

Wilzig S.F.

Interviewer: Vera OBeymeyer  
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1 FRED WILZIG

2 Q. The first thing I would like you to do is tell  
3 me your name, please.

4 A. My name is now Fred Wilzig. I changed the name  
5 in the United States.

6 Q. When were you born? In what year were you born?

7 A. July 16, 1913.

8 Q. Where were you born?

9 A. I was born in Kluanagksa, (phonetic) West Pozen,  
10 in Germany.

11 Q. What province is that?

12 A. That is Kluanagksa. This is West Pozen, both.  
13 This is still -- was Germany. Now is Poland.

14 Q. So in 1933 you were 20 years old, right?

15 A. I guess, yes.

16 Q. And Hitler came to power in '33.

17 Q. Yes.

18 Q. What happened to your family when Hitler came to  
19 power and the Nuremberg laws were passed?

20 A. All right. I have to start in '33. In '33 I  
21 have been in Berlin already. Not in my town. I went away  
22 from my town in 1929 to study in Berlin and finished in '33.

23 My mother and some from my sisters still were there. Was  
24 nothing. Could live like usually. Was a little people  
25 over there, was not too friendly like used to be.

1           My mother was very young, especially my father.  
2         He died very early. My father was number one in the city.  
3         He worked for the magistrate, he worked with many clubs.  
4         He did very good for the city. Is over, nothing.

5           Then up to '36. '36 I been every year over from  
6         Berlin to visit my mother. Was all right. This you can  
7         say it, it start maybe the Holocaust already. All my  
8         friends, we are Jewish people over there. We didn't have  
9         no enemies before. Even the couple or three years when  
10        Hitler, four years.

11          But then everybody felt it. The Christian  
12         people -- where some of them -- how do you pronounce -- I  
13         will say it, my best friends would say, "Hello, Alfred,"  
14         and my friends all my age went around with uniform already,  
15         SS or the brown, and SR. So was say hello, and then no  
16         more friendship, nothing, nothing.

17          Q.     So people who used to say hello to you on the  
18         streets ignored you?

19          A.     No.

20          Q.     They refused to be friends any longer --

21          A.     To talk.

22          Q.     And to have anything to do?

23          A.     Just hello, yes.

24          Q.     Were polite, said hello, and nothing more?

25          A.     So all right. (speaks German) They weren't all

1       neither Nazis. You want it in the tape that I will tell  
2       some friends, the teachers, the rector -- our house, what  
3       we had our own house, my father was very young, and the  
4       school -- it doesn't run, no --

5       Q.     It runs.

6       A.     It runs? Well, anyway, our house where we live,  
7       where we born, where we was born, was on the school. What  
8       everybody have to pass our house, and was very friendly.  
9       Greet my mother, greeted us, and was one family.

10           But after then, '36, I will say started already  
11       the Nuremburg "zetz", was bad. Even then, one year, two  
12       years later I cam to very radical (speaks German) with  
13       Jewish people and fights aznd kids special, kids 14, 15, 16  
14       years spit at the older Jewish people aznd knocked down.

15           We was standing there, we couldn't even help,  
16       because nobody, not even the parents could hit their own  
17       kids in uniform. You couldn't touch.

18           So was every year worse and worse. Up then to '38,  
19       to Kristallnacht. What I will tell how is -- the  
20       synagogues were burned down, and all Jewish. I dind't see  
21       it, I was in Berlin, certainly; but I came once, and was my  
22       mother, she wrote letters. She have to go then on the  
23       middle place where the city, the markplatz, how you call it  
24       English, markplatz --

25       Q.     The marketplace.

1           A.     Marketplace You have to pick up all the grass  
2 and clean. Older people on their knees and pick up grxass.  
3           What was very depressing and -- that was, and the temple  
4 was down in ashes. That was then most -- not everybody  
5 could go out of city because was cost money. No Jewish  
6 organization was there to give the people money.

7           So my mother, we -- our house and all -- most  
8 Jewish houses was taken away.

9           Then she came to Berlin. That was the end from  
10 my little home town. That was the end for us, at least,  
11 for (German name), the home town.

12           What else you like to know?

13           Q.     So your family came to Berlin in 1938?

14           A.     My mother. My father died in the war, the First  
15 World War, and he died in Berlin 1916. My mother was  
16 alone.

17           You like to know from a sister? I got so many  
18 stories --

19           Q.     You were in school, is that correct? You were  
20 in school at the time? You were forced to leave school,  
21 weren't you?

22           A.     No, no, no. You know, I was 23 years old. I  
23 said I been in Berlin. I went away with 15 years, 1929, to  
24 Berlin.

25           Q.     You were working?

1           A. I was working.

2           Q. What kind of work did you do?

3           A. Berlin?

4           Q. Yes.

5           A. The reason why I told everything here is only  
6 because I been over there every years for vacation, to my  
7 mother. That's the reason I know the whole thing.

8           I came to Berlin. I worked in interior  
9 decorating and sign painting.

10          Q. Your work was interfered with; you were forced  
11 to stop working at some point?

12          A. Which years yo talk about now, please? Which  
13 year?

14          Q. What I am trying to understand is how -- is the  
15 impact of the Nuremburg laws on your mind. So you talked  
16 about Kristallnacht --

17          A. Very hard.

18          Q. You talked about Kristallnacht.

19          A. You want jump to '38 already?

20          Q. You were telling me about how you remembered --

21          A. Oh, wait a minute. No, no. I can tell you here  
22 now. This is the reason I brought this here Because I  
23 would know it. I will just tell you how -- all right. Is  
24 it running now? Maybe I can talk about -- you ask me if a  
25 professional. Yes, sure, I had professional very, very bad

1 things, like all Jews.

2 In 19 -- it sounds very, very strange, but  
3 in 1934 I got my own in painting, my own business. In '34  
4 this was. All right.

5 In these '34 years, I could work up to first  
6 January, 1939. That was after Kristallnacht. There it  
7 started originally the very, very bad time for the Jewish  
8 people.

9 Doctors, lawyers, we have to take it, the  
10 license was taken away from the people already earlier.  
11 But we had still possibility to work in trades. So in  
12 1939 I have to take my license was take away. But that was  
13 the end, originally the end from the beginning the  
14 Holocaust. So I been without income. My mother was there.  
15 I had to see how I got other work.

16 The Jewish people was impossible to find a job.

17 Then 1941 I guess it started. '41 was created a  
18 Jewish or -- how you call it --

19 Q. Union?

20 A. No, no. Working -- were people -- I'm sorry, it  
21 is so hard for me to explain.

22 So I was forced 1941 to work for the Nazi  
23 government.

24 I was lucky. I worked in sign painting, but it  
25 took a few weeks only, and they put us in -- I worked for

1           the Wehrmacht. For Wehrmacht mean -- for the army. We  
2       have to do then I been over there up to very -- working  
3       with very low, low benefits. I been paid very, very low  
4       pay. I was forced, forced.

5           Q.     That was 1941?

6           A.     '41. All right. And -- '41. I am too far. I  
7       will come back to this point, we will go back, but you like  
8       to know what happened after '38, right? Yes, '38 and '39,  
9       all right.

10          I had no work. '38 there is nothing special  
11       with I tell you now. Everybody had this. And oh, yes,  
12       from the Nuremberg, what happened to me there. All right.  
13       I had a very, very special case. OK.

