```
00:00:00,000 \longrightarrow 00:00:06,810
2
00:00:06,810 --> 00:00:08,709
[FRENCH]
00:00:08,709 --> 00:00:18,490
4
00:00:18,490 --> 00:00:19,030
Be quiet.
5
00:00:19,030 \longrightarrow 00:00:19,780
Nothing happened.
00:00:19,780 --> 00:00:21,396
We didn't stop it.
00:00:21,396 \longrightarrow 00:00:25,220
00:00:25,220 --> 00:00:29,070
I just want to make you nervous.
00:00:29,070 \longrightarrow 00:00:30,240
You want to make me nervous?
10
00:00:30,240 --> 00:00:32,189
Thank you, million.
11
00:00:32,189 --> 00:00:34,680
To rest your control.
12
00:00:34,680 --> 00:00:35,820
Hmm?
13
00:00:35,820 --> 00:00:36,880
```

To lose your control.

00:00:36,880 --> 00:00:41,420

15 00:00:41,420 --> 00:00:43,490 You did all right.

16 00:00:43,490 --> 00:00:43,990 Mm-hmm.

17 00:00:43,990 --> 00:00:47,140

18 00:00:47,140 --> 00:00:50,110 You know.

19 00:00:50,110 --> 00:00:50,620 OK.

20 00:00:50,620 --> 00:00:53,890 Let's start now.

21 00:00:53,890 --> 00:00:58,340 I think we have to start from the beginning.

22 00:00:58,340 --> 00:01:02,840 From the entrance of the Germans in Lodz.

23 00:01:02,840 --> 00:01:03,970 Yes.

24 00:01:03,970 --> 00:01:06,810 OK, if you can describe, what was the situation?

25 00:01:06,810 --> 00:01:10,260 What were your feelings at the time?

26 00:01:10,260 --> 00:01:16,430 And if you knew already what would be at stake,

27

00:01:16,430 --> 00:01:18,475 if the family had an idea.

28

00:01:18,475 --> 00:01:20,990

29

00:01:20,990 --> 00:01:24,140 Well, we had an idea, but certainly not about

30

00:01:24,140 --> 00:01:25,950 how it will happen.

31

00:01:25,950 --> 00:01:29,985 We didn't have an idea how bad it will be.

32

00:01:29,985 --> 00:01:35,630 See, the war broke out September 1, 1939.

33

00:01:35,630 --> 00:01:42,040 And we knew that it's coming, but it was a surprise anyway

34

00:01:42,040 --> 00:01:46,590 when the news came that the Germans invaded Poland.

35

00:01:46,590 --> 00:01:49,510 And we were getting ready, as a matter of fact,

36

00:01:49,510 --> 00:01:54,150 for the invasion that summer.

37

00:01:54,150 --> 00:01:58,530 See, I was in the junior high grade.

00:01:58,530 --> 00:02:05,730 And we did have military preparation, learning how to,

39 00:02:05,730 --> 00:02:07,800 but they said it was for the girls.

40 00:02:07,800 --> 00:02:08,759 Get ready for the--

41 00:02:08,759 --> 00:02:09,074 Pardon?

42 00:02:09,074 --> 00:02:10,699 May I ask how old were you at the time?

43 00:02:10,699 --> 00:02:11,205 17.

44 00:02:11,205 --> 00:02:11,705 17.

45 00:02:11,705 --> 00:02:13,980 17.

46 00:02:13,980 --> 00:02:15,520 Just 17 in April.

47 00:02:15,520 --> 00:02:17,790 And then we knew already something is coming.

48 00:02:17,790 --> 00:02:23,910 And we were digging in the city anti- Panzer--

49 00:02:23,910 --> 00:02:24,750 Ditches.

50 00:02:24,750 --> 00:02:26,570 --ditches.

51 00:02:26,570 --> 00:02:28,520 So, we knew it's coming.

52 00:02:28,520 --> 00:02:32,210 But nevertheless, when it came, it was a surprise.

53 00:02:32,210 --> 00:02:34,910 And Lodz was taken when?

54 00:02:34,910 --> 00:02:37,920

55 00:02:37,920 --> 00:02:41,880 I don't know exactly, but it was within a week,

56 00:02:41,880 --> 00:02:44,910 the Germans were in Lodz and farther,

57 00:02:44,910 --> 00:02:47,160 from the West to the East.

58 00:02:47,160 --> 00:02:52,000 But Lodz is pretty centrally located in the country.

59 00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:54,090 So they were in Lodz.

60 00:02:54,090 --> 00:02:56,850 And how we felt in the beginning, well,

61 00:02:56,850 --> 00:03:02,100 there were the blackouts for the planes, right?

62 00:03:02,100 --> 00:03:05,040 To plan an air attack, there were blackouts.

63 00:03:05,040 --> 00:03:08,250 And there were some planes over Lodz.

64 00:03:08,250 --> 00:03:10,020 There was not much in bombing.

65 00:03:10,020 --> 00:03:12,790 Maybe a couple of bombs or so fell over the city,

66 00:03:12,790 --> 00:03:15,210 so there was not much physical destruction.

67 00:03:15,210 --> 00:03:16,540 But we were ready.

68 00:03:16,540 --> 00:03:17,820 We were.

69 00:03:17,820 --> 00:03:21,630 I was, for instance, active on the block service.

70 00:03:21,630 --> 00:03:25,620 We would make rounds, and we would get ready to,

71 00:03:25,620 --> 00:03:26,370 who knows what.

72 00:03:26,370 --> 00:03:31,620 To help people or get news from block to block, et cetera.

73 00:03:31,620 --> 00:03:33,150 Yes.

74

00:03:33,150 --> 00:03:36,190 We would go and the air raid would be--

75 00:03:36,190 --> 00:03:38,010 well, there was no good cellar, but we

76 00:03:38,010 --> 00:03:40,620 would go downstairs and hide.

77 00:03:40,620 --> 00:03:42,660 And it was panic.

78 00:03:42,660 --> 00:03:47,850 It was an unknown panic that something dreadful's

79 00:03:47,850 --> 00:03:48,670 going to happen.

80 00:03:48,670 --> 00:03:51,460 We'll be killed, and all that.

81 00:03:51,460 --> 00:03:58,800 But the surprise was that, how quickly the Germans came.

