

Moses (Moshe) Lazerowitz

1908 Sosnowiec – 2000 Brooklyn



His testimony, in English

USC Shoah Foundation interview no. 27036 · Brooklyn, New York · 12 March 1997 ·
in Yiddish

About this translation. Moses gave his testimony in Yiddish. In October 2026 the six tapes were machine-transcribed on the family's own computer and the rough text was then translated into English, tape by tape. Timestamps in the margin match the video, so any passage can be checked against his own words. Stretches the machine could not hear are marked *[unclear]*, and uncertain readings carry a (?); nothing has been filled in by guesswork. The names and birth dates of living family members are withheld. This is a family working translation, not an official one; the video is the authoritative record. The interview itself is © USC Shoah Foundation.

Tape 1

Note: translated from a Whisper transcript that rendered the Yiddish interview as rough German. Names are approximate. Repetition loops have been collapsed and garbled stretches are marked [unclear]. Question marks in parentheses flag uncertain readings. The subtitle credit at 00:00 and the closing line at 29:28 are transcription artifacts, not speech.

00:30 Interviewer (in English): I'm conducting an interview with Moshe Lazerowitz. My name is Judy Sukenik. This interview is being conducted in Brooklyn, New York, in the United States of America, and the language is Yiddish. Today is March 12, 1997.

01:00 Interviewer: Good morning.

Good morning.

Interviewer: What is your name?

Moshe Lazerowitz.

Interviewer: And how is it spelled?

M-O-S-H-E L-A-Z-E-R-O-W-I-T-Z.

01:23 Interviewer: And what was your name when you were born?

It is the same name.

Interviewer: And how was it written then, Lazerowitz?

[unclear] It is written the same.

01:39 Interviewer: And when were you born?

On the 3rd of July, 1908.

Interviewer: And where were you born?

Sosnowiec. S-O-S-N-O...

01:59 Interviewer: What was Sosnowiec like?

Sosnowiec was right near Katowice, a ten-minute ride to Katowice.

Interviewer: And which country?

[unclear; transcribed "Zobelangte"].

02:20 Interviewer: And what was your father's name?

Aharon Shmuel, Aharon Shmuel.

Interviewer: What was your mother's name?

Sura.

02:35 Interviewer: You had brothers and sisters?

Yes, a sister and brothers, yes, brothers and a sister.

Interviewer: Who was the oldest child?

The oldest was called Jentl (?) [unclear].

Interviewer: I mean your sisters and your brothers.

Ah, my sister. My sister was called Esther. And my brother was called Yerachmiel.

03:06 Interviewer: And were you the oldest or the youngest?

I am the youngest. They are the older ones. Esther, Yerachmiel, Kalman Shlomo (two names), and me.

03:24 Interviewer: And was the home also religious (frum)?

Yes, also [unclear].

03:31 Interviewer: Tell us about your father. How did he make a living?

[unclear; mentions "a long bread" and that he had no time]. I still have a lot [unclear] that I learned.

03:59 Interviewer: And what was his trade?

He was in trade. He also dealt with us in goods, in ingredients (?). That means [unclear].

04:17 Interviewer: And your mother?

My mother took care of absolutely everything.

Interviewer: Did she work with your father, or was she at home?

No, she was a housewife.

04:30 My mother [unclear]. My father then had a second wife. My mother was 34 years old when she died.

Interviewer: How old were you?

I was the youngest. [unclear] after one year.

04:53 Interviewer: And how did you go to school?

05:19 Interviewer: And where did you pray?

In the shtibl (small Hasidic prayer room), yes. It was called the Prämislaner (?) shtibl. The shtibl was in the courtyard.

05:38 Interviewer: Were you there [unclear]?

They were there. Most of them were there. I had peace there (?).

05:47 Interviewer: How often did your father go to shul (synagogue)?

Every day.

Interviewer: Did you go with him? And on Shabbos?

06:13 Shabbos [unclear].

06:15 Interviewer: What were the customs at your home?

Strict. I still keep them here. Friday evening (fraytik farnakht) I set the table. [unclear; something about lighting the candles, done only beforehand]. [unclear] I did not want to [unclear] any more. [A repetition loop in the transcript, about 07:10 to 07:36, is collapsed here as unclear.]

07:38 The children [unclear] in school. [unclear]

07:45 Interviewer: What did you eat on Shabbos?

[unclear; repetition loop].

08:02 Interviewer: And did you have guests on Shabbos?

Yes. People from towns and other towns who came through and had no place to stay. [unclear] We took in guests (orchim). We had only two rooms and then a kitchen, no more, that was all. Afterwards a bed was set up for them [unclear]. [unclear; something about shirts]. It was a cheerful life.

09:04 Interviewer: How did your mother look on Shabbos, when she lit the candles for Shabbos?

She prayed and waited [unclear] that the children should be healthy, that the children should grow up to be good people, good Jews.

09:39 That was me. I learned. Later, my mother died.

09:59 Interviewer: How old were you when your mother died?

I was already ten years old.

Interviewer: What happened?

Typhus, the typhus epidemic. [unclear] It was during the World War. [unclear] I was standing by her bed. And a doctor came [unclear]. [unclear] She is gone from the world. We children, where could we go, we cried. Sad, sad.

10:56 Interviewer: And did your father remarry?

Yes, three years later.

Interviewer: And whom did he marry?

[unclear; the stepmother's name and background are garbled, transcribed "Marco Zinkes"]. She was a girl, about 28 (?). [unclear]

11:30 Interviewer: How many more children were born?

I have six more siblings. Altogether we were ten children. Six children were born [to the second marriage].

11:48 Interviewer: Do you remember the names of all the children?

Two of us survived (?). Lazer, Hendel, a third, Hendel (?), Rivke, Ditz (?), [unclear]. Yes, those are the names.

12:14 Interviewer: And what happened to the four who did not [survive]?

With Hitler.

12:24 Interviewer: What do you remember of when you were a small child, as a playmate?

I didn't play much, because I was in the hills (?). [unclear; something about fruit and water]. My mother was gone from the world, and I knew it was a great loss. I couldn't get used to it. Others forgot. Three, four, five years later they played. I didn't play either. It lay on my heart that my mother no longer lived.

13:26 Interviewer: And was your stepmother good to you?

Not especially.

13:44 Interviewer: Did you study in yeshiva, or in cheder (religious school)?

Yes, [unclear]. During the week I was out in a village. [unclear] And afterwards my mother's brothers brought me there, to the countryside. There was a big place, about 100 trees with fruit, apples, pears, and flowers. And there was no shortage of food.

14:35 Interviewer: And how did you spend your time?

[unclear] I can still say a few things about my past. [unclear] I was with my brothers. [unclear; mentions three girls and a name transcribed "Blumf" (?). [15:30] [unclear; mentions "the Rebbe" (?)].

15:54 Interviewer: Were you in the army?

Yes.

Interviewer: How long were you in the army?

[unclear] 1931, 1932.

16:41 Interviewer: What did you do in the army?

I learned to handle a rifle. But I was used to the artillery; it was called a "Büchsenwehr" (heavy gun). I learned to shoot. [unclear; mentions the Russians and the Germans].

17:12 Interviewer: And how far did you rise in the army? What was your rank?

The rank was, I had about two stripes. It was called kapral (corporal). [unclear] I had the Polish uniform, with the same stripes. I was in the [unclear; transcribed "Kabbalah", possibly the barracks] in Sazohi (?).

17:44 Interviewer: What did you do about Shabbos when you were in the army?

