00:00:03

- >> Engel: It's nice and quiet here, yes.
- >> Interviewer: Yep. I can hear -- someone's talking in my ear now. Yes.
- >> Engel: Is that so?
- >> Interviewer: Okay.
- >> Interviewer: Okay, are you ready?
- >> Engel: Yeah, if you are. Do my best.
- >> Interviewer: Okay. Okay, to start things off, would you state your full name?
- >> Engel: My name is Joe Engel. I'm born in Poland, about 30 kilometers from Warsaw, Zakroczym.
- >> Interviewer: And when were you born?
- >> Engel: I'm born October the 9th, 1927.
- >> Interviewer: Okay, can you tell me a little bit about your family life, your family?
- >> Engel: Well, our family -- we has a big family. We had nine kids. I had four sisters and five brothers. And my father had a little luncheonette store. It was a tough life in Poland, you know. It's not like here.
- >> Interviewer: Mm-hmm.
- >> Engel: But we managed till the war, till 1939. In 1939 the war broke out.
- >> Interviewer: If I could back you up a bit, could you tell me a little bit more about your school? Did you go to school?

- >> Engel: Yeah, I went to public school there.
- >> Interviewer: Can you tell me about that?
- >> Engel: Yeah, I went to public school till the war broke out.
- >> Interviewer: And your father was -- he ran a grocery?
- >> Engel: We had a little grocery shop, yeah.
- >> Interviewer: What was the Jewish community in your town like?
- >> Engel: It was a small Jewish community. I would say about 5,000 people, yeah.
- >> Interviewer: Was it a very strong, active community?
- >> Engel: Active, yeah. We had about two, three synagogues, yeah. Religious, very religious, you know.
- >> Interviewer: Did you notice much anti-Semitism before the
 war?
- >> Engel: Oh, we always had anti-Semitism in Poland. Of course, they always used to tell the Polacks not to go in and buy anything in the Jewish-owned stores. They used to beat us up; of course, not all of them. You had exceptions. You had exceptions too.
- >> Interviewer: Did they -- was there any specific incidents with your family?
- >> Engel: We have -- not with my family. You see, we had market days. Like Tuesday and Friday, we had markets. You know, they used to come to town and sell hogs, eggs, you know, like a market place. And they used to have Polish people coming there, and they was -- used to stay by the stores, by the Jewish stores, and they told them not to go in there because that's a Jewish-owned store.
- >> Interviewer: How did things change once the war started?

- >> Engel: Well, once the war started, the Poles had no say whatsoever because the German came in 1939. They came into Poland. They occupied Poland.
- >> Interviewer: How did that change life in your town?
- >> Engel: Well, our town, our town was destroyed in 1939 because our town was near a military base. So it was completely destroyed. Only two houses left in 1939.
- >> Interviewer: Where did you go?
- >> Engel: We went to Poland -- I mean, to Warsaw.
- >> Interviewer: Can you tell me what happened once you got there?
- >> Engel: Well, when we were in Warsaw, we used to live with some people there, and the war was still going on. When the war end, we were there a couple of months. It was a tough life. We didn't have nothing to eat. Very seldom we had anything to eat. So we moved out of Warsaw. We went to another city 50 kilometers by the name Plonsk.
- >> Interviewer: Was your family with you at this time?
- >> Engel: Yeah, the whole family. The whole family went there.
- >> Interviewer: Could you tell me about once you got to Plonsk?
- >> Engel: Well, once we got to Plonsk, two months later, they made a ghetto.
- >> Interviewer: The Germans.
- >> Engel: The Germans came in and made a ghetto, so if you want to out to work and do anything, you couldn't go without their permission.
- >> Interviewer: Could you tell me about life in the Plonsk ghetto, a typical day?

- >> Engel: In Plonsk ghetto, life wasn't too easy then. It was a tough life. We had to stay in the line for ration for food. The little food what they give us was just, just to live, you know.
- >> Interviewer: Where did you live in the ghetto?
- >> Engel: We used to live -- see, they took all of the synagogues and everything else, and they used the -- people from other town used to come in. They used to settle them there.
- >> Interviewer: Was your family living in a synagogue?
- >> Engel: My family, yeah, we were all together, yeah.
- >> Interviewer: You were living inside a synagogue?
- >> Engel: Where we was living, that's in a synagogue. Was a lot of people there, you know.
- >> Interviewer: Did you work at all?
- >> Engel: No, I didn't work.
- >> Interviewer: Did your family?
- >> Engel: My older brothers used to go outside.
- >> Interviewer: What did they do?
- >> Engel: All, you know, shovel work, you know, building houses for the Germans, highways, digging ditches, anything else.
- >> Interviewer: How were they treated?
- >> Engel: Well, not so good. When you had the guards over you, the SS guards over you all the time, you couldn't do what you want to do. If you want to go -- if you want to step out, you have to ask them for permission. Sometime they did give you permission to go out, and sometime, they didn't.
- >> Interviewer: Did you go to school at all?
- >> Engel: Well -- during the wartime?

