

Projekt: Cykl wspomnień. Prześladowanie Polaków w Związku Sowieckim

Nr wywiadu: Wywiad nr 29. Opowiada Janusz Kierski

Sygnatura nagrania nowa: 701-152-002-029-001.mp4

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Miejsce nagrania: USA

Data nagrania: 1989

Czas nagrania: 71 minut

Język nagrania: angielski

Opis nagrania:

Kampania Wrześniowa i 17 września - aresztowanie przy przekroczeniu granicy z Węgrami - opis warunków pracy w obozie - historia rodziny - dołączenie do lotnictwa - historia rodziny po zakończeniu wojny - refleksje o Rosji - opis przesłuchania NKWD - sytuacja z kobietą rosyjską - przesłuchanie innego więźnia - historia z atakiem syberyjskiego niedźwiedzia - ogłoszenie wyroku w kościele dla więźniów - warunki pracy - amnestia dla Polaków - historia rodziny - dotarcie do Dżalabadu - podróż do wojska polskiego - przybycie do Anglii - opis akcji bojowych w Dywizjonie 307 - refleksja jak wiele narodów było uwięzionych przez komunistów w Rosji

Transkrypcja nagrania:

When the war broke out in 1939, I was a student of polish polytechnic in Lwów. On 17 September 1939 Russian crossed the frontiers and I was the volunteer in Polish Army, defending Lwów against German armies. When Russian come out in 1939 17th of September, we were instructions to give up arms and change to civilian cloths and if possible, leave to Poland and join to polish army which were that time in Romania and Hungary. And then eventually went to France. In 18th 1939 November, I've tried to cross the frontier with some group of polish students to join to polish army in Hungary. I was arrested in the frontier and I was take to prison in southern Poland, later was taken back to Lwów where I was born. 19 of December I was transported to Russian in cartload, wagons, we want to town of Dnepropetrovsk in Ukraine, when we were in prisons in 6 mouths. Later, we were send us to 8-10 years to slaver labor camps, we were sent do Białowieża, the place were 10 000 polish officers were in prison, before they were send to Katyń. From there we were send to Siberia, to slave labor camps. In Siberia, we had to build our huts, to have a accommodation form the winter. We were the labors and we cutting the trees, and working on the woods and the rivers. The day, every day in prison camps, started 5 of 6 o clock in the morning, we got a little bit of bread and hot water, which the called soup, then we were send to whole day to the woods, where we were cutting the trees, and putting then of the banks of frozen rivers. The hole day we were working there, without any food, and if we didn't make 100 percent, we didn't get the food, which was supply to us. Supposes to be a supply to us. We only got as much we and that day, if we only made 50 percent, we get only 50 percent of the food, we suppose to get.

