

Transcript of the *Shoah* Interview with Franz Schalling  
Translation by Uta Allers - Volunteer – Visitor Services – January 2011

GERMANY FILMING

CASSETTE SCHALLING / FACE A

Bob. 1 Schalling 1

Q ...yes, alright, could...to start with, could you explain to me how did you ... to Kulmhof, Chlemno...

S ...how we got there?

Q ...yes... arrived...?

S ...yes... we got to... we were, yes, in Litzmannstadt we had guard duty there for a long time... property security, guarding mills, guarding the route when Hitler drove up to wherever, drove up to East Prussia...

Q ... yes...

S ... then we had to go to Poland to do guard duty at a train station... and all that was just too boring for us, and then he said, we're looking for some... that they get out of this isolation... and that's when we volunteered...

Q ... yes...

S ... didn't know then what that... then we got winter clothing, it was winter... we got winter clothing – fur coats, fur boots, hats, etc....

Q ... it was winter...?

S ... it was in the winter, yes...

Q ... it was very cold?

S ... it was very cold...

Q ...yes ...

S ... we got those (*the clothes*) and after 2 or 3 days, we got the word that we're going. Among us were also ethnic Germans from Poland...

Q ...yes...

S ...who came from this area. We were loaded onto 2 or 3 or one truck, I think, I don't know exactly, equipped with seats... we sat on those... and drove and drove. We asked them, those that were from the region, "Just where are we going? What kind of an area is this?" "We don't know either; we don't know it..."

Q ...yes...

- S ... and so we drove and drove ever further... finally we arrived somewhere... lots of SS were running about... police were running about...
- Q ... but excuse me... from which city in Chelmno did you come? You were in Lodz, weren't you?
- S ...I was in Lodz, yes...
- Q ...in Litzmannstadt?
- S ...in Litzmannstadt, yes...
- Q ...yes...
- S ... yes and then...
- Q ... and no one said...
- S ... nothing, not a thing, not a thing – we knew nothing...
- Q ... not a word...
- S ... not a word...
- Q ... and you weren't in the SS, rather in the...
- S ...police...
- Q ... police...
- S ...I was with the police...
- Q ... but what kind of police... for order?
- S ... security police...
- Q ... security police, yes...
- S ... well, and then we arrived...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... then we arrived there and there were some of the SS running around, and some from the police. Of course our first question was "What's going on here, what are we expected to do here?"
- Q ...yes ...

S ... “Yes,” they said, “You’ll see what’s (*going on*) here...”

Q ...you’ll see?

S ...”You’ll see what’s (*going on*) here...”

Q ...yes...

S ...then along came a ... what was his name, the one who had the unit there... then we had to go into the German House, those who just arrived, some were already there... And then we also heard that we...

Q ... but back then, at that time... Chelmno-Kulmhof was a ... today it’s a small village...

S ...yes, yes...

Q ...and also it was...

S ... Chelmno, a little village, yes...

Q ...a little village...

S ...a little village...

Q ...not many buildings?

S ...no, it was just a building here and a building there

Q ...a farm yard?

S ... it wasn’t a farm yard...

Q ...yes...

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S ...I don't know exactly...

Q ... '41...'42...

S ...it must have been '42...

F ... '41...

Q ...'41?

S ...'41/'42

F ...yes...

S ...yes, yes...That's when I must have gone there – in the winter.

Q ... yes, in the winter...

S ...yes, yes...

Q ...was it before Christmas? ... or after Christmas?

S ...to tell the truth, I don't remember anymore...

Q ...yes...

S ...it's too far back...

Q ...it's not important...

S ...well, and then that was said...

Q ...but that was at the beginning...

- S ...no, they were already there...
- Q ...yes, but not long...
- S ...I...I don't know ...
- Q ...yes...
- S ... well, well, and then we were posted as guards, you know... up there was a little house on the street; that was our guardroom...
- Q ...yes...
- S ...many know where it is...
- Q ...yes, yes...
- S ...just in front of the castle, a little house up there...
- Q ...yes, yes...
- S ...that was our guardroom...
- Q ...it's still there...
- S ...yes...and that's where we had to stand guard...all around it was a fence, around the castle was a fence, a wooden fence... and then the younger ones were transferred to a Forest Unit...
- Q ...the younger ones of...?
- S ...the younger ones; I think older ones too – I don't know anymore...
- Q ...yes...
- S ...at any rate, there were... they had to go into the woods...
- Q ...yes...
- S ...had to guard there...
- Q ...yes...
- S ...and we had to guard around the castle...and at night...inside the castle... down below...we had to stand... and all around the castle...
- Q ...and in the beginning you weren't in the Forest Unit?
- S ...not at all, once, twice, I was with the Forest Unit...
- Q ...yes...
- S ...the outer fence...
- Q ...yes...
- S ... they were posted on all four corners, those guards...
- Q ...yes, meaning that you were in the so-called Castle Unit...
- S ...yes, yes, the Castle Unit...
- Q ...yes...

S ...mainly at night...

Q ...ah, at night...

S ...at night...

Q ...yes, but that was on the first day?

S ... in general, all the time, the whole time...

Q ...yes...

S ...the whole time...

Q ...all right, but can you describe what you saw? How...?

S ...yes, we were able to see, since we were standing at the gate...

Q ...yes...

S ...stood there all the time, in front of the gate, where the soldiers' huts (*of weapons, equipment*) were situated, and the door of the big gate was mostly open...

Q ...yes...

S ...and then when... the Jews came...

Q ...how did the Jews arrive?

S ...by...on trucks...

Q ...via trucks...

S ...via trucks...

Q ...and from where...from which areas?

S ...we didn't know... we had no way of knowing...

Q ...from Kulmhof or from ...

S ...from Litzmannstadt, as far as I know... some came from Litzmannstadt, but where else they came from I don't know...

Q ...but the Jews arrived during the day... in the night?

S ...during the day...

Q ...during the day...

S ...they arrived during the day...

Q ...and in what condition?

S ...in a wretched state...

Q ...yes?

S ...half frozen, starving, dirty...

Q ...yes?...

S ...they arrived in a wretched state...

Q ...and afraid?

S ...well, I can't really say – fear...whether they knew something... you couldn't tell. They no longer trusted anyone, that's clear. When they got out of the ghetto, they could no longer trust anyone.

Q ...yes...

S ...you know...

Q ...yes to that, and I write (?)... At first you were in the ghetto.

S ...yes...

Q ...and there were men...women?

S ...women, men, children...

Q ...children? Yes... and can you describe how the whole transport took place... from beginning to end? Because it's very hard to visualize it.

S ...yes... well, I didn't see much there, only...

Q ...no, but...

S ...where was...I heard that someone made an announcement, one of the SS men, that I saw, also who it was – don't know his name, but something Sch....where he came from ... Schiessenkreuzstein it must have been, or, or from, from, from East Prussia, I don't know...it was an SS man... he made the announcement...

Q ...yes...

S ...and...

Q ...a speech?

S ...what did you say?

Q ...a speech...

S ...a speech, yes, with the following content...first you will be coming into this camp, you will be going through here... You could hear that if you were standing at the gate here...you could hear all that...

Q ...yes...