- >> Interviewer: In the ghetto?
- >> Engel: No.
- >> Interviewer: No school
- >> Engel: There was no school. We had no place to go.
- >> Interviewer: Was there any resistance to the occupation?
- >> Engel: Well, over in the ghetto, no. There was no resistance in the ghetto. We couldn't organize, you see? Wasn't organized, you know.
- >> Interviewer: About how many people were in this ghetto?
- >> Engel: In this ghetto was about 25 to 30,000 people.
- >> Interviewer: And this was just north of --
- >> Engel: Of Poland.
- >> Interviewer: Of Warsaw.
- >> Engel: Of Warsaw, that's right.
- >> Interviewer: How long were you in?
- >> Engel: I was there till 1942.
- >> Interviewer: Then what happened?
- >> Engel: In 1942, first of all, they came in and took the older people to send them to Auschwitz, to working camps. So first they took the older people. They took my parents, my mother, my oldest brothers, and they sent them there. About two months later, they made another selection. They used to make selections, you know: older people, middle-aged people, the young people. They never sent families together, you see? They separated them right away. So first my family went, my father and mother. Later my brothers went there. And me and my sister and another brother went the last one.

- >> Interviewer: While I'm thinking about it, you said you'd bring -- you had some photographs of your family.
- >> Engel: Yeah, I sure do have some photos.
- >> Interviewer: Before the war? You could kind of hold them up to your chest so the camera could get a look at them.
- >> Engel: That's from before the war.
- >> Interviewer: There you go. You got to turn it right side up.
- >> Engel: This way?
- >> Interviewer: Okay. Yeah. What's the one with the two?
- >> Engel: The two? That's me and my youngest brother.
- >> Interviewer: And when was that taken?
- >> Engel: That was taken 1939. And this one is the whole family.
- >> Interviewer: Okay, so it's all your brothers and sisters?
- >> Engel: All of us, yeah. We're all -- because my aunt left. She came to the United States, so we had a picnic. We went out and we all got pictures, take pictures.
- >> Interviewer: So when they took your parents first out of the ghetto --
- >> Engel: Out of the ghetto.
- >> Interviewer: -- to Auschwitz --
- >> Engel: And there's -- well, nobody knows where they sent them. They could send them to Treblinka, Majdanek, anyplace, see?
- >> Interviewer: And this was show long before you --
- >> Engel: This was about two months before, before they sent me.
- >> Interviewer: And what happened when they --

- >> Engel: So by the end, they took the rest of the people who were in the ghetto, and they put us on trains, and they send us to Birkenau.
- >> Interviewer: Tell me about the trip to Birkenau.
- >> Engel: Oh, it took us about four days, you know, the cattle trains, open cattle trains. They shipped us over there. When we came to Birkenau, let's see, the last -- was about a thousand people. So they selected about 250 people out of the thousand, and the rest of them, they sent them to the gas chambers. Then when I came there in '42, they did not have gas chambers yet. They was in the process building them. So what they done, they dig some big holes, and they took the whole families, and they throwed them in, in the grave. And they took some gas, canisters of gas, and later they took a match, and that's the way that they disappeared.
- >> Interviewer: So this is what was happening when you came?
- >> Engel: Yeah. This was in '42 because I was one of the first Jews from Poland coming to Birkenau.
- >> Interviewer: Was any family member with you when you came, or were you --
- >> Engel: When I -- no. I had two brothers before came there, and they survived. And they were in Birkenau. Of course, I didn't know nothing about them, and they didn't know nothing about me. So I was in Birkenau for two weeks, I was there. And this was before Christmas, and time was bad because in Birkenau, the mud was 4, 5 feet high. So then they sent me to a quarantine, to Buna. And from Buna -- I was there in Buna, it was a couple of weeks. And I was a youngster, so they came, and they select some people, young people, to go to a Maurerschule. A Maurerschule, this means a bricklayer's school for the young ones. So they took me to the bricklayer's school, and I was there about six, eight months. And for somehow it was good because it was inside. I didn't have to go out, work on

Kommandos outside. And it wasn't -- I mean, it wasn't good, but it was better than to work in the wintertime outside without shoes, without, without food, you know.

