

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,220

2  
00:00:01,220 --> 00:00:04,065  
(film slating)

3  
00:00:04,065 --> 00:01:18,700

4  
00:01:18,700 --> 00:01:22,000  
Where did you live  
before the war?

5  
00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:25,180  
I'd been living  
in Czechoslovakia,

6  
00:01:25,180 --> 00:01:27,565  
a town called Moravska Ostrava.

7  
00:01:27,565 --> 00:01:30,240  
Oh, it's a famous town.

8  
00:01:30,240 --> 00:01:30,740  
Yes.

9  
00:01:30,740 --> 00:01:32,140  
Coal.

10  
00:01:32,140 --> 00:01:32,790  
Coal

11  
00:01:32,790 --> 00:01:36,849  
Coal, yes, all black.

12  
00:01:36,849 --> 00:01:41,650  
Plenty of Jews, nice life.

13  
00:01:41,650 --> 00:01:43,930  
Many Jews?

14  
00:01:43,930 --> 00:01:44,680  
I think.

15  
00:01:44,680 --> 00:01:46,480  
I'm not sure today.

16  
00:01:46,480 --> 00:01:48,250  
I don't want to give  
you any numbers.

17  
00:01:48,250 --> 00:01:53,190  
But I went to a Jewish  
elementary school.

18  
00:01:53,190 --> 00:01:55,960  
It means when there was a  
Jewish elementary school,

19  
00:01:55,960 --> 00:02:00,960  
there were enough Jews to  
visit the school to hold it up.

20  
00:02:00,960 --> 00:02:05,340  
And what was the language  
you talked in your family?

21  
00:02:05,340 --> 00:02:08,770  
In our family, we talk Czech.

22  
00:02:08,770 --> 00:02:10,750  
But my father sent  
me first of all

23  
00:02:10,750 --> 00:02:13,690  
to elementary  
school, Jewish school

24  
00:02:13,690 --> 00:02:23,750  
and afterwards to a German high  
school because of education.

25

00:02:23,750 --> 00:02:25,420

I don't know what  
his reason was.

26

00:02:25,420 --> 00:02:27,832

But at home we talked Czech.

27

00:02:27,832 --> 00:02:28,540

You talked Czech.

28

00:02:28,540 --> 00:02:29,590

Yes.

29

00:02:29,590 --> 00:02:31,000

It was rather  
seldom among Jews--

30

00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:33,320

It was very seldom.

31

00:02:33,320 --> 00:02:34,213

Very seldom.

32

00:02:34,213 --> 00:02:34,880

--to talk Czech.

33

00:02:34,880 --> 00:02:35,650

I had a sister.

34

00:02:35,650 --> 00:02:37,620

Because they used to talk  
German, as a matter of fact,

35

00:02:37,620 --> 00:02:38,120

it was --

36

00:02:38,120 --> 00:02:42,930

Yes, but for instance, the  
newspapers my father read

37

00:02:42,930 --> 00:02:44,570

were German.

38  
00:02:44,570 --> 00:02:45,070  
Yes.

39  
00:02:45,070 --> 00:02:45,730  
Yes.

40  
00:02:45,730 --> 00:02:50,740  
He was brought up, of  
course, in [Place name].

41  
00:02:50,740 --> 00:02:53,120  
He was born there, yes.

42  
00:02:53,120 --> 00:02:56,360  
And what was the  
profession of your father?

43  
00:02:56,360 --> 00:03:00,270  
My father had a  
factory for sausages.

44  
00:03:00,270 --> 00:03:00,920  
Sausages?

45  
00:03:00,920 --> 00:03:01,420  
Yes.

46  
00:03:01,420 --> 00:03:03,850  
And we had a very big--

47  
00:03:03,850 --> 00:03:08,020  
on one of the main streets  
in this town, we had a big--

48  
00:03:08,020 --> 00:03:11,890  
it was a [? quick ?]  
[? buffet, ?] I would say.

49  
00:03:11,890 --> 00:03:14,080  
And then we had three shops.

50

00:03:14,080 --> 00:03:17,340

51

00:03:17,340 --> 00:03:19,170

And--

52

00:03:19,170 --> 00:03:20,070

(film slating)

53

00:03:20,070 --> 00:03:22,130

Oh, from Germany.

