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(Checker's note: This is a full transcript; no timings)

My name is Sam Goldberg, I was born in Poland. I'm in the early

sixties. I attended the Gymnasium in the city of Gernov and then I

attended a textile designing school. After graduation, I worked in

the city of Lodz in one of the finest textile industries. My father

was, I come from a religious family, there was three children in

the family: an older sister, myself, and brother. My father by

profession was a brewmaster. He was a religious man but a modern

religious man. My mother was completely opposite direction because

she was more conservative and more informed than the Jews in this

way. In my house, my father wanted me to become a theologian. He

wanted, his dream was that I become a rabbi some of these days or

marry into a very rich wealthy Jewish family and all I had to do

was sit at home, learn the Talmud, meet a nice that was all his

theme was. My ideas of life were completely different to become an

actor, I loved the acting business. To become something different

than a theologian, OK, and I was confused, and the family was

always fighting about what should become of Sam Goldberg.

Were you the first child?

No, I was the second; my sister was the oldest. So they decided, my

mother decided to send me to the school which I said before, a

textile school, and I went to the city of Lodz and I worked there.

My mother always used to say to my father, "You are a brewmaster,

it's the only profession you are used to, why don't you teach your

son to be a brewmaster too. It's a very good profession. My father

always used to say, "This is a profession for a Goy, not for a

Jew." This was the answer. As years passed by, in 1939 I remember

when I was working in the city of Lodz, I got a telegram that my

mother got very sick, and it was right before the war, and I came

home to the city of Piertgov, and I find my mother in the hospital,

very sick. They didn't have any good care in this small town, it

was not a little town, it was a smaller town than the city of Lodz,

you know.

So this was like 1938?

1939, right before. I want to get into it, because I want to get

into 1939. My mother wag very sick and we couldn't find good help

in the town, so we decided to take mother into the city of Lodz, in

one of the largest hospitals in the city. The surgeon in this town

was a doctor by the name of Mordkevich he was a friend of the

family, and we decided we were going to put her into this hospital.

They took mother into the hospital. I was the only one who went

with my sister with mother to the city of Lodz. Around 1939

September 1, when my mother was supposed to be operated, war broke

out, and they couldn't operate on my mother. It took a few days,

the Germans occupied the city of Lodz, and they took Lodz, and the

hospital was occupied by the Germans, and all the soldiers, they

took all the private people who were staying in the hospital to be

operated on, or the sick people and put all of them in one or two

rooms, and the rest of the hospital was occupied by Polish soldiers

who, you know, were shot on the front lines, they brought them in

there. **(5:00)** In order for me to be able to visit my mother daily,

which I wanted to be close to her, I loved her

Take your time.

So, back to Mordkevich. He gave me a piece of paper stating that I

am an orderly in the hospital, which was easier for me to get into

the hospital because the German guards didn't let in. Being an

orderly in the hospital, I had to do what an orderly does, and I

didn't know anything that had to be done, and so Dr. Mordkevich

coached me, if they were to have an operation, you going to stay

there, and help me out, and do this.

In those days it was not like today. I remember, the German doctors

used to come and check the soldiers, especially the Polish

soldiers. The only thing, if a soldier had a bullet in his leg, the

only thing the German doctor used to say was "Ab schneiden, cut it

off." Then, " No treatment just cut it off." The first time I

remember, they brought in a few soldiers, and Dr. Mordekevich had

to operate on the soldiers, to cut off their leg and as I was

watching this operation I fell on the floor I couldn't take it. The

second time, the third time I got already used to it, you know, the

first time, the second time, I got used to it. All right. A few

days I talked to the doctor Sporzorelli In September, I don't

remember dates exactly, I know it was in the month of September.

Then doctor Mordekevich, he notifies me that my mother was going to

operated on, except they're going to need some blood. So how are we

going to get blood, so I volunteered to give blood. When mother

heard I had to give blood, she was screaming, hollering, I think

she said, "I don't want my child's blood. I just don't want it" I

told her, you're going to take it. Just lies and lies, over and

over and over. So finally, they took my blood and they're going to

operate on her. I go to the hospital every day, it was like an

ordeal, because the Germans were standing in the streets and

capturing people to do their dirty work for them. So every time I

had to go to the hospital in the morning, I had to watch to not be

caught by Germans because I wouldn't be able to see my mother. So

finally I made it day after day. Time to go home, you couldn't go

home, you couldn't stay late because the only time you could go on

the street was 5 or 6 o'clock, it was a spurt. One morning I come

into the hospital, it was a day before Yom Kippur, I came in the

morning, I walked into the room and the bed was empty A Lady was

laying next to her, she said "Look in the drawer, there's a package

for you." "Where is my mother?" No one wants to tell me. Finally,

I find Dr. Mordkevich, he said "Your mother died on the operating

table." Now here I am. Where is she? I cannot find her. Oh they put

her down there, in the little house. There's a little house down

there outside the hospital. It's supposed to be like a place here

they keep the dead bodies. I walked in there, my poor mother was

lying there. She was lying on asphalt, covered up with a blanket,

and a German guard was standing outside watching. He said "Who are

you I said I want to see my mother. He said are you the dog from

this bitch? A Volksdeutsch. You know what a Volksdeutsch is, don't

you? I say "yeah, that's my mother." Walked in there, when I was by

myself laying by herself, I opened it up and sure it was my mother.

Now comes a question. I have to bury my mother. I have to give her

a Jewish burial. How do you do it? I had to keep her for a day? How

do you go about it? I had aunts and uncles who were afraid to go

out into the cemetery. People were afraid to go, and now you have

to make the takhrikhim, have to make the cover. I went home, gave

the bad news to my sister and to my uncles with the situation how

it was. I was the only one running back and forth because everyone

was afraid to go out. I have to get a few women in this particular

apartment, to find some linen, white linen, cut it up, and make it

a cover.

And now is the question how are we going to go to the cemetery, we

have to go to the cemetery, so I ran out to the cemetery and talked

to the caretaker, the cemetery used to have horses in the gullas(?), and he said "I'm not going to go. (even)if you pay for it, I'll give you the horse, I give it yourself. And I had one brave uncle, He said, you were going to go with me. Went into this room, we picked up my mother, In those days we didn't bury Jewish people in caskets, we buried them in piece of wood. **(10:00**)

So I find some wood, took my

mother put in a piece, took my mother out to the gula. And here is

the situation we find ourself. According to Jewish tradition, the

survivor, used to walk behind the gula, always you find a Jew

person who goes to the Hebrew, and says in Hebrew "Tstaka etc. If

you give charity." Here I am sitting on the top, the horses are

going to the cemetery, and my uncle, he goes behind the gula, but

nobody's there and in the Jewish tradition when a procession,

funeral, passed by, Jewish people used to close the doors, and walk

a few steps with the gula, to say goodbye to the dead person. Here

I am, sitting on the top, and nobody is there, to walk up the few

steps, nobody there to say "Staka etc." I say, this process, the

woman I love so much deserved this, My mind came to think this "My

God, What? Why? Why? Finally I arrived at the cemetery, I have to

wash the body, according to Jewish tradition I have to wash the

body, There were a few Jewish women there who were sitting there to

help me out. of course you pay them now we have to take out the

body.