Resultants of that, most of the people were starving, and pretty soon of of them breakers, breaker man, where dying of starvation, and try do escape, which was almost impossible, because we were thousand of miles out of nowhere. In woods of Siberia. Winters were very cold, and we were working 50 - 60 degrees, below zero. In conditions were absolutely impossible to survive. We were not dress properly we didn't have no shoes, no boots, and warm clothing. So only thing we could survive is to work hard, as hard to possible to keep warm. When we were sittings by the fires, which we must put fires, around to wood. Before we cut the woods. Sometimes we were six 6 under the snow. To able t cut the woods. In evening when we came back to barracks. We were giving, our portion of dark bread, and again some soup, which we called, the called warm water soup. The our barracks was mostly wooden, and was not hiten except on small "Podpierystow", on the middle the of hut, which didn't get enough heat of all of us to of over night. Quit often, it happens that somebody frozen in night time. In the morning, when we cold from the for the next day work, we took dead man, between us, so we could his get his bread rations for a day. Later we leave on the bed and Russian found them that. The life that, we were there about 1 year and half. And the conditions were getting worse and worse. In Russian, the didn't carry what was happened to us. Sometimes when somebody were disable there order was to shoot them and they didn't pick up even to bodies. We were treated just like a slaves. We were there between us, there were some Russian people, some Slavic people, some Rumanian and Hungarians, which were prisons of wars or political prisoners. We were there and we could only think about what we how we could survived or how we could get out. But it was almost impossible to anybody to escape. After the German invaded Russia, there were amnesty for polish people, and the Polish Army war form in Russia. And we were at least, we were told to go to south of Russian, to the Kazakhstan, where polish army was forming. Of course we didn't have a money for the foods, we had to travel like a without a tickets, that trains, and ever possible we could catch any transportation. The time before, where were at least till I joined to Army I traveled about tow mouths for one place to another. I was tried to find my family which was sent to Russia to as a prisoners. The were arrested in our home town in Lwów, in the middle of the night. And they were transported to Uzbekistan, where they felt on the field, without any food, without any housing. They had to go and search for the food and housing, before they could settle, and could any living. There were my mother, my brother, my sisters, my father ad my grandmother were there and there whole family, my grandmother and father dead of starvation. They lived in Russia in the steps, in winter time without any transportation, without any communications. And they were slowly dying of the starvation. After that, was a list of prison, I tried to find my family which was then, moved to another part of Russian, to another part of Russia to Uzbekistan. Were I found them? My mother my brother, my sister, were only survival at the time. I was with them a couple of mouths, then I joined to Polish Army, which was forming in Uzbekistan. In there when I joined to army, I was taken to polish unit and soon after join, I was sick of the typhus. Typhus is fever, and I was then in hospital, and then. That time, first branch of the polish army was transported from Russia to Iran, and later to Palestine and England. I was left behind with another 5000 polish people who were, either in hospital or sick, and we had to wait another 3-4 months, before, for another transport to go to Iran. I was in Polish Army in Iran, and later I was transported to England, when I joined to Polish Air Force, and I was there 1942 to end of the war in Polish Squadron. The time, my time in Russia, its almost impossible to describing in words, condition of living, the way were treated and they way the people survive the, those times, and trough the frozen taigas, and the how hard we had to work for to be supply of peace of bread. Were often we took a leaves of the pain trees, and ate them, because we had a such a luck of vitamins, without teeth were lose, and were losing the all the supplies of vitamins, for the essential, we were essential for the life. My family which was taken to Russia, there were, 5 years before the came back to Poland. After the co called amnesty for

polish people, they were sent to southern Russia, where they had to work very hard, to survive. And even after the end of the war, there were frost to work hard, a one year, before they go back to Poland. Russians try to force them, stay in Russia, and take the Russian citizenship. Because they wanted to use many Polish people, go back to Poland, as they are afraid of but Polish people would tell other nations, other people how they were treated in Russia. In that time, about 3 millions people sent from Poland to Russia, out of which, maybe one million got out. Approximately half of the people die of starvation. And frozen, freeze to death, or were killed by Russians in woods, or in mines of Kolyma and labor camp in Ural, and other parts of Russia. When even you were, were we were in Polish army, we are still treated as sth, worst, we are not given armaments, we were not permitted to have any exercises, which were prepare us for the harder actions in war time. I was one of the lucky one, without able to go, from there to England, and we join to Polish air force, I had some experience in flight, before the war. Most of my friends, who were in Russia, never came back to Poland, after the war, because they are afraid, that they were get the same treatment, as we did. As we were treated in that war time. In England, we were interrogation by British intelligence. And we were telling them, how we were treated in Russia, and how we lived in Russia, they wouldn't believe us. They say us, that they we told the stories, which is not true, because we hated Russian. They also didn't believe us, when we telling them about Atrocity of Hitler, Camps, and prisons, when they were, thousand, thousand people murdered to death and burned. They say, that everything was propaganda. They were that time friends, with England and USA, were friends with Russia, and wouldn't, didn't want to hear anything, which was negative to the Russian image. I, my family is still in Poland. My mother is living there in very little pension, and my sister and my brother were working very hard to meet there, standard of living. I try to help them as much as possible. I sometime wonder if the communism regime, will ever succeed in any part of the world, with their polices, and economy programs. In Russia, in war time, there were approximately 40 millions people in the prison camps. There were actually slaves, working on the mines and roads, and wood. And I believe was a half a amount Russia in prisons. W czasie naszego pobytu w więzieniu.