82 00:03:58,800 --> 00:04:05,790 Sort of in no time, the county was down under siege.

83 00:04:05,790 --> 00:04:09,120 Our hope was that England and France

84 00:04:09,120 --> 00:04:12,995 will step in because Poland had packed with both countries.

85 00:04:12,995 --> 00:04:14,010 Yes? 86 00:04:14,010 --> 00:04:17,160 And then, we were waiting day from day,

87 00:04:17,160 --> 00:04:19,540 and nothing was happening.

88 00:04:19,540 --> 00:04:24,400 And before anything happened, it was gone.

89 00:04:24,400 --> 00:04:28,200 And did you feel already that the fate of the Jews

90 00:04:28,200 --> 00:04:32,600 would be what happened later and what was [? done? ?]

91 00:04:32,600 --> 00:04:38,910 We had a good idea, because we listened to the radio

92 00:04:38,910 --> 00:04:43,440 and to Hitler's speeches in Germany.

93 00:04:43,440 --> 00:04:45,880 And we took him very seriously.

94 00:04:45,880 --> 00:04:48,090 We knew what was happening there in Germany

95 00:04:48,090 --> 00:04:49,350 for a number of years.

96 00:04:49,350 --> 00:04:50,250 Yes.

97 00:04:50,250 --> 00:04:53,100 We just hoped that-- 98 00:04:53,100 --> 00:04:54,690 At that point, we are not involved.

99 00:04:54,690 --> 00:04:56,970 We are free, and it was a free country,

100 00:04:56,970 --> 00:05:01,170 though Jews were already having a hard time.

101 00:05:01,170 --> 00:05:05,460 And the antisemitism was dated even before then.

102 00:05:05,460 --> 00:05:09,030 I mean, before '39.

103 00:05:09,030 --> 00:05:11,760 So and we knew also--

104 00:05:11,760 --> 00:05:16,230 See, Lodz was a city where there was a large part

105 00:05:16,230 --> 00:05:18,930 of the population were Germans.

106 00:05:18,930 --> 00:05:21,780 It was partly settled by the Germans.

107 00:05:21,780 --> 00:05:23,370 So we knew the steerings.

108 00:05:23,370 --> 00:05:28,180 We knew our playmates on the street, et cetera.

109 00:05:28,180 --> 00:05:29,430 [? Germanza. ?] Volksdeutsche.

110

00:05:29,430 --> 00:05:30,840 Volksdeutsche.

111

00:05:30,840 --> 00:05:34,020 Getting ready and wearing swastikas before Hitler

112

00:05:34,020 --> 00:05:35,760 came even.

113

00:05:35,760 --> 00:05:39,480 And we were watching them, sort of hoping

114

00:05:39,480 --> 00:05:44,425 that we can settle them down if there's no invasion.

115

 $00:05:44,425 \longrightarrow 00:05:47,190$

116

00:05:47,190 --> 00:05:51,570 But within no time, it was quiet.

117

00:05:51,570 --> 00:05:54,870 Sort of a dead silence when the invasion came--

118

00:05:54,870 --> 00:05:56,550 So we were surprised.

119

00:05:56,550 --> 00:05:58,080 Overrun.

120

00:05:58,080 --> 00:06:01,620 And that was the feeling, sort of that caught by surprise.

121

00:06:01,620 --> 00:06:04,170

122 00:06:04,170 --> 00:06:06,900 Yes?

123

00:06:06,900 --> 00:06:09,930 Well, then for a while there was dead silence

124

00:06:09,930 --> 00:06:17,160 because we knew it's over, the country capitulated.

125

00:06:17,160 --> 00:06:21,100 But it took a while for the German army to come in.

126

00:06:21,100 --> 00:06:25,950 So they came, and there was still not much steering.

127

00:06:25,950 --> 00:06:26,760 They came.

128

00:06:26,760 --> 00:06:28,500 They stayed there.

129

00:06:28,500 --> 00:06:30,570 They were going to the East.

130

00:06:30,570 --> 00:06:35,460 And the only way we felt that we are trapped

131

00:06:35,460 --> 00:06:38,130 is because our neighbors, Polish neighbors,

132

00:06:38,130 --> 00:06:46,230 started really to let us know that our time is over.

00:06:46,230 --> 00:06:48,050 And that was a surprise.

134 00:06:48,050 --> 00:06:50,330 A surprise, and not a surprise, because

135 00:06:50,330 --> 00:06:53,510 we knew what was steering the hate

136 00:06:53,510 --> 00:06:54,950 from the Polish population.

137 00:06:54,950 --> 00:06:57,470 It started immediately, as soon as the Germans

138 00:06:57,470 --> 00:06:58,760 entered the town?

139 00:06:58,760 --> 00:07:01,010 Yes.

140 00:07:01,010 --> 00:07:02,400 Could you give some examples?

141 00:07:02,400 --> 00:07:06,740

142 00:07:06,740 --> 00:07:08,870 Well, I think one thing that happened

143 00:07:08,870 --> 00:07:12,980 was that as soon as they settled, somehow, the Germans,

144 00:07:12,980 --> 00:07:19,850 the decrees were coming out about Jews being different. 00:07:19,850 --> 00:07:22,850 And the same decrees that they had in Germany,

146

00:07:22,850 --> 00:07:25,490 they applied to Poland.

147

00:07:25,490 --> 00:07:32,810 That we are to be considered as dangerous, different, nothing,

148

00:07:32,810 --> 00:07:38,070 and special, we will be taken care in a special way,

149

00:07:38,070 --> 00:07:41,790 different than the Poles.

150

00:07:41,790 --> 00:07:45,570 Yes, and what was the reaction of the Poles to the decrees,

151

00:07:45,570 --> 00:07:47,790 because it came very quickly?

152

00:07:47,790 --> 00:07:50,500 The reaction was--

153

00:07:50,500 --> 00:07:51,000 Let's see.

154

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:54,900 Let me think how it was in my neighborhood.

155

00:07:54,900 --> 00:07:57,180 Were you living in a Jewish neighborhood?

156

00:07:57,180 --> 00:07:57,810 No.

157

00:07:57,810 --> 00:08:02,160 I lived in a mixed neighborhood, so there was a good number of--

158 00:08:02,160 --> 00:08:06,090 An apartment house that belonged to my grandfather.

159 00:08:06,090 --> 00:08:09,720 And there were a good number of Poles.

