

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,990

2

00:00:03,990 --> 00:00:07,640

(film slating)

3

00:00:07,640 --> 00:00:08,420

Well, let's see.

4

00:00:08,420 --> 00:00:10,730

We're talking about the--
you were Judenrat about

5

00:00:10,730 --> 00:00:13,250

the Judenrat that in
a way, you can say--

6

00:00:13,250 --> 00:00:18,300

and we felt-- that they were
a tool for extermination

7

00:00:18,300 --> 00:00:20,270

for the Germans.

8

00:00:20,270 --> 00:00:26,030

Because the orders came through
the Judenrat but also in a way,

9

00:00:26,030 --> 00:00:27,822

you could say that
they were a tool.

10

00:00:27,822 --> 00:00:30,860

At least we hoped, and
they, the people involved,

11

00:00:30,860 --> 00:00:35,210

hoped to be a tool for survival,
to help as many people as

12

00:00:35,210 --> 00:00:37,700

possible to survive.

13

00:00:37,700 --> 00:00:44,000

I think that is why we
did go along, after all,

14

00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:46,790

the population at large.

15

00:00:46,790 --> 00:00:49,040

Because once-- there
was no other choice,

16

00:00:49,040 --> 00:00:55,760

but the hope was that, with
orderly conduct of things,

17

00:00:55,760 --> 00:00:59,720

the idea was to save most
lives and to survive oneself.

18

00:00:59,720 --> 00:01:01,250

19

00:01:01,250 --> 00:01:04,849

This is an agonizing choice.

20

00:01:04,849 --> 00:01:07,690

Except that there was no choice.

21

00:01:07,690 --> 00:01:11,438

In the last analysis,
there was no choice.

22

00:01:11,438 --> 00:01:15,680

If Rumkowski wouldn't agree,
they would find somebody else.

23

00:01:15,680 --> 00:01:16,800

Or if we would--

24

00:01:16,800 --> 00:01:19,250

OK, you can say,
you could revolt,

25
00:01:19,250 --> 00:01:20,930
but the circumstances
were not there,

26
00:01:20,930 --> 00:01:24,560
because it was so
hermetically close.

27
00:01:24,560 --> 00:01:27,710
There was no chance.

28
00:01:27,710 --> 00:01:31,130
As I said before, the
high-security jail--

29
00:01:31,130 --> 00:01:35,880
the chances to get out, if they
are small, people submit more.

30
00:01:35,880 --> 00:01:36,380
Yes.

31
00:01:36,380 --> 00:01:42,470
The most astonishing thing is
to learn that life went on.

32
00:01:42,470 --> 00:01:44,420
I mean, there were
even marriages which

33
00:01:44,420 --> 00:01:46,850
were performed at the very end.

34
00:01:46,850 --> 00:01:47,850
There was like a--

35
00:01:47,850 --> 00:01:50,240
There were marriages, sure.

36

00:01:50,240 --> 00:01:54,650
And children were born, too.

37
00:01:54,650 --> 00:01:57,860
And Rumkowski was the
one who celebrated

38
00:01:57,860 --> 00:02:02,000
the marriages, as a matter
of fact, [INAUDIBLE]..

39
00:02:02,000 --> 00:02:03,050
Yes?

40
00:02:03,050 --> 00:02:04,100
I don't know.

41
00:02:04,100 --> 00:02:04,880
It's possible.

42
00:02:04,880 --> 00:02:07,030
Probably.

43
00:02:07,030 --> 00:02:13,030
He concentrated all the
power within his arms.

44
00:02:13,030 --> 00:02:16,120
I don't know if there
wasn't a rabbinate or what--

45
00:02:16,120 --> 00:02:18,550
I don't know, I can't tell you.

46
00:02:18,550 --> 00:02:20,935
There was no rabbinate anymore.

47
00:02:20,935 --> 00:02:23,070
So he was performing
the marriages?

48
00:02:23,070 --> 00:02:25,720

OK.

49

00:02:25,720 --> 00:02:29,540

Well, you can look
at it two ways.

50

00:02:29,540 --> 00:02:31,870

One, how horrible,
how can you live

51

00:02:31,870 --> 00:02:34,570

in these circumstances,
and the other way,

52

00:02:34,570 --> 00:02:37,120

you can look at it,
how strong life is.

53

00:02:37,120 --> 00:02:40,480

How much people
want and need and do

54

00:02:40,480 --> 00:02:44,830

live, as normally as they can.

55

00:02:44,830 --> 00:02:49,390

I suppose if not for their
drive, nobody would survive.

56

00:02:49,390 --> 00:02:49,890

Yes.

57

00:02:49,890 --> 00:02:53,590

58

00:02:53,590 --> 00:03:00,300

You told me once that you
witnessed the hangings in Å Å³dÅ¼.

59

00:03:00,300 --> 00:03:00,800

Mm-hmm.

60

00:03:00,800 --> 00:03:04,460

61

00:03:04,460 --> 00:03:08,390

Well, if we're
talking about tools,

62

00:03:08,390 --> 00:03:12,170

I think that was the biggest
tool the German used.

63

00:03:12,170 --> 00:03:13,100

The German--?

64

00:03:13,100 --> 00:03:18,560

The German used the biggest
tool to instill deadly fear

65

00:03:18,560 --> 00:03:21,830

into people, like hangings.

66

00:03:21,830 --> 00:03:27,200

They would catch a few people
for whatever minor thing

67

00:03:27,200 --> 00:03:32,690

and would make it
publicly in the square,

68

00:03:32,690 --> 00:03:35,480

and they would gather
people to watch,

69

00:03:35,480 --> 00:03:36,770

and people in the offices--

70

00:03:36,770 --> 00:03:38,360

where there were
offices around--

71

00:03:38,360 --> 00:03:39,940

had to watch in the windows.