There was just on guy there, finally I talked him into helping me

to dig the grave, to go out to the travest, where the body was, to

take the body and bring it to the grave. In this particular

instance, two German guards go with us, and I asked my uncle, what

they are doing, and what are they afraid of, what are we going to

do in the cemetery, we going to steal some bodies? My uncle says to

me, don't say anything. Fine, I put my mother in the grave, I

covered her with everything, I did all the Jew tradition that was

supposed to be done. When I was done the German was outside yelling

"Schnell, Schnell," very loud. So I was working in the grave,

covering everything up, and he spit on me. The other German guy

said leave him alone, his time will come. So finally when I covered

her up, I went outside, me and my uncle, and I have to say Kaddish.

After I buried her, I tried to get home, but there was no

transportation this was Yom kippur, a moment, couple hours before

people go to Kol Nidrei, when I cam home, my uncle looks and says to me, you know a lot of people got together and wanted an apartment and say Kol Nidrei, I turned around and say to my uncle, you want to say Kol Nidrei, so I turned around, for what, to pray to God for what for just burying my mother, nobody was there, then I was thinking for a moment, maybe she wants me to, maybe its a good time, maybe now be an occasion to say Kaddish, which I did. When a week passed by and we didn't have no transportation to our home town, because between the cities, we couldn't travel we had to wait, finally we had to walk 50 kilometers. But we find that 50 km was a little too hard. We decided that we're going to run soon. We run down to the depot, and go home and meet my sister. She

was very angry because it we didn't let him know before what happened.

Only before we had to sit Shiva in the city of Lodz. My father was

very mad, he couldn't you know all the little things that happen in

my family, my brother was sittng Shiva, meeting twice a day,

neighbors were saving neighbors, the Germans had already occupied

the city of Piertgov, of course. **(15:00**) It was very hard to go

out, my father, the first day, when we came home, when we came

home, after the Shiva, he went down to the brewery, and he saw the

Germans had occupied the brewery, for the beer was being made for

them. He never again went out of the house, he was so afraid, here

was the giant man, a sixfooter, a man who afraid to look at him,

he was a very strong man by nature,. all of a sudden became like

nothing sitting all day long, praying to God, Oh God come and help,

and he didn't want to get out of the house.

What had you heard about the Germans by that point?

They heard, I had some uncles, but they came from Germany in 1934

they were deported from Germany, and I asked them some questions,

my uncle, as a German Jew, he did not believe it himself that the

Germans were capable of doing this you know, he wasn't of the

Nuremburg Laws, but always I used to tell him, Uncle, I heard the

Germans did this, and are going to do this to the Jews, he said

"(German words) It's not so bad. Don't worry about it" I looked at

him, I said, He was a German born Jew, I said, are you drunk you

don't believe it?

This was the attitude of the German born Jews. I had another uncle

the same way. They just did not believe it, As a matter of fact, in

the city of Lodz, right away the situation changed in Poland go

badly that the Poles of German descent, the Common Volksdeutch, they

were like, for example, they didn't have no bread, it was very hard

to get bread, people had to stand in line, and they were going

around the line, you were in the line at 4 o'clock in the morning,

standing in line, and when finally you get into the door of the

bakery, you had a loaf of bread, you walk out, you walked the

street, and took your bread, you are Jew, took away his bread, he

was standing there hours to get a piece a loaf of bread, that they

took away from you. And the Polish people, as such, were not of

great help to us, You can't condemn a nation, but what I have seen,

what I've been through, and in my opinion, if not the nations of

the world, like the Polish, the Ukrainians, and some Lithuanians

they wouldn't give a hand as much for the Germans. Hitler probably

could not have accomplished the things which he accomplished,

because what I have seen in my personal opinion, I will tell you,

mostly the people who did do the crimes, committed the crimes, like

in my city, I have seen a lot of Ukrainian sold, and a lot of

Ukrainian soldiers. the orders were given by Germans probably, and

they did do it.

And finally my father decided he wasn't going to go out of the

house, and we lived in a section of town, it was a very nice

section, I'm not saying we came from a wealthy family, we came from

a middle class family, which in Poland was a rich Jew, and everyone

suffered very hard because we actually didn't have no rights to

anything. we were merchants, we tried to make a living, so one made

a little better living, another made a little worse living.

everybody made a living better or worse, my family made a living,

I'm not saying we were wealthy, we lived in a nice section of town,

and one morning, a german knocked on the door, and the Germ walked

in there, and gave us 24 hours, and when we walked into the

apartment, we lived in an apartment, they walked in the apartment,

they didn't ask us if we were Jews, they didn't recognize, my

father was, you know, didn't wear the collars with the round heads,

he was a modern man, so they gave us 24 hours to move out of the

house. The story comes here. In the same house where we lived, we

lived on the second floor, and on the first floor there lived a

mayor of the city. The city of Piertgov was a socialist city, it

was very selfom, and in the whole city hall was socialist, and this

mayor of the city, he met me on the steps going up, he was a

teacher before when I was going to school, he was my teacher. By

the way, when I was going to school in Poland, I had to sit in a

separate chair, on a separate bench with two other Jewish children.

In the morning when they say their prayers, they told me to get out

of the room. When I was a youngster, I remember, of 3 years of age,

4 years of age, I was playing with the children on the street. The

children they used to yell, "Hey you Jews, you killed Jesus

Christ." As I child, I didn't know, I went to my father. "They say

I killed somebody, what are they talking about? **(20:00**) and they

were born with this hatred against myself, against the Jewish

people, and the hatred was so great, that in the time

the Jew section of time, they would close the doors, they were

afraid to walk on the street, the Jews. They preached to them that

the Jews killed Christ. it was a very hard life for the Jewish

people, even before Hitler came to power. Then AntiSemitism was

very great.

What about the mayor?

Yes, so let's go back to my father when we were forced to move out

of the house, so finally we moved out of the house, and we had to

find another place, so my father went to the Jewish Gemeinde, the

Gemeinde of Jewish people, you know, Gemeinde, it was like a

confederation of Jews, and when they give us an apartment in the

Jewish section of town, we moved to the Jewish section of town,

alright. We lived there for a while, in the Jewish section life was

very hard, they gave us two rooms, we used to get rations from the

Jewish federation.

How large was your family then?

Then, my mother was dead already. I had one brother and a sister.

My brother, after my mother died, he could not stand the

oppression, a lot of people in those days used to run away to

Russia. He got together with a few friends, and then one morning,

we got up in the morning, and he disappeared, and I'm still today,

I'm thinking my brother is alive, because being in Jerusalem. I

look for him and I thought I'd find him. There was living my

mother, no my sister, my father, ant myself. My father was afraid

to go out of the house, no two ways about it. Only thing he was

doing was sitting and praying saying the psalms of David, day and

night. He was saying "God will help," which I personally think was

very wrong, the closest of the family was family tightness was so

great that some of the Jewish boys will probably go out into the

forest and fight, but the parents in a way hold them back, because

the attitude was, for example, that they throw us from the house,

my father used to say, I used to say "Dad, what's going to happen?"