S ...you'll be going through here...you'll be working for us...you will be cleaned up, you'll be showered...and then you'll get to the camp... and then you could hear when they agreed, the Jews said "yes" – we'll do that and we'll do that too... you know...

Q ...and these people... the Jews spoke German?

- S ...It could have been German, in any case, yes, yes, one could make out their agreements...
- Q ...yes...
- S ...maybe not German, but you could hear agreement, the “yes, yes”...
- Q ...yes...
- S ...and then there were the 5 Poles...
- Q ...Poles?
- S ...Poles, 5 Poles...they drove them into the castle, you know...
- Q ...yes...
- S ...and there they probably had to give up their belongings or whatever, and hand over the money, you know...The Poles didn't want to tell us what was really (*going on*) there...they wouldn't tell...
- Q ...yes...
- S ...we weren't even allowed to talk with the Poles...
- Q ...ah...that wasn't possible?
- S ...weren't allowed to... they spoke German, those Poles, you know...
- Q ...yes...
- S ...and later I found out that the Poles were hardened criminals, who got out of jail or prison...
- Q ...these 5 Poles?
- S ...these...these 5 Poles...
- Q ...criminals?
- S ...excuse me?
- Q ...criminals? You said these 5 Poles were criminals.
- S ...those were criminals, they were...

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- Q ...from?
- S ...that I don't ...
- Q ...from prison?
- S ...that I got later...later I learned that they were criminals. And they were offered German citizenship, after the Final Victory, they would get German citizenship, you see, and they would be free and that's why they did it. I only learned that later, during the trial, otherwise I didn't know anything...



Q ...but these people (*got*) what...the money?

S ...gathered it all up...

Q ...collected?

S ...yes...

Q ...yes, and...

S ...well, and then they were driven down into the gas wagons by the 5 Poles, and they... you could hear the screaming...

Q ...but could you...that's terrible...could you draw me a sketch?

S ...how? For what? About what?

Q ...a plan of the castle...

S ...(*don't know it*) so precisely...I know only the basement...I know only the basement...the basement – where they were in the cells, that's where we were at night, with two of us in the basement down there, you know...we were here in the workshop...of the shoemaker, the tailor, and here were those of the Forest Unit in the basement...and then down here were two little...two or three little rooms, where, I don't know exactly...

Q ...but it was a big castle?

S ...yes, it was pretty big...There was a big open stairway up to it, and up there by the stairs stood an SS man and made the announcement...

Q ...yes...yes, alright, but the Jews arrived...

S ...yes...

Q ...and afterwards, what happened? Where...?

S ...they were (*forcibly*) driven into the castle...

Q ...yes? Into the castle, but where... in the basement?

S ...no, at the top...

Q ...at the top?

S ... yes...yes...

Q ...yes...

S ...upstairs... there were 2 or 3 large rooms... and that's where they had to undress and put their things...

Q ...yes...

S ... and the one Pole stood on a kind of bench... he had a basket, you know, and that's where they had to put their valuables... and the Pole took all of those into the basket, and then he wrote as on a form... said the name and made a gesture as if he were writing, you know...

Q ...yes, and what did they give the Pole? Money?

S ...everything... valuables, rings, gold, everything, you know...

Q ...yes, everything...

S ... everything...

Q ...yes...

S ... and every evening that was taken away... then we saw that... on the right side, there was the garrison headquarters, or whatever it was called... that's where it was taken, you know...

*(Conversation with interpreter)*

Q ...alright, but the Jews were upstairs...

S ...how do you mean?

Q ...the Jews were upstairs...

S ...yes, there are the stairs...

Q ... yes, yes...

S ... yes, wait a minute... up the stairs... and then the individual rooms went off from there... there were 2 or 3 rooms...

Q ... yes, and how long did the Jews stay there?

S ... until they had undressed...

Q ...yes...

S ...and then they were brought down into the basement by the Poles... down the stairs, through the basement room and then up again... there was a ramp and that's where the gas wagon stood...

Q ...can you describe this ramp? Because for me, it's impossible to grasp...

S ... I don't know exactly myself... here was the ramp... *(sketches a diagram)* here was the gas wagon standing there... and then they came here through the basement... came down the stairs... through here and then to the gas wagon...

Q ... ah, it was a small ramp?

S ...yes... how big was the ramp? ... well, it could have...

*No video at 01:14:55*

*See addendum at end for a transcript of audio that was not transcribed in the original transcript.*

*Resume video at 1:17:32*

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- S ... yes, they were driven from the undressing rooms, where they had undressed, naked, down the stairs, then through the basement corridor and then up onto the ramp and then into the truck, you know...
- Q ... yes... and what were the Jews thinking? ... in this moment?
- S ... I have no idea about that... most of the time they were quite quiet (*could also be "peaceful", "easy to control"*)... as far as it was possible to hear...
- Q ... quiet?
- S ...quiet... but the 5 Poles who had driven them downstairs...
- Q ...yes...
- S ... they beat them with sticks, you know, and the Jews felt that of course and then they screamed...
- Q ... yes, but it was a necessary force in order to...?
- S ... some were... with force... those 5 Poles they used force, driving them downstairs...with force...
- Q ...yes...
- S ...an SS man kept saying "I don't want them to be beaten". They didn't want them to be beaten...that was said again and again...
- Q ... why? ... why?
- S ... I don't know...
- Q ... yes, but the people... Did the Jews go into the gas wagons voluntarily?
- S ... I don't know about that... No, they were being beaten... a lot...
- Q ... you never saw that yourself?
- S ... I never saw it... well, yes, I did see it, yes...
- Q ...yes?
- S ... I did see it...
- Q ... when, in the beginning?
- S ... because we... I saw it because we had to go into the basement... when they were all in the gas wagon, you know, then ... we came in and had to... we had the keys of the... of the cells down there...

S of the House Unit... the Jews were (*driven out?*) by the House Unit... and the things that were lying there... they were thrown out of the window... and the Poles still had their sticks... they had canes...

Q ...yes...

S ... and from that, I assume that they had used them for beating, you know...

Q ... and was it terrible?

S ... it was terrible... it was terrible...

Q ... yes, and how were the gas wagons?

S ... like a furniture truck...

Q ... large trucks?

S ... well, how big were they? About from here to the window...

Q ... yes...

S ... really big trucks... furniture trucks... and at the back two doors, which were opened...

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Q ... yes... and how long did it take to... the people?

S ... I can't say for sure... that I don't know at all... 10 minutes maybe... 5 minutes... 15 minutes... I just can't say...

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Q ... how long did you hear the screaming?

S ... I can't say exactly...

Q ... it was short... it was long? You say you always have images before your eyes... what kind of images, for instance?

S ... how do you mean?

F (*Interpreter*)... earlier you were saying, that that keeps coming up for you and that you keep seeing images...

S ... yes, the whole, the whole... all that happened there, I mean...

F ... what kind of images... yes, but he wants an exact description, that is, what you see when you think about Chelmno...

S ... yes, everything... when they, these things... how (*the state in which*) they arrived, how they looked, you know, already half dead... old people and and and children and and...

Q ... half dead already?

S ... half dead already... think of the long trip to here... they were standing... on an truck, an open truck... they stood tightly packed, tightly packed they stood...

Q ... yes, and without food?

S ... without food, without anything... and then in winter...