72

00:03:39,940 --> 00:03:43,400

The German had to see the
faces of people in the windows

73

00:03:43,400 --> 00:03:47,307

to make sure that
we are watching.

74

00:03:47,307 --> 00:03:48,390

Did you see this yourself?

75

00:03:48,390 --> 00:03:50,100

I did.

76

00:03:50,100 --> 00:03:52,950

Several times?

77

00:03:52,950 --> 00:03:54,680

Couple of times that
I remember for sure.

78

00:03:54,680 --> 00:03:58,500

79

00:03:58,500 --> 00:03:59,280

Yes.

80

00:03:59,280 --> 00:04:00,840

That was a deadly fear.

81

00:04:00,840 --> 00:04:02,010

That was a tool--

82

00:04:02,010 --> 00:04:04,950

death.

83

00:04:04,950 --> 00:04:11,010

Torture, death, horror--
that was killing.

84

00:04:11,010 --> 00:04:15,090

And is it true that
the hanger was a Jew?

85
00:04:15,090 --> 00:04:16,668
Who?

86
00:04:16,668 --> 00:04:18,959
I don't know the name--

87
00:04:18,959 --> 00:04:20,250
the hang man.

88
00:04:20,250 --> 00:04:21,300
They were Jews.

89
00:04:21,300 --> 00:04:24,360
Or the person that was hanged?

90
00:04:24,360 --> 00:04:25,140
No, no.

91
00:04:25,140 --> 00:04:26,010
The hangman?

92
00:04:26,010 --> 00:04:27,030
Of course.

93
00:04:27,030 --> 00:04:30,030
Why not?

94
00:04:30,030 --> 00:04:31,384
Yes.

95
00:04:31,384 --> 00:04:32,318
[INAUDIBLE]

96
00:04:32,318 --> 00:04:36,530

97
00:04:36,530 --> 00:04:38,960
He was forced.

98
00:04:38,960 --> 00:04:40,130
Maybe he volunteered.

99
00:04:40,130 --> 00:04:40,765
Who knows?

100
00:04:40,765 --> 00:04:41,765
How about other hangmen?

101
00:04:41,765 --> 00:04:45,320

102
00:04:45,320 --> 00:04:47,310
Not in the ghetto.

103
00:04:47,310 --> 00:04:47,810
Ye.

104
00:04:47,810 --> 00:04:52,920

105
00:04:52,920 --> 00:04:58,550
And the liquidation
of the ghetto.

106
00:04:58,550 --> 00:04:59,710
How did it happen?

107
00:04:59,710 --> 00:05:05,560

108
00:05:05,560 --> 00:05:07,990
August '44, I went--

109
00:05:07,990 --> 00:05:10,720

110
00:05:10,720 --> 00:05:13,630
24th of August.

111

00:05:13,630 --> 00:05:18,630

Or I don't know the date, but
it was either July or August

112

00:05:18,630 --> 00:05:20,680
of '44.

113

00:05:20,680 --> 00:05:25,000
[INAUDIBLE] order came that
the ghetto is being liquidated.

114

00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:26,320
Everybody has to go.

115

00:05:26,320 --> 00:05:29,320

116

00:05:29,320 --> 00:05:34,060
And what can I tell you?

117

00:05:34,060 --> 00:05:38,540
Did the people consent
without protest,

118

00:05:38,540 --> 00:05:39,940
or were there protests?

119

00:05:39,940 --> 00:05:45,385

120

00:05:45,385 --> 00:05:46,640
I don't know.

121

00:05:46,640 --> 00:05:49,980
People were going.

122

00:05:49,980 --> 00:05:53,800
By streets, by districts,
there were just--

123

00:05:53,800 --> 00:05:55,790

SS men came again, and--

124

00:05:55,790 --> 00:05:58,110

In an orderly fashion?

125

00:05:58,110 --> 00:05:58,890

More or less.

126

00:05:58,890 --> 00:06:05,980

127

00:06:05,980 --> 00:06:10,660

I sort of-- yes, in
an orderly fashion.

128

00:06:10,660 --> 00:06:14,580

The idea was, too, mind
you, sort of on two levels.

129

00:06:14,580 --> 00:06:20,200

We were told that we were being
transported to another camp,

130

00:06:20,200 --> 00:06:23,980

and that it would be good to be
sure to take your necessities,

131

00:06:23,980 --> 00:06:28,285

to be sure to take silverware
and things like that,

132

00:06:28,285 --> 00:06:32,800

that we are going to be OK.

133

00:06:32,800 --> 00:06:39,430

And I think the majority
people at that time at the end

134

00:06:39,430 --> 00:06:43,390

had believed it, and
they just were going.

135

00:06:43,390 --> 00:06:45,040
But mind you, they were--

136
00:06:45,040 --> 00:06:48,800
we were totally exhausted.

137
00:06:48,800 --> 00:06:49,640
Physically.

138
00:06:49,640 --> 00:06:51,050
Physically and morally.

139
00:06:51,050 --> 00:06:55,910

140
00:06:55,910 --> 00:06:57,440
I didn't believe--

141
00:06:57,440 --> 00:07:04,780
I didn't believe for a minute
we were going to survive,

142
00:07:04,780 --> 00:07:05,850
and said so.

143
00:07:05,850 --> 00:07:10,070

144
00:07:10,070 --> 00:07:15,530
Then Rumkowski had
sort of-- in a way,

145
00:07:15,530 --> 00:07:18,350
here the privileges came again.