"So what's the big difference where we live. So the Germans came,

and they need x amount of luggage to give to the Germans, go, what

can we do, let's pay him. They told us to give up the radios, but

we're not going to listen to the radios. Everything that they did

to us was acceptable to certain segments of people, what the whole

generation, some of them did play with it, and some did not. They

left the families behind, and some of them went into hiding in the

ghettos, and then you have an element of people, our own people,

who became policemen in the ghettos, who became, worked like,

supposedly kept order in the ghettos, I have nothing against those

people, because someone had to keep law and order, some of them

were good ones, some of them were bad ones, some of them had

something better than the next one, and some felt they had a hat

that they were better than the others and some of them felt they

just had to survive, so this was 1940, I remember, 1940, living

night and day, one night somebody knocked on the door, Aufnocken,

the same knock on the door scared my sister, and myself too. It was

the middle of the night.

The sound of the boot walking the hall and the knock on the door

was so scary was so frightening it's unbelievable to describe, the

fright that we had. Opened the door, and the German Volkstoi was

standing in the door, a Volssteutch, he looks at me and says "What

you remember me? No. I'm Karl Brumer" Karl Brumer? Oh yeah, the boy

I go to school with, he was a German Volkgtoi. He tells me, listen

let me tell you something. A couple of days from now, the Germans

are going to take about 1500 to 2000 Jewish boys from this town and

send them to Lublin. I just came here to warn you. You are a friend

of mine, so get the hell out of here. Don't worry about your father

and sister. I will try to help them. He looked around back and

forth and walked out. Meanwhile, before this happened, this mayor

of the city, our neighbor, who lived downstairs, he met me on the

steps and he says "If you want an Aryan paper, you come up to the

city hall, and I will see that I get you one, if you want one for

yourself, or for your mother,father, or for your sister, I will get

you some Aryan papers. The moment when he told me that, it didn't

occur (25:00) to me that everyone knows me, how can I have some

different papers and live in the city. When this happened, I said

to myself, Oh, now is the time I need to do something sure enough

it was already a ghetto, we could still go out because Piertgov

supposedly was one of the first ghettoes, they gave us the white

armbands we have to wear. I took off the armband and I went to the

city hall, and matter of fact he told me I had to give him a

photograph, and I gave him a photograph, and he gave me a passport

named Ziegmund Janskofki, a man who was born in the same age as I,

and he was dead already. He died, and I had his passport. When I

had his paper in my hand, I said to myself, "Now is the time to do

something for my father." My father and sister did not want to

accept the situation, and he didn't want to go to Russia. They just

felt, this is their home, and nothing that bad will happen that

people are talking about. Whatever happens will happen. When this

roommate came to my house and tells me what's going to happen, I

met a couple of my friends, who already also had Aryan papers made

and we took off in the direction of Warsaw. We had heard of a

Creation of an underground, called Aka, that was already working in

Warsaw. We tried to get to Warsaw. On the way to Warsaw, we had to

go in a different direction because it was very hard to travel, so

we're going to the city of Trops, then to the city of Falanitza,

and then we came to WarsawPrague, we tried to make contact with

someone in the underground, a person by the name of Charnetski. He

said he could help us one way or the other, So alright. We talked

to them, a few days later, finally, he said, you have to go, some

of you have to go to Misma, to bring some ammunition back to

Warsaw, now you can imagine, now he tells me I have to go. I was a

coward, afraid even to look a German in the eyes. I took the train,

and I went to Misma, and believe me on the way back, I thought I

was going to die because every station, the German Volkstoi used to

come out to the train and check to see if anyone carries food or

other types of articles into Warsaw,you know, for black

marketeering. And they weren't so much interested in black

marketeering as to grab something for themselves, this was their

main objective.

Finally I went in, and I came back, alright, we spend a lot of time

in Warsaw, and then all of a sudden, they created the Warsaw

ghetto, and they had signs all over the city for the Gentiles and

for the Jews, have to change apartments, and they had little signs

all over the city. So the people who used to live in Prague, the

Jews had to exchange apartments to live in the outside. Finally, I

think it was 1941, the Warsaw ghetto was closed, and I was standing

in Prague, I didn't get in through the ghetto, I was on the

outside. This Charnetski, my two friends were still living in

Prague, gave us orders, and we have to go to a little city called

Dubrow. This was not far away form Misma. The reason why they send

us over there, when the Russians attacked Poland from one side and

the Germans from the other, and the Polish army fled, they buried

a lot of ammunition, our job was to find a connection with the

farmers, and try to buy and to bring back not to Warsaw, but to

Dubonitza. When I arrived in Dubrow, Right away, we tried to find

a place to live. In the middle of the night we arrived there, was

raining, walking for Warsaw to Dubon, walking in the middle of the

night, we just walk. I was supposed to be there as a Gentile, you

know, I couldn't, think of myself, first of all, I walk into a

little city, about 50 families there, all living around the

marketplace, all the merchants, tailors, shoemakers, and what they

were doing, they were going out to the farmers for a week, and make

repairs, the shoemakers make shoes, the tailors tailor, it was a

very quiet little city, they didn't know any wars. (30:00) There

was nobody there, there was one Gentile, it was the fireman, there

was one policeman, and then there was the watch, you know, the

night was watches, one stood outside, in case of fire in the little

town. When I arrived in the little town, we asked the farmer who

was walking with him in Warsaw, I asked him, where there is a place

where we can stay over night. He pointed out. He said here is a

restaurant. His name is Yeshkir. You Knock on the door, he will

probably let you in. So we knocked on the door, it was raining we

were soaking wet, three of us, soaking wet. We knocked on the door,

we heard some commotion in there, somebody comes to the door, and

asks in Jewish "who is there?" I said, "some people who want to get

in." "Who are you ? I said, "We're Jews from Warsaw." Soon as he

heard Jews, he hollered back to his wife, "Leia, Jews are here from

Warsaw." Open the door, open the door, fast!" Opened the door, we

walked in there. There was along room, a long room, and in the back

there was a room he was there with the wife and one child. I

remember it was Friday, it was Sabbath. She ran out from the back,

made a fire in the stove, and the stove had a pipe going from one

end all through this room. She told us to take off our clothes, she

made this fire, and the pipe, it was red hot to hang up our

clothes, we hang up our clothes and went to bed, and he went into

his bar and brought in a bottle of vodka and pour some for

everyone, and he didn't ask no questions just poured everyone a

glass of vodka, and poured it down, and said "you boys go to sleep,

we talk tomorrow, this is Jewish house." The next day in the

morning it was 11 o'clock, I remember there was a little clock

hanging there, I asked Yershnik, what time is it, he said it was

eleven. The whole community of Jews, the whole little town, came to

see the strangers from Warsaw.

