



Arek's Story, Chapter 8

How did you find out what happened to your family, did you try and trace them after the war?

Yes, I found my elder sister two years after the war, she was in Russia during the war. I knew that she went to Russia with my aunt and uncle and I found her after the war through the Red Cross. And then I went to see her but she went to America and she wanted me to come with her but the Korean war was going on and if I went to America I would have been taken to the Army and I had enough of that situation so I didn't go and she went and she lived in Detroit, Michigan. She died about 20 years ago.

Did you find out what had happened to the rest of your family through the Red Cross?

I found out from my, through some friends from my town, only 40 people survived from my town. Everybody was killed. And I found out that they were killed in Chelmno in that forest. And when I went back I've seen all the terrible things that happened there and the mass graves and so on, and there were gas vans and then they were buried the mass graves.

I know that you go back to Germany, you've been to Poland and you've been all over the place haven't you.

Yes.