146
00:07:18,350 --> 00:07:24,440
He made a privileged list of
people to go to a special camp.

147
00:07:24,440 --> 00:07:27,410
Who believed, at
that point, anything?

148
00:07:27,410 --> 00:07:30,950
But all of us that
graduated from high school

149
00:07:30,950 --> 00:07:36,410
in the graduating class could
go with that special transport.

150
00:07:36,410 --> 00:07:43,450
And it was agony, because who
was to believe in Rumkowski?

151
00:07:43,450 --> 00:07:46,750
Or any, coming through
Germans, that there

152
00:07:46,750 --> 00:07:48,880
will be a special camp?

153
00:07:48,880 --> 00:07:51,460
So I didn't.

154
00:07:51,460 --> 00:07:57,970
And then, I of course asked
my parents what to do,

155
00:07:57,970 --> 00:08:00,310
and by that time,
they were totally--

156
00:08:00,310 --> 00:08:04,880
they couldn't-- they didn't know
what to do, so they said, well,

157
00:08:04,880 --> 00:08:05,680
whatever you think.

158
00:08:05,680 --> 00:08:07,360
You make the decisions.

159
00:08:07,360 --> 00:08:11,720

And my parents were
not like that before.

160
00:08:11,720 --> 00:08:16,600
But at that point,
it was impossible.

161
00:08:16,600 --> 00:08:18,220
You were the one who--

162
00:08:18,220 --> 00:08:22,010
They put it in my hands
to make a decision.

163
00:08:22,010 --> 00:08:25,990
So I inquired about the
transport and looked around.

164
00:08:25,990 --> 00:08:28,310
And the night it had to
go, I went to visit--

165
00:08:28,310 --> 00:08:30,640
But did you have
a choice or not?

166
00:08:30,640 --> 00:08:32,169
Well, yes.

167
00:08:32,169 --> 00:08:35,380
I had a choice not
to go and hide.

168
00:08:35,380 --> 00:08:36,730
And I said, I won't go.

169
00:08:36,730 --> 00:08:37,960
I will hide, we will hide.

170
00:08:37,960 --> 00:08:40,429
So I said, OK, my decision.

171

00:08:40,429 --> 00:08:43,059
I'm not going voluntarily.

172
00:08:43,059 --> 00:08:44,270
We'll hide.

173
00:08:44,270 --> 00:08:47,620
They have to take me.

174
00:08:47,620 --> 00:08:53,320
So we did not go, and we were
trying to hide somewhere.

175
00:08:53,320 --> 00:08:57,790
But in the party, there
were not many people with me

176
00:08:57,790 --> 00:08:59,080
that could hide.

177
00:08:59,080 --> 00:09:00,340
We were not prepared.

178
00:09:00,340 --> 00:09:03,310
We could not dig something.

179
00:09:03,310 --> 00:09:09,040
People were rallied
to go to the trains.

180
00:09:09,040 --> 00:09:16,300
So we hid for a while, and then
eventually, the Germans came,

181
00:09:16,300 --> 00:09:17,290
and they took us.

182
00:09:17,290 --> 00:09:18,550
Yes.

183
00:09:18,550 --> 00:09:20,860
There was no place to

hide other than be shot,

184
00:09:20,860 --> 00:09:22,780
and people were shot.

185
00:09:22,780 --> 00:09:23,830
So--

186
00:09:23,830 --> 00:09:25,920
And was there Rumkowski himself?

187
00:09:25,920 --> 00:09:28,780
Did he go with this
special transport?

188
00:09:28,780 --> 00:09:30,910
He went with another
transport, I think.

189
00:09:30,910 --> 00:09:31,720
I don't recall.

190
00:09:31,720 --> 00:09:37,530

191
00:09:37,530 --> 00:09:39,480
I did find out
later, much later,

192
00:09:39,480 --> 00:09:45,330
that the special transport
did go to Theresienstadt,

193
00:09:45,330 --> 00:09:49,890
and that was a much better
way to go than Auschwitz.

194
00:09:49,890 --> 00:09:53,040
So you can imagine, then,
what I went through.

195
00:09:53,040 --> 00:09:56,400

It was my decision
not to go there.

196
00:09:56,400 --> 00:10:01,050
And what would be if
I'd decided differently?

197
00:10:01,050 --> 00:10:04,950
Maybe somebody would survive.

198
00:10:04,950 --> 00:10:06,960
This means that you
went to Auschwitz.

199
00:10:06,960 --> 00:10:07,980
Mm-hmm.

200
00:10:07,980 --> 00:10:08,970
With your family.

201
00:10:08,970 --> 00:10:10,770
Yeah.

202
00:10:10,770 --> 00:10:12,730
Wow.

203
00:10:12,730 --> 00:10:14,690
[SIGH]

204
00:10:14,690 --> 00:10:18,130

205
00:10:18,130 --> 00:10:20,659
And we arrived in Auschwitz.

206
00:10:20,659 --> 00:10:26,530

207
00:10:26,530 --> 00:10:27,710
What do you want me to say?

208

00:10:27,710 --> 00:10:30,370

And they were,
your parents were?

209

00:10:30,370 --> 00:10:33,460

Well, they separated
the men from the women

210

00:10:33,460 --> 00:10:37,120

right away, so my father
was on the other--

211

00:10:37,120 --> 00:10:39,650

taken a separate way.

212

00:10:39,650 --> 00:10:42,160

And my sister, myself, and
my mother went together.

