever it meant, but they are two aliens. One of them served in the German Air Force. It was strictly luck. In Gleiwitz, in Eastern Germany, they were much more privileged

than in Berlin. So there they would be hiding. In other words, in Berlin, in this area, they would hold them up immediately.

MRS. SHINE: We were not privileged. Privileged they called the ones that were raised in the Christian faith, not the ones that were raised in the Jewish faith.

A: But I say privileged means you were privileged in the way they would not round you up until the end, due to the brother being in the air force.

The Nazis want it, but the Nazis want it always, to take everything away from the Jews. They wanted the furniture, whatever, all the valuables. And now, in this case, her brother was in the Air Force, which meant something. And they wrote a telegram, "Come right away home, Mother's dying," which wasn't true. So he came. And in the meantime, they could stall the Gestapo for quite some time.

So anyway, the girls were taking care of our clothes and now we looked like civilians, clean persons again. So the mother asked the father if he has any way of finding a secure home for us. So the father says, "Why don't you ask your boss, Mr. (Augustin)? He helped many people." So the mother asked (Augustin) and he said sure, if we had papers, even forged papers, he will give us a job and help us, but without papers, no way.

So the father phoned one of his former clients, his name was (Adolf Sauer), who already hid 18 or 19 Jewish people through the entire war. And the father says, "Mr. (Sauer), I have two former prisoners who escaped from Auschwitz."

He says, "Schlessinger, say no more. I have so many, but I have room for those people."

So we went on a special bus, which my later father-in-law arranged, and we drove through a large village. But before we took the bus -- this was a special bus which was almost exclusively occupied and boarded by higher Nazis. So we were all just to sit behind them and say nothing, so that's exactly what we did. And after a while the so-called lady who was sitting next to Mr. (Sauer) was giving the driver a handful of cigars and he stopped at a certain area. So we went out and we came in a villa which looked like out of a tale. And we already saw (the driver's) house, where (Schoffer) lived. So we thought this is where we want to live, if we have a choice.

So we came inside a beautiful villa and the lady says, "You can live in any room you want to." And they showed us around this whole beautiful place. And there was enough food to last us for years and years. And the father promised to send us some extra coupons for food and we wished we had a way of sending him food.

So anyway, we were there for maybe a week, just we and the housekeeper. And Mr. (Sauer) promised within a week or ten days he's going to have papers for us. But the war progressed to fast that there was really very little chance of it.

So one day there was a huge shooting and big action on the outside, so I said to the housekeeper, "What is going on?" And we read in the newspapers before that the Russians

were moving closer and closer. So within no time at all the Russians were right there. First, the Russians wanted from us watches and all kinds of stuff, which we didn't have, and the first greetings of the Russians was not very friendly, because we became very close to being shot. We showed them our numbers, showed them that we were in a concentration camp, and they thought we were Nazis, because it so happens that the Nazis had their blood group tattooed on the underarm.

And finally, this villa was occupied in the next half an hour or hour or so by a whole company of Russian tank corps. And they made it a headquarters. So we asked one of the sergeants there, who was Jewish, who it was. And he says, "Upstairs is a Jewish general." And naturally, for us it was utmost importance to get to him, but how are you going to get to a general when every stair is guarded by not one, but two machine-gun toting soldiers?

So finally, he opened the door and we shouted upstairs in Yiddish, you know ("Yidden"). And the guy says, ("Yidden") and he ordered the soldiers to stand aside and to get us upstairs. And when we told him who we were and where we came from, and all this, while we were talking to him he would use his teletype like you have your transmitter, and transmitted it to Russia. And he had this order instantly changed and he said there's a huge possibility that the occupied troops would find many, many former prisoners like us, and they should not dare think that these are Nazis. These are all prisoners who by some luck have survived. Their numbers were tattooed on the left forearm.

So we begged him to take us with him and he said he cannot, but he gave us a document which came in so handy. And this document, I still have it. Actually, you should make a picture of it. Many times when the Russians came and they tried to rob even Jewish people, they wouldn't take anything in consideration. And we showed them this document. It actually saved the lives of all of us.

Q: WHAT DID IT SAY?