54

00:03:22,130 --> 00:03:23,220

OK.

55

00:03:23,220 --> 00:03:24,660

I'm sorry.

56

00:03:24,660 --> 00:03:26,315

It's a phone call from Germany.

57

00:03:26,315 --> 00:03:30,530

58

00:03:30,530 --> 00:03:32,364

(film slating)

59

00:03:32,364 --> 00:03:36,220

60

00:03:36,220 --> 00:03:40,290

Yes, you said your father  
had a factory of sausages.

61

00:03:40,290 --> 00:03:41,610

Yes.

62

00:03:41,610 --> 00:03:44,390

These were kosher sausages?

63

00:03:44,390 --> 00:03:46,070

No, it was not kosher.

64

00:03:46,070 --> 00:03:50,560

We had three stores  
and the factory,

65

00:03:50,560 --> 00:03:54,800

around 40 people  
working, quite wealthy.

66

00:03:54,800 --> 00:03:57,050

Yes.

67

00:03:57,050 --> 00:04:00,500

In the Jewish school,  
what did you learn?

68

00:04:00,500 --> 00:04:02,000

You learn Hebrew?

69

00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:06,260

I also learned the Hebrew  
alphabet, of course.

70

00:04:06,260 --> 00:04:09,920

But it was Czech and  
German double language.

71

00:04:09,920 --> 00:04:13,130

I was brought up with two  
languages, Czech and German.

72

00:04:13,130 --> 00:04:14,355

Czech and German.

73

00:04:14,355 --> 00:04:14,855

Yeah.

74

00:04:14,855 --> 00:04:19,050

75

00:04:19,050 --> 00:04:21,209  
And do you remember  
and could you--

76  
00:04:21,209 --> 00:04:23,830  
how old were you when the--  
excuse me to ask this--

77  
00:04:23,830 --> 00:04:26,830

78  
00:04:26,830 --> 00:04:30,360  
when the deportations for  
Theresienstadt started?

79  
00:04:30,360 --> 00:04:33,120  
When the deportation for  
Theresienstadt started

80  
00:04:33,120 --> 00:04:34,470  
I was 19.

81  
00:04:34,470 --> 00:04:35,580  
Yeah.

82  
00:04:35,580 --> 00:04:37,330  
And do you remember vividly?

83  
00:04:37,330 --> 00:04:38,420

84  
00:04:38,420 --> 00:04:39,780  
Very vivid.

85  
00:04:39,780 --> 00:04:41,190  
Very vivid.

86  
00:04:41,190 --> 00:04:42,380  
Could you describe it?

87  
00:04:42,380 --> 00:04:48,720  
I-- if you don't mind,

I will tell you a little

88

00:04:48,720 --> 00:04:57,480  
when the German entered  
Czechoslovakia in March '39,

89

00:04:57,480 --> 00:05:02,160  
my father had in his  
factory a foreman working.

90

00:05:02,160 --> 00:05:04,630  
He grew up in the factory.

91

00:05:04,630 --> 00:05:07,560  
The Germans occupied  
Czechoslovakia.

92

00:05:07,560 --> 00:05:16,500  
The very next day, this man  
was in the door of the factory,

93

00:05:16,500 --> 00:05:20,280  
didn't allow my father  
to enter anymore.

94

00:05:20,280 --> 00:05:30,930  
He appeared in a SR uniform  
with a swastika on his arm

95

00:05:30,930 --> 00:05:36,280  
and told the factory  
not anymore yours.

96

00:05:36,280 --> 00:05:40,720  
And I can see my father's face.

97

00:05:40,720 --> 00:05:45,290  
And my father went away.

98

00:05:45,290 --> 00:05:47,950

99



00:05:47,950 --> 00:05:53,200

We had, afterwards, also  
to leave our very big flat

100

00:05:53,200 --> 00:05:55,450

and had to take  
another small one.

101

00:05:55,450 --> 00:05:58,000

102

00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:04,930

And it was just  
until September '39.

103

00:06:04,930 --> 00:06:09,550

And it was only in my  
hometown in Moravska Ostrava

104

00:06:09,550 --> 00:06:14,180

that in September '39,  
they took all Jewish men.

105

00:06:14,180 --> 00:06:15,610

Nisko.

106

00:06:15,610 --> 00:06:18,230

To Nisko.