I did not get money; money was sent to me [from home]. [unclear] I said, "I am thankful that today I am in the kitchen." [unclear] How long can one live like that? [unclear]

18:29 Interviewer: And after the army?

[unclear; repetition loop about eating].

18:52 Interviewer: After you were in the army, what was your occupation?

We sold mostly ladies' coats, ladies' coats with labels, children's things, small sizes and larger sizes.

Interviewer: Did you have a store?

Yes, an open store.

Interviewer: And what was the business called?

The word was "Konfektion" (ready-to-wear), men's and women's.

19:52 Interviewer: Did you have a radio at home?

A radio, [unclear]. I believe there was a radio.

20:02 Interviewer: And what did you know at that time about the Nazis?

[unclear] Later, when the Nazis came, then life [changed].

Interviewer: But what did you hear about other countries, where things were happening? What did you know?

We lived right at the German border. The whole area across from us was German, it was called the German Reich, the Third Reich. [unclear] [21:01] [unclear; mentions 1943].

21:18 People wanted to get out of the country, to go to another place. When one understood what was coming, it was very bad. People tried to run away. It is hard to run away. [unclear] A big city with a large population, about 20,000 or 26,000 Jews (?). The region was called Zagłębie. [He compares it to Ohio, like Cincinnati, Ohio.] The province was called the Kielce voivodeship. That was the whole region.

22:33 Interviewer: How did life become different for you? What happened to you at the beginning of the war?

What happened to me? [unclear] There was the Jewish community council (Kultusgemeinde), which mediated between the Gestapo and the Jews. [Its head] was called Moshe Merin. [unclear] I kept away from it [unclear]. He was the Eldest of the Jews for the whole region. [unclear]

24:00 Interviewer: Were you in business with your father, together?

No, not my father. My father was no longer alive. He died in, if I remember, [he first says] '47, '48, when I was a DP (displaced person).

Interviewer: '48, '47, '37?

'37, yes, 1937.

24:38 Interviewer: Where did it happen?

At home, suddenly (?) [unclear].

24:44 Interviewer: [unclear question]. Do you remember it?

Yes. [unclear] I did not see my father when he died. And I laid out on a table the tallis (prayer shawl) with the kittel (white burial robe). [unclear] I was with my older brother and another brother. He lay in the third room, the middle room, where we lived. The brothers came in. [unclear] I was terribly upset [unclear]. I went out [unclear], I sat and [unclear], and I moved in together with my brothers.

26:16 Interviewer: Were your brothers married?

Married, yes, Yerachmiel.

26:43 I was together with the brothers [unclear].

26:54 At night I woke up. I read something, the newspapers. [He names the Yiddish dailies] the Haynt and the Moment, the Jewish newspapers. [unclear] I sat in the autumn with the shutters and the window [closed]; I did not open the window. [unclear] My sister [unclear], my father [unclear], my brother [unclear]. [28:02] [unclear; mentions the tallis and kittel again].

28:28 [End of tape.]

Tape 2

Note: translated from a Whisper transcript that rendered the Yiddish interview as rough German. Names are approximate. Repetition loops have been collapsed and garbled stretches are marked [unclear]. Question marks in parentheses flag uncertain readings. The closing lines at 29:01 and 29:31 are transcription artifacts, not speech. "Gevelb" is the Yiddish word for a shop or store.

00:30 And what happened then: there was an order that I had to report. I didn't trust it, and I did not report. I got myself [unclear] another way. I did not report. I greased a few palms with money. Then the money ran out. [unclear]

01:04 And then we sent [unclear], and he still did not report. And then we took [unclear] and went with my brother. [unclear] And then I slipped away with my mother (?) [unclear]. I was still a single man. My brother had a wife with two children. I said, "I can't do anything about that now." [unclear]

01:36 I went on alone. There on the stairway I hid. [unclear] My brother [unclear]. [unclear] There was a [unclear]. They searched the room where my brother was, in a secret room. [unclear] The room was quiet. That is where they searched for me.

02:20 Interviewer: What years were these?

I think 1942, and 1942 and 1943.

02:40 Interviewer: When did the Nazis come to Sosnowiec?

[19]39, September. I [unclear], and on Monday they were already there.

Interviewer: And in which year was that?

[19]39 (transcribed "30").

03:02 Interviewer: OK, what happened?

It was the Reich, yes. [unclear; repetition loop].

03:36 We were in a gevelb (shop); we had a bed in the shop, and they [unclear]. We had a table, [unclear], a large room, a shop. We had two more rooms and a large shop.

04:05 I don't know how long I slept, but the shooting woke me. When I got up I was feverish (?). And I saw the swastikas, on motorcycles, on [unclear], and they were shooting. [unclear] I went into the second room. There was a big wall there that protected me [unclear]. [A repetition loop in the transcript, about 04:59 to 05:50, is collapsed here as unclear.]

05:54 And we ran between two rows of Germans, Germans on this side, Germans on that side. They beat us with rifle butts. So we came to a place there; the square was called Schäensplatz (?). [unclear] A German had a large [unclear]. [unclear] A big house. No water, no light. Frightened. [unclear]

06:47 "Yes, one has to do it, what can we do." [unclear] Then someone out there asked which people had shot at the German military. Nobody could say. "We will take one out of every ten people, and they will be shot."

07:09 [unclear] I was standing against the wall, and facing us [were soldiers] with rifles, with machine guns. We had to hold our hands [up] (?). Then an officer came by, a higher officer, a German officer. He asked, "What kind of people are these?" "These people shot at the German military." "Which ones shot?" "That we don't know." [unclear] "Too much" (?). [unclear]

08:01 [unclear] The people had shops, the people had workshops. [unclear] I went home and was let go (?). I hadn't believed that such a thing could happen. [unclear] I became like an animal and cried my way through it. [unclear]

08:56 Interviewer: The night it happened, where did you go?

The night it happened [unclear]. I left. I went away to the shtetl (small town) where [unclear] lived. I had [unclear] acquaintances there. [unclear; repetition loop].

10:07 Interviewer: And did you go there for a day?

Yes. [unclear] I needed to make a bit of money. I bought [unclear; transcribed "Renten"], the Germans took [unclear]. And I sold them. [unclear; something about someone who was cleaning]. [unclear] I had no shop [any more]. [unclear] I sold goods at home [unclear], through acquaintances [unclear].

11:50 Interviewer: You said you had a friend at that time. What was his name, the name of the friend?

I was with Auerbach (transcribed "Orbach"/"Urbach"). [unclear]

12:25 Interviewer: How many people were there?

[unclear] 830 people (?).

12:35 [unclear; something about wood, a ladder, and climbing up behind; "dangerous"].

13:23 Interviewer: What happened to your brothers and your sister?

My brothers and my sisters [unclear]. [unclear] They no longer live.

13:49 Interviewer: And did the Nazis come to the store, did they find you there?

I thought [unclear], and they came knocking, knocking and knocking, and I did not answer. [unclear] They shouted, the Germans, "Open up, open up!" And I did not say that here is a store, here is a shop. And they went away. [unclear] There was no toilet in the shop.

14:37 Interviewer: And did they find you?

We, no.

14:47 Interviewer: And what did you have to eat?

[unclear] Bread with water.

15:03 Interviewer: And when were you sent into the ghetto?

The ghetto, they sent us, whether it was '42 or '43.

Interviewer: How was it done, where did it happen? In Sosnowiec?

Yes, and they sent [us] out to the ghetto. [unclear] There were certain privileges, certain privileges, for certain people. If you worked in a "shop" (German workshop) [unclear], tables, tables [unclear]. And my sisters also wrote that they worked in a shop, a tailoring shop. [unclear] I needed help to get into the tailoring shop.