A: Well, it says in Russian, "To all servicemen of the Red Army," he has proven and he testifies that we are two former prisoners of Auschwitz and they should give us all assistance until we reach our home. And this is with a stamp. And his name was General (Chanakovsky). He unfortunately died shortly before Berlin. He was the youngest and most famous Russian (panzer) general.

So anyway, they came very, very often because we were living -- we came back to Gleiwitz, then, as soon as the Russians occupied the areas, but the occupation was horrible, because there was so much killing and torture going on by the Russians to anyone. And even we had a very, very hard time with them. They started a headquarters next door from -- (End Tape 2, Side A).

And one night they came over and they asked for some girls to come next door and entertain the officers. There was an interpreter, who was German, and he said nothing was going to happen to the girls, "They only want to have a good time." I said, "They're going to get us. We're going to go over with them." He said, "You don't go over there. They

don't want you, they want the girls." So I said my wife's sister should go and another girl.

Q: NOT MARIANNE.

A: Not Marianne. I said Marianne will not go. And we went with them and when we came over there they had about ten, twelve soldiers there and a couple of officers, and they were already drunk like skunks. And we had to sit down and drink with them. And then they tried, naturally, to make advances to the girls. And we talked to them. One was a major and I said, "Major, we came from the camp and these are our sisters. And you can pick enough German girls to have fun with, but not those." And he said, "Listen, nothing is going to happen to them."

And you cannot argue with the soldiers too much, because under Stalin's order they are allowed three days of freedom after they occupy a city. And he said he can see that nothing can happen. But they got drunker and drunker and all of a sudden the major stepped in and he said they will not harm the girls. They can dance, and that's it. So one of the soldiers got the machine gun and he was ready to fire at all of them, including the major. And just by a miracle another one disarmed him and we went back home.

Q: DID YOU HEAR OF ANY INCIDENCES OF THE RUSSIAN SOLDIERS RAPING WOMEN IN THOSE INVADED CITIES?

A: Many of them. They wanted to rape Marianne, too, at the beginning, and she passed out. But then they were so mad that they fired a shot and they shot her mother right through the leg, and it took quite a while until it healed.

These were very, very (awful) times.

There was very little to eat after they occupied and naturally, whatever food they had, they wanted for the Army. And so after the city was completely occupied, I went downstairs one time and I asked him where there must be a German slaughterhouse where they had all this beef, all the livestock. So I found the (alley) and I saw hundreds of Germans standing in line to get some food. Apparently, the Russians didn't discover it yet.

So I went back home and I had a Russian cap and a Russian dress and put a gun around (laughing), and I could speak a few words of Russian then. So I took a sled and I went there. And I helped the Germans and they say, "That's the Russians' food, give him what he wants." So I got beef in there and I told this one guy to give me this half a beef. So he put it on my sled and I rolled it out into the house.

Q: NOW, WERE YOU LIVING WITH MARIANNE'S FAMILY AFTER YOU LEFT THE VILLA? YOU STAYED WITH MARIANNE'S FAMILY?

A: After we left the villa we were the first ones came back. We came back and God, there was so much fighting left and right going on. I mean, we just stepped on hundreds of dead. You know, the whole city was burning. It was very, very, very rough.

And one day some people came and one guy was a former prisoner of the camp. He knew me well. And the Russians opened up a headquarters at the former school, which was also completely bombed out. And he found out that I was there, so he wanted me to fix the roof for the Russian army.

And I said, "Listen, my roofing days are over." Besides, it was winter, "And to do a job like this I need thousands and thousands of men." So he said, "No problem with the men." So they drummed up hundreds of Germans and made them carry the bricks, you know, the stones on the roofs, and they formed a human line and I got to lay bricks in the wintertime and put the roofs on. So it went on for quite some time, until the job was finished.

So I met the assistant commander of this hospital -- it was a hospital. His name was (Shigowsky), he was a captain. And I got an idea. You know, during the day the Russians would come and then try to rob and rape the (girls), Jews or non-Jews, or (nuns), they couldn't care less. And then naturally, even the document, it would protect you for a while, but you couldn't be all over all the time.