And everybody right away felt like we were somebody else, a town

where the people like I said made a hard living, a very hard

living, finally right way in the Hasana, they decided, this guy

goes to live with you, this one will sleep, will live with this

one, and this one will live with this one. They didn't know that we

came here for a purpose, we just didn't tell them. I was aassigned

to live with a guy named Schlool, may he rest in peace, a tailor,

a little short fellow with a little gold beard. He was wearing

glasses made from wire, his wife's name, may she rest in peace, was

Suro and a little boy named Serlicki. I slept, they made a bed for

me on the tailor table to sleep. So the first day he asked me "so

did you people in town in Warsaw, it was a ghetto, the people live

in a separate place, they did not, they could not believe all that

I was telling them, and finally I said "you know what, let's stop

talking about it, because this makes them feel not good, listen,

they live a quiet life,they still do business every Tuesday and

Friday." The farmers used to come to the little town used to come

to the market, to sit down and have a little drink, you know, to

talk about buying corn and selling corn, buying a horse, selling a

horse, knocking their hands back and forth. When it came Saturday,

it was the most beautiful scene a man can imagine in his life, the

poorest man in the city to the richest one in Vildmere, all were

there, the happy Jew, working in the nice black collars with the

girdlet on, some with them on their arms, going right to the shoe,

pride in their heads, they didn't have, it wasn't hard to make a

living, (35:00) they have guards there, every night, one of the

neighbors, went to the market to watch that nothing happened. I was

a guest in the house, she was doing everything possible that she

could, find a potato, a little soup, a little bread to cook,

whatever it is. I say Schlool, I'm going to stand for you. going to

stay for you, OK, so I was on watch, I was standing there, they

give you a big coat. They give you a horn, in case something

happened you had to blow your horn. I just prayed to God "I hope

nothing happens in this town." So I was standing there, Schwew's

wife Schew was pregnant. In those days they didn't have any

doctors, the town didn't have any doctors, the only thing was a

woman who delivered babies. One day, a few German trucks drove into

town and asked the Jewish people to deliver them an x amount of

cows, and x amount of this, they needed it for them, and if they

didn't get it they would put all the people in the market place and

the German soldiers, you could see, were having a ball, they were

laughing at the Jews with the lang beards, they used to come out

and cut off the beards, and in this moment, Schew's wife, it

happened, she miscarries, and who was have to deliver the baby, it

was very hard, she was 7 or 6 months, and, they didn't know what to

do. I knew a little bit from reading, not too much. I tried to help

her. The women of the town came in and said you are a boy you can

not stay here. Maybe I can help, do something, whatever, do

something. Anyway, a little boy was born, a little child, I

remember. I got a bowl full of water and sugar to try to keep him

alive, and after a few days this baby died. Schew made a little

casket for his young boy, went out to the center.

And I looked at him, in his suit, the casket in his arm, the snow,

walking to the cemetery, and myself, I buried my mother, in a not

different day, and I started thinking why? Why? if we only knew why

maybe we'd be happier to die. Well one day past a few weeks,didn't

particularly want to go on what was happening in the little town.

All of a sudden, we got our connections, and we had some ammunition

to take back to Dobonitza. Now the same farmer who gave us the

ammunition he put it in sacks of corn. He let us have a horse, and

told us we had to leave the city this Tuesday because on Wednesday

morning he heard from the Polish police in Minsk that they were

going to take all the Jews out from Dubrow and take them somewhere

to Minsk or somewhere, I don't know where. Me, Salik, and David, we

knew what was going to happen but we couldn't tell the people, we

told Schew, Schlook, something, they're going to take you out. He

said "Oh, go to Misma, the world was not going to stay here." So

even if you try to tell something, the people did not believe that

things like this might happen. Finally, we took, the farmer brought

us his horse, and the instructions, and when we get to Fobonitza,

he said "Leave the horse and the sled at this place, in this sack

is the ammunition, and in this sack there is a machine gun, a small

Polish machine gun. He told us about all of those things. My friend

Zegnick was a very brave man, because, remember, he was after he

said things were telling were going to happen were not going to

happen to him. He was a very brave man. And I had some experience

with him, he was a very brave man. By traveling through the forest

in the middle of the night, we had to cross a highway, you know the

sleds had iron on them, and the highway did not have any snow on

it. And when we got across the ditch, the horse could not pull the

buggy and the horse. We hollered to go across, it couldn't go

across. So we had to get the horse up and get off the highway fast.

So a minute or so, we see far away 2 little stars, like an

automobile, a little truck traveling on the Treblina Highway. I

said to Saline, let's leave everything and let's run. Not on my

life, We don't run, you take the horse and go down the ditch. He

took out his knife, cut off the sack where the machine gun was

sitting. He set up the machine gun, set up everything, I say you're

crazy we're going to die, the Germans! He said "I die with them

"(Hebrew words meaning the former) (4O:OO) If we die, we die all

together." And he hit me and I went he pushed me away, he said you

go away from here. I was laying there waiting and I was, believe in

me, I just felt it was the end, this was it. The truck was coming

straight to us, he took an end to Warsaw. So Zegnick said, "You

see, I told you, don't worry about it." We loaded up everything,

and we went into Fobonitza. We came into Faubonitza. we delivered

the goods, and I was, there was people there from this group,

supposedly. I don't want to go into any particulars of what

happened in Warsaw before, you have the picture how it happened. We

delivered the ammunition. We went up on, we dried off, and we were

sitting there for a couple of hours. I had to go to the restroom,

I was human. Went outside in the forest there was another guy by

the name of the Yellow, "Drupsit" And he was standing next to me,

he looks down at me and says, "I didn't know you, you were a Jew

soandso." I said "you're crazy."

He said you're circumcised, you are a Jew, you see, in Poland in

those days, the only people who were circumcised were the Jews, the

other population was not circumcised. And he said to me if Frank

finds out you're Jewish he'll probably knock your head off. Me you

know me you know I said, I'm a nice guy, he said, you don't have to

worry about me, just watch out that Frank doesn't find out that you

are a Jew. And I told this to Saline who I talk to every day, and

he said "Sam, let's get the hell out of here before something very

bad happens." Matter of fact we had to leave because they shot, the

night before somebody had shot the chief of police. So we were

strangers in town, and the first thing the Germans would do is look

for us, so we had to get out. Now it was a question, how to get

into the ghetto. To get into the ghetto, I didn't want to stay

outside. When we got into the ghetto, Marchinetski said "you better

stay here in Prague, don't go into Warsaw yet." Because the war in

the ghetto is very bad. So he finds us accommodation, pardon my

expression, a bordello, a whorehouse. I find that during my period,

before I got into a concentration camp, which I'll tell you later.

In this period, the people, the pimps the prostitutes! the low

class, the United States of people, were more helpful to Jews and

nonJews than the intelligentsia which the Germans killed than any

other segment of the race. This were people you could rely on. It

was a big house in Prague, where Jewish families had lived before,

and during this time, the Jew family moved into the ghetto, and the

Gentiles moved in. This was on this street, and not far away was a

railroad station. Farmers used to come from small towns, and this

was the first house and they used to brought in eggs, butter bread

and sell this to the people. They used to sleep in the doorways

until the next morning to go to the trains to go home. Those people

live in the apartment house, went in turn and sold on the outside,

you know, black marketeering. This whorehouse was on the doorway.