14          Was 40 years -- when was it -- July - oh, yes.  
15       Now come the big, the big fate about my mother It was on  
16       December 12 my mother was picked up from the Gestapo --

17          Q.     Which year was this?

18          A.     1942. And in my presence I see, say it what  
19       everybody should know the truth about this was just out of  
20       force from the Nazi years. Two people came over from  
21       Gestapo and picked up to mother, "We have to bring you to a  
22       Zamilager."

23          Q.     An assembly?

24          A.     Assembly point. All Jewish people was put in  
25       for transportation. Nobody didn't know where, but may be

1 very important in Holocaust. Nobody.

2 At this time, at least from the Jewish people, I  
3 guess most Christian people didn't know it either, where  
4 the Jewish people can come. Every was mine you can (speaks  
5 German)

6 We come to Poland. Warsaw, we was around there,  
7 and we will come together and live so long as nobody didn't  
8 know what's going on. And so I never saw my mother from  
9 this day on. And that was 1942.

10 And from this day on, I personally, besides my  
11 mother came my other sister, came same way my youngest  
12 sister was in Berlin for a few weeks, and the Gestapo came,  
13 and then later they came away, they didn't know where.

14 And then came my personal fate I coulnd't stay  
15 home any more, and this time what I know for sure, wherever  
16 the parents went away and the kids spend home still because  
17 I had my work, couldn't touch me, was force for the  
18 Wehrmacht, for the army, but that you would pick the kids  
19 too. And so I underground. I went underground.

20 Q. Where did you go?

21 A. Berlin.

22 Q. Where? I mean, where did you go to?

23 A. Oh, I just by accident, nice friends, Christian  
24 friends, and we pay or not pay, but was very, very nice  
25 against Hitler too, and I had a room over there --

1 Q. You had a room?

2 A. In Berlin. Yes, a little room. But didn't take  
3 too long. Was very, very nice. And we heard radio --

4 Q. They hid you, in other words?

5 A. Yes, they hid me. So then there was Christmas  
6 round, was just Christmas round. We heard the BBC in  
7 English, and we heard too many on radio. There was with  
8 dead, if you heard Germany, this time at least and all the  
9 time to the end, if somebody heard other than just Germany, was  
10 a death penalty. We did it anyway. The people was very,  
11 very concerned what's going on in the world, and there was  
12 just a reason we heard too many on the first time from  
13 concentration camp originally.

14 But you couldn't tell, even the English people  
15 didn't tell nothing what's going on, what is concentration  
16 camp Nobody didn't know it.

17 Q. What did they say on the BBC broadcast  
18 about the concentration camp?

19 A. Oh, no, they talk about Hitler, the  
20 concentration camps there were Jewish people now, whoever  
21 comes from Germany we'll put in the concentration camp.

22 But they didn't say that is uniformed special or  
23 civil, nothing. But it was more politic against Germany.  
24 And that is give the politics, and the war cannot take so  
25 long -- '42 -- sure, we believed it. And was a good

1       feeling.

2             But didn't take not long, then I went back to my  
3       house where my mother was picked up. Because in the same  
4       house was about three Jewish families, relatives from me,  
5       uncle and aunt and friends from us. Becaus nobody from  
6       Jewish people could live any more in the house, in an  
7       apartment or own house what belonged to Christian people.  
8       So we was indirect, we did it in our own force. We have a  
9       nice big apartment. Everybody had one room, and was good  
10      enough, better than concentration camp.

11           And anyway, I went back because my -- oh, yes,  
12       my sister with a little girl, she was living in the same  
13       house, but came back too and was murdered in the gas  
14       chamber too.

15           And in this moment, I came over in this house.  
16       I want tell my sister where I am and what and this and how  
17       and then. Then everybody come to me, my uncle special, and  
18       said, "Alfred, Alfred, the Gestapo was here, just here a  
19       few hourse ago," because my mother was gone, and look for  
20       me. He look for me but didn't see it. They look for me  
21       just was some tricks I should come over and give some  
22       information about my mother.

23           But I was smart enough to know what's going on.  
24       It's not the first case. I heard from hundreds and  
25       thousands.

1           So I had some money in my pocket, and I said,  
2 "Here," to my sister, "take all the money." I had the  
3 feeling, and originally I didn't wanting to (speaks German)  
4 what happened, everybody that know if you go to start  
5 something, what happened. But I thought I have a good job,  
6 at least a protected job, nothing can happen.

7           But here in the Nazi time everything is happen  
8 and it did happen. So I say goodbye, and my uncle even  
9 said, "If you don't go, I take my life, because the Gestapo  
10 said word by word if your nephew and your brother don't  
11 come over tonight," until then and then, we come over and  
12 pick up everybody then. If it was true, usually could be a  
13 trick, but Jewish people was so anxious and -- what  
14 everyone was scared.

15           Nowe comes this what you say for these words,  
16 the '36 laws. I went over, my uncle and my aunt went with  
17 me. She said I come over with you. I said sounds all  
18 right, come. So I had nothing with me, just my papers, and  
19 this was around the corner, was in Police Revere number 10  
20 exactly, in Berlin, Alexanderplatz. I don't know if this  
21 is important.

22           Because I been over there. I said I am so-and-  
23 so, my name is this and this, and right away this officer  
24 come in and they put me in a room. After five minutes, big  
25 strong SS man come in in uniform and -- I saw this, I said

1       this is my end. And this was my end, but I still alive.

2                  Now, I tell you this story, it's not a story,  
3       it's a real story, because that the people should know how  
4       the people worked in the Gestapo. This was a special room,  
5       usually it was important police revere, but this was from  
6       the Gestapo extra.

7                  So in this moment he came in. He had papers and  
8       the (speaks German) --

9                  Q.      The records were already there?

10                 A.     Yes, you are right. So everything, he did know  
11       everything about me. What could he do for me? I didn't  
12       think about the Nuremburg law. I didn't think about  
13       nothing. I thought my life. And then he said --

14                 Q.     What were you thinking?

15                 A.     I was thinking really about my mother. I was  
16       thinking he wil ask me some information, will give me some  
17       information about my mother, because I was -- in Germany if  
18       you are very good (speaks German) 100,000 Jewish people,  
19       but I worked for the Wehrmacht Anyway, he ask me two  
20       question, if I know a miss and fraulein (speaks German) a  
21       Deutsch Luxemburger --

22                 Q.     German?

23                 A.     Sure, a German Luxemburger. She came from over  
24       there. Was many, many German Luxemburgers came to work in  
25       Germany.

1           And I said in the moment was the truth, I told  
2 all over in my trial, it's the truth, but he said now. In  
3 this moment I said no, he hit me twice in the face.

4           And then he told me, "Listen, you shitty Jew,  
5 you dirty Jew, if you do something or you did something or  
6 you lied to me, I just came last week back from the Russian  
7 front. You can see I am SS man. We don't take it so  
8 easy."

9           And so he make right away read, sign on the  
10 line, you know, a special. And then later he said, "I will  
11 show you how you lied."

12          Then he call up the girl in. She was there. And  
13 then I saw her. I say, "Sure I know her. I know this  
14 fraulein. I know her." Really, I didn't know her for the  
15 moment the name. I didn't know her only -- it was not my  
16 girl friend.

17          Q.     You knew her in passing?

18          A.     No, no, not passing More than passing. We did  
19 know together, I had my star on, you know. It was a  
20 Christian girl -- I had my star on --

21          Q.     It was a Christian girl and he had not been  
22 wearing his Jewish star?

23          A.     The star. And she told him, this is not the  
24 girl, she told much, much more. Was everything in my  
25 files. She told that certainly she was jealous because she

1 saw me again with the other girl that was my niece. Was  
2 blond too. Was my niece a big girl already, and this other  
3 girl was jealous.