160 00:08:09,720 --> 00:08:12,790 You were from a rich family?

161 00:08:12,790 --> 00:08:16,670 Well, not really.

162 00:08:16,670 --> 00:08:21,530 My grandfather was, before the first World War,

163 00:08:21,530 --> 00:08:25,440 he was prominent, and you may say rich.

164 00:08:25,440 --> 00:08:29,180 He was a builder and he built many houses, apartment

165 00:08:29,180 --> 00:08:31,220 buildings, in Lodz.

166 00:08:31,220 --> 00:08:36,500 And then when a war came, he lost it all,

167 00:08:36,500 --> 00:08:40,870 the devaluation of money and all that, it was practically loss.

168 00:08:40,870 --> 00:08:44,870 He still had some property, but the economy

169 00:08:44,870 --> 00:08:48,320 was shattered after the first war, one.

170 00:08:48,320 --> 00:08:54,830 And so he was not affluent,

and my mother's family was not

171 00:08:54,830 --> 00:08:57,540 as affluent as they used to be.

172 00:08:57,540 --> 00:09:01,790 So it was a struggle, but I never felt poor.

173 00:09:01,790 --> 00:09:04,400 We lived OK.

174 00:09:04,400 --> 00:09:06,765 Frugally, but OK.

175 00:09:06,765 --> 00:09:09,230 But when you say in a mixed neighborhood,

176 00:09:09,230 --> 00:09:12,680 it was a neighborhood of Jews, Poles?

177 00:09:12,680 --> 00:09:14,090 Jews, Poles, Germans.

178 00:09:14,090 --> 00:09:18,920 See, again, there was a large German population

179 00:09:18,920 --> 00:09:21,260 and a large Jewish population.

180 00:09:21,260 --> 00:09:26,060 And there were certain parts where Jews lived predominantly.

181

00:09:26,060 --> 00:09:29,330 What do you mean, a large part of German population?

182

00:09:29,330 --> 00:09:29,900 Also.

183

00:09:29,900 --> 00:09:30,990 German Jews, you mean?

184

00:09:30,990 --> 00:09:31,490 No, no, no.

185

00:09:31,490 --> 00:09:31,990 Germans.

186

00:09:31,990 --> 00:09:32,660 Oh, Germans.

187

00:09:32,660 --> 00:09:34,520 Volksdeutsche.

188

00:09:34,520 --> 00:09:39,140 And there were neighborhoods where Jews lived predominately.

189

00:09:39,140 --> 00:09:43,460 And then they were scattered all in the city, too, around.

190

00:09:43,460 --> 00:09:47,720 And I lived in a neighborhood where there was a mixture.

191

00:09:47,720 --> 00:09:52,370 Which I liked OK, and we had very close relationship

192

00:09:52,370 --> 00:09:55,160

with some neighbors, very friendly relationship.

193 00:09:55,160 --> 00:09:58,700

194 00:09:58,700 --> 00:10:00,250 [FRENCH]

195 00:10:00,250 --> 00:10:01,570

196 00:10:01,570 --> 00:10:05,440 Well, tell me with some details about the reactions

197 00:10:05,440 --> 00:10:09,730 of the Poles as soon as the German decrees against the Jews

198 00:10:09,730 --> 00:10:13,960 were enforced.

199 00:10:13,960 --> 00:10:20,170 Well, first thing was Jews were beaten up on the streets.

200 00:10:20,170 --> 00:10:20,920 By the Poles?

201 00:10:20,920 --> 00:10:21,485 By the Poles.

202 00:10:21,485 --> 00:10:24,860

203 00:10:24,860 --> 00:10:30,320 And where I lived, in the apartment building,

204 00:10:30,320 --> 00:10:35,660 the manager, janitor that was a Pole sort of took over.

205

00:10:35,660 --> 00:10:40,640

They say, we are now the managers.

206

00:10:40,640 --> 00:10:42,990

And not only managers,

but you're nothing.

207

00:10:42,990 --> 00:10:45,350

We're taking over.

208

00:10:45,350 --> 00:10:49,340

They would come and

take our furniture,

209

00:10:49,340 --> 00:10:53,750

take out things, even before we left for the ghetto,

we left for the g

210

00:10:53,750 --> 00:10:58,190

before the decrees would come to of establishing

211

00:10:58,190 --> 00:11:01,130

of the ghetto and the

order for us to move.

212

 $00:11:01,130 \longrightarrow 00:11:04,550$

213

00:11:04,550 --> 00:11:09,200

They would, for instance,

well, the first thing

214

00:11:09,200 --> 00:11:16,190

was that the Jews had to wear

the Star of David on the arm

215

00:11:16,190 --> 00:11:16,820

first.

216

00:11:16,820 --> 00:11:19,685 Then on the clothing, on the chest.

217

00:11:19,685 --> 00:11:23,660

218

00:11:23,660 --> 00:11:28,850 You remember the first day you had to wear the Star of David

219

00:11:28,850 --> 00:11:32,870 on the arm and on the chest?

220

00:11:32,870 --> 00:11:35,570 Well, it's hard for me to remember the first day,

221

00:11:35,570 --> 00:11:40,490 but I remember the feeling that was horrible.

222

00:11:40,490 --> 00:11:43,620 It was unbelievable.

223

00:11:43,620 --> 00:11:44,810 And then if--

224

00:11:44,810 --> 00:11:47,600 You didn't think to escape this?

225

00:11:47,600 --> 00:11:48,960 Oh, I did.

226

00:11:48,960 --> 00:11:50,330 I wouldn't wear it.

227

00:11:50,330 --> 00:11:52,380 But it was dangerous.

228

00:11:52,380 --> 00:11:56,960

The Germans had not such a good way

229

00:11:56,960 --> 00:11:59,450 of telling who is Jewish or not.

230

00:11:59,450 --> 00:12:01,280 Our neighbors did.

231

00:12:01,280 --> 00:12:04,250 So they would point out, well, that's a Jew

232

00:12:04,250 --> 00:12:08,030 and he doesn't wear the Star of David.

233

00:12:08,030 --> 00:12:10,340 You mean, it was dangerous not to wear it

234

00:12:10,340 --> 00:12:11,270 because of the Poles?

235

00:12:11,270 --> 00:12:12,440 That's right.