So I asked (Shigowsky), he was just a figure of the wild west, you know, six feet plus with the gun and a knife and kept running around. I said, "(Shigowsky), we have some cousins and sisters and Yiddish girls," -- he spoke good Yiddish -- "and how about getting them a job here?" And he said, "Yeah, that's a good idea. We've got to open up a sewing factory," sewing uniforms for the soldiers, and they got food and all this. So they got a job and he ordered escorts to protect them back and forth.

But one day coming to work -- you know, one Russian detachment from the others would steal it, regardless. On the way to work there comes another detachment and they said they need all these girls to go to the port to unload a ship.

So they were helpless. I saw where they took them, so I went to (Shigowsky) and he was just waiting for it. He loved adventure, you see.

So there was a German who was dying, whatever, you know, he was from the NKVD, the secret police. He put his coat on, he took a couple of treats for soldiers, he took a big truck, and he drove to the port. And the girls were schlepping all this stuff, which they shouldn't have. So he goes in there and he told them -- naturally, when you're a Russian general from the secret police, you can imagine! They're all scared. It's just like Gestapo. So he said, "Who ordered this?" and blah, blah, blah. But he was only a captain, you see? He only had this general's coat on. In no time he had them all back sewing clothes.

Q: WHAT YEAR WAS THIS, NOW?

A: This was in 1945.

Q: SO, HOW LONG DID YOU STAY IN THIS TOWN?

A: Oh, we stayed there from January '45 until we left in about May.

Q: IS THAT WHEN YOU WERE LIBERATED?

A: Well, the Russians came in January and then we left for Berlin in May. And so then it became a little bit more normalized, with every week. And so then we decided to go to Berlin and the girls didn't want to stay there anymore, because they know that this whole area, which was formerly Germany, was going to be Poland now. So they wanted me to take them to Berlin. But first, we went to Berlin by ourselves, my friend and myself. And we got an apartment, a bombed-out

apartment in the western sector of Berlin, which was all Russian at this time, but it became the American sector in Berlin. And we both got a job. We looked for jobs. A job you didn't want -- you wanted a job which made sense, so the only sense of a job was that was there food was connected. And where was food? Where the Americans were. So we got a job at the former Luftwaffe minister at Templehof. So the Americans made it a headquarters. And we informed the Jewish lieutenant and the American lieutenant and they got us a kitchen job there. So we both got in there, so we then decided I've got to go back to Gleiwitz and pick up the girls. And we had some furniture there and see what we can do with the rest.

So I went up. I had to go back -- there was no northern train traffic, nothing. If you wanted to travel by train, only up on the roof or the underside, not inside. So I came up on the train, came up to Gleiwitz, and they packed all their belongings and they said, "All right, we're going to Berlin now." So we took some other people along, too. I think there were about seven going back, and you had to travel back the same way as I came, on the roof. But it was very, very dangerous. They had, then, at this time many -- they called them plunderers. They were robbers. Many of them were deserters from the Russian army, from the Polish army, and there were all kinds of criminals, which you always have during extraordinary times like this. And they killed people and knifed them and threw them in the water.

So this train inside was loaded with Russian officers

going back to Berlin coming from leave, furlough, or whatever. So you could see things were getting rougher and rougher, so I tried to make some contact with an officer. There was a captian inside, or lieutenant or whatever he was, and I said, "Isn't there a chance that you can let our relatives, the girls, inside? We don't mind." He said, "I can't. The major is sick and all the officers want to sleep and there's no room." But he said, "If there's any problem, let me know, and I will try to protect you until we get to Berlin."

But then I saw that it got worse and worse. So then they came, one of the plunderers, you could see it. So I called this captain. He jumped up on the train and ran after this guy and pulled his gun and he shot him right on over the train. It was just like the wild west! (Laughing.)

So we came to Berlin and, naturally, we met many survivors there, and we got an apartment there in Templehof. So then we set to get married. So we got married in February 1947 and, naturally, we needed all kinds of food. You know, you invite (lots of survivors), relatives, whatever is left up there. So we had the most unique international wedding you can even think of. We had Russians there, and French there and English and Americans. And we had everything but a band. So I asked one of the officers who I knew, who was there, I said, "Isn't there a band? Isn't it a shame we have two people getting married today, my friend in a double wedding, and no band." He said, "Only one band. I know a place tonight and they play for the commanding general at headquarters, and there's a band you can have." I said, "Why don't you

take me there?"