4                 But the worst thing is, was that she said, and  
5 that's all, he didn't ask her nothing any more. He give  
6 the protocol to her and she went out again. And he hand to  
7 me the protocol, is it true you have a half cousin --  
8 that's what I mention before -- did you work in the  
9 underground? I said not, never. No, no active  
10 underground. But I told her, the girls, that I have cousin  
11 he worked very radical.

12 (End tape 1)

13                 A.     Is this running?

14                 Q.     Yes.

15                 A.     You cut out many things later.

16                 Q.     We are going to describe it as it is.

17                 A.     That is it not important, I guess. You ask me  
18 before, I should explain -- this is off now, yes?

19                 Q.     No.

20                 A.     This I will explain, this was the Oberstats and  
21 all, the District Attorney, a very high, I did know him  
22 before, before the war, and I ask him for a job, for  
23 Staatspoliceveitung. I like to work with him, you know,  
24 against Nazis. So that is the reason he wrote, he give me  
25 here, was right way after '45, right away after the

1 concentration camp, he wrote in here -- (speaks German)

2 He was the concentration, in Auschwitz and  
3 Grosrogen -- I been there too--

4 Q. He wanted to help the search for Nazis.

5 A. Yes. Or state police I mean -- I don't have to  
6 show you everything is true. How you know it? Does  
7 everybody tell you the truth? Julius Meyer. About him it  
8 would cost me maybe my life.

9 Q. Away from heavy prison, where were you sent?

10 A. Oh, to -- I was there, then on July 16--

11 Q. '43?

12 A. '43 I got all my clothes back, and was only six  
13 other in this with me -- that means in Brandenburg, Jewish  
14 people that were there too. The others was hundreds and  
15 hundreds, maybe thousands, I don't know. But everybody  
16 what was Jewish came away. And these five, six was  
17 forgotten and we was a mistake, so we altogether, we six,  
18 we went in, in, in, in trains specialized for one wagon  
19 and only the painters. You do it here too. America, but  
20 we did not used to need as political, what it was,  
21 handcuffs.

22 So we came to Berlin. We came to Berlin in the  
23 summer lager, again--

24 Q. They gathered everyone up?

25 A. What they did. Everybody from whole Germany, I

1 don't know if other people told you this already before,  
2 Berlin was the only city, after the Kristallnacht from all  
3 cities, villages, big or small, from all Germany to go to  
4 Berlin. Berlin was all the together. There came thousands  
5 and thousands of people and was very, very--

6 Q. Like a ghetto?

7 A. Terrible, yes.

8 Q. Then we had a ghetto.

9 A. Terrible. But this together, summer lager,  
10 together in the middle where we been there, with altogether  
11 99 person, and this was person like we from jail or  
12 underground people what catched again, or people what has,  
13 all Jewish.

14 This was July, 1943. Berlin was empty already,  
15 except now the 99 in this little together lager. So we  
16 been over there about four or five weeks. I will say it  
17 was under control the Gestapo, but the personnel was all  
18 Jewish people. They cooked for us, and was the first  
19 decent, real good meal what I got then after the time I was  
20 in jail.

21 And then some day middle August, we came all  
22 away on transport again, again, we didn't know where. We  
23 perched together in one wagon in the train, was in  
24 Gruenwald Berlin with SS --

25 Q. Guarded?

1           A.     Guarded. So was dark, and first 99 in one --  
2        women, kids. All right. I will say it take me three, four  
3        minutes just to let the world know that the Jewish  
4        underground work in underground against Nazis like I said  
5        before that other stories from my cousin, he died.

6           But after about an hour, we been out from Berlin,  
7        was more men, women was not many, just a few underground  
8        too and some kids. This was a dangerous thing what we did,  
9        but we tried.

10          After I know, this is now Auschwitz, this is now  
11        concentration camp -- we had no other chance. Still we had  
12        hope we will go to Poland. Everybody talk about Poland,  
13        Warsaw, and everybody says this is a ghetto, and everybody  
14        meet each other. And I said my mother too. It was dumb,  
15        maybe.

16          But the Jewish leader, I will talk about this  
17        too, Jewish leader, they didn't say anything to us. They  
18        didn't teach us nothing what's going on. It was just  
19        thinking for themselves how to go out from Germany. Now,  
20        this is true.

21          If you want, lady, I can give you later example  
22        what happened. Me, I don't think I (speaks German)

23          Q.     That must be a saying, "I don't take a piece of  
24        paper out of my mouth."

25          A.     I tell you the truth, I don't prophecy Jewish

1 people even was gangsters. Like in Auschwitz we had dozen  
2 of bad people.

3 Q. Tell it yourself.

4 A. I went through all this all right. Now, anyway,  
5 we try, that was a wagon --

6 Q. A cattle car?

7 A. A cattle car. Was little windows, was covered  
8 with --

9 Q. Wooden slats?

10 A. No. No.

11 Q. Barbed wire?

12 A. With barbed wire. Anyway, outside -- oh, I will  
13 say for one wagon -- it was a long, long train. I don't  
14 know what they had in other. We had about, oh, 20 guards.  
15 So anyway we started to break out. We didn't even came,  
16 the barbed wire to take it off, they didn't even had it off.  
17 Come hundreds of shoot, shoot, shoot, shoot, shoot, inside,  
18 and thank God, nobody was hurt very -- and then the whole  
19 train was stopped. They came out and opened the door,  
20 everybody out.

21 And now we thought, we was always thinking what  
22 to do, what the other people did, we are all dead. We  
23 thought they will kill us and now they will shoot us. They  
24 had a reason, we want break out.

25 And then came the lieutenant or captain,

1 whatever, and said, "Who was it? Who was it?"

2 And we said yes, we tried, like in the Geneva  
3 Convention said -- doesn't belong to the Geneva Convention,  
4 every prisoner is his duty to escape.

5 He was smiling. We saved. We was about four or  
6 five boys. I was close, good, home, and he said, "You are  
7 not prisoners." I said, "Sure, we are prisoners." We  
8 argue with him. He said, "All right, I can nothing do,  
9 there are women and kids, I cannot shoot you."

10 I would say this: The German was very, very --  
11 exact in everything. He wouldn't shoot you. From  
12 concentration camp, yes, but he was not in the  
13 concentration camp, to shoot without Berlin must bring  
14 paper and all this, and then we can shoot and we can prove.

15 So all right, go back everybody and don't try it  
16 again, then really we will shoot.

17 We went and went hours and days, night and day.  
18 And suddenly we came now, we didn't nowhere to go.

19 Anyway, somebody told us, we saw outside Polish  
20 soldier, SS running, we in Poland.

21 Q. You crossed the border?

22 A. No, yes. A long time we crossed the border.

23 It's not too far from Poland to Berlin. It's no too far.

24 I was born 50 kilometers from the Polish border too.

25 Anyway, we came to Birkenau. It's a part of Auschwitz.

1 You have it all over there. This is -- that is the reason  
2 I cut it out, it's not everything to bring the same.

3 But I was also thinking on the both boys from  
4 the gypsies, what they told me to Auschwitz and best of my  
5 recollection even now. And then in a moment we could see  
6 we came to Birkenau, the train was slow, and slow.