16:09 Interviewer: So, what was the ghetto?

The ghetto was Środula.

Interviewer: And did you work in the ghetto?

No.

Interviewer: What did you do all day?

What could I do all day? [unclear]

16:51 Interviewer: How many people lived together in one room in the ghetto?

[unclear]

17:04 Interviewer: Who was with you then?

Who was with me? My brother [unclear], my sister. [unclear] For God's sake, the family [unclear]. They had another room there. [unclear]

17:40 Interviewer: What about beds?

The beds I took out. The beds were from home, which were sent into the ghetto, to Środula (?). [unclear]

17:57 Interviewer: And what did you have to eat?

They gave a small ration, what they gave us, a small ration, very little. [unclear] I always had a little piece of bread. And there was a radish; you know what a radish is. You put the radish on the bread, sometimes with margarine, not butter. You sliced the radish with a grater (?), with a little salt, and ate it, and imagined that it was meat. [unclear] That is how it was eaten. I think there was a bit of cabbage too.

19:01 Interviewer: Did the Jews come together to daven (pray)?

Three times [a day], mostly with a minyan (prayer quorum). On Yom Kippur we were also together.

Interviewer: Fasting?

On every Yom Kippur, yes, yes.

19:21 Interviewer: Did the children learn? Was there a school for the children?

No.

Interviewer: Was there a Judenrat (Jewish council) in your ghetto?

Yes.

19:36 Interviewer: Was there a Chevra Kadisha (burial society)?

Yes, but [unclear]. [unclear] We wanted [unclear]; that they allowed. [unclear]

19:57 Interviewer: Did many people die? From what?

Mostly from hunger.

20:05 Interviewer: Did you become sick?

No. I still had strength. [unclear] Some strength still remained with me. [unclear]

20:58 People lived about 50, 50 to 20 [in one place] (?). [unclear; something about a wet shirt and a warm shirt, followed by a repetition loop].

21:54 [unclear; something about needing shoes and about children].

22:21 And my sister [unclear]. She organized for us a bread of one kilo and 60 [grams] (?) [unclear]. I always cut it into little pieces [unclear], because I was very hungry. Not only hungry; I kept myself alive, but [unclear] I was still hungry. [unclear]

23:13 Interviewer: But when you were in the Środula ghetto, where did you get food? Did you go out of the ghetto?

The Germans handed out rations, small rations, yes.

23:29 Interviewer: And what did you do all day?

[unclear] We got together with friends, we sat [unclear], what could one do?

23:46 Interviewer: How long were you in the ghetto, and where did you go after that?

After that I went to a place [unclear], they sent us to Ober-Lazisk (Łaziska Górne; transcribed "Oberladiesco"). Yes, Ober-Lazisk, there I lived [unclear].

24:01 Interviewer: What did you do there?

There I worked on an electric line (?) [transcribed "elektrische Sperre"]. I carried boards on my shoulder. [unclear] "The dirty Jews." [unclear] You had to keep holding the boards on your shoulder, otherwise they broke. [unclear]

24:33 [unclear] I also [unclear]. And I brought bread along, also spread [unclear], two loaves baked at home (?). [unclear] I had about 500 marks, so I had money, paper money, and I gave some of it out. [unclear] I also gave food to [unclear], to about three people.

25:38 Interviewer: In Ober-Lazisk, how many hours did you work?

[unclear] Eight hours, nine hours (?). [unclear] I didn't [unclear] day or night [unclear]. [unclear]

26:11 Interviewer: Did you have a number there?

A number, yes.

Interviewer: Where did you get it? On your hand?

Interviewer: You got [a number] later in Auschwitz, but you were also given a number in Ober-Lazisk?

I had the number 44155 (transcribed "44, 155"). It was 44155.

26:31 [unclear] I can't really express it, but I managed to stay alive and survive. [unclear] I always imagined [unclear] they were giving out fresh numbers [unclear].

27:01 [unclear]

27:31 Interviewer: How long were you in Ober-Lazisk?

[unclear; transcribed "one year, ten years"].

27:38 Interviewer: How did you sleep then?

There were bunks, two tiers. [unclear] I was in the middle [unclear]. [unclear]

28:31 [The camp name is repeated:] Ober-Lazisk, it is called (transcribed "Oberložisko").

28:47 Interviewer: Okay. We want to stop now; we will continue on the next tape.

Tape 3

Translated from a Whisper transcript that rendered the Yiddish interview as rough German. Square brackets mark translator notes; [unclear] marks stretches that cannot be decoded; (?) marks uncertain readings. Repetition loops in the machine text have been collapsed to one instance. The "Vertraue und glaube..." lines at the end of the tape are a transcription artifact, not speech, and are omitted.

00:00 [Tape 3, Moshe Lazerowitz.]

00:30 ...packed in. Onto trucks, under tarpaulins.

Interviewer: What do you mean?

A vehicle, a bigger vehicle [unclear]. They put me in there under the tarpaulins and drove us until we arrived.

Interviewer: Were you sitting or standing?

Standing.

00:57 Interviewer: How many people?

I don't know how many. [unclear] Packed in like herring.

Interviewer: Not comfortable?

No, there was no comfort at all.

01:11 Interviewer: You were taken to Auschwitz?

Yes.

Interviewer: What do you remember of Auschwitz?

[unclear] I looked at the people [unclear]. [unclear] I could not walk straight, I was frozen. I stopped and looked up: "Arbeit macht frei" (Work makes you free). I looked up: Auschwitz, camp Auschwitz, Arbeit macht frei.

01:53 [unclear] They gave us nothing to eat and nothing to drink, nothing at all to drink. Then they packed us into various rooms with stone [floors]. I was packed into a room with other people. I had no place, and I lay with my head on the stone.

02:48 [Garbled stretch. He seems to describe standing and seeing something rising "right up to the sky" (?); otherwise unclear.] Then they gave us a chemical [treatment] (?). [unclear]

03:14 In the morning they got us up, took us through a washroom, we washed and were dressed.

03:36 Interviewer: Was there a selection?

Yes.

Interviewer: What do you remember?

They took the stronger ones and the weaker ones. The weaker ones were sent away. [unclear] There was a young man there, a little [unclear]. [unclear]

04:08 He said to me: "How old are you?" I had the pictures of my father and my mother with me, kept hidden, and I had decided that if I ever got out again [unclear]. "How old?" he asked me. [His answer is unclear; the transcript has "about 20 years".] [unclear]

04:46 [Partly unclear:] In the morning the young ones [unclear], and the older ones [unclear]: "No, I am not old, I am still young." [unclear] I never saw [him] again.

05:06 Interviewer: Do you still have the pictures?

What?

Interviewer: Do you have the pictures?

The pictures of my father and my mother, which I had with me.

Interviewer: You have the pictures?

Yes. [unclear] My mother had nothing. That is all that remained to me.

05:28 [Interviewer, aside, partly unclear: something about the pictures he had with him in Auschwitz.]

05:41 Interviewer: Were you also given a number in Auschwitz?

Yes. 180... 183, that was me. [The full number is unclear; "183" is repeated and "14" is also said.] [unclear]

06:23 Interviewer: What did you wear in Auschwitz? What were the clothes?

Striped clothes, striped, white with [blue] (?). [unclear: something about paper.]

06:42 Interviewer: Who was with you in the barracks in Auschwitz?

People I knew well were there together with me. There was an Auerbach there.

Interviewer: The same Auerbach you mentioned before?

Yes, yes. He was with me, and [unclear].

