

# <sup>1</sup>TESTIMONY OF DAVID SCHARFF

## INTRODUCTION

I AM DAVID SCHARFF. I AM 95. THIS IS A STORY OF MY SURVIVAL FROM A TERRIBLE TIME IN EUROPE WHERE SIX MILLION JEWS WERE KILLED SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE JEWS.

### I. FAMILY AND BACKGROUND

- I WAS BORN IN 1913, IN A SMALL TOWN IN POLAND CALLED ZAWIERCIE CLOSE TO THE GERMAN BORDER.

-I WAS 20 YEARS WHEN THE THIRD REICH CAME TO POWER IN GERMANY (1933) AND I WAS 26 YEARS OLD WHEN WORLD WAR II STARTED (1939).

- THERE WERE NINE IN MY FAMILY. I HAD FOUR BROTHERS, JACOB, JOSEPH, MOTEK AND MENDEL AND TWO SISTERS SSHA AND REGINA. THEY WERE ALL KILLED IN THE GAS CHAMBERS ALONG WITH MY PARENTS, CHUNA AND RELA SCHARFF AND MY MANY AUNTS, UNCLES, COUSINS AND FRIENDS.

-BEFORE THE WAR, MY FAMILY OWNED A FLOUR MILL MANUFACTURING COMPANY AND A BAKERY. WE MADE THE FLOUR THAT WAS IN THE PRODUCTS WE SOLD TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY OF ZAWIERCIE.

-WE WERE CONSIDERED WELL-OFF SINCE WE OWNED OUR HOME AND OUR BUSINESS. THE BAKERY WAS DOWNSTAIRS AND ONE OF MY ADULT BROTHERS AND HIS FAMILY LIVED UP STAIRS. THE HOME MY FAMILY GREW UP IN WAS LOCATED CLOSE TO THE BAKERY. MY ADDRESS WAS 23 FABRYCYNA.

-I WENT TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH MY JEWISH AND GENTILE

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FRIENDS. AFTER SCHOOL, I WENT TO JEWISH RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.

-I CAME FROM A VERY RELIGIOUS HOME AND IN AMERICA WE WOULD BE CONSIDERED ULTRA-ORTHODOX.

## II. THE YEAR THE WAR STARTED-1939

-AT 27, I WAS RE-DRAFTED INTO THE POLISH ARMY TO FIGHT THE GERMANS AS THEY WERE INVADING POLAND. I HAD LEARNED ALL THE SKILLS OF A SOLDIER WHEN I WAS FIRST DRAFTED INTO THE POLISH ARMY WHEN I WAS 20 YEARS OLD.

-THE FIRST AND LAST BATTLE AGAINST THE GERMANS I FOUGHT IN AS A POLISH SOLDIER OCCURRED AT THE GERMAN/POLISH BORDER. OUR DIVISION SURRENDERED TO THE GERMAN ARMY WHEN IT WAS CLEAR THERE WAS NO WAY TO WIN.

-THEY TOOK ME AS A PRISONER OF WAR AND I WAS PLACED IN STALAG 8. AS A PRISONER OF WAR I WAS SENT TO WORK IN THE SUGAR BEET FIELDS FOR THE HARVEST. I CUT MY UPPER ARM AND IT GOT SEVERELY INFECTED. I WAS SENT TO A CLINIC AND WAS OPERATED ON BY NAZI MILITARY DOCTORS. THE INCISION THEY MADE IN MY ARM TO WITHDRAW THE PUSS WAS IN THE SHAPE OF A NAZI SWASTIKA.

-AFTER THE GERMANS GAINED COMMAND OF ALL THE PRISONERS OF WAR IN OUR DIVISION, THEY ISSUED AN ORDER THAT ALL JEWISH SOLDIERS BE SEPARATED AND SENT BACK TO THEIR HOMETOWN.