7 And then we came what I first saw the SS with  
8 the head, simple on the head, the death head, the totenkopf.

9 Q. Death head. Literally translated, the dead  
10 head.

11 A. No, no. The symbol of the dead. It was  
12 different from the SS. There was Panzer in the war, in the  
13 fight, was Panzer, they are only black --

14 Q. It's a certain unit?

15 A. Unit wearing the --

16 Q. The skeleton, you mean?

17 A. Yes, skeleton. Not every SS had it. I know all  
18 the Germans are running around, I talked with the people  
19 before I was free. So I said oy, vey. Everybody said now,  
20 this is our last. I said here is the skeleton, it's not  
21 good, it cannot be good.

22 Anyway, I'm sorry I set off anyway about this.  
23 So we are everybody out. So we went down now what I say  
24 you heard it a hundred times. Outside, we couldn't take  
25 nothing now. We had everybody in our little camp, I mean --

1 Q. The wallet?

2 A. Wallet, or something to hang over with bread  
3 in it, we couldn't take nothing. The only thing was now  
4 there came the SS and greeted us, and said, it's always the  
5 same, people are not the same, they have all the tricks and  
6 (speaks German)

7 Q. They simply said --

8 A. They simply said, who don't can work, go left,  
9 there it is.

10 Q. Tell me what happened. It doesn't matter that I  
11 heard it before.

12 A. Who not can work, get left. That was the others  
13 on the right side. Suddenly, same like me, I was young and  
14 I know that cannot be, this is not a sanitorium that the  
15 older people, the women or the kids, because they cannot  
16 work, they getting now treatment like a sanitorium.  
17 Suddenly, whoever can work, always I went through in Berlin  
18 had it better, I had an even better raise and food in  
19 Berlin because I worked. So I said, certainly.

20 I went to the right side. We been on the right side  
21 maybe a third. Two thirds people was stupid or I don't  
22 know what. They went on the left. All right, I don't want  
23 criticize now, but was understanding in whole situation,  
24 the women or even older men, they don't think, we don't  
25 work -- was not even a work in Birkenau. Was a real, real --

1 this was more than a concentration camp. It was a (speaks  
2 German)

3 Q. Extermination camp?

4           A.         Right. So the people went, we was standing  
5           down, the people what said we cannot work on left side,  
6           right away they were loaded on a truck and went right away --  
7           today I know it. In this moment I didn't know it, what was  
8           a gas chamber. I didn't know it. But we came out and we  
9           saw smoking, big, big, even then you don't think it's a gas  
10          chamber. It can be a factory or something.

11 So we went away, we never saw one, even I have  
12 here a lady, I gave your daughter (speaks German) how you  
13 call --

15 A. No. (speaks German)

16 Q. Explanation that was legal?

17 A. How you say it here if you go to--

18 Q. Like a notary public?

19 A. Notary public.

20 Q. An affidavit?

**A. An affidavit.**

Q. We will piece this together.

23 A. But you learn a little bit on this here too. (speaks  
24 German)

Q. That he was a witness and saw this happen.

1           A.     A deposition. This have to be always notarized  
2 from somebody. You mean, you giving me dozens like this  
3 too, some people. It's all right, we was standing down and  
4 we went and the big court and have to take it off complete  
5 my clothes what we had. Ring, whatever we had, everything.  
6 Complete nude. And then the SS came then and we went in  
7 the bath house, but thank God not the like the other people  
8 went in the bath houses where the gas come out. We went in  
9 real bath house because we was young, they used us for work.

10           And then we came then, we came the old clothes  
11 with the red stripe on. Because they didn't call this  
12 concentration camp. Auschwitz, later, we was in the  
13 quarantine. So we been over there, I mean, this is not too --  
14 I know everybody knows, across the street from our  
15 quarantine was a woman lager --

16           Q.     Women's barracks?

17           A.     Women's barracks. And then we saw we was new,  
18 everybody was knows see what's going on home, you know.

19           And then screaming over and talk of not so loud,  
20 there are all over SS. What's happened -- was very close.  
21 Just a fence between. And every woman wear a scarf on the  
22 head because was shorn complete the hair off. We couldn't  
23 tell that much and we couldn't tell them. Was too much the  
24 control on it.

25           So after we been few days there --

1 Q. Were you at that time too?

2 A. No. Not in Birkenau. Birkenau was not at that  
3 time too. Maybe only people what okay -- like little lady  
4 downstairs told me, she said Birkenau, I couldn't  
5 understand.

6 Q. She was also in Auschwitz.

7 A. Only in Auschwitz, in main Auschwitz, only. I  
8 came in later. There was no tattoo either. In no other  
9 concentration camp. I don't know if you know it, in no  
10 other concentration camp was tattoo you know it, in all  
11 Germany.

12 Q. I believe that Maidonek sometimes tattooed an  
13 M.

14 A. Could it be? I don't know. Maidonek is in  
15 Poland. But usually is only Auschwitz.

16 I will tell you now how I learned the smoke and  
17 the big chimneys, what this really mean.

18 After we been a few days, we always -- now comes  
19 again, this is not nice from the people, but I will tell.  
20 Like I said before, I don't want nothing out, but this is  
21 bad for Jewish people. If you are bad over their -- their  
22 position, let them suffer. I mean didn't suffer. If knew  
23 people come, they were some friendly, they come right away  
24 dozen around us before we came, before we took all this off.  
25 This what you call now, now we can take away. Now they was

1       stealing. I have beautiful long shoes on, beautiful, put  
2       the best, you know, it's cold. They came around, what you  
3       got, what you got, give me your ring, give me your gold,  
4       this and this, and -- this is what (speaks German).

5                  What it means -- is not the right word. This  
6       is the (speaks German)

7       Q.     This was the worst because these were the fellow  
8       Jews?

9       A.     I say it only because whoever will see this  
10      should know it we suffer sometimes more from the people  
11      than the whole other people what have to -- I don't want to  
12      say the words.

13                  Anyway, then we were (speaks German)

14                  You see the smoke? We came new. We were  
15      nothing. All we had was what we brought on our back. And  
16      even that was gone. What is that, then?

17                  "Some day you will go through too." I heard it  
18      a dozen times. "You will go through". Why? Because you  
19      want everything steal from us, but we not had a ring or a  
20      watch or even the jacket or something.

21                  This was they help us and rob us -- not all. I  
22      don't talk about all, never. But these are there. So.  
23      After we been now in Birkenau, everybody after work, was  
24      ground work only, with shovels and picks, then --

25       Q.     This is now August, September '43?

1           A.     Yes, about August, September, around. Could be  
2     September.

3                 Then we call again, I don't know, Miss Lynn, you  
4     don't want how it looks the barracks. This is not so  
5     important. Everybody said it. I go away over little  
6     things for me. We didn't have no, the first week we didn't  
7     have no beds. We have to sleep like that. In the war you  
8     sleep, we sleeped, and soldiers too, maybe, on cement and  
9     this and this. I could talk hours and hours about this.  
10    This is not so important. I guess hundred people talk this  
11    about. Now we came down on the transport to the main,  
12    again in the car --

13           Q.     The main camp?

14           A.     No, in trucks. This is not far away.

15           Q.     Who went back on the train?

16           A.     No, in trucks. To the mother camp, Auschwitz.  
17    So now I learn the first time real concentration camp with  
18    stripes, uniforms, that was our uniform. I have one even  
19    home, if you like it. I brought mine home. I have it. So  
20    now we been in Auschwitz. Now I thought this is Auschwitz.  
21    Auschwitz is Poland anyway. The first came our number. My  
22    number is 135407. On the left arm. I tell you, I hate to  
23    tell this, I heard this often everybody say the same. All  
24    right. And then we been over there not on this either.  
25    This was long et cetera. I guess this was just a few days.