213

00:10:42,160 --> 00:10:46,900

My mother was taken away at
the line, the women's line--

214

00:10:46,900 --> 00:10:49,200

left, right.

215

00:10:49,200 --> 00:10:52,900

She was taken away,
and that was it.

216

00:10:52,900 --> 00:10:57,046

Myself and my sister
made it to the camp.

217

00:10:57,046 --> 00:10:59,846

That means your
parents were gassed?

218

00:10:59,846 --> 00:11:01,760

Mm-hmm.

219

00:11:01,760 --> 00:11:04,640

No, I heard my father

was sent to a camp,

220

00:11:04,640 --> 00:11:10,136
to a labor camp where
he lived for a while.

221

00:11:10,136 --> 00:11:11,552
[BEEP]

222

00:11:11,552 --> 00:11:14,384

223

00:11:14,384 --> 00:11:17,230
(film slating)

224

00:11:17,230 --> 00:11:19,910
How were the streets
in the ghetto?

225

00:11:19,910 --> 00:11:20,830
They were clean?

226

00:11:20,830 --> 00:11:25,656
They were-- in Warsaw,
it was not clean at all.

227

00:11:25,656 --> 00:11:27,310
They were very clean.

228

00:11:27,310 --> 00:11:33,670
There was an administrative
apparatus to take care of them.

229

00:11:33,670 --> 00:11:36,670
We had administrators
for blocks.

230

00:11:36,670 --> 00:11:40,010
As a matter, my father was an
administrator of a block of--

231

00:11:40,010 --> 00:11:42,160

it was in the ghetto.

232

00:11:42,160 --> 00:11:48,190

And they were responsible
for everything

233

00:11:48,190 --> 00:11:50,860

being kept in order,
which included

234

00:11:50,860 --> 00:11:57,130

clean streets, and clean houses,
and the latrines to be cleaned

235

00:11:57,130 --> 00:12:02,860

and [INAUDIBLE] to prevent
epidemics, typhoid fever,

236

00:12:02,860 --> 00:12:03,520

and so on.

237

00:12:03,520 --> 00:12:07,000

But were there corpses in
the street like in Warsaw?

238

00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:08,050

No.

239

00:12:08,050 --> 00:12:10,840

There were sometimes
people dying and falling

240

00:12:10,840 --> 00:12:13,570

on the street from
hunger, but there

241

00:12:13,570 --> 00:12:16,010

were no corpses laying around.

242

00:12:16,010 --> 00:12:18,575

There was hunger, and
there was cleanliness.

243

00:12:18,575 --> 00:12:19,075

Right.

244

00:12:19,075 --> 00:12:21,900

245

00:12:21,900 --> 00:12:30,550

I have heard that there was once
a strike of the gravediggers,

246

00:12:30,550 --> 00:12:31,800

some people who were--

247

00:12:31,800 --> 00:12:32,820

Yes, buriers, yes.

248

00:12:32,820 --> 00:12:35,580

--making the graves.

249

00:12:35,580 --> 00:12:39,810

And it was a very important
one, because the people

250

00:12:39,810 --> 00:12:45,510

were burying so, so
numerous that this was

251

00:12:45,510 --> 00:12:50,550

a key point in the machinery.

252

00:12:50,550 --> 00:12:53,970

This strike, do
you remember this?

253

00:12:53,970 --> 00:12:55,380

Not really.

254

00:12:55,380 --> 00:12:57,390

No.

255

00:12:57,390 --> 00:12:59,100

Were there epidemics?

256

00:12:59,100 --> 00:13:02,410

257

00:13:02,410 --> 00:13:05,680

I don't think-- people
were sick, of course.

258

00:13:05,680 --> 00:13:10,810

Hunger was the biggest
sort of thing of illness,

259

00:13:10,810 --> 00:13:14,530

swellings, and so forth.

260

00:13:14,530 --> 00:13:16,330

And there were.

261

00:13:16,330 --> 00:13:21,010

There were dysentery and
typhoid, but it was contained.

262

00:13:21,010 --> 00:13:25,240

It never took big proportions.

263

00:13:25,240 --> 00:13:26,170

It was under control?

264

00:13:26,170 --> 00:13:27,790

It was under control.

265

00:13:27,790 --> 00:13:31,930

Medical care and sanitation--

266

00:13:31,930 --> 00:13:33,650

it was looked after.

267

00:13:33,650 --> 00:13:37,690

I'm not saying that it was
spick and span and all that,

268

00:13:37,690 --> 00:13:43,796
but considering the crowdedness,
considering the hunger,

269

00:13:43,796 --> 00:13:49,040
it was as it was.

270

00:13:49,040 --> 00:13:53,480
And how was it possible to
work a whole day in hunger?

271

00:13:53,480 --> 00:13:57,770

272

00:13:57,770 --> 00:13:59,090
Very hard.

273

00:13:59,090 --> 00:14:02,180
I was young, but it was hard.

274

00:14:02,180 --> 00:14:04,550
I remember a period
of time, I worked

275

00:14:04,550 --> 00:14:08,210
in a woodworking factory.

276

00:14:08,210 --> 00:14:09,740
We were making all kinds--

277

00:14:09,740 --> 00:14:13,250
wheels, for instance,
for wagons--

278

00:14:13,250 --> 00:14:17,250
wooden wheels and other things.

279

00:14:17,250 --> 00:14:24,150
And it was a huge place.

280

00:14:24,150 --> 00:14:27,630

In wintertime, it
was not heated.

281
00:14:27,630 --> 00:14:30,250
So it was very, very cold.

282
00:14:30,250 --> 00:14:34,500
We had to bundle up, and so on.