Q ... yes, sometimes it was very cold?

S ... cold... it was cold... very cold there...

Q ... yes, but there is something surprising... you saw that... you signed and swore that...

S ... yes, just the signature of an oath taker...

Q ... that you were the bearer of secrets...

S ... secrets... yes, yes...

Q ... yes, but I don't understand, for if one speaks today in Chelmno with the Poles, it was no secret... the Poles knew everything...

S ... yes... amongst us...

Q ... and saw everything...

S ... the girls cleaned our residences, the Polish girls they saw everything, you know...

Q ... yes...

S ... those people saw everything there... I don't know... I (*didn't actually see*) a lot of Poles there in Chelmno, there were a few running around there and ...

Q ... yes?

S ... yes, and they did the cleaning and, as if that were normal, whereas... yes, they were afraid...

Q ... the Poles?

S ... the Poles were afraid, yes...

Q ... and they didn't like the Jews much?

S ... that I don't know, that I can't ... I don't speak Polish... I never spoke much with the Poles, you know...

Q ... yes, but how long did you stay in Chelmno?

S ... yes, when did I leave Chelmno... what did you mean?

F ... do you (*familiar "you"*) want a cup of coffee? Do you (*formal "you"*) want one too with ...?

F ... yes, he'd really like one...

S ... that's good of you...

F ... that's really very nice...

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S ... that was... yes, when did I leave there? When did I get out of the hospital. I was in the hospital twice - once at Whitsuntide (Pentecost) with typhus... (*Long silence*)

Q ... yes...

S ... and the second time I was in for a foot operation...

Q ... yes...

S ... when did I get out of there? Oh yes, I think it was in '43, '43 or... yes, '43, I think... I don't know exactly...

Q ... yes... but did you talk to the SS men about this secret?

S ... the one... the one SS man, when he drove to Litzmannstadt and I was off duty... he gave me a ride in his VW, in his car to Litzmannstadt...

Q ... yes...

S ... he gave me... with him I talked quite a bit... he said, "Yes, Mr. Schalling, we can't do anything about it, it has to be done, the order came from the top". And he, this SS man, he also said, "I don't want them to be abused and beaten..."

Q ... yes...

- S ... this SS man, but I don't remember his name...
- Q ... Bormeiser, wasn't it?
- S ... it wasn't Bormeister, he was a heavy one, a heavy one... I think it was someone with two stars... or one star... I don't know exactly...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... I had a lot of talks with him... he was so sociable (*could also be "humane", "decent"*), you could easily talk with him, you know... that was the only one of the SS that I talked with when we, you know... drove from Chelmn to Litzmannstadt...
- Q ... yes, and the others weren't sociable?
- S ... he was also the one who made the announcement...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... but I don't know anymore what his name was...
- Q ... ah, it's the same one who (*made*) the announcement to the Jews?
- S ... to the Jews, yes... he was the one...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... he was the one... a lot of time I got permission from Hüfling – because he didn't like me - from First Lieutenant Hüfling I wanted... then he (*the SS man*) said to me, "Mr. Schalling, ride with me to Litzmannstadt". That was a Saturday... I said, "Yes, Mr. ha, Mr. hmm..."
- F ...Heinel...
- S ... what?
- F ...Heinel...
- S ... Heinel? ...Heinel... no, that was the ... Heinel was in the kitchen with or part of the food service, I think, Heinel...
- F ... no... Heinel was the head of the Guards Unit
- S ... no, no, that wasn't Heinel... that wasn't Heinel...Hüfling was the head... Mr. Hüfling... Then I said to the SS man, "No, I'm not allowed to go... Mr. Hüfling won't permit it". "What is it that you have with Mr. Hüfling all time?" Then I told him that he humiliates me and so on and ... and simply won't give me time off – I had to stay there... I wasn't allowed to go to Litzmannstadt...



- S ... yes, and how were the Jews of the Labor Unit?
- Q they were good... that is, I can say that we... there were some among them that were beaten... but otherwise, I can't really say...
- S ... yes...
- Q ... mainly the young colleagues who were there, they did a lot of beating...
- S ... and did you yourself have connections with the Jews, or not at all?
- Q ... I?
- S ... yes...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... yes, also...
- Q ... yes, also...
- S ... we had to... with the Jews, we had to wait when the things were thrown out of the window, you know... and then the Jews had to sort those, to see if there were valuables in the pockets and such...
- Q ...yes...
- S ... and we had to guard them then, the Jews, you know... we had to guard them...
- Q ... and these Jews survived for a long time or not?
- S ... oh, I saw some there who were there the whole time I was there...
- Q ... I heard that the Jews of the Special Unit...
- S ... yes, when new ones arrived, then the old ones, who couldn't do it anymore, they... they didn't get any food...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... they had become so weakened...
- Q ... yes... nothing to eat?
- S ... seldom... little to eat... that's why I always tossed something into the basement... we had so much food, you know... that I even fed my ducks with that, you know... and I had so much bread and everything and then I threw it down into the basement and one of the colleagues told on me to Huefling...
- Q ... these people lived in the basement?
- S ... lived there in the basement, yes...
- Q ... in the night?
- S ... in the night, yes...
- Q ... yes...

- S ... in one room was the Forest Unit... and in the other rooms there was the House Unit...
- Q ... the Castle Unit?
- S ... in the castle, the Castle Unit, yes...
- Q ... yes, and I think that the work of the people in the Forest Unit was terrible...
- S ... that was terrible, yes...
- Q ... did you see that?
- S ... how they... how they looked when they came back in the evening... one could see them then, the Forest Unit...
- Q ... yes? Could you describe...?
- S ... chains... with chains on the legs, chained together...
- Q ... always with chains?
- S ... with chains, yes...
- Q ... why?
- S ... so they wouldn't run off...
- Q ... but were there people who ran away from Chelmno?
- S ... I think one ran away once, as far as I know... I don't know...
- Q ... one?
- S ... one, I think – I don't know...
- Q ... were you in Chelmno already when this Jew...
- S ... ran away...
- Q ... ran away?
- S ... I don't know... I can't say that at this point...
- Q ... he's still alive?
- S ... yes...
- Q ... yes... he's still alive...
- S ... it must have happened when I wasn't there anymore – when I wasn't there yet...
- Q ... yes... it was right at the beginning?
- S ... yes, for sure... that's what they always said...
- Q ... and after that, they (*the SS*) chained their legs?
- S ... chained their legs, you know...
- Q ... yes...

S ... and that's why, that's why I was always at odds with First Lieutenant Hüfling, you know... because I reprimanded a colleague, because he beat the Jews... they actually... as I said before that I had ducks, you know, and I was in love in Litzmannstadt...

Q ... yes...

S ... and then every time I went to Litzmannstadt, I took a duck for food, you know... and then when I was sleeping... I heard a lot of noise outside... it was during the day – I'd had night shift... and then I saw how the guard, a young colleague, was beating the Jews, you know... and I looked out the window of the barracks – they were wooden barracks – and I said, “why are you beating them? What is the sense of that?” I said, “You should be ashamed of yourself. If he had a pistol like you do, would you be doing that?” “Well, he ate your duck food.” I said, “Just leave him be... whether the ducks eat it or people who are hungry...” And he passed that on to First Lieutenant Hüfling... and then I had to report to Hüfling again...