- >> Interviewer: Could you tell me about your average typical day
 in Birkenau?
- >> Engel: Well, we used to get up about 5:15 in the morning, 5:30 in the morning. We used to go outside. They used to have Appell, you know. They used to count the heads, if everybody's there. And they used to give you a cup of coffee there mit a slice of bread. This slice of bread last you all day. And they used to -- we used to go out and -- they used to call it Kommando, "to work" -- till 12:00. At 12:00, they gave you a soup of almost -- potato peels and water was just enough to live. And we worked till 5:30. 5:30 we had to -- sometime you worked 20 minutes, 30 minutes. All depends on what place you used to go out and work. So we got in there. They used to have another -- sometimes they used to have selections. You know, if the *Muselmann* -- you know what a *Muselmann* is? Somebody was skinny, didn't look so good. If he complained, they used to select him, and they used to send them to the crematoriums because they had no use for him. He couldn't produce, he couldn't work, he couldn't do nothing, so they send him to the gas chambers.
- >> Interviewer: Did your work as a bricklayer --
- >> Engel: I was in school for six months, in bricklaying school.
 That's the school they used to --
- >> Interviewer: Can you tell me more about that?
- >> Engel: Bricklayers, you know. So I worked -- for six months, they kept me there in school, and after that, they sent me on -- to work on a *Kommando*. They used to call it *Kommando*, and I worked there.

- >> Interviewer: Can you tell me, did you have any kind of relationship with any of the other inmates?
- >> Engel: Yeah, with the inmates who used to live on the same block. They used to call them block, you know. In the same quarantine block that I was, we used to talk. We used to go to -- you had to go -- by 9:30, you had to be in bed. You had to get up early in the morning. You couldn't make noise. In the morning when you got up, you have to make your bed look like spic and span; otherwise, they used to beat the hell out of you if it wasn't in good shape.
- >> Interviewer: Did you ever have -- yourself have any run-ins with guards or *kapos?*
- >> Engel: Oh, plenty of times. If no -- if you didn't behave, they used to send you upstairs on the roof. They used to send you in the wintertime. They used to kneel, and they took some cold ice water and dump all over you. They used to splash you mit the cold water all over you.
- >> Interviewer: This is if you didn't do your bunk right?
- >> Engel: I didn't do what they told me to do or they just want to do it to have fun, you know. The *Sturmbannführer*, the *Blockführer*, the SS, you know, they were looking to have some fun, so that was their entertainment.
- >> Interviewer: Did you see any member of your family once you
 were in?
- >> Engel: Well, after a couple of months, I find out I had two brothers and a sister in Birkenau.
- >> Interviewer: How did you find out?
- >> Engel: Well, through people. You know, they transfer people from one camp to the other one, and people who I did know, they know them, so that's why. That's why I find out.

- >> Interviewer: Was there any kind of resistance in the camp?
- >> Engel: Well, we had some resistance by the end of '44. We had some resistance. That was the Sonderkommando. That's the people who used to burn the dead people, you know, the ovens, like bakers. They used to have -- I don't know if you've ever seen the crematorium, how they looked. And the people who were selected to work for the *Sonderkommando*, they used to change them every six months. Every six months, they used to kill them, you know, to gas them, and get some new ones because they didn't want to know people should know about it, you know. But we know about it because you could smell it, you know. You could smell the flesh and everything else in there. So when their time was up, they had nothing to lose. They made an uprising, but they didn't go too far. They're supposed to get some help from the outside, from the Polish underground, but the Polish underground never came to help them out, so most all got killed. And this was the end of it.
- >> Interviewer: Did you witness any of this?
- >> Engel: No, I didn't witness it, but a lot of people witnessed who are still alive.
- >> Interviewer: For the whole time you were in Auschwitz, were you just -- you were a bricklayer the whole time?
- >> Engel: Not the whole time. I changed jobs.
- >> Interviewer: What other jobs?
- >> Engel: After a while I changed jobs. I used to deliver food to the people who used to work outside the camp.
- >> Interviewer: What did that entail? Can you tell me how that job worked?
- >> Engel: It was a much -- it was a better job than every job because you had leftovers, you know, from the soup, some soup left. So we used to go by, we used to go by...by car, you know,

and we used to have an SS man with us. They didn't trust us by ourselves. They used to go, and we used to go to deliver them, and after this, we came back and cleaned the pots and everything else.