In English please

At the time when we were in prisons, before we were sent to the slave labor camps, we were often taken for the interrogation and for investigation. Sometimes it take several days. I was taken one day from our cell in the prison and transported to another part of town, where was a another prison, I was given a single cell, with the bed and good food, and I was really hoping, that they going to release me. it what was happened, what, I was there, they told me that they had a few question for me to ask. I was take to prosecutor, and for 7 hours a was waning in hole way, before they got me to inside to room, when he seat me down to table, ask to me, I was Hungary. And give me a glass of milk, and later some apple, and with bread which was a luxury for me. And he started asking, about my life, my family in Poland, which I asked truthfully, how it was before the war. Then he asked me about my father. My father was a member of the council in our Home Town Lwow. Then he asked me, that my father belong to any party. And did I know any friends of his. And they gave my list about fifty names, and he asked me, if i know any of those names, I read those name and some of them I knew, some of them i didn't. The were some assistants of my father, and friend of my father. And they asked me, if that was true, that there were all anticommunists. I told him, I was to young to involved in any politics. And I didn't now anything, about my fathers doing. And if there was of his friends, there were most probably, just social friends. And they interested, that I tell them, that they were anticommunists, member of anticommunists. I refused to do that, so they send me

back to my cell. That was very early in the morning, because all of interrogation were in night of Russian. When I came to the cell, i pull down of the bed, which was folding bed. And I wanted to lie down and fall a sleep. And the guard came for the bed up, lock the bed in next to ball, and wouldn't let me laid down. I was there whole day, I was giving fairly good food, but I was not to allowed to sleep, on minute to the days. In the night time, nine o clock, when everybody was going to bed, they called my out, and took me again to for the interrogation. Again I was standing there and waiting to get inside, for the another series of interrogations. I finally invade me to inside, and the same prosecutor, which was interrogation me before, again insist he saw me a list of the names. after i refused, he said, he keep me promising, that I will be released, all my family will be treated better if I sign that name, list of people, which he produced to me. I again refused. An then i was pull out in hole way, against to wall, and there i standing to the morning. In the morning, they took me back to cell, and the same procedure. They give me a good food, bout didn't let me sleep. I was walking in the cell, soon I sit down on the floor, the guard came and told me, to get up and not to sit down, and not to for a sleep. So I had to walk, or sit, or stay on my feet, all day long. At night, it was a again, the same things. They call me, and again they kept me waiting or asking about some questions. After forth night, after I refused it. They send me to another interrogation room, which was the woman. She put a gun on the table. And she sat me on the table, and gun was without my rich. Then I looked a gun, I knew that gun was loaded, so I didn't bother to pick up a gun, and then suddenly she jump, ohm god, my goodness! How stupid of me, I left the gun of front of you. I said, it was stupide of me, to leave a gun loaded. She was so stood up, pull up her shirt, which she had any underwear, and she said look - you damme fool! You will leave, but you never be able to want to love again. That moment I was so shocked, I just say - I don't want to touch each anything like that. She was so fanny, she took the gun, and she wanted to hit me over the head, but she didn't do it. Then they sent me ageing, in the hole way, and there I was standing, for another several hours to the mornings. The same things, they repeated day after day, night after night. Finally, I was so tired, without a sleep, that I didn't know, if was a sleep, or I was standing, or if I answer for any question, I don't know what I answer, I don't know that I sign anything? Finally I sent back to my cell, with anther, which I was taken from. And I ask of my friends, in the cell, I was there for 24 days. Without a sleep. When I came back to cell, I laid down on the bed, and again I couldn't fall asleep for another two days. I think, I could live without a sleeping. If anybody ask me ever, if I sign a that list, I say I don't know. I was I such a state, so I didn't know what I was doing, what I was talking about, so if I signed, I don't really know to until this day. After that experience, i ask other people who they were treated in interrogation. Some people were treated some way as me, and some people was bitten, they tortured and there were, even didn't know, they did know, if they finally signed something or not.