Q ... yes...

S ... because I reprimanded him in the presence of Jews, this colleague... and then he couldn't stand me anymore...

Q ... yes...

S ... so there was always an animosity, which is why he had me stay in the hospital longer, you know... wouldn't give me a pass to go to Litzmannstadt, you know... all the time, he was harrasing me all the time and that got to be too much for me – then I said, “Now, you threatened me once with appearing before the Police Court, because you said I was a Jew lover (*literally: 'servant of Jews'*).”

Q ... a Jew lover?

S ... a Jew lover, that's what I was... you know, I was a Jew lover, right? That's what I said (*to him*). “So take me to the SS, that is, the Police Court, or send me back to Litzmannstadt”... “You can go to Litzmannstadt”... Then I was really glad that I...

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Q ... yes, but why did you never speak with your son about these things? You never talked...?

S ... we talked about National Socialism when we had discussions about everything, you know...he said, "Why didn't you defend yourselves against this?" you know... I couldn't explain it to him.... I couldn't make it clear to him that we couldn't protect ourselves against everything... that was impossible....

Q ... yes...

S ... you know... that's why I didn't care back then, if Hüfling had taken me to the SS Police Court... then I would have been sent out to the Probation Company; I wouldn't have had it as hard as at Kulmhof (*Chelmno*)...

Q ... yes...

S ... you know?

Q ... but why did you never talk with your son about Kulmhof?

S ... because I didn't want him to know that his father... he would have said... surely, he would have said then, "You COULD HAVE gotten out of it." He just couldn't (*imagine*), just can't ... (*turns to Frau Brand*) ... Do you understand about talking about the past?"

F (*Frau Brand*) ... I think so...

S ... yes? ... there was no way...

Q ... you were ashamed to speak with him?

S ... he would say... he would despise me...

Q ... yes...

S ... he would despise me...

Q ... nor with your wife?

S ... she mustn't... for... for... Gerda... to tell my wife... for God's sake...

Q ... and during the war, you never spoke of it with your wife?

S ... no...

Q ... she never knew that you were in Chelmno?

S ... never... never... I can't tell her that...

- Q ... but that's...
- S ... until I die, she would say to me... "murderer"... you know?
- Q ... yes...
- S ... despite the fact that I'm not one...
- Q ... but you weren't a murderer?
- S ... no, but that's what she would say...
- Q ... your wife?
- S ... yes...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... I never hurt a single person there...
- Q ... that means, you are alone with these thoughts?
- S ... and that's why I'm with Frau Brand – I can talk to Frau Brand about it...
- F ... (*laughs*) we've known each other for too long...
- Q ... yes, and you need to talk about Chelmno, or not?
- S ... where... how do you mean?
- F (*Interpreter*) ... do you sometimes want to talk about it? Do you need that?
- Q ... for you?
- S ... I often see images...
- Q ... do you dream?
- S ... at first... no, not any more... about the prisoner of war time, Russian prisoner of war time I did dream...
- Q ... about...
- S ... about that, no... no, no... about being imprisoned in Russia...
- Q ... yes, but about Chelmno?
- S ... no, not about Chelmno... here in Bremen... I dreamed about being a prisoner of war in Russia...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... I didn't (*dream about*) Chelmno anymore, not after a while... from Chelmno I went to the front after three days, I think...
- Q ... yes
- S ... and there I had no time to think about about that...
- Q ... yes, of course... of course

- Q ... yes, but let's get back to these work Jews... the so-called worker Jews of the Forest Unit...
- S ... yes...
- Q ... did you see this Forest Unit and this work?
- S ... this work, I saw once... no, twice, I think... there, in the Forest Unit... I had to (*get a message to*) somehow to Master, Master ... Lenz, I think...Lenz...
- Q ... Lenz, yes...
- S ... I had to bring something like a message to him, you know...then I went down there on a bicycle, you know... and then I saw it for the first time, how it is in the woods...
- Q ... can you describe it?
- S ... yes, there were... the outer boundary... I was there two or three times at the outer boundary...
- Q ... meaning an outer ring of guards?
- S ... guard activity... four guards at all the corners, you know...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... and on the inside were the trenches... inside were the trenches... and up there the guards were also standing, beside the trenches, in order to...
- Q ... gigantic trenches?
- S ... yes, how were those trenches... they went like this [*gestures*], I think, like this... yes, and then they were long, those trenches, you know...
- Q ... yes, and...?
- S ... yes and then... when the truck arrived then... the gas wagon, the doors were opened – the Forest Unit had to do that... and get them out of there...
- Q ... the Jews of the Forest Unit?
- S ... the Jews had to ... get them out of there, you know...
- Q ... yes, but it was a horrible...
- S ... it was even worse when I was there once... they had to get them all out of the trenches again, out of the trenches and then burned them all...
- Q ... and you saw that too?
- S ... at night when I had guard duty there... when we had to stand guard there, someone came along with a sort of... a Pole with a sort of horse and cart, and we had to climb up there with two or three of us – I don't know exactly...

- S ... and he drove us to the main street, to there, where it goes into the woods... and then we had to go in there and at that time, I had never seen them there... and (*something*) was burning – everything was lit up, you know because everything, everything was burning – there were... I don't know... three, four, five trenches... I don't know how many, you know... and lying there still were... piles of corpses... and it was cold, bitterly cold...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... and I'm thinking how cold it is, so take yourself to the trench to warm up a bit... and then I really got scared... that someone would push me in from behind into the trench, you know... and then I left that spot with the other colleagues...
- Q ... to the trenches to warm..?
- S ... to warm ourselves there because it was so cold, bitterly cold, you know...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... and then, when we had to go there the next time, to do guard duty at night... we didn't even go in there... one of the men had an alarm clock, a little alarm clock... then we went... got down from the truck into the woods... to the right were the trenches... we went in toward the left... then we lay down in the woods and set the alarm for early in the morning... I didn't want to go in there anymore...
- Q ... and the Jews worked there all night too?
- S ... no, no, no... the Jews (*went back*) in the evenings... if there was nothing more to do... they were driven back to the castle with the gas wagon...
- Q ... to the castle?
- S ... yes...
- Q ... but the trenches...
- S ... we had to guard them at night...
- Q ... yes, but the fire was going in the trenches all night?
- S ... it burned all night, yes...
- Q ... yes... and it was a big fire?
- S ... oh yes... yes... they had kindling lying there, you know... that they had thrown in there too...
- Q ... yes... and the stench?
- S ... oh... that you could smell in Wartbruecken, everywhere...
- Q ... ah yes, in... and in...