- >> Interviewer: What other jobs did you have?
- >> Engel: That's -- well, that's about all. The two jobs, that's all I had because most of my time I spent in the *Maurerschule*, you know, building, building blocks for the newcomers.
- >> Interviewer: Do you have any idea how many buildings you
 built?
- >> Engel: Oh, plenty of them, plenty of them. Of course, I wasn't the only one. We had a lot of them, a lot of students, you know, because we used to work *mit* Poles. They used to come from the outside, and they used to work with us. And once in a while, they used to tell us what's going on outside.
- >> Interviewer: What did you find out about what was going on outside?
- >> Engel: Well, they gave us some hints. They were scared to say anything anyhow, but once in a while, they give us a hint what's been going on outside.
- >> Interviewer: How did you get out of Auschwitz?
- >> Engel: Well, this was January, if I'm not mistaken, January 1945 when the Allied army got closer to the concentration camps. So they vacated all the camps, and they send it to Gliwice. They wanted to take us deep into Germany, you know, so they put us on trains, open trains like cattle trains, you know, and inside was an SS man watching us. And we was there in Gliwice, we was there about two days without food. The only thing we got is the snow. It was snowing. It was in the wintertime, and Poland in the wintertime is very cold. And that's the only thing we could survive by is by snow. So when the train started to roll deep

into Germany, this was in Czechoslovakia, in Bohumín. And I saw so many dead ones, dying on the train, so I said, What the hell, I'm going to die anyhow, so I said, I'm going to jump. If I survive, it's okay. If I don't survive, what the hell, I've got nothing to lose. So me and another friend, soon as it got dark, we jumped the train, and the snow was very high. When you jump the train there, they couldn't see you because you were covered mit snow. So all of a sudden, me and a friend, we jumped, and the SS started shooting after us, but we was laying there for eight, ten hours in the snow. It's unbelievable, but we were laying for eight, ten hours in the snow until the train passed by. When the train passed by, we got out, but you couldn't walk in the daytime, so we had to wait for the next night. So we went to the city. We went to a train station because most of them were foreigners working on the train, you know. They were running the train. So we went over there at nighttime, and we saw them. They said, "We're scared if they catch us, they're gonna kill you, and they're gonna kill us because if we see you, we're supposed to report you to the SS. Otherwise, we're gonna get killed." So finally we talked somebody in. He took us over there and let us spend the night, and we spent the night -- I spent the night -- me and my friend spent the night. In the morning, they tell us, "Go ahead, you're on your own because we cannot keep you longer here," because they were scared. So anyhow, we start walking through Poland. Finally we got hooked up *mit* the underground, the partisan. Also, the partisan was kind of hard to get into it because they didn't trust you. They thought maybe you are a spy or you are German, you know. Finally they took us in because they kept an eye on us. They didn't trust us anyhow. Of course, listen -- so I spent for two months with them.

- >> Interviewer: What was your life like with the partisans?
- >> Engel: Well, at least you have -- you had freedom. While you was in the woods, you had your freedom. At nighttime we used to go on missions, you know, to sabotage trains, sabotage, you

know, post office, whatever was valuable to the Germans. We used to go at nighttime and sabotage everything. It was a pleasure to do it because, listen, at least if you make it, you make it, and if you don't make it, you got nothing to lose because so many people who went further, deep into Germany, thousands and thousands didn't make it. And I was lucky. I escaped, and I did make it to sit here and tell the story about it.

- >> Interviewer: Can you tell me about any -- was there any specific raid or mission with the partisans that you can recall?
- >> Engel: Well, like I said, we had missions at nighttime, most of them at nighttime, to sabotage the commandos, German commando SS, trains *mit* ammunition, and all kind of things.
- >> Interviewer: What was your part in -- did you have, like, a specialty with the partisans?
- >> Engel: No, it wasn't a specialty. First of all, I didn't go by myself. As long as I'd been there, they still didn't trust me because they didn't know who I was. When I told them I was escaped from Germany and this and this and in the camp, they still -- listen, they still was suspicious. They still didn't trust me.
- >> Interviewer: And what happened to the people in your group?
- >> Engel: Well, in '45, the Russians came in, and they liberated us, the Russians. For a fact, when the Russians liberated us, they put me in jail, too, because I had no documents, and I had nothing, and they didn't believe me. So they put me *mit* the Germans. You know, they had German SS and all kind of people. They put me together there. I spent 24 hours in that jail *mit* the Germans. Finally I convinced them I'm Jewish and I was in concentration camp and I escaped. Finally I convinced them, so they let me loose.