## III. BACK TO HOMETOWN- ZAWIERCIE AND THE JUDEN-FREI (JEW-FREE) PROCESS

-WHEN I CAME BACK HOME, MY FAMILY NO LONGER OWNED OR CONTROLLED THE MANUFACTURING COMPANY OR THE BAKERY,

YET THEY WORKED THERE. ALL STORES, BUSINESSES AND HOMES WERE BY LEGAL ORDER TAKEN OVER BY NAZIS.

- WE WERE TOLD WE HAD TO RELOCATE BY THE NAZI SOLDIERS TO A GHETTO. I HID PICTURES OF MY FAMILY IN THE BASEMENT OF THE STORE, HOPING I COULD FIND THEM LATER WHEN WE WERE FREE TO GO BACK.

-MY FAMILY AND I, ALONG WITH ALL JEWISH FAMILIES FROM ZAWIERCIE AND THE SURROUNDING TOWNS WERE MOVED TO A FENCED OFF AREA IN ZAWIERCIE PATROLLED BY NAZIS AND GERMAN GUARD DOGS. THIS AREA WAS COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE GHETTO WHERE ONLY JEWS WERE TO LIVE UNDER TERRIBLE CONDITIONS. THERE WAS LIMITED FOOD, EXTREMELY CROWDED CONDITIONS IN THE ROOMS WE OCCUPIED, 15 PEOPLE TO ONE ROOM, OFTEN, NO PLUMBING, TERRIBLE SANITARY CONDITIONS SO DISEASE SPREAD AS WELL AS STARVATION.

- THE NAZIS CREATED A LEADERSHIP GROUP IN THE GHETTO SELECTING JEWS TO OVERSEE OTHER JEWS IN THE GHETTO. THIS GROUP WAS CALLED THE JUDENRAT OR JEWISH COUNCIL. THE JEWISH COUNCIL HAD ITS OWN JEWISH POLICE FORCE. THE NAZIS REQUIRED THE JEWS IN THE COUNCIL TO SPY ON OTHER JEWS, GATHER THEIR VALUABLES TO BE DELIVERED TO THE NAZIS, AND KEEP JEWS GENERALLY IN LINE. IF THE COUNCIL JEWS DID NOT COMPLY, THEY WERE EXECUTED OR FAMILY MEMBERS WERE TORTURED. ONE OF THE FIRST LAWS HANDED DOWN BY THE NAZIS TO BE ENFORCED BY THE COUNCIL WAS THAT EVERY JEW IN THE GHETTO HAD TO WEAR AN ARM BAND WITH A YELLOW STAR OF DAVID. IF A JEW, YOUNG OR OLD, WAS CAUGHT WITHOUT THE YELLOW ARM BAND HE WOULD BE SHOT ON THE SPOT.

-OFTEN MASS MURDERS OF GROUPS OF JEWS ON THE STREETS OF THE GHETTO WERE CONDUCTED BY THE NAZIS TO SHOW WHAT WOULD OCCUR IF THERE WAS ANY REBELLION AGAINST THE NAZIS.

-IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL TO SEE DEAD BODIES OF CHILDREN ON THE



STREET OR STARVING CHILDREN. IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL TO SEE A SOLDIER KILL A JEW ON THE STREET RANDOMLY BECAUSE HE FELT LIKE IT.

- WHILE I LIVED IN THE GHETTO, I WAS FORCED TO WORK AS A SLAVE LABORER IN LUFTWAFFE FACTORY IN ZAWIERICE . IT WAS CLOSE TO MY OLD HOUSE. I STILL RECEIVE REPARATION CHECKS FROM THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT FOR PAYMENT OF THIS LABOR.

#### IV. ROUNDUP TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND SELECTION-1943

- ALL JEWS FROM THE ZAWIERCIE GHETTO WERE TOLD TO REPORT TO TRAIN STATIONS 1943 .