- S ... all the way to Komusch... it reeked everywhere... as I said before, you know... terrible, terrible, that stench...
- Q ... day and night?
- S ... it was day and night...
- Q ... but how...
- S ... and the sky was actually red from that, from the trenches...
- Q ... yes... how was it possible to live in this...?
- S ... well...
- Q ... inferno?
- S ... I'll tell you... finally we didn't go in there to the trenches anymore... we went to the left in the woods and lay down, you know... I didn't want to go there into the woods anymore, you know... where that was... I think we had to do guard duty there three or four times... in there...
- Q ... yes... and these Jews of the Forest Unit – they were liquidated regularly?
- S ... well, no, there were new ones too... I didn't know them so well... I saw them when they came back in the evenings or I had guard duty there, you know... there were some... some were picked out from them, regularly... they didn't get anything to eat... I assume that they lived a week or two or whatever...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... you know... I don't know...
- Q ...but I've read that it was so cold, bitterly cold for these Jews, that when the gas wagons arrived, they went into the gas wagons to get a bit of warmth from the corpses in order to...
- S ... to eat...
- Q ... not to eat... to get a bit of warmth...
- S ... I don't know... that must have been in the Forest Unit – I wasn't there, you know...
- Q ... yes... and did you talk with these people... or not at all?
- S ... never with the Forest Unit... I often talked with the House Unit...
- Q ... yes...



- S ... they were able to ... mostly they all spoke German, you know...
- Q ... yes... these people of the House Unit, were they hopeful or were they pretty hopeless?
- S ... yes... how to say it... they hoped that at some point they would be freed... they still had hope... and that kept them going, you know... that they would be free at some point, and such...
- Q ... do you know that there are still two Jews who survived Chelmno? Two of them...
- S ... only two, who survived the House Unit?
- Q ... no, of all the Jews...
- S ... oh, I don't know that anymore... I was gone then, prematurely at that... but I heard that they attacked Lenz with a knife... is it true?
- Q ... yes...
- S ... I heard that in the court case... otherwise I wouldn't know... I wasn't, I wasn't there... and when I had to go to Bonn, I was told that too, you know... Master Lenz wanted to have them shot or, or, or kill them or whatever...
- Q ... yes, yes... in the end there was a revolt...
- S ... yes, yes... I was told that... I was able to talk with them... with the other colleagues who were there...
- Q ... yes... do you understand the collective passivity of the Jews?
- S ... today I can understand it... back then, I couldn't understand it... because I myself sat behind barbed wire in the Russian POW camp... we were passive too...
- Q ... yes, back then...
- S ... back then, I couldn't understand it... now I understand it, you know... but I always had pity on them and...
- Q ... back then, you couldn't... but was it possible for the Jews to do anything?
- S ... no... there was nothing to do... that's why I was a "Jew lover"...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... because I gave them something to eat...

*No video or audio until page 42*

- Q ...but do you think there was a possibility for these people, who arrived in Chelmno, to do anything, to defend themselves?
- S ... that people should defend themselves or what do you mean?
- Q ... yes...
- S ... they were much too weak... in the ghetto they didn't get anything to eat either...
- Q ...yes... too weak...
- S ... yes...
- Q ... yes... they had no chance?
- S ... just imagine... all (*the SS*) were heavily armed... what could they (*the prisoners*) do?
- Q ...yes...
- S ... you know?
- Q ... that's true... but you wrote in your report that there were people who spat at the Germans...
- S ... I don't know about that...
- Q ... yes, you said that...
- S ... spit at?
- Q ... you said that when you stood at the entrance to the basement...
- S ... yes?
- Q ... the Jews, who were going through there, spat at the police...
- S ... I don't know about that...
- Q ... in your trial testimony...
- S ... I did?
- Q ... you said that, yes...
- S ... spat at us?
- Q ... yes...
- S ... could be – but I don't recall it now... I don't know...
- Q ... but there was a German school in Chelmno for their children?
- S ... back then?
- Q ... yes ...
- S ... I don't know... you see, I hardly saw anyone there... just the women who cleaned for us in the sleeping quarters, in the barracks and our living quarters, who cleaned... other than that, there were a few here and there...

- Q ... and these women were Polish or German?
- S ... no, they were Polish...
- Q ... Polish?
- S ... they were Poles...
- Q ... but there was a teacher... and his name was Michelsohn... have you ever heard this name?
- S ... no...
- Q ... no...
- S ... I had no idea that there was a school there... we always went... when I had time off... then I went to the nearest village... Ladao... have you heard that name perhaps?
- Q ... Lado?
- S ... Ladau... I think it was called Ladau...
- Q ... was it far from Chelmno?
- S ... well, it was maybe 3 or 4 kilometers...
- Q ... Domje?
- S ... or Domje – I don't know... I know it only as Ladau... I think it was called Ladau...
- Q ... Grabow?
- S ... no, I think it was called Ladau... I don't know... and there was a farmer, to whom I always went, you know...
- Q ... Kohu?
- S ... no, that's Wartbruecken...
- Q ... Warnbruecken...
- S ... yes, it was... now, here is Chelmno... and here the street went down... to Kohu-Warnbruecken
- Q ... yes...
- S ... and this village... it was here...
- Q ... what was its name?
- S ... I think it was called Ladau... I don't recall exactly...
- F ... it may have been a Germanized name...
- S ... yes... there was a family who had moved there from ... I don't know... the Black Sea... Germans, who got a farm there...
- Q ... yes...

Bob. 4

Q ... and there was a restaurant in Wartbruecken, called the Riga Restaurant... do you recall that?

S ... I don't know... I was never in Wartbruecken, just a couple of times in the hospital there, otherwise I was never in Wartbruecken, you know...

Q ... and do you remember when the higher-up SS arrived in Chelmno... did you see that?

S ... the SS... apparently they went there a lot to Wartbruecken...

Q ... yes...

S ... the SS supposedly went there a lot... it's said that they shot their pistols off there in the pub...

Q ... yes...

S ... I was never in there and I don't think anyone of us was there... I don't think so...

Q ... and how were your relations with the SS people?

S ... not at all, just the one who gave me a ride in his car to Litzmannstadt, you know, and... otherwise not...

Q ... and did you see the ghetto in Litzmannstadt?

S ... I rode through there with the streetcar a lot...

Q ... yes, but you were never there?

S ... no, no, not in the ghetto... there were mostly those from Litzmannstadt, auxiliary police they were... there were no regular police...

Q ... yes, and were there people from the security police?

S ... yes... we just had to guard mills... you know... and to guard the fur storage... there were a lot of winter things collected there... the fur coats and we had to guard them and so on...

Q ... fur?

S ... furs, you know...

Q ... yes...

S ... they were meant for the soldiers on the front...

Q ... yes...

- S ... and we had to guard those, you know...
- Q ... but where?
- S ...Litzmannstadt...
- Q ... but where did you stand guard?
- Q ... yes, you were in Pretsch?
- S ... Pretsch on the Elbe River, yes...
- Q ... when were you...
- S ... that was... just a moment... first I was in Schneidemuehl... 1940... '40...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... 1940...
- Q ... when were you in Schneidemuehl? Did you see how the Jews of Schneidemuehl...
- S ... no, that was 1940...
- Q ... it was 19...
- S ... then I didn't see it...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... I was in Schneidemuehl at the most... four, five weeks...
- Q ... yes... and in Pretsch... how long did you stay in Pretsch? What was in...?
- S ... in Pretsch there was a Gestapo training school...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... we were selected in Schneidemuehl... we had to stand at attention and a few gentlemen came... SS officers... we had to stand at attention and they said, "you, you, you, you and you", you know... and maybe 20 or 30 – I don't know how many... we had to come in and sitting there were more gentlemen of the SS and they asked us a lot of questions... intelligence questions...
- Q ... intelligence questions?
- S ...asked us intelligence questions, you know?
- Q ... what kind of questions?
- S ... well, I don't recall that now... I know it had to do with if a person is emotionally sound...
- Q ... yes, yes...
- S ... what the questions were, I can't remember the individual ones...
- Q ... yes...