>> Interviewer: The Russians did?

- >> Engel: Yeah, they let me loose, and from there, I went to Poland. I went back to my town. I figure if anybody's alive, we'll come back to the city where he was -- where he or her was born. So I went to my city, like I said before. Of course, the city, there was nothing left. Everything was destroyed in 1939. So anyhow, I met another fellow there, a survivor, and I was there for six months. After this, they want to draft me into the army. I said no, I didn't want to go into the army. I had my share. I didn't want to go.
- >> Interviewer: Was it the Russians or the Poles that --
- >> Engel: This was the Pole that was occupied by the Russians.
- >> Interviewer: And the Polish army, they wanted to draft you?
- >> Engel: Yeah, they wanted to draft me, so I said no, no. I had told myself I'm not going to go to the army. I had enough of it.
- >> Engel: When was this?
- >> Interviewer: This was in '45. This was in July, '45. I said I had enough, so at nighttime, I escaped to the west, West Berlin. And from the west, I came over to Frankfurt am Main, and I was now the DP camp, displaced per -- you know what DP camp -- that's people who survived, it's a camp, DP camp. The UNRRA, you know, the HIAS. They used to send packages, you know.
- >> Interviewer: Could you tell me something about -- you said you escaped from Poland into West Berlin and then to Frankfurt. Tell me something about how you traveled.
- >> Engel: I traveled -- from where -- by then, I walked most of the time. There was no communication. Everything was destroyed, so you had to walk from one city to the other one. You lucky, you caught a ride *mit* the Russian soldiers. If not, you had to walk; that's all. And you went from one place to the other one. You begged for food, you know, begged for water. You used to

- have -- you know, you'd tell them, "Let me do some work, and just give me some food." And I told them who I am.
- >> Interviewer: How long did this trip take?
- >> Engel: Oh, the trip took me about four weeks.
- >> Interviewer: To get to Berlin?
- >> Engel: No. I'm talking from the German -- from the occupation to Poland took me about two months. From Berlin to -- from Poland to West Germany took me about four days.
- >> Interviewer: Okay, well, what happened once you got to the DP camp?
- >> Engel: Well, I went to the border guard, and I told him about it, and they let me into West Berlin. From West Berlin, I got in touch *mit* some people. I went to West Germany, and in West Germany I find some people I know, and I told them who I am. Of course, they were in the camp too.
- >> Interviewer: Did you see any -- was there any of your family
 left? Did you find any?
- >> Engel: Well, I find my sister. I heard about her. She was in Bergen-Belsen camp. She was there. So I went there to Bergen Belsen to see her there, and she came back. We both came back to -- Bergen Belsen was occupied by the English. It was a camp. So we came back to the west side, to the west, West Germany.
- >> Interviewer: Did you find out what happened to any of your other family?
- >> Engel: No. Well, it's -- well, if they didn't came in the first five, six months, none of them survived.
- >> Interviewer: So your sister was the only one.
- >> Engel: Sister, and I got two brothers besides me survived.

- >> Interviewer: How did -- what was their story? How did they survive?
- >> Engel: Well, they survived -- they went to Mauthausen and Dachau and Schlossenberg (phonetic). They went all over, and they got liberated, I think, in May, the last ones. They got liberated.
- >> Interviewer: Well, how did you come to America?
- >> Engel: Well, I came to America and I find out -- I knew I had relatives, so -- my cousin was in the army in Germany.
- >> Interviewer: The US Army?
- >> Engel: He was a lieutenant. He was American-born, but he was in the American army in the second war. So he knows he had family there, so he went to look for us, to Zakroczym, so he couldn't find us there. And I find out we got family here through the HIAS, you know, the Jewish -- HIAS, that's a Jewish organization. I went to them, and I told them who I am to get in touch -- I got family in the United States. I just didn't know where, but I knew I got family. And so they find out I had family in Charleston, South Carolina. So they sent affidavits for me. Of course, with affidavits, took six to eight months.
- >> Interviewer: When was this? This was --
- >> Engel: I came to the United States in 1949, in March the 13th, 1949. I came to New Orleans. And from New Orleans, they shipped me over to Charleston, South Carolina.
- >> Interviewer: Charleston. What did you do once you got to Charleston?
- >> Engel: Well, I'm telling you, I was miserable here. I had nobody to talk to. I couldn't speak English, and nobody else could speak Jewish, so I was a lonely man here.
- >> Interviewer: Well, how did you get by?