07:05 Interviewer: And what work did you do in Auschwitz?

[No clear answer.]

Interviewer: And did they give food?

Yes, they gave food. [unclear] Mostly people died [of hunger?] (?).

07:49 Interviewer: Did you see people die?

Yes, yes. [unclear] So many, so many dead. They laid them in piles, heads on one side, feet on the other. [unclear] the crematorium. I saw it. They pushed them in and burned them in the crematorium. I was there, I saw it.

Interviewer: You saw it?

[unclear]

Interviewer: Were they mostly buried?

No, burned.

08:38 Interviewer: And how did you sleep?

In Auschwitz there were three tiers, seven people [on each].

Interviewer: Made of what?

Of wood. I mostly slept on the top [tier] (?). Behind me was an old man [unclear], and a younger one behind him. We were three tiers. [unclear: something about dirt and people.]

Interviewer: And how many people slept on each level?

Seven people.

09:29 Interviewer: Did you see any well-known personality in Auschwitz?

Yes, I was together with the Klausenburger [Rebbe]. But that was later, when they sent the Klausenburger from Hungary, at the end of '43 or '44 [as transcribed].

Interviewer: Was that in Auschwitz?

We lived together in the camp, not in Auschwitz.

Interviewer: That was later?

Later.

10:06 Interviewer: Did you ever see Mengele? What did he look like?

A rasha (a wicked man) (?) [unclear]. His ponem (face) [unclear]. A person, a person's face shows what he is; the wickedness came through on his face. [unclear] I did not see more.

10:44 Interviewer: Where were you when you saw him?

I saw him, I walked past, he sorted me.

Interviewer: Did he say anything to you?

No, he sorted, right and left.

11:04 [Partly unclear:] They had enough [people], but a working man like that you don't send [to his death]. Working men were needed [unclear], to load, with the Poles, with the Germans at the front, [against] the Russians. So with working men like that, a bit better. [unclear] That was also the reason. A few people [unclear].

11:38 Interviewer: Were people beaten in Auschwitz?

Yes.

Interviewer: Who?

[unclear; followed by a long repetition loop in the machine transcript.]

12:31 In his block they handed out blankets: 50 people, 50 blankets. And he [the block elder?] claimed that there were more [unclear] over the night. They called a roll call because he got [the wrong number of] blankets back. Again a roll call [unclear]. [The next passage, 12:52 to 13:22, is garbled: he speaks to himself about whom to stand with and not saying a word.]

13:27 They searched in the yard. Ten were still [missing] (?). [unclear] The "Krabbers" (?), the bandit German criminals [unclear].

13:47 I helped him, but I did not know him. I had to take him to the washroom and give him compresses, cold-water compresses. I helped him; I did not know him.

14:16 [unclear: mentions a prayer and possibly a Bavarian town.]

14:41 Interviewer [to someone]: He says he had his tefillin (phylacteries) with him (?).

Interviewer: How? He had tefillin?

[Partly unclear:] Once I went early in the morning, with the tefillin [unclear].

15:01 Interviewer: And were you in Auschwitz at Rosh Hashanah, at Yom Kippur? What do you remember? What did people do?

Yes, I worked on Yom Kippur. Yes, I worked on Yom Kippur. They worked, and they said [unclear]. [unclear] And at night [unclear] "the most important" [unclear]. Then I said I had big shoes [unclear]. [Garbled loop.] It was hard [unclear].

16:30 [unclear: he says he thought it was a few years.]

16:48 Interviewer: What did you think? What did you think?

17:05 [A reflection, partly unclear:] One must carry on [unclear]. One lives in the world, one has hands, one has feet [unclear]. Ruchniyus (spirituality) [unclear], holiness. Don't confuse it with the body (the "kerper"); that takes a bit of understanding. The body is [unclear], but that is not the neshome (soul). The body may eat, may drink [unclear], but the soul does not need that. That is spirit. The Jewish people live by spirit, not by [unclear]. I said, I am [unclear] of the Jewish people, I have to tell you.

18:07 Interviewer: You were in Auschwitz a short time, then?

Yes, yes.

Interviewer: Where did you go?

From Auschwitz, [unclear].

Interviewer: Do you remember, were you there after the uprising, after the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto?

18:57 Yes, because I remember a Jew there, a Pilserwitz (?) [unclear], a friend from [unclear]. Another Jew [unclear], a Jew with a family, Pilserwitz (?), I still remember him. I asked him [unclear]. [The passage 19:26 to 19:44 is unclear: something about healthy people not being sent somewhere, and not being allowed to do hard work.]

19:47 Then we traveled and traveled, and at one point the train stopped and we heard Polish. I looked out through an opening in the wagon: "Ta stacja, tu jest..." "This station, this is Warsaw, this is Warsaw."

20:07 And in the morning the SS came, with [unclear], with whips, with blows: "Raus, raus!" (Out, out!) [unclear] It was a ghetto. I think there were barracks there.

20:48 I thought it was about work. [unclear] The workers there [unclear], through the uprising, where they had lived: Jews had made an uprising, and [the Germans] burned the houses. The Jews fought, a huge fight, [unclear]. [Partly unclear:] They shot back; they fought to the last.

21:31 Interviewer: What work did they have you do there, in the Warsaw ghetto?

Interviewer: Were there burned houses?

[Partly unclear:] One kind of work was digging (?); another kind was pulling down [walls] with ropes (?). [unclear] The SS [unclear], so that they would not be sent to the front. The camp commander was somewhat different [unclear]. That was the whole thing.

22:29 There was a very big pit. [unclear] And they always [unclear] packed [unclear] into the pits. I don't know [unclear]. Some of them said that they had asked Berlin [unclear]. [unclear] Then I made a pit, [unclear] threw in [unclear].

Interviewer: Did they throw Jews in there?

No, [unclear]. Berlin did not answer [unclear]. [unclear]

23:30 We were in a camp, in a camp. The first ones [unclear] were always shot and burned. Then there was a Jew whose name was "Krott" (?). I was over [the group]; I was a Vormann (foreman). A Vormann means the head [of a work group]. He was sick, and I took him to the Krankenrevier (camp infirmary) so that it would not be seen [unclear]. At the time when people were being shot [unclear]. His name was Kraft (?) [unclear].

24:32 Interviewer: Were you in the Warsaw ghetto for a Yom Tov (holiday)?

Yom Tov, yes, I was there for Yom Tov.

Interviewer: Were you there at Pesach (Passover)?

Yes, but there it was all [unclear]. It was not so [unclear]. A bit later I was together with the Klausenburger Rebbe.

Interviewer: In the Warsaw ghetto? What do you remember of the Klausenburger Rebbe?

I remember, yes, I saw him. I know he had been in Hungary, the Klausenburger Rebbe. [Garbled, 25:18 to 25:32: something about no longer needing to [fear] Hitler (?).]

25:41 Interviewer: Did you talk with the Rebbe?

Yes.

Interviewer: About what? What did you talk about?

The whole thing. I asked him [unclear]. [unclear] people [unclear]. I said, [we need] help (?). [unclear] It did not come to pass (?).

26:12 Interviewer: And what do you remember of Pesach in the Warsaw ghetto? What did you eat?

[No clear answer.]

27:02 Interviewer: Pesach?

[Partly unclear:] I kept [count of the days] (?). On the building site, at Pesach, [unclear]; I knew everything one has to do, since I am strictly religious. [unclear]

27:31 [unclear] "My yeshue, my ezra" (my salvation, my help) (?), you said. [unclear] The kitchen came [unclear]. He saw a shirt. He wanted to sell his shirt. [unclear] I couldn't take money, but I wanted to sell [unclear]. I could not eat.