There was this big door, if you ever seen the way European houses

are built, you walk in go into the backyard then you go into the

apartment. The woman was also the caretaker of this apartment

house. Her name was Yehovah, and the house's name was Avochek. The

whorehouse, the bordello was cordoned off like this, and we lived

upstairs, and the reason why she took them in was this. Three

prostitute lived downstairs and they used to service the German

soldiers and we lived upstairs. During the day, most of the time we

were not there.

She took us in because her attitude was knowing Charnetski, that he

was the Polish underground, and he recommended us. (45:00) He had

liberated her. She was an alcoholic, constantly drinking, and

always blaming the Jews, if not for the Jews, the Polish people

would not suffer as much as you. Here I am with a woman talking

about my people and my race and listening to all of those remarks

making, my friend Zaynik says, this was going on for weeks, let me

knock them off and kill them all and get out of here, how much can

you take. He said till we get some more orders, where to go, what

to do, let's stay here. I calmed him down. Now you can imagine

what's going on in the bordello, the drinking, and we living

upstairs, you don't want to make any noise, this, I say young

person, they seduce you, and you are afraid to talk to her because

you are circumcised, you're a man but you're circumcised, and it

was a terrible thing, And this woman was talking what the Jews did

to Polish people. They did this, and Hitler didn't worry. I kill

them, I'd kill them, she said, A farm girl used to come there every

night and she used to carry eggs with her, you know from the farm.

She had a man who used to buy from her, he was a steady customer,

he used to buy all of her eggs. One night he goes out to her and

says "You brought some eggs." "I don't want to sell you any eggs

because I've got my customer." Back at the house, Ziegmund, she

says to me, "you go out there and see if she's a Jew, I think she's

a Jew. Do anything possible to find out if she's a Jew, if she's a

jew we're going to kill her, call the Gestapo. By god, those Jews,

causing and causing trouble. Speaking to her In Polish, I say "What

do you want from her? She's a farm girl, next time she comes to

town she will sell you eggs. No, you SOB to me, you better go out,

drunk like hell, bottle in her hand, hollering. So Ziegnick says to

me, you better go, so we don't make too much noise. I walked out

there. How do we approach, we had a password in the ghettoes, and

outside, if you wanted to recognize a Jew or if he's actually a

Jew, the password was "Amhew", "Amhew." Try this Amhew. This was

the title of my book, "Amhew." Considering this was a nice blond

girl, dressed as a farm girl, of course, sitting in the corner

Sam, what does "Amhew" mean? "Amhew" means "one of us." "Amhew"

means "one of us." So the girl was sitting there and I said to

myself how can I approach her, you know, find out from her. I was

sitting next to her, I ask her what is your name? where do you come

from? What you do ? Ask her all kinds of questions. Then I threw in

the word "Amhew" and when I threw in the word Amhew, she said "Yo."

Right away, I said to her, listen, don't ever come back here again,

she has an eye on you, don't you ever come back here, fine, she

said thank you. Before, and I made her lay down. It was something.

Yehovah, she opens up the door and looked out, she sees that I am

laying on the floor with her. She didn't. I came back, and I said,

Yehovah, what are you doing, she's a farm girl, she was saying the

patches and begging, what are you talking about, she's from Gere,

a little town, just forget about it, just leave her alone. Are you

sure. Yes, I'm sure. When we were upstairs, my friends asked me

about it. He just took out his gun and said let me kill them all

up. No, just tomorrow morning, let's get out of here and go into

the ghetto. Next morning we walked out and tried to get into he

ghetto.

How do you get into the ghetto? They had commandoes of people going

out of the ghetto to work outside, and in the evening, they bring

them back in again. I saw people walking. Zeegnick and David find

a commando and got in with. I had to find another commando of

people to get in, so I was at the iron gate (50:00) where the

commando walked in and I was there, and outside they had German

soldiers and Polish police, and inside you had Jewish police. So I

came in and he said, where are you going (Hebrew for the latter) I

said, I'm a Jew. The Jewish policemen inside when he heard what I

said, I'm a Jew, started talking, hollering at me in Jewish, loif,

run. So I ran into the ghetto, running and the guy was running

after me with a stick hollering run, run, you know run. And finally

after a few streets, I don't remember exactly which streets. I

looked down, people laying on the streets, covered with newspapers,

lift up my hands to God, if I should die, let me die with my

people. I spend there for a while in the Warsaw ghetto. How long

were you there?

It was about two weeks. I couldn't take it any longer. I have to.I

calmed don my bodies, and we jumped the fence, they had fences

around the Warsaw ghetto with glass on top so the only way to jump

it was to get into a house where the window was close to the fence,

which we did in Patrigas. and early int he morning wee jumped, and

when we were jumping, there were Pollacks out there yelling, Jews

run out from the ghetto, and we were running, and they were running

after us, because they got paid, for whatever they paid them, to

watch after us, to buy clothes. In the house, when in the cellar,

and we spend there for a few hours, then a German soldier didn't

give up, what do they call him, the Schutzpolice, a Shutz

policemen, came down he was looking for us, and Zegnick didn't have

no choice, and we stabbed him and killed him in the cellar and we

got out very quietly on the streets of Warsaw, and people, were

walking and we were afraid someone would be looking for us. And I

say to Zegnick and David, I have to leave you boys, I have to go

home to Petroikhov and see what my father and sister are doing. I

said goodbye to Zegnick and David and went to the railroad train,

the railroad to go home to. When I got to the railroad train, I

find out that there were a lot of volunteers, Polish volunteers to

go and work in Germany. They used to capture a lot of young people

too for to go and work on the farms in Germany. And I got to the

station, Schutzpolice inside, came, and when I saw him coming to

me, I said O my god, this is it who knows He asked me for the

papers, I show him the papers. Where are you going? To Petrov. I

am registered with my brother to go to Germany to work. He said,

are you such a good boy to let me out and I got on the train and

finally I arrived in the city of Petroikhov. When I came to

Petroikhov, I had a hard time to get into the ghetto, I had to get

into the ghetto, to find my parents, I didn't know where my father

and sister lived. Outside the city I was afraid to walk around too

much because most of the people in the city knew me, who I am, so

I was afraid. I had the same experience in Warsaw as I had in

Petroikhov. I got into the ghetto, and I went to the apartment

where my father and sister used to live.

They had to move somewhere else. So finally asking around, and

there were so many strangers in Petroikhov, there were so many

people, from towns where they were liquidated, they were brought

into the Petroikhov ghetto. So finally someone told me where my

father lived, and I found my father and sister living in one room,

and in the next room another family was living. I came home. My

father was very happy to see me, when I went down to the ghetto, I

could not believe my eyes, I had my gun with me and my papers with

me

What was going on there?