I think after days without sleep or after being torture, the man can do anything, what they asking him, to do. So, if anybody have investigation from Russia, from communism, he say something or sign something, don't believe them. They have a way of forcing people to do impossible. And without any realization, with they did or not. The another example of that, was, when I one of these very young guy, maybe 17-18. Was taken from our cell, was captured by several days, and interrogated, and when he came back, he was all black and blue, bitten up, swore, and he had absolutely no desire to life. And when we ask him what was a question, they ask him, he say I really don't know, because I never had, about questions, about theses people, they ask me before. I ask him, they ask you to sign sth? He say yes, but I cant read. I couldn't read them, and I couldn't red Russian, they give me statement which was written in Russian, and the told me to sign. I didn't sign, I don't know. Maybe after several days, maybe I sign it. But I still don't know what I signed. If I signed i couldn't read it, so I don't know what I have signed. So, they were treating different people, different ways. There were playing of the people

settlement, emotions, promising, either freedom, or better life for the families. But in most case, that didn't work. They had to bring the people to stage, when they didn't really want, what they doing, before they really finish investigation, interrogating them. Another think is, I will tell about you, average day in Russian camp, labor camp. As I said before we were taken 6 o'clock in the morning, giving peace of bread, and hot water, which they called tea or soup, and then we are taken to open space, and put into to groups of people, where we are standing regaled of weathers, for 10,15 sometimes to 20 minutes, because they account all of prisoners, and then they opened a gate, and they took us to work, which usually we had to go, 10 or 15 kilometers, before we were in the place, when we had to work. With us was usually 3-4 Russian soldiers, which were guarding us. When we are working. Those poor guys was usually deserter from the Russian Army, which were sent there, there given a little bit condition, a little better condonation than us. But they had the same as we, the prisons. Some of them, was good to us. Some of them was were bad to us. I remember one day, we were coming back from work, and one little guy was so tired, and he was falling, every few steps. And guard, told him to get up, when he couldn't get up, he just shoots him there, and left in the snow. Another case was, when we working in detail, and the big bear, Russian Siberian bear came to us, and one guard, tried to shoot him, he miss him, and he sent German shepherd dogs, which they attacked big bear. He stood up on his feet, I thin he must 8 feet tall. And kill both of dogs, and start going after us. The Russian guy, try to shoot him again, and miss again, and the throw his rifle, and start running away. And one of our polish guy, who was very good marksman, took the gun and shoot bear, but 10 or 15 steep of front of him. When this bear dead, this Russian soldier come to us, and plead with us, not to tell how it happened, because if they, commanding officer, will learn about that, he will be shoot to dead. He was so scared, of the commanding officer, that he did something wrong, that he did anything, to us, at that time, just no to be told, told to not to be we wouldn't tell of him, how its everything happened. Russian people were actually good people. We had some help from them. We had a very good relations with Russian people, expect the communist guard, and communism party members. When I was released form the prison, i was travelling on the freed trains, and I every night I got out, sleep try to found some find some sleeping accommodation, usually in bank, and those Russian people were very good, they give food, they took us in and there very sympathetic to our condition. In one village i found family in the table, they were to older folk, man and wife. And two youngers. and I could see, that the younger guy, was communist and party member. And whatever i asked any question, they said everything was all right, the Stalin was very good, and so. When I was very surprise, that old man praising the Stalin and praising of communist regime. After some, we had to something to eat, the old man took me to bank, and punt me to sleep in there. Give me place to sleep in there, and he came to me and say - he ask me - did you believe in anything i said about communist? and party? So what I could do? Of course, I believe, he said, don't believed. My son is a member of communist party, an a am afraid in front of him to criticism, because he would dense me and I could go to prison. That is the way the communist and party rules the rest of Russian nation. They everybody is scared, that somebody will denizen them, and them go to the prisons and will be destroy. In another case, when I was in prison, they were a guy, 80 years old, and when I asked him, what he do in prison. He say, he was a professor in high school, he was teaching of natural history, and one of the lesson he told, he his pupils, his students, that regime is regime destroying our national resource, by cutting all of tress, not having any program. And one of student must told about that to party, to NKWD, to some party member. And this guy was taken to prison, send to 10 years of slave labors camps, but they didn't call labors camp. 10 years of prison, because he was anticommunist and he criticized communist regime.

The funny part of was, that was 5000 of us in one church, and one day we were called and they said, that our sentences came. So we had to go in and see, they we had our sentences.