1 And then again, who is an assignment under us what to work  
2 on this, on this. And so I came to that, Muniwitz (speaks  
3 German). It's what you read before -- no, it's here  
4 someplace -- all right. I will talk just fast. This  
5 Muniwitz, excuse me -- we been always around to about  
6 12,000 prisoners. I don't like this word prisoners. I  
7 mean there is another word in English.

8 (continued on next page)

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1           A.     He had all the papers from my brother. That's  
2     the thing I told you, because he was in Cuba. He sent her  
3     all the papers. I made everything for her, to my brother  
4     calls for them, that you can go to Cuba.

5           Q.     Your mother and sister?

6           A.     Right. You couldn't go to America, couldn't go  
7     to England. I tried. The only thing was you could go and  
8     I didn't want it and she didn't want it either, it was  
9     really like death -- today is better -- is Shanghai. And  
10    you know was in this time he didn't know was like that too.  
11    And was very hard to go.

12           Anyway, and she couldn't come in. Cuba, Berlin  
13    consulate, he says "I am sorry," hundred excuses. Because  
14    he was from Germany, no, don't let in. Anyway, excuses,  
15    and so then we received a letter from Cuba and the  
16    consulate, yes, you can come to Cuba, but there's a new law  
17    in Cuba, all these Nazis and this whole thing, she have to  
18    go first transit, see, this I know in English, this is  
19    German, a transit. You have to go through a transit land.  
20    You call it transit, you know, what I mean?

21           Q.     Like Austria is now in a sense to Israel?

22           A.     No, more they were -- not Austria -- you could  
23    go from Germany. She have to go to America first, even for  
24    a week. Now, I had a letter, now everything is gone. Now,  
25    in America, or I run to right away to America consulate,

1 and show everything and said the letter, give me a transit  
2 letter for my mother only for a week. You think they gave  
3 it?

4 Q. No.

5 A. Absolute, they was terrified, was the people in  
6 the consulate over there. That is my mother. So what  
7 happened, she went, came to Auschwitz, everything finish.  
8 The government man, he said to find because my brother was  
9 there, he was personally over there, the joint he did maybe  
10 many things but at least that we have from Germany we  
11 cannot say we lock people, so go from America, and then  
12 come in America, from America you can go to Cuba.

13 Now, that's the one.

14 This other one was me. See, I didn't want tell  
15 you, I don't know want tell you this, had nothing to do  
16 with this. I was young. I had a good profession. I was  
17 healthy, never sick, to this nothing. My brother, again he  
18 send me from United States -- I mean from Cuba, but in the  
19 United States he had friends, one affidavit, two affidavit,  
20 and then from his -- in the meantime, his boss, a lady,  
21 her husband was dead already, he sent me personally,  
22 because he knows me personally too from my home town.  
23 Other affidavit, was three. Now, listen this case. Oh, I  
24 had a case to go in the Congress, but I was a thousand  
25 miles away. And this was not enough.

1 Now, listen this. Then my brother, he met in  
2 Cuba a teacher from United States. He was just over there  
3 to -- very rich. And he told him the case, and she send me  
4 again an affidavit. That is the fourth. This was not  
5 enough.

6 Now, this was later -- I should start first --

7 Q. When was this? I don't understand.

8 A. There was 19 hundred and -- start already '37 or  
9 '38 already. The war, was not even the war. America went  
10 in '41. So start in '37 or '38.

11 Now, this was because -- now, I should start,  
12 I have a relative here in America over 150 years already,  
13 from my grandmother a cousin. She is a lady. Carrie --  
14 I have from Congress people, you wouldn't believe it. I  
15 said this -- interested everything happened in the world.

16 And she started to bring me to the United States.  
17 I was young and she started. She was very rich. In  
18 Parkersburg, West Virginia, I guess, Parkersburg, West  
19 Virginia, or wherever it is.

20 They gave me an affidavit with seven little  
21 houses. We didn't know what mean houses. I thought this  
22 small houses, and then they had a department store besides  
23 with seven houses. That was not enough.

24 Now, then they start --

25 Q. She owned the department store?

1           A.     She owned the department store and seven houses.

2           Q.     I see.

3           A.     The husband was not still living. Was very,  
4     very famous down this city. So then they said, my brother  
5     sent me the other affidavits and four affidavits, you know.  
6     You know what's happened now to the last? I have been  
7     there every week and every day, and I was everything in my  
8     head I have it. General consul Geist and consul Norden,  
9     how long is it here, 50 years, pursued, says yes, ja, ja,  
10    this and this; in Washington they want more. This was a  
11    swindle. They didn't even want so much in Washington. I  
12    learn it later.

13           Now, I came over but was shortly before United  
14    States, for -- in 19 -- before they went in the war. It  
15    was still you could not go to America. We have other  
16    people. Not they let you out. Nobody can tell me it's  
17    Hitler's fault. You have several things, yes, but you  
18    could go out. I been by the Gestapo and all over. They  
19    said, "We have nothing against you. If you have it, go  
20    ahead. The only thing you can take only \$100."

21           That was on the no more than \$100, no more  
22    nothing.

23           But now, this United States, at least, at least  
24    he showed me this was from Washington, from Washington, the  
25    consul, they show it to me, the letter after I got all the

1 affidavits, years and years I got this. I really want go  
2 down to --, you should read the letter from -- I have a  
3 couple, my brother had a letter from the --

4 Q. Congress people?

5 A. No, no, from -- yes, that consul and Aunt Carrie  
6 are, I call her, Aunt Sally -- Aunt Sally. I had letters  
7 there.

8 I come -- they wrote me a letter from consulate,  
9 come over again, we want talk about you, the whole thing.  
10 I come over, I say everything is fine, my mother was so  
11 happy, you know, but she would stay and was not so -- was  
12 not too bad the whole thing in '37 and '38. It was before  
13 the Crystal Night. She had made the occasion to go some  
14 other place.

15 Ja, you have this, you have this, all this  
16 wonderful, all is wonderful, but we got -- yes, ma'am.

17 Q. I want to -- I am concerned about continuing  
18 where we left off so we can fill in. We are going to have  
19 a big gap.

20 A. Later, come over and --

21 Q. Wait a minute. Where we left --

22 A. All people, the whole thing. I tell you, I you  
23 wouldn't believe it.

24 Q. Please, take a deep breath. You can read that  
25 letter when we are all finished. That's a good idea. Then

1 you can read it.

2                   Mr. Wilzig, I'd like to continue, I'd like to  
3 hear where the death march led you, I'd like to hear about  
4 your liberation.

5                   A. OK, the death March, that we came to Gleiwitz  
6 now I know the name even, in the meantime.

7                   Q. Everything is coming back now, huh?

8                   A. No, right. If you went to -- it was terrible.  
9 And in the future we didn't know where we'd go, and then it  
10 was a death march. We went in snow and cold. This was  
11 January, no clothes, no undershirt, no underpants. Shoes  
12 was just a little -- if you was lucky -- holes, wooden  
13 shoes, and you had blisters and this and this, all right.  
14 Everybody can think what happened there.

15                  Then we came to some stop in other concentration  
16 camp. I said before I guess, that was Gleiwitz in Silesia,  
17 this is English, I guess, Silesia. And then we make rest  
18 overnight, just one night, at least we been in the dry, no  
19 snow. Food we had too good nothing.