- AT THE TRAIN STATIONS EVERYONE WAS PUSHED INTO THE TRAIN CARS LIKE CATTLE. THE TRAINS FROM MY HOME TOWN WENT TO AUSCHWITZ. IN THE TRAINS HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WERE STUFFED INSIDE LIKE SARDINES WITH OUT FOOD, WATER OR BATHROOMS.

-THE DATE OF MY ARRIVAL IN AUSCHWITZ WAS AUGUST 27, 1943.

-WHEN WE ARRIVED IN AUSCHWITZ , THE WORDS OVER THE ENTRY GATES STATED "ARBEIT MACHT FRIE". THAT PHRASE MEANS "WORK WILL SET YOU FREE". THOUSANDS OF US WERE FORCED OUT OF THE CARS BY SS SOLDIERS AND THEIR TRAINED GERMAN SHEPARD AND DOBERMAN DOGS.

- WE WERE MADE TO STAND IN LINES WITH OUR BELONGINGS FOR THE ORDERLY SELECTION PROCESS OF WHO WOULD LIVE AND WHO WOULD DIE. DOCTORS IN WHITE COATS WOULD INSPECT EACH ADULT FOR ABOUT 30 SECONDS PER PERSON TO DETERMINE WHICH LINE A PERSON SHOULD BE MOVED TO: THE LIVING LINE OR THE DEATH LINE.

-THE CHILDREN, WEAK, ELDERLY AND UNLUCKY WERE SENT TO THE DEATH LINE IMMEDIATELY AND THE STRONG MEN AND

WOMAN WERE SENT IN ANOTHER DIRECTION. CHILDREN WERE RIPPED FROM THEIR MOTHERS ARMS. IF THERE WAS ANY FIGHT, THE MOTHER AND CHILD WOULD BE KILLED ON THE SPOT.

-I WENT INTO A LINE OF THE PEOPLE CHOSEN TO LIVE WHERE THEY REGISTERED ME BY PLACING A TATTOO NUMBER ON MY ARM. MY NUMBER AND NEW IDENTITY WAS: 140635.

- BIRKENAU WAS NEXT TO AUSCHWITZ AND IT WAS THERE THAT THE CREMATORIUMS WAS SET UP AND RAN DAY AND NIGHT TO CREMATE THE GASED BODIES. I WAS SENT TO A SUB LABOR CAMP CLOSE TO AUSCHWITZ/ BIRKENAU .

-THE LAST TIME I SAW ANY OF MY FAMILY WAS WHEN I LEFT FOR THIS LABOR CAMP.

-IN THIS LABOR CAMP, THEY HAD US DIG HOLES AND JUST FILL THEM WITH SAND ALL DAY LONG. I STAYED THERE ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

-I THEN RECEIVED ORDERS TO GO TO ANOTHER LABOR WORK CAMP CALLED LAGISCHA WHICH WAS KNOWN AMONG THE PRISONERS TO BE A CAMP AT WHICH THE NAZIS WORKED PRISONERS TO DEATH. IT WAS AN ELECTRICAL PLANT AND IT WAS COMMANDED BY A HORRIBLE SS MAN BY THE NAME OF HORST CZERWINSKI.. AFTER THE WAR HE WAS CONVICTED OF KILLING MANY POLISH JEWS AND SOVIET PRISONERS. IN LAGISCHA, MY ASSIGNMENT WAS TO MOVE LARGE BOULDER ROCKS FROM ONE AREA TO ANOTHER AREA ALL DAY WITH LIMITED FOOD AND WATER. ACCORDING TO RECORDS RETRIEVED FROM AUSCHWITZ, I ARRIVED IN LAGISCHA ON NOVEMBER 13, 1943.

-I SAW MY FATE WOULD BE DEATH, SO I REQUESTED THE COMMANDER CZERWINSKI. TO SEND ME TO AUSCHWITZ TO BE GASED SO HE COULD REMOVE ME FROM THE LIST OF THE LIVING.