- S ... and then we were selected and then they said, you'll go to a training school...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... you'll go to a school, will get trained... and that's how we got to Pretsch...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... and right away we saw SS people all around... there was a castle... near Torgau
- Q ... yes...
- S ... and then we were trained as border police, wore the SS uniform, with the SD letters and the emblem "Border Patrol"...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... and there we had to learn a lot and lots of classes... and for recreation, sport... you know...
- Q ... recre...?
- S ... sport...
- Q ... sport?
- S ... sport... you know... jiu jitsu, boxing and so forth, you know... I didn't like it there, but we had to go... then I had an aunt in Bremen send me a fake telegram that someone is sick here in Bremen... then I came here to Bremen, even got vacation here in Bremen...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... then I said that I had some problem with my heels... had to go to the hospital... I was thinking to myself, the training is continuing, so they'll probably send you away from the school... and when I returned there, I was put into a different class... it didn't help me at all... and then I did so poorly in my training, that they sent me away from Pretsch...
- Q ... you did so poorly?
- S ... yes... because I was thinking: you don't want to go with the Gestapo...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... so I did so poorly that I came back ...

- Q ... but Pretsch was a...?
- S ... Gestapo school...
- Q ... Gestapo school, yes...
- S ... Pretsch was a Gestapo school... it was three months maybe, I don't remember...
- Q ... yes... no, I'm asking about Pretsch because the leaders of the "Einsatzgruppe", the Operational Squads of the Security Service Police Task Force...
- S ... yes...
- Q ... in Russia...
- S ... yes...
- Q ... with Barbarossa were all in Pretsch...
- S ... in Pretsch, yes...
- Q ... yes... were there...
- S ... I don't know...
- Q ... did you see Streckenbach in Pretsch?
- S ... who?
- Q ... Streckenbach...
- S ... the name Streckenbach?
- Q ... yes...
- S ... no, I don't know... there were so many classes, you know... so many classrooms and all...
- Q ... but what exactly did you learn in Pretsch?
- S ... first there was the topic of passport matters...
- Q ... passport matters?
- S ... passport matters... at the border... and the sentence, you know... "What is justice?" (*could also be "what are rights" or "what is just"*) ... and if you know that, the correct answer to that... "Justice is that which is useful to the German "Volk" (people)"... then you'd already won...
- Q ... ah, yes... but...
- S ... passport matters ... mainly... and the whole build-up of the German Reich and the whole organization, all of these things, you know... as I said, I wasn't there for long... I went to Bremen... to the hospital and then back and then I flunked the tests... then I had to leave.
- Q ... yes, but could you just explain a bit more about your first impression of Chelmno?

S ... when we got off, got off the truck?

Q ... yes...

S ... SS and police were running around there... of course, we were curious... what's going on here? ... Then we asked "What is this?" "Hmm" they said... "you'll see what's going on here"... and that seemed odd to us already, because they didn't say anything... well, and then we had to go into the German House, stand at attention, you know... signing an oath of secrecy... so, we were told about secrecy (*classified information*)... that was an SS man back there... what was his name... I was asked that here in Bremen too at the first hearing... he had a dueling scar here on the side... SS man... SS man...

Q ... yes...

S ... and I can't remember his name...

Q ... would it have been possible not to sign?

S ... no, that would have been impossible... we didn't even know yet what was going on... so, why shouldn't I sign?

Q ... that means you signed without knowing...

S ... without knowing, yes, without knowing signed, you know... there was probably something written, you know, but who reads through all that, you know... sign right there, you know... no one could have refused that...

Q ... yes...

S ... no one could have...

Q ... yes, and after that... your first day in Kulmhof?

S ... yes, then we were assigned, you know... Forest Unit, Forest Guard and Castle Guard... I came to the Castle Guard... a few times... 3 or 4 times I was... I don't know exactly anymore... I was inside the outer boundary, had to be there...

Q ... but when did you see your first Jews? On the first day?

S ... no, I can't really say... I think we were there a few days when the first ones came... I think... I can't say exactly... often there were in-between-times when there would be none for a few days, you know...



- Q ... but you knew, that the Nazis were totally against the Jews, of course...
- S ... afterwards... when we'd been there a day or two, we talked with them, with the colleagues, who were there before us... they were from Poland, I think, they were, you know...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... they were there first...
- Q ... yes, Gestapo Pomeranians...
- S ... from Pomerania they were... no, not... they were poli... police...
- Q ... ah, police...
- S ... you know, and they told us that then, you know... we had signed, it was all clear, you know...
- Q ... yes... and according to your estimate, how many people were killed in Chelmno?
- S ... I can't say about that...
- Q ... but many?
- S ... many, it was a lot, you know... in one day, I think there came... yes, I can't say for sure, I really don't know... once there were 3 trucks with trailers... then again, only one would come, you know... that was...
- Q ... but there were a lot of Jews in this whole area of Chelmno?
- S ... Jews?
- Q ... yes... there were many Jews in the Wartegau?
- S ... yes? Were there any living there? I don't know.
- Q ... in Litzmannstadt... in all the small villages...
- S ... yes, but there weren't any left during our time, I think... I don't know...
- Q ... yes... and you never saw an incident of resistance?
- S ... never saw it... never... not at all... once we said... we were standing the two of us as guards... a nurse was walking up and down a few days in a row, and they reported that to the SS man, the head of the camp or whatever. And I think they checked out this nurse because they thought she was a spy or something... but I don't know what became of that, you know...

- Q ... have you heard this story? I heard it in Chelmno... the doors of one of the gas wagons wasn't closed tightly and when the truck drove from Chelmno to the woods, the doors opened on the street and all the corpses fell onto the street?
- S ... don't know... no...
- Q ... you didn't...
- S ... we were asked also at the trial, whether the children's... if ever a children's transport arrived... from Czechoslovakia...
- Q ... Leditsche?
- S ... yes... I was asked that during the trial hearing... so I said, "I don't know, I never saw that"; when that might have been... it was about Whitsun, it must have been... but I was in the hospital then in Wartbrücken and that's when they must have arrived there, you know... and then the judge at the trial looked up over the files and he said, yes... that I was in the hospital, you know...
- Q ... and did you also see little children?
- S ... well, I don't know that either... that I don't know either... I did hear... that the Poles said that they... how things... the Poles were in the room when the Jews went into the gas wagons... and then the Poles were in the room with them, you know... and the House Unit had to throw the things out of the window... and then they found small children among them, after the parents, the mother or father had hidden their child under these things...
- Q ... ah, hidden, yes... and what happened to the children?
- S ... that I don't know... that I don't know... whether they sent them with the next gas wagon or... I don't know that at all, you know...
- Q ... probably not... it was impossible to do anything else... terrible experiences?