107

00:06:18,230 --> 00:06:22,130

You are very well-informed.

108

00:06:22,130 --> 00:06:22,750

And--

109

00:06:22,750 --> 00:06:24,190

Your father was  
deported to Nisko.

110

00:06:24,190 --> 00:06:28,750

And my father was not  
deported to Nisko.

111

00:06:28,750 --> 00:06:33,940

The firm belonged to my father  
and his brothers, two brothers.

112

00:06:33,940 --> 00:06:39,400

And my father decided he  
is not leaving his family.

113

00:06:39,400 --> 00:06:45,370

And we ran away from  
Moravska Ostrava.

114

00:06:45,370 --> 00:06:52,510

My father with plenty of money  
bought false identification

115

00:06:52,510 --> 00:06:53,200

cards--

116

00:06:53,200 --> 00:07:00,550

identity cards and without  
a J. The J was for Juden.

117

00:07:00,550 --> 00:07:03,290

118

00:07:03,290 --> 00:07:07,570

And we are living  
in the countryside

119

00:07:07,570 --> 00:07:16,120

with these false papers, working  
on several farms, not a farm,

120

00:07:16,120 --> 00:07:22,860

as agricultural workers,  
day workers, from September

121

00:07:22,860 --> 00:07:28,495

'39 till our deportation  
to Theresienstadt It

122

00:07:28,495 --> 00:07:31,260  
was on the 4th of April, '42.

123  
00:07:31,260 --> 00:07:34,100

124  
00:07:34,100 --> 00:07:38,450  
How did they come and  
ask if we are Jews?

125  
00:07:38,450 --> 00:07:44,440  
Somebody told them that there  
are Jews in the [Place Name].

126  
00:07:44,440 --> 00:07:47,900  
It was this very,  
very tiny village.

127  
00:07:47,900 --> 00:07:56,510  
And off we went to be  
transported to Theresienstadt.

128  
00:07:56,510 --> 00:08:02,540  
I want only to tell you  
about this little village

129  
00:08:02,540 --> 00:08:09,110  
was near Brno Brno, a big  
town in Czechoslovakia.

130  
00:08:09,110 --> 00:08:18,980  
And I sometimes went into  
Brno to learn something.

131  
00:08:18,980 --> 00:08:21,140  
I was brought up  
in a wealthy house.

132  
00:08:21,140 --> 00:08:23,030  
I've known how to  
play the piano.

133  
00:08:23,030 --> 00:08:26,100

No more I didn't know.

134

00:08:26,100 --> 00:08:32,045

And I started to learn to  
knit, mesh on a machine.

135

00:08:32,045 --> 00:08:34,580

136

00:08:34,580 --> 00:08:38,809

And there I met  
my first husband.

137

00:08:38,809 --> 00:08:41,120

I came to Theresienstadt.

138

00:08:41,120 --> 00:08:42,630

He was already there.

139

00:08:42,630 --> 00:08:45,420

We were not married beforehand.

140

00:08:45,420 --> 00:08:48,710

This means you met somebody.

141

00:08:48,710 --> 00:08:52,655

I met somebody whom I afterwards  
married, to be correct.

142

00:08:52,655 --> 00:08:55,220

143

00:08:55,220 --> 00:09:01,165

And you want me to tell  
about Theresienstadt now?

144

00:09:01,165 --> 00:09:05,590

Would you-- I would like to  
tell me about the deportations

145

00:09:05,590 --> 00:09:10,750

the trip, everything

which happened.

146  
00:09:10,750 --> 00:09:13,570  
So my father--

147  
00:09:13,570 --> 00:09:16,430  
Did you hear already  
about Theresienstadt?

148  
00:09:16,430 --> 00:09:16,930  
Yeah.

149  
00:09:16,930 --> 00:09:21,160  
We heard that the transports  
are leaving for Theresienstadt.

150  
00:09:21,160 --> 00:09:22,480  
What is Theresienstadt?

151  
00:09:22,480 --> 00:09:24,490  
How is Theresienstadt?

152  
00:09:24,490 --> 00:09:25,420  
We didn't know.

153  
00:09:25,420 --> 00:09:28,090  
We couldn't imagine how it was.