- IN FRONT OF A GROUP OF PRISONERS, THE COMMANDER MADE A



SPEECH REGARDING MY REQUEST. HE CALLED ME A "HERO" SINCE I VOLUNTEERED TO GO TO AUSCHWITZ. HE CALLED ME A "HERO" BECAUSE IT WOULD BE ONE LESS PRISONER TO SUPERVISE TO DEATH.

-IN THREE DAYS, I WAS PUT ON A TRUCK WITH 14 DEAD BODIES AND AN ARMED GUARD. I LAID ON TOP OF THESE BODIES AND WAS SENT BACK TO AUSCHWITZ. THE DEAD BODIES WERE TO BE CREMATED IN THE CREMATORIUM OF BIRKENAU. ACCORDING TO RECORDS RETRIEVED FROM AUSCHWITZ, I ARRIVED BACK TO AUSCHWITZ ON DECEMBER 26, 1943.

-WHEN WE ARRIVED AT AUSCHWITZ, THE ENTRY COMMANDER TOOK INVENTORY OF BODIES AT THE ENTRY GATE. THE COMMANDER WAS SHOCKED TO SEE A BODY WITH LIFE. I STILL APPARENTLY LOOKED ABLE TO WORK BUT I HAD AN INFECTION ON MY STOMACH SO I WAS SENT TO THE HOSPITAL AT AUSCHWITZ TO BE CHECKED OUT REGARDING MY MEDICAL CONDITION AND ABILITY TO WORK-I WAS A CURIOSITY TO THE ENTRY COMMANDER-HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY I CAME BACK TO AUSCHWITZ ALIVE. ACCORDING TO RECORDS RETRIEVED FROM AUSCHWITZ, I ARRIVED IN THE HKB PRISONER INFIRMARY IN BLOCK 20 AND WAS OPERATED ON FOR AN ABCESS ON MY ABDOMEN ON DECEMBER 27,1943.

-IN THE HOSPITAL, THEY DETERMINED AFTER A FEW DAYS THAT I WAS ABLE TO WORK AND SENT ME TO A FACTORY LINE TO MAKE CERTAIN MACHINERY FOR THE WAR. I BELIEVE THEY THOUGHT I WAS AN ENGINEER. I WAS NOT GOOD AT PRODUCING THE MACHINERY AND THE PRISONERS I WORKED WITH WERE WORRIED THEY WOULD BE ALL SENT TO DEATH BECAUSE I COULD NOT PRODUCE. I FELT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR FATE SO I FAKED ILLNESS SO THAT I COULD GO BACK TO THE HOSPITAL. ACCORDING TO RECORDS RETRIEVED FROM AUSCHWITZ, I ARRIVED BACK INTO THE HKB -PRISONER INFIRMARY ON APRIL 6, 1944.

-WHEN I WAS BACK IN THE HOSPITAL AND QUICKLY THEY SAW THAT I COULD WORK AGAIN, I REQUESTED TO GO TO A FACTORY WHERE I KNEW PEOPLE FROM MY HOMETOWN AND NEW THE WORK WOULD BE SOMETHING I COULD DO. THE SS COMMANDER IN CHARGE TOOK A LIKING TO ME AND SENT ME TO WORK AT A FACTORY WITH 25 GIRLS, A FEW I KNEW FROM MY HOMETOWN. IT IS HERE THAT WE INSPECTED THREADS OF HAND GRENADES. I WOULD ALWAYS TRY TO MIX A FEW BAD HAND GRENADES WITH THE GOOD ONES BECAUSE I WAS THE LAST TO CHECK THE HAND GRENADES BEFORE THEY WERE SHIPPED FOR WAR.

-I WOULD SLEEP IN BARRACKS WITH THE OTHER PRISONERS. I HAVE THE VIVID MEMORY OF LOOKING THROUGH THE BARRACK DOORS TO THE SKY AT DUSK, AT NIGHT AND IN THE EARLY MORNING AND THE SKY WOULD ALWAYS HAVE A RED GLOW AND DARK SMOKE CLOUDS PRODUCED FROM THE BURNING OF THE BODIES AT THE CREMATORIALS. THESE COLORS WOULD BE IN THE SKY EVERYDAY UNTIL I LEFT.

