**Joseph Brandman Holocaust Testimony**

Background: This video testimony was taken by David Sherrin in 2007. It is the testimony of his grandfather, Joseph Brandman. He was born on January 9, 1918 in Riga, the capital of Latvia.

**0:00-6:20 -**

1. Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. World War II started in Latvia in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when the German army bombed Riga.
3. One discrimination Jews faced in Latvia after Nazi occupation was to wear a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Nazis also insisted that Jews could not walk on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. All the Jews moved into the Ghetto.
6. On Dec. 8, 1941 the Nazis took 30,000 Jews in Riga and killed them in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. Joseph lost his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on those three days.
8. Nazis brought in Jews from Lithuania including his future wife \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
9. Ordered to dig graves (ditches) and to get wood.

**Reflection Question:** What do you notice about how he tells his story? Does anything surprise you about the way he tells it?

**6:20 - 14:30 (Resistance)**

*Colony = large group*

*Kaiserwald and Dondagen = his first concentration camp, a death camp*

1. Jews attempted to resist in the ghetto by smuggling in weapons. The Nazis took the 42 Jewish policemen and were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. In Dondagen, they slept in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Joseph was ordered to clean windows in the barracks. A soldier dropped a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which Joseph picked up. The Kommandant threatened to kill Joseph, calling him a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Joseph offered to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his beard. If he messed up, the soldier could kill him.
4. The Kommandant made Joseph become his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes after Joseph cut Nazis’ hair he would get a piece of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Joseph gave some of this food to his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Reflection question:** What changed the Kommandant’s behavor? Would you consider this man to be evil?

**18:30 - 25:30 (Surviving Forced March and Stuthoff) August 1944**

1. After the Russians moved closer to the front, the Nazis moved to the Jews to a camp called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Joseph, Mira, and his brother Paul decided to escape while walking. They bribed a guard with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that they had found in a box of Nivea creme. Joseph had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gold pieces. They ran into the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He saw \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ men dressed in black. The men gestured for them to go back. Joseph and Mira ran back to the group. Joseph believes those three men were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They didn’t talk. The SS caught his brother and girlfriend who dug their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Joseph found himself in the morning surrounded by 60 or so children. All the children were taken to the shower. It was actually the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Reflection question:** Do you see any evidence in Joseph’s story that supports one of our theories about why the Holocaust happened?

**39:16 - End (Rescue)**

\*Joseph had participated in stealing of tobacco from Germans. He wasn’t discovered because he had a friendship with a Jewish leader in the camp.

1. When the allied forces came near, the Nazis put all the Jews in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. They spent about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days on the boat with no food or water. Joseph drank \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They saw the large ship SS Cap Arcona. On the ships, besides Jews there were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The Norwegians \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the boat. They jumped in the water and ran toward the city. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ came back and started to shoot everyone in the water.
3. The SS tried to make everyone return to the ship. Mira went to the back of the line to avoid going on the ship. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ army came in and replaced the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ flag. The Nazis blew up the ship with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people.
4. After liberation, Joseph collapsed in the rain. The soldiers picked him up and said “you don’t have to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ anymore.” He put him up and sprayed him with powder to kill \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He doesn’t remember anything for the next \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ weeks.

|  |
| --- |
| The surprise: What really happened on the SS Cap Arcona? |

1. Mira wanted to return to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to find her parents. The Soviets and sent her parents had been sent to Siberia because they owned a factory. Joseph convinced her to go to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Joseph and Mira got married. They found relatives in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and he found one brother who had survived. The Soviet Union sent him to Siberia. Joseph didn’t see his brother until \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They left Germany in 1949 and arrived in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They went on a train and arrived in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ where they lived for the rest of their lives.
3. His brothers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_survived.

Video Reflection

|  |
| --- |
| One thing that surprised me in the story was….  One question I had was…  One thing I learned … |