

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:18,040

2
00:00:18,040 --> 00:00:20,584
[INAUDIBLE]

3
00:00:20,584 --> 00:00:24,490

4
00:00:24,490 --> 00:00:28,010
I want to think
about [INAUDIBLE]..

5
00:00:28,010 --> 00:00:30,980

6
00:00:30,980 --> 00:00:32,860
I would like that [? earring. ?]

7
00:00:32,860 --> 00:00:36,110
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

8
00:00:36,110 --> 00:00:39,330

9
00:00:39,330 --> 00:00:40,590
She was reading Hebrew--

10
00:00:40,590 --> 00:00:41,710
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

11
00:00:41,710 --> 00:00:45,420
--and she will translate
it directly in English.

12
00:00:45,420 --> 00:00:47,510
You will read it in Hebrew, no?

13
00:00:47,510 --> 00:00:48,090
In English.

14
00:00:48,090 --> 00:00:53,480
She reads in English, but
she translates directly.

15
00:00:53,480 --> 00:01:00,610
And I would like that we start
translating with the first time

16
00:01:00,610 --> 00:01:02,602
you were called

17
00:01:02,602 --> 00:01:06,450
[AUDIO OUT]

18
00:01:06,450 --> 00:01:09,622
[INAUDIBLE]

19
00:01:09,622 --> 00:01:37,260

20
00:01:37,260 --> 00:01:40,936
The evidence that it is
impossible to continue

21
00:01:40,936 --> 00:01:44,650
with the way things were
in town in the last week.

22
00:01:44,650 --> 00:01:46,742
It was clear from
his words that he

23
00:01:46,742 --> 00:01:50,640
meant that the roads were
[INAUDIBLE] and the master

24
00:01:50,640 --> 00:01:51,640
race.

25
00:01:51,640 --> 00:01:53,150
And that's when

he said, a ghetto

26

00:01:53,150 --> 00:01:56,020
would be established,
for the Jews of Kovno

27

00:01:56,020 --> 00:01:58,720
in the [INAUDIBLE] of Slovakia.

28

00:01:58,720 --> 00:02:02,270
All the Jews of the town
had to move into the ghetto,

29

00:02:02,270 --> 00:02:06,650
until the 15th of August, 1941.

30

00:02:06,650 --> 00:02:09,448
They can take with you
all their belongings.

31

00:02:09,448 --> 00:02:12,410
The evidence said that
the Jews themselves

32

00:02:12,410 --> 00:02:15,020
have to be interested
to establish the ghetto,

33

00:02:15,020 --> 00:02:17,750
because there they
would be isolated

34

00:02:17,750 --> 00:02:21,761
far away from the
[INAUDIBLE] and the state.

35

00:02:21,761 --> 00:02:26,920
[INAUDIBLE] the order
to stop immediately

36

00:02:26,920 --> 00:02:29,320
collaborators [INAUDIBLE]
collaborators,

37
00:02:29,320 --> 00:02:33,101
and to live with the women
and children [INAUDIBLE]..

38
00:02:33,101 --> 00:02:36,460
The German [INAUDIBLE]
that all the Jews of Kovno

39
00:02:36,460 --> 00:02:40,060
had to wear a yellow
badge on their clothes.

40
00:02:40,060 --> 00:02:41,780
And that the [INAUDIBLE].

41
00:02:41,780 --> 00:02:47,170
[AUDIO OUT]

42
00:02:47,170 --> 00:03:05,310

43
00:03:05,310 --> 00:03:09,120
In the ghetto, you'll be
living peacefully and quietly.

44
00:03:09,120 --> 00:03:12,180
You will handle all
your matters yourself.

45
00:03:12,180 --> 00:03:13,678
If you stay in town,

46
00:03:13,678 --> 00:03:17,662
[AUDIO OUT]

47
00:03:17,662 --> 00:04:39,900

48
00:04:39,900 --> 00:04:41,060
Precisely.

49

00:04:41,060 --> 00:04:45,558

Who was [INAUDIBLE]?

50

00:04:45,558 --> 00:04:57,905

You know, according
to various sources,

51

00:04:57,905 --> 00:05:03,808

I think this was Stahlecker.

52

00:05:03,808 --> 00:05:05,100

The chief of the Einsatzgruppe?

53

00:05:05,100 --> 00:05:09,920

The chief of the
Einsatzgruppe A.