#### V. MARCH OF GROSSROSEN AND THE RUSSIAN INVASION INTO POLAND.

-IT WAS THE SEVERE WINTER OF 1944 AND THE GERMANS STARTED LOSING TO THE RUSSIANS COMING FROM THE EAST INTO POLAND.

-NAZI ORDERS WERE TO EVACUATE AUSCHWITZ AND REMOVE LIVING PRISONERS BY A MARCH TO GROSSROSEN, GERMANY NEAR THE DEATH CAMP OF MATHAUSEN. THERE WERE MILLIONS WHO WERE MARCHED TO DEATH IN SUCH DEATH MARCHES ALL OVER EUROPE. WE WERE FORCED TO MARCH IN KNEE HIGH SNOW WITHOUT SUITABLE COVER OR SHOES. WE WERE FORCED TO PUSH THE SUPPLY WAGONS THROUGH THE SNOW SINCE THERE WERE NO TRUCKS OR HORSES. WE STARTED OUT WITH PROBABLY 30,000 PRISONERS AND THERE WERE PROBABLY ONLY 2000 WHO SURVIVED THE MARCH. IF A PRISONER COULD NOT KEEP UP HE WOULD BE SHOT AND LEFT TO DIE. I SAW MANY DIE, DROPPING LIKE FLIES AND LEFT IN THE SNOW UNTIL WE ARRIVED TO THE TRAIN STATION IN



GROSSROSEN.

-WHEN I ARRIVED AT GROSSROSEN, MY EYES COULD NOT BELIEVE WHAT THEY SAW. THERE WERE PILES AND PILES OF DEAD BODIES THAT LOOKED LIKE MOUNTAINS AS FAR AS I COULD SEE.

- AT THE STATION THE NAZI GUARDS PUT ALL OF US IN A SMALL BUILDING WHERE WE COULD BARELY STAND SIDE BY SIDE MUCH LESS SIT OR SLEEP AND THE GUARDS THREW INTO THE CROWDED ROOM, BREAD FOR MAYBE 200 PEOPLE EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE ABOUT 2000 IN THE BUILDING. WATCHING THE PEOPLE FIGHT FOR THE BREAD WAS ENTERTAINING TO THE GUARDS.

-WE WERE FORCED LIKE CATTLE INTO OPEN RAILROAD CARS TO BE TAKEN DAUCHA, GERMANY THAT NIGHT WHERE ANOTHER DEATH CAMP WAS LOCATED.

-I DEPENDED ON THE SKILLS I LEARNED IN THE POLISH ARMY AND PLANNED MY ESCAPE. I TRIED TO GET 2 OTHER BOYS ON THE TRAIN TO ESCAPE WITH ME, BUT THEY REFUSED SINCE THEY FEARED THEY WOULD BE SHOT BY THE SOLDIERS GUARDING EACH CATTLE CAR WITH MACHINE GUNS.

-AS THE TRAIN APPROACHED THE TUNNEL, I POSITIONED MY SELF SO THAT I COULD JUMP OUT OF THE TRAIN. I PURPOSELY JUMPED FORWARD SO THAT I WOULD NOT FALL UNDER THE RAILS OF THE TRAIN. THE SOLDIERS SHOT THEIR RIFLES IN VAIN BECAUSE IT WAS TOO DARK IN THE TUNNEL TO SEE WHERE I HAD LANDED.

-ONCE THE TRAIN COMPLETELY LEFT THE TUNNEL I WALKED OUT OF THE TUNNEL AS A FREE MAN. IT WAS NIGHT.

-I FOUND MYSELF IN AN AREA OF GERMANY CALLED THE SUDETENLAND WHICH BECAME KNOWN AS CZECHOSLOVAKIA AFTER THE WAR (NOW IT IS THE CZECH REPUBLIC).