236

00:12:12,440 --> 00:12:16,550 They would just tell who is Jewish,

237

00:12:16,550 --> 00:12:21,320 and then the people, the Jews, would be beaten up or taken

238

00:12:21,320 --> 00:12:23,480 to the Gestapos.

239

00:12:23,480 --> 00:12:29,540 Pretty soon they would rally up Jews to do work, street work.

00:12:29,540 --> 00:12:33,380 But it was not so much to do the work, but just to shame people.

241

00:12:33,380 --> 00:12:35,780 To beat them up, shame them.

242

00:12:35,780 --> 00:12:38,210 And so people were sitting home.

243

00:12:38,210 --> 00:12:40,460 They wouldn't dare to go out.

244

00:12:40,460 --> 00:12:41,600 They were hiding.

245

00:12:41,600 --> 00:12:48,120 And particularly men, but women as well.

246

00:12:48,120 --> 00:12:49,220 When we would--

247

00:12:49,220 --> 00:12:52,640 Pretty soon also the rationing came in.

248

00:12:52,640 --> 00:12:55,130 War broke out, and there was a panic

249

00:12:55,130 --> 00:12:59,000 to buy stuff, food and so on, because people

250

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:01,340 had experience from the first war

251

00:13:01,340 --> 00:13:05,310 that food will be a problem.

252

00:13:05,310 --> 00:13:09,440 And then bread started to be rationed,

253

00:13:09,440 --> 00:13:13,010 so there were lines for bread, for the bakeries,

254

00:13:13,010 --> 00:13:15,770 to get the daily bread.

255

00:13:15,770 --> 00:13:21,050 And we would be picked out from the lines

256

00:13:21,050 --> 00:13:27,470 and said to leave by the German Youth and the Poles, too.

257

00:13:27,470 --> 00:13:28,970 But the Germans didn't do it.

258

00:13:28,970 --> 00:13:32,010 The Poles helped them.

259

00:13:32,010 --> 00:13:34,850 So that's how it looked.

260

00:13:34,850 --> 00:13:38,500

261

00:13:38,500 --> 00:13:43,690 Now, for instance, in my case, some of the, as I told you,

262

00:13:43,690 --> 00:13:48,310 the manager or the janitor came and took furniture out,

263

00:13:48,310 --> 00:13:51,910 pieces of furniture or whatnot, and we just

264

00:13:51,910 --> 00:13:53,090 couldn't believe it.

265

00:13:53,090 --> 00:13:56,440 And I certainly was very spirited and to say,

266

00:13:56,440 --> 00:13:57,520 no it won't happen.

267

00:13:57,520 --> 00:13:59,530 We won't let that happen.

268

00:13:59,530 --> 00:14:03,280 And myself and a neighbor, a middle-aged woman there

269

00:14:03,280 --> 00:14:09,520 who was also spirited enough, we went to the German commander.

270

00:14:09,520 --> 00:14:12,970 Because it was done still before the orders.

271

00:14:12,970 --> 00:14:17,650 And we went there and talked to the commander and said, look,

272

00:14:17,650 --> 00:14:20,230 is that what ought to happen?

273

00:14:20,230 --> 00:14:22,870 That we will be pestered by the neighbors?

274

00:14:22,870 --> 00:14:26,670

275

00:14:26,670 --> 00:14:29,340

So it just points out our spirit then,

276 00:14:29,340 --> 00:14:32,910 of not wanting to accept it and saying no.

277

00:14:32,910 --> 00:14:38,820 And still the Germans then, the commander came with us

278

00:14:38,820 --> 00:14:42,240 and told this janitor, don't do that.

279

00:14:42,240 --> 00:14:44,380 You have no right to do that.

280

00:14:44,380 --> 00:14:47,820 We were very proud and we got the feeling

281

00:14:47,820 --> 00:14:55,840 that maybe we can sort of fight for our rights.

282

00:14:55,840 --> 00:14:58,140 Of course now, and I know what happened later,

283

00:14:58,140 --> 00:15:03,210 that was sort of silly because pretty soon, in no time,

284

00:15:03,210 --> 00:15:08,640 there were orders for the formation of the ghetto

285

00:15:08,640 --> 00:15:09,710 and for us to go--

286

00:15:09,710 --> 00:15:11,970 And very soon in Lodz.

287

00:15:11,970 --> 00:15:12,930 Very soon.

288

00:15:12,930 --> 00:15:14,130 October, November.

289

00:15:14,130 --> 00:15:16,260 It was very soon.

290

00:15:16,260 --> 00:15:20,760 And we still would not sort of believe it.

291

00:15:20,760 --> 00:15:25,790 But then they organized very seriously the thing,

292

00:15:25,790 --> 00:15:30,930 and emptying a part of Lodz that was called Baluty.

293

00:15:30,930 --> 00:15:34,800 It was a district known very well

294

00:15:34,800 --> 00:15:39,060 because it was sort of the utmost poverty in one sense,

295

00:15:39,060 --> 00:15:42,660 and also seat of crime.

296

00:15:42,660 --> 00:15:48,570 And we just couldn't believe that, that will happen.

297

00:15:48,570 --> 00:15:52,337 I mean, in our terms you would call it the slums of the city.

298

00:15:52,337 --> 00:15:52,920

It was a slum?

299

00:15:52,920 --> 00:15:53,420 Yeah.

300

00:15:53,420 --> 00:15:55,830 It was the slum of the city.

301

00:15:55,830 --> 00:16:00,000 But pretty soon, the officials and corporations

302

00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:05,190 with the Jewish officials, the Jewish community, the leaders,

303

00:16:05,190 --> 00:16:09,270 set up a machinery to accomplish that.

304

00:16:09,270 --> 00:16:12,180

305

00:16:12,180 --> 00:16:15,450 I mean, they asked the Poles, mostly Poles lived there,

306

00:16:15,450 --> 00:16:16,810 some Jews, too, to move.

307

00:16:16,810 --> 00:16:18,060 They left the Jews, of course.

308

00:16:18,060 --> 00:16:21,000 The Poles had to move out someplace else.

309

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:26,340 And they designated then apartments or living space,

310

00:16:26,340 --> 00:16:28,080 because they were not even apartments.

311

00:16:28,080 --> 00:16:29,788 There was sort of, I don't know how much,

312

00:16:29,788 --> 00:16:33,660 but square feet assigned per person.