28:27 And then [unclear], I still had boiled eggs, I still had [unclear], and I still had boiled potatoes, in their peels. [unclear]

28:52 Interviewer: Okay, we are going to end the tape now.

Tape 4

Translated from a Whisper transcript that rendered the Yiddish interview as rough German. Square brackets mark translator notes; [unclear] marks stretches that cannot be decoded; (?) marks uncertain readings. Repetition loops in the machine text have been collapsed to one instance. The "Vertraue und glaube..." line at the end of the tape is a transcription artifact, not speech, and is omitted.

00:00 [He had been talking about the potatoes and the eggs at Pesach (Passover).]

00:30 Later I said: "Now [is the time] to act." [unclear] "Today he has such thoughts, tomorrow other thoughts." "But still [unclear], why shouldn't I eat?" [unclear] "I did not eat, good."

00:58 At night that also had to be organized. At night, before Pesach, they [unclear].

Interviewer: From whom?

It was packed in. They got flour from a goy (non-Jew). They made it in [unclear]. [unclear] two days. [unclear]

01:26 [Largely unclear:] [Someone asked,] "Who knows [unclear]?" I knew. [unclear] In the afternoons I [unclear]. [unclear: a passage about milk; "I thought, I drank milk."] And at night, again and again [unclear].

02:22 And in the morning, early. In the morning I was no longer at the building site. I went [unclear]; I noticed a shirt (?) [unclear]. I came back and [found] the potatoes. I had the potatoes. I ate them.

Interviewer: Did you hold the second Seder? With the potatoes?

No. [unclear] I had the first [one] (?).

03:09 But I had to take more with me, for the others. I had to keep something for Pesach. In the end they had eight days of Pesach, exactly, [or] seven days of Pesach.

Interviewer: There, in the camp?

03:26 [Largely unclear: something about his assigned block, people in a block in the second row, and the SS.]

03:59 Interviewer: What [unclear] at the Seder? What was done, what did you see? Symbolically, what was done? What do you remember?

[Repetition loop in the transcript.]

04:32 [Largely unclear:] They had [unclear] Chabad. [unclear] "Chochme" (wisdom) (?). [unclear]

04:59 Interviewer: Were there tishes (gatherings at a Hasidic rebbe's table) in the ghetto?

There were certain tishes in the ghetto. In the ghetto, yes, certainly. [unclear] I think [I took part], at least. [unclear] I had a little salt, which I ate. I got no food.

05:28 Interviewer: And when did you leave the Warsaw ghetto? Was it in summer or in winter?

I think that [unclear], from the Warsaw ghetto, [unclear] from February [unclear], March, yes.

Interviewer: Which March?

In the middle [unclear]. [The dates in this exchange are garbled in the transcript.]

05:58 Interviewer: How did you go? How did you go?

The first day, I am free now, I went [unclear].

Interviewer: No, I mean when you left Warsaw.

[Partly unclear:] I was among the last (?). [unclear] As the second, as the third [unclear], I had to go on the march on foot.

06:26 Interviewer: Do you call it a death march?

A death march, yes, a death march too.

Interviewer: Why? Why were you taken out of the Warsaw ghetto then?

Interviewer: Did you go on foot?

[unclear]

Interviewer: How long did it take?

[unclear] It snowed (?) [unclear], and [we went] through the fields. [unclear] The death rate on the way was very high. People were weak, but I could hold out. [unclear]

07:32 Interviewer: How did you sleep?

On the ground.

Interviewer: Outdoors?

Yes.

07:42 [Partly unclear:] I hope it was the last. The first death march, that is. [unclear] I think they said they were going to Dachau. That was the last [unclear].

08:22 Interviewer: You went on two death marches, I think? Do you remember when the first time was and when the second time was?

The second time, my way [led] [unclear] in the direction of Dachau. The second time, I don't remember exactly.

08:42 Interviewer: And then you were in Dachau?

Yes.

Interviewer: For a short time?

A short time. In Dachau there were political prisoners, goyim (non-Jews). We came into Dachau, and in Dachau we were better off. [unclear: possibly a mention of the Red Cross.] In Dachau we had a camp, a political camp, mixed with [people from all over] the world, a mix of different countries. [unclear] Better food, better [conditions].

09:32 Then they sent us off to small camps. [unclear] One camp was called Kaufering, also in Bavaria; one camp was called Landsberg. A camp with various sub-camps: Lager 7, Lager 11.

09:54 Interviewer: What work?

[Partly unclear:] Some had to dig, [unclear]. Once they set up a machine; with the machine they [unclear] boards (?), and they built [unclear]. [unclear]

10:27 Interviewer: And on the second death march, where were you when you were freed?
In Bavaria.

Interviewer: Where?

Germany, southern Germany, near Munich. There I was together with the Klausenburger Rebbe.

10:55 Interviewer: And where were you?

[Partly unclear:] From Kaufering in Bavaria, we were [in the] Landsberg [camps]. Landsberg had sub-camps: Lager 4, Lager 7, Lager 11. We were in those camps, and they sent us through [unclear].

11:21 Interviewer: Where were you when the liberation came?

Befreiung (liberation). I was there only a few days. I was in "Buchburg" (?).

Interviewer: What is it called?

In Germany, a German part of Bavaria.

Interviewer: But was it in a field, in the mountains, in a field?

[unclear] "Geigeidig" (?). [unclear]

12:01 Interviewer: Where did it happen, how was the liberation?

At the liberation I walked and walked [unclear]. Then [unclear] the vehicles [unclear]. I lay down in the cold [unclear]. I slept. [unclear] I had in mind to [unclear] the front. [unclear]

12:57 I remember that I went out early in the morning. [unclear] I came to a church; I saw [unclear] from the camp. I went in there. It was [cold?] (?). It was the end of April. [unclear] I fell asleep. How long I slept, I don't know.

13:32 [Largely garbled: he sees someone, mentions "father" and possibly the name "Moshe" (?), and gets up.] [unclear]

14:07 I see a [unclear] man [unclear]. He said to me: [unclear] "I want to eat, I am going home, I am going home to eat." [unclear] I said: "Good." [unclear] I sat there. [unclear]

14:42 Then I came [unclear]. I was in the town, in Wolfratshausen. [unclear] because the Americans were there. I lay down [unclear]. They gave us [unclear] and we ate it. It was a bit burnt. [unclear] we ate it for a week.

15:26 [unclear: something about English and an apparatus in the American army.]

15:43 Interviewer: What was the day of liberation?

Which day? The first of May.

Interviewer: Which year?

[The transcript has "über 40"; the year is unclear in the machine text.]

15:52 Interviewer: And where did it happen?

[Partly unclear:] The liberation [unclear]; everyone had to [unclear], the Germans [unclear], [we took] beds, bedding and [clothing] (?). And we received parcels: everyone got a Red Cross parcel [unclear]. [unclear] There were various things: [unclear] to cook, meat, [unclear], cake.

16:44 And I always said that I could not eat. [unclear] After years [in the camps] one could not eat [unclear]. I was [responsible for] a few Jews in my group (?). [unclear] milk [unclear].

17:12 Interviewer: Did you go back home?

What?

Interviewer: Did you go back home?

Yes, home?

Interviewer: How did you travel to Poland?

I went in and right away went back.

Interviewer: Did you go to Sosnowiec?

Sosnowiec, yes, but not really home.

Interviewer: What happened with your home?

[Partly unclear:] I knew what they had done [unclear]. It was a [unclear] place; [unclear] could stay the night there [unclear], [unclear] would not find.