-THERE WERE VILLAGES LINKING THIS AREA SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS.

-I SAW A HOUSE WITH A BARN AND A LAUNDRY LINE HANGING WITH LAUNDRY.

- I TOOK SOME MEN'S GARMENTS THAT LOOKED LIKE THEY WOULD FIT OFF THE LAUNDRY LINE AND WENT TO THE BARN.

-I DUG A HOLE IN A HIGH HAYSTACK I FOUND IN THE BARN AND BURIED MY PRISONER CLOTHES OF BLACK AND WHITE STRIPES AND PUT ON THE CLOTHES I FOUND ON THE LAUNDRY LINE. I MADE SURE IT WAS A LONG SLEEVE SHIRT TO HIDE MY TATTOO.

-I FOUND A FEW DRY POTATOES BY THE COWS IN THE BARN. THESE POTATOES THAT WERE MEANT TO FEED THE COWS FED ME THE ONLY MEAL I HAD IN DAYS.

-I SAT DOWN AND ATE THE POTATOES LIKE THEY WERE STEAK.

-I FELL ASLEEP UNDER THE HAY FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS IT SEEMS.

## VI. WALKING THE VILLAGES OF THE SUDETENLAND AS JAHN JUKOFSKI

-AFTER I WOKE, I DETERMINED I WAS A FREE MAN AND I NEEDED A NAME TO MATCH MY FREEDOM. I CAME UP WITH THE NAME OF JAHN JUKOFSKI. THIS WAS THE NAME OF A GENTILE FRIEND AND EMPLOYEE IN OUR BAKERY SHOP. IF QUESTIONED, I WOULD SAY THAT I WAS A POLISH REBEL THAT HATED THE RUSSIANS AND LOVED THE GERMANS AND I WAS TRAVELING TO CENTRAL GERMANY TO HELP WITH THE GERMAN WAR EFFORT.

-EVERYDAY I WOULD VISIT A NEW HOUSE IN A VILLAGE AND EXPLAIN TO THE MADAM ANSWERING THE DOOR THE REASON FOR MY TRAVEL. MEN WERE NOT IN THE HOUSEHOLD BECAUSE THEY



WERE DRAFTED TO SERVE IN THE WAR. ALWAYS THEY PROVIDED ME FOOD, SHELTER AND AN OCCASIONAL RAZOR FOR MY FACE. I FELT I WAS SAFE AND COULD LAST LIKE THIS UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR.

- ONE DAY I KNOCKED ON THE HOUSE IN A VILLAGE ONLY TO BE GREETED BY A LARGE MAN WEARING A UNIFORM AND A SWASTIKA ON HIS RIGHT ARM. I KNEW I WAS IN TROUBLE, SO I QUICKLY SMILED AT HIM AND TOLD HIM I WAS SORRY AND I KNOCKED ON THE WRONG HOUSE DOOR. I SLOWLY MADE MY WAY DOWN THE PATH TO THE MAIN ROAD WHISTLING TRYING TO HIDE MY INCREDIBLE SHOCK.

-FIVE MINUTES LATER I WAS STOPPED BY TWO BOYS ON BICYCLES ALSO WITH UNIFORMS ABOUT 12 AND 14 YEARS OLD (THEY WERE PART OF THE HITLER YOUTH ) AND SAYING THAT THEIR FATHER WANTED ME TO COME BACK TO THE HOUSE.

-IN ORDER NOT TO CAUSE SUSPICION, I HAPPILY WENT BACK. IN THE HOUSE I FOUND OUT THE MAN WHO ANSWERED THE DOOR WAS THE BURGEMEISTER OR MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHY I WAS WALKING THE STREETS OF HIS VILLAGE WHEN ALL THE MEN WERE AT WAR.