Right after our ceremony, I got through with it, he said, "You're wasting your time, you're silly," you know. I said, "What can I lose? Take me there. Are you scared to take me there?" I gave him hell. "I'd go alone, but with you, at least I can get in. I know I can't even get in without you." He takes me there and the general is entertaining all kinds of people, naturally. Big band. So he said -- he talked to him. The general goes on the mike and he says, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is going to be your last dance. This band is commanded to me to play for a special occasion. There are two survivors from the camp, they're going to get married tonight and there is no other thanks for us than giving this band to these people as a compliment of the United States Army."

And in no time -- they thought I got lost already, because there was many kidnappings and all kinds of stuff going on. So we were gone about two hours and here I come up with a six-man band. (Laughing.)

Q: WHEN YOU CAME TO BERLIN AFTER YOU WERE LIBERATED, DID YOU LOOK FOR SURVIVING FAMILY?

A: I sure did.

Q: AND NOBODY WAS --

A: Well, we registered with the Red Cross, with so many organizations. And you know, my brother -- before my brother came with the Israel army. He served in the European theater. So when he found out, they said relatives are going to be at a DP camp in Frankfurt, he came right away. He

changed his uniform and legally he traveled to Frankfurt in the hope to find me or some of our close family. But he found only cousins. And nobody knows what happens with us.

But there was a funny incident. In the meantime my brother went back. You know, he was very discouraged, naturally. He found the cousins he had never met. Of course, he was very happy to have met them, but obviously, they were like strangers. He'd never seen them in his life before. It's different if you meet a brother or a cousin you've never met.

So he's on his way back to Holland, to Israel, and in Holland, in Eindhoven, there were many Red Cross workers, among them, of course, many Jews. And there were a couple, a doctor couple, husband and wife. And she said, "Soldier, why are you so sad? You're going home to your beloved Israel, to Palestine now." And my brother said, "Well, I'm so unhappy. We were once a big family and I had such a hope to find my brother, one brother, another brother, my sister, my mother. I found nobody, just some cousins." And she said, "Why don't you give me your name? We're with the Red Cross and we have a way, and if your brother survived, we are the first to know. And my husband is a director in Holland. We sure will let you know instantly."

And he said, "My brother's name is Mende (Scheingeschist). And she said, "What is your brother's name?" "Mende (Scheingeschist.)" She says, "It is not possible." She says, "I have a niece who lived in Gleiwitz who just married in

Berlin a (Scheingeschist)."

My brother had no knowledge that I got married or anything like this, you see, because there was no letter exchange. So sure enough, now he was very happy because he knew that we were surviving, because (Scheingeschist) is not a common name. Then he went back to Israel and when he went to Israel he already had the notification, I don't know from what organization, saying that we survived.

Q: IS HE THE ONLY SURVIVOR FROM THIS FAMILY?

A: From the close -- well, we had one sister who survived, but she died after three or four years in Berlin.

Q: SO HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS DID YOU HAVE?

A: Originally?

Q: UH-HUH.

A: Originally, we were nine, but three of them died before the war.

Q: FROM WHAT?

A: Well, from natural causes. But one sister had died in England, another sister got killed by the Nazis, a brother got killed by the Nazis, and the other sister -- you know, so actually, six survived until the war started and four were killed in the war.

Q: AND HOW ABOUT YOUR PARENTS? DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

A: Oh, yeah. You see, my younger brother went with my father to Lublin, and then they lived in (Lech) and he got killed in Majdanek. I heard from some survivors who knew. My mother got killed in Reisenstadt.

Q: AND WHEN DID YOU COME TO THE UNITED STATES?

A: In 1947, February '47 we arrived in New York.

Q: AND YOU WERE IN NEW YORK FOR HOW MANY YEARS?

A: We were in New York until -- you know, in fact, we left New York in September, I think. Isn't that funny? Everything is in September. I came to the camp in September, I left the camp in September.

Q: WHAT DID YOU DO THERE, IN NEW YORK?