313

00:16:33,660 --> 00:16:36,600 And I remember I worked in school.

314

00:16:36,600 --> 00:16:39,840 The school didn't open, needless to say.

315

00:16:39,840 --> 00:16:44,490 But we did gather in schools to do the paperwork.

316

00:16:44,490 --> 00:16:49,020 And I remember we worked days and nights continuously

317

00:16:49,020 --> 00:16:50,430 to do that.

318

00:16:50,430 --> 00:16:51,750 Which paperwork?

319

00:16:51,750 --> 00:16:56,190 Paperwork assigning the list of people, list of Jews,

320

00:16:56,190 --> 00:16:58,020 and flats.

321

00:16:58,020 --> 00:16:59,910 And matching them up, where people-- 00:16:59,910 --> 00:17:05,880 They were assigned, of course, sort of arbitrarily.

323

00:17:05,880 --> 00:17:08,640 The school was a Jewish school?

324

00:17:08,640 --> 00:17:10,380 I was going to a Jewish school, yes.

325

00:17:10,380 --> 00:17:10,980 You were in a Jewish school?

326

00:17:10,980 --> 00:17:11,609 Yes.

327

00:17:11,609 --> 00:17:12,750 High school.

328

00:17:12,750 --> 00:17:14,020 Private Jewish high school.

329

00:17:14,020 --> 00:17:15,300 Yes.

330

00:17:15,300 --> 00:17:18,270 And did you have at the time, I mean, even before the war,

331

00:17:18,270 --> 00:17:22,950 feeling to belong to Judaism?

332

00:17:22,950 --> 00:17:25,190 Did you feel strongly Jewish?

333

00:17:25,190 --> 00:17:26,640 Very strongly.

334

00:17:26,640 --> 00:17:30,574 Very strongly Jewish and very strongly Polish.

335 00:17:30,574 --> 00

00:17:30,574 --> 00:17:31,190 Both?

336

00:17:31,190 --> 00:17:31,690 Both.

337

 $00:17:31,690 \longrightarrow 00:17:35,200$

338

00:17:35,200 --> 00:17:37,480 I was brought up in that atmosphere.

339

00:17:37,480 --> 00:17:45,010 My father was a very ardent Jew, but a secular Jew.

340

00:17:45,010 --> 00:17:47,950 He was a journalist in a Jewish newspaper.

341

00:17:47,950 --> 00:17:49,570 There were two Jewish newspapers,

342

00:17:49,570 --> 00:17:54,790 I think, in the city, and he was working in one for all my life

343

00:17:54,790 --> 00:17:57,860 that I had before the war.

344

00:17:57,860 --> 00:17:59,890 And the point of view--

345

00:17:59,890 --> 00:18:02,620 His family, as a matter of fact, the whole linking

346

00:18:02,620 --> 00:18:05,860 was sort of, if you're familiar

with it, they were Bundists.

347

00:18:05,860 --> 00:18:07,330

[INAUDIBLE]

348

00:18:07,330 --> 00:18:10,210 They were a strong movement at that time in Poland

349

00:18:10,210 --> 00:18:11,620 and in Russia.

350

00:18:11,620 --> 00:18:12,670 And in Lodz.

351

00:18:12,670 --> 00:18:14,360 And in Lodz very strong.

352

00:18:14,360 --> 00:18:15,950 Particularly strong.

353

00:18:15,950 --> 00:18:17,410 I'll tell you why.

354

00:18:17,410 --> 00:18:23,050 So the philosophy was that you are a citizen

355

00:18:23,050 --> 00:18:24,890 of the county where you are.

356

00:18:24,890 --> 00:18:27,670 And a committed citizen.

357

00:18:27,670 --> 00:18:31,330 At the same time, you are culturally and otherwise also

358

00:18:31,330 --> 00:18:33,130 a Jew.

359

00:18:33,130 --> 00:18:36,190 And you fight for your rights both ways.

360 00:18:36,190 --> 00:18:37,550 Yes.

361 00:18:37,550 --> 00:18:38,740 Now why Lodz particularly?

362 00:18:38,740 --> 00:18:41,360 Because it was the biggest industrial city in Poland.

363 00:18:41,360 --> 00:18:44,260 It was called the Polish Manchester.

364 00:18:44,260 --> 00:18:47,800 And of course there was a great turbulence

365 00:18:47,800 --> 00:18:50,440 at the break of the century and later.

366 00:18:50,440 --> 00:18:57,370 Industrialization and socialism workers.

367 00:18:57,370 --> 00:19:05,110 And it was very turbulent in the way of social happenings,

368 00:19:05,110 --> 00:19:06,820 economic happenings.

369 00:19:06,820 --> 00:19:09,610 Can you describe the moving into the ghetto?

370 00:19:09,610 --> 00:19:12,250 Because it is not an easy process.

371 00:19:12,250 --> 00:19:14,650 It's very complicated, as a matter of fact,

372

00:19:14,650 --> 00:19:23,050 to make such a segregation and to arrive

373

00:19:23,050 --> 00:19:26,680 to the ghettoization of a whole sector of the population.

374

00:19:26,680 --> 00:19:29,300 There were many, many Jews in Lodz.

375

00:19:29,300 --> 00:19:29,800 Yes.

376

00:19:29,800 --> 00:19:31,280 More than 200,000, I think.

377

00:19:31,280 --> 00:19:33,040 Right.

378

00:19:33,040 --> 00:19:36,285 Which was 30% of the general population.

379

00:19:36,285 --> 00:19:38,300 Right.

380

00:19:38,300 --> 00:19:39,130 I don't know.

381

00:19:39,130 --> 00:19:39,630

It was--

382

00:19:39,630 --> 00:19:42,770

It must have been

a tremendous task.

383

00:19:42,770 --> 00:19:43,900

Yes.

384

00:19:43,900 --> 00:19:46,360

It was awful.

385

00:19:46,360 --> 00:19:50,290

It was chaos, total chaos.

386

00:19:50,290 --> 00:19:52,670

We couldn't accept it.

387

00:19:52,670 --> 00:19:56,230

We were fighting it

within ourselves.

388

00:19:56,230 --> 00:19:57,610

Many people left.

389

00:19:57,610 --> 00:20:04,900

Many Jews left, looking for

a hiding place to avoid that.