20                  Next morning, next morning -- we been about 6,000  
21 people. I say it because later I will tell you why,  
22 whenever I -- whenever I talk -- think about this, 6,000  
23 went, left after Gleiwitz, and 6,000 other side. The other  
24 6,000 were my cousin was in, Horst Wohlgemuth, I say the  
25 name in case you heard about him. There was the end should

1       be Czechoslovakia, because Czechoslovakia was not still  
2       from the Nazis occupied and there was big, big, big  
3       manufactury from the army you should work.

4           But where we should go, nobody did know. We go  
5       and go and go until we came to the rail station again,  
6       again on the train, and nobody can believe it what I say,  
7       whoever went through this. We went three days, two nights  
8       open wagon, snowing, hail, rain, everything, and we thought  
9       after two nights, three days, we might hundred miles away.  
10       No, the train didn't go not far, round in circle always,  
11       and we came exactly the same road we went away. No food in  
12       three days, two nights.

13           Now, this is -- I mean, this is not under oath  
14       here, but this is under I will say hundred percent -- oh, I  
15       am sorry -- hundred percent we had no food, nothing. The  
16       only thing we licked a little snow. This was very, very  
17       dangerous. Then alone from -- we came out alone from  
18       licking snow, I will say just roughly from 6,000, thousand  
19       in the next three, four days died because of diarrhea, and  
20       the -- you couldn't go walk any more, and this moment they  
21       fall down. If you want help they threat us to shoot you  
22       but -- because we have to go far and far. They have shoot  
23       everybody what fall down, couldn't walk any more, weak. No  
24       in stomach, was on the street shot. So.

25           Because I was a little strong before I went away

1 because from my -- from Auschwitz and from Bunau, I ate a  
2 little better, and so I could not stand it. After three  
3 days we went out from the train. We grasp again that we  
4 have a little ration, little bread or whatever we had,  
5 something.

6 But ja, and then that was terrible, like I saw  
7 in Italy, a film that would be 400, very famous, 400 was  
8 shot. I don't know if you know the name. Italy was one of  
9 -- the whole 400 people was shot just on a free place.  
10 Was the same what happened to us, not that I was shot, but  
11 we went out and walked through the woods hours and hours,  
12 and suddenly everybody stay still, and then suddenly we  
13 didn't know what's going on, and then we heard machine gun  
14 or whatever was gun, shotting, shoot, shoot, shoot, at  
15 least, oh, I will say, a sound maybe five or ten minutes in  
16 a row, but that is a lot.

17 And our was about four, five thousand people we  
18 still have, it's a long line, and four, we march always in  
19 four. So I thought -- I was in the middle. I thought it  
20 was in the beginning or in the end they starting to shoot.  
21 But it wasn't, thank God, it was not. What was it? From  
22 the train when we went out from the train, we was like  
23 herrings, herrings, the street in -- hundreds of hundreds  
24 dead or half dead at least. We put that on -- on the --  
25 and on the house --

1 Q. On the heat?

2 A. On the heat? Right, the people was shot. Live,  
3 live shot. Maybe some was dead already. I don't know.  
4 But then they came, this SS and told us, "We just shot the  
5 sick people," and what was from the train. And so, like we  
6 marched far and far and far, and then this took, this march  
7 took from this time up to exactly, oh, January, end of  
8 February, I guess, end of February. All right.

9 Now, on the death march we came and came, always  
10 closer to closer to the -- we usually we should go that to  
11 Gross-Rosen, that is Nazi concentration camp. It's not too  
12 far away, but we should go, we came not so far away. Then  
13 we -- in the meantime, like I said, again, hundreds,  
14 everything, thousand in two, three weeks again dead, shot  
15 on the road, because they couldn't go again, and the worst  
16 -- I never saw in my life these things, if somebody freeze,  
17 the arms and the meat become black. So it was so strange  
18 for us. We was so cold. We was not human any more. And  
19 we want help people to get up, and sometimes I had an arm  
20 in my hand, was black. You could -- the bones, you could,  
21 like a piece of wood.

22 And so far, so far, we walked and walked and  
23 walked, and that's what the trouble with the most people  
24 what died later in diarrhea, licked, licked snow, and we  
25 was all about six, eight, ten people together. We said,

1        "Don't eat snow."

2        Q.      Why was that?

3        A.      Because you get diarrhea and you die. Snow you  
4        cannot have. Snow is so danger. Nothing in the stomach  
5        and then this goes through and if you die, people, in other  
6        words, the most people -- oh, how should I say in elegant  
7        word, I don't want to say this -- they have to -- richtig  
8        todt in the diarrhea.

9        Q.      They died from diarrhea?

10      A.     I said --

11      Q.      Dysentery? I didn't understand.

12      A.      In German, there is another word, macht todt

13      Q.      Gecocked?

14      A.      I didn't want say.

15      Q.      You didn't want to use any four-letter words or  
16       anything like that, so I did it for you.

17      A.      That's really -- that's the only reason, see, we  
18       was alive. We stayed, once in a while we got a little  
19       bread after three days. You wouldn't believe it.  
20       Everybody wouldn't believe it, what the human being can go  
21       through.

22      Q.      Where were you liberated?

23      A.      Liberated? All right, before I answer the  
24       question, that can answer right away, I want to come here  
25       now, I come now on this here, I was liberated in the

1 Waldenburg, Silesia, from the Russian army. And I very --  
2 I want talk about more. I thought maybe most Jewish people  
3 don't like it today, but I can't help it. There was a  
4 humane people in the world was the Red Army that I will  
5 thank them so long as I live. They was very, very --  
6 really, this goes so close to me, you know, the Russian  
7 people, the soldiers was, whatever today even, whoever  
8 think about politics, I don't care about. Whoever Russian  
9 people, except your White Russian, I don't talk about the  
10 White Russian what came, the anti-Semite too, but after the  
11 revolution, the Russian people, they was so humane, they  
12 came -- you want to talk this or you want to go far away  
13 from the other?

14 Q. I'd like to try and stay with this and finish  
15 this up.

16 A. Then I can start with the other because I run  
17 away with a young boy. That was -- anyway, but you want to  
18 talk about it, was the last before I came to Waldenburg, I  
19 can start, I can fill in this. Before I came to Waldenburg,  
20 it was on the death march, maybe still in the death march.  
21 I couldn't stand any more. Was so gruesome.

22 Q. Gruesome?

23 A. Gruesome. But always less and less, we left over  
24 about 700 people only.

25 Q. Out of 6,000?

1           A.     Out of 6,000 was 700 after we been in other camp  
2         again, and again hundreds of people was weak and sick and  
3         were dead and shot and this.

4           Now, I said I cannot stand here any more. I  
5         cannot stay here any more. So we had now -- we had all  
6         civil -- civil coat, but the uniform underneath was the  
7         winter they gave us what we stole from the -- a coat, a  
8         beautiful coat, and -- but no pants and -- was stripes.  
9         And then in the meantime, I have to say this, I have to  
10      tell this, because you know why I am maybe still alive.  
11      That was very important. We been there in Reichenau. We  
12      stopped there for two weeks, and there was other, before  
13      other camp too, but you went away again.

14           In the meantime, I said -- I talked to many  
15      comrades, and I said, "What you doing now? What can we do?"  
16      There was 700 left over in this camp already. And we had  
17      in the back, we had that was different, was not the stripe,  
18      we put in, cut it out a piece and put the red from the --  
19      was a little window we call it from the blue, white, and  
20      from the uniform. Because -- because nobody can run away.