A: In New York, first I worked as a mechanic's helper, and then I tried to make my roofing knowledge visible, so I found a Yiddish roofer. And the guy was willing to give me a job for \$1.25 an hour. And my job consisted of schlepping up the roofing material. They weighed 90 pounds a roll, 15 stories high, no elevator yet. It was a new building. I was strong like a horse, but God! This was a job? I was ready to go back to Germany, because I didn't want to work like that. This wasn't work, this was slavery. God! I got up there and as soon as I got up some weight I had to carry down. Everything, up and down. And then the week was over and he didn't give me a dollar and a quarter, he only paid me 95 cents.

Q: DID YOUR FRIEND MAX GO WITH YOU TO NEW YORK? DID YOU SEPARATE ONCE YOU BOTH GOT MARRIED, OR DID YOU STICK TOGETHER?

A: We've been together ever since.

Q: SO WHEREVER YOU WENT, MAX WENT, AND VICE VERSA?

A: Well, in fact, he lives right here in Burlingame. We moved almost together, we moved at the same time.

Q: SO, NOW YOU LIVE IN HILLSBOROUGH?

A: Don't make it so -- this is dangerous to talk about. I live in Hillsborough and I'm very fortunate. I've been very successful in America because, after all, America is the land of opportunity. If you are willing to work and you are really willing to work hard, the sky is the limit. I worked very hard. I not only worked very hard, I almost got killed in America, too. I had a very, very hard accident in 1960. I came down three stories.

Q: SO YOUR PROFESSION OVER THE YEARS HAS BEEN ROOFING.

A: That's all I ever did, was roofing. I learned the trade in the camp and I used it all my life. It's been good to me. It's been hard, but good. But now I'm retired already, for years. It's only possible in America.

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK KEPT YOU GOING DURING THE WAR? DID YOU HAVE A SPECIAL WAY OF CONVINCING YOURSELF THAT YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE IT?

A: I am such an optimist, I refused to believe, even though it was solid black -- you know, this same thing, it helped me to survive in the camp, helped many friends and comrades of mine survive, too. I preached in the camp all the time about survival. I said, "The Nazis cannot beat us." I said, "We will survive," even though times were very bleak. You see, you get hardened through an extremely hard experience.

I received a tremendous amount of punishment in the camp, tremendous, because in the camp many times so many illegal things were going on and indirectly you were involved.

At one time, for instance, there was a guy in my command, another roofer, and I had no idea he had something. You see, when new prisoners came in the camp, they brought a lot of stuff with them, lots of it, like there came transports from Poland. And some of these newcomers had in their shoe heels put in diamonds. I had no knowledge until the guy who worked with me as a roofer, he got ahold of some diamonds. And one day he showed me a diamond, the first time in my life I saw a diamond. I said, "I wish you wouldn't show it to me," when I know how dangerous it is, because after all, once I saw it, I'm already part of it.

And sure enough, within a week I got punished. The Nazis wanted to know where the diamond is. That guy was trading illegally with civilians for all kinds of things.

And there was a gang involved. You see, there were a lot of old prisoners, Jews and non-Jews, who would do all kinds of illegal things to survive. Many, many things. Don't forget, the camp survival is in many ways only for the fittest. It is such an extremely hard life where you really cannot survive unless you are really so toughened, because food, in the very beginning, you get so little. And the food you get -- for instance, when we came in the camp you were supposed to get a liter of the water soup and twice a week you get something thicker, they call it kohlrabi. And then they put a lot of soda in the food. Do you know why they put the soda in the food? Have you ever heard of it?

Q: HUH-UH.

A: The soda you put in the food so the men will not

get any sex urge, because a lot of things went on. You know, there were prisoners in the camp who had everything. They were like kings. They were not Jews, they were Germans. They were political criminals and some of them were already prisoners before they came in the camps for 10, 15 years. And they had so many connections. And this is what the Nazis wanted. They wanted these people to lead the camp. The Nazis don't lead the camp, they guard the camp. Leading the camp was by the prisoners there who are their eyes and their ears. And the eyes and the ears can be for the good and for the bad, most of the time for the bad.