Interviewer: In your house?

Not in our house.

Interviewer: Who lived there?

Goyim (non-Jews).

Interviewer: Did you try to go in?

[unclear; followed by a repetition loop in the transcript.]

18:45 Interviewer: How did you go?

I was not sad (?). [unclear] In a building there called "Kerltaxen" (?) [unclear]. Where I had lived [unclear]. I stood there and thought and thought. [unclear: something about his mother.] I [met] acquaintances. Then I traveled on [unclear]. [unclear: "Badenburg" (?), "Scheinbeunig" (?).] [unclear] And then I ate.

19:52 Interviewer: And the Polish goyim? What did they say when Jews came back? [unclear]
Friendly, very friendly. [unclear]

Interviewer: What did the Poles do?

[No clear answer.]

20:29 Interviewer: Were you in a DP camp?

Yes.

Interviewer: Where?

[unclear]

Interviewer: And how long were you there?

A long time. I also found my sister, also [my] brothers, also a cousin. I found the cousin; she is well.

21:03 Interviewer: And what happened to the brothers? The older brothers?

The older brother, "Manu" (?), perished.

Interviewer: And his children?

Yes, with the children too. A sister, Esther, perished. A brother, Yerachmiel, perished with his children, with the whole family. A brother, Kalman (?), with two children, [unclear], perished. [unclear] None of them survived.

Interviewer: And what happened to the stepmother?

She perished too.

Interviewer: And her children? The other four?

[No clear answer.]

21:37 Interviewer: And when did you marry?

1947.

Interviewer: And where?

Germany, Bayreuth. The city is called Bayreuth. She had worked for me.

Interviewer: Who?

She came [to work for me] when she was 15 years old.

Interviewer: What was her name then?

Olszewski. At home she was called Olszewski. [unclear] 15. She had finished school, with good marks. She had good handwriting. She had a head for learning. [unclear]

22:45 [Partly unclear:] Then I met her [again], as someone who had known her. And I said: "You're here, you're alive." "[unclear] very glad." [unclear] I am a bit older. She said to me [unclear].

23:09 For about three weeks I [searched] (?); three times [unclear], no one was alive. I was in Poland; I [left] everything behind. What was waiting for me there? [unclear] I had a lumber yard; I dealt in wood. [unclear] But as it was, it was a camp. [unclear] I was not long [unclear]; I got an illness [unclear]. [unclear] she was away from the world [unclear], and the children did not hear [unclear].

23:58 Interviewer: Where did you have the wedding?

I had the wedding in Germany.

Interviewer: Where in Germany?

The wedding was held in Bayreuth.

Interviewer: And what kind of wedding was it?

[unclear] I had music.

Interviewer: Who was there?

[unclear] I had an acquaintance named Hilsenrat. [unclear]

24:31 I always helped the family. [unclear] My family traded in textiles [unclear], wholesale (?) [unclear]. I was looking for a room and met my wife. She had worked for me. [unclear]

25:11 [Partly unclear:] That is how the whole thing was. I knew that I [unclear]. I also traded [unclear] here.

Interviewer: All in Munich?

In Munich.

Interviewer: Where did you live with your wife?

[unclear]

Interviewer: We are talking now about when you married.

I married. I lived in Bayreuth [unclear].

Interviewer: And how long did you live there?

[unclear]

Interviewer: What is his name?

[Answer not captured.]

Interviewer: And when was he born?

He was born on 10 July 1948.

26:00 Interviewer: And how long did you stay there? In Munich?

[unclear] Germany.

26:17 Interviewer: When did you come to America?

I came to America at the end of June, at the beginning of '50 [as transcribed].

Interviewer: How was it?

[unclear]

Interviewer: Where did you live in America?

I lived in Cincinnati and here.

26:41 Interviewer: And did you have children in Cincinnati?

My children were born in Cincinnati. My daughter [name unclear] was born there in Cincinnati.
[unclear]

27:03 Interviewer: Where did you work?

[unclear]

Interviewer: Where did you work in Cincinnati? What trade did you work in?

[Repetition loop; possibly "I always worked in a shop" (?).] [unclear]

27:51 [Largely unclear: mentions trays (?) and confections (?), possibly baked goods.] I did the other [work]; on the machine [unclear]. [unclear] for 10 or 15 years.

28:31 Interviewer: When did you come to New York?

[unclear]

Interviewer: Okay, we will stop now. Thank you.

Tape 5

Translated from a Whisper machine transcript that rendered the Yiddish interview as rough German. Names are approximate; (?) marks uncertain readings; [unclear] marks garbled stretches. Repetition loops have been collapsed. Living family members are referred to only generically.

00:00 Interviewer: What work did you do in Brooklyn?

00:06 I always worked. In Cincinnati I was in a partnership. I was also in the stock market. I learned to buy utilities; I could not [unclear]. We bought for two or three thousand dollars, because someone knew a broker, a well-known man, and we bought on his word. We made a living, enough for what we needed. We worked a whole week.

00:51 [Unclear; mentions "the Yankees" and "the games", a big (?) interest.] There too we had a few thousand dollars. We put together a little money, made savings, [unclear about the children]. So, to make it short, after that we came here, home.

01:21 Interviewer: I want to ask you: you are a strong believer (a *baal emunah*). How did you keep your faith?

01:30 I held on to faith [unclear]. The faith held me; the faith held me. Without it no person can live (?). It was very hard to keep the holy spirit (?) in dealing with the world, with the Jewish people, with [unclear]. That is what held me.

02:00 It is a godliness, but not a godliness that is merely smeared on, with the hands, with the feet, with the head, or out in the air. That is not livable, that is not holy; that comes only from fantasy. True godliness, that is what kept me alive.

02:22 I had no tallis (?) [unclear]. I still believed (?) [unclear] that I would come through with my life. Mama is with me, Tate (father) is with me. [The transcript then loops on "I believed" / "I grounded myself"; unclear.]

02:51 Police, German police. I ran up the stairs, I ran up the stairs, but the stairs vanished under me; I was already on my feet (?). [Unclear passage about a pit or a bigger pit ("Griebe"), and something that helped him a little.] That brought me through; I went through three (?) years with it. I was hunted (?) [unclear].

03:38 Various things. I received many things from people who speak of chemistry, of what is scientific [unclear]. This is something else, not material, only spirit. The spirit is more than the strength of the hands, more than human [unclear]. And that is what I held on to.

04:10 Interviewer: Do you have a message you want to pass on to us?

04:14 What do I pass on? The message is that you should judge what the world is: the world is against us alone (?). That is the message, and that is what I held on to.

04:30 People say certain things: "Well, reason, reason is strong." But even in his time the Rambam did not explain everything [unclear]. The Rambam [unclear] according to [unclear], because he gladly had much reason. With [unclear] one can have much wisdom (*chochmah*), because things really can be explained with wisdom. But certain things you cannot do with wisdom alone [unclear]. With me it was the same, because I know how I stayed alive.

05:19 I once had a great conversation (?): my sister Este spoke with me, my brother Rachmiel spoke with me, together with my wife, a certain [unclear]. They said: "I saw the child [unclear]." "I sent [word] whether Moshe is grown (?) [unclear]." "I [unclear], because I used to bring a [unclear]." "I am invited at the child (?)." [Largely unclear.]

05:47 Interviewer: What is it?

05:58 [Unclear: "even which world has (?) ... here".]

06:04 Interviewer: Do you ever ask questions (*kashes*) [of God]?

06:06 What?

06:07 Interviewer: Do you ever ask questions?