They were capturing people sending, asking everyday for more money

from the Jewish commando, (55:00) and when the money was not

delivered, they use to take hostages, 10,12,15. They used hang

them. There was a market, every day someone go to the forest

somebody who was arrested was shot. The Jewish people were afraid

to go out. The Jewish commando

Did you see some of the hangings?

I have seen some of the hangings in the market. I have seen some,

my experience. I was called to dig a grave for a , for I have

seen, I was there, I saw with my own eyes, and then from jail, in

the morning, they used to send them out to the forest, you knew

somebody else was going to be shot. I want to bring up the point.

In the evening I came home, I was standing in the night. I wanted

to take out, I always clean my gun. I was always afraid if I had to

use it, it would get stuck. When my father saw this, the first

thing he said, he said get out of my house. You're going to bring

disaster to the whole ghetto. If they catch this gun in this house.

All the Jews going to die, Dad, Abba, they're all going to die

anyway, just please, let's have something. No get out of this

house or throw away this gun. I went out, I didn't want to make any

scenes, I was happy to see him. I came home, I went down, and I

buried the gun in the backyard with mine papers that I had, I came

in, and he said what did you do with the gun, I said I throw them

in the latrine. The thinking was just impossible to me to hand. I

said to myself, Why? Why are you afraid of? You're going to die

anyway. Look what they've done to you. Take away your radio, make

you move three times, and the funny thing is you don't' have any

wood to burn in the house. We used to

What finally happened in the ghetto?

They liquidated the ghetto.

Were you there when they liquidated the ghetto?

I was there when they liquidated the ghetto.

What happened at that point of liquidation?

When they 1 liquidated the big ghetto, there were two ghettoes . At

that time, how the Jews street by street, Ukrainian soldiers used

to come in.

Taking them where?

All used to get together. The city of Petroikhov was a marketplace,

a square. Now this square, They used, whatever they did with them,

I was not there, I had a working permit, In the city of P, they

organized 3 places for Jew people to work, glass factory, 2 glass

fact, 1 furniture factory, and the people tried to organize so lots

of people were going to these places to work, and the rest went

off, matter of fact, to Treblinka.

What happened at that point of liquidation? They were taking them

out street by street.

Yeah, they were taking them out, 2,3 streets at a time. Everybody

couldn't go out on the streets.

What happened to you at that point?

At that point, I had a work permit. And the German and Jewish

police came to this house and tell everybody down in the yard, so

everybody went down to the yard. Of course, I had a work permit,

and an Ukrainian soldier was standing around, so I asked. We have

to take out the luggage and so. Everyone who has a work permit has

to go to this side, and everyone who doesn't have a work permit has

to go to this side.My father went over to this German, Ukrainian

soldier, let me talk to my son for a minute. He say to me, you

know, I know what's going to happen, I can feel it in my bones.

Maybe in the years past, (1:00:00) I tried to be harsh with you,

now I want you to do something for me, please, do me one favor

before I go, don't be an actor, it is a disgrace, Secondly, you

have to give me a handshake, at which I shook hands, then he says

to me Now, I'm not asking you for, I'm just begging of you, pick a

day of the year, light a candle and say Kaddish for me. Those were

the last words I had from my father, Then they took me out to this

Kada. I was assigned to the Kada.

We're going to take a break to change the tape. Do you want to take

a drink?

(Skip from 4:01 to 4:04)

Alright, Sam.

After the small ghetto, I was taken back to the working camp called

Dublini there were shoemakers, tailors, cabinetmakers, they were

going to liquidate us, supposedly to take us to another camp.

(1:05:00) I didn't know where we were going. Took us with our

stuff, they took us to the trains, put us on trains, I saw where we

came into Birkenau, the people took us off from the train. One of

the people says to us, "you are very lucky, Mengele is not here

today." Who was Mengele? You all are very lucky, all go to the

Klausen.since we came from our working camp Augbylager, they fed

you a little better than the rest of the camp because you did some

work for them. And going to the Klauses, they cut off our hair,

they deloused us, they put us in showers, and we still didn't

flames coming out from chimneys, the guys who were shaving our

heads said, you come here, you never get out of here. Talking this

kind of stuff. We say they're crazy. Finally, after giving us

showers, they give us some clothes, they put me, I went into

quarantine. Quarantine was a segment of the Birkenau camp. They

tried to tatoo numbers on every bodies hands. I tried to run away.

I got acquainted with a Kapo there, a Pollack, if you don't have a

number and you want to work, you're going to go over there. He

pointed to the chimney. So the guy is crazy. People are burned here

alive, I said, I never heard of it. One day, he was standing there

in line on the Perplatz and some German officers came across, and

talked to people who came from twins, who had an Aryan father, and

right away came to my mind something, here is a chance, I tell them

my father was Aryan, my mother was something else, and I would get

out of it. I tried to step out from the line, this Kapo, this

Blockaltester, when I stepped out of line, he pushed me back in the

line. He pushed me back in the line, I didn't know why, I was just

trying to get out. After they left, a few boys got out of the line

and they took them away somewhere, he called me into the block, and

he called me into the block and called me names, you SOB, stupid

idiot you know if you tell them you have an Aryan mother or an

Aryan father they'll take you to Auschwitz to experiment. I said

experiment, what kind of experiment? You said, you don't know

what's going on, you idiot you don't know what's going on. You

better try to get a number, because you have to get attached to

this and this block, so you better stay in line to get a number. I

got in, they tattooed my number, after quarantine for two days,

there was selection day, and I still didn't know what selection

means. They closed all of the blocks, no one could go out. Then

they walked in and took out some people, you didn't know where they

were going. So this was selection, I didn't know. The next day, two

days later they took me to Lager C, the working block. I was

assigned to Block 24, When I came to block 24 the block was split

in the middle with a long oven. One half was newcomers, on the

other half, I saw people with striped suits, which we didn't have.

I didn't have, we had civilian suits with stripes painted all over,

and I didn't know what was going on. Those boys were eating so

good, they had salamis, they had cheese. I was hungry, asked a guy

for some bread, he gave me some bread.

I asked where are these boys getting this type of food? I went to

work in the Vaila commando. It was very, very hard work, I came

home dead. When I came home to the barracks at nighttime, I was

feeling, the first thing I did to get this soup, a little bit, and

lay down on the bed, and try to forget about it.

Had you yet seen Mengele?

No. I had not seen Mengele yet. And when I was laying there, I got

acquainted with a boy who worked, who lived on the other side of

the barracks, and I said what type of commando are you working

with?