154  
00:09:28,090 --> 00:09:31,780  
We were allowed  
to take, I think,

155  
00:09:31,780 --> 00:09:35,470  
each one 30 kilos,  
if I'm not mistaken,

156  
00:09:35,470 --> 00:09:40,330  
one luggage, one  
piece of luggage.

157  
00:09:40,330 --> 00:09:46,150  
And that was with our

clothes and with our needs.

158

00:09:46,150 --> 00:09:48,160

And that was all.

159

00:09:48,160 --> 00:09:51,280

Everything else had  
to be left behind.

160

00:09:51,280 --> 00:09:58,840

Of course, what we had in  
our flats and everything,

161

00:09:58,840 --> 00:10:05,410

my father started to give  
to Czech Christian families

162

00:10:05,410 --> 00:10:09,340

to hide things away.

163

00:10:09,340 --> 00:10:10,890

Believe me, I  
didn't see anything

164

00:10:10,890 --> 00:10:13,990

after I came back [? of it, ?]  
very, very little.

165

00:10:13,990 --> 00:10:18,435

The property, the  
money, you took nothing.

166

00:10:18,435 --> 00:10:18,935

Nothing.

167

00:10:18,935 --> 00:10:21,740

168

00:10:21,740 --> 00:10:25,880

And that was --

169

00:10:25,880 --> 00:10:26,675

I could only--

170

00:10:26,675 --> 00:10:29,410

And the whole family  
went to Theresienstadt?

171

00:10:29,410 --> 00:10:35,815

Now, my uncle, that means the  
brother of my father who's firm

172

00:10:35,815 --> 00:10:43,780

was with it, had to stay  
Prague because in Prague it

173

00:10:43,780 --> 00:10:46,640

was-- no, in Moravska Ostrava  
because he was very ill.

174

00:10:46,640 --> 00:10:48,470

With cancer.

175

00:10:48,470 --> 00:10:50,600

And he was on a cancer station.

176

00:10:50,600 --> 00:10:52,760

But all the other family--

177

00:10:52,760 --> 00:10:56,030

that means my sister,  
my elderly sister,

178

00:10:56,030 --> 00:11:04,610

my father with my mother,  
and the wife of the brother,

179

00:11:04,610 --> 00:11:08,037

all we came together  
to Theresienstadt.

180

00:11:08,037 --> 00:11:11,730

181

00:11:11,730 --> 00:11:15,290

In the station at  
the time, trains

182

00:11:15,290 --> 00:11:17,180

were not going inside the town.

183

00:11:17,180 --> 00:11:20,660

You went to a [INAUDIBLE]  
to [INAUDIBLE]..

184

00:11:20,660 --> 00:11:26,330

No, [Place Name],  
to [Place Name].

185

00:11:26,330 --> 00:11:32,750

We came to [Place Name], and  
then we had to go buy food.

186

00:11:32,750 --> 00:11:36,060

In Theresienstadt  
we were separated.

187

00:11:36,060 --> 00:11:43,580

We were living in kaserne  
That means where the army

188

00:11:43,580 --> 00:11:47,150

was stationed beforehand.

189

00:11:47,150 --> 00:11:50,300

Now to be very  
short, Theresien was

190

00:11:50,300 --> 00:11:54,890

a regiment, a military town.

191

00:11:54,890 --> 00:11:58,980

And there were quarters  
for the military.

192

00:11:58,980 --> 00:12:06,960

The houses where Czechs who were



on service for this army town,

193

00:12:06,960 --> 00:12:11,723  
their houses were emptied by  
the Czechs and only there, all

194

00:12:11,723 --> 00:12:15,670  
was empty.

195

00:12:15,670 --> 00:12:18,650  
And we started to occupy.

196

00:12:18,650 --> 00:12:27,080  
We are living in separated  
men from women in this living

197

00:12:27,080 --> 00:12:28,760  
quarters for the military.

198

00:12:28,760 --> 00:12:31,790  
You are leaving yourself  
in barracks or in--

199

00:12:31,790 --> 00:12:32,560  
No.

200

00:12:32,560 --> 00:12:35,240  
We are living in the kaserne.

201

00:12:35,240 --> 00:12:36,230  
Which one?