Each of us, ask, when we were cold ask them, how to be a sentences, if I had any try. They say neverminded, if you have a try, or not. You are anticommunist, you, you were sentences 8 years of prison. And I refused to sign, that is neverminded. They say neverminded, just sign and say that you are literal. That you can say yours names, and they put cross in there. And that was a way, most of the people of sentences and acknowledge them, sentences. Most of us, what either students or people of good education, which definitely could write and read, bout no one them sign a sentence. So whatever Russian ask us, how they came they didn't have the our names, sign a literal people, who could write and read. So, we had to put a crosses, for before they couldn't read or write. That was a Russian system, which they jumbly did of all the place. Nobody was every sentence to die, and die. One of my friends was sentence to death, and after few days he was came, and ask me to make a please, to changing the sentence to life sentence. He refuses, he was surprised, he didn't really know what he really want to do. Because he was talking with higher authorities, that they need a people to work in camps. That they could shoot them. When the guy is refused to signed, the were pleading of them, with him. And finally they singed 3 crosses for in bottom of this application, and they said that Stalin was so good, an changed his sentence from dead sentence to life in prisoners. So, that was very funny to us, because we were making a jokes about that, and Russian couldn't understand, we were laughing, and couldn't understand, how we can refused being, when we are asking to change our death sentence to life in prisoners. When we were told them, what is different, we can dead here or there. Soon or later. And if we die now, we will be much quicker, and much without any pain. And when we go to prison for several years, will be suffering and will die anyway. So, they could understand our attitude. And after, after a while, they stopped to asking us. They stop ask about those things. Another things was very touching in the prisons, how loyal prisoners were to each other. Very often is something happen, that one couldn't go to work, we try to hidden him, we tries to help him and Russian could understand what we did that. Because for them life on man mean nothing. If Russian was dying, just sign, that he dead and nobody would help him. But prisoners, where a special group of people. In condition like that, one is just like a brother to another. And this is reason why, so many of us survived, because we are helping each other. We were shared a small amount of bread, and the Russian couldn't understand that.

No way to communities with anybody in nowhere. We had to build our huts, before. Every day, was we were wake up, as sons as was light, and the after some breakfast, they called breakfast, a was a little bit soup and we were sent to woods, and we were cut woods and put on bank of the river, be ready to send to river, when ship came. That was a winter time and work was very hard. Sometimes weather was so cold, was 60 degrees below zero, they didn't let us go to the woods. When we were there, the snow was deep, we had dig around them wood, and start the fire before we cut a tree. Sometimes we had to put a fire two days before the trees. Of course, most of us, where been not enough in wear to winter clothing. My boots, which I had when I arrested, wore out. And that time they gave us trainers which we made our to able to walk or something. They to up with strings, which I use them to our shoes or boots. Winter was very hard, but we could survived, but not all us, said, people who went to work, slowly dead, and the some older try to survived on minimum food. One of the guy escape, one escaped, and we don't know anything about him for 3 mouths. After 3 mouths he came back, he came back and he said, it was so much wood around, it was nowhere to go, after 3 mouths he came back to the same camp. As a punishment, Russian cached him, almost neck to ice, and outside in the weather, on the freezing to water of him. He survived and after 3 days he was put back to the camp. So was no sense to escape because wasn't possibility to go anywhere to escape. We were there in very poor conditions, several people dead in starvation, sometimes in the mornings somebody died. We call of Head Count, we took a dead man with us. Kept their ration for a

day. And then we left them in our huts, but later Russian found them in that. At least we had their bread rations for the day. It's happened several times, in the same way, when they accounting us, somebody was dead. In November 1941, there were amnesty for the Polish people, that was because of agreement of Polish government, British government, and Russian government, to form Polish army, would be fighting against Germans in Russia. There were a lot of Polish people about 3 millions people were sent to Russia. Some of them were like prison like me, or were settled on steps like my family. My family were sent to Russia in 1941 in the middle of night, they went to my family house, and told to everybody be ready in one hour, and everybody were to dress and took possession, they had with them, they couldn't take only one suitcase for person. They were taking to railway station, their picked to cattle wagons, there were overcrowded, no place for sleeping or sanitation. There were in those wagons sent to Russia. To Siberia, they were supposed to be settled, after two weeks of traveling in those cattle wagons.