-I EXPLAINED IN AN INNOCENT WAY THAT MY NAME WAS JAHN JUKOFSKI AND I HATED THE RUSSIANS AND I WAS LOOKING TO GO TO THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS OF THE GERMAN ARMY TO ENLIST. I HAD LOST ALL MY PAPERS WHILE ESCAPING THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF MY HOMETOWN IN POLAND. HE BELIEVED ME, BUT SAID THAT WHAT I WAS DOING WAS NOT PROPER DURING A WAR AND THAT I HAD TO REGISTER WITH THE NAZI POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN HIS TOWN .

-HE TOOK ME TO THE NAZI POLICE HEADQUARTERS, WHERE I EXPLAINED MY SITUATION TO A GROUP OF OTHER OFFICIALS. THE SS MAJOR TOOK ME TO A SEPARATE ROOM AND HE SAT ME AT A TABLE ACROSS FROM HIM. HE PULLED OUT HIS REVOLVER AND

PLACED IT ON THE TABLE. HE SAID THAT IF I WAS LYING TO HIM, HE WOULD TAKE ME OUT IN THE BACKYARD AND PUT A BULLET IN MY HEAD. I SMILED AT HIM AND CALMLY TOLD HIM THE SAME STORY I TOLD THE MAYOR. HE BELIEVED ME AND I WAS ISSUED IDENTITY PAPERS WITH THE NAME JAHN JUKOFSKI . I WAS THEN ESCORTED TO THE MAIN DINING HALL FULL OF SS OFFICERS, MILITARY OFFICIALS AND POLICE WHERE I WAS ALLOWED TO EAT A FULL MEAL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS—I HAD TO REMEMBER THAT I COULD NOT GRAB THE FOOD, BUT HAD TO ACT AS IF THIS MEAL WAS JUST ANOTHER ONE-NOT A SPECIAL ONE. I HAD TO EAT AMONG MY ENEMIES. BUT THE FOOD WAS GOOD AND I FELT LIKE I WAS AT LUBY'S. DURING THE MEAL THEY TOLD ME THAT I NEED TO FIND WORK AND I MUST REGISTER WITH THE LOCAL WORKFORCE THAT FINDS WORK FOR PEOPLE IN THE AREA. THEY SEEMED TO LIKE ME.

-AFTER THE MEAL, A POLICE OFFICER TOOK ME TO A SPECIAL BOARDING HOUSE. THAT NIGHT I SLEPT IN A BED WITH PILLOWS, SHEETS AND COVERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER TWO YEARS.

-THE FOLLOWING DAY I WAS IN A LINE WITH OTHER MEN TO BE CHOSEN BY PEOPLE WHO NEEDED WORKERS. A WOMAN CHOSE ME TO WORK ON HER FARM TO BUNDLE HAY. I SOON LEARNED THAT I HAD NO IDEA HOW TO BUNDLE HAY . THE LADY SOON LEARNED THIS FACT ALSO. SHE LIKED ME THOUGH, SO SHE SENT ME TO PICK UP COW MANURE AND GATHER HAY IN THE BARN. I EQUALLY DID A TERRIBLE JOB AT THAT AND SHE APOLOGETICALLY SENT ME BACK TO THE WORKFORCE LINE THE FOLLOWING DAY.

-I WAS CHOSEN BY A FORREST MAN TO HELP CHOP DOWN TIMBER IN THE FORESTS OF THE SUDETENLAND. I QUICKLY LEARNED THAT CHOPPING DOWN A TREE IS STRENUOUS WORK AND I DID NOT HAVE THE POWER TO DO THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY. ALL THE MEN IN THIS LUMBERMAN UNIT WERE UKRAINIAN- WHICH I KNEW TO BE THE MOST ANTI-SEMITIC AND SUPPORTIVE OF THE THIRD REICH. IF THEY FOUND OUT MY IDENTITY I WOULD BE DEAD THAT MOMENT. I EXPLAINED TO THE FOREMAN OF THE GROUP, THAT THE GROUP IS HUNGRY WHEN THEY GET BACK FROM CHOPPING ALL DAY AND



THAT SOMEONE , LIKE ME, SHOULD STAY BACK AT THE HOME BASE TO COOK LUNCHES AND DINNERS.