390

00:20:04,900 --> 00:20:09,730

Many went eastwards to Russia

because the border was open

391

00:20:09,730 --> 00:20:11,590

there.

392

00:20:11,590 --> 00:20:16,150

Some that had money tried

to get out of the country.

393

00:20:16,150 --> 00:20:20,290

Not many did because

there was limited.

394

00:20:20,290 --> 00:20:23,600

Visas and so on

were not available.

395

00:20:23,600 --> 00:20:25,450 So people tried to get away.

396

00:20:25,450 --> 00:20:29,260 I remember I had an aunt in Warsaw.

397

00:20:29,260 --> 00:20:35,170 And we were thinking of going to Warsaw because we thought

398

00:20:35,170 --> 00:20:37,990 that Warsaw was better off.

399

00:20:37,990 --> 00:20:46,230 See, the Germans incorporated Lodz and parts of Poland

400

00:20:46,230 --> 00:20:48,020 into the Reich.

401

00:20:48,020 --> 00:20:49,790 Lodz became Litzmannstadt.

402

00:20:49,790 --> 00:20:54,920 They were Germanizing it, and that became a German city.

403

00:20:54,920 --> 00:20:56,390 Warsaw was an open city.

404

00:20:56,390 --> 00:20:57,942 It was sort of like a territory.

405

00:20:57,942 --> 00:20:59,150 I don't know how you call it.

406

00:20:59,150 --> 00:21:00,230

But it did not have--

407 00:21:00,230 --> 00:21:01,400 [INAUDIBLE]

408 00:21:01,400 --> 00:21:04,400 Yes, they didn't have the sting that Lodz--

409 00:21:04,400 --> 00:21:12,300

410 00:21:12,300 --> 00:21:13,770 [FRENCH]

411 00:21:13,770 --> 00:21:44,451

412 00:21:44,451 --> 00:21:45,480 OK, so.

413 00:21:45,480 --> 00:21:51,010 So one idea was for our family to go to Warsaw

414 00:21:51,010 --> 00:21:56,100 and to stay there, thinking it would be safer there.

415 00:21:56,100 --> 00:22:04,290 So I went with a cousin of mine that lived in the same building

416 00:22:04,290 --> 00:22:08,310 and took some clothes with me, sort of starting to move.

417 00:22:08,310 --> 00:22:09,930 Yes.

418 00:22:09,930 --> 00:22:14,670 The trip was dangerous because as Jews, we couldn't go. 419

00:22:14,670 --> 00:22:19,410 We would be stopped at the train station.

420

00:22:19,410 --> 00:22:23,310 But both of us looked not very much Semitic.

421

00:22:23,310 --> 00:22:28,710 So what we did, we wore the star,

422

00:22:28,710 --> 00:22:33,390 but put a shawl around it.

423

00:22:33,390 --> 00:22:36,890 So we pretended not to be Jews.

424

00:22:36,890 --> 00:22:40,920 It was risky, but we did it.

425

00:22:40,920 --> 00:22:46,773 And only to find out as I came to my aunt and uncle--

426

00:22:46,773 --> 00:22:48,690 But there was no ghetto at the time in Warsaw.

427

00:22:48,690 --> 00:22:50,440 There was no ghetto at the time, but there

428

00:22:50,440 --> 00:22:55,200 was a good deal of panic and uncertainty just the same.

429

00:22:55,200 --> 00:22:58,240 And things looked very bad there, too.

430

00:22:58,240 --> 00:22:58,830

Yes.

431 00:22:58,830 --> 00:23:02,250 So I came back here with the news.

432 00:23:02,250 --> 00:23:05,670 And anyway, things progressed quickly.

433 00:23:05,670 --> 00:23:08,700 We at a certain date, I don't remember where,

434 00:23:08,700 --> 00:23:13,080 we had to leave our house and got address

435 00:23:13,080 --> 00:23:15,865 where to move to the ghetto, and that was it.

436 00:23:15,865 --> 00:23:18,670

437 00:23:18,670 --> 00:23:21,790 How did this change take place?

438 00:23:21,790 --> 00:23:24,470 Can you describe it in details?

439 00:23:24,470 --> 00:23:26,890 In details, you have to imagine that we

440 00:23:26,890 --> 00:23:31,000 had as from a large apartment, very large apartment,

441 00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:36,190 we were assigned, four of us in the family, a small room. 442 00:23:36,190 --> 00:23:39,490 And my grandparents a small room, too,

443 00:23:39,490 --> 00:23:41,440 in the same building.

444 00:23:41,440 --> 00:23:44,570 [? Jitnya ?] six in the ghetto.

445 00:23:44,570 --> 00:23:48,670 So we had to reconcile with the idea

446 00:23:48,670 --> 00:23:50,285 that we have to leave the furniture--

447 00:23:50,285 --> 00:23:52,240 [FRENCH]

448 00:23:52,240 --> 00:23:56,360

449 00:23:56,360 --> 00:24:01,070 Well, as I was telling you, we knew

450 00:24:01,070 --> 00:24:04,700 we had to leave most of our belongings, furniture

451 00:24:04,700 --> 00:24:06,950 and all that.

452 00:24:06,950 --> 00:24:12,410 Took some pieces that would fit in the new quarters.

453 00:24:12,410 --> 00:24:15,200 And the feeling was horrible. 454

00:24:15,200 --> 00:24:19,370 You just were leaving yourself and going into the unknown.

455

00:24:19,370 --> 00:24:23,620 And the crowded conditions, new neighbors.

456

00:24:23,620 --> 00:24:25,170 It was unreal.

457

00:24:25,170 --> 00:24:29,690 I don't know how to describe it, but it was really unreal.

458

00:24:29,690 --> 00:24:31,880 You said, leaving yourself.

459

00:24:31,880 --> 00:24:34,070 You felt like you were leaving yourself

460

00:24:34,070 --> 00:24:36,380 and you're going into a jail.

461

00:24:36,380 --> 00:24:41,240 The ghetto was encircled by barbed wire fences.

462

00:24:41,240 --> 00:24:47,320 And it was on both sides of a main artery, main street,

463

00:24:47,320 --> 00:24:51,060 that remained not part of the ghetto.

464

00:24:51,060 --> 00:24:56,450 So there were wooden bridges built across.

465

00:24:56,450 --> 00:24:59,090

It was unreal, like a circus.