- S ... excuse me?
- Q ... I said “terrible experiences”...
- S ... yes...
- Q ... and during your time in Chelmno... the church was open or not?
- F ... was the church open or not at that time?
- S ... it was closed, I think – I never went inside... in the church...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... but I heard later that they stored things there too...
- Q ... yes, yes...
- S ... I heard that later, but otherwise, I never went to church...
- Q ... in '45, the Jews were put into the church...
- S ... that's what they said in the hearing, they said that then...
- Q ... yes... were you in the Sawadki Mill?
- S ... Mill?
- Q ... yes...
- S ... in, in Chelmno?...Chelmno?
- Q ... near Chelmno in Sawadki...
- S ... no, I don't know of it...
- Q ... it was a mill in which the Jews were waiting...
- S ... no, that must have been later when I was gone already – I don't know about that... I don't know about that...
- Q ... but that means you stayed in Chelmno the whole year...or not?
- S ... as of '42...
- Q ... no, were you in Chelmno the whole year of '42?
- S ... no, I arrived there only late in the winter of '42/43...
- Q ... no, no, you arrived in '41/42...
- S ... '41...'41/'42... and whether I (*was there*) the whole year '42...?
- Q ... yes...
- S ... no... that's when I was in the hospital with typhus and...

- Q ... how did you (*get*) this typhus...?
- S ... from lice...
- Q ... yes, from lice...
- S ... from lice...
- Q ... there were a lot of lice?
- S ... lots of lice...
- Q ... but the Germans had lice too?
- S ... well, the Jews... they had a lot – we were always disinfected...
- Q ... you were always disinfected?
- S ... yes, we had to... we wore only these overalls and then we were sprayed with a hose, disinfected... and one colleague, a German too, but I don't know his... he left too... he got this liquid in his eyes during the disinfection process... he left during this time too... I left...
- Q ... yes... but the Jews had lice...
- S ... the Jews had lice...
- Q ... of course...
- S ... we had to stand there when their things were being sorted... and then they threw them, you know, behind the castle, where the things... there were mountains of things... and that's when we got the fleas and lice, you know...
- Q ... yes, and was there a lot of money in Chelmno?
- S ... yes... they (*the SS*) were always bringing baskets over there, you know... to the garrison headquarters...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... do you mean, what was taken from them (*the Jews*)?
- Q ... yes...
- S ... they always brought a lot over to there...
- Q ... and there was business... a black market?
- S ... what... a black market?
- Q ... among the Poles, the Germans...
- S ... yes, the SS they could have everything made in the workshop – there was a shoemaker workshop in the basement... and a tailor workshop... the gentlemen of the SS could have boots made for themselves, you know... have clothes made and we weren't even allowed in there to have a button sewn on down there...

Q ... yes, but it was a very special assignment to stay in Chelmno... did you get more money or liquor or...?

S ... we got liquor...

Q ... yes?

S ... we got liquor...

Q ... why?

S ... money too, I think... they didn't tell us why... mainly, it was...

Q ... more liquor than the usual?

S ... more liquor than the usual...

#### Bob. 5

Q ... how many people were in Chelmno... SS and police in total?

S ... I can't say how many...

Q ... but approximately...

S ... I can't say that either...

Q ... a hundred, two hundred?

S ... I can't say for sure... no, it wasn't two hundred... I don't think so... I can't say...

Q ... yes...

S ... I can't... I don't even know with how many we arrived there from Litzmannstadt... and before that there were some from Pomerania, you know... when we arrived there...

Q ... yes...

S ... I honestly don't know...

Q ... and amongst you – the people from the police – did you talk about the secrets of Chelmno or not?

- S ... we often said, “We really got into a fine pickle here, didn’t we?” you know... you couldn’t talk with just anybody about it... some of them thought it was alright – something like this, you know... but not for everyone, you know...
- Q ... did you see the film “Holocaust”?
- S ... I saw it, yes...
- Q ... and what did you think?
- S ... I thought about that, yes...
- Q ... it was true... it was the truth... or was it?
- S ... it was the truth, yes...
- Q ... yes, but I think the truth was much worse...
- S ... it was a bit worse... the truth was worse...
- Q ... in your opinion, is it possible to describe Chelmno... to describe it exactly?
- F ... is it possible today, so to speak, to give a description of Chelmno as it was?
- S ... how? The whole story with all that there was?
- F ... yes, well, in a way that it’s possible to visualize it... whether it’s possible to describe it?
- S ... it can be described... but then again, not...
- Q ... but not?
- S ... but not...
- S ... no, it’s not... you can’t (*do so*) at this point...
- Q ... why?
- S ... it’s already painful for me that everything is being brought up again here...
- Q ... that’s painful?
- S ... yes...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... what one saw then....
- Q ... I’m very grateful...
- S ... you know... what one saw there... otherwise I wouldn’t have tried to get away from there... and I made it, you know... that I got out of there...
- Q ... but do you think that only the SS, only the Nazis were guilty for this whole thing... or were there other people?
- S ... how do you mean? That all those in the whole operation were guilty?
- Q ... yes...

- S ... yes, I talked about that with the SS man with whom I often drove to Litzmannstadt while we were driving... he (*told*) me... I said to him, I said... "Mr..." ... I can't remember his name... so, I said to him, "What's going on here, isn't that horrible?" "Yes", he said, "It's the order from Berlin... and we have to obey it." He was really nice (*could also be "decent" or humane*)...
- Q ... yes, and what's your opinion now? Do you still believe that an order is always an order?
- S ... no, not now...
- Q ... but back then?
- S ... there's no such thing anymore... an order... with that obedience... that doesn't exist anymore...
- Q ... blind obedience...
- S ... back then, yes...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... back then we had to...
- Q ... you had learned that?
- S ... yes...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... you know... otherwise he (*Hüfling*) wouldn't have threatened me with "I'll take you to the SS and Police Court... just as (*for being*) a Jew lover... what would they have done with me... I don't know...
- Q ... Jews...?
- S ... you know... just because I gave them something to eat... and because I... reprimanded that colleagues there because they were beating the Jews... was that a criminal act of mine, when I did that?
- Q ... yes, Jew lover, that's such a... was it dangerous?
- S ... yes, I didn't care anymore... whoever sent me to the SS and Police Court or in Litzmannstadt... and I got the luck of the draw in that I got back to Litzmannstadt...
- Q ... yes...

- Q ... do you recognize these...?
- S ... yes, you said that, that it's Laabs [*a man in a photo*]
- Q ... do you think it's Laabs... no...
- S ... I don't know... you said so...
- Q ... no, no, no... no, no... Laabs is this one... this is Laabs... that's Kretschmer...
- S ... yes, but very thin...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... and that is Laabs... is he still alive?
- Q ... I think so... I think so... and he was a gas wagon driver...
- S ... gas wagon driver, yes...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... and... do you know, the impression I always had... I thought about it... that the gentlemen of the SS... they took on different names...
- Q ... different names?
- S ... yes...
- Q ... what do you mean?
- S ... that back then they had different names, that is, if the war isn't won... if it were lost... that they would resurface under their actual name... do you understand?
- Q ... oh, do you think so?
- S ... yes, I have that sense of it... indeed...
- Q ... I don't think so...
- S ... what?
- Q ... no, that's the first time I've heard that...
- S ... how? I don't know – but I'm assuming...
- Q ... yes, but I think...
- S ... don't you think... I don't know...
- Q ... you don't know... and this face... do you remember it?
- S ... don't know...
- Q ... this was Bottmann, the chief...
- S ... Bottmann, yes... I remember... he was a big one...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... is he still alive?
- Q ... a really big one...
- S ... yes...