283
00:14:34,500 --> 00:14:36,340
And you stood at the machinery.

284
00:14:36,340 --> 00:14:41,050
There was machinery,
one machine I operated.

285
00:14:41,050 --> 00:14:44,640
And it was hard.

286
00:14:44,640 --> 00:14:48,190
But [? amazing-- ?] people
were just sort of very,

287
00:14:48,190 --> 00:14:50,290
very depressed.

288
00:14:50,290 --> 00:14:51,900
What I would like
to ask you-- who

289
00:14:51,900 --> 00:14:53,820
were these people
who were working?

290
00:14:53,820 --> 00:14:56,040
What were-- was there
privilege in comparison

291
00:14:56,040 --> 00:14:58,320
with the others or not?

292
00:14:58,320 --> 00:14:59,580

With others, who?

293

00:14:59,580 --> 00:15:00,690

Who didn't work.

294

00:15:00,690 --> 00:15:01,690

That didn't work?

295

00:15:01,690 --> 00:15:03,540

Yes.

296

00:15:03,540 --> 00:15:07,590

Well, you see, at one point,
everybody had to work.

297

00:15:07,590 --> 00:15:09,690

The money that you
got was not much.

298

00:15:09,690 --> 00:15:13,080

You were buying food ration--

299

00:15:13,080 --> 00:15:17,190

food with it-- vegetables
and bread, and so on.

300

00:15:17,190 --> 00:15:19,380

With Rumkowski currency?

301

00:15:19,380 --> 00:15:20,100

That's right.

302

00:15:20,100 --> 00:15:21,960

And that served a purpose then.

303

00:15:21,960 --> 00:15:26,280

The currency-- ghetto
currency was buying

304

00:15:26,280 --> 00:15:29,400

the food for the food stamps.

305

00:15:29,400 --> 00:15:31,980

Now, of course, there
was black market,

306

00:15:31,980 --> 00:15:34,380

because those were
starvation diets.

307

00:15:34,380 --> 00:15:35,100

Right?

308

00:15:35,100 --> 00:15:38,280

It was hard to live on it.

309

00:15:38,280 --> 00:15:44,640

And There was black
market, but it was very--

310

00:15:44,640 --> 00:15:48,960

Who were the people who were
organizing the black market?

311

00:15:48,960 --> 00:15:49,620

Who knows?

312

00:15:49,620 --> 00:15:53,310

People that worked, probably,
at the food markets,

313

00:15:53,310 --> 00:15:55,660

where the food was received--

314

00:15:55,660 --> 00:15:56,250

Yes

315

00:15:56,250 --> 00:15:58,080

--and they would
then sell for money.

316

00:15:58,080 --> 00:16:01,560

It didn't come from outside?

317
00:16:01,560 --> 00:16:02,400
I don't know.

318
00:16:02,400 --> 00:16:03,570
I doubt it.

319
00:16:03,570 --> 00:16:05,800
There was very little
from the outside,

320
00:16:05,800 --> 00:16:08,310
not that I know, at any rate.

321
00:16:08,310 --> 00:16:10,170
It was coming from us.

322
00:16:10,170 --> 00:16:14,620
The black market was
coming from our rations,

323
00:16:14,620 --> 00:16:17,280
so there was great
bitterness about it,

324
00:16:17,280 --> 00:16:21,480
that our own people are
eating off of us, so to speak.

325
00:16:21,480 --> 00:16:24,320
Yes.

326
00:16:24,320 --> 00:16:26,240
But to work-- I don't know.

327
00:16:26,240 --> 00:16:30,080
Working there, it was bad,
but I had my group of people

328
00:16:30,080 --> 00:16:32,390
like myself, friends.

329

00:16:32,390 --> 00:16:37,790
And well, then you sat down
and had the soup once a day

330
00:16:37,790 --> 00:16:44,060
that we would get at work,
and talk and help each other.

331
00:16:44,060 --> 00:16:47,660
And the camaraderie
that kept you alive--

332
00:16:47,660 --> 00:16:50,580
home, family, and camaraderie.

333
00:16:50,580 --> 00:16:55,140
The love-- did it exist
inside the ghetto?

334
00:16:55,140 --> 00:16:55,770
Of course.

335
00:16:55,770 --> 00:16:59,690

336
00:16:59,690 --> 00:17:01,410
Yes?

337
00:17:01,410 --> 00:17:01,910
Mm-hmm.

338
00:17:01,910 --> 00:17:04,619

339
00:17:04,619 --> 00:17:07,225
That people were
dating and in love?

340
00:17:07,225 --> 00:17:07,725
Of course.

341
00:17:07,725 --> 00:17:13,060

342
00:17:13,060 --> 00:17:16,150
Why do you just say
of course and no more?

343
00:17:16,150 --> 00:17:18,440
Well, I'm surprised
at the question.

344
00:17:18,440 --> 00:17:22,450
No, this means that I cannot
understand what is a life

345
00:17:22,450 --> 00:17:23,859
inside the ghetto, that's all.

346
00:17:23,859 --> 00:17:25,119
Mm-hmm.

347
00:17:25,119 --> 00:17:28,630
It is true that
it's very difficult.

348
00:17:28,630 --> 00:17:32,220
It is very difficult, you
see, there were times,

349
00:17:32,220 --> 00:17:36,720
for instance, that were
more peaceful than others.

350
00:17:36,720 --> 00:17:39,690
The [INAUDIBLE] would
come periodically,

351
00:17:39,690 --> 00:17:41,850
and worse and worse.