466 00:24:59,090 --> 00:25:02,070 Or you didn't know what's going on.

467 00:25:02,070 --> 00:25:09,530 Did one have a feeling of solidarity with the other Jews

468 00:25:09,530 --> 00:25:11,750 who were gathered with you?

469 00:25:11,750 --> 00:25:16,130 Or was it something else, a hatred, or--

470 00:25:16,130 --> 00:25:20,320 It was, sort of the feeling was everybody on his own.

471 00:25:20,320 --> 00:25:22,910 And there was no feeling of solidarity.

472 00:25:22,910 --> 00:25:24,740 There was no feeling of community,

473 00:25:24,740 --> 00:25:26,460 because it's sort of different.

474 00:25:26,460 --> 00:25:30,470 You sort of try to concentrate on your family,

475 00:25:30,470 --> 00:25:32,660 on the closest family.

476 00:25:32,660 --> 00:25:34,550 And maybe some friends. 00:25:34,550 --> 00:25:37,850 No, there was no contact with friends at that time either.

478 00:25:37,850 --> 00:25:39,840 People were going every which way.

479 00:25:39,840 --> 00:25:43,070 You were just left alone to fend by yourself

480 00:25:43,070 --> 00:25:46,280 and feeling that nobody else does.

481 00:25:46,280 --> 00:25:49,880 No, that this is because I try to figure out

482 00:25:49,880 --> 00:25:50,720 what does it mean.

483 00:25:50,720 --> 00:25:54,110 Because it's who you were.

484 00:25:54,110 --> 00:25:57,440 You were Jewish and you felt very strongly Jewish.

485 00:25:57,440 --> 00:26:00,410 But what does it mean suddenly to be gathered only with Jews?

486 00:26:00,410 --> 00:26:03,620

487 00:26:03,620 --> 00:26:05,960 It was totally new experience.

488 00:26:05,960 --> 00:26:06,860 It was eerie. 489 00:26:06,860 --> 00:26:10,040 It took a long time to settle down.

490

00:26:10,040 --> 00:26:12,960 I was never used to, for instance,

491

00:26:12,960 --> 00:26:17,390 be part administratively of the Jewish community.

492

00:26:17,390 --> 00:26:22,640 I knew there was a Jewish community a Jewish leadership,

493

00:26:22,640 --> 00:26:25,220 but I was never part of it.

494

00:26:25,220 --> 00:26:28,980 I was part of the city community.

495

00:26:28,980 --> 00:26:35,120 Then all of a sudden to have to deal with Jews as the community

496

00:26:35,120 --> 00:26:38,580 leaders was very strange to me.

497

00:26:38,580 --> 00:26:41,480 I cannot describe it, but it was unreal.

498

00:26:41,480 --> 00:26:45,770 It was not how I was used to.

499

00:26:45,770 --> 00:26:46,530

The Judenrat.

500

00:26:46,530 --> 00:26:49,330

Yes, Judenrat was

already set on before.

501 00:26:49,330 --> 00:26:50,030 It was set on.

502 00:26:50,030 --> 00:26:55,880 Before, in normal times, the Judenrat was sort of--

503 00:26:55,880 --> 00:26:59,720 [NON-ENGLISH]

504 00:26:59,720 --> 00:27:02,580 --was concerning themselves with the welfare,

505 00:27:02,580 --> 00:27:06,050 people that needed help, all kinds

506 00:27:06,050 --> 00:27:09,830 of religious maybe things, and social for people that needed

507 00:27:09,830 --> 00:27:12,550 help.

508 00:27:12,550 --> 00:27:14,590 So I didn't have any knowledge of them.

509 00:27:14,590 --> 00:27:16,930 And all of a sudden, they became very important.

510 00:27:16,930 --> 00:27:23,440 They were the givers of rules, and restrictions, and help.

511 00:27:23,440 --> 00:27:26,920 It was just all of a sudden like in an eerie way, 512

00:27:26,920 --> 00:27:30,590 a Jewish state is being formed.

513

00:27:30,590 --> 00:27:34,250 And you don't know to hell why and what for.

514

00:27:34,250 --> 00:27:36,100 A parody of a Jewish state.

515

00:27:36,100 --> 00:27:39,430 Because it was a parody that was not a Jewish state.

516

00:27:39,430 --> 00:27:43,530 It was decreed by the Germans.

517

00:27:43,530 --> 00:27:44,880 Yes.

518

00:27:44,880 --> 00:27:47,460 So I think the reaction--

519

00:27:47,460 --> 00:27:50,190

520

00:27:50,190 --> 00:27:51,855 I think we all went numb.

521

00:27:51,855 --> 00:27:54,330 We didn't know in a way what's going on.

522

00:27:54,330 --> 00:27:59,190 Things became to be mechanical.

523

00:27:59,190 --> 00:28:04,800 And we were just doing things in a [? half?]

524

00:28:04,800 --> 00:28:11,160

daze, because it was so abnormal, so out of context.

525

00:28:11,160 --> 00:28:14,850 It just didn't make sense.

526

00:28:14,850 --> 00:28:17,740 Yes, and this was very early.

527

00:28:17,740 --> 00:28:19,090 This was in 1940.

528

00:28:19,090 --> 00:28:20,121 '40!

529

00:28:20,121 --> 00:28:22,230 Yes.

530

00:28:22,230 --> 00:28:25,180 And your parents?

531

00:28:25,180 --> 00:28:31,620 Well, my parents were very strong parents, strong people.

532

00:28:31,620 --> 00:28:32,520 Leaders.

533

00:28:32,520 --> 00:28:36,060 And I always grew up with the feeling I can depend on them,

534

00:28:36,060 --> 00:28:38,490 for leadership, for guidance.

535

00:28:38,490 --> 00:28:40,260 And it felt good.

536

00:28:40,260 --> 00:28:41,770 It's the only way I knew.

537

00:28:41,770 --> 00:28:44,460 So it was natural.

538

00:28:44,460 --> 00:28:48,780 At that time, it was painful to see that your parents don't

539

00:28:48,780 --> 00:28:50,020 know what to do either.

540

00:28:50,020 --> 00:28:52,170 Because they are swept away.

541

00:28:52,170 --> 00:28:54,540 And they are--

542

00:28:54,540 --> 00:28:55,040 Helpless.

543

00:28:55,040 --> 00:28:57,080 --astonished and helpless.