54

00:05:09,920 --> 00:05:11,680

in the [INAUDIBLE] area

55

00:05:11,680 --> 00:05:13,738

Yes, [INAUDIBLE].

56

00:05:13,738 --> 00:05:25,140

57

00:05:25,140 --> 00:05:29,430

But you were sent to
prison during this meeting?

58

00:05:29,430 --> 00:05:30,720

Of course.

59

00:05:30,720 --> 00:05:34,590

And it was the first time
that you met the Germans?

60

00:05:34,590 --> 00:05:44,160

Yes, I met first the
Germans, and talked

61

00:05:44,160 --> 00:05:46,260
to [? Jerab ?] Shapiro.

62
00:05:46,260 --> 00:05:50,460
Yes, Rabbi Avroham
Duber Shapiro.

63
00:05:50,460 --> 00:05:53,950
But he was very [INAUDIBLE].

64
00:05:53,950 --> 00:05:56,940

65
00:05:56,940 --> 00:05:57,530
[INAUDIBLE]

66
00:05:57,530 --> 00:05:58,440
[INAUDIBLE]

67
00:05:58,440 --> 00:06:08,280
And he gave the
representative of the Gestapo

68
00:06:08,280 --> 00:06:15,850
the names of myself,
of Doctor Rabinowitz--

69
00:06:15,850 --> 00:06:21,240
he was a physician
of Oldenburg--

70
00:06:21,240 --> 00:06:22,260
Goldberg?

71
00:06:22,260 --> 00:06:24,060
Goldberg was also.

72
00:06:24,060 --> 00:06:25,860
And, oh yeah.

73
00:06:25,860 --> 00:06:29,130
And, of course, my name.

74
00:06:29,130 --> 00:06:36,060
And immediately a
man from the Gestapo

75
00:06:36,060 --> 00:06:40,740
came to all these
persons and said,

76
00:06:40,740 --> 00:06:44,604
all must go to the Gestapo.

77
00:06:44,604 --> 00:06:46,430
There it was.

78
00:06:46,430 --> 00:06:50,290
So it was-- the first
if it's possible so

79
00:06:50,290 --> 00:06:58,520
to say, the first
meeting from the Germans

80
00:06:58,520 --> 00:07:05,570
with the representatives
of the Jewish population.

81
00:07:05,570 --> 00:07:08,100
And how many Jews at this time--

82
00:07:08,100 --> 00:07:10,910
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

83
00:07:10,910 --> 00:07:17,390
They who waited in the
corridor of the Gestapo.

84
00:07:17,390 --> 00:07:24,800
So, came home an officer
Gestapo and asked

85
00:07:24,800 --> 00:07:29,348

the names of some rabbis.

86

00:07:29,348 --> 00:07:33,080

87

00:07:33,080 --> 00:07:38,140

So, who gave you the name
of [? Haraf ?] [? Smeer, ?]

88

00:07:38,140 --> 00:07:45,290
and the Reb [Personal Name] And
then they were brought then who

89

00:07:45,290 --> 00:07:53,070
were asked to come in to
the cabinet of Stahlecker.

90

00:07:53,070 --> 00:07:57,750
And in which state
were there two rabbis?

91

00:07:57,750 --> 00:08:03,360
They wanted to see that
all [INAUDIBLE] are alike.

92

00:08:03,360 --> 00:08:12,630
And they wanted that all the
representatives of the Jewish

93

00:08:12,630 --> 00:08:24,870
religious people also
[INAUDIBLE] About our talk,

94

00:08:24,870 --> 00:08:28,640
is it [NON-ENGLISH] is
it interesting for you?

95

00:08:28,640 --> 00:08:31,460
Yes, but not immediately.

96

00:08:31,460 --> 00:08:34,270
But this was in July '41?

97

00:08:34,270 --> 00:08:36,650
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

98

00:08:36,650 --> 00:08:38,110

99

00:08:38,110 --> 00:08:40,130
And the Germans?

100

00:08:40,130 --> 00:08:43,039
8 July 41

101

00:08:43,039 --> 00:08:49,820
And the Germans entered Kovno
in the 24th of June '41.

102

00:08:49,820 --> 00:08:52,930
This means, they were here since

103

00:08:52,930 --> 00:08:54,170
A day before--

104

00:08:54,170 --> 00:08:55,730
--or two weeks, yes.

105

00:08:55,730 --> 00:08:58,460
I wrote the date there.

