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Holocaust Media Project

Interviewer: Barbara Joy

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Place:

Transcriber: Peg Hughes

Q: ...want to get your story, really, of what happened to you during the war.

A: 19... 1940, we was put in the ghetto--

Q: In what city?

A: The ghetto, ghetto Ludge, Lutz muns stidge ... Ghetto.

And we starved to death. And took away our-- I have a child from a year old, took away, put a pile on the field where-- where we was concentrated and put on a pile and send him to Majdanek.

I tink so. And then to us, we have to work in ghetto. My

husband was not with me anymore, because they send him away to concentration camp already. And 1942, they send all of us to concentration camp: to Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, and then

[Mäl-toy-ah]. And then we went for a...working commando, making parts to aeroplanes and parts to tanks. And without food, with nek to all no pal, and have a bade time upon one place to die upon the fields, we have to... He's going to take a picture of me?

He's going to take a picture of me? (Laughs)

TAPING STOPS, RESUMES.

[72] My husband was shot in the leg in [Boo-hum-vald]. He had a a very-- He was in concentration camps since 1940.

I was in the ghettos and then the concentration camp and then hard work. And Auschwitz, you know, we survived Auschwitz, was a miracle, because the ovens--what was the gas chambers--was working day and night, day and night. But we was very-- I was very young. Nineteen years old. I had been married and I have a child. They took away the child. And put her on a pile. They make a pile from live children. And-- and they on the field will... Whatever I could remember. In the ghetto, was very bad. We haven't got food. We haven't got nothing. We should move from one place to another. And the concentration camp, we was beaten, and without food, without clothing, barefoot on the snow; on the appeals 8, 10, 12 hours. What else I have to remind myself...

Q: Well, if there's anything you don't want to talk about, that's fine. But I'll ask questions. But I know how you feel. At least I think I could imagine. In the ghetto, was there-- was there anything-- Were you part of any organization, either in the ghetto or--

A: No. There was not-- No organizations. There was only the [saltz] where we went to work. And we worked for the army, for the German army, for the Wermacht.

Q: Did you have a yellow card, a work permit?

A: I had a card what I was liberated. But I haven't got with me, no.

Q: But-- 'Cause, I mean I-- What job did you do exactly?

A: We was working I told you, on the--

Q: On airplanes.

A: --on driving machines, they called.

Q: Oh, I see.

A: And we make the parts to tanks and parts to the vehicles, what you... to tanks. And, you know-- was-- that we was-- Our parents was killed. And I have two sisters and a brother was killed. And my husband is [unclear]. He's shot in the leg. And I drag him here. He didn't even prepare to come here. Alright, that's the story. That's the...

Q: And you didn't see him again?

A: Yeah, we--

Q: Oh!

A: --we meet again. Yeah. After six years not knowing which-- where to--

Q: He survived too?

A: He survived.

Q: --the same--

A: The same, yes.

Q: I didn't know if it was the same--

A: This is the same husband.

Q: That's amazing.

[52] A: That was. We got-- I got a [ma-za-zuh] from a captain from the United States. That was a miracle--that we survived and met us together, because he was in Buchenwald. He was in hospital, because he was shot in the leg.

Q: Right. So...

A: What else?

Q: You were-- you were sent to several... Oh, I'm sorry.

A: --to get up at six o'clock to go here with Amtrak to come here.

Q: Do you remember anything that happened in the camps that you'd like to tell people.

A: Yeah, sure. People was killed. The people didn't survive. People...on the place that they killed them... It's very hard to talk about.

Q: It's true. Well, how have things been since you got out? When were you liberated?

A: I was liberated on the 16th of May...of April, 1945.

Q: That's almost this week. I mean, it's-- it's right around this time.

A: His-- his birthday is now. April 16, 19--

Q: Really.

A: 1912, 1912— This was '45.

Q: And that was from the camp at...

A: This was from the concentration camp.

Q: And how did things go after that? Did you leave right away?
from the country?

A: No. We was in Germany a few years because we couldn't get
out. Then later we get a permit to come here to the United States.
So we're here since that.

Q: And did you have work...right...

A: I have a boy here; I have one child here, married. He's now
on vacation in Israel. He's a teacher. That's all. No grand-
children yet. No nothing.

Q: What do you think you'd like people to know most in the
future about this, this whole horrible thing you went through?

A: That it shouldn't happen again.

Q: Do you think anything could've been done to make it--

A: To prevent it?

Q: --not happen?

A: Yeah. It could be done to prevent. But nobody wanted to
take the Jew-- We are-- I'm a Jew, you know. Nobody wanted to
take us in; so we couldn't survive.

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Some people went to Russia. They survived. Some. In Russia,

they didn't get in the gas chambers. At least, if they haven't got any food, so they-- they starve on their own. You know, they-- they get... but not killed.

One of the Germans said to us, "I will kill you, but a bullet is too high price for you," for the Jew. He killed-- If they killed somebody, they killed with the hilt. Because we were so weak, with no food.

Okay, lady, I have to go back to my house.

Q: Okay.

A: Let's have something to eat.

Q: Sure.

TAPE ENDS.