But this is what the Nazis put these people up to, and naturally, when these people then -- some of the Nazis keep their eyes closed, because they know little things go on. Many big things go on, they don't mind. The only thing the Nazis mind is things go on and they talk about liberation and they talk about mutinies, when they talk about violent acts, killings. This is when the Nazis can't afford to have that going on. They don't mind killing, if Goyem kill Jews, or if Germans kill Jews, they don't mind. But they mind if Germans kill Germans, because some of these Germans would be eventually freed, because they're not in like the Jews where they're in for destruction.

So, then, like I said, you have these prisoners in the camp who have everything, and when they have everything, what do they want? They want women and women they can't have, so they want boys and men. You see what I mean? And then, if they're not willing to give, they kill.

You have seen this movie "Exodus"?

Q: UH-HUH.

A: This is completely true. It's all true. And then they had those gas commanders, who used the prisoners to gas them. And at the end, they gas them, too. So there's no survivors.

But one thing I forgot to mention -- I don't know if you want to put that in there now, but you see, while I was -- this was a big part.

When I came back from Gleiwitz after the commandant allowed me to go back to the main camp, because I just felt uneasy, but I still felt very, very unsure, because I know there's no way that you can survive the Nazis, because the Nazis are the Nazis. They're the leader of the camp and they can kill you any time. So I (worked) back, and even though our escape was already planned. So one day the gas master comes out there. This guy who the chief of the kitchen called in Birkenau, and you remember I told you his name was Lieutenant Sturmfuehrer Moll, M-o-l-l. And I'll never forget, because I remembered him from Sachsenhausen originally. He had only one stripe then, and in the meantime he became an officer here. And he became the highest honor from Hitler himself for gassing the one millionth Jew, Moll. You can imagine the power he had.

But the other Nazis who were higher in rank, or some of them lower in rank, hated him. But now this guy, he had the tremendous clout. So he comes to the camp, because he still was very, very scared for his job, because what this

guy can do to him, this chief inspector who's going back to Berlin, and in Berlin is the power, not in the camp. You see what I mean? Himmler, Heydrich, (Poll), they are sitting in Berlin and from Berlin it's all ordered. So this guy tried to eliminate me before it gets on the big (clock). So one day, our escape already planned, he comes to the camp. And in the morning after you're counted, the big commandants make their inspections to all these camps, and all the other things they do, and you never see them until evening when the main counting is.

So here it's about ten o'clock in the morning and they're calling the (lager), you know, the camp roofer to the main gate. And I come to the main gate and here is Moll, you know, with his medal, a lieutenant. And all these small fry's, you know, some with two stars, three stars, are around him, admiring him. The big guys aren't there, they're out on inspections. And I come here and I have to stand at attention like this, and he comes up to me and he says, "This is the pig, this is the schwein," he said. "I know him. Don't I know you from Sachsenhausen?" I said, "Yes, sir," and he hit me right in the face. And he said -- he goes for the other guy there and the other guy there, who is in charge, who is the secretary, he talks to him. I don't know what the heck he's talking about, but in no time at all I'm in the truck with some guards and I'm in Birkenau. And Birkenau is where the gas is and I'm standing there in line that many, many people in the (gas hall) -- you have heard stories about Birkenau. Listen to this! I'm standing in line, and naturally,

I know what's going to happen to me, because there's no way -- in this other camp, you know, (there are ways), but Birkenau is a huge camp. And here, all of a sudden, there comes a woman on a bicycle. Maybe I'm standing here and this is right where the car is, maybe a little farther. But we are surrounded by guards in the camp in front of the gas halls.

And this woman gets caught in her skirt and falls over, a civilian, and I know she's a big shot because nobody drives around on a bicycle except the wives of the commanders or others who were permitted to be there during the day. They have jobs. (End of Tape 2, Side B.)

I untangled her and tried to help her up. But before I can even get up, I have a gun stuck in my back! And she, this woman, is also on one knee and she said, in German, "You dirty pig, do you know who I am?" She is the wife of the main commander of all the camps. (Weiss is not) Yiddish, not Jewish, naturally, the wife of the commandant, (Weiss).

