



Arek's Story, Chapter 7

After the war Arek, you had your own family, did you speak to your family about your experiences?

No, not until 1995. When I wrote my book, *A Detail of History*, I decided that's the time actually to speak to them. And they were very shocked and then the two brothers from Beth Shalom, the Holocaust museum came to see me and they said "Would you come to talk to students" and so on, and that's the first time I started talking about the camps and so on because I couldn't, I was emotional, the emotion involved. And slowly slowly I started talking and today I go out to schools, universities and I give talks

Why do you think it's important to do that? What is the message you hope people will receive from you talking?

It's important to teach young people what actually happened in the war. It shouldn't be forgotten. There was terrible things. So many people lost their lives and 6 million Jews were killed and other nationalities, they were murdered and hanged and all sorts. So it's important to teach young people what actually happened in history and so on. And I go round to schools, universities and I give talks and they take them very well, they take them very very well and they listen to me and I go to many many schools and also to Beth Shalom as well, to the Holocaust museum and I give talks to young people there from Year 9 upwards. Because they are the young people which will grow up eventually and learn the lesson, what actually happened.

And do you think it's possible for it to happen again?

There is a possibility. Mankind haven't learned the lesson yet. There's still wars going on, still in Rwanda and other places, Darfur, and all sorts of different murders go on all the time and people haven't learned the lesson. Things still go on today. Not in such an amount but it's still very very severe and I worry what will happen to mankind as time goes on because you get today deniers about the Holocaust and so on. That's terrible. The people – I mean there are fascists still around and there are still people like that and how can they deny what actually happened? Everybody seen it and Bergen Belsen was liberated by the British, I mean the most terrible, Auschwitz by the Russians and so on, and how on earth can you say it never happened? It's a terrible situation. And I hope we live in a better world and that man has learned his lesson and to be so

evil and so horrendous. I only hope for mankind that the world will be a better world. That's all I hope.