106

00:08:58,460 --> 00:09:07,940
Just 70s, there was the mass
execution in the Seventh Fort.

107

00:09:07,940 --> 00:09:10,130
The mass execution?

108

00:09:10,130 --> 00:09:14,570
How many Jews had been already
killed, in Kovno, two weeks?

109

00:09:14,570 --> 00:09:18,620
In these two weeks, there

had been pogroms also.

110
00:09:18,620 --> 00:09:23,750
I think about
five, six thousand.

111
00:09:23,750 --> 00:09:25,460
Five, six thousand.

112
00:09:25,460 --> 00:09:27,407
And you knew this?

113
00:09:27,407 --> 00:09:28,490
Did you know at the time--

114
00:09:28,490 --> 00:09:28,990
No.

115
00:09:28,990 --> 00:09:30,320
--that they had been--

116
00:09:30,320 --> 00:09:38,630
well Only that about
8,000 or 9,000.

117
00:09:38,630 --> 00:09:43,550
They were arrested,
they were taken,

118
00:09:43,550 --> 00:09:48,380
but where they had been
taken, it was unknown to us.

119
00:09:48,380 --> 00:09:50,440
Only something.

120
00:09:50,440 --> 00:09:54,980
There is a very
terrible conditions,

121
00:09:54,980 --> 00:10:08,280
and this Stahlecker promised

that if we agree to that,

122

00:10:08,280 --> 00:10:17,090

so he will release all the women
and children from the fort.

123

00:10:17,090 --> 00:10:18,200

Who had been arrested?

124

00:10:18,200 --> 00:10:20,600

This was done.

125

00:10:20,600 --> 00:10:21,350

This was done?

126

00:10:21,350 --> 00:10:23,720

This was done, yes.

127

00:10:23,720 --> 00:10:32,300

Only men were annihilated
by the Germans

128

00:10:32,300 --> 00:10:36,620

with the help of
the Lithuanians.

129

00:10:36,620 --> 00:10:37,810

Lithuanian collaborators.

130

00:10:37,810 --> 00:10:40,540

131

00:10:40,540 --> 00:10:45,865

Especially the addition
of the fort police.

132

00:10:45,865 --> 00:10:51,920

133

00:10:51,920 --> 00:11:02,780

Lithuanians who volunteered
to help the Germans.

134
00:11:02,780 --> 00:11:04,860
Yes.

135
00:11:04,860 --> 00:11:05,360
And--

136
00:11:05,360 --> 00:11:08,300

137
00:11:08,300 --> 00:11:11,258
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

138
00:11:11,258 --> 00:11:12,500

139
00:11:12,500 --> 00:11:16,895
Of course the
Germans received us.

140
00:11:16,895 --> 00:11:21,780

141
00:11:21,780 --> 00:11:31,710
About a week before the
[? camp ?] was crossed,

142
00:11:31,710 --> 00:11:40,500
there was also an
Aktion only on men,

143
00:11:40,500 --> 00:11:57,510
and 1,200 men were taken
and brought to the rail.

144
00:11:57,510 --> 00:12:03,500
I, personally, also
were among these people.

145
00:12:03,500 --> 00:12:06,570

146

00:12:06,570 --> 00:12:09,150

A long time.

147

00:12:09,150 --> 00:12:10,080

A long time.

148

00:12:10,080 --> 00:12:13,330

149

00:12:13,330 --> 00:12:24,660

A long time, it was unknown to
know what was [NON-ENGLISH]..

150

00:12:24,660 --> 00:12:25,510

The fate.

151

00:12:25,510 --> 00:12:27,705

The fate of these Jews.

152

00:12:27,705 --> 00:12:30,270

153

00:12:30,270 --> 00:12:31,695

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

154

00:12:31,695 --> 00:12:38,110

About, yes about 1,200
people, only men.

155

00:12:38,110 --> 00:12:43,080

And then, they made a selection.

156

00:12:43,080 --> 00:12:46,330

Specialists, like engineers.

157

00:12:46,330 --> 00:12:49,370

158

00:12:49,370 --> 00:13:01,620

Other people were released and
the other people were saying

159
00:13:01,620 --> 00:13:04,770
they annihilated--

160
00:13:04,770 --> 00:13:09,000
we don't know where
they annihilated.

161
00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:16,650
So I think that we deduct
the specialists, because they

162
00:13:16,650 --> 00:13:18,390
wanted to use them.