352
00:17:41,850 --> 00:17:44,730
The first period of time--

353

00:17:44,730 --> 00:17:47,760
while it was, as I
described before, hard,

354
00:17:47,760 --> 00:17:51,558
yet there was family life.

355
00:17:51,558 --> 00:17:54,600
You know, people cared for
each other, struggled together.

356
00:17:54,600 --> 00:17:56,610
The family ties--
it was peculiar--

357
00:17:56,610 --> 00:17:59,670
either they got very bad,
because if there was bad--

358
00:17:59,670 --> 00:18:03,480
sometimes families
would just disintegrate.

359
00:18:03,480 --> 00:18:06,060
But the good families, you
know, the strong families,

360
00:18:06,060 --> 00:18:08,940
helped each other.

361
00:18:08,940 --> 00:18:10,190
They were struggling together.

362
00:18:10,190 --> 00:18:12,440
And you needed that
help, because when

363
00:18:12,440 --> 00:18:15,470
you got a ration
for a week that you

364
00:18:15,470 --> 00:18:19,280
could eat on one sitting, OK?

365
00:18:19,280 --> 00:18:22,130
Portion of bread that
should last you all week--

366
00:18:22,130 --> 00:18:25,550
you could really eat
it up on one sitting.

367
00:18:25,550 --> 00:18:28,130
It amounted to so little.

368
00:18:28,130 --> 00:18:32,220
You had to space it
for the whole week.

369
00:18:32,220 --> 00:18:37,790
And if the family couldn't,
they got in trouble.

370
00:18:37,790 --> 00:18:40,940
Hunger-- more effects of just--

371
00:18:40,940 --> 00:18:44,690
so you had to live like
that and help each other.

372
00:18:44,690 --> 00:18:45,740
My family did it.

373
00:18:45,740 --> 00:18:47,640
We did it.

374
00:18:47,640 --> 00:18:50,930
So there were strong ties,
strong demands of each other,

375
00:18:50,930 --> 00:18:54,620
to help each other and go on.

376
00:18:54,620 --> 00:18:58,430
But there were periods

of relative quietness?

377

00:18:58,430 --> 00:19:02,810

Yeah, and periods that you
sort of learn to live with,

378

00:19:02,810 --> 00:19:06,050

and enjoy the family
life or love, you know?

379

00:19:06,050 --> 00:19:10,580

Romances, young
people and others.

380

00:19:10,580 --> 00:19:18,350

And that was natural and also
helped to go on with life,

381

00:19:18,350 --> 00:19:23,940

to give some ray of hope and
some good feelings to people.

382

00:19:23,940 --> 00:19:26,070

And do you understand
the Holocaust,

383

00:19:26,070 --> 00:19:29,890

or does it remain
a mystery for you?

384

00:19:29,890 --> 00:19:34,470

385

00:19:34,470 --> 00:19:36,810

It remains a mystery.

386

00:19:36,810 --> 00:19:42,270

Sometimes, I hear from
friends that are real friends,

387

00:19:42,270 --> 00:19:46,260

and when we talk a little bit,
and then I hear a saying--

388
00:19:46,260 --> 00:19:49,260
but you know, it happened
before in history.

389
00:19:49,260 --> 00:19:53,190
People would disappear--
massacres and kill each other.

390
00:19:53,190 --> 00:19:57,030
And then, I just clam
up, and I can't talk.

391
00:19:57,030 --> 00:19:59,570
And I would say, well,
yes, maybe you're right.

392
00:19:59,570 --> 00:20:02,190

393
00:20:02,190 --> 00:20:04,230
But of course, it doesn't
address the question.

394
00:20:04,230 --> 00:20:07,260
Because even if it did
happen in history, here I am.

395
00:20:07,260 --> 00:20:10,172
It happened to me, and
I can't understand.

396
00:20:10,172 --> 00:20:12,890

397
00:20:12,890 --> 00:20:15,040
So I don't need any comparisons.

398
00:20:15,040 --> 00:20:20,290
Did it ever happen, or did
things happen worse or better?

399

00:20:20,290 --> 00:20:22,570
It's irrelevant, really.

400
00:20:22,570 --> 00:20:25,120
Deep down, it's irrelevant.

401
00:20:25,120 --> 00:20:26,180
What is relevant?

402
00:20:26,180 --> 00:20:28,690
That I don't understand
what happened.

403
00:20:28,690 --> 00:20:29,560
You still don't.

404
00:20:29,560 --> 00:20:33,040
And I don't understand,
what was even worse,

405
00:20:33,040 --> 00:20:35,950
is that after I
came back to Poland

406
00:20:35,950 --> 00:20:40,180
and didn't think of
leaving the country,

407
00:20:40,180 --> 00:20:43,870
I came back after Auschwitz
and didn't know what I think.

408
00:20:43,870 --> 00:20:45,670
I hoped some in
my fantasy that I

409
00:20:45,670 --> 00:20:48,730
will find a home, hoped that
somebody will come back,

410
00:20:48,730 --> 00:20:52,360
knowing better
that it is not so.

411
00:20:52,360 --> 00:20:57,430
But then, the Poles
didn't want to look at me

412
00:20:57,430 --> 00:20:58,750
and say, get lost.

413
00:20:58,750 --> 00:21:01,180
Get out of here.

414
00:21:01,180 --> 00:21:03,340
This, I couldn't understand.

415
00:21:03,340 --> 00:21:04,420
It's what they said?

416
00:21:04,420 --> 00:21:06,970
Yes.

417
00:21:06,970 --> 00:21:08,960
You couldn't have
settled in Poland?