One day take out of the train, put in the some wagons, cattle wagons, horse wagons taking to the inside some, into to farm, suppose be working. The condition there were bad, they had one hut for several families. They had to share everything between them. They were mostly working cutting the wood, to stocking of the winter. When the winter came there were completely isolated without any food. The snow was 2 meters high, two - six. And snow cut off any communications. At that time they had a very little food, and they tried to share, as little as possible, as longest possible. That because several people were dying of starvation. On the people who dead was my father. He was only 54 years old. He did served winter, also my grandmother didn't survived that winter. She dead of starvation also. After the winter, the Russian told, they had several food ration waiting for them, but they couldn't get of them, because is winter and snow. it was of course too late for my grandmother and father. Except my father, my mother, my sisters, my brother who that time was 7 years old. After my father dead, they had to working to survived. my mother and brother and sister were working. My little sister learn to do, learn to do middle work, so she could do some sweaters for Russian army. And the paid she very little. Mostly in food, no in money. They were in Russia until 1945. After the war ended were asked to send back to Poland and they had a lot difficulty to way back to Poland. Russian try to force them to take the Russian citizenship and stay in Russia Of course, my family refused, and after quite struggle, they were sent back to Poland. In meantime, in 1941 in October, I was released from the prison, after several weeks of waiting, and i try to Polish Army, which was forming in that time near Tashkent, in southern Russia. I was given ticket and very little money to go, to travel to Tashkent. Of course i was almost starving, so the first thing which I did, I sold my ticket for get some food and I was traveling on the wagon trains, passengers train, to hide to Russian guard those train. when i reach the Tashkent, and Polish, first of all I was trying to find my family, which I have learn from some letters, when they were located. I after couple weeks I found my mother, brother and sister in little village near Alma Ata in Kazakhstan. There were also released from this farms, where they working, and they went, they trying to get south, to join to Polish army. Unfortunately my brother was very sick and I joined he was try for it, and he couldn't go to army with me. I after couple weeks staying with them, I went to south, to joined to Polish army. Finally I reach Polish Army, where he were organized that time in Russia. In a time of traveling, I've meet a lot of Polish people, I met a Russian people, they were also in very primitive condition. Our Army were station in Dzalabad, our unit was station in Dzalabad, and when I joined to the army, we were put in tents. It was a middle of winter. I think it was January or February 1942. I must to staying in the tent, and snow cover the tents, so we could keep warm. We had a little stow, food was much better, than in camp. But sanitation condition were really bad too. A lot of people were starting be sick of typhus. I had in our tent, were 12 of us. The somehow, we survived in few weeks, before being

infected. After few week, one of us start a typhus, and after him all of us had a typhus. We were sent to polish hospital, which was at that time very primitive. The had not much medicine, so they people there nurses and doctor try to best to keep us alive. I was in hospital about 3 weeks, and I survived a typhus, but some on my friend dead. Acutely were a lot about 25 percent of people who were there and dead of typhus fewer. From there I were sent do other camp. Camp Karmine, which was a camp, which we supposed to go and do Caspian See to Persia, where the British give us armor any trained as to became polish unit. To begging we were supposed to fight with Russian against German, but Russian had not enough armor to give us and train us, so British government, decided to take us to middle east, train us, an we will be fighting against Germans, with the British and Americans army. I had some experience in flying before the war. After we reach Iran, we were, for those people who had experience in flying, was selected to go to Brittan to UK, to be train to polish air force, to join to polish air force. That time the was seven of us who had some experience in flying. Were sent to later, to Bastra, form there we were sent to Iraq, and put in the ship in Basra, and we were sent to England. When we traveling form Bastra do Bombay, in Bombay we stayed for few weeks, for wait for another ships, to takes us. After, but couple weeks later, were boarded to American ship, Califroza, we were sent to England, we around south Africa, to south America, and of course south Africa we came to England, acutely to Scotland form the north. We traveling alone, without any convoy, so we had take a long way to England. When we came to England, we were joined to air force, and we were training in different towns, and airfield I was to be a fighter pilots, they sent me to school for fighter pilots, and we were trained in England, one of the English place on several different planes, then were sent to different squadrons. I was to squadrons, which was fighting in that time in France, Polish squadron which was under the command of British command. In took part in some fighting before war was ended in May 1945. On May 8, when war ended, and we were at time on German soil, and we celebrating end of the war. After the war ended, we stay in polish squadron two years in occupation forces in Germany, after two years we were sent back to England, when we were sent to camps to prepare for civilian lives. After two years of life in these camps, we were out air force, and start civilian life.