06:10 There is no answer to it; one does not know. There is no Jewish answer (?); one does not know. I think about it [unclear], but it was strong. One asks about the land, one asks about [unclear], one asks about [unclear]. And I said: when one sees that many are brought to chemistry (science), of various kinds, through paper, with various [unclear]... In that time one still believes in the Lord God, but one can hardly always understand.

06:43 They say that a person belongs to his territory. You live there, you become used to it. In Christian territory, everyone creates his own culture. The greatest people are great in spirit. They said one must not [unclear], but I do not have the culture of the gentiles (?).

07:10 Interviewer: Thank you very much. Now we would like to see your pictures.

07:15 Photograph 1. On the right side of this picture, that is me. In the middle is my sister, a sister, and her husband; it is a second marriage.

07:36 Interviewer: What is her name?

07:38 Ruchu (Ruzhka).

07:40 The third is a brother (?), from the stepmother.

07:49 Interviewer: And what is his name?

07:51 Lazer ("Elese").

07:53 Next to them is my cousin, his daughter; she is called Ruchke (?). [Unclear repetition of "Ruche" / "Ruschke".] And there on the left is my cousin, my brother's daughter; she is called Hinde Reisel. She has the same name as my daughter.

08:17 Interviewer: And when was this picture taken?

08:20 In "1904" [sic; clearly a mis-hearing].

08:22 Interviewer: Where?

08:23 In Bayreuth, Germany.

08:25 Photograph 2. Moshe Lazerowitz (?) [unclear].

08:32 Interviewer: Who is this?

08:34 Moshe, here. This here is me.

08:36 Interviewer: When was this picture taken?

08:38 "1940", "1904" [sic; date unclear].

08:40 Interviewer: And where?

08:42 Bayreuth, Germany.

08:49 Photograph 3. [Unclear: "these are the packages (?)", "Mavro (?)".]

08:57 Interviewer: When was this picture taken?

08:59 1945.

09:15 Photograph 4. Interviewer: Who is here?

09:45 Yes, a friend, and this one, this is the woman who is called Czapelska. Czapelska is the name from home; that is my cousin, she lives near [unclear].

10:10 Interviewer: Is she still living now? [Unclear.]

10:14 Well, her name is Hinde, Hinde Reisel she is called. The same name as my daughter.

10:21 And this is my brother Lazer. [Unclear: "he is a Dugeweg (?)".] And my sister Ruzhka, Ruchu. And this is my wife's brother (?), he is called Alter Yechiel (?) ("Aute Chil").

10:36 Interviewer: When was it taken?

10:38 [Unclear.]

10:39 Interviewer: Where was it?

10:40 In Germany.

10:43 Photograph 5. This is the same picture as before, on the right side, I think; I know it from the right side. [Unclear.]

10:57 This is my wife, Regina ("Sabrina"), [daughter of (?)] Mendel Olszewski ("Olchewski").

11:13 [Unclear: "I have no [unclear]. I only have something to see. I have only a few [unclear]."]

11:38 Interviewer: When was the picture taken?

11:43 In Bayreuth, after liberation, 1945, in Bayreuth, Germany.

11:52 Photograph 6. [Unclear.] This is a picture of the family (?) ("Assymache", possibly *mishpokhe*). Members [of the family]. That is all. This was taken with the family (?).

12:15 Photograph 7. Here.

12:22 Here is [unclear] a wife. Who is standing now? There is Hinde Reisel; next to her (?) Susanna (?); next to her Ruche; next to her "Stäume" (?); then Aharon Shmuel (?) ("Arme Schmiel"). [The repeated word "weg" may mean "gone" or "next"; unclear.] I don't think I remember what [the name] is. Aharon Shmuel (?), and then I am [unclear].

13:14 Interviewer: Who is standing next to you?

13:22 [Unclear.] That is his daughter. No, that is the other side, the left. [Unclear.] [Unclear repetition.]

13:42 [Unclear.] I mean... Rachmiel [unclear], as he was called.

14:03 Interviewer: Whose is that?

14:05 Yes.

14:06 That is the boy who was not [unclear] in the earlier picture (?). Yes.

14:22 Photograph 8 [later family photograph]. On the right is my son Jack ("Yankev"), with his wife [name withheld]. [Unclear.] It was hard [unclear].

14:46 Photograph 9 [later family photograph]. It is the same [unclear]. This is [a daughter] with her husband. [Their children, names withheld: the eldest daughter and other grandchildren.] [Unclear: "here, in ..., small, younger, ... the school".] That is all.

15:33 Interviewer: Whose is this? Whose daughter?

15:39 On my side; she is the daughter [unclear]. There is [a grandchild], my grandchild, and these are the children [unclear]. That is important, yes.

16:05 Interviewer: Whose daughter is [the grandchild]?

16:07 [Unclear], a daughter.

16:12 Interviewer: Is it your daughter [name withheld]?

16:14 Yes.

16:15 I don't know what they are called.

16:19 Interviewer: Whose children are they? Whose grandchildren? [A daughter]'s grandchildren?

16:27 My daughter's grandchildren. These are my great-grandchildren.

16:31 Yes. I think she is called [unclear].

16:37 Photograph 10. This is Aharon Shmuel Lazerowitz [his father].

16:45 Interviewer: When was the picture taken?

16:51 1937.

16:53 Interviewer: How did you get it?

16:56 [Unclear, repeated.] My sister, my friend (?), there in the ghetto (?) where I lived. [Unclear.] I don't think he knows. When one [paid] money, we got the picture. [Unclear.]

17:26 Interviewer: He found it?

17:28 [Unclear.] I thought I had lost the picture [unclear]. I saw that [unclear], that is how I [unclear].

17:42 Photograph 11. This is my late mother, of blessed memory, Sura, Sura, with the [unclear].

18:00 [Unclear.]

18:05 Interviewer: When was this picture taken?

18:09 The picture was taken long ago. My mother [unclear]. My mother passed away in 1918. I was a child, only a few years old [sic].

18:28 Interviewer: And how did you get it?

18:43 I thought of my sister. I went [unclear] and said: "Look, maybe you can find pictures." I found a small picture. I am glad that I have this picture [unclear]. I had a chance: I took the small picture and had it made into the large picture. Because I wanted to have [pictures of] my father and my mother.

19:14 Interviewer: Were the two pictures taken at the same time?

19:18 No, not at the same time. That was her; Mama had already passed away by then.

19:25 Interviewer: And the picture of your father is from later?

19:28 The picture of my father is from 1937.

19:30 Interviewer: But the pictures, the pictures are from later, the father's picture?

19:36 No, I find the time is 1937. He had it made [unclear]. In those days they said one had to have a passport. In Poland everyone had to [have one]. So he got one, and one went around with such a passport with the photograph; it was called an identification. I was not photographed alone (?) [unclear]. Afterwards [unclear], and he too had to be photographed alone.

20:06 I made it from a small picture, but I made the large picture of my father. My mother too, from a small picture. I put them together, so that [people] know who I am. I cannot have my father and my mother, but I live with them. They live, I say; they are with me.

20:28 Interviewer: What do you say? What is this?

20:35 Photograph 12. The ketubah, the ketubah. The ketubah of the family Lazerowitz, [unclear] Sura Rivka (?) ("Soorifke"), [unclear] Rabbi Yankev (?).

20:45 Interviewer: And who officiated at the wedding (*mesader kiddushin*)?

20:48 Rabbi Leiserowski.

20:50 Interviewer: And where was it?

20:52 Munich, Germany.

20:53 Interviewer: In what year?

