

1 Interview of Mark Rapoport

2 Q Where were you during the war?

3 A I was in labor camps, and finally they took me to Buchenwald.

4 Q And what do you remember about it?

5 A Sad things. I remember about the holocaust, how the Germans
6 made their place there; they made from our town a little ghetto.
7 They kept the Jewish people in the ghetto. Whoever walked out
8 from the ghetto, he was right away shot, and they really -- nobody
9 understands they prepared for the Final Solution of the Jewish
10 people.

11 Q What happened to you? Describe what happened to you, once
12 the --

13 A I was with my family in the ghetto. And the younger people
14 did have jobs. I was born in the capital of Poland, and they had
15 there two factories, and they registered young people, like 18,
16 15, up to, let's say, 50 or 45. You had to be physically able to
17 work, and they kept you there and you worked.

18 Q In the camp?

19 A In the labor camp.

20 Q How old were you then?

21 A I was there since 1940 and I was liberated April 11, 1945, 38
22 years ago, from Buchenwald, by the American Army.

23 Q What do you remember most about the camp? You mentioned your
24 family.

25 A The most I remember about the camp, how people were living in

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1 the camp. And one day, about 1942, they took all the people
2 together and they -- the ones like -- it took them about five
3 days. They did go by streets, and they told them to come out from
4 their houses and then they took them to like another place, a big
5 place, and took them to the train and they took them to Treblinka.

6 Q You weren't there?

7 A I was not there, because I was in the camp at that time. I
8 wasn't there in the factory.

9 Q How has it been since? How do you cope with --

10 A I was liberated, and then I was sick. I was in the hospital.
11 Then I went to a camp for displaced persons, because the Americans
12 did organize that all the survivors should have a place to live.
13 They gave us food, and I went to work as a dental mechanic, first
14 in a hospital, and then I went to school. I came to the United
15 States in 1952.

16 Q What happened to your family?

17 A My father and mother did go to Treblinka.

18 Q Treblinka?

19 A Yes, and my brothers, too. My brothers, too. I have only
20 one brother alive.

21 Q In this country?

22 A No, he's in Germany.

23 Q How has it been since? I mean, do you remember, think about
24 these things?

25 A I always think about it. I cannot forget it.

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1 Q All the time?

2 A Yes. I would say all the time. It's always with me. You
3 cannot forget it.

4 Q How have you passed it on to your kids? Have you talked
5 about it with your kids?

6 A I did. I did all the time pass it on, and they really have
7 it in their -- and as a result, they really did go once there.
8 They all left me and they were there. My boy was in high school.
9 Before graduation, they went to Israel. They all did go to
10 Israel.

11 Q Have you been to Israel, yourself?

12 A Yes, I go about twice a year.

13 Q Do you think there is any rising anti-Semitism in this
14 country, or do you feel --

15 A There is always going to be some anti-Semitism. You cannot
16 say -- there are a lot of people here. But there are a lot of
17 good people, too. But my job here is good.

18 Q So you came here in the 50's?

19 A 1952.

20 Q So you were in a DP camp, then?

21 A I was in the DP camp in Germany before I came to America.

22 Q And how has America been to you?

23 A America is a surprise to me, because I never -- before
24 America, I never saw a country like America. It's such a good
25 time.

(END)

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