418
00:21:08,960 --> 00:21:10,800
No, the pogroms started there.

419
00:21:10,800 --> 00:21:13,830
They were killing Jews.

420
00:21:13,830 --> 00:21:16,368
That's why I left,
not because I wanted--

421
00:21:16,368 --> 00:21:17,160
After [INAUDIBLE]--

422
00:21:17,160 --> 00:21:17,686
After, yes.

423
00:21:17,686 --> 00:21:21,018

That's right, mm-hmm, '46.

424

00:21:21,018 --> 00:21:23,600

And what are your
feelings towards Europe?

425

00:21:23,600 --> 00:21:26,500

426

00:21:26,500 --> 00:21:27,360

Oh, my.

427

00:21:27,360 --> 00:21:27,860

Well--

428

00:21:27,860 --> 00:21:30,070

You in the United States now.

429

00:21:30,070 --> 00:21:36,520

Yes, I do-- towards Europe is
that I couldn't wait to get out

430

00:21:36,520 --> 00:21:39,460

after the war, and still was
forced to live in Germany--

431

00:21:39,460 --> 00:21:42,730

not forced, but I went to
Germany, went to medical school

432

00:21:42,730 --> 00:21:47,410

there while waiting
for a visa anywhere.

433

00:21:47,410 --> 00:21:52,630

That was another pleasure
to sit there and now

434

00:21:52,630 --> 00:21:54,080

have no place to go.

435

00:21:54,080 --> 00:21:58,570

I think it was very demoralizing
for Jews and others, too.

436
00:21:58,570 --> 00:22:03,070
And so I couldn't wait
to get out of that place.

437
00:22:03,070 --> 00:22:05,770
And after years, now,
when I came back,

438
00:22:05,770 --> 00:22:09,850
I visited Europe recently.

439
00:22:09,850 --> 00:22:11,170
I think, what a pain.

440
00:22:11,170 --> 00:22:12,190
I belong there.

441
00:22:12,190 --> 00:22:13,780
That's my continent.

442
00:22:13,780 --> 00:22:16,960
That's where I was raised
and had a good youth.

443
00:22:16,960 --> 00:22:22,210

444
00:22:22,210 --> 00:22:24,660
(film slating)

445
00:22:24,660 --> 00:22:29,570

446
00:22:29,570 --> 00:22:32,360
I consider Europe my continent.

447
00:22:32,360 --> 00:22:38,300
And I feel that I was banned
from there, from Poland, first

448
00:22:38,300 --> 00:22:41,260
by the Germans, and then
by the Poles, together.

449
00:22:41,260 --> 00:22:42,680
Banned?

450
00:22:42,680 --> 00:22:44,330
Banned, yes.

451
00:22:44,330 --> 00:22:48,960
Not that I ran away,
but that I was banned.

452
00:22:48,960 --> 00:22:52,030
And that's a pain.

453
00:22:52,030 --> 00:22:53,990
That was my country.

454
00:22:53,990 --> 00:22:55,950
Poland was my country.

455
00:22:55,950 --> 00:22:58,640
I was raised with that feeling.

456
00:22:58,640 --> 00:23:01,250
It was a country
for many, many ages.

457
00:23:01,250 --> 00:23:05,330
I don't know the concept
of a family tree--

458
00:23:05,330 --> 00:23:09,500
my son asked me about
family tree and ancestors,

459
00:23:09,500 --> 00:23:11,570
and I'm lost.

460

00:23:11,570 --> 00:23:13,310
Because I never considered that.

461

00:23:13,310 --> 00:23:16,910
I knew that my ancestors
were there for ages and ages.

462

00:23:16,910 --> 00:23:18,260
Didn't care when they came.

463

00:23:18,260 --> 00:23:24,020
It was like forever
back, deeply rooted.

464

00:23:24,020 --> 00:23:25,370
And that was taken away.

465

00:23:25,370 --> 00:23:26,690
Can you speak Polish?

466

00:23:26,690 --> 00:23:27,423
Yeah.

467

00:23:27,423 --> 00:23:28,250
Fluently?

468

00:23:28,250 --> 00:23:28,780
Oh, sure.

469

00:23:28,780 --> 00:23:31,400
It was my mother tongue.

470

00:23:31,400 --> 00:23:35,930
Forgot much of it,
which is also a pain.

471

00:23:35,930 --> 00:23:39,050
And it is so difficult,
so hard to imagine that

472

00:23:39,050 --> 00:23:41,570

after the return--

473

00:23:41,570 --> 00:23:45,020

you returned to Poland

after four years

474

00:23:45,020 --> 00:23:50,310

of ghetto and Auschwitz,

and you faced again

475

00:23:50,310 --> 00:23:51,860

the Polish anti-semitism.

476

00:23:51,860 --> 00:23:53,480

How do you explain this?

477

00:23:53,480 --> 00:23:54,080

I can't.

478

00:23:54,080 --> 00:23:57,667

479

00:23:57,667 --> 00:23:58,375

That's a mystery.

480

00:23:58,375 --> 00:24:01,580

481

00:24:01,580 --> 00:24:04,030

But did you experience

it for yourself?

482

00:24:04,030 --> 00:24:08,475

Or do you know that it is true

there were pogroms in Poland

483

00:24:08,475 --> 00:24:10,040

in 1946?

484

00:24:10,040 --> 00:24:11,320

That's right.

485

00:24:11,320 --> 00:24:15,290

I left in 1946,
after the pogroms.

486

00:24:15,290 --> 00:24:17,400

Did you experience
it for yourself?

487

00:24:17,400 --> 00:24:20,280

No, no.