544

00:28:57,080 --> 00:28:59,720 Though they were strong physically and strong leading

545

00:28:59,720 --> 00:29:01,190 the whole moving and so on.

546

00:29:01,190 --> 00:29:02,660 They were in charge.

547

00:29:02,660 --> 00:29:05,175 But they had no way of affecting things.

548

 $00:29:05,175 \longrightarrow 00:29:07,710$

549

00:29:07,710 --> 00:29:11,450 You sort of expected them to do something, to protect you 550 00:29:11,450 --> 00:29:14,545 or to do something.

551

00:29:14,545 --> 00:29:15,045 Protest!

552

00:29:15,045 --> 00:29:17,570

553

00:29:17,570 --> 00:29:22,970 Oh, I was mad because I thought my parents should

554

00:29:22,970 --> 00:29:24,480 know what to do.

555

00:29:24,480 --> 00:29:28,490 Run away, leave.

556

00:29:28,490 --> 00:29:31,880 They shouldn't get themselves into a jail in the ghetto.

557

00:29:31,880 --> 00:29:33,170 I wanted to leave.

558

00:29:33,170 --> 00:29:37,310 Some of my friends did, eastwards to Russia.

559

00:29:37,310 --> 00:29:38,870 I said, why don't we go?

560

00:29:38,870 --> 00:29:41,300 Why don't we go, all of us?

561

00:29:41,300 --> 00:29:45,510 Mother says, yeah my parents, my grandparents,

562

00:29:45,510 --> 00:29:47,540 how can I leave them?

563

00:29:47,540 --> 00:29:48,890 I said, leave!

564

00:29:48,890 --> 00:29:51,240 Don't you see what's going on?

565

00:29:51,240 --> 00:29:52,480 And she said, no.

566

00:29:52,480 --> 00:29:54,350 Besides, why should I run?

567

00:29:54,350 --> 00:29:55,000 That's my home.

568

00:29:55,000 --> 00:29:57,805

569

00:29:57,805 --> 00:29:58,680 That's what she said?

570

00:29:58,680 --> 00:29:59,660 Yes.

571

00:29:59,660 --> 00:30:01,710 Why should I run?

572

00:30:01,710 --> 00:30:04,860 And my father, too.

573

00:30:04,860 --> 00:30:08,010 She said, if you want to go, go.

574

00:30:08,010 --> 00:30:09,757 And I couldn't.

575

00:30:09,757 --> 00:30:11,340

Because you didn't

want to leave them?

576

00:30:11,340 --> 00:30:13,050

I don't want to leave.

577

00:30:13,050 --> 00:30:16,500 I had the responsibility,

felt that I cannot leave them

578

00:30:16,500 --> 00:30:21,190 to save my life to escape Germans, which I could,

579

00:30:21,190 --> 00:30:23,370

to the East.

580

00:30:23,370 --> 00:30:24,660

But I couldn't do that.

581

00:30:24,660 --> 00:30:28,890 This means, I think, that you

were trapped by the family.

582

00:30:28,890 --> 00:30:29,670

By the times.

583

 $00:30:29,670 \longrightarrow 00:30:30,520$

By the time.

584

00:30:30,520 --> 00:30:32,430

Yes, you could not.

585

 $00:30:32,430 \longrightarrow 00:30:34,020$

I don't know if you call it trapped,

586

00:30:34,020 --> 00:30:37,410

but there was some

basic loyalty.

587

 $00:30:37,410 \longrightarrow 00:30:41,530$

You were angry about it,

because you knew better.

588 00:30:41,530 --> 00:30:44,430 Things are not good, and you don't

589 00:30:44,430 --> 00:30:45,550 want to participate in it.

590 00:30:45,550 --> 00:30:47,740 And it was too shameful to go in the ghetto,

591 00:30:47,740 --> 00:30:50,235 to be behind barbed wire when you're well and healthy,

592 00:30:50,235 --> 00:30:52,400 and not to do anything about it.

593 00:30:52,400 --> 00:30:55,270 The thing was just go, because there was no other way.

594 00:30:55,270 --> 00:30:57,690 And yet, I couldn't.

595 00:30:57,690 --> 00:31:06,060 How can I leave them in trouble and save my life?

596 00:31:06,060 --> 00:31:10,400 And how did you organize yourself to leave?

597 00:31:10,400 --> 00:31:11,150 To what?

598 00:31:11,150 --> 00:31:12,230 To leave.

599 00:31:12,230 --> 00:31:12,850 The ghetto?

600

00:31:12,850 --> 00:31:13,350 Yes.

601

00:31:13,350 --> 00:31:14,880

602

00:31:14,880 --> 00:31:19,870 It was wintertime and Poland has heavy winters, lot of snow.

603

00:31:19,870 --> 00:31:22,770 So we moved things on sleds.

604

00:31:22,770 --> 00:31:26,340 And I remember there were lines and lines

605

00:31:26,340 --> 00:31:30,487 of scattered lines of people going toward the ghetto.

606

00:31:30,487 --> 00:31:31,770 You remember the lines?

607

00:31:31,770 --> 00:31:32,400 Oh, yes.

608

00:31:32,400 --> 00:31:35,130 Or little wagons with the holes.

609

00:31:35,130 --> 00:31:36,275 People moving in.

610

00:31:36,275 --> 00:31:39,320 It was a very sad procession.

611

00:31:39,320 --> 00:31:41,300

And then we didn't know that we'll even

612 00:31:41,300 --> 00:31:43,100 see more sad processions.

613 00:31:43,100 --> 00:31:46,630

614 00:31:46,630 --> 00:31:49,710 And you had a flat for yourself, or you

615 00:31:49,710 --> 00:31:51,270 were crowded with other people?

616 00:31:51,270 --> 00:31:53,710 Well, we had one room for four people.

617 00:31:53,710 --> 00:31:57,730 I was 17, my sister 11, and my parents.

618 00:31:57,730 --> 00:31:59,110 And that was it.

619 00:31:59,110 --> 00:32:05,530 There was an outside toilet in the downstairs.

620 00:32:05,530 --> 00:32:08,140 The other people too had one room.

621 00:32:08,140 --> 00:32:09,790 You were very crowded.

622 00:32:09,790 --> 00:32:15,500 There was a little thing to--

623 00:32:15,500 --> 00:32:16,000