- Q ... no, no, no, no... he died in... hmmm...
- S ... now, because I heard the name Bottmann... he wasn't there from the beginning when I was there... Bottmann came later...
- Q ... yes... maybe...
- S ... Bottmann came later... first there was a... a little one... I don't remember his name... he had a dueling scar here on his cheek... I was asked about that too during my first hearing... whether he's still alive... I said, then I'll give you this information... he must have come from North Germany somewhere; he spoke a North German dialect, the one from the SS who ran the camp there...
- Q ... and these?
- S ... who is that? Now what was his name?
- Q ... this one... I don't know... but were all these people... all these people monsters?
- S ... the name, "Monster"?
- Q ... no, if they were monsters, if they were brutal monsters?
- S ... oh... no... about one of them I could say that I was disappointed... there was one from Saxony... he was always friendly to the House Unit and to the Jews – like a father...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... in the process of the trial in Bonn, I learned...
- Q ... I think it was Bormeister...
- S ... Bormeister... no, that was one of the police...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... you know... an in the process of the trial – what the others told me... that was supposedly the biggest monster after Hi... Hi-Hi...
- Q ...Höferle...
- S ... Höferle...

Q ... Höferle, Alois...

S ... I don't know – Höferle... at first he was, when I was there, he was friendly – like a father... with the Jews...

Q ... yes, but what does that mean, like a father? ... because he...

S ... nice and friendly...

Q ... he gassed the Jews too...

S ... yes... he was friendly – that is, with the House Unit, for the House Unit...

Q ... yes...

S ... and later, in the process of the trial, I heard... that he, since you were just saying, monster...

Q ... yes...

S ... that he was a monster...

Q ... yes, but the people of the House Unit had chains on them too?

S ... also...

Q ... also...

S ... chains too – that's him – they were beaten up so, when they took my duck food, you know... they could hardly walk...

Q ... but how did they walk... these people with chains?

S ... with little steps...

Q ... little steps...

S ... hmmm...

Q ... terrible, no?

S ... yes.... and with a lock hanging from them and the Poles had the keys, you know... the 5 Poles, they had the keys for those...

Q ... ah yes... the 5 Poles had the keys for that... and these Poles were Poles from Chelmno?

S ... I don't know where they were from... in the process of the trial I heard too, that those were criminals and that the Germans got them out of the prison and promised them that they would get German citizenship after the war and would become Germans, you know... that's what... that's what I heard in the process of the trial...

- Q ... yes...
- S ... if that's true, I don't know...
- Q ... yes... and these people... the SS and so on and the people of the Guard Unit and so on, they drank a lot?
- S ... I can't say... in the woods they drank a lot, you know... but otherwise I don't know... I always took mine with me, my bottle, I had...
- Q ... what was the relation with women? I read that this Bottmann, for instance...
- S ... yes...
- Q ... had orgies with women...
- S ... orgies?
- Q ... yes...
- S ... there, in Chelmno?
- Q ... yes...
- S ... I don't know... I do know that they drove to Wartbrücken... they had a restaurant/bar there, as you said...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... I don't know...
- Q ... in Wartbrücken-Kohu?
- S ... Wartbrücken-Kohu, and that this First Lieutenant Hüfling, who was my boss, that he was a good friend of Nurse Lilia in the hospital...
- Q ... ah yes... Nurse Lilia?
- S ... yes, and it was he who gave the order that I was NOT to be released before Christmas, you know... and the Polish doctor who was there told me, "You could go, but Nurse Lilia got the order from First Lieutenant Hüfling not to let you go"... where they live... that nurse there... and after Christmas I was released...
- Q ... yes, and did you know another man? He was a German forester... and his name was Mai, a very good man...
- F ... Heinrich Mai – a German forester...
- Q ... a forester...

S ... the Pole...?

Q ... no, no... a German...

S ... the Pole was a forester... the one Pole, a big one... he was always smoking this long pole pipe... a long pipe, you know... a Pole...

Q ... yes...

S ... a Pole, that was the Pole there, an older one...

Q ... no, he was a German...

S ... a German... no, I don't know...

Q ... you don't know...

S ... I don't know...

*conversation with Interpreter*

Q ... thank you very much, Frau Brand... It's a terrible story, isn't it?

FB ... yes...

Q ... yes...

FB ... really terrible...

Q ... I hope it wasn't too painful for you...

S ... what do you mean?

F (*Int.*) ... he hopes that it wasn't too painful for you...

S ... painful for me?

F ... yes, because you said earlier, "It's painful for me to talk about it"...

S ... that everything is coming up again, stirred up...

Q ... yes...

S ... I talk about it with Frau Brand, for I was saying, when it comes up... now, especially with the film "Holocaust", that's when we talked about it...

Q ... yes?

S ... then Frau Brand asked if it really was like that, you know...

Q ... yes, it was like that... What is your son's occupation?

S ... he's with the Customs Office...

Q ... Customs... where, in Hamburg?

S ... yes, he's at...

*Video only, no audio to end at 2:18:25*

ADDENDUM - This is a transcript of the audio recording that belongs between pages 10 and 11 of the original transcript. The audio was not originally transcribed by Lanzmann and his team.

- Q ... the people were killed in the gas wagons with what?
- S ... with exhaust gas...
- Q ... exhaust gas...
- S ... then you could hear... then there was... he said... then one of the Poles called "Gas" and the driver of the truck went under the truck and screwed on the hose, which was to take the gas into the room... into the truck...
- Q ... yes, with what?
- S ... from the motor...
- Q ... from the motor but with what, with a...
- S ... with a hose... I saw how he crept under the truck, you know... and screwed something on, and how and what, I don't know...
- Q ... but there was only exhaust gas...
- S ...only exhaust gas...
- Q ... and these people, who...where were they, who were the drivers?
- S ... they were SS people...
- Q ... SS people...
- S ... all of them were SS people, they were all SS people who did that, you know...
- Q ... but were there many of them, these drivers?
- S ... I don't know how many there were...
- Q ... were there 2, 3, 5, 10?
- S ... no, there weren't that many... 2 or 3, I don't know exactly... I think there were only 2 trucks... a bigger one and a smaller one, I think... I can't really say...
- Q ... the chauffeur went into the truck, into the cabin?
- S ... Frau Uwe (*greets her*)... yes, then he went into his cabin, you know, when the doors at the back were closed and turned on the motor, you know...
- Q ... yes but, did he give full gas or just a little?
- S ... that I don't know... that I don't know...
- Q ... but, for instance, did you hear the noise of the motor?
- S ... you could hear that, you could hear that to the door, when the motor was running, you know...
- Q ... it was a loud noise or not?
- S ... as if a motor of a truck was running, you know...
- Q ... and the truck stayed on the spot?
- S ... yes, it stayed there, or...
- Q ... yes...
- S ... and then when we were at the gate, when it drove out, you know, then we had to open the gates at the front, then he drove out and to the woods...
- Q ... but the people were dead by then?
- S ... that I don't know... it was quiet... you couldn't hear anything anymore...
- Q ... yes, couldn't hear anything anymore...
- S ... when they drove by us, you couldn't hear anything anymore...
- Q ... and how long... did it take to (*kill*) people...