Transport Commando, The Canada. What is this Canada? He said when

people come in (4:10:00) we take people off from the train. He says

you know the Kapo of this commando, he was from Lodz, and I knew

him from before. He was sent to Auschwitz, Birkenau. He did

something wrong in the ghetto, he came in 1942 and they made him

Kapo. This boy says to me, his name was Schlom, why don't you talk

to David? Maybe we're going to need someone in the Commando. So I

went. He says what happened. Oh they took out a couple of guys

today. They took them somewhere else. Not knowing anything going on

whatsoever. I said, David, you know me from Lodz, I am soandso,

and he said you SOB, he hit me with a stick like this, knocked me

over the head and pushed me away, I want to work in this commando,

I see your guys have so much to eat, so much to drink, why don't

you take me into this commando? He said go to hell and things like

that. So this Schlomel came over and talked to him and he said

listen, we have an opening, you know him from Lodz, take him into

the commando, why not, let him get in, this and that. Fine, Kapo

came over, you come over to this side and work in this commando. He

went out, this was daytime, he came back, OK, you want to work in

this commando? I took out your card in the Schleitzpol, the place

where they keep the archives, he took out my number with my name

and put it in, and said now, you will not get out of here alive.

You want to work in Transport commando, this is it. You asked for

it, you'll find out, you will never get out of here alive.

So he really had tried to protect you at first?

So he had really tried to protect me at first. A few day in there,

all of sudden, one morning, there were 2 shifts, I will try to

explain it to you, there were 2 shifts of people, a nighttime and

a daytime, they called it Canada, why it was called Canada, I find

out later they was an abundance of food they had enough to eat.

They called this group Canada. The next day in the morning a

transport came in. A transport came in. Schlomel says to me, the

boy I worked with says to me, we used to wear the striped suits,

especially made, nice clean looking everybody, just like that. He

says to me, "Don't talk to nobody, even if you see a face you know,

don't say anything, they may ask you questions, just play deaf and

dumb."

So this transport was new people coming in?

New people coming in from somewhere else. A transport of people

coming in. A transport from, the first transport I worked was from

Czechoslovakia transport or from Hungary, I don't know which

transport it was, because I try to erase this particular segment,

I can't get it out of my system. So I went to work, and they told

me, they were all standing, two people to open up the doors of the

car, they told me not to stand up until orders came, little farther

down there was a ramp with several Germans standing there, and a

officer standing there like this (hand in shirt like Napoleon) and

I said to Schlomel, who is that? This is Dr. Mengele, what is he

doing, don't ask, you'll find out, this is a selection, don't ask,

don't talk to me.

Orders came from the German guards, and said "(German word) Open

the gates" We opened up the gates, my god, I see women, children,

men. We help them to get out, a woman asked a German officer there,

I want to take my luggage with me. He said you don't have to worry,

your package will come after you. Crematorium, I was not far away,

you could see it not far away from the ramp, Crematorium I, it was

a beautiful building with manicured grass outside, you could think

it was a house there, some kind of beautiful house. The people were

standing in line in front of Mengele and I have seen people he

pointed with his finger this way and that way and that way, and I

used to watch him, and Schlomel say to me, "Hurry up, come on, go

in the car, you know to clean the cars and this, to take out the

luggage of the people, to set it up." All of sudden, you see a part

of the people going to the direction of the camp, and another going

to the Crematorium, A few minutes later you're going to see fire

come up. I did not believe it. Being on the ramp, working in

Auschwitz, I did not believe it. The next day, I came home, we used

to have a lottery, we used to go through the luggage to find food,

to exchange (4:15:00) for vodka. The boys were always drinking, and

I couldn't understand why they were drinking so much alcohol. They

tried to be . Living, they had everything there, you wanted

vodka, you wanted salami, you want bread, you want cheese, whatever

you wanted, you had it. There was nothing they didn't have. How did

you find out what you heard on the ramp was true? Find out what

your friend had told you about the crematorium? Later. I found out,

one day, it was not a transport coming in, and they took us in to

sort the clothes, in a special camp, we used to go in there, where

I found thousand and thousands of stacks of clothing, men's

clothing, shoes, you know, children's shoes, and then I realized

the situation, what was going on here.

And then did you connect it with the drinking too?

I connected right away with the drinking why those boys doing that

much what was going on in there. Actually, when I was sitting one

day, I could not take it after working so many transports. I was

sitting there in the barracks and I turned to my trade, and I said

"tell me, when we go the Yom Kippur, when we go to the shove, all

the talk about forgiveness, the day of atonement, you tell who

should die by fire, who should die by water, who should live, who

should die, did all of those people commit one crime that they had

to be burned?" I was sitting there, saying, pick up our glass of

wine. Every generation someone comes along and tries to destroy us,

and you almighty god, can save us. Am I one to be saved, and I more

worthy than my parents, and thousands of other people? Why? Why did

you put me in this situation? Morning, you used to go out

of the barracks and see a lot of bodies hanging on the side. My

mind came through to commit suicide, to go to the wire. I just

couldn't understand and it didn't work for me. I tried, at night I

used to count the steps, how many steps out to the wire and touch

my hand. I walk out there one night and I tried to go out there. I

counted out the ten steps and stretched out my hands and didn't

find the wires.

And in this minute, I was afraid to die, I ran back to the

barracks, I was afraid to die, they were going to shoot me. After

this happened, I had a desire to live, my desire to live was so

strong I tried to do everything possible to go through this to be

able to tell the world actually what these people were doing.

What were you seeing every day?

I have seen every day people going to the Crematorium. People were

seeing. I have seen the little guy who went up to the window and

throw in the cyanide, open up the door and throw it in. Thousands

and thousands of people going to the crematoriums. I took people

off from the trains and I saw them walking to the Crematorium.

Sam, you're one of the few survivors of this kind of job, this

task? How did that come to pass?

It is very hard to deal with. It's very hard on myself to think

about it. If I had known you see the survival from a human being,

I thought those guys on the other side, they had so much food, if

I work with them, I might have a lot of food, maybe I'll survive.

Actually, I got to see things what they did have actually happened,

I have seen with my own eyes, I have seen the man throw in the gas,

I have seen the people in the Crematoriums, I have seen the way

Mengele was directing, sending people to the right side. Even in

the family, when he had to go to the gas chambers, he didn't mind,

he had to go to this side. He took a young person who wants to go

to the camp, When it was the opposite, he did not allow. He always

used to, he sent everybody, it was like a stage play, we were the

stage hands (4:20:00), cleaning, preparing, and he was the actor,

the mean exacter, and the people who used to come in were like the

actors, they did not know what's going on, how the show was going

to end. Those people did not know. After several transports, I knew

exactly how it was going to end. Those people who arrived did not

know. Several transports, when they burned the 30,00, 40,000

gypsies from the gypsies camp, when I saw the ovens burning day and

night, I could not believe. I could not believe the situation, a

human being could do that to a human being.

When did you realize that you too would be liquidated?

I knew, I didn't, I realized because the Kapo told me I would never

get out of there. What happened actually with us, I would ask later

when they start to destroy the crematoria in 1944. Already

transports started coming in. So the Sonderrcommando, the people

who burn the bodies, they never came out alive, they burned them,

they changed them all the time. We didn't know what was going to

happen to us, when they were going to burn us. When they demolished

the crematoria, one crematorium was left, I don't remember exactly.