163
00:13:18,390 --> 00:13:21,900
They released the specialists,
they didn't kill them?

164
00:13:21,900 --> 00:13:24,210
No, they were released.

165
00:13:24,210 --> 00:13:27,460
The other people were killed.

166
00:13:27,460 --> 00:13:35,620
So, this was the first
big lie of Stahlecker.

167
00:13:35,620 --> 00:13:42,400
Stahlecker also promised that,
when the Jewish population will

168
00:13:42,400 --> 00:13:52,900
be concentrated, nothing
will happen to them.

169
00:13:52,900 --> 00:14:01,600
And, as you know, when you went
there already in the ghetto.

170
00:14:01,600 --> 00:14:11,980

The first aktion was against
500 in fact 534 intelligence,

171
00:14:11,980 --> 00:14:14,656
that was the first.

172
00:14:14,656 --> 00:14:20,410
It's said they
plundered everything

173
00:14:20,410 --> 00:14:29,650
which has some value, and
then were consecutively

174
00:14:29,650 --> 00:14:37,060
First of all, it the
experimental action.

175
00:14:37,060 --> 00:14:52,570
They gave us 500 certificates
to distribute among

176
00:14:52,570 --> 00:15:00,680
the [NON-ENGLISH] the artisans.

177
00:15:00,680 --> 00:15:07,870
But, they said, the
other day, all the Jewish

178
00:15:07,870 --> 00:15:10,930
have to gather in
this special place.

179
00:15:10,930 --> 00:15:13,440

180
00:15:13,440 --> 00:15:17,550
And the aktion began.

181
00:15:17,550 --> 00:15:24,630
When a Jew had the certificate,
he was immediately released.

182

00:15:24,630 --> 00:15:27,830

183

00:15:27,830 --> 00:15:36,050

And then happened something
which I can't explain.

184

00:15:36,050 --> 00:15:43,730

Suddenly came an officer of
the Gestapo, and he told,

185

00:15:43,730 --> 00:15:48,350

all are free to go home.

186

00:15:48,350 --> 00:15:53,510

Who called this as an
experimental aktion?

187

00:15:53,510 --> 00:15:55,580

And--

188

00:15:55,580 --> 00:15:58,880

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

189

00:15:58,880 --> 00:16:05,780

--training, and we were
all very, very happy,

190

00:16:05,780 --> 00:16:11,330

who thought that it
was the first time

191

00:16:11,330 --> 00:16:15,040

and this will not repeat.

192

00:16:15,040 --> 00:16:21,430

About a week later, there
was the first aktion.

193

00:16:21,430 --> 00:16:26,250

194

00:16:26,250 --> 00:16:29,100

But when did you
start to know exactly

195

00:16:29,100 --> 00:16:30,900

that the people had been killed?

196

00:16:30,900 --> 00:16:34,477

Because, they were, at
the beginning, there was--

197

00:16:34,477 --> 00:16:35,310

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

198

00:16:35,310 --> 00:16:41,450

They say there were about
1,000 before the closings.

199

00:16:41,450 --> 00:16:48,410

Until no longer received the
work you did [NON-ENGLISH]..

200

00:16:48,410 --> 00:16:53,550

And then, it was
the first aktion.

201

00:16:53,550 --> 00:16:55,410

And the first aktion.

202

00:16:55,410 --> 00:17:07,020

And a young child
succeeded to escape,

203

00:17:07,020 --> 00:17:14,369

and he told us everything,
what happened on that night.

204

00:17:14,369 --> 00:17:19,079

Then it was the second
aktion, the liquidation

205

00:17:19,079 --> 00:17:21,770

of the small ghetto.

206

00:17:21,770 --> 00:17:26,069

Well, it was the
ghetto corpses that--

207

00:17:26,069 --> 00:17:30,460

This one has to
explain the fort--

208

00:17:30,460 --> 00:17:30,960

Yes.

209

00:17:30,960 --> 00:17:33,310

But you'll get to it.

210

00:17:33,310 --> 00:17:36,270

Yes, I'll show where
to get us there,

211

00:17:36,270 --> 00:17:38,990

you can see this from the map.

212

00:17:38,990 --> 00:17:42,483

213

00:17:42,483 --> 00:17:47,725

[AUDIO OUT]

214

00:17:47,725 --> 00:21:32,000