488

00:24:20,280 --> 00:24:23,180

No, but I had friends in a
little town next to my small

489

00:24:23,180 --> 00:24:27,330

town in Poland, next to
Å Å³dÅ°, and I was visiting.

490

00:24:27,330 --> 00:24:30,290

And they were sleeping
with guns in fear,

491

00:24:30,290 --> 00:24:32,160

because things were happening.

492

00:24:32,160 --> 00:24:34,220

So I was very close to it.

493

00:24:34,220 --> 00:24:35,850

Which town?

494

00:24:35,850 --> 00:24:36,840

Å ask.

495

00:24:36,840 --> 00:24:37,573

Å ask.

496

00:24:37,573 --> 00:24:41,520

497

00:24:41,520 --> 00:24:44,580

This is the time
you decided to--

498

00:24:44,580 --> 00:24:48,450

but you would have agreed to
live in Poland, even knowing

499

00:24:48,450 --> 00:24:50,930

that there were no Jews
anymore in Poland--

500

00:24:50,930 --> 00:24:52,260

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

501

00:24:52,260 --> 00:24:53,980

502

00:24:53,980 --> 00:24:56,640

--three million Polish
Jews had been killed?

503

00:24:56,640 --> 00:24:59,910

But there were Jews in Å Å³dÅ°
Many returned-- not many,

504

00:24:59,910 --> 00:25:03,120

but a number returned.

505

00:25:03,120 --> 00:25:06,180

And the hope was that
you would returned,

506

00:25:06,180 --> 00:25:09,240

and that you would be
welcomed, that there's a home.

507

00:25:09,240 --> 00:25:10,110

That's your country.

508

00:25:10,110 --> 00:25:11,250

That's your home.

509

00:25:11,250 --> 00:25:14,970

After all those
years of suffering,

510

00:25:14,970 --> 00:25:17,790

that somebody will say, stay.

511

00:25:17,790 --> 00:25:19,440

We want you.

512

00:25:19,440 --> 00:25:20,910

You're part of us.

513

00:25:20,910 --> 00:25:22,800

You belong.

514

00:25:22,800 --> 00:25:25,950

But the opposite happened.

515

00:25:25,950 --> 00:25:27,390

For what reason, why?

516

00:25:27,390 --> 00:25:29,462

I don't know.

517

00:25:29,462 --> 00:25:30,170

I cannot explain.

518

00:25:30,170 --> 00:25:30,750

519

00:25:30,750 --> 00:25:32,470

You never returned
to Poland since?

520

00:25:32,470 --> 00:25:32,970

521

00:25:32,970 --> 00:25:34,890

No.

522

00:25:34,890 --> 00:25:37,740

I wanted, many times.

523

00:25:37,740 --> 00:25:41,400

But what will I see?

524

00:25:41,400 --> 00:25:44,580

And the attitude, I don't think,
changed through the years,

525

00:25:44,580 --> 00:25:45,990

from '66.

526

00:25:45,990 --> 00:25:49,920

There were expulsions
over and over of Jews.

527

00:25:49,920 --> 00:25:50,420

Why?

528

00:25:50,420 --> 00:26:00,120

529

00:26:00,120 --> 00:26:04,680

Well, sometimes, people
say, I wanted to go away.

530

00:26:04,680 --> 00:26:08,020

I wanted to get away from there.

531

00:26:08,020 --> 00:26:11,790

And maybe I said that.

532

00:26:11,790 --> 00:26:13,860

No, I don't think
I ever said that.

533

00:26:13,860 --> 00:26:15,395

I didn't want to get away.

534

00:26:15,395 --> 00:26:16,890

You wanted to stay.

535

00:26:16,890 --> 00:26:17,490

Yes.

536

00:26:17,490 --> 00:26:20,475

I consider that my
turf, my ground.

537

00:26:20,475 --> 00:26:23,420

538

00:26:23,420 --> 00:26:27,470

I think being banned
is the worst thing that

539

00:26:27,470 --> 00:26:30,430

can happen to a person.

540

00:26:30,430 --> 00:26:37,800

541

00:26:37,800 --> 00:26:39,603

It's hard to talk about it even.

542

00:26:39,603 --> 00:26:40,520

How do you understand?

543

00:26:40,520 --> 00:26:41,630

I don't understand that.

544

00:26:41,630 --> 00:26:43,520

Do you?

545

00:26:43,520 --> 00:26:44,880

I think I do.

546

00:26:44,880 --> 00:26:45,380

Hmm?

547

00:26:45,380 --> 00:26:45,880

I do.

548
00:26:45,880 --> 00:26:47,190
You do?

549
00:26:47,190 --> 00:26:47,690
How?

550
00:26:47,690 --> 00:26:51,360

551
00:26:51,360 --> 00:26:52,970
How do you understand?

552
00:26:52,970 --> 00:26:58,730
You understand the feelings,
but how do you ban people?

553
00:26:58,730 --> 00:27:01,148
Why?

554
00:27:01,148 --> 00:27:02,102
[INAUDIBLE]

555
00:27:02,102 --> 00:27:04,970

556
00:27:04,970 --> 00:27:06,320
What was the crime?

557
00:27:06,320 --> 00:27:07,100
What's my crime?

558
00:27:07,100 --> 00:27:11,980

559
00:27:11,980 --> 00:27:14,740
You ban people
sometimes for crimes.

560
00:27:14,740 --> 00:27:15,460

What's my crime?

561

00:27:15,460 --> 00:27:33,780

562

00:27:33,780 --> 00:27:36,720

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

563

00:27:36,720 --> 00:27:47,401