HE LIKED THIS IDEA, AND UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR, I COOKED FOR THESE MEN. I MADE A WONDERFUL STEW.

-I ALWAYS WORE A LONG SLEEVE SHIRT TO COVER MY TATTOO. IT IS STILL BEWILDERING THAT THE NAZI OFFICERS AND MAYOR DID NOT PULL MY SLEEVE TO FIND OUT MY TRUE IDENTITY. ONE DAY I WAS BATHING IN THE RIVER AND ONE OF THE UKRANIAN LOGGERS ASKED ME ABOUT THE TATTOO. I TOLD HIM I SPENT TIME IN KARTUSHA BEREZA PRISON. THIS PRISON WAS KNOWN FOR THE WORST CRIMINALS. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS THERE FOR COUNTERFEITING MONEY AND THAT HE SHOULD KEEP MY SECRET BECAUSE I WAS ASHAMED OF MY PAST. HE PROMISED HE WOULD NOT TELL ANYONE AND THAT HE WAS MY FRIEND.

-ONE DAY, THE YEAR WAS 1945, A RUSSIAN SOLDIER CAME OUT ON A HORSE TO THE LUMBERMAN'S CAMPSITE AND INDICATED THE WAR WAS OVER THAT ANYONE WHO WANTED TO LEAVE COULD LEAVE. THAT WAS THE DAY I LEFT TO GO BACK TO MY HOMETOWN.

-I HAD SAVED ENOUGH MONEY TO TRAVEL BACK TO MY HOMETOWN . AT THE BORDER OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND POLAND I HAD TO USE ALL OF MY GOLD COINS TO GET THROUGH THE BORDER CROSSING BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT LET ME GO INTO THE NEW COUNTRY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITHOUT MY PAYING A LARGE SUM. IN MY HOMETOWN THERE WAS NOBODY LEFT. I WENT TO THE BASEMENT AND COLLECTED THE PICTURES I HID.

-REALIZING I LOST EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE, I HEARD THE UNITED STATES HAD SET UP A REFUGEE CAMP, THE "FREEMAN CAMP" IN MUNICH FOR THE SURVIVORS OF THE WAR. IT IS IN THIS CAMP THAT I MET GOLDA SOLITAIRE WHO BECAME MY WIFE. OUR FIRST CHILD, JOHN, WAS ALSO BORN IN MUNICH AT A LOCAL HOSPITAL ON MUELLAR STREET.

- WE ARRIVED IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS IN 1950 WITH NOTHING

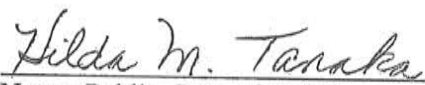
EXCEPT PEOPLE IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WILLING TO SPONSOR OUR INITIAL LIVING NEEDS. SLOWLY WE MADE A LIFE. EVERY DIME WE MADE WE INVESTED IN REAL ESTATE AND IT WAS A WISE CHOICE. WE HAD THREE CHILDREN AND NOW I HAVE EIGHT GRANDCHILDREN. MY OFFSPRING AND THEIR OFFSPRING HAVE GRADUATED OR ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE , UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAM, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, AUSTIN COLLEGE , YALE UNIVERSITY , UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA , BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA SCHOOL OF LAW, NYU LAW SCHOOL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TEL AVIV, ISRAEL; INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTER-THE LAUDER SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, STRATEGY AND COUNTER-TERRORISM, HERZLYIA, ISRAEL .

THIS IS MY STORY OF SURVIVAL AND IT IS ALL TRUE.

BY:   
NAME: DAVID SCHARFF

STATE OF TEXAS                   §  
   §  
COUNTY OF BEXAR               §

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me by the said DAVID SCHARFF on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2009.

  
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Notary Public, State of Texas