- >> Engel: I was -- I got by, you know. Some of them could speak a few words, you know, so I got by. But I got tired here, so I went to New York for a couple of weeks -- or a couple of months.
- >> Interviewer: You had family in New York?
- >> Engel: My sister went to New York.
- >> Interviewer: Where did your brothers go?
- >> Engel: My brothers went to New -- they were in New York too.
- >> Interviewer: And when did they --
- >> Engel: Of course, I came before there. My sister came before me, and I came after my sister, and the two brothers came much later than I came.
- >> Interviewer: And what did you do in Charleston once you got
- >> Engel: Well, when I came to Charleston the first time, I done nothing. Then I went to New York, and my aunt come for me. She said, "Okay, stay here." So, you know, I had no profession. I had nothing. So she told me about, "Why don't you become a peddler?" So I peddled for a couple of months, and I just didn't like it.
- >> Interviewer: What did you peddle?
- >> Engel: Well, you know, clothes, everything else, you know, goods, all kind of goods; knock on the door if they want to buy it. I hardly could speak, so, you know. So I didn't like it, so I left. I went back to New York. I went back to New York. I used to work in a slaughterhouse, in a pickle factory, all kind of things, whatever you could find, just, just to make a living. You know, it was okay. Listen, so long as I was healthy and I could work to make a living, I didn't mind a bit. So after this, my aunt come back to Charleston and said, "Joe, that's not for

- you. Let me take you back down South." She then took me down South, and I'm here, and I'm happy.
- >> Interviewer: And you went into dry cleaning?
- >> Engel: I went into it, yeah, and I became a CPA: cleaning, pressing, and alterations. Yeah.
- >> Interviewer: Is there anything else you'd like to add to anything you've said?
- >> Engel: Well, we got a lot -- it's a long -- if I would tell you everything, it would take us all night long.
- >> Interviewer: Is there anything in particular you'd like to say, something to tell, something that happened?
- >> Engel: What happened -- the worst thing what happened was in Birkenau. It's the worst -- that was the worst camp, I think, in the whole Germany. I remember in 1942, when I just got to Birkenau. It was Weinachten. This was New Year's -- Christmas Eve. All of a sudden, they made an *Appell*. They used to -- they called everybody out. They want to count the heads for no reason. It was cold, and they just want to count the heads. They know nobody escaped, nobody disappeared. So what they done -you know, when they call us for a head count, everybody was running, you know, one on top of the other one, you know, because nobody wanted to be late because if you're late, you got beaten to hell. So what they done, and we didn't know, they put some 2 x 4's outside, outside the door, so you didn't see it. It was dark, so you had 2 x 4's about this high, so people fall on top of the other one, and they used to stay mit, mit sticks and beat the hell out of us. This was the worst thing that ever happened to me there. This was in '42, and in Birkenau, in the inside of the barracks, used to be six, seven people sleeping in one barracks together. You never undressed yourself to go to sleep. You sleep in the clothes, in the clothes you had. And if you have to go at nighttime, you couldn't go no place if you had to go. This was my worst experience, in 1942. Of course, no day

or no night was a good one, but this was a bad one. Ten or 20, 30,000 people got killed by running out, you know, what they done, put a 2 x 4 by the door, just, you know, to fool the people, and they used to stay *mit* sticks and beat and beat in the head. And also I used to see in the mornings, every morning, you know, they had the electric wires. I used to see in the hundreds, people, laying on the wire. They had nothing to live for, so they went to the electric wires and took their lives. Of course, most of us, they didn't have -- we had no willpower. Very few did. The young people had a little bit of willpower, but the people, older people were -- had families. They took away their families. They separated their kids. So they figured they had nothing to live for, so they execute them self.

- >> Interviewer: Is there anything else that you'd like to add?
- >> Engel: Well, I want to thank the United States that brought me here for the freedom, for the opportunity they give me to work and to make something out of myself.
- >> Interviewer: Okay. Terrific.
- >> Engel: What else can I say? That's enough.
- >> Interviewer: I guess. Okay. Okay.

00:37:38