Lesson 2: Frank Blaichman: Ethics in a Time of Genocide

“Life in the Forest”
Video Transcript

We went through many hardships, many sufferings, I can tell you. But somehow, we overcame all that suffering. And let me tell you another thing. The first two months we were in the forest, it was very bad. We went through hunger, scary beatings, all kinds of things. But none of us, including me, was complaining. You know what I was saying? This is still better than to be in a concentration camp or a death camp, no matter what it is. And tomorrow is going to be another day. That’s what I was telling myself, and all the others were saying the same thing. And that’s how we overcame all these things. You know, we were sleeping in the forest in freezing rain, in storm, snow, on the snow. The snow covered us up. In the morning I got up—[there] was a blanket of snow. That’s how we were living for the first few months. Sometimes for several days going around wet, hungry, but still we didn’t give it up. We were hardened, not softened.

“Power and Responsibility”
Video Transcript

Now, when we acquired firearms, we acquired, also, power. Power from a gun has all the languages. You don’t have to know how to speak nice or so on. When you’re armed, you got everything. Whatever you ask in the blink of—You understand what I mean? But we did not abuse our power. This was the greatest thing that we did and I’m happy about it... We didn’t harm any innocent people. We tried our best. Sometimes innocent people got killed because of us...[But] I am very proud of myself and my group, the way we behaved, in general, to the people.

“Protecting Jews”
Video Transcripts

Those who could not come with us, who could not fight, we found shelter for them by farmers, some of them, who made bunkers for them, and they lived there until the area was liberated. And then in Parczew Forest there were maybe 200 Jews like that, in the forest, living until the end. They were under our protection. All the bandits knew if they were going to touch them, they were going to be punished for that.
Student Notes