She said, "This prisoner is so decent to help me, because I could have gotten badly hurt, and you pull a gun which this bullet can even hurt me!" And in no time there's a () called, which is also an officer. He's got to go to the phone, and here comes the big guy, the commandant. And she said, "This prisoner is so decent to help me, and this guy pulls a gun on him." "Ya, ya, the prisoner is running away, but he's trying to hurt me." "Shut up," like this, you know. I said, "I'm from (Monowitz), Commander." "Who ordered you here?" I said, "I have no idea."

So this guy goes right on the telephone and in the

meantime, the commander is already back to the camp. And now comes the thing. And you know, the Nazis, regardless of how they are, everything has to be by the book. There is no authority delegated unless it is really delegated. You don't have any authority to do anything. And they are all jealous of him. They tried to bury him and this was one way they could, because he had no power in the camp. And nobody had any authority to listen to his order. You know, he can hit me, he can do anything with me, but he cannot order me transferred to another camp. And the other guy, the secretary, had no authority to take an order from him, because this guy is the gas master now. He has nothing to do -- even he's not a (guard) in this camp. He's in another camp.

So I got back and before I even looked around -- it was such a tremendous deal. I got back to the camp but now, naturally, I was more furious than ever before, because now I got so many people indirectly and directly involved, so that if I could, I would not even escape on that date. I would another day. But naturally, it couldn't be done. So I was on fire every night and I just have to hope that nothing was going to change, that the administration is going to stay the way it is.

Q: DO YOU STILL CARRY BITTER FEELINGS NOW AGAINST GERMANS?

A: No, I never had bitter feelings. But I tell you, I have bitter feelings, I don't care much for the Germans, because after the way we heard thousands of times that many,

many Germans didn't know, which is completely untrue. They all knew. They didn't want to know, you see. And this is the thing. I mean, I really don't have -- see, I don't like to go to Germany. I never liked to go to Germany. The only reason I ever went is when you have a sister and a niece there, there is no choice, you must visit them. But if there is nobody there I would never even care to set foot there.

Q: WHAT DOES ISRAEL MEAN TO YOU?

A: Israel means a lot to me. I mean, I have a lot of family there, I've got two nephews there, and I've got a sister there and three nieces. It's just a wonderful, wonderful country. I mean, if we would have been lucky enough that there would have been Israel when Nazi Germany would have existed, I don't think the Holocaust would have happened. And that's why I think it's so very important, like I said many times, for you, the second, and the third and other generations, to never forget and to remember this. For us, it is not important. For us, we don't have to worry. For you people it's important, and if the young people take it lightly, unfortunately, if you see today what's going on all over the world -- you know, there's nobody likes the Jews. Nobody. Who likes us? You think America likes Israel? They don't like Israel. They like Israel in the way they need Israel, right? This is unfortunate, but it is hard to believe that things like this could happen, like the whole Holocaust could happen. But if you go through history, it is unfortunately not the first time this has happened. It has happened many times before.

You know, I read a book from a German journalist, a 2,000-year history of the Jewish people, the German Jewish people. And he writes in there how they mistreated the Jews 2,000 years ago. Did you know that the Jews lived in Germany before the Germans even lived there? You don't know that, do you? There was no Germany. The Jews lived hundreds of years before it was even a Germany. And sometimes they had rulers who treated the Jews fairly well, because they used the Jews' knowledge. But then again, there were others who would destroy them, who would burn them, who would do anything to them. And it's not only true of Germany. I think the Poles were just as bad to the Jews, maybe worse, maybe worse than the Germans, and many people don't want to know it.

And the Russians are not any better. They used them, like many have used them. The French are the same. Unfortunately, the Jews have very, very few friends in the world and the few we have, we have to try to keep them, because we do need them. We obviously can't live without.

Q: YOUR STORY WAS WONDERFUL AND UNFORGETTABLE AND WE THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCE, AND I'M SURE THAT IT WILL DO GOOD FOR THE PROJECT.

I DO WANT YOU TO RESTATE YOUR NAME.

A: Yeah. My name is Herman Shine. It used to be Mende (Scheingeshist). I was born in Berlin, Germany, October 4th, 1922.

Q: AND MY NAME IS LORENE WILK AND MY PARTNER IS JUDY WELLISCH AND WE ARE IN THE HOME OF HERMAN SHINE, AND THE DATE IS DECEMBER 8, 1984. AND WE THANK YOU.