Of course young pilots, always sign to the commanding officers to squadron and talk to be with him all the time, not to do anything, by himself. When the first time was in action, I was number 2 on winding of my commanding officers. We supposed to attack some barks on English channel. And some port on Holland, on the beaches on the Holland. I was told, I was keeping my wind of my commanding officers, of course were a lot communion, when we are attacking the ships, later we attacking the fortifications on the port, I just follow of my squadron leader. Not, every think for me very simply. When we are landing to our base, all my friends, which were flying, we are flying together one on pilots squadron says, wow, that was a though mission. And I say to him, what you mean tough? What was so tough about it? And he said I was enjoying my flight, my first operation, and he said did you a little cloud. yes. They were until aircrafts, and of course I didn't realize, that under clouds anybody was shooting to me, so I am enjoy myself very much. when they told me, what was acutely happens, I was really got scare, for this time. I knew now, that somebody was shooting to us of course was ignorance his bliss. So I was enjoy my first flight, several occasion different flights, different situation, One day I remember were playing poker and we are suddenly call to take off. Four of us playing poker, four of us to go, because we put our cards in the pockets, I was ready to operation. In that operation one of us were shooted down. And he never come back. When he came back, they found, he had four kings, so he would be a winner, but he never came back. We were very young, enthusiastic, about flying, about doing our duty. The worst thing was for us, when was a uprising of Warsaw, and we were in England and we couldn't help them even that we willingly we would like to fly and help polish people in Warsaw. The Russian that time refuse our plane,

let our plane land in other side of Warsaw. Because of that we couldn't reach our squadrons reach Warsaw and cant back, so we were sitting there and not able to help, we couldn't help, because Russian didn't agree to land us. In the time of war, of course, different things which happens, one of them was at we, we were very likely, because we were so young and we enjoy our flying, but of course was a lot of suffering, when we lost our friends, which were flying with them. On of the worst thing, was happened, it was a last flight, 8th May, we were to send to action shipping, on the coast of Germany, and our squadron leader, attack the ship and was brake out of explosion that ship, two minutes later, we are order to go back to base, because war was ended. he dead, i think he was a last pilot dying that war, an when we got a news's of end of war, but five minutes before, these young man, who was 25 years old, could survived. It was a very tragic of all of us. Very good guy, and the he was a great los for the squadron. After the war we came back to England, suppose by train by English, to civilian live.

In prison I've met, I was surprised, how many different nationality were being arrest by Russian. there were a some Czech people, Slavic people in the prison together with me, and later on in Russian in the camps, in those slaver camps, I met people form Hungary, Rumania, Slovakia and of course different parts of the Russia. Some of the people like Kazakhs, they couldn't speak Russian, but they were sent there, because they were anticommunist. One the very strange thing happen, it was 80 years old man in prison, and I asked him for what he was sent to prison. He was said he was a teacher of geography in Russia, and one they he was sent to prison. He was criticized Russian government to cutting trees, without to receding the forest. He was criticized and he was sent to prison. In our camp was a Romanian doctor, was Hungarian nurse, different nationality, all were there. Any way was a lot nationality of people in prison in Russia. So of there were very simply people, some of there were intelligence. I talked with Romania doctor, he speaks a bit Russian, that time I speak Russian, I asking one day why he was in prison, he said, because i was in group of people who Russian torturing, so if you want to help people with anticommunist, you will go with them. So he was sent to prison. I was curious why very nationality were there, or they had satisfaction not allowed to the churches, and no religion. Of course it was pretext do get people in prison, Russian didn't want to use to all people to labor, in the Siberia, they took foreigners as possible to them free. Most of those people in Siberia, he work in cutting woods, other people were sent to mines, coal mains in Kamchatka, some of them survived, some come back to polish army. And those, every different people form different countries, and different profession, different life, we were all there like one big family, it was no difference it was one was educate, second was not educate, was simply. We are all in the sum situation in the same condition and we try to survived helping on to another.