We thought this is waiting for us, we're going to be finished

because we were witnesses to the history, we saw it, we were the

ones who sorted the clothes, we were the ones who sorted the

selections, we saw the man who put in the case in the window up

there, we saw Mengele day after day what he did. One day, I don't

know what happen, my Kapo, was a German Jew his name was Fritz, he

walked into the camp and said, anybody who had hidden something

could throw it in this hat. So I didn't know what happened, when

you worked with the clothing, you used to find diamonds, gold, a

little bit, you used to bring it back in a box and exchange for

salami with prisoners or German guards, whatever might be the case,

he ran out and then back again. Then they said "everybody out from

the barracks." We were in a special barracks, with wire all around,

no one could come in or get out. So when we were out, somebody said

"Achtung" everybody should stay, remain standing, a group of two

hundred. There was also a Scheitzcommando there, so we were all

standing there, we tried to walk out from camp to the right side of

us, going from the camp to the Lagerstat goes to the train, when he

said left side you knew you were going to the crematorium, there

were no two ways about it, finally, when we came to the door he

said Canada Commando, he saluted, told us where we were going, you

know, the Commando goes out. So we walk out, he said "Rechtsum"

right, when he said right, we started running, not walking, we ran,

actually ran, when we asked where we were running, when we came to

the ramp, there were five or six cars standing there, the cars were

open, we jumped into the cars, all of us, and when we came in the

cars, there was bread there, you know, with cans of water, maybe

ten minutes the cars, they closed the doors, the guards sitting on

top, the trains started moving. We didn't know exactly where we

were going, we just looked out and said, and all of a sudden, they

probably changed the railroad so the turn went back and then back,

you know how it is, so we started thinking, they are cheating us,

supposedly they are taking us out, now they are going to take us

back. Finally the trains start moving, you can not imagine, you can

not have this feeling at this moment what we had what we felt

getting out of Birkenau, because this transport which came before,

which had spent a few days in Birkenau, they took them out to an

Arbeitz camp, they did not know, they had not seen actually what

had happened, they just knew they were not in Birkenau. Here, you

have a group of people, who were actually seeing the situation what

happened, when you can get out from a place like this, my god, we

didn't care about anyone, we were jumping for joy in the cars. When

we got there, they took us in to Sudetenburgland, to

Czechoslovakia, to a camp, and I was working, they were building

then the V2 rockets, we were supposed to build those big holes and

set up the rockets. I spend there a little while, there was a camp

in the mountains, they called it Soeswild Camp, I was there for a

while, and after that, they took us out from there, the Russian

army was closing in on Czechoslovakia, they took us out from this

camp and we were going on a march, they called it a death march.

(4:25:00) Finally they found the trains, and from this train, they

took us in the concentration camp Flossenburg. Flosssenburg was a

concentration camp, but it was run by ninety percent homosexuals.

If you know how a concentration camp worked, you see, every

prisoner had a triangle, you had a red triangle, you were a

political prisoner, you had a black triangle, you were a criminal,

you had a blue triangle, you were a homosexual.

Like Buchenwald, for example, a concentration camp, I was not

there, was run by political prisoners because the Germans set it up

so the prisoners themselves run the camps. Flossenburg was run by

homosexuals, and some of the young boys had a very hard time there.

Mr. Goldberg, how after in these camps, how did it come about that

you yourself were liberated eventually?

I was liberated on the way to be executed. I was at a concentration

camp called Murdov, on the 9th of April. They took us out from

Murdov, and said all the Jews "Auftreten" all the Jews, they were

a lot of Ukrainians, Russian soldiers, POWs, Pollacks, They were

standing in line and the Russian used to push us out, you're a Jew,

they took us in a train. They, take us, some guards. We were going

on transport, where were we going,we didn't know. On the way, it

was a few days we were traveling, finally, supposedly, they tell us

that we are free we could go, so we went out, we were captured back

by the soldiers and they tried to shoot us and to kill us because

we were liberated so a lot of us ran away. So the front line was

there and a lot of our people were captured by the front line

soldiers and were shot on the street. Finally, they brought us all

back and the guards who had captured us in the small town there

told us, We said transport fear, he told us we were free people, so

we went, we didn't do any harm. He said, don't worry about it,

you're going to be free, free in Tirol, you're going to be free in

Tirol. You're going to be free in Tirol. I didn't understand what

he was talking about Tirol. When I came back to the car, Finally,

I jumped in the car, because standing with the machine guns were

trying to kill us, and my friend told me to run zigzag and somebody

grabbed me by the hand on the top of all the other people in the

car. So we got into the car, the mine came to Tirol. It was

standing on the ramp, going back and forth a few days, exhausted,

already, have that, and we didn't know what was what, I was

hallucinating, I didn't know anything. I had a pair of wooden

shoes, holding under my head. One day, two airplanes, fighter

planes, came across shooting on the train. Their aim, probably,

which I found out later was to shut down the locomotives so they

could not go any further because it was one line. Then by nine

o'clock in the morning I was already half gone. I was vomiting,

just half gone. So we were sitting there in the train, finally we

heard noises, an American, some tanks came along, someone said,

some French looking soldiers are here to liberate us. I didn't know

that. They opened the doors, I was hallucinating, someone pushed,

pulled, me out of the car like this and I was thinking in my mind,

they are pulling me out to be shot in Tirol because I was already

gone. So I picked up a shoe and hit him like this. I thought just

last minute let me hit somebody. So the person who picked me up,

said in broken German, crying, he said to me "I didn't come to kill

you. I came to liberate you. I'm an American." They took me right

away to a field hospital.

You mentioned to me luck?

Plain luck. Nothing else. Everybody who survived in the ghettoes

and in the concentration camp, every one person, it was not

smartness, it was nothing, it was just plain luck. The number of

this person come out. It was nothing else but luck. Every survivor

was a miracle of survival, survived by luck. Because on the day we

were liberated, nine o'clock in the morning when the third army the

tenth division, a tank division when they came to liberate us, the

people, (4:30:00) I will say six or seven hundred people died two

to three hours after the liberation because they started eating.

This was luck too. I came across, an American nurse, gave me

glucose in my arms to make me stronger, 78 pounds on the scale,

lies that big in my body. They washed me, they cleaned me, and this

lady says to me, "one thing you should know, you're a very strong

boy, but you're very weak, so don't eat, don't you eat, get some

milk, a little rice, go to an american kitchen, don't eat food, if

you're going to eat, you're going to die. A lot of them were not

lucky, somebody told me what to do. I was lucky enough for her told

me. After a few days, I came back to my strength. And I, thank god

I'm here. I just want to tell you that people shouldn't happen

again to nobody. People out there should watch out. Things like

this should never, never happen again and it's up to the people to

do that. Let me read you something to you which I picked out a few

weeks ago in a little article which is very important, I want to

mention about it. The record of a pastor Martin E. Miller, the

German theologian, desperate and modern, first he said "The Nazis

went after the Jews," and I quote, "but I was not a Jew, so I did

not object. Then they went after the Catholics, but I was not a

Catholic, so I did not object. Then they went after the trade

unionists, but I was not a trade unionist so I did not object. Then

they came after me, but there was none, no one, to object." This

everybody should remember.

Great.

OK .

That's it.

Thanks, Sam, right on the button.

.END.