20:55 [Unclear] "40" [the ketubah is the 1947 Munich ketubah].

20:58 Interviewer: Yes, thank you.

21:05 Interviewer: Mr. Lazerowitz, can you introduce your family, please?

21:09 So, I will introduce [them].

21:12 Interviewer: Your family, your wife?

21:15 My wife, her name: Sura Rivka at home; [unclear: her name now]. Olszewski ("Holtschewski") at home.

21:28 Interviewer: Is she also a survivor?

21:31 Also a survivor.

21:35 [My] brother was also in the camps. [Unclear.]

Interviewer: What is his name?

Lazer. Lazer, at "Weisbüttel" (?).

Interviewer: The children?

Jack ("Yankev"). [A daughter, name withheld.] She is in [unclear]. No, that is Jack. Yes, Jack. [He was born] in Germany, in Bayreuth, B-a-y-r-e-u-t-h, on 20 July 1948.

22:20 [Two daughters, born in Cincinnati; dates withheld for privacy.]

22:46 That is all of them: three children. And now grandchildren too.

22:57 Lazer Lazerowitz: My name is Lazer Lazerowitz; I am the brother of Moshe Lazerowitz. We went through the troubles together, in the ghetto until 1943, and then we were separated. They took him away around March 1943, into the camps. And two weeks later they took me away. So after 1943 I know [only] that [unclear].

23:25 Lazer Lazerowitz: But while we were in the ghetto, we went through the troubles together. We had to organize; what one got to eat was very, very little. The ration card one got [was not enough], so we worked, we worked, we saw how we could earn. On the black market there were a few [unclear]; one could get a piece of bread or a few potatoes.

23:55 Lazer Lazerowitz: In those days there was also this: I (?) still had children, smaller than you. There were still four children. And he took on [the care of] a new life, because we saw to it that we had enough to eat and that we would not be taken away.

24:15 Lazer Lazerowitz: People thought, people did not know; they thought he had stayed behind, that he would not be discovered. He hid in the business, in the store, in a kind of bunker; he held

out there. Once they came at night to take me away to the camp; [unclear], he freed me. They opened the windows, and [unclear], the thieves (?) came to take me away.

24:44 Lazer Lazerowitz: And various other things: what people talked about, what people planned, how it was with life. In 1942 they gathered all the Jews in a stadium, and there they made a selection. A small part they let go home, and the largest part they sent away to Auschwitz.

25:10 Lazer Lazerowitz: [Unclear; the transcript loops on "that was a whole child".] I hid (?) with my sister, but [unclear], that is a story, that is another story. I stayed alive. I jumped from a roof and got out. At the last minute; if not, I would not be here today. I got out.

25:42 Lazer Lazerowitz: Thank you very much. I cannot go on.

25:58 Thank you. [Unclear: "You have done, God, ... to listen".]

26:09 Jack Lazerowitz [in English]: Okay, I'm Jack Lazerowitz, and I was born in Germany, and then we were brought to Cincinnati by HIAS. I guess HIAS sent us there. Living in Cincinnati: actually, about two weeks after we came to Cincinnati, I think, my sister [name withheld] was born there. My parents didn't want to be in Germany even a minute longer, so they made sure they came even while my mother was pregnant. But during... go ahead.

26:52 [Another family member]: That's why they flew over by plane, instead of coming by ship, because my mother was in her ninth month.

26:57 Jack Lazerowitz: Right, so they wanted to make sure they were not on German territory. We are very, very proud of him: all during the war, for his family and for other people, he helped everybody. He saved a lot of lives. He was helpful and instrumental in helping family and friends get through the war, in a religious way. He stayed religious during the war.

27:29 Jack Lazerowitz: Coming to Cincinnati, which actually was not a religious area, we all still stayed religious, totally Orthodox. We all had to go away to yeshivas, and we all did go away to yeshivas, and we all turned out to be Orthodox Jewish people with Orthodox Jewish families. Hopefully our parents are very proud of us, and I'm proud of us. And if anybody wants to say anything else...

28:25 [A daughter, in Yiddish]: We knew what a Jew is, what self-sacrifice (*mesiras nefesh*) is. Through [our father's (?)] self-sacrifice, so many people were helped. [Unclear] proud with Yiddishkeit, with the faith (*emunah*) that helped; God helped their lives. And [unclear] Jewish families, and in [unclear] that you gave us: the greatest faith, the greatest strength (*chizuk*), the greatest [unclear].

28:59 [A daughter]: And I want to thank you, Tati, that you took me at twelve years old and sent me away to learn in Beis Yaakov, because you knew that we are the true future of the Jewish people. We want to raise Jewish [families]. And you sent us away so that we would raise truly Jewish [families]. Thank you.

29:40 [No further speech. The repeated line in the transcript from here to the end of the tape is a machine-transcription artifact, not speech.]

Tape 6

This short tape holds the closing statements of Moses Lazerowitz's children, mostly in English, partly in Yiddish (transcribed by machine as rough German). Living family members are referred to only generically. (?) marks uncertain readings; [unclear] marks garbled stretches; repetition loops have been collapsed.

00:00 [A daughter, in English]: I would also like to continue to say, as my sister and brother said, that we were sent away at a very young age, and how difficult it was, after everything that they both went through, for them to send us away. My parents had a lot of *mesiras nefesh* (self-sacrifice) throughout the war, and after the war, to send us all away from home at a very young age: thirteen for myself, my sister was twelve, my brother was, I think, thirteen or fourteen.

00:49 [A daughter]: We all went away to Beis Yaakovs and yeshivas. We were sent by train, fourteen, eighteen hours by train, to Baltimore, Maryland, to Beis Yaakov. To put young children on a train, after having gone through what they went through, the transports and all of that, and having those memories of people being shipped away: it took a lot for these two people to send their children away on trains, on buses or whatever, and to see them going, even though it was for yeshivas. It took a lot, to keep up their Yiddishkeit. I think this is what you're trying to say.

01:34 [A daughter]: We went to Baltimore. Another thing: we always wanted to protect my parents from any more pain. My sister, for example, was hit by a car in Baltimore. She did not tell my parents for a week that she had been hit by a car, as she can say herself.

01:56 [Another daughter]: I was badly injured. I was actually in the hospital for two whole weeks. And I didn't want my parents to be hurt.

02:04 [Another daughter, in Yiddish]: It was the principle of my principal, Rabbi Diskind, who said: "It is my responsibility to tell your parents." And then they made the phone call. But we did not want any [worry] to fall on them; we wanted to protect them. We could be lying with the highest fever, and we did not tell my parents. To this day [unclear]. We are always [unclear], and *baruch Hashem* (thank God).

02:33 [A daughter, in English]: All the *kinderlach* (children) and grandchildren are always, *kein ayin hara* (no evil eye), and always will be... No one ever had strep, we never had the flu; everything has always been wonderful. And [unclear] be wonderful. And the main thing is, they should have a lot of *nachas*, and they should have *nachas* from us.

02:52 Interviewer (?): And those who watch this film should now receive a blessing (*bracha*) from you, from us and from the grandchildren, and from the whole family.

02:59 Yes, the blessing. The blessing of sixteen (?) years has helped a little. That was a bit of the blessing. [Unclear: "with every ... with ..., now I no longer understand it".] [Unclear.] The blessing gave the other [unclear].

03:18 Yes, yes. [Unclear: "she has now even come for whole years".] And we should [go on] with the spirit, with the spirit. [The transcript loops on "with the spirit".]

03:51 [No further speech. The repeated line in the transcript from here to the end of the tape is a machine-transcription artifact, not speech.]