



Arek's Story, Chapter 9

How do you feel looking back at what the Nazis did? How have you managed to come to terms with the treatment, the anti-Semitism and all of that that you did face in Poland as a young boy? Did it alter how you felt about people from those countries?

To a certain extent. I went back in 1980 for the first time and I went back to my town. There was one Jewish man married to a Christian lady. He wasn't from our town. I talked to some of the Polish people there and I went to the house where I was born and then I went back a few years later with groups of people, I went to my town, I went to Lodz, I went to Chelmno, I went to Warsaw and so on with a [---] and showed them all the different things. The main thing is where they have been killed and it stands as a monument today, it's got a wall with all sorts of writings and it says that 320,000 people were killed, gassed here and so on and Eichmann, the way he was in charge of all the Holocaust things and so on, he, when he was tried in Jerusalem he was the forerunner of the Holocaust on so on and he described Chelmno, he went down to have a look how they gassed the people and so on and so the bus goes along the line and he says well I couldn't watch it because I could see people were still alive and then they were thrown into mass graves and so on and he did say what it was. And I went back a few times to Chelmno and prayed over the mass graves and then slowly I started taking people back to Auschwitz, groups, young people and also older groups and so on and I'm going next month to Auschwitz with a group from Leeds and I will still be taking young people of about from year 9,10 to Auschwitz and then eventually I'll call it a day. I've done my job well. But the schools will still go.

I think you've done more than your bit. Thank you very much Arek. Thank you.

You're welcome.