202

00:12:36,230 --> 00:12:37,690  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

203

00:12:37,690 --> 00:12:42,200  
I was in the Hamburger kaserne  
And my father came to the

204

00:12:42,200 --> 00:12:46,550  
to [Place name] Oh, no,  
excuse me, to the Sudeten

205  
00:12:46,550 --> 00:12:49,960  
kaserne the Sudeten kaserne.

206  
00:12:49,960 --> 00:12:52,180  
And--

207  
00:12:52,180 --> 00:12:56,510  
Was it a shock, Theresienstadt?

208  
00:12:56,510 --> 00:12:59,600  
I tell you something.

209  
00:12:59,600 --> 00:13:01,220  
It is my own feeling.

210  
00:13:01,220 --> 00:13:03,770  
I can only tell about my--

211  
00:13:03,770 --> 00:13:06,500  
I was very young.

212  
00:13:06,500 --> 00:13:13,700  
And I found my boyfriend there.

213  
00:13:13,700 --> 00:13:15,280  
He was already your boyfriend.

214  
00:13:15,280 --> 00:13:18,110  
He was already my  
boyfriend before I

215  
00:13:18,110 --> 00:13:20,840  
left to Theresienstadt.

216  
00:13:20,840 --> 00:13:25,280  
So my angle of viewing how  
to come to Theresienstadt was

217  
00:13:25,280 --> 00:13:28,700  
quite different

from other people's.

218

00:13:28,700 --> 00:13:39,440

And I can say somehow I was  
happy to be near my boyfriend.

219

00:13:39,440 --> 00:13:43,190

Of course, from the other  
side, I started to be hungry.

220

00:13:43,190 --> 00:13:45,860

And never in my life  
I've been hungry

221

00:13:45,860 --> 00:13:47,880

because there was no food.

222

00:13:47,880 --> 00:13:51,380

But even this, in  
your youth, you

223

00:13:51,380 --> 00:13:54,950

don't feel so very  
hard when you remember

224

00:13:54,950 --> 00:13:56,960

back now when I am grown up.

225

00:13:56,960 --> 00:14:00,110

So I see plenty  
of things which I

226

00:14:00,110 --> 00:14:02,060

couldn't see when I was young.

227

00:14:02,060 --> 00:14:03,230

And it is a lucky.

228

00:14:03,230 --> 00:14:08,090

It was a big, big  
luck it happen to you.

229

00:14:08,090 --> 00:14:10,650

Was it a shock to  
live suddenly--

230

00:14:10,650 --> 00:14:11,640

It was a shock.

231

00:14:11,640 --> 00:14:13,760

--only among Jews?

232

00:14:13,760 --> 00:14:15,380

Not among Jews.

233

00:14:15,380 --> 00:14:23,210

The shock was you were on the  
ground with two mattresses

234

00:14:23,210 --> 00:14:28,890

on the floor and that  
you had one cover

235

00:14:28,890 --> 00:14:35,180

and that this was  
your space for living.

236

00:14:35,180 --> 00:14:39,060

There's 30 other  
women in the room.

237

00:14:39,060 --> 00:14:41,730

238

00:14:41,730 --> 00:14:44,550

So we have to reload.

239

00:14:44,550 --> 00:14:45,200

It's very good.

240

00:14:45,200 --> 00:14:47,570

You are extremely good.

241

00:14:47,570 --> 00:14:49,325

I liked-- you are  
extremely good.

242  
00:14:49,325 --> 00:14:52,060

243  
00:14:52,060 --> 00:14:56,559  
Your voice is beautiful  
and your face too.

244  
00:14:56,559 --> 00:14:57,480  
Thank you.

245  
00:14:57,480 --> 00:14:59,930  
I think [INAUDIBLE].

246  
00:14:59,930 --> 00:15:01,750  
You are a very beautiful woman.

247  
00:15:01,750 --> 00:15:02,806  
[INAUDIBLE]

248  
00:15:02,806 --> 00:15:06,120

249  
00:15:06,120 --> 00:15:08,334  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

250  
00:15:08,334 --> 00:15:18,070

251  
00:15:18,070 --> 00:15:19,960  
You need the dog  
the whole time here?

252  
00:15:19,960 --> 00:15:23,160

253  
00:15:23,160 --> 00:15:25,310  
[INAUDIBLE]

254

00:15:25,310 --> 00:15:42,357

Contact [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org) for further information about this collection