21           So I took off, took off the little window, and  
22      -- then just always was ---there was people was cleaning  
23      barracks or was later, we had, they gave us then a little  
24      thread and I put -- I cut it out from my coat, and put it  
25      in so it was, if you don't look at it exactly --

1           Q.     Same color?

2           A.     Yes, from the coat, and -- and then some day we  
3     marched away from that with 700 people after we put  
4     hundreds of people from the barracks again on the place,  
5     and then they become shot again after.

6                 So then we came after Waldenburg, and I said to  
7     next to me, I said, "I don't stand here any more. Tomorrow  
8     might be we will, and this and be dead and I will go away.  
9     I will shot anyway what's the difference, take a chance."

10               And he start to cry. He was 16 years old; was a  
11     very nice boy, I think, about the youngest in our -- that  
12     came to us together, came from other concentration camp in  
13     our -- so we walked and walked. And that was our luck, I  
14     spoke perfect German like you can imagine, and in this time,  
15     this was already 1945, '45, February, around four weeks or  
16     three weeks later, four, five weeks later.

17               Our luck was, and then the Germans, you have to  
18     flee too from East Prussia, and West Prussia, from my home  
19     town even, came all before already weeks when the Russians  
20     came, and then we had to go away, was scared, because the  
21     propaganda was so great from Goebbels and the Nazis that  
22     everybody would be killed, the women and this and this and  
23     this.

24               And if you came before Waldenburg, this is about  
25     ten miles away, 15 miles, Weisswasser. We went through the

1 little town was it, we went through. 700 doesn't sound  
2 from 6,000, but if you stay on the street, it's a long,  
3 long line. And we had every 20 yard, 20 meters, a SS man  
4 with, you know, all those -- it was very hard to get away  
5 from this.

6 But from the other side, you know, it's very  
7 interesting, not everybody went through, came thousands and  
8 hundred thousand, I would say, Germans with cars, with  
9 trucks, with horses, away to every --

10 Q. Escaping?

11 A. Yes, because if you see on the map, the most far  
12 away from the Russians, was still away from the Russian  
13 troops. So it started to rain like cat and dogs. So rain  
14 I never saw in my life, and that was good, it was wet like  
15 that -- I had a pneumonia then later, I was very sick. But  
16 that came after. Very sick. I am wandering.

17 So anyway, the little boy, he was crying, he  
18 said, "Alfred, do me a favor, please take me with you. I  
19 don't care. I know what mean death and shoot, but I don't  
20 want stay here," because he was always days and days next  
21 to me. And we walked, do everything through, you know.  
22 Was no -- but then later I saw something, I saw something  
23 went in the front, in the front with the SS, he had a big  
24 sled, a big sled, and he had all food on this and guns and  
25 everything on that, and everybody have to pull this. We

1 have to pull it.

2           And then who said it so? Again, the capos, and  
3 our haeftlinger, our own comrades, said you have to go on  
4 and this and this and this, and specially, and the little  
5 boy was twice on already, but they picked him up again.  
6 And I was a little upset about this because I could have  
7 fought it. I was an older haeftlinger already, older --  
8 (unintelligible) -- already you can know what I mean. I  
9 was a little not in age, I mean I was already over two  
10 years with these guys together. I didn't know. I said --  
11 I been too, I said I'd like to pull it too, everybody.

12           But then later I heard it from one guy, he said  
13 the little guy he was a Polish Jew, he was not too good --  
14 ugly, he didn't look too good. That was personally you  
15 know. We put him off until we -- dozens of people fall  
16 down. Not always was the snow, but I mean the sled had not  
17 wheels.

18           So I heard that something that we will take this  
19 boy off. He is a Polish Jew. He didn't -- the main thing  
20 is he asked me something, he didn't talk not much German,  
21 Yiddish, you know. German he didn't understand it. I said  
22 look, I told him this, I said, "All right, I go now."

23           And then -- ja, then somebody told and from the  
24 clique that, what most Germans, the haeftlinger too, was  
25 Germans too. The green star and the next star, green

1       angels, and they said, "You be quiet," me. "If not, then  
2       you can come here and you will never get away then from  
3       this sled."

4           I said then, I was fresh, I mean so that was so --  
5       so equal, so -- I don't know exactly what the -- (Speaks in  
6       German) I didn't care about what would happen, but I said I  
7       was scared then, that they had the power, you know, they  
8       had the power. They was with the SS the same on this, it  
9       was the same like SS, even was inside haeftlinger.

10          Q.     Mr. Wilzig, we are going to have to stop now.

11          A.     You want to stop now?

12          Q.     If you can tell me now about what you remember  
13       from the day you were liberated.

14          A.     From what?

15          Q.     Do you remember the day? What do you remember  
16       from the day that you were liberated?

17          A.     From the day, from the liberated. I hear from  
18       this, was what -- oh, ja, then we took then the liberty.  
19       We went away. Then we ran away, because the Germans was on  
20       one side, we were on this side.

21           So I said "Now, watch, put your pants, crumple  
22       up so high that nobody see this," and all what we did, we  
23       walk over in the German truck, call it truck in German, and  
24       how you call it in -- in the German, there were thousands  
25       and thousands. It was dark in the night. It was already

1 very, very late. So we went -- nobody saw, it was raining  
2 and dark. So we been now in the Germans.

3 Now, I say, "Don't stay here," we wait too long  
4 till our we -- march ahead with the others who have been.  
5 So then I said --and then we went and we went in the city,  
6 went out in the wood. In the wood, we were now free. We  
7 was free. But it was so hard. We have to get rid now from  
8 our -- I cannot take all the clothes off. It's cold, I  
9 mean you understand it was in February now. So we at least  
10 the jacket, we dig it in the very freezing ground with the  
11 fingernails, we put it and not the pants. The pants we  
12 crumpled up and so we was free.

13 But the free was wonderful but hungry, thirsty,  
14 cold. Where we going now?

15 Because we are young. I was young, he was young.  
16 Everybody would say, how can you be in free if you other in  
17 the war? It was dangerous. So we walked and walked. The  
18 first several villages and the people gave us not some  
19 bread because I talk only, he was no talking. I said we  
20 came from the Germans, and we lost our truck and so forth.  
21 They gave to us eat first bread, and then -- then -- then  
22 it didn't take not long, we went in again, and again and  
23 where we want go, in the -- by the farmers, was always --  
24 villages we want go always was filled up with the Germans.  
25 We couldn't go in even.

1           We walk and walk. I said -- he was crying, he  
2   couldn't walk. I was tired too. I said now we make a -- I  
3   don't care where we go, we go now, and then we went now in  
4   a farmer, in the barn, in a barn. Was full horses and  
5   people. You could not see for dark, you could hear  
6   everything, smell.

7           And the next morning -- I will make it fast --  
8   I mean -- next morning we wake up was very late. I was  
9   tired, you can imagine. Was maybe noon already; because we  
10   put in the straw up to here, you know, and then we saw from  
11   the jaws, Hitler Youth --

12          Q.     Hitler Youth?

13          A.     Hitler Youth was sitting, uniform, and most  
14   older people came from this.

15           All right, now I will tell this here that it was  
16   good people too in the world. Across from us was a man and  
17   a woman -- I should tell a little thing it will take so  
18   long, and there is not enough time, that's the reason.  
19   Anyway, they look to us, they look to us. I said what was  
20   that? I didn't know who that is. Anyway, she came to us  
21   over, and said in the night -- must be something we had  
22   our hair off, but I had a black organizer, black cap, but  
23   he had no other, other than the striped cap, and just turn  
24   over. It must be down.

25           In the night she saw the pants or something.

1       She said to us, "Who are you?" German, very broken German.  
2       Then later -- anyway I will make it short, she said, "Don't  
3       worry from us. I know. I saw your concentration camp pants  
4       on."

5                 My heart went -- I said in German, "No, we tired,  
6       we took away from the (dootch), that was the other  
7       organization against (dootch) from the Italian, the how you  
8       call this, it was an underground word against Hitler and so  
9       forth.

10               And they had a sack full clothes and give us the  
11       clothes. Was very nice. The pants, we change now. I  
12       thought my goodness, might be good. I tell you, I was just  
13       to everything those secrecy just put my pants on, off, two  
14       young Hitler Youth comes and said, "Come out." So I say, "What  
15       you want?" I know what's going on. anyway, he said you  
16       are not from our truck. I was seven days over, there we  
17       was straying. Where you come from? I said I come from --  
18       this is the truth -- I come from West Prussia. And I know  
19       I told he was young 14, 15, in an uniform. This makes you  
20       already scared. anyway, we went out, coat was still on, on  
21       the --

22       Q.      Back yard?

23       A.      In the backyard, front yard, whatever it was.

24       There came the older, the for (German), we saw only young  
25       soldiers, don't see, you saw only old (German) -- you

1 cannot translate. This is only 60, 70 year and young kids,  
2 from the war.

3 And so he came over. That is pretty close to  
4 the end. He came over and he said, one guy, I said to him  
5 again "from West Prussia, and we lost our" -- Don't "lie to  
6 us." And he opened my coat and said, "You come from  
7 concentration camp." So I said, "Now you know. And we lost  
8 our track" But that was mine -- now, I don't want brag,  
9 brag, how you say brag? You say brag. I don't want brag  
10 from my, what I did good. (German)

11 Q. Mercy?

12 A. No, no, in English, don't brag too much who you  
13 are. Brag, bragging, I don't want bragging, I have to say  
14 it, in this word, that was my intelligence that we both was  
15 alive, because they asked us, "Where are your track, where  
16 are you going?" Instead where we really going I said the  
17 opposite side.

18 Then that in our -- before our death march,  
19 however many people was from Poland, Jewish people, we run  
20 away too, but was catched and came back and before our eyes  
21 was shot right away shot without something. I know this.  
22 I did know it.

23 And so I lie, and then he said, "All right, what  
24 we do with you?" I said, "Well, let us run." There wasn't  
25 overnight, -- and then he said, "Why you should" -- and the

1 people was so dumb in the area, that Silesia, even Germany,  
2 the people didn't -- he said everybody was in concentration  
3 camp was so alive from Hitler's people, they didn't know  
4 there was no Germans in. They said it was Poland and so  
5 that.

6 He said, "How you speak good German to me?" I  
7 said, "What you mean? I am a German like you." I said, "I  
8 am Jewish and I am concentration camp. I came just in  
9 concentration camp because I am Jewish. My father died for  
10 Germany in 1916," I told him.

11 Then he was a little -- you -- but you -- didn't  
12 know what Jewish but that German, he didn't know it exists.  
13 It was another world. You know, in Silesia.

14 Anyway, so he said, "What did you do?" I said,  
15 "Let us run. The war is over. The Russians are four or  
16 five" -- we heard already shooting from the Russians all  
17 the time in this area, was the last, the last area. Was  
18 everything, was in Berlin was already peace, liberty, April  
19 15th already. And this was already May.

20 So all we cannot do, they put us in a room and,  
21 "Stay here so long till we come back, we will see what --  
22 your comrade or what, I will call concentration camp people  
23 are going."

24 They came back over dark already, and evening, 7  
25 o'clock. "I am sorry, we didn't find the people." This

1 was thank God didn't find. If he would find, we have to  
2 come back and shoot. And then they came -- this was not  
3 SS that came back. Was two German policemen, real German  
4 police uniforms. This was always better.

5 And so we walked and walked and walked, the  
6 whole night through, till we came to Waldenburg. That was  
7 the next -- was a little concentration camp there, 400  
8 people. Was a little -- that was a -- a (German)  
9 sanitorium for the German Stuka flyers, you know, the Stuka  
10 flyers -- (Speaks German) -- that was the concentration  
11 camp, 400 people.

12 anyway, we came there to Waldenburg, and there  
13 we got -- this was already February, it was already  
14 February or March, March was the cold, like winter still.  
15 And then we have to work in -- (steinbrecher) -- stone  
16 break, how you -- stone break.

17 Q. Castles and --

18 A. No. We had to work in the quarries. Very hard  
19 to --

20 Q. Break hard boulders?

21 A. Boulders, was never -- anyway, it was very, very  
22 bad in this concentration camp. It was small but very,  
23 very hungry, and this and this. Was terrible. And then,  
24 now I will tell you know to a minute from Waldenburg how we  
25 were liberate, was about, and we saw all the Russian planes

1 over us all every day and bomb and makes the city  
2 Waldenburg-- this concentration camp was about five, four  
3 miles from Waldenburg outside, and this and this.

4 And then came the -- came about two or three  
5 days before May 8, May 8 was the liberate from the troops,  
6 from the Russian troops.

7 But then we saw slowly the SS disappeared. Was  
8 two days before it. Most SS disappeared outside the --  
9 they throw away the clothes and the guns and everything, we  
10 saw. We couldn't go out but they -- the fuehrer, the  
11 fuehrer from the camp and his adjutant, you went to the  
12 last minute, to the last day, and then came the last day,  
13 then he was disappeared too. He had a big, big wagon with  
14 all put in potatoes and meat and all, and still we didn't  
15 go out. We couldn't go out because was nobody there. And  
16 then we wait and wait and wait about, oh, till 2 o'clock,  
17 about 2 o'clock, around noontime, we -- then we heard a  
18 noise outside, was the big -- the big Russian panzer.

19 Q. Panzer unit?

20 A. Panzer unit, is English? No, panzer is not  
21 English.

22 Q. P A N Z E R?

23 A. Nein, how you call it, the big --

24 Q. Tank?

25 A. The tank, the tank.

1 Q. My brain is mush.

2 A. Excuse me. That's right.

3 Q. That's all right. This is not a -- They are  
4 called panzer units.

5 A. Had panzer cover on the Russian like how you  
6 come in.

7 Q. Like the blitzkrieg?

8 A. Was only one way, was a bridge, under the bridge  
9 came attack from our camp to this, and I said before the  
10 Russians was very noble, very, very gallant, and then we  
11 was -- if you heard, then you know it was Russian, we saw  
12 it. We could everything see coming through, the Russians  
13 and so.

14 And then we open the gate, we swing the gate out,  
15 and then we was over 400 all out for the panzer come on.  
16 And the most, now I will say, if people doesn't know, the  
17 most leaders in the troops at least was Jewish, captain,  
18 majors, or lieutenant, Jewish. Because talk all German,  
19 Yiddish. So it was many, many Jewish.

20 Q. Liberators.

21 A. Yes, liberators. Then later even, after we was  
22 -- then we had then Jewish oberst, how you say in English,  
23 oberst, before the general -- colonels, and many. Anyway,  
24 in this time, when they liberate, they stopped that now  
25 this is -- I will give really a big, big hurray for the

1 Russian Army again.

2 They did know, they had radio information, the  
3 next city was Waldenburg, is got the whole SS panzer  
4 division and Germans will fight. And they did know it but  
5 they stopped, they saw us, they stopped right away and give  
6 us everything what we had, and chocolate, in the -- goulash  
7 (German) --

8 Q. Goulash pots?

9 A. The field kitchen, they emptied us the food and  
10 gave us everything